Celebrating Our Centennial

October 23, 2008

www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu
With the onset of the momentous centennial celebration for the School of Nursing, Elizabeth Schafer was commissioned to create a beautiful, commemorative memento for the event. She began by creating an original acrylic painting that incorporates some of the most cherished elements of the School of Nursing — the Godchaux Hall doors. She also incorporated the school colors and created a design reminiscent of the movement and activity of numerous students that have passed through those hall doors. The painting was used to create original silk scarves and ties that were presented to the Top 100 Leaders.

Nurses can go anywhere and do anything! They are critical thinkers, educators, researchers, policymakers, international relief workers, community leaders, emergency preparedness experts, entrepreneurs, informatics specialists and more.

Congratulations to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing for advancing nursing education for 100 years. Your numbers look great, and still counting . . .

Centennial Committee

Adrienne Ames
Leanne Bushby
Tom Christenbery
Charlotte Covington
Libby Daqani

Marjory Dubree
Frances Edwards
Virginia George
Barbara Grimes
Lydia Grubb

Jean King
Joyce Laben
Lanry Lancaster
Jane Macay
Ginger Manley

Randy Rasch
Annette Sansoy
Ada Smith
Judy Swenson
When the Vanderbilt School of Nursing opened in 1908, the education of nurses was limited to individual hospitals which trained their own nurses. From those early days until the present, the School’s faculty, staff and alumni have challenged and changed the status and perception of nurses and “what nurses do” throughout the world.

It is not a coincidence that Vanderbilt and the profession of nursing have evolved in tandem. Nurses no longer simply assist doctors — they are critical thinkers who take ownership of the patient’s physical, psychological and personal needs. The School of Nursing has a rich history of educating, employing and graduating outspoken professionals who are architects in nursing today. Many of these are honored today as our Top 100 Leaders.

Our graduates and faculty have helped tens of thousands of patients and families in our clinics where our students gain first-hand experience in a full-service primary care setting. The School of Nursing is involved in setting national standards for the manner in which the health care delivery system responds to a natural or man-made crisis, such as a tornado, earthquake or terrorist attack. Our faculty and alumni represent the University on numerous state, national and international health boards and committees, vocalizing the concerns and views of nurses and our patients in discussions with policymakers and other health professionals.

As we mark the century milestone, we take note of the tremendous impact that the School and its alumni, faculty and students have had on the advancement of nurses, on the prestige and outreach of the University and on the health of millions of people around the world.

With congratulations,

Colleen Conway-Welch, PhD, CNM, FAAN, FACNM
Dean
Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor of Nursing
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has a long-standing reputation for excellence in teaching, practice, research and informatics. As one of the first five schools to receive Rockefeller funding to implement the Goldmark Report of 1923, the School of Nursing was a leader in drastically altering the nature of nursing education and moving it into institutions of higher learning. The School began offering the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in 1955, and was one of the first to launch a “bridge” program in 1986 through which students who have at least three years of college and the required prerequisites can enter the MSN program without repeating undergraduate classes – thereby permitting an accelerated path to the master’s degree. Vanderbilt’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, first conferred in 1935, was restructured into the “bridge” program in 1985 as one of several innovative entry options. In 1993, Vanderbilt School of Nursing established the PhD in Nursing Science program, leading to nursing research and scholarly activity that has positively impacted health care delivery in a variety of areas. In 2008, the Doctor of Nursing Practice was established.

Over the years, Vanderbilt School of Nursing has established MSN programs of study in numerous advanced practice nursing specialty areas. The School’s Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program, for example, began in 1975, and is considered among the oldest and most progressive in the country – boasting cutting-edge clinical practice sites and extensive scholarly and research opportunities that give FNP students an advantage in developing as advanced practice nurses. The School also was one of the first to develop the role of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) and has added dual focus programs and dual degrees that combine educational areas such as Nurse-Midwifery/FNP, MSN/MDiv, MSN/MTS and an MSN/PhD fast-track program. Other clinical specialties include primary care nurse practitioner programs: Adult Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. Our Specialty Care Nurse Practitioner programs include: Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwifery, Nurse Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult Nurse Practitioner. Additional nursing specialties focus on nursing informatics, clinical management, clinical research management and health systems management.

Beyond its educational offerings, Vanderbilt School of Nursing’s tradition of excellence includes a focus on integrating technology into the classroom and into clinical practice. The Frist Center for Nursing Informatics, opened in February 2005, provides advanced computer facilities and support technologies. The School operates one of the most extensive faculty practice networks in the country, including community-based clinics that provide primary care to inner-city populations. Vanderbilt nursing graduates can be found across the nation and in numerous foreign countries. The School attracts students from most of the 50 states. Its partnership with Vanderbilt University Medical Center provides excellent opportunities for research and clinical practice.

For the last 100 years, the Vanderbilt School of Nursing has taken risks and embraced innovations that have led the way in the profession of nursing and nursing education.

Congratulations on a century of excellence and for taking a gamble on Colleen in 1984!

Ted Welch

“I regret that I have but one wife to give to Vanderbilt.”
Centennial Lecture and Event Schedule

August 27, 2008
Kick-off Celebration – campus-wide celebration of Centennial year

September 18, 2008
Lt. General Russel Honoré ~ “Creating a Culture of Preparedness: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina.” As Commanding General, First U.S. Army (retired), he led the Joint Task Force-Katrina, the Department of Defense’s response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf States.

October 23, 2008
Gala ~ fund-raiser benefiting the School of Nursing

October 25, 2008
Reunion Brunch ~ annual event for alumni

October 30, 2008
Senator Bill Frist, MD ~ “Health Care as a Currency of Peace.” He is a heart surgeon and former U.S. Senator, proponent of using health care to achieve peace.

November 20, 2008
Congressman Jim Cooper ~ “What the Future Looks Like in Health Reform.” He is a leader in fiscal policy, health policy and government accountability, serving the Congressional Budget, Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services Committees.

November 21, 2008
Board of Trust cocktail party

December 5, 2008 (tentative)
Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP ~ He is CEO of Institute for Healthcare Improvement, dedicated to improving the quality of health care systems through education, research and demonstration projects, and through fostering collaboration among health care organizations.

January 15, 2009
Martha N. Hill, RN, PhD, FAAN ~ “Developing a Capacity for Nursing Challenges and Opportunities – an Academic Leaders View.” She is Dean and Professor of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University, and former President, American Heart Association (the only non-physician ever to hold that position).

March 12, 2009
Clayton M. Christensen, DBA ~ He is Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School, known for his theory of “disruptive innovation” describing products or services that overturn dominant technology or systems by being “good enough” and less expensive.

April 16, 2009
John P. Howe III, MD ~ He is President, Project HOPE, the international humanitarian assistance program which responded to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and other international disasters. Project HOPE makes health care available to people around the globe.

May 2009
Nurses Week

Spring dates to be announced...

Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA ~ He is Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His responsibilities include disease prevention, women and minority health, HIV/AIDS and pandemic influenza planning.

Uwe E. Reinhardt, PhD ~ He is Professor of Economics, Princeton University, and member of the Council on the Economic Impact of Health Reform, tracking the fiscal effects of the current revolution of health-care delivery and cost control.

Tom Scully, JD ~ He is the former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and is speaking on reform (or lack thereof) of the nation’s health care delivery system. He is currently General Partner at Welsh Carson Anderson and Stowe.

June 2009
Closing Event
Key Events in the History of Vanderbilt School of Nursing

1908 ~ 1918
The Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses was established. Nina Wootten and Bertha Moncrief served as directors. Historical records are incomplete, but it is believed the only admissions requirement was the desire to become a nurse. The School continued to develop its infrastructure and physicians served as faculty teaching the first handful of students. Catherine Hanley from Vanderbilt Hospital received the first nursing diploma in 1912.

1918 ~ 1928
Activities at the School ramped up considerably during this decade. In the early 1920s, there were 35 students enrolled in the program and by the end of the decade the Board of Trust had officially changed its name to The School of Nursing at Vanderbilt University.

1928 ~ 1938
This decade is marked by the transformation of the School’s diploma program into a five-year baccalaureate program in nursing. Vanderbilt was one of only four schools in the country to award BSNs and by 1939, all graduates earned BSNs.

1938 ~ 1948
As World War II raged overseas, the need for well-trained nurses was seemingly endless. The School educated nurses at a quicker pace and the U.S. Cadet Nursing Corps began. During this time, the School was also accredited by the National League for Nursing Education.

1948 ~ 1958
The School’s curriculum continued to evolve. The BSN became a four-year program and Vanderbilt was the only nursing school in Tennessee to offer a Master of Science in nursing. In 1958, the School awarded its first MSN graduate degree.

1958 ~ 1968
The 1960s were tumultuous in our nation’s history and change was a constant on the School of Nursing campus. Luther Christian became the first male dean of nursing in the country. The School welcomed African-American students in 1965 and graduated its first male BSN graduate.

1968 ~ 1978
The School of Nursing underwent some extensive renovations. Mary Henderson Hall was refurbished, dormitory space was eliminated and the building was renamed Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall. The Nursing Annex, where most of our didactic classes are held today, was completed as one of the first underground structures at Vanderbilt University.

1978 ~ 1988
The decade started with a reassessment of the School’s goals and direction and ended by moving away from the traditional BSN program toward a multiple entry option “bridge” program. Vanderbilt was one of the first nursing schools to attempt this change in curriculum. The first Bridge to MSN class graduated as the last BSN degrees were awarded in the late 1980s.

1988 ~ 1998
The School’s momentum continued to grow on local, regional and national fronts. The Vine Hill Clinic began as did many of the School’s community outreach efforts. The School launched its PhD program and in answer to the desperate need for more space, Patricia Champion Frist Hall was built.

1998 ~ 2008
Innovation, outreach and expansion are the hallmarks of this period in the School’s history. Emergency preparedness took on greater importance, faculty practice reached deeper and wider than ever before, the School moved up in rankings and funding. The School’s campus changed as well with the new Frist Hall, completely refurbished Godchaux Hall and newly renovated Nursing Annex. In 2008, the Doctor of Nursing Practice was established.
Vanderbilt School of Nursing: Pioneers in Nursing Education

• One of the first nursing schools to be independent of a hospital (1930)

• One of the first four university-based nursing schools in the country to award a bachelor’s degree – and the first in Tennessee – distinguishing it further from hospital-based diploma programs (1933)

• One of four schools to receive funding from the Commonwealth Fund in 1935 to offer public health support in rural areas (Rutherford County, TN)

• One of the first three schools in the country to receive joint accreditation of the National League of Nursing Education and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in addition to Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing membership (1945)

• The first Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program in Tennessee (1955)

• One of the first schools in which nursing students were integrated into campus-wide dormitories, setting an example for other universities (1957)

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• The first school in Tennessee to establish a specialty in nursing administration at the master’s degree level (1986)

• Responsible for graduating more MSN students than all four other Tennessee schools of nursing combined (1989-present)

• One of the first schools in which nursing students were integrated into campus-wide dormitories, setting an example for other universities (1957)

• The first master’s level family nurse practitioner program in the country (1970)

• A pioneer in asynchronous learning with a blended distance learning format (1997)

• One of the first schools in which nursing students were integrated into campus-wide dormitories, setting an example for other universities (1957)

• The first master’s level family nurse practitioner program in the country (1970)

• The first recipient of a National Institute of Health/National Center for Research Resources grant awarded to a school of nursing (2002)

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• Vanderbilt School of Nursing received a federal grant to establish a local Medical Reserve Corp (2005)
Directors & Deans of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing

Nina Wooton
Director 1911–1913
The first director/superintendent of nurses of the Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses graduated from Nashville General Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1909. She then attended Akron University and Colorado Teachers College, and earned a degree in education from Peabody College while working at her first job as superintendent of nurses at Vanderbilt. After her service at Vanderbilt, she became director at what is now known as Baptist Hospital in Nashville. From 1913 to 1922, she was inactive in nursing because of illness. After her recovery, she became assistant superintendent of nurses at Bellevue Hospital in New York. A year later, she was appointed director of the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis where she remained until 1935, when she became director of the Tennessee State Board of Nurse Examiners. Before her retirement in 1955, she served as president of the Tennessee Nurses Association, the Tennessee League for Nursing, the Tennessee Council of Nurses, and the International Council of Mental Hygiene. During World Wars I and II, she chaired the Tennessee Red Cross Recruitment Committee for which she received a citation and a gold bond service award.

Bertha Moncrief
Director 1913–1914
Ms. Moncrief earned her nursing diploma from Nashville City Hospital on May 26, 1911. From 1913-1914, she was the second director of Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses. No information is available about her following her departure from the School for Nurses.

1914–1918 No history available

Martha Nichols
Director 1918–1920
Ms. Nichols earned her nursing diploma from Nashville City Hospital on July 27, 1910, and she was the third director of the Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses. No information is available about her following her departure from the School for Nurses.

Esther Laubenstein
Director 1921–1925
Ms. Laubenstein was the fourth director of the Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses. She earned her certificate of proficiency from the University of Pennsylvania Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1916. Ms. Laubenstein was influential in the School’s day-to-day operations.
Edith Brodie
Director 1925–1930
Ms. Brodie was the last director of the Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses. She attended Vassar Training Camp and completed nurses’ training at New York City Hospital. In addition, she earned a bachelor of arts degree from Smith College and a master of science degree from Washington University. Ms. Brodie sought to improve the quality of the School by raising admission standards, developing two new programs including a combined program with Vanderbilt College of Arts and Sciences, creating two new publications (Morion and a school bulletin), and establishing an alumnae association. She suggested a new name for the School: School of Nursing of Vanderbilt University. She was also very active in the community where she participated in the Vanderbilt Women’s Club and the American Association of University Women.

Shirley Titus
Dean 1931–1938
In 1930, the new dean of the medical school abolished the joint role of nursing director between the nursing school and the hospital and appointed Ms. Titus as the first official dean. She had both the academic and professional background to fulfill this responsibility. She held two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan. Before coming to the School, she served as director of several nursing programs. At Vanderbilt, she instituted a strict restructuring of the curriculum. The new clinical rotations in Rutherford County for public health nursing practice demonstrated her focus on an equal balance between preventive care and curative care. Admission standards were raised to at least two years of college work before being admitted to the School of Nursing. In 1934, the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree was awarded, and by 1939 the certificate program was no longer offered. Her focus on quality advanced education and her attempts to end apprenticeship clinical experiences for nursing students were hallmarks of her tenure. By 1939, the School became a charter member of the Association for Collegiate Nursing.

Frances Ziegler
Dean 1938–1949
Ms. Ziegler became the second dean and she was as qualified as her predecessor. She received a diploma in nursing from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University. Her previous experience included educational director of the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing and Health and dean of the School of Nursing at the Medical College of Virginia. She actively sought accreditation from the National League for Nursing Education (NLNE), and the basic nursing program was accredited in 1941. Vanderbilt was then one of only three schools that were members of both the Association for Collegiate Schools of Nursing and the NLNE. The School’s graduates were granted licensure by the New York State Examiners, which was the gold standard of the time. With a goal of educating nurses to become leaders, she sought to align the principles taught at the School with this goal. She was the first to approach Chancellor Carmichael with plans for instituting a master’s degree program in nursing.

Julia Hereford
With the departures of Dean Ziegler in 1949, Ms. Hereford was promoted to full professor and named dean. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN, and then earned her Bachelor of Science degree, in 1936, from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She was appointed to the faculty in 1938, as an instructor. Her service on the faculty and the completion of her Master of Arts degree in teaching from Teachers College of Columbia University in New York earned her a promotion to the rank of assistant professor in 1943, and then associate professor in 1947. During her deanship, dramatic changes occurred in the nursing program. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was changed to a four-year degree in 1950, with additional curriculum revisions made during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1953, the last chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was established at the School. In cooperation with the Southern Regional Education Board, she was instrumental in developing a graduate program in the School of Nursing. The first graduate student enrolled in 1955, in what was the first graduate nursing program in Tennessee. Her greatest contribution while dean was to integrate nursing students more fully into the Vanderbilt University student body and to allow them more time to participate in student activities. Many alumni who attended during her deanship have often cited her as one of the most beloved deans of the School.

Nurses are angels in comfortable shoes.
Alma Gault
During Dean Hereford's two-year sabatical (1958–1959), Ms. Gault served as acting dean. She was a 1916 graduate of Wooster College and had attended the Vassar Training Camp. Before joining the School's faculty she was the director of nursing education at McHenry Medical College. Several noteworthy events occurred at this time, starting with the successful completion of the University's $30 million dollar campaign and allocation of $15,000 to the school. Bobbie Jean Pendue, the first African-American student, also matriculated. The first contact with the Helene Fuld Trust Fund was made, which eventually led to secured funds in 1967 to renovate two floors of the nursing building and establish the Helene Fuld Instructional Media Center. In 1967, she helped prepare a grant proposal for a five-year undergraduate curriculum revision project, which was submitted to the Division of Nursing of the U.S. Public Health Service. It was approved shortly afterwards on a trial basis. The purpose of the project was to revise the undergraduate curriculum and enrich instruction to accommodate more students, decrease attrition, and graduate knowledgeable, effective nurses. She retired shortly after this program was implemented.

Luther Christman
Dean 1967–1972
Dr. Christman became the first male school of nursing dean in the United States. He received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Temple University and a doctorate in sociology and anthropology from Michigan State University. Before coming to Vanderbilt, he was a faculty member and research associate at the University of Michigan. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and was rather controversial for his innovative ideas. He was described as willing to fight "traditionalism, parschialism, and narrow vested interests." He was especially interested in unifying nursing education and service, and he implemented joint clinical and teaching appointments between the School of Nursing-Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville Væners Administration Hospital, and other agencies in an effort to do so. He also appointed assistant deans for nursing at Vanderbilt Hospital and Væners Administration Hospital. He was instrumental in revising both the undergraduate and graduate curricula, appointing more doctorally-educated faculty, increasing the size of the student body, and attracting male students to the nursing program. He emphasized the need to nurture rigorous critical thinking in nursing students throughout the nursing program, beginning with the first and second year. Arts and Science courses and continuing with the upper division nursing courses. Many courses were co-taught with a scientist and a clinical nursing faculty to transfer basic knowledge into the nursing. He implemented a grid plan, which was designed to place each faculty member in a clinical practice area and an academic program area. After leaving Vanderbilt, he became dean at Rush University School of Nursing.

Sara Archer
Dean 1972–1982
Dr. Archer earned the associate degree in nursing from Washington Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing, the bachelors degree in nursing from the University of Miami and the master’s and doctoral degrees from Boston University. Her doctorate was in the administration of adults and higher education. Before coming to Vanderbilt, she was a faculty member and director of the gerontology program at Boston University. The first medical-surgical clinical nurse specialist MSN program at Vanderbilt was started in 1970, and she was the director of that program before she became associate dean and then Dean in 1972. Under her leadership, in 1979, the psychiactric-mental health major was revised to focus on primary care in mental health. Two other programs, gerontological nursing and maternal-infant nursing, were added in 1979. During this time, the master’s program requirements were raised to 41 credits and included a thesis or clinical paper. She valued the contributions of the alumni and encouraged a close relationship between the Alumni Association and the School. Because of the need for additional classroom space, the Nursing Annex was built behind Goddard Hall. It contained three large classrooms, four seminar rooms and a common area with a connector to Stevenson Science Center. In 1980, a self-study was begun and completed in 1982, with results recommending many administrative and academic changes in the School.
In the fall of 1982, the School began its search for a new dean. Ms. Chapman, associate professor of maternal and child nursing, was appointed as interim dean. She served in this position for a year and then returned to the faculty.

Dr. Smith was the interim dean until the appointment of Colleen Conway on August 1, 1984. A nurse and a psychologist, she left Vanderbilt and retired from teaching after working at the University of Indiana in Indianapolis.

Dr. Conway-Welch received the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Georgetown University School of Nursing, the Master of Science in Nursing degree in Parent-child Nursing from Catholic University of America and the PhD from New York University. She became a certified nurse midwife at Catholic Maternity Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Before coming to Vanderbilt, she was professor of nursing, assistant clinical professor of medicine and director of the nurse-midwifery graduate program at the University of Colorado. Upon her arrival at the School, she proposed new directions including implementation of many of the 1982 self-study recommendations. She instilled a new organizational structure. She requested that the School report to the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs rather than to the Provost of the University as she believed this arrangement would enhance opportunities for joint programs and clinical training. Three new associate dean positions were established, which relaxed directly to the tripartite mission of research, teaching and clinical practice. In 1999, a fourth associate dean, in Informatics, was added. Under her guidance and direction, the School has reached out to the community in profound ways, such as community-based clinics and practices. In addition to making a difference in Middle Tennessee, she has led the way for national impact via a variety of initiatives, such as the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education and the National Coalition for Emergency Preparedness. She was appointed by President Reagan to the Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic in 1988 and by Speaker Newt Gingrich to the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare in 1996. In 1997, she was named to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. She has spearheaded many projects, including the complete renovation of Goddard Hall and the Nursing Area, the building of Frist Hall with the addition of two floors on First Hall planned 2009, the PhD program in 1993, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in 2008. She has led the School into an extraordinary world of nursing in the 21st Century.
Honoring our Top 100 Leaders

A group of 100 School of Nursing alumni and faculty were nominated and selected to be the “100 Leaders: 100 Years.” The selection committee comprised of alumni and faculty felt these 100 people have made a significant contribution to the nursing profession. We are delighted to announce and honor this prestigious group of leaders in the world of nursing.

June C. Abbey  
Distinguished Faculty and Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing  
Recognized as a widely published author of book chapters and articles on nursing and engineering. Abbey was the director of the Center for Nursing Research and her research led to a wide variety of advancements in care. She discovered how to keep patients from shivering while undergoing hypothermic treatment and how to make it possible for quadriplegic and paraplegic patients to determine when their bladders were full.

Susie Adams  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized as one of the early educational leaders to identify the need for the advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner role and to integrate that role within primary care settings. Adams led Vanderbilt School of Nursing in the development of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program, one of the first in the nation. She pioneered a practice model that integrated mental health nurse practitioner services for women within an obstetrics/gynecology practice. She serves as a curriculum consultant to nursing schools developing graduate PMHNP programs including the Louisiana Consortium, Eastern Kentucky University and Winston-Salem State University. Her longstanding commitment to working with disadvantaged populations, particularly women with co-morbid mental health and substance abuse problems, has gained national recognition.

Sharon Adkins  
MSN 1988 – Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her leadership as executive director of the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA) where she works as an advocate for the 70,000 nurses in Tennessee in the legislative, community and educational arenas to advocate for the profession and quality patient care. Her passion for nursing is evident in her accomplishments at both the state and national levels. In her 20 plus years at Vanderbilt Medical Center, she developed and directed the Center for Parish Nursing and Health Ministries. While serving as president of the National Health Ministries Association, the organization developed the Scope and Standards of Faith Community Nursing with the American Nurses Association.

Adrienne Ames  
MSN 1975 – Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her dedication to nursing practice. Ames led the way for accountability in nursing practice and the involvement of staff in the decision-making process that involves their practice and work environment. She helped develop one of the first nursing staff bylaws in the nation that provided the structure and the foundation for this accountability and decision-making. She is a leader in the early work of developing the nurse practitioner role in joint practice and in primary care, and is a nursing representative in interdisciplinary planning for major initiatives at the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

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For families in Tennessee and across the country.

The HCA Family has been providing quality healthcare since 1968. Today we are a national leader in innovative healthcare technology, providing Patient Safety initiatives which are helping to improve the future of healthcare for families across the country. Our TriStar family includes 21 facilities and more than 14,000 dedicated employees, all working together to provide the best in healthcare. It’s an ongoing commitment to families, renewed daily by our family.

Visit our websites at HCAhealthcare.com or TriStarHealth.com
Nancy Anness
MSN 1986 — Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership role in starting the Vine Hill Community Clinic, Vanderbilt School of Nursing’s first nurse practitioner managed clinic. Vine Hill Clinic serves those who are uninsured and underinsured and is a national model of care for the underserved populations with limited healthcare access. Additionally, it was created as a learning laboratory for nursing students and a practice site for Vanderbilt Faculty. The Clinic has inspired hundreds of School of Nursing graduates to continue serving those who are in greatest need across our country. Nancy Anness continues to serve the poor and uninsured as Vice President of Advocacy, Access, and Community Outreach at Saint Thomas Health Services in Nashville.

Suzanne Baird
BSN 1984, MSN 1995 — Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her expertise in the care of women who become critically ill during pregnancy and/or childbirth. Baird is a recognized expert in electronic fetal monitoring, legal, high risk and critical care obstetric issues making her a sought after speaker and chair at international, national and regional conferences each year. Since there is a limited number of nurses and physicians who are trained to her level of expertise, her focus on research and publications are much needed in this highly skilled clinical area. She is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt School of Nursing and serves on several women’s health and neonatal nursing education and development committees.

Mary Bear
BSN 1976 — Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her leadership in graduate nursing education in the State of Florida and nursing scholarship in the areas of gerontology and client satisfaction with nursing care. She has championed the needs of elders and people in need in numerous faith-based and non-profit organizations.

Vicki Schwartz Beaver
BSN 1973, MSN 1976 — Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership and development of obstetric facilities in Nashville. She has led the formation of new obstetric facilities that have provided new options and “family friendly” nursing care. She has consulted with hospitals and companies on a national basis. Her contributions have also included non-profit leadership and working with pregnant women and young families in the community setting. She is the Director of Nurses for Newborns.

Carolyn Bess
BSN 1969, MSN 1971 — Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her teaching in the BSN and MSN programs at Vanderbilt School of Nursing for more than 37 years and designing one of the first distance RN to MSN programs in the U.S. Her leadership in curriculum development and evaluation was evident during major curriculum revisions and accreditation visits. Mentorship for registered nurse students is a hallmark of her career at Vanderbilt.
Virginia Trotter Betts  
MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized as a national and international health and mental health policy leader. She currently serves as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and previously as the Senior Advisor on Nursing and Policy to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her leadership within the nursing profession includes the presidency of the American and Tennessee Nurses Associations along with an academic career at the University of Tennessee Health Science College, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies.

Helen Joyce Weatherman Booth  
BSN 1947 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for 35 years of service in Tennessee Department of Public Health. Her contributions include planning, implementing, and delivering community health services to all age groups as a staff nurse and regional supervisor. She was appointed and served on the Middle Tennessee Health Systems Agency and the State Coordinating Council. In 1982, she received the R.H. Hutcheson, Sr. MD award given annually in recognition of dedicated and outstanding.

Beverly H. Bowns  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized as a pioneer in developing the Family Nurse Clinicians programs at Vanderbilt in 1971. She served as the director of the Family Nurse Clinician graduate studies. She wrote extensive articles about the nurse clinician’s role in preventative care and was an advocate for autonomous clinical decision-making for nurses in practice.

J. Michael Briley  
MSN 1994 ~ Distinguished Alumnus  
Recognized for being an ardent supporter of nursing advanced practice education. He has served as a preceptor for numerous pharmacy and nursing students for the past 14 years. He has studied abroad in such countries as England, Egypt, Ireland and Germany where he reviewed and compared healthcare delivery systems. He founded Primary Care Specialists – South, LLC in 2006 and not only continues to be active in his private practice but is active in the Tennessee Nurses Association where he served a chairperson of the Health Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Jamie Brodie  
MSN 1978 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty  
Recognized for becoming the first non-physician Director of Health Services for the Department of Corrections for the State of Tennessee. He was responsible for the administration of nursing, medical and professional services for a statewide correctional system including ambulatory care services for 12 adult and five juvenile facilities as well as management of a 110-bed hospital/extended care facility. He developed and coordinated the Correctional Health Program and the Forensic Nursing Program during his faculty tenure at Vanderbilt.
Amy Frances Brown  
Distinguished Faculty and Professor Emerita  
Recognized for research and development of nursing curricula as well as publishing several books on nursing. Most notable book published was “Medical Nursing” in 1945. She taught student nurses to incorporate specific communication skills into speaking and writing as well as teaching students how to incorporate this learning into clinical assignments. In 1965, she established the “Amy Frances Brown Prize for Excellence in Writing,” an award given annually to a student at Vanderbilt.

Laura Beth Brown  
MSN 2004 – Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her contributions as a leader in the home health industry. She has led the efforts in establishing Vanderbilt as one of the dominant home care providers in the state of Tennessee-ranking among the top 25 percent in “Home Care Elite” in the nation. She has been involved in health care as a clinician, administrator, consultant, researcher, and policy activist. Currently, she is President of the Tennessee Nurses Association.

Marie-Annette Brown  
BSN 1970 – Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for successfully combining research, teaching and practice as well as working as a family nurse practitioner at the University of Washington Medical Center. Her MN and PhD are from the University of Washington. She is nationally certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Specialist. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and received numerous awards, including American Nurses Association Nurse Practitioner of the Year, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Achievement in Research Award and the School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award. She was a pioneer nurse practitioner in Washington state, leading the NONPF and serving as an early president and board member. Most recently, she led the pioneering efforts to establish their Doctor of Nursing practice program. She has been involved with numerous research projects and has published extensively.

Poppy Pickering Buchanan  
BSN 1961 – Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her work in establishing a thriving health clinic in rural Kenya. The facility provides basic healthcare and maternity services to more than 20,000 people in the small village of N’dathi, who would otherwise have no access to health care. She also encouraged and funded micro lending activities for area community development.

Peter Buerhaus  
Distinguished Faculty and Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing  
Recognized for his nationally renowned work in research, especially as it relates to reshaping public policy regarding the nursing shortage. He is Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies in the Institute for Medicine and Public Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and previously served as the Senior Associate Dean for Research at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. He was assistant professor of health policy and management at Harvard School of Public Health where he developed the Harvard Nursing Research Institute and its post-doctoral program in nursing health services research. During the 1980s, he served as assistant to the chief executive officer of The University of Michigan Medical Center’s seven teaching hospitals and assistant to the Vice Provost for Medical Affairs, the...
chief executive of the medical center. He maintains an active research program involving studies on the economics of the nursing workforce, health workforce forecasting, measures of quality of care, and public and provider opinions on issues involving the delivery of health care. He has published more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and recently co-authored the 2008 book The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends, and Implications. He has earned numerous awards and appointments and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science.

Leanne Busby
MSN 1987 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her dedication to educating nurses at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Busby is currently a Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt. She was Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Graduate Specialty at Vanderbilt for seven years and helped facilitate the opening of the Vine Hill Community Clinic. In 2000, she was inducted as a Charter Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and continues to be active in this organization today. Busby served as Professor and Dean of the Jeanette Rudy School of Nursing at Cumberland University from 2000 to 2007 where, in 2001, she received the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2004, she was named The Nashville Tennessee “Nurse of the Year.” Busby is the recipient of numerous awards including the Ingeborg Maujohn Faculty Mentor Award at Vanderbilt and the Tennessee Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She was inducted into the Peabody College Educator’s Roundtable.

Judy Jean Chapman
BSN 1963 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita
Recognized as Interim Dean from 1982 to 1983. She was a pioneer in recognizing the potential use of computer technology in nursing. She initiated an exchange program for nursing students and faculty with the prestigious Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden for education and research. She was responsible for the initiation and creation of the School of Nursing seal that is used extensively in School publications.

Connie Chenosky-Miller
MSN 1997 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her efforts in fighting diabetes among people of color and poverty in New Mexico, especially among Navajo, Pueblo and Hispanic Americans. Her current role is Clinic Director of Cheyenne Crossroads Clinic, a federally-funded health center for the homeless program. She received the National Healthcare for the Homeless Clinician’s Network Local Hero Award in 2005. She is a certified diabetes educator and has passed the advanced clinical management of diabetes exam and also serves as a test writer for that exam. She has recently been named to the Speaker’s Bureau of the American Diabetes Association.

Tom Christenbery
MSN 1987 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty
Recognized for his coordination and direction of the core theory/research courses at Vanderbilt School of Nursing, and for integrating evidence-based nursing practice into these courses. He provides leadership for students in these courses who are making evidence-based protocol changes in their clinical areas. He has been noted as a faculty member who mentors new faculty and students alike. He has published many articles and book chapters as well as being the recipient of various awards including the Excellence in Teaching Award for Educational Innovation. In addition to his teaching duties, he volunteers at the Hill Detention Center to assist inmates with developing their reading skills.
Betsy Weiner
Distinguished Faculty and Senior Associate Dean
Recognized as a pioneer in multimedia development in nursing. She is internationally known for her leadership in nursing informatics as well as emergency planning and response. She has provided the vision for the School in nursing informatics since 2000, providing for the preparation of informatics-savvy graduates. Educational innovation such as the clinical log, integration of simulations into the curricula, the use of Blackboard, and online testing and evaluation barely touch the many activities she has implemented and supported to maintain a state-of-the-art program at the School. Her passion, leadership and dedication has moved Vanderbilt School of Nursing to a major informatics leader in the world.

Carolyn Whitaker
BSN 1962, MSN 1972 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her vision of nursing, established the role of family nurse practitioner and established the first nurse-practitioner run clinic in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. She recognized the need for and developed the role of the registered school nurse in schools throughout Tennessee supporting the coordinated school health program in the Tennessee General Assembly and Tennessee Nurses Association. She was directly involved in establishing the role of the registered nurse in adult developmentally-challenged homes and workshops in the Upper Cumberland Region.

Michele Harbin Williams
BSN 1986 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her contributions to the health care delivery system and demonstrated leadership in practice. Michele actively serves on the Metro Louisville Board of Health that advises on issues related to improving the health and well-being of the community’s citizens. She has demonstrated significant leadership through community service by establishing the West Louisville Junior Chamber (Jaycees). She serves as a positive role model to youth and was awarded the Big Sister of the Year Award in 1990. For her dedication, leadership, and contributions to the surgical setting and superior patient care Michele has received The Nurse Excellence Award and the Nurse of the Year Award from University of Louisville.

Margaret Winters
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for her expertise in protective body mechanics in nursing at Vanderbilt. She implemented the foundation courses for orthopedic instruction including body mechanics, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, growth and development. Prior to student clinical experience, nurses were required to complete lectures on orthopedic conditions and their relevance to nurse body mechanics.

Kelly Ambrosia Wolgast
MSN 1993 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her military leadership in wartime and in peacekeeping efforts. She assumed duties as the Commander, Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado in 2007, where she focuses on warrior care. She served as the Deputy Commander and Chief Nurse for the 4th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia. She was deployed with the 4th Combat Support Hospital to New Orleans in support of hurricane relief operations and Operation Katrina and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VII. Her awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Medal, and she has been inducted into the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit.

Susan Cooper
BSN 1979, MSN 1994 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for making Tennessee history when she became the first nurse to serve as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health in 2007. In 2005, she began her state service as a special policy and health advisor to Governor Bredesen, charged with developing Tennessee’s Health Care Safety Net. Cooper is a faculty member and former Assistant Dean of Practice where she led the development of the Center for Advanced Practice Nursing and Allied Health for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Charlotte Covington
BSN 1969, MSN 1989 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her development of new roles for nurses and nurse practitioners. As a Registered Nurse in the Vanderbilt Medical Center Emergency Department, she was one of the first flight nurses; created the role of the Emergency Department educator; and was one of the first Trauma Course instructors for the Emergency Nurses Association. As a nurse practitioner, she created two practices that were firsts for nurse practitioners: the Fast Track in the Vanderbilt Emergency Department and a primary care practice at the TWCA Domestic Violence Shelter. She is an Associate Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt.

Cheryl Cox
MSN 1972 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her development and scholarship related to the Interaction Model of Client Health Behavior. She developed the model to inform advanced nursing practice and directs research relative to patient and provider that influenced behaviorally-related health outcomes. The model has been the foundation for more than 28 National Institutes of Health studies totaling more than $50 million in support. Her work has targeted health promotion and risk reduction in the general population and in pediatric oncology.

Virginia Crenshaw
BSN 1942 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her service to the nursing profession on the local, state and national levels. She is known for her clinical field of expertise, gerontology. She served as a coordinator for the White House Conference on Aging and received the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award. She has written articles for professional journals and contributed to books on nursing as well as produced nursing films and videotapes.

Rebecca Culpepper
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for leadership in nursing practice, education and leadership. She served as a nursing professor and hospital administrator for 18 years. During her tenure at Vanderbilt Medical Center, she served as Assistant Hospital Director, assistant clinical professor of Nursing Administration, director of Staff Development for the Department of Patient Care Services and director of the Center for Nursing Continuing Education. Upon her death, a joint annual scholarship, the Rebecca Culpepper Award, was established in her memory by the School of Nursing and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Department of Patient Care Services.
Kim Aycock Town  
MSN 1997 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her development of advanced programs for patients requiring follow-up procedures for coloscopy, pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation, and IV infusion for osteoporosis. She is a leader in her field implementing the most current screening and treatment for Human Papilloma Virus, including offering the vaccine to patients in the Ft. Meyers, Florida area.

Nancy Travis  
BSN 1947 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her altruistic giving not only endowing the Dean’s chair currently held by Dean Colleen Conway-Welch but also providing funds for student scholarships. To date more than 276 students have benefited. She is an inspired community leader and a strong voice for private nursing education. During her volunteer work at the Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital she invented “Sweetpea” the clown. She dressed up as Sweetpea for more than 10 years and always loved bringing joy and comfort to the children.

Diane Welch Vines  
BSN 1967 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her assessment of current workforce education. She serves as the coordinator of the Oregon Governor’s Healthcare Workforce initiative to direct and implement a coordinated statewide response to healthcare workforce issues. Prior to this appointment, she served as secretary on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. She was director of special programs in academic affairs for the 20 campuses of California State University. She was the first civilian nurse White House fellow in 1982 serving as special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Education. She founded and directed the National Adult Literacy Initiative from 1983 to 1985. She has spoken at conferences both national and internationally.

Michael Vollman  
MSN 1995, PhD 2003 ~ Distinguished Alumni and Faculty  
Recognized for his leadership in adult cardiovascular nursing care and research. While on faculty at Vanderbilt School of Nursing for the past thirteen years, he has taught at the master’s and doctoral degree levels. He has published numerous books, articles and book chapters. He was named the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor at Vanderbilt in 2007.

Ken Wallston  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized as an international leader in health psychology and behavioral medicine. He has taught quantitative research methods to four decades of Vanderbilt School of Nursing students and has mentored countless nurse researchers. He is best known as one of the developers of the Multidimensional Health Locus of Control scales. He has developed numerous other instruments and has published over 100 journal articles and book chapters. He was named the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor at Vanderbilt in 2007.

Ellen Durham Davis  
BSN 1963 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her work as a Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Department of Advanced Clinical Practice at Duke University Hospital. She has led initiatives in diabetes patient self-management education, nursing education, research, and professional mentoring and writing. She has influenced generations of nurses and other health care professionals to collaborate with people with diabetes to attain their goals for fully productive lives. Her contributions have expanded the international fields of patient-centered diabetes care and education. She has received awards from nursing and diabetes organizations.

Elizabeth Dayani  
BSN 1971, MSN 1972 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized as a national leader in primary care, outpatient services, and home health services. For more than 30 years, she has developed and implemented innovations in health care delivery. She has been involved in state and national legislative and regulatory initiatives including the development of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations home care accreditation standards. In addition, she has served as a senior executive for numerous large private and publicly traded health care companies as well as publishing numerous health care articles.

Roger DesPrez, MD  
Distinguished Faculty and Professor Emeritus  
Recognized for his tireless service of more than 12 years at the Vine Hill Community Clinic in Nashville. He said that working at Vine Hill is his second job, because he joined the staff after serving 32 years as Chief of Medicine at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital. He loves providing indigent care for those who are very ill, working with the nurse practitioners and mentoring students. He has vowed to continue at the clinic as long as he thinks he is useful. In 2003, he was honored by the Vanderbilt School of Nursing with the Ingeborg Mauksch Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring.

Mary Louise Donaldson  
BSN 1954, MSN 1961 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita  
Recognized as the Vanderbilt School of Nursing’s historian. She published a book titled “A History of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing 1909 – 1984.” During her faculty tenure, she made many contributions, including developing a media center where she served as its director for 18 years. She also served as associate dean for graduate studies.

Marilyn Dubree  
MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her leadership in nursing and healthcare. She has served in nursing and nursing administration for Vanderbilt Medical Center (VMC) for more than 30 years and has served as chief nursing officer since 1994. In 2007, she became VMC’s first Executive Chief Nursing Officer and currently oversees more than 4,000 nurses throughout the medical center’s campus and satellite clinics. Under her leadership, Vanderbilt Medical Center became the only Magnet designated organization in Middle Tennessee in November 2006. Magnet designation is one of the highest achievements an organization can attain in the recognition of caliber of the nursing staff and what that professionalism means in terms of patient care and health care services to the community.

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Michael Vollman  
MSN 1995, PhD 2003 ~ Distinguished Alumni and Faculty  
Recognized for his leadership in adult cardiovascular nursing care and research. While on faculty at Vanderbilt School of Nursing for the past thirteen years, he has taught at the master’s and doctoral degree levels. He currently is recognized for his National Institute of Health funded research in chronic disease management, with an emphasis on assessing linkages among psychosocial factors, physiologic processes, and health outcomes in individuals living with heart failure.

Ken Wallston  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized as an international leader in health psychology and behavioral medicine. He has taught quantitative research methods to four decades of Vanderbilt School of Nursing students and has mentored countless nurse researchers. He is best known as one of the developers of the Multidimensional Health Locus of Control scales. He has developed numerous other instruments and has published over 100 journal articles and book chapters. He was named the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor at Vanderbilt in 2007.
Roberta Ann Smith  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized for her groundbreaking research into ways to reduce stress associated with physical illnesses like cancer, medical procedures, and terminal illness by providing increased choice, predictability, and problem solving skills. She is known for research dedicated to identifying ways to individualize patient care by examining the effects of individual differences in patients’ responses to clinical interventions. In collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Walton, she was one of the first nurse faculty at Vanderbilt to receive major clinical research funding from National Institute of Health (NIH). In addition to her research, throughout her career, she has been recognized as a mentor, educator, and faculty leader. From 1983 to 1984, she served as Interim Dean at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Shortly thereafter, she left Vanderbilt and retired from teaching after working at the University of Indiana in Indianapolis.

Connie Carter Sunderman  
BSN 1950 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her innovative thinking that nurse practitioners needed to be prepared at the master’s level. She strongly supported illness prevention and primary care throughout her career. As a nurse practitioner, she taught clinical courses in critical care units, community health classes, and independent study courses in primary care. She is considered an outstanding leader in community health nursing and primary care. Following her retirement from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock as Associate Professor Emerita, the faculty of the College of Nursing named a scholarship honoring her contributions.

Judy Sweeney  
BSN 1970, MSN 1975 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for developing and integrating the essentials from the BSN program into the new pre-specialty curriculum, an expedited track toward becoming a nurse practitioner. It was one of the first of its kind in the country. The student population is multigenerational, adding richness to the educational expertise. She strengthened the integration of theory into clinical practice with the curriculum, establishing the clinical faculty liaison role and increased service learning in community health by having the students involved in diverse community settings throughout the entire first year. She implemented a Mass Casualty-Bioterrorism workshop as part of the curriculum. She was one of the first faculty to put an entire course on the internet and to use the computer lab for testing purposes. She has written many journal articles and chapters in nursing books.

Cathy Taylor  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized for being appointed as Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health’s Bureau of Health Services Administration (BHSA) in May 2007. The BHSA is responsible for the administration of Tennessee’s 89 rural and six metropolitan county health departments and 13 regional offices, which provide both primary care and prevention services with an emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and health access activities. Prior to joining the Department of Health, she served as director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance Disease Management Program and worked in community health nursing and outreach at Vanderbilt School of Nursing focusing on diabetes and tobacco cessation.

Frances McGaughy Edwards  
BSN 1953, MSN 1976 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized locally and nationally for her contribution to nursing through activism and service. Edwards’ practice has been in areas that have broadened the boundaries of nursing practice. She served the Tennessee Nurses Association as a board member, president, chair, and treasurer of the political action committee. She also chaired the American Nurses Association political action committee and lobbied extensively for nurses and health care in both the Tennessee State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Edwards is the first nurse to serve as president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and is one of the founders of the School of Nursing’s Julia Hereford Society.

Connie Carter Sunderman  
BSN 1950 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her work in rural areas from Appalachia to Angola and in urban areas from Nashville to Sarajevo. She has focused on traumatized populations, designing and administering programs to address health and mental health needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by crime, war, or disaster. As an outspoken advocate for underserved and vulnerable populations in local, national and international settings, she strongly promotes the concept that, health mental, human rights and human dignity are intricably linked. She established one of the first polio-based counseling programs in the nation, the Victim Intervention Program of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department. She has worked with Doctors Without Borders in Bosnia, Poland, Honduras, Tajikistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Angola and Eastern Chad.

Rosamond Gabrielson  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized for advocacy of the bedside nurses’ role and the role nurses had with physicians. She studied nurses’ actions with regard to physician medication verbal orders and found that nurses often followed physician orders without question. She urged nurses to challenge these relationships and strive for collaborative practice. After validating the role the nurse played in a patient care, she changed the model of nursing from nursing practice to primary nursing with an emphasis on the nurse being an important member of the health care team. Prior to her Vanderbilt tenure, she served as President of the American Nurses Association from 1972 to 1976.

Virginia George  
BSN 1947 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita  
Recognized for serving as director of the family nurse practitioner program, interim associate dean for graduate/professional programs, and interim chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing at Vanderbilt. She was instrumental in the success of the family nurse practitioner program, one of the first of its kind in the Southeast. Later, she became the director of the master’s practitioner program. She retired after 28 years of service and continues to volunteer at the Siloam Family Health Center in Nashville.

Mary Dodd Giles  
Distinguished Faculty  
Recognized for her teaching of the principles of surgery and her innovative techniques in post-operative care. Her textbook, “Surgical Nursing,” was widely used during the 1930s and 1940s as a standard for surgical care. She believed nurses must comprehend knowledge of the fundamental sciences as well as principles of both medicine and surgery.
Ann Prochazka
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized as a nationally known leader in orthopedic nursing. She was one of the first nurses trained in physiotherapy techniques. Using her training in the use of light, heat, water, electricity, massage, and joint manipulation, she developed corrective exercises for patients for use at home during the polio epidemic.

Randolph Rasch
MSN 1979 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty
Recognized for his role as part of the team which developed a system of health care services in the Tennessee Department of Correction. He served as one of the first nurse practitioners in the system and was the first state-wide Director of Nursing Services in the department. He led the development of a Quality Assurance Program, a major factor in the release from Federal Court Supervision of the health services division state correctional system. Rasch was the first African-American family nurse practitioner to hold the masters degree. He was the first African-American male public health nurse in the state of Michigan as well as the first to hold the PhD in nursing. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. He is a Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt.

Irene Rich
MSN 1984 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her military leadership in the field of women’s health. She served as the first director and architect of the U.S. Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. She managed medical research appropriations totaling $91.6 million and awarded over 2,500 grants targeting breast cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, neuroblastoma, defense women’s health, and osteoporosis. She designed the programs to function as unique partnerships among the public, scientific community, and the DOD. As member of two national health policy boards, she worked with multi-disciplinary teams from leading government, academic, private and consumer advocacy organizations to recommend public policy.

Julie Rosof-Williams
MSN 1990 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership and clinical work in child maltreatment. For the past 18 years she has provided medical-legal evaluations for children and adolescents who may have experienced sexual abuse/rape. She helped develop and currently coordinates the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Forensic Nursing Program, which is part of the Adult Nurse Practitioners Program. She educates nurses, physicians, law enforcement officials, and others about child sexual abuse across the country. She chaired the committee that developed the International Association of Forensic Nurses certification examination for sexual assault nurse examiners who serve pediatric patients.

Diana Ruzicka
MSN 1993 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her leadership skills in the military. Ruzicka has served in many leadership positions including Deputy Commander for Health Services and Nursing in Colorado and Commander of the U.S. Army Health Clinic in Stuttgart, Germany, where she cared for Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine forces supporting the European Command. She initiated a pain management service at Tripler Army Medical Center conducting research, implementing system wide changes, lecturing and publishing. Ruzicka served on a Veterans Affairs’ Department of Defense work group which established acute pain management and chronic opioid therapy clinical practice guidelines to be used by the military world-wide. She was featured in “All You Can Be: A Soldier’s Reflections on Service in the Greatest Army the World Has Ever Seen,” by David Kay.
shortage. She developed the evaluation component for several curricula and education projects using a continual improvement framework. Most recently, she developed the evaluation/improvement process for the National Health Professional Preparedness Consortium curriculum for mass casualty and is the evaluator for an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) bioterrorism educational project grant. She has been recognized for her expertise and knowledge in nursing education and quality improvement, as evidenced by her induction into the American Academy of Nursing in 2004.

James C. Pace
MSN 1981 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty
Recognized for his leadership in palliative care. He developed the Adult Nurse Practitioner Program with a focus in palliative care utilizing local and nationally recognized sites for student preceptorships. He is an ordained Episcopalian minister. He was instrumental in developing the joint degree between the schools of nursing and divinity at Vanderbilt. His interdisciplinary work as evening chaplain with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s adult and children’s hospitals highlight the importance of the spiritual dimension in holistic health assessment and care.

Bobbi Jean Perdue
BSN 1970 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her expertise in developing and administering nursing education programs that recruit, retain and graduate students from low income, urban and minority backgrounds. She is the Program Director of Nursing Education at South Carolina State University. In 2006, she received the title of Professor Emeritus from Syracuse University. In recognition of her leadership as the founder of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program in Nursing, Rutgers College of Nursing annually awards a Dr. Bobbie Perdue Urban Spirit Award to a community champion.

Barbara Petersen
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized as a pioneer in Nurse-Midwifery, starting Nurse-Midwifery Programs at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and at the University of Michigan. She provides education leadership as an expert grant writer and has created a template used successfully by programs internal and external to the School. She is considered an expert in the accreditation process, and has served as an accreditation site visitor and Board of Review member of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery. She shepherds programs in nursing and nurse-midwifery through the processes of program planning, curriculum development, writing and organization of exhibits in preparation for visits.

Bonnie Pilon
Distinguished Faculty and Senior Associate Dean
Responsible for all activities related to the practice mission of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, which includes oversight of more than 10 different faculty practice sites and satellite sites that serve elementary schools, domestic violence shelters, and congregate living high rise apartment buildings for disabled and frail elderly. She also serves as a consultant to University Community Health Services, Inc., the federally qualified Health Center (FQHC) in the state. From 1989 until 1995, she was Program Director for the graduate Nursing Administration specialty where she introduced the first quality improvement course at the University and integrated case management content into the curriculum. She has assisted institutions with development of clinical integration strategies and tools, redesign of organizational structures to optimize quality and efficiency, Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) preparation, outcome measurement and management, and design/redesign of clinical pathway and case and disease management systems. She is a frequent national speaker and has published numerous articles.

Betsy Kerr May
MSN 1976 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her doctoral work with elderly nursing home residents and with the assisted-living community. She is an end-of-life trainer with a mission to graduate students who are able to provide compassionate, knowledgeable care to dying patients and their families. Her vision and leadership helped to start the National Association of Orthopedic Nurses (NAON) and the NAON Foundation. She directed the undergraduate honors program and served as associate dean for Community, International Programs and Faculty Practice. She has published numerous articles relating to her research.

Leslie Higgins
BSN 1972, MSN 1975 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her research interests that include patient understandings of chronic illnesses and how these understandings affect patients’ willingness to make the therapeutic changes nurses prescribe. She has served as a family nurse practitioner in Nashville for more than 30 years and still practices one day per week in Belmont University’s Student Health Services.

Erma Holtschauen
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for developing a unique and new pattern of staffing and training to meet the nursing needs of patients. She became a faculty member at Vanderbilt School of Nursing in 1930 and served as director of Vanderbilt Nursing Service for 30 years. During her tenure, she was a pioneer in the organization of nursing services that later led to advances in medical and nursing practice and education, including the development of the current hospital unit manager concept.

Beth Colvin Huff
BSN 1974, MSN 1979 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her career focus in gynecologic cancer. She worked for 12 years in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Vanderbilt Medical Center, during which time she served as national president of the Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists. She was co-editor of the first textbook in gynecologic oncology nursing entitled “Women and Cancer: A Gynecologic Oncology Nursing Perspective”. Since 1997, she has coordinated the Vanderbilt Colposcopy Clinic where she sees patients who have had an abnormal Pap test. She is involved with resident, medical and nursing student education. She just completed two terms on the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology Board of Directors as the only nurse practitioner on the Board and received the Society’s Award of Merit in 2008.

Margaret Jacobson
BSN 1954, MSN 1958 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership in the development of a theoretical framework for nursing and a scientific base for nursing practice. She served on the faculty of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing from 1954-1955; thereafter she served at Stanford University and the University of California, San Francisco. She is a Professor Emerita at San Jose State University (SJSU), where she initiated and developed a unique part-time masters program designed specifically for employed nurses in the South Bay and the Central Valley. Through her efforts, funding was obtained for an early program in gerontological nursing as part of the M.S.N. program. She served on the SJSU Academic Senate and was Associate Dean of Curriculum in the School of Applied Arts and Sciences.
Anne Moore
MSN 1981 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for developing the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) Program at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. The school now has the largest nurse practitioner program in the U.S. conferring a Master's Degree with a specialty focus with more than 300 graduates. She is widely published in peer review literature and currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, as well a frequently invited speaker at national nurse practitioner meetings.

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BSN 1957, MSN 1959 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her leadership and entrepreneur skills in creating and developing the University of Arkansas School of Nursing, now named the "Carolyn McKelvey Moore School of Nursing." The University of Arkansas offers both Associate Degrees in Nursing and BSN degrees and has graduated more than 3,000 registered nurses. More than 100 students a year receive nursing scholarships from endowments she has secured for the School as Vice-Chancellor for Advancement. As Senior Vice President for Advancement, she recently led the effort to secure $88 million for the Emergency and Critical Care Center at Sparks Medical Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

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Recognized for her work with migrant farm workers, the homeless and the underserved. Her multilingual capabilities enabled her to work as a health officer and family nurse practitioner with the U.S. State Department serving overseas in many places including Niger, India, Romania, Pakistan and Ecuador working with malnourished women and children. She is currently working with colleagues writing an E-book for home health care in the event of a pandemic and is a partner in the Pandemic Home Care, LLC in New Mexico.

Mary Evelyn Kemp
BSN 1963 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita
Recognized for her 31 years of service in the maternal and child program. She was asked to help launch a new home delivery program in Gibson County, Tennessee, while earning her bachelor's degree at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Throughout her career, she started a home delivery service, established clinics, reorganized the maternal and child nursing program, and established a referral service for mother and child after hospital discharge. She retired as Professor Emerita in 1981.

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Distinguished Faculty and Senior Associate Dean
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Ingeborg Mauksch
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for the development of the Nurse Practitioner role with nurse-physician collaboration. She was appointed to the Valere Potter Distinguished Professorship of Nursing, one of the first endowed professorships in the United States. Ingeborg was a strong proponent of graduate-prepared nurses functioning in expanded roles with physicians, as well as promoting hospice care and the value of patient and family decision-making in health care. During her 50 years in the nursing profession, she was elected to the Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing and to membership in the Institutes of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Donna McArthur
MSN 1977 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership in nurse practitioner education and practice within diverse ambulatory settings in the United States and Middle East. She was Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Vanderbilt School of Nursing and is the director of the newly launched Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Prior to coming to the School, she was a clinical professor and Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at the University of Arizona College of Nursing. In recent years, her practice has included older adults in community clinics settings, especially those with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). She currently serves on the ALS Association Board.

Elizabeth Bishop McNaughton
MSN 1999 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for building a nurse-midwifery program at the Jackson Clinic in Dickson, Tennessee with satellite clinics in Lyles and Waverly, Tennessee. These clinics provided prenatal care to the underserved in West Tennessee as well as functioning as clinical practice sites for nurse-midwifery students. She continues to practice as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner in North Carolina focusing on women's health issues.

Ann Minnick
Distinguished Faculty, Senior Associate Dean and Jula Eleanor Chenault Professor of Nursing
Recognized nationally and internationally for her contributions to quality and health services initiatives that have influenced workforce, educational, and clinical regulatory policies. She has won numerous awards for teaching and mentoring succeeding generations of nurses and researchers. Currently she is contributing to the Vanderbilt School of Nursing as Senior Associate Dean of Research and Co-Director of the Ph.D. program. Her current research concerns issues are related to health service delivery, nursing human resources and patient-centered care. She is the author of more than 70 articles and research reports.

Joan King
BSN 1972, MSN 1984 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership role in developing Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) program at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. She has contributed nationally to the development of the ACNP role through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the National Organization of Nurses Practitioners. In addition, she has continued to practice at Vanderbilt Prenatal Services, as well as mentor students both clinically and in the didactic classes. She participated in the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Tour of Hope. She was chosen to ride across the country alongside cycling legend Lance Armstrong in the campaign to raise awareness about clinical trials and cancer research.

Carol Komara
BSN 1962 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her leadership in developing creative clinical nursing education programs and for conducting, publishing, and mentoring nursing staff in clinical research. Some of her research studies have involved the effects of early initiation of breastfeeding on infants regardless of obstetrical complications. She is recognized also for fostering nursing education programs within the University of Kentucky Medical Center community and for serving on the Kentucky Board of Nursing.

Kathy Koon
MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her 21 years of university teaching experience, she retired as Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing at Georgia Southern University. She was one of two pilot students in the first Family Nurse Clinician MSN Program at Vanderbilt University assistant Dr. Beverly Henry-Bowens with the development of that program. In 1972, she was one of the first Family Nurse Practitioners hired to work in a local Public Health Department in Tennessee. She has continued to be active professionally since her retirement, including participating and serving as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and helping to establish a center for victims of sexual assault in her community.

Joyce Laben
Distinguished Faculty and Professor Emerita
Recognized for her development of the current Tennessee Forensic Mental Health System as well as her lifelong commitment to the mentally ill in the criminal justice system. A nurse and an attorney, she co-authored two reports that led to the creation of the first mental health court in Tennessee, co-authored books on mental health law for nurses and has written multiple articles on legal/ethical issues in health care. Laben has served as Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt, co-founded the Vine Hill Clinic in Nashville and currently sits on several community boards and national health care commissions.

Laurence E. Lancaster
MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty
Recognized as being a national and international nephrology specialist. He has served as clinical specialist in nephrology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and chair of the Department of Adult Health. For the past 18 years, he has taught the advanced physiology/pathophysiology course for acute care nurse practitioners. For the past ten years, he has also had a faculty appointment with Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. In his role as editor of four editions of the “Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing,” he has disseminated the knowledge base for nephrology nurses at the national level. He is the author and editor of textbooks on nephrology nursing that are used internationally.
Ann Patterson Luther
MSN 1981 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her contributions in advancing the specialty of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nursing. She served a two-year term as National President of Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nursing. She played pivotal roles in both the development of a national certification exam in this specialty and in the establishment of the Ear Nose and Throat Nursing Foundation. She has been Clinical Nurse Specialist/Case Manager for the Otorhinolaryngology Service at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for the past 20 years.

Janie Capps Macey
BSN 1954, MSN 1974 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita
Recognized for her clinical expertise in maternal-child nursing. Her primary focus was mentoring students within and beyond the clinical area. Her research was based on studying faculty-protégé-mentor relationships as a method for faculty development in Schools of Nursing. Her formal findings have encouraged her informal approach to guiding and counseling younger faculty members and students over the years. She retired after 19 years of service to Vanderbilt School of Nursing; her main concern was always to help nurture and guide students.

Jane S. MacLean
MSN 2003 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her advocacy for passing legislation to create the position of State Nursing Director for California. She currently serves as Director of Public Health Nursing for 65,000 residents, while managing a multimillion dollar budget and a staff of nearly thirty. She is the 2008-2009 President of the California Conference of Local Health Department Nursing Directors representing the Nursing Directors of all 58 counties in the state. She also serves as a preceptor for B.S.N. and nurse practitioner students.

Amelia Mangay-Maglacas
BSN 1953 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her leadership in global nursing development as World Health Organization’s (WHO) Chief Scientist for Nursing. Her many local and international awards recognize and attest to her significant leadership and contributions in primary health care development and conceptualization and initiation of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Nursing and Midwifery which has become an important focus and links to worldwide nursing.

Ginger Trundle Manley
BSN 1966, MSN 1981 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership in the extension of advanced practice nursing. Pioneering the role since 1975, she was the first advanced practice nurse to chair the Tennessee Board of Nursing and the first nurse faculty member to have a private faculty practice at Vanderbilt. As a specialist in sexual health for more than twenty-five years, she developed the Manley Model of Sexual Health, which is widely used to assess and treat issues of human sexual dysfunction. She has specialized in treating health professionals who violate sexual boundaries in their practices, an area in which she has published numerous papers.

Jana Lauderdale
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for dedicating her nursing career to work with students, organizations/or institutions responsible for providing health care to women of color and in particular to Native American women. As a member of the Comanche Nation, her research focuses on culture, women’s health and health disparities and minority nursing student education issues. Her most recent research, “Talking Circles for Breast Health” focuses on the mammography practices of Comanche Indian women. Currently she is a consultant on the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Research Project with the United Southern and Eastern Tribes and Indian Health Service studying MCH issues as perceived by Indian communities across the northeast and southeast sectors of the United States and is a participating advisory member of the Kellogg Foundation National Advisory Council’s health disparities project of the American Academy of Nursing “Calling the Circle”. She is extensively published in the area of transcultural nursing.

Rosann Finucane Lawrence
BSN 1977 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for serving as a White House nurse for three years caring for President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush, 3rd. During this tour of duty, she traveled to many foreign countries with the President where she was the only medically-trained individual. When President Reagan had surgery, she was asked to be part of his medical team for recovery. Later she served during Operation Desert Storm caring for Navy and Marine Corps prisoners of war when they returned from Iraq. She was in Officer in Charge for the groundbreaking of the Same Day Surgery Unit at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Lewis Lefkowitz, Jr., MD
Distinguished Faculty and Professor Emeritus
Recognized for his service as teacher, mentor, advisor; and colleague of students, graduates, and faculty of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing for 43 years including the interprofessional Student Health Coalition, Vanderbilt’s nurse practitioner degree programs, and the School’s innovative community-based Human Development courses. He was preceptor and clinical colleague of the Vanderbilt nurse practitioners working at the Cape Homes Community Clinic, the Lynchburg Community Clinic and the Vine Hill Clinic. He has promoted collegial collaborations between medicine and nursing within and beyond Vanderbilt and has been among nursing’s many advocates before the Tennessee State Licensing Board.

Frances Likis
MSN 1994 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her contributions to women’s health care and to the midwifery and nurse practitioner professions as an author, editor, educator, and clinician. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health, co-editor of the textbook “Women’s Gynecologic Health”, and the author of several journal articles and book chapters. She has been an advanced practice nursing educator and mentor throughout her career; initially as a clinical preceptor and later as a faculty member, administrator, and sought-after speaker. She works clinically as a sexual assault examiner in Nashville.
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Dorothy E. Johnson
BSN 1942 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her prolific writings on the subject of nursing theory. Her many publications profoundly influenced theoretical thinking in nursing during the second half of the 20th Century. She held a strong conviction that continuing improvement of care was the ultimate goal of nursing. Her 1968 paper, entitled "One Conceptual Model of Nursing," was a classic contribution to nursing literature. After her retirement, she remained active as a speaker and advocate for nursing education.

Rolanda Johnson
PhD 1986 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her research pertaining to the health-promoting behaviors of African Americans as well as perceptions of genetics information. She provides leadership as the Director of the Fisk/Vanderbilt University Nursing Partnership Program, which graduated its first 850 students in May 2008, and is the founding President of the Nashville Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

Pam O. Jones
MSN 1992 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her more than 20 years of progressive nursing leadership experience. She held positions ranging from vice president, chief operating officer and chief executive officer in a variety of academic, for-profit and faith-based organizations. She has particular expertise in healthcare business management and operational finance and has utilized these skills in securing healthcare access for underserved populations. In addition to her operational leadership roles, she is an outstanding faculty member in the Health Systems Management Program and the Clinical Nurse Leader Program where she has been recognized for her work in developing the Health Systems Management on-line program of study.

Sue Jones
BSN 1967,MSN 1974 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her expertise in clinical practice in Women's Health. Sue has provided care for women throughout the life span for over thirty years and is now seeing her third generation of women. She was one of the first certified Nurse Colposcopists and is also certified as a Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner, a Family Nurse Practitioner, and a Menopause Clinician. She has participated in the education of nursing students at Charity Hospital School of Nursing, University of Kentucky/Vanderbilt University, and Belmont University.

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Kathryn Wolff Nelson
BSN 1946,MSN/PhD 1963 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her humanitarian efforts in the realm of nursing. She taught in classrooms and village clinics in the Belgian Congo, which several years later was the basis of her Ph.D. study at Peabody College. Returning to the Congo from 1978-1980, she directed the nursing section of Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai. In 1988, she ventured to China where she worked at the Beijing Medical University teaching with the Amity Foundation and Project HOPE to prepare nursing leaders for the new baccalaureate program the school was instituting.

Linda Norman
Distinguished Faculty and Senior Associate Dean
Recognized for her commitment to nursing education for more than 30 years, 14 of which have been at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing as the associate dean of academics. She has been actively involved in the area of continuous quality improvement for the past 12 years, serving on the advisory committee for the Interdisciplinary Professional Education Collaborative and the Kitchen Cabinet for Professional Education of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). She is a founding member of IHI's Summer Institute for Leadership in Quality Improvement for Health Professional Educators. She serves on the research team to evaluate the effectiveness of the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future related to the nursing
shortage. She developed the evaluation component for several curricula and education projects using a continual improvement framework. Most recently, she developed the evaluation/improvement process for the National Health Professional Preparedness Consortium curriculum for mass casualty and is the evaluator for an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) bioterrorism educational project grant. She has been recognized for her expertise and knowledge in nursing education and quality improvement, as evidenced by her induction into the American Academy of Nursing in 2004.

James C. Pace
MSN 1981 ~ Distinguished Alumni and Faculty
Recognized for his leadership in palliative care. He developed the Adult Nurse Practitioner Program with a focus in palliative care utilizing local and nationally recognized sites for student preceptorships. He is an ordained Episcopalian minister. He was instrumental in developing the joint degree between the schools of nursing and divinity at Vanderbilt. His inter-disciplinary work as evening chaplain with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s adult and children's hospitals highlights the importance of the spiritual dimension in holistic health assessment and care.

Bobbi Jean Perdue
BSN 1970 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her expertise in developing and administering nursing education programs that recruit, retain and graduate students from low income, urban and minority backgrounds. She is the Program Director of Nursing Education at South Carolina State University. In 2006, she received the title of Professor Emeritus from Syracuse University. In recognition of her leadership as the founder of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program in Nursing, Rutgers College of Nursing annually awards a Dr. Bobbie Perdue Urban Spirit Award to a community champion.

Barbara Petersen
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized as a pioneer in Nurse-Midwifery, starting Nurse-Midwifery Programs at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and at the University of Michigan. She provides education leadership as an expert grant writer and has created a template used successfully by programs internal and external to the School. She is considered an expert in the accreditation process, and has served as an accreditation site visitor and Board of Review member of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery. She shepherds programs in nursing and nurse-midwifery through the processes of program planning, curriculum development, writing and organization of exhibits in preparation for visits.

Bonnie Pilon
Distinguished Faculty and Senior Associate Dean
Responsible for all activities related to the practice mission of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, which includes oversight of more than 10 different faculty practice sites and satellite sites that serve elementary schools, domestic violence shelters, and congregate living high rise apartment buildings for disabled and frail elderly. She also serves as a consultant to University Community Health Services, Inc., the federally Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in the state. From 1989 until 1995, she was Program Director for the graduate Nursing Administration specialty where she introduced the first quality improvement course at the University and integrated case management content into the curriculum. She has assisted institutions with development of clinical integration strategies and tools, redesign of organizational structures to optimize quality and efficiency, joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) preparation, outcome measurement and management, and design/redesign of clinical pathway and case and disease management systems. She is a frequent national speaker and has published numerous articles.

Betsy Kerr Hay
MSN 1976 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her doctoral work with elderly nursing home residents and with the assisted-living community. She is an end-of-life trainer with a mission to graduate students who are able to provide compassionate, knowledgeable care to dying patients and their families. Her vision and leadership helped to start the National Association of Orthopedic Nurses (NAON) and the NAON Foundation. She directed the undergraduate honors program and served as associate dean for Community International Programs and Faculty Practice. She has published numerous articles relating to her research.

Leslie Higgins
BSN 1972, MSN 1975 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her research interests that include patient understandings of chronic illnesses and how those understandings affect patients’ willingness to make the therapeutic changes nurses prescribe. She has served as a family nurse practitioner in Nashville for more than 30 years and still practices one day per week in Belmont University’s Student Health Services.

Erma Holtzhausen
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for developing a unique and new pattern of staffing and training to meet the nursing needs of patients. She became a faculty member at Vanderbilt School of Nursing in 1930 and served as director of Vanderbilt Nursing Service for 30 years. During her tenure, she was a pioneer in the organization of nursing services that later led to advances in medical and nursing practice and education, including the development of the current hospital unit manager concept.

Beth Colvin Huff
BSN 1974, MSN 1979 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her career focus in gynecologic cancer. She worked for 12 years in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Vanderbilt Medical Center, during which time she served as national president of the Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists. She was co-editor of the first textbook in gynecologic oncology nursing entitled “Women and Cancer: A Gynecologic Oncology Nursing Perspective”. Since 1997, she has coordinated the Vanderbilt Colposcopy Clinic where she sees patients who have had an abnormal Pap test. She is involved with resident, medical and nursing student education. She just completed two terms on the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology Board of Directors as the only nurse practitioner on the Board and received the Society’s Award of Merit in 2008.

Margaret Jacobson
BSN 1954, MSN 1958 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership in the development of a theoretical framework for nursing and a scientific base for nursing practice. She served on the faculty of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing from 1954-55; thereafter she served at Stanford University and the University of California, San Francisco. She is a Professor Emerita at San Jose State University (SJSU), where she initiated and developed a unique part-time masters program designed specifically for employed nurses in the South Bay and the Central Valley. Through her efforts, funding was obtained for an early program in gerontological nursing as part of the M.S.N. program. She served on the SJSU Academic Senate and was Associate Dean of Curriculum in the School of Applied Arts and Sciences.
Mary Jo Gilmer  
**Distinguished Faculty**  
Recognized for the development of an interdisciplinary pediatric palliative care program and a trail-blazer in advocating for children with life-threatening or life-limiting conditions at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. She is passionate about her research in expanding understanding of symptom management, palliative care and helping families through illness and bereavement after the death of a child. Throughout her career, she has received numerous teaching awards.

Steve Guillot  
**Distinguished Faculty**  
Recognized for his leadership of the Middle Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps and the director of the National Center for Emergency Preparedness. He assisted in the development and refinement of nursing courses and seminars designed to add disaster medicine/disaster management to existing curricula for the Vanderbilt School of Nursing along with several universities around the region. His contributions have brought a greater awareness of current health care policy while exposing nursing students to their roles as a potential nurse responder providing critical medical care during disasters.

Ann Hamric  
**BSN 1970 – Distinguished Alumna and Faculty**  
Recognized for her scholarship in advanced practice nursing and ethics. She has been senior editor of six books, two on the clinical nurse specialist role and four on advanced practice nursing. She is considered a national and international expert in defining and promoting advanced practice nursing in the area of ethics, she does interdisciplinary teaching and research with colleagues at University of Virginia. Areas of research focus include ethical issues in research and the phenomenon of moral distress. She was recognized for substantive contributions in Nursing Ethics by the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities’ Affinity Group for Nursing.

Lulu Wolf Hassenplug  
**Distinguished Faculty**  
Recognized for expertise in curriculum development. She felt nursing education should be kept separate from nursing service. She changed the model for nursing education emphasizing the core education experience for nurses. Nurses would be admitted like all other students in the university, be responsible for their own living, be free to marry, and to live where they might choose. She developed the curriculum for basic and graduate programs to be equal to other professional curriculums. Her book, “Nursing: met a long felt need in professional literature. She left Vanderbilt to become the founding dean at the School of Nursing at UCLA.

Melissa Hauck  
**BSN 1972 – Distinguished Alumna**  
Recognized for her care and management of intracardiac device patients for over 25 years. In the clinical setting and as a Senior Clinical Specialist with Medtronic, Hauck has been a preceptor of a number of Vanderbilt nursing students. She has educated many nurses, cardiac fellows and physicians about new and current cardiac device management and device therapies. Hauck recently successfully passed the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners Certification Examination for Competency in Cardiac Rhythm Device Therapy for the Allied Professional. This exam is recognized globally as the highest benchmark of professional competency in cardiac pacing and electrophysiology.

Ann Prochazka  
**Distinguished Faculty**  
Recognized as a nationally known leader in orthopedic nursing. She was one of the first nurses trained in physiotherapy techniques. Using her training in the use of light, heat, water, electricity, massage, and joint manipulation, she developed corrective exercises for patients for use at home during the polio epidemic.

Randolph Rasch  
**MSN 1979 – Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty**  
Recognized for his role as part of the team which developed a system of health care services in the Tennessee Department of Correction. He served as one of the first nurse practitioners in the system and was the first state-wide Director of Nursing Services in the department. He led the development of a Quality Assurance Program, a major factor in the release from Federal Court Supervision of the health services division state correctional system. Rasch was the first African American family nurse practitioner to hold the masters degree. He was the first African American male public health nurse in the state of Michigan as well as the first to hold the PhD in nursing. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. He is a Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt.

Irene Rich  
**MSN 1984 – Distinguished Alumnus**  
Recognized for her military leadership in the field of women’s health. She served as the first director and architect of the U.S. Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. She managed medical research appropriations totaling $116.6 million and awarded over 2,500 grants targeting breast cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, neuroendometriosis, defense women’s health, and osteoporosis. She designed the programs to function as unique partnerships among the public, scientific community, and the DoD. As member of two national health policy boards, she worked with multi-disciplinary teams from leading government, academic, private and consumer advocacy organizations to recommend public policy.

Julie Rosof-Williams  
**MSN 1990 – Distinguished Alumna and Faculty**  
Recognized for her leadership and clinical work in child maltreatment. For the past 18 years she has provided medical-legal evaluations for children and adolescents who may have experienced sexual abuse/rape. She helped develop and currently coordinates the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Forensic Nursing Program, which is part of the Adult Nurse Practitioners Program. She educates nurses, physicians, law enforcement officials, and others about child sexual abuse across the country. She chaired the committee that developed the International Association of Forensic Nurses certification examination for sexual assault nurse examiners who serve pediatric patients.

Diana Ruzicka  
**MSN 1993 – Distinguished Alumna**  
Recognized for her leadership skills in the military. Ruzicka has served in many leadership positions including Deputy Commander for Health Services and Nursing in Colorado and Commander of the U.S. Army Health Clinic in Stuttgart, Germany, where she cared for Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine forces supporting the European Command. She initiated a pain management service at Tripler Army Medical Center conducting research, implementing system wide changes, lecturing and publishing. Ruzicka served on a Veterans Affairs’ Department of Defense work group which established acute pain management and chronic opioid therapy clinical practice guidelines to be used by the military worldwide. She was featured in “All You Can Be; A Soldier’s Reflections on Service in the Greatest Army the World Has Ever Seen,” by David Kay.
Roberta Ann Smith  
**Distinguished Faculty**

Recognized for her groundbreaking research into ways to reduce stress associated with physical illnesses like cancer, medical procedures, and terminal illness by providing increased choice, predictability, and problem solving skills. She is known for research dedicated to identifying ways to individuate patient care by examining the effects of individual differences in patients’ responses to clinical interventions. In collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Wolszton, she was one of the first nurse faculty at Vanderbilt to receive major clinical research funding from National Institute of Health (NIH). In addition to her research, throughout her career, she has been recognized as a mentor, educator, and faculty leader. From 1983 to 1984, she served as Interim Dean at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Shortly thereafter, she left Vanderbilt and retired from teaching after working at the University of Indiana in Indianapolis.

Connie Carter Sunderman  
**BSN 1950 ~ Distinguished Alumna**

Recognized for her innovative thinking that nurse practitioners needed to be prepared at the master’s level. She strongly supported illness prevention and primary care throughout her career. As a nurse practitioner, she taught clinical courses in critical care units, community health classes, and independent study courses in primary care. She is considered an outstanding leader in community health nursing and primary care. Following her retirement from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock as Associate Professor Emerita, the faculty of the College of Nursing named a scholarship honoring her contributions.

Judy Sweeney  
**BSN 1970, MSN 1975 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty**

Recognized for developing and integrating the essentials from the BSN program into the new pre-speciality curriculum, an expeditious track toward becoming a nurse practitioner. It was one of the first of its kind in the country. The student population is multicultural, adding richness to the educational experience. She strengthened the integration of theory into clinical practice with the curriculum, establishing the clinical faculty liaison role and increased service learning in community health by having the students involved in diverse community settings throughout the entire first year. She implemented a Mass Casualty-Bioterrorism workshop as part of the curriculum. She was one of the first faculty to put an entire course on the internet and to use the computer lab for testing purposes. She has written many journal articles and chapters in nursing books.

Cathy Taylor  
**Distinguished Faculty**

Recognized for being appointed as Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health’s Bureau of Health Services Administration (BHSA) in May 2007. The BHSA is responsible for the administration of Tennessee’s 89 rural and six metropolitan county health departments and 13 regional offices, which provide both primary care and prevention services with an emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and health access activities. Prior to joining the Department of Health, she served as director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance Disease Management Program and worked in community health nursing and outreach at Vanderbilt School of Nursing focusing on diabetes and tobacco cessation.

Frances McGaughy Edwards  
**BSN 1953, MSN 1976 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty**

Recognized locally and nationally for her contribution to nursing through activism and service. Edwards’ practice has been in areas that have broadened the boundaries of nursing practice. She served the Tennessee Nurses Association as a board member, president, chair and treasurer of the political action committee. She also chaired the American Nurses Association political action committee and lobbied extensively for nurses and health care in both the Tennessee State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Edwards is the first nurse to serve as president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and is one of the founders of the School of Nursing’s Julia Hereford Society.

Carol Etherington  
**MSN 1975 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty**

Recognized for her work in rural areas from Appalachia to Angola and in urban areas from Nashville to Sarajevo. She has focused on traumatized populations, designing and administering programs to address health and mental health needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by crime, war or disaster. As an outspoken advocate for underserved and vulnerable populations in local, national and international settings, she strongly promotes the concept that health, mental health, human rights and human dignity are inextricably linked. She established one of the first polio-based counseling programs in the nation, the Victim Intervention Program of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department. She has worked with Doctors Without Borders in Bosnia, Poland, Honduras, Tajikistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Angola and Eastern Chad.

Rosamond Gabrielson  
**Distinguished Faculty**

Recognized for advocacy of the bedside nurses’ role and the role nurses had with physicians. She studied nurses’ actions with regard to physician medication verbal orders and found that nurses often followed physician orders without question. She urged nurses to challenge these relationships and strive for collaborative practice. After validating the role the nurse played in a patient care, she changed the model of nursing from nursing practice to primary nursing with an emphasis on the nurse being an important member of the health care team. Prior to her Vanderbilt tenure, she served as President of the American Nurses Association from 1972 to 1976.

Virginia George  
**BSN 1947 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita**

Recognized for serving as director of the family nurse practitioner program, interim associate dean for graduate/professional programs, and interim chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing at Vanderbilt. She was instrumental in the success of the family nurse practitioner program, one of the first of its kind in the Southeast. Later, she became the director of the master’s program. She retired after 28 years of service and continues to volunteer at the Silsoam Family Health Center in Nashville.

Mary Dodd Giles  
**Distinguished Faculty**

Recognized for her teaching of the principles of surgery and her innovative techniques in post-operative care. Her textbook, “Surgical Nursing,” was widely used during the 1930s and 1940s as a standard for surgical care. She believed nurses must comprehend knowledge of the fundamental sciences as well as principles of both medicine and surgery.
Ellen Durham Davis
BSN 1963 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her work as a Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Department of Advanced Clinical Practice at Duke University Hospital. She has led initiatives in diabetes patient self-management education, nursing education, research, and professional mentoring and writing. She has influenced generations of nurses and other health care professionals to collaborate with people with diabetes to attain their goals for fully productive lives. Her contributions have expanded the international fields of patient-centered diabetes care and education. She has received awards from nursing and diabetes organizations.

Elizabeth Dayani
BSN 1971, MSN 1972 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized as a national leader in primary care, outpatient services, and home health services. For more than 30 years, she has developed and implemented innovations in health care delivery. She has been involved in state and national legislative and regulatory initiatives including the development of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations home care accreditation standards. In addition, she has served as a senior executive for numerous large private and publicly traded health care companies as well as publishing numerous health care articles.

Roger DesPrez, MD
Distinguished Faculty and Professor Emeritus
Recognized for his tireless service of more than 12 years at the Vine Hill Community Clinic in Nashville. He said that working at Vine Hill is his second job, because he joined the staff after serving 32 years as Chief of Medicine at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital. He loves providing indigent care for those who are very ill, working with the nurse practitioners and mentoring students. He has vowed to continue at the clinic as long as he thinks he is useful. In 2003, he was honored by the Vanderbilt School of Nursing with the Ingeborg Mauksch Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring.

Mary Louise Donaldson
BSN 1954, MSN 1961 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita
Recognized as the Vanderbilt School of Nursing’s historian. She published a book titled “A History of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing 1909 – 1984.” During her faculty tenure, she made many contributions, including developing a media center where she served as its director for 18 years. She also served as associate dean for graduate studies.

Marilyn Dubree
MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership in nursing and healthcare. She has served in nursing and nursing administration for Vanderbilt Medical Center (VMC) for more than 30 years and has served as chief nursing officer since 1994. In 2007, she became VMC’s first Executive Chief Nursing Officer and currently oversees more than 4,000 nurses throughout the medical center’s campus and satellite clinics. Under her leadership, Vanderbilt Medical Center became the only Magnet designated organization in Middle Tennessee in November 2006. Magnet designation is one of the highest achievements an organization can attain in the recognition of caliber of the nursing staff and what that professionalism means in terms of patient care and health care services to the community.

Kim Aycock Town
MSN 1997 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her development of advanced programs for patients requiring follow-up procedures for coloscopy, pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation, and IV infusion for osteoporosis. She is a leader in her field implementing the most current screening and treatment for Human Papilloma Viruses, including offering the vaccine to patients in the Ft. Myers, Florida area.

Nancy Travis
BSN 1947 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her altruistic giving not only endowing the Dean’s chair currently held by Dean Colleen Conway-Welch but also providing funds for student scholarships. To date more than 276 students have benefitted. She is an inspired community leader and a strong voice for private nursing education. During her volunteer work at the Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital she invented “Sweetpea” the clown. She dressed up as Sweetpea for more than 10 years and always loved bringing joy and comfort to the children.

Diane Welch Vines
BSN 1967 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her assessment of current workforce education. She serves as the coordinator of the Oregon Governor’s Healthcare Workforce initiative to direct and implement a coordinated statewide response to healthcare workforce issues. Prior to this appointment, she served as secretary on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. She was director of special programs in academic affairs for the 20 campuses of California State University. She was the first civilian nurse White House fellow in 1982 serving as special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Education. She founded and directed the National Adult Literacy Initiative from 1983 to 1985. She has spoken at conferences both national and internationally.

Michael Vollman
MSN 1995, PhD 2003 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for his leadership in adult cardiovascular nursing care and research. While on faculty at Vanderbilt School of Nursing for the past thirteen years, he has taught at the master’s and doctoral degree levels. He currently is recognized for his National Institute of Health funded research in chronic disease management, with an emphasis on assessing linkages among psychosocial factors, physiologic processes, and health outcomes in individuals living with heart failure.

Ken Wallston
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized as an international leader in health psychology and behavioral medicine. He has taught quantitative research methods to four decades of Vanderbilt School of Nursing students and has mentored countless nurse researchers. He is best known as one of the developers of the Multidimensional Health Locus of Control scales. He has developed numerous other instruments and has published over 100 journal articles and book chapters. He was named the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor at Vanderbilt in 2007.
Betsy Weiner
Distinguished Faculty and Senior Associate Dean
Recognized as a pioneer in multimedia development in nursing. She is internationally known for her leadership in nursing informatics as well as emergency planning and response. She has provided the vision for the School in nursing informatics since 2000; providing for the preparation of informatics-savvy graduates. Educational innovation such as the clinical log, integration of simulations into the curricula, the use of Blackboard, and online testing and evaluation barely touch the many activities she has implemented and supported to maintain a state-of-the-art program at the School. Her passion, leadership and dedication has moved Vanderbilt School of Nursing to a major informatics leader in the world.

Carolyn Whitaker
BSN 1962, MSN 1972 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her vision of nursing, established the role of family nurse practitioner and established the first nurse-practitioner run clinic in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. She recognized the need for and developed the role of the registered school nurse in schools throughout Tennessee supporting the coordinated school health program in the Tennessee General Assembly and Tennessee Nurses Association. She was directly involved in establishing the role of the registered nurse in adult developmentally-challenged homes and workshops in the Upper Cumberland Region.

Michele Harbin Williams
BSN 1986 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her contributions to the health care delivery system and demonstrated leadership in practice. Michele actively serves on the Metro Louisville Board of Health that advises on issues related to improving the health and well-being of the community’s citizens. She has demonstrated significant leadership through community service by establishing the West Louisville Junior Chamber (Jaycees). She serves as a positive role model to youth and was awarded the Big Sister of the Year Award in 1990. For her dedication, leadership, and contributions to the surgical setting and superior patient care Michele has received The Nurse Excellence Award and the Nurse of the Year Award from University of Louisville.

Margaret Winters
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for her expertise in protective body mechanics in nursing at Vanderbilt. She implemented the foundation courses for orthopedic instruction including body mechanics, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, growth and development. Prior to student clinical experience, nurses were required to complete lectures on orthopedic conditions and their relevance to nurse body mechanics.

Kelly Ambrosia Wolgast
MSN 1993 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her military leadership in wartime and in peacekeeping efforts. She assumed duties as the Commander, Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado in 2007, where she focuses on warrior care. She served as the Deputy Commander and Chief Nurse for the 4th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia. She was deployed with the 4th Combat Support Hospital to New Orleans in support of hurricane relief operations and Operation Katrina and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VII. Her awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Medal, and she has been inducted into the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit.

Susan Cooper
BSN 1979, MSN 1994 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for making Tennessee history when she became the first nurse to serve as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health in 2007. In 2003, she began her state service as a special policy and health advisor to Governor Bredesen, charged with developing Tennessee’s Health Care Safety Net. Cooper is a faculty member and former Assistant Dean of Practice where she led the development of the Center for Advanced Practice Nursing and Allied Health for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Charlotte Covington
BSN 1949, MSN 1989 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her development of new roles for nurses and nurse practitioners. As a Registered Nurse in the Vanderbilt Medical Center Emergency Department, she was one of the first flight nurses; created the role of the Emergency Department educator; and was one of the first Trauma Course instructors for the Emergency Nurses Association. As a nurse practitioner, she created two practices that were firsts for nurse practitioners: the Fast Track in the Vanderbilt Emergency Department and a primary care practice at the TWCA Domestic Violence shelter. She is an Associate Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt.

Cheryl Cox
MSN 1972 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her development and scholarship related to the Interaction Model of Client Health Behavior. She developed the model to inform advanced nursing practice and direct research relative to patient and provider that influenced behaviorally-related health outcomes. The model has been the foundation for more than 24 National Institutes of Health studies totaling more than $30 million in support. Her work has targeted health promotion and risk reduction in the general population and in pediatric oncology.

Virginia Crenshaw
BSN 1942 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her service to the nursing profession on the local, state and national levels. She is known for her clinical field of expertise, gerontology. She served as coordinator for the White House Conference on Aging and received the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award. She has written articles for professional journals and contributed to books on nursing as well as produced nursing films and videotapes.

Rebecca Culpepper
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized for leadership in nursing practice, education and leadership. She served as a nursing professor and hospital administrator for 18 years. During her tenure at Vanderbilt Medical Center, she served as Assistant Hospital Director, assistant clinical professor of Nursing Administration, director of Staff Development for the Department of Patient Care Services and director of the Center for Nursing Continuing Education. Upon her death, a joint annual scholarship, the Rebecca Culpepper Award, was established in her memory by the School of Nursing and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Department of Patient Care Services.
chief executive of the medical center. He maintains an active research program involving studies on the economics of the nursing workforce, health workforce forecasting, measures of quality of care, and public and provider opinions on issues involving the delivery of health care. He has published more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and recently co-authored the 2008 book The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends, and Implications. He has earned numerous awards and appointments and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science.

Leanne Busby
MSN 1987 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her dedication to educating nurses at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Busby is currently a Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt. She was Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Graduate Specialty at Vanderbilt for seven years and helped facilitate the opening of the Vine Hill Community Clinic. In 2000, she was inducted as a Charter Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and continues to be active in this organization today. Busby served as Professor and Dean of the Jeannette Rudy School of Nursing at Vanderbilt University from 2000 to 2007 where, in 2001, she received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2004, she was named The Nashville Nashville “Nurse of the Year.” Busby is the recipient of numerous awards including the Ingelborg Mauksch Faculty Mentor Award at Vanderbilt and the Tennessee Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She was inducted into the Peabody College Educator’s Roundtable.

Judy Jean Chapman
BSN 1963 ~ Distinguished Alumna, Faculty and Professor Emerita
Recognized as Interim Dean from 1982 to 1983. She was a pioneer in recognizing the potential use of computer technology in nursing. She initiated an exchange program for nursing students and faculty with the prestigious Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden for education and research. She was responsible for the initiation and creation of the School of Nursing seal that is used extensively in School publications.

Connie Chenosky-Miller
MSN 1997 ~ Distinguished Alumna
Recognized for her efforts in fighting diabetes among people of color and poverty in New Mexico, especially with Navajo, Pueblo and Hispanic Americans. Her current role is Clinic Director of Cheyenne Crossroads Clinic, a federally-funded healthcare for the homeless program. She received the National Healthcare for the Homeless Clinician’s Network Local Hero Award in 2005. She is a certified diabetes educator and has passed the advanced clinical management of diabetes exam and also serves as a test writer for that exam. She has recently been named to the Speaker’s Bureau of the American Diabetes Association.

Tom Christenbery
MSN 1987 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty
Recognized for his coordination and direction of the core theory/research courses at Vanderbilt School of Nursing, and for integrating evidence-based nursing practice into these courses. He provides leadership for students in these courses who are making evidence-based protocol changes in their clinical areas. He has been noted as a faculty member who mentors new faculty and students alike. He has published many articles and book chapters as well as being the recipient of various awards including the Excellence in Teaching Award for Educational Innovation. In addition to his teaching duties, he volunteers at the Hill Detention Center to assist inmates with developing their reading skills.

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Amy Frances Brown  
**Distinguished Faculty and Professor Emerita**

Recognized for research and development of nursing curricula as well as publishing several books on nursing. Most notable book published was “Medical Nursing” in 1945. She taught student nurses to incorporate specific communication skills into speaking and writing as well as teaching students how to incorporate this learning into clinical assignments. In 1965, she established the “Amy Frances Brown Prize for Excellence in Writing,” an award given annually to a student at Vanderbilt.

Laura Beth Brown  
**MSN 2004 – Distinguished Alumna**

Recognized for her contributions as a leader in the home health industry. She has led the efforts in establishing Vanderbilt as one of the dominant home care providers in the state of Tennessee—ranking among the top 25 percent in “Home Care Elite” in the nation. She has been involved in health care as a clinician, administrator, consultant, researcher, and policy activist. Currently, she is President of the Tennessee Nurses Association.

Marie-Annette Brown  
**BSN 1970 – Distinguished Alumna**

Recognized for successfully combining research, teaching and practice as well as working as a family nurse practitioner at the University of Washington Medical Center. Her MN and PhD are from the University of Washington. She is nationally certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Specialist. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and received numerous awards, including American Nurses Association Nurse Practitioner of the Year, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Achievement in Research Award and the School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award. She was a pioneer in women’s rights and was an early president and board member. Most recently, she led the pioneering efforts to establish their Doctor of Nursing practice program. She has been involved with numerous research projects and has published extensively.

Poppy Pickering Buchanan  
**BSN 1961 – Distinguished Alumna**

Recognized for her work in establishing a thriving health care clinic in rural Kenya. The facility provides basic healthcare and maternity services to more than 20,000 people in the small village of Ndathi, who would otherwise have no access to health care. She also encouraged and funded micro lending activities for area community development.

Peter Buerhaus  
**Distinguished Faculty and Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing**

Recognized for his nationally renowned work in research, especially as it relates to reshaping public policy regarding the nursing shortage. He is Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies in the Institute for Medicine and Public Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and previously served as the Senior Associate Dean for Research at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. He was assistant professor of health policy and management at Harvard School of Public Health where he developed the Harvard Nursing Research Institute and its post-doctoral program in nursing health services research. During the 1980s, he served as assistant to the chief executive officer of The University of Michigan Medical Center’s seven teaching hospitals and assistant to the Vice Provost for Medical Affairs.
Virginia Trotter Betts
MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty

Recognized as a national and international health and mental health policy leader. She currently serves as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and previously as the Senior Advisor on Nursing and Policy to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her leadership within the nursing profession includes the presidency of the American and Tennessee Nurses Associations along with an academic career at the University of Tennessee Health Science College, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies.

Helen Joyce Weatherman Booth
BSN 1947 ~ Distinguished Alumna

Recognized for 35 years of service in Tennessee Department of Public Health. Her contributions include planning, implementing, and delivering community health services to all age groups as a staff nurse and regional supervisor. She was appointed and served on the Middle Tennessee Health Systems Agency and the State Coordinating Council. In 1992, she received the R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD award given annually in recognition of dedicated and outstanding.

Beverly H. Bowns
Distinguished Faculty

Recognized as a pioneer in developing the Family Nurse Clinicians programs at Vanderbilt in 1971. She served as the director of the Family Nurse Clinician graduate studies. She wrote extensive articles about the nurse clinician’s role in preventative care and was an advocate for autonomous clinical decision-making for nurses in practice.

J. Michael Briley
MSN 1994 ~ Distinguished Alumnus

Recognized for being an ardent supporter of nursing advanced practice education. He has served as a preceptor for numerous pharmacy and nursing students for the past 14 years. He has studied abroad in such countries as England, Egypt, Ireland and Germany where he reviewed and compared healthcare delivery systems. He founded Primary Care Specialists – South, LLC in 2006 and not only continues to be active in his private practice but is active in the Tennessee Nurses Association where he served a chairperson of the Health Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Jamie Brodie
MSN 1978 ~ Distinguished Alumnus and Faculty

Recognized for becoming the first non-physician Director of Health Services for the Department of Corrections for the State of Tennessee. He was responsible for the administration of nursing, medical and professional services for a statewide correctional system including ambulatory care services for 12 adult and five juvenile facilities as well as management of a 110-bed hospital/extended care facility. He developed and coordinated the Correctional Health Program and the Forensic Nursing Program during his faculty tenure at Vanderbilt.
Nancy Anness  
MSN 1986 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her leadership role in starting the Vine Hill Community Clinic, Vanderbilt School of Nursing's first nurse practitioner managed clinic. Vine Hill Clinic serves those who are uninsured and underinsured and is a national model of care for the underserved populations with limited healthcare access. Additionally, it was created as a learning laboratory for nursing students and a practice site for Vanderbilt faculty. The Clinic has inspired hundreds of School of Nursing graduates to continue serving those who are in greatest need across our country. Nancy Anness continues to serve the poor and uninsured as Vice President of Advocacy, Access, and Community Outreach at Saint Thomas Health Services in Nashville.

Suzanne Baird  
BSN 1984, MSN 1995 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her expertise in the care of women who become critically ill during pregnancy and/or childbirth. Baird is a recognized expert in electronic fetal monitoring, legal, high risk and critical care obstetric issues making her a sought after speaker and chair at international, national and regional conferences each year. Since there is a limited number of nurses and physicians who are trained to her level of expertise, her focus on research and publications are much needed in this highly skilled clinical area. She is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt School of Nursing and serves on several women’s health and neonatal nursing education and development committees.

Mary Bear  
BSN 1976 ~ Distinguished Alumna  
Recognized for her leadership in graduate nursing education in the State of Florida and nursing scholarship in the areas of gerontology and client satisfaction with nursing care. She has championed the needs of elders and people in need in numerous faith-based and non-profit organizations.

Vicki Schwartz Beaver  
BSN 1973, MSN 1976 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her leadership and development of obstetric facilities in Nashville. She has led the formation of new obstetric facilities that have provided new options and “family friendly” nursing care. She has consulted with hospitals and companies on a national basis. Her contributions have also included non-profit leadership and working with pregnant women and young families in the community setting. She is the Director of Nurses for Newborns.

Carolyn Bess  
BSN 1969, MSN 1971 ~ Distinguished Alumna and Faculty  
Recognized for her teaching in the BSN and MSN programs at Vanderbilt School of Nursing for more than 37 years and designing one of the first distance RN to MSN programs in the U.S. Her leadership in curriculum development and evaluation was evident during major curriculum revisions and accreditation visits. Mentorship for registered nurse students is a hallmark of her career at Vanderbilt.
Honoring our Top 100 Leaders

A group of 100 School of Nursing alumni and faculty were nominated and selected to be the “100 Leaders: 100 Years.” The selection committee comprised of alumni and faculty felt these 100 people have made a significant contribution to the nursing profession. We are delighted to announce and honor this prestigious group of leaders in the world of nursing.

June C. Abbey
Distinguished Faculty and Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing
Recognized as a widely published author of book chapters and articles on nursing and engineering. Abbey was the director of the Joint Center for Nursing Research and her research led to a wide variety of advancements in care. She discovered how to keep patients from shivering while undergoing hypothermic treatment and how to make it possible for quadriplegic and paraplegic patients to determine when their bladders were full.

Susie Adams
Distinguished Faculty
Recognized as one of the early educational leaders to identify the need for the advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner role and to integrate that role within primary care settings. Adams led Vanderbilt School of Nursing in the development of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program, one of the first in the nation. She pioneered a practice model that integrated mental health nurse practitioner services for women within an obstetric/gynecological practice. She serves as a curriculum consultant to nursing schools developing graduate PMHNP programs including the Louisiana Consortium, Eastern Kentucky University and Winston-Salem State University. Her longstanding commitment to working with disadvantaged populations, particularly women with co-morbid mental health and substance abuse problems, has gained national recognition.

Sharon Adkins
MSN 1988 – Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her leadership as executive director of the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA) where she works as an advocate for the 70,000 nurses in Tennessee in the legislative, community and educational arenas to advocate for the profession and quality patient care. Her passion for nursing is evident in her accomplishments at both the state and national levels. In her 20 plus years at Vanderbilt Medical Center, she developed and directed the Center for Parish Nursing and Health Ministries. While serving as president of the National Health Ministries Association, the organization developed the Scope and Standards of Faith Community Nursing with the American Nurses Association.

Adrienne Ames
MSN 1975 – Distinguished Alumna and Faculty
Recognized for her dedication to nursing practice. Ames led the way for accountability in nursing practice and the involvement of staff in the decision-making process that involves their practice and work environment. She helped develop one of the first nursing staff bylaws in the nation that provided the structure and the foundation for this accountability and decision-making. She is a leader in the early work of developing the nurse practitioner role in joint practice and in primary care, and is a nursing representative in interdisciplinary planning for major initiatives at the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

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HealthSpring Spokesperson
& Hall of Fame Baseball Player
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Judy jean Chapman
Interim Dean 1982–1983
In the fall of 1982, the School began its search for a new dean. Ms. Chapman, associate professor of maternal and child nursing, was appointed as interim dean. She served in this position for a year and then returned to the faculty.

Roberta Smith
Interim Dean 1983–1984
Dr. Smith was the interim dean until the appointment of Colleen Conway on August 1, 1984. A nurse and a psychologist, she left Vanderbilt and retired from teaching after working at the University of Indiana in Indianapolis.

Colleen Conway-Welch
Dean 1984 to Present
Dr. Conway-Welch received the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Georgetown University School of Nursing, the Master of Science in Nursing degree in Parent-child Nursing from Catholic University of America and the PhD from New York University. She became a certified nurse midwife at Catholic Maternity Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Before coming to Vanderbilt, she was professor of nursing, assistant clinical professor of medicine and director of the nurse-midwifery graduate program at the University of Colorado. Upon her arrival at the School, she proposed new directions including implementation of many of the 1982 self-study recommendations. She instilled a new organizational structure. She requested that the School report to the Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs rather than to the Provost of the University as she believed this arrangement would enhance opportunities for joint programs and clinical training. Three new associate dean positions were established, which relaxed directly to the tripartite mission of research, teaching and clinical practice. In 1999, a fourth associate dean, in Informatics, was added. Under her guidance and direction, the School has reached out to the community in profound ways, such as community-based clinics and practices. In addition to making a difference in Middle Tennessee, she has led the way for national impact via a variety of initiatives, such as the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education and the National Coalition for Emergency Preparedness. She was appointed by President Reagan to his Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic in 1988 and by Speaker Newt Gingrich to the National Bippers Commission on the Future of Medicare in 1998. In 1997, she was named to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. She has spear-headed many projects, including the complete renovation of Goddard Hall and the Nursing Areas, the building of Frist Hall with the addition of two floors on First Hall planned 2009, the PhD program in 1993, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in 2008. She has led the School into an extraordinary world of nursing in the 21st Century.
Alma Gault
During Dean Hereford’s two-year sabbatical (1958–1959), Ms. Gault served as acting dean. She was a 1916 graduate of Wooster College and had attended the Vassar Training Camp. Before joining the School’s faculty, she was the director of nursing education at Meharry Medical College. Several noteworthy events occurred at this time, starting with the successful completion of the University’s 30 million dollar campaign and allocation of $115,000 to the school. Bobbie Jean Pembus, the first African-American student, also matriculated. The first contact with the Helen Ford Trust Fund was made, which eventually led to secured funds in 1967 to renovate two floors of the nursing building and establish the Helen Ford Instructional Media Center. In 1967, she helped prepare a grant proposal for a five-year undergraduate curriculum revision project, which was submitted to the Division of Nursing of the U.S. Public Health Service. It was approved shortly afterwards on a trial basis. The purpose of the project was to revise the undergraduate curriculum and enrich instruction to accommodate more students, decrease attrition, and graduate knowledgeable, effective nurses. She retired shortly after this program was implemented.

Luther Christman
Dean 1967–1972
Dr. Christman became the first male school of nursing dean in the United States. He received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Temple University and a doctorate in sociology and anthropology from Michigan State University. Before coming to Vanderbilt, he was a faculty member and research associate at the University of Michigan. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and was rather controversial for his innovative ideas. He was described as willing to fight “traditionalism, parochialism, and narrow vested interests.” He was especially interested in unifying nursing education and service, and he implemented joint clinical and teaching appointments between the School of Nursing-Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville Veterans Administration Hospital, and other agencies in an effort to do so. He also appointed associate deans for nursing at Vanderbilt Hospital and Veterans Administration Hospital. He was instrumental in revising both the undergraduate and graduate curricula, appointing more doctorally-educated faculty, increasing the size of the student body, and attracting male students to the nursing program. He emphasized the need for nurses to have rigorous critical thinking in nursing students throughout the nursing program, beginning with the first and second year. Arts and Science courses and continuing with the upper division nursing courses. Many courses were co-taught by a scientist and a clinical nursing faculty to transfer basic knowledge into the nursing. He implemented a grid plan, which was designed to place each faculty member in a clinical practice area and an academic program area. After leaving Vanderbilt, he became dean at Rush University School of Nursing.

Sara Archer
Dean 1972–1982
Dr. Archer earned the associate degree in nursing from Washington Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing, the bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Miami and the master’s and doctoral degrees from Boston University. Her doctorate was in the administration of adult and higher education. Before coming to Vanderbilt, she was a faculty member and director of the gerontology program at Boston University. The first medical-surgical clinical nurse specialist MSN program at Vanderbilt was started in 1970, and she was the director of that program before she became associate dean and then Dean in 1972. Under her leadership, in 1979, the psychiatric-mental health major was revised to focus on primary care in mental health. Two other programs, gerontological nursing and maternal-infant nursing, were added in 1979. During this time, the master’s program requirements were raised to 41 credits and included a thesis or clinical paper. She valued the contributions of the alumni and encouraged a close relationship between the Alumni Association and the School. Because of the need for additional classroom space, the Nursing Annex was built behind Goddard Hall. It contained three large classrooms, four seminar rooms and a common area with a connector to Stevenson Science Center. In 1980, a self-study was begun and completed in 1982, with results recommending many administrative and academic changes in the School.
Edith Brodie
Director 1925–1930
Ms. Brodie was the last director of the Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses. She attended Vassar Training Camp and completed nurse’s training at New York City Hospital. In addition, she earned a bachelor of arts degree from Smith College and a master of science degree from Washington University. Ms. Brodie sought to improve the quality of the School by raising admission standards, developing two new programs including a combined program with Vanderbilt College of Arts and Sciences, creating two new publications (Morrin and a school bulletin), and establishing an alumnae association. She suggested a new name for the School: School of Nursing of Vanderbilt University. She was also very active in the community where she participated in the Vanderbilt Women’s Club and the American Association of University Women.

Shirley Titus
Dean 1931–1938
In 1930, the new dean of the medical school abolished the joint role of nursing director between the nursing school and the hospital and appointed Ms. Titus as the first official dean. She had both the academic and professional background to fulfill this responsibility. She held two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan. Before coming to the School, she served as director of several nursing programs. At Vanderbilt, she instituted a strict restructuring of the school curriculum. The new clinical rotations in Rutherford County for public health nursing practice demonstrated her focus on an equal balance between preventive care and curative care. Admission standards were raised to at least two years of college work before being admitted to the School of Nursing. In 1934, the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree was awarded, and by 1939 the certificate program no longer offered. Her focus on quality advanced education and her attempts to end apprenticeship clinical experiences for nursing students were hallmarks of her tenure. By 1939, the School became a charter member of the Association for Collegiate Nursing Education.

Frances Ziegler
Dean 1938–1949
Ms. Ziegler became the second dean and she was as qualified as her predecessor. She received a diploma in nursing from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University. Her previous experience included educational director of the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing and Health and dean of the School of Nursing at the Medical College of Virginia. She actively sought accreditation from the National League for Nursing Education (NLNE). The basic nursing program was accredited in 1941. Vanderbilt was then one of only three schools that were members of both the Association for Collegiate Schools of Nursing and the NLNE. The School’s graduates were granted licensure by the New York State Examiners, which was the gold standard of the time. With a goal of educating nurses to become leaders, she sought to align the principles taught at the School with this goal. She was the first to approach Chancellor Carmicheal with plans for instituting a master’s degree program in nursing.

Julia Hereford
With the departure of Dean Ziegler in 1949, Ms. Hereford was promoted to full professor and named dean. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN, and then earned her Bachelor of Science degree, in 1936, from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She was appointed to the faculty in 1938, as an instructor. Her service on the faculty and the completion of her Master of Arts degree in teaching from Teachers College of Columbia University in New York earned her a promotion to the rank of assistant professor in 1943, and then associate professor in 1947. During her deanship, dramatic changes occurred in the nursing program. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was changed to a four-year degree in 1950, with additional curriculum revisions made during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1953, the last chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was established at the School. In cooperation with the Southern Regional Education Board, she was instrumental in developing a graduate program in the School of Nursing. The first graduate student enrolled in 1955, in what was the first graduate nursing program in Tennessee. Her greatest contribution while dean was to integrate nursing students more fully into the Vanderbilt University student body and to allow them more time to participate in student activities. Many alumni who attended during her deanship have often cited her as one of the most beloved deans of the School.
Saint Thomas Health Services is proud to be one of the sponsors of the 2008 Centennial Gala, recognizing those who have made extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession.

We’re proud that Nancy Anness, Saint Thomas Health Services Vice President for Advocacy and Outreach, is a distinguished alumna of a nursing program with a national reputation for excellence. Nancy’s dedication to serving the poor and her commitment to providing 100% access for the underserved and uninsured make her one of the true leaders in our medical community.
• One of the first nursing schools to be independent of a hospital (1930)
• One of the first four university-based nursing schools in the country to award a bachelor’s degree – and the first in Tennessee – distinguishing it further from hospital-based diploma programs (1933)
• One of four schools to receive funding from the Commonwealth Fund in 1935 to offer public health support in rural areas (Rutherford County, TN)
• One of the first three schools in the country to receive joint accreditation of the National League of Nursing Education and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in addition to Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing membership (1945)
• The first Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program in Tennessee (1955)
• One of the first schools in which nursing students were integrated into campus-wide dormitories, setting an example for other universities (1957)
• The first master's level family nurse practitioner program in the country (1970)
• Pioneer of the “bridge” to MSN program for non-nursing students with at least three years of college (1986) and Senior Year in Abstentia (1987)
• The first school in Tennessee to establish specialty in nursing administration at the master’s degree level (1986)
• Responsible for graduating more MSN students than all four other Tennessee schools of nursing combined (1989-present)
• A pioneer in asynchronous learning with a blended distance learning format (1997)
• The first recipient of a National Institute of Health/National Center for Research Resources grant awarded to a school of nursing (2002)
• The home of the National Center for Emergency Preparedness (2002)
• The first recipient of a National Institute of Health/National Center for Research Resources grant awarded to a school of nursing (2002)
• Vanderbilt School of Nursing received a federal grant to establish a local Medical Reserve Corp (2005)
Key Events in the History of Vanderbilt School of Nursing

1908 – 1918
The Vanderbilt Hospital Training School for Nurses was established. Nina Wooten and Bertha Moncrief served as directors. Historical records are incomplete, but it is believed the only admissions requirement was the desire to become a nurse. The School continued to develop its infrastructure and physicians served as faculty teaching the first handful of students. Catherine Hanley from Vanderbilt Hospital received the first nursing diploma in 1912.

1918 – 1928
Activities at the School ramped up considerably during this decade. In the early 1920s, there were 35 students enrolled in the program and by the end of the decade the Board of Trust had officially changed its name to The School of Nursing at Vanderbilt University.

1928 – 1938
This decade is marked by the transformation of the School’s diploma program into a five-year baccalaureate program in nursing. Vanderbilt was one of only four schools in the country to award BSNs and by 1939, all graduates earned BSNs.

1938 – 1948
As World War II raged overseas, the need for well-trained nurses was seemingly endless. The School educated nurses at a quicker pace and the U.S. Cadet Nursing Corps began. During this time, the School was also accredited by the National League for Nursing Education.

1948 – 1958
The School’s curriculum continued to evolve. The BSN became a four-year program and Vanderbilt was the only nursing school in Tennessee to offer a Master of Science in nursing. In 1958, the School awarded its first MSN graduate degree.

1958 – 1968
The 1960s were tumultuous in our nation’s history and change was a constant on the School of Nursing campus. Luther Christian became the first male dean of nursing in the country. The School welcomed African-American students in 1965 and graduated its first male BSN graduate.

1968 – 1978
The School of Nursing underwent some extensive renovations. Mary Henderson Hall was refurbished, dormitory space was eliminated and the building was renamed Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall. The Nursing Annex, where most of our didactic classes are held today, was completed as one of the first underground structures at Vanderbilt University.

1978 – 1988
The decade started with a reassessment of the School’s goals and direction and ended by moving away from the traditional BSN program toward a multiple entry option “bridge” program. Vanderbilt was one of the first nursing schools to attempt this change in curriculum. The first Bridge to MSN class graduated as the last BSN degrees were awarded in the late 1980s.

1988 – 1998
The School’s momentum continued to grow on local, regional and national fronts. The Vine Hill Clinic began as did many of the School’s community outreach efforts. The School launched its PhD program and in answer to the desperate need for more space, Patricia Champion Frist Hall was built.

1998 – 2008
Innovation, outreach and expansion are the hallmarks of this period in the School’s history. Emergency preparedness took on greater importance; faculty practice reached deeper and wider than ever before, the School moved up in rankings and funding. The School’s campus changed as well with the new Frist Hall, completely refurbished Godchaux Hall and newly renovated Nursing Annex. In 2008, the Doctor of Nursing Practice was established.
Centennial Lecture and Event Schedule

August 27, 2008
Kick-off Celebration – campus-wide celebration of Centennial year

September 18, 2008
Lt. General Russel Honoré – “Creating a Culture of Preparedness: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina.” As Commanding General, First U.S. Army (retired), he led the Joint Task Force-Katrina, the Department of Defense’s response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf States.

October 23, 2008
Gala – fund-raiser benefiting the School of Nursing

October 23, 2008
After Party – following Gala

October 25, 2008
Reunion Brunch – annual event for alumni

October 30, 2008
Senator Bill Frist, MD – “Health Care as a Currency of Peace.” He is a heart surgeon and former U.S. Senator, proponent of using health care to achieve peace. Sponsored by Earl Swensson Associates

November 20, 2008
Congressman Jim Cooper – “What the Future Looks Like in Health Reform.” He is a leader in fiscal policy, health policy and government accountability, serving the Congressional Budget, Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services Committees. Sponsored by Corrections Corporation of America

November 21, 2008
Board of Trust cocktail party

December 5, 2008 (tentative)
Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP – He is CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, dedicated to improving the quality of health care systems through education, research and demonstration projects, and through fostering collaboration among health care organizations.

January 15, 2009
Martha N. Hill, RN, PhD, FAAN – “Developing a Capacity for Nursing: Challenges and Opportunities – an Academic Leaders View.” She is Dean and Professor of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University, and former President, American Heart Association (the only non-physician ever to hold that position).

March 12, 2009
Clayton M. Christensen, DBA – He is Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School, known for his theory of “disruptive innovation” describing products or services that overturn dominant technology or systems by being “good enough” and less expensive.

April 16, 2009
John P. Howe III, MD – He is President, Project HOPE, the international humanitarian assistance program which responded to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and other international disasters. Project HOPE makes health care available to people around the globe.

May 2009
Nurses Week

Spring dates to be announced...

Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA – He is Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His responsibilities include disease prevention, women and minority health, HIV/AIDS and pandemic influenza planning.

Uwe E. Reinhardt, PhD – He is Professor of Economics, Princeton University, and member of the Council on the Economic Impact of Health Reform, tracking the fiscal effects of the current revolution of health-care delivery and cost control.

Tom Scully, JD – He is the former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and is speaking on reform (or lack thereof) of the nation’s health care delivery system. He is currently General Partner at Welch Carson Anderson and Stowe.

June 2009
Closing Event
Tradition and innovation play equal roles in our School’s rich history where we are recognized for our leadership in preparing professionals for nursing practice, management, education, research and scholarly activity.

With a history dating back to 1908, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has a long-standing reputation for excellence in teaching, practice, research and informatics. As one of the first five schools to receive Rockefeller funding to implement the Goldmark Report of 1923, the School of Nursing was a leader in drastically altering the nature of nursing education and moving it into institutions of higher learning. The School began offering the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in 1955, and was one of the first to launch a “bridge” program in 1966 through which students who have at least three years of college and the required prerequisites can enter the MSN program without repeating undergraduate classes—thereby permitting an accelerated path to the master’s degree. Vanderbilt’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, first conferred in 1953, was restructured into the “bridge” program in 1985 as one of several innovative entry options. In 1993, Vanderbilt School of Nursing established the PhD in Nursing Science program, leading to nursing research and scholarly activity that has positively impacted health care delivery in a variety of areas. In 2008, the Doctor of Nursing Practice was established.

Over the years, Vanderbilt School of Nursing has established MSN programs of study in numerous advanced practice nursing specialty areas. The School’s Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program, for example, began in 1975, and is considered among the oldest and most progressive in the country—boasting cutting-edge clinical practice sites and extensive scholarly and research opportunities that give FNP students an advantage in developing as advanced practice nurses. The School also was one of the first to develop the role of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) and has added dual focus programs and dual degrees that combine educational areas such as Nurse-Midwifery/FNP, MSN/MDiv, MSN/MDiv and an MSN/PhD fast-track program. Other clinical specialties include primary care nurse practitioner programs: Adult Nurse Practitioner (adult cardiac/vascular disease prevention and management, palliative care). Adult Nurse Practitioner/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner; Family Nurse Practitioner; Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; Our Specialty Care Nurse Practitioner programs include: Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwifery, Nurse Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult Nurse Practitioner. Additional nursing specialties focus on nursing informatics, clinical management, clinical research management and health systems management.

Beyond its educational offerings, Vanderbilt School of Nursing’s tradition of excellence includes a focus on integrating technology into the classroom and into clinical practice. The Frist Center for Nursing Informatics, opened in February 2005, provides advanced computer facilities and support technologies. The School operates one of the most extensive faculty practice networks in the country, including community-based clinics that provide primary care to inner-city populations. Vanderbilt nursing graduates can be found across the nation and in numerous foreign countries. The School attracts students from most of the 50 states. Its partnership with Vanderbilt University Medical Center provides excellent opportunities for research and clinical practice.
Congratulations from the Dean

When the Vanderbilt School of Nursing opened in 1908, the education of nurses was limited to individual hospitals which trained their own nurses. From those early days until the present, the School’s faculty, staff and alumni have challenged and changed the status and perception of nurses and “what nurses do” throughout the world.

It is not a coincidence that Vanderbilt and the profession of nursing have evolved in tandem. Nurses no longer simply assist doctors – they are critical thinkers who take ownership of the patient’s physical, psychological and personal needs. The School of Nursing has a rich history of educating, employing and graduating outspoken professionals who are architects in nursing today. Many of these are honored today as our Top 100 Leaders.

Our graduates and faculty have helped tens of thousands of patients and families in our clinics where our students gain first-hand experience in a full-service primary care setting. The School of Nursing is involved in setting national standards for the manner in which the health care delivery system responds to a natural or man-made crisis, such as a tornado, earthquake or terrorist attack. Our faculty and alumni represent the university on numerous state, national and international health boards and committees, vocalizing the concerns and views of nurses and our patients in discussions with policymakers and other health professionals.

As we mark the century milestone, we take note of the tremendous impact that the School and its alumni, faculty and students have had on the advancement of nurses, on the prestige and outreach of the University and on the health of millions of people around the world.

With congratulations,

Colleen Conway-Welch, PhD, CNM, FAAN, FACNM
Dean
Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor of Nursing
With the onset of the momentous centennial celebration for the School of Nursing, Elizabeth Schafer was commissioned to create a beautiful, commemorative momento for the event. She began by creating an original acrylic painting that incorporates some of the most cherished elements of the School of Nursing — the Godchaux Hall doors. She also incorporated the school colors and created a design reminiscent of the movement and activity of numerous students that have passed through those hall doors. The painting was used to create original silk scarves and ties that were presented to the Top 100 Leaders.

Nurses can go anywhere and do anything!
They are critical thinkers, educators, researchers, policymakers, international relief workers, community leaders, emergency preparedness experts, entrepreneurs, informatics specialists and more.

Congratulations to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing for advancing nursing education for 100 years. Your numbers look great, and still counting ...

Centennial Committee

Adrienne Ames  
Jeanne Bush  
Tom Christenbery  
Charlotte Covington  
Libby Dauphini  
Martina Dubree  
Frances Edwards  
Virginia George  
Barbara Grimes  
Lydia Grubb  
Joan King  
Joyce Laben  
Larry Lakester  
Jane Macay  
Ginger Manley  
Randy Rasch  
Annette Sasser  
Ada Smith  
Judy Sweeney
Celebrating Our Centennial

October 23, 2008

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