

# vanderbiltnurse


FALL 2007

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

NEW NURSING ANNEX SHINES 2

UNITED WE STAND 20

MAKING TENNESSEE HEALTHY 26



Vine Hill  
Clinic  
enhances  
life in a  
community





## dean's note

We recently welcomed 337 students into one of the toughest and most rewarding journeys of their lives. We were delighted that our Nursing Annex renovations were completed just in time for the first day of classes. This area is the nucleus of our didactic learning and has been completely overhauled with state-of-the-art technology to meet the needs of our students and faculty.

But the reach of the school extends far beyond bricks and mortar. This spring we graduated our first class of David Lipscomb students, most of whom have opted to work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. We bridged more than 125 students into their specialty year and pinned

more than 225 "finishing" students in August. Each will fan out throughout the country and the world to make a difference.

We are enthusiastic about the countdown toward our Centennial year (2008-2009) with plans to make it a celebration that will be remembered for the next 100 years. My thanks to many of you who have kept in touch with the school and shared your stories or ideas. I promise you it will be a remarkable year of activities.

As you leaf through the pages of this issue, I hope you see the collection of brilliant minds and caring souls who strive to make a difference in the lives of others. I hope you enjoy reading about Assistant Professor Carol Etherington, (M.S.N. '75), who was named Vanderbilt University's 2007 Distinguished Alumna. This is the first time that a nursing alum has been so recognized. Carol and student Jessica Van Meter recently traveled to villages of Bosnia-Herzegovina and share part of their story. We take an in-depth look at the Vine Hill Community Clinic and celebrate its recent expansion in order to serve more patients and families. We show you how the nurses at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Vanderbilt School of Nursing have developed a new level of integration. Finally, we asked Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper, (M.S.N. '94, B.S.N. '79) the first nurse in the state's history named to this post, about her outlook on the health of Tennesseans.

I hope you enjoy this issue and please share any comments with me. We have also set up an online survey of *Vanderbilt Nurse* and hope you will participate by logging onto [www.surveymonkey.com/vanderbiltnurse](http://www.surveymonkey.com/vanderbiltnurse) and give us your suggestions. Additionally, please look for updates about our Centennial Celebration in the mail, via e-mail and on the Web.

Sincerely,

Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., C.N.M., F.A.A.N., F.A.C.N.M.  
Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing  
[colleen.conway-welch@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:colleen.conway-welch@vanderbilt.edu)

## vanderbiltnurse

### Editor

Kathy Rivers

### Director of Publications

Medical Center News and Public Affairs  
Wayne Wood

### Copy Editor

Nancy Humphrey

### Design

Diana Duren

### Contributing Writers

Nancy Humphrey  
Irene McKirgan  
Fran Scott  
Mindy Schuster  
Jessica Van Meter

### Photography/Illustration

Kats Barry  
Neil Brake  
Steve Green  
Dana Johnson  
Philippe Lardy  
Anne Rayner  
Tamara Reynolds  
Susan Urmy  
Leigh Wells  
Nicholas Wilton

### Cover Illustration

Nicholas Wilton

### Editorial Office

Office of News and Public Affairs  
D-3237A Medical Center North  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, Tennessee 37232-2390

### VUSN Alumni Association

2525 West End Ave., Suite 450  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
615.343.7640  
[www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing)

The *Vanderbilt Nurse* is published twice a year by the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in cooperation with the VUMC Office of News and Public Affairs. The Editor welcomes letters and comments from readers at:

### *Vanderbilt Nurse* Information Officer

461 21st Ave. S. Nashville, Tennessee, 37240  
Or by e-mail to: [vanderbiltnurse@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vanderbiltnurse@vanderbilt.edu).

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

© 2007 Vanderbilt University



VANDERBILT  
School of Nursing

MISSION AND VALUES  
STATEMENT

We value excellence and innovation in preserving and advancing the art and science of nursing in the scholarly domains of education, research and practice. These values are pursued through the integration of information technology and faculty-student interactions and transactions, while embracing cultural and academic diversity.



# vanderbiltnurse

FALL 2007 CONTENTS

## features

14

### Vine Hill Grows

The 16-year-old clinic expands to serve the underserved and rejuvenate a community.

20

### United We Stand

The School of Nursing and Medical Center integrate to make nursing stronger.

26

### Making Tennessee Healthy

State Health Commissioner Susan Cooper talks about improving the lives of Tennesseans.



## departments

- 2 around the school
- 6 cutting edge
- 10 community outreach
- 32 faculty focus
- 35 class notes

**The Nursing Annex foyer features an open, café style feel that is more comfortable for students during breaks and study sessions.**

**Nursing Annex Room 155 has been transformed into a state-of-the-art lecture hall that makes laptop use easier and provides students with other comforts.**



NEIL BRAKE



NEIL BRAKE

### New Annex Welcomes Students

This fall Vanderbilt University School of Nursing students are learning in state-of-the-art classrooms and lecture halls designed for student comfort and user-friendliness. The 13,175-square-foot Nursing Annex has been transformed into space that better reflects the needs of both students and faculty.

“Everything was designed with our students in mind,” said Linda Norman, D.S.N., R.N., senior associate dean for Academics. “Students spend a majority of time in the annex classrooms and we walked through every detail to make sure it is a space that is conducive to learning and reflective of the many needs of our students and faculty.”

The new annex is divided up into eight small, medium and large rooms to provide a wider choice of course venues. The seminar rooms still seat up to 30

students, but the space in the large lecture halls has been reconfigured into one room that seats more than 200, another that seats 150, and another two that seat approximately 62 each.

The entire school is wireless and outfitted with the latest technology. Students will have tabletop electrical plug-ins for their laptops in several classrooms and lecture hall tablet arms that better accommodate laptops and under-the-seat electrical outlets.

The technology staff records more than 1,100 hours of classes for streaming and formatting to CDs and now

tional stalls in the women’s bathroom and an improved flow of traffic. Additionally, the color scheme includes browns and neutrals to make the area warmer and more inviting to students.

One of the best features is actually invisible. Students will no longer have to wear extra layers of clothing for warmth inside the lecture halls as the redesign includes new heating and cooling units to ensure appropriate indoor climates. Additionally, student input was sought for the various lecture hall and classroom chair choices since some students have classes in eight-hour

blocks. Students appear to be enjoying the padded cloth seats!

The eight-month construction process finished on schedule, in time for student orientation this fall. To make room for construction during the spring students and faculty held class-

each room in the annex has enhanced camera capabilities with both a station for a camera with an operator and space for a stationary camera. The lighting and acoustics of each room were designed to ensure well-lit and clear-sounding videotapings. The lecture halls each contain smart board technology with touch pane screens and the ability for the faculty to mark-up presentations from the podium and automatically save them for students. In the case of room overflow for special presentations or events, staff can internally broadcast live feeds into the large and medium-size halls.

The architectural highlight is a student foyer area which features an open floor plan with café style chairs so students can maximize time between classes and/or use the space for study groups. Students do not have to worry about waiting in long lines for bathroom breaks as the renovation features addi-

es off campus in a southeast Nashville location owned by James Carell, a school supporter and founder of CareAll Home Care. Summer classes were held at various locations on the Vanderbilt University campus.

– KATHY RIVERS





## VUSN Jumps Into Top 20 National Rankings

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is in the top 20 nursing schools in the country, according to *U.S. News and World Report's* annual ranking of graduate education programs and health disciplines released this spring.

In the 2007 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools," the nursing program scored 3.9 out of 5, catapulting the school to the 19th category in the nation. It previously ranked 29th when nursing programs were last evaluated by *U.S. News* in 2003.

"I am extremely pleased that our nursing program is recognized as being at the top of its class," said Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs Harry Jacobson, M.D.

Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, said she is "thrilled beyond words."

"This not only reflects the hard work of our faculty and staff here at the School of Nursing and the quality of students we're attracting, but it also reflects the reputation of the Medical Center and the fact the hospital achieved Magnet status," she said.

"This is a great year for every part of nursing at Vanderbilt," Conway-Welch said.

The rankings are based solely on the results of peer assessment surveys sent to deans and faculty.

- KATHY RIVERS

**Nurse Practitioner Teresa Cook examines patient Brittney Page in the recently opened Clarksville-Montgomery County School System and County Government clinic run by the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.**



DANA JOHNSON

## COUNTY PRAISES CARE BY VUSN CLINICS

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing employer-based clinics in Clarksville/ Montgomery County recently received the Point of Pride Award from the county school board.

The group cited the dedication of the nurse practitioners and staff in launching the program and the overwhelmingly positive feedback from employees who have visited the clinic for on-the-job care. The main clinic opened in January with satellite clinics scheduled to open this spring.

An anticipated 6,300 employees plus their dependents can receive primary care, wellness and preventive care services on site as part of this partnership.

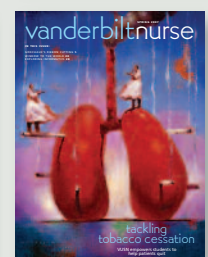
# give us your feedback

This magazine was designed to provide deeper insight into the various programs and efforts under way at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. We hope this publication serves as a way for alums and friends of the school to learn more about our various activities as well as stay connected.

We have developed an online reader survey so you can provide valuable feedback and make *Vanderbilt Nurse* a publication that you will continue to enjoy. Please log on to [www.surveymonkey.com/vanderbiltnurse](http://www.surveymonkey.com/vanderbiltnurse) and answer a few questions about the publication. The survey will take less than five minutes and will provide us with valuable information.

Thank you,

Kathy Rivers  
Editor,  
*Vanderbilt Nurse*



## Web Site Gets a Makeover

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has a long-standing tradition of preparing nurses, advanced practice nurses and graduating nurse scholars. The school is promoting its excellence in teaching, practice and research through a refreshed Web site that is compelling, attractive and easy to navigate.

The new Web site has a more active voice that speaks powerfully to prospective students. It uses panoramic photography – often depicting students in clinical settings that are part of the school’s vast faculty practice network. Other content and images emphasize the school’s leadership in national and international organizations and recently renovated, modern facilities. A new tagline for the school has been developed as part of the branding campaign and is proudly displayed throughout the Web site. Video clips of students talking about their educational experiences in

various advanced practice specialties are also being added.

The overall site navigation has been improved, making it more intuitive and user-friendly. Multiple entry options preface the School of Nursing curriculum plans for advanced practice specialties, reflecting numerous programs for nurses and non-nurses. The site reflects that many courses are available through distance and distributed course delivery methods so that working students do not have to give up their employment or be away from home for extended periods.

Check out the new site at [www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu) and see how the School is practicing and leading the discipline in new and exciting directions.

– FRAN SCOTT



The first phase of the new School Web site is up with a sleek look and comprehensive content.

**PracticeReady** *LeadingForward*

## NURSES WEEK 2007



KATS BARRY

**Judy Sweeney**, M.S.N., R.N., associate professor of Nursing and director of the Pre-specialty program, was recognized with the Rebecca Clark Culpepper Award, which recognizes a current faculty member for promoting the nursing profession and mentoring at all levels. Pictured L to R: **Royce Culpepper**, **DeMoyné Culpepper**, **Colleen Conway-Welch**, **Judy Sweeney** and **Marilyn Dubree**.



KATS BARRY

**Vee Rice**, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, received the VUMC Faculty Nurse Award for her development of and continued success in the critical care nursing program. This award is given annually to the faculty member who has made the greatest contribution to the field of nursing. Pictured L to R: **Colleen Conway-Welch**, **Vee Rice** and **Marilyn Dubree**.

## Ph.D. Program Addresses Nursing Faculty Shortage

The Ph.D. in Nursing Science Program at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was recently awarded a training grant in the amount of \$843,232 over the next three years by the Division of Nursing, Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The grant will address the nation's nursing shortage by enhancing the capacity of the program to graduate more nurse scholars who can educate future generations of nurses. The project's goals include expanding the number and diversity of Ph.D. students, enhancing the capability of the program's distance education activities, and formalizing a nursing educator component.

"I am very proud of our faculty and delighted that our school has been awarded this grant. Given the decrease

in federal funding for graduate education in nursing over the past several years, this award speaks to the quality of our program and our exceptional faculty," said Colleen-Conway Welch, Ph.D., dean of VUSN. "I suspect being named as one of the top 20 schools of nursing in the country by *U.S. News and World Report* also helped!"

The Ph.D. program will also welcome the first distance education class this fall. Until this year, the program has been delivered using a traditional classroom environment. By offering non-traditional classes that include Web-based and Web-enhanced methods, the program will increase the opportunity for students to pursue nursing careers that require a doctorate as an important step in addressing the nursing shortage.

– IRENE MCKIRGAN

## SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL DRAWS NEAR

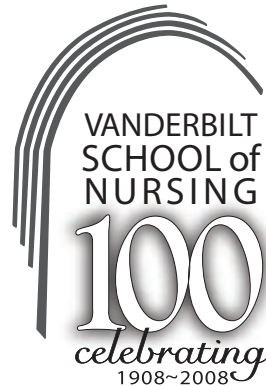
We are now less than one year away from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's 100-year celebration and the excitement is building. The Centennial Web site [www.vusn100.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.vusn100.vanderbilt.edu) was recently unveiled. It contains information about upcoming Centennial events, fun facts about the School, a place to post personal accounts and more. Throughout the year more information will be posted on the Centennial Web site, so it will be a place to bookmark on your computer and check often.

The Centennial gala will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008, at the Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza, in conjunction with Reunion weekend. Mark your calendar! A formal invitation will follow with more details later this year.

The Centennial "coffee table" book is at the publishers and we are anticipating its arrival in early Spring 2008. It was designed to take you back in the School's history, highlight the incredible 100-year journey and showcase our School's leadership into the future.

It is going to be a very exciting 2008-2009, and we are excited for all alums to be involved. We know you won't want to miss a thing.

– MINDY SCHUSTER



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: CENTENNIAL SALUTES SCHOOL'S 100 LEADERS

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and the Centennial Committee will commemorate the School's Centennial by establishing a "VUSN: 100 Years – 100 Leaders" recognizing one hundred of our outstanding alumni and faculty members. This prestigious group will be revealed at the Centennial Gala and showcased at the School and other Centennial events. Criteria for nominations were based on the criteria for the School's Alumni Association awards:

- The nominee is/was a School alumni or faculty member
- The nominee has made a significant contribution to the nursing profession and/or health care delivery system
- The nominee has demonstrated leadership in one of the following areas – practice, education, research or leadership

To submit a nomination, please write a brief description (approximately 300 words) of the reasons you believe your candidate (living or deceased) meets the above criteria. Be sure to include the candidate's name, degree, address, phone number, and other contact information for both the nominee and yourself.

The selection committee includes members of the school's Centennial Committee.

Please send your nomination:

U.S. Mail to:  
 Vanderbilt School of Nursing  
 "VUSN: 100 Years – 100 Leaders"  
 108 Godchaux Hall  
 Nashville, TN 37240

or via e-mail to:  
[www.vusn100@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:www.vusn100@vanderbilt.edu)

All nominations must be postmarked by Dec. 15.



**Nursing School LAN Manager Ryan McNew works on the new voice-over-Internet program.**



SUSAN URMV

**School Explores Voice-Over Tool**

Nursing students and faculty have been some of the first on campus to adopt a new voice-over Internet program to enhance online learning. The new program, called Centra Live, provides radio-quality audio instruction in real-time, along with a variety of features that enhance the virtual learning experience.

"We are constantly looking for ways to improve the learning process for our students while maintaining our high standards," said Linda Norman, D.S.N., senior associate dean for Academics. "We already see a variety of technology-enhanced applications and our faculty and researchers will surely develop new uses as well."

The program replicates typical classroom interaction that brings together voice, data, video and graphics in a structured online learning environment for up to 200 simultaneous users. The system can work with either off-the-rack head-phones or a Bluetooth earpiece. A DSL or cable Internet connection is a requirement due to the large bandwidth needs.

"Technology can be a wonderful thing, but only if it fulfills a need," said Jerry Murley, director of Instructional Technology at VUSN's instructional media center. "We wanted to enhance the online experiences for our students and promote more collegiality. Centra Live helps with both."

Real-time interaction includes instant surveying of students, the opportunity for questions and answers and student feedback. Students and their instructors also have the ability for synchronized Web tours where each online participant can go to the same Web page and the instructor can use his or her markup tool to highlight certain points. Instructors can still use PowerPoint presentations as they would in a traditional classroom setting. The instructor can set up the virtual classroom so all questions are held to the end or questions may be asked throughout. PowerPoint presentations work well on this new format and can be pre-loaded by the instructor to ensure as little down time with students as possible.

The new technology also has the capability to vary class time with guest

speakers who can be easily hooked up from their own home base and added into the classroom group. Additionally, courses can use online breakout sessions for peer-to-peer interaction, which is an important part of VUSN nursing education. All classes are recorded and posted online in case students miss a class or need further reinforcement.

"The initial catalyst for adopting this technology was our Ph.D. program since we are targeting our recruitment efforts to students in many geographic locations," said Norman. "However, more and more faculty are considering its diverse applications."

One such faculty member is Mavis Schorn, M.S., C.N.M., director for the school's midwifery program, who expressed interest in using this technology to work with preceptors in clinical settings in addition to the classroom.

The technology was officially launched in March, but Jeff Gordon, Ph.D., M.Ed., has been testing it in his database design course since January. He admits to working out some bugs and doesn't recommend this technology with wireless systems yet. Still, he sees much potential.

"Using the program allows students and instructors to have a personal connection that can be missing with current online text technology," he said. "This new system takes online learning to a new level. I have several faculty who are interested in incorporating it into their courses and will build from there."

— KATHY RIVERS



Shelley Thibeau, left, is pictured with her preceptor, Karen Rice.



### First Online Health System Management Student Graduates

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing graduated Shelley Thibeau, the school's first online Health Systems Management student, in August. Thibeau is a neonatal nurse at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans and earned her advanced practice degree without ever visiting the Vanderbilt campus.

After serving as a neonatal nurse for 26 years, Thibeau became interested in neonatal quality improvement through the Vermont Oxford Network, a collaborative network of more than 400 NICUs worldwide devoted to improving neonatal outcomes. Quality care initiatives such as reducing nosocomial infections and improving medication safety provided the basic tools necessary to change practice using current evidence. She was attracted to the study of performance improvement when she discovered the Vanderbilt program online.

"The Vanderbilt Health Systems Management program stood out among other schools of nursing because it offered numerous courses applicable to change management," said Thibeau.

After further research, she realized that the Godchaux Family funded a scholarship for Ochsner full-time nurses to pursue advanced practice degrees at Vanderbilt. Thibeau applied and received full tuition as well as a stipend of one day off per pay period to pursue her coursework.

She started the program in October

2005 during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when her family was temporarily relocated to Dallas and Thibeau commuted to New Orleans to continue work at Ochsner. Once her daughter returned to her New Orleans high school, mother and daughter would do their homework together.

Thibeau liked being able to access her coursework at anytime, but her focus was the content. "I loved the content of the program the most," said Thibeau. "My initial course was financial management, something that I had not been exposed to as a staff nurse. Nursing theory resonated more with me as an adult learner and strategic management and program development provided an organizational focus which broadened my perspective."

Working with faculty, many of Thibeau's class projects turned into improvement programs for her unit at Ochsner. One of her final projects was a survey at Ochsner assessing nurses' readiness for evidence-based practice. Results will serve as a basis for curriculum of the Nursing Scholar Program, one of the strategic goals of the Center for Nursing Research at Ochsner Medical Center.

Mentoring from her preceptor encouraged her to also submit three abstracts which were accepted for poster presentation in both regional and national conferences.

"I felt connected with all of my instructors," said Thibeau. "We had weekly professor chats, facilitator chats and discussion threads providing numerous opportunities for learning, and I felt every single one of them reached through cyberspace and cared about me."

With her master's completed, Thibeau is hoping to commit part time in the Ochsner Nursing Research Department assisting the nurse researcher and working on the Nursing Scholar Program as well as continuing her work in the NICU. She is also interested in pursuing her doctorate.

— KATHY RIVERS

### HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT MOVES ONLINE

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has moved its entire Health Systems Management program to an e-learning format to appeal to master's-level students across the world. As a result, the program's participation has nearly tripled in less than two years. There are 31 students currently enrolled and another six have started this fall.

"We noticed that we had fewer applicants for our traditional Nashville-based classes in this program," said Bonnie Pilon, D.S.N., R.N., Health Systems Management Program Director, and senior associate dean of Faculty Practice. "So we conducted nurse leader focus groups and found that we had interest from potential students outside of our region, but these same people were geographically locked in due to their careers or family responsibilities."

"We thought an online format would make those geographic issues vanish and solve many problems for our students," said Linda Norman, D.S.N., R.N., senior associate dean for Academics.

The School's program features few scheduled class times, and students can log in from an Internet connection 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students progress at a steady pace taking six to nine credits in courses that are four to seven weeks in length each semester. Students can earn a Master of Science in Nursing degree with specialization in Health Systems Management in six semesters of part-time study.

The School's Health Systems Management faculty group converted the entire curriculum from in-class to online within 16 months, including developing and redeveloping 13 courses for this platform.

"While we've made the classes much more convenient for our students, our program maintains our high standards and is very rigorous," said Pilon. "When our students finish their six semesters, they are well equipped to tackle real-life health care management challenges anywhere."

— KATHY RIVERS

## Technology Simulates Real Life

Pablo Rodriguez is having a bad day. He awoke at 3 a.m. and felt a tightening of his chest. At 5 a.m. he arrived at the hospital via ambulance. The 58-year-old is scared and anxious. He wants to feel better and find out what is wrong. His labored breaths and calls for help create a sense of urgency.

But, Mr. Rodriguez is not alive.

In fact, he is a state-of-the-art computerized patient mannequin in the school's simulation lab. Vanderbilt University School of Nursing pre-specialty students are immersed in a three-week summer practicum in which simulation is playing an important role.

Maria Overstreet, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor, and Sally Miller, M.S.N., R.N., instructor and Skills Lab Manager, have initiated simulation into the summer practicum previously known as "Boot Camp." Students work in clinical rotations for 40 hours a week for three-and-a-half weeks. They gain experience working with patients and their families which is also complemented by hands-on simulation sessions.

"We can create computerized scenarios that the students could not have been exposed to on the unit," said Overstreet. "This is especially important when it comes to urgent situations such as Mr. Rodriguez today."

Two-by-two, the students take turns assessing patient Rodriguez. They hear his voice and carry on a conversation with him thanks to Miller who is orchestrating the mannequin's verbal and physiological responses from the other room via computer. Students use their observational, physical assessment techniques and critical thinking skills in assessing the patient, consulting with a physician and determining when to call in the Rapid Response Team.

While the pair of students is at the bedside with Overstreet, who steps in as needed, the rest of the class is watching



DANA JOHNSON



DANA JOHNSON

**Nursing students Kristin Carter and Elizabeth Morrell (above); and Tara Richardson and Megan Thomas (below) discuss their care of a simulated ICU patient in the School's skills lab with their instructor Maria Overstreet.**

on a live feed into a nearby classroom. They can learn and evaluate by watching their classmates and prepare for their own turn inside the mock patient room.

Overstreet and Miller privately point out individual student strengths and areas for improvement after each session. Next, they gather the entire group to discuss the shared experience with their instructor Michelle Bruer and play back portions of each taped session to highlight different teaching points.

Students use words like "better communication," "teamwork," "time management," "autonomy" and "prioritization of problems" in describing what the experience emphasized for them.

Windle Morgan, a psychiatric mental health pre-specialty student, believes the practicum with simulation has increased

his understanding and confidence. He and his classmates have been working at Vanderbilt University Hospital on the renal transplant floor. Before the simulated session, they had not gotten an opportunity to work on a critical response case other than through the simulation experience.

"We ask our students to open their minds and suspend their disbelief when entering the simulation lab," said Miller. "We can offer students a very real, effective perspective that help them perform safe and effective care quickly."

— KATHY RIVERS



**Lois Wagner, the program director for the new Clinical Research Management Specialty**



## School Unveils Clinical Research Management Program

This fall Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is unveiling its new Clinical Research Management Specialty program, a curriculum designed to meet the growing demand for qualified research professionals in pharmaceutical and medical device trials.

"There is recognition across the board that we really need very skilled highly educated clinical research personnel to manage clinical trials," said Linda Norman, D.S.N., R.N., senior associate dean for Faculty. "It's a very complex industry, and nurses are well-positioned to play an important management role."

The School has offered continuing education courses in clinical research management for several years, and recently, faculty has been working to bring the curriculum to the next level. Only a handful of other nursing schools offer programs in this field.

Lois Wagner, Ph.D., A.P.N., director for the new program, gathered an advisory committee comprised of experts from the Vanderbilt community as well as the private research sector to develop a well-rounded educational program that would allow people to assume more managerial positions in clinical research management.

The group has met regularly during the last 18 months to develop the comprehensive program.

"The field of clinical research is booming, and one of the essential features of conducting clinical trials is having well-trained staff to manage them," said Wagner. "Clinical research staff are essential to advancing science."

Wagner sees a movement within the industry from an ad hoc, on-the-job training model to a more thorough education in an academic environment. The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing curriculum includes foundational knowledge in regulatory issues, ethics and history as well as areas that are not included in many other programs such as informatics, human resources and practical experiences with a mentor.

Registered nurses are highly sought after in clinical research because of their background in nursing, health, medicine, assessment skills, critical thinking, problem solving and the all-around diversity of their educational background. A series of town hall meetings conducted within Vanderbilt University Medical Center a few years ago cited a shortage of research nurses as a rate-limiting factor in the research enterprise at Vanderbilt.

The Clinical Research Management program has enrolled 15 students this fall and will grow in coming years. It is completely online with rolling entrance points. It is targeted to nurses who already have full-time jobs, so the program is part-time and can be completed in two years with a M.S.N. degree.

"We have high hopes for this program and Lois is the perfect person to run it," said Norman. "Her experience and love for clinical research management will infuse our students."

Wagner has been involved in research for 23 years. She earned her master's and Ph.D. from VUSN. She started her career as a nurse practitioner in occupational health but moved into the field of clinical trial research in 1987 when she joined the Department of Pediatric Infectious

Diseases as the Clinical Research Manager of the AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit (now the HIV Vaccine Trials Unit). During her career in clinical research, she has managed multiple pharmaceutical and NIH-sponsored clinical trials, and has done international training and consultation on the initiation and conduct of HIV vaccine clinical trials. She also serves as the Associate Director for Research for the Tennessee Center for Nursing, a non-profit nursing health services research organization, which is the research arm of the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

"We are seeing more and more demand for this area of education from nurses and others working in the field who realize they need further education," said Wagner. "And, the demand for this specialized knowledge base will only continue to grow."

– KATHY RIVERS

**For more information about this and other School programs, visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing).**

**Pictured below:  
Carol Etherington and her  
friend Suada who worked  
together during the Bosnian  
War (1992-1995)**

**Etherington in the hills sur-  
rounding the village of Zenica**

**Reminders of the war in rural  
Bosnia**



## **A Travel Journal: Lessons in Humanity**

Disasters change the framework of our everyday lives and present themselves in a variety of different ways. For me, a native New Orleanian, the word disaster is synonymous with one other – Katrina – an event that has changed my life forever and continues to shape me as a person and as a nurse.

I recently had the opportunity to accompany Carol Etherington, one of my nursing professors, to Bosnia and Herzegovina to study post-disaster nursing care and education. Nearly four years of civil war conflict left Bosnia and Herzegovina in shambles with more than 110,000 dead and 1.8 million citizens displaced. In the past decade, the country has struggled to piece together a working government, rebuild the social and economic infrastructure, and remodel an antiquated health care system.

This remarkable journey started with 21 hours of travel time spread across three different airplanes. When we arrived I was exhausted, exhilarated and curious. Would Sarajevo still resemble the devastating photographs taken during the war, or would it be a shining example of recovery and perseverance?

My first impression was of a beautiful country with rolling green hills, peaceful rivers, and winding roads that stretch as far as the eye can see. Sarajevo is a mixture of concrete, efficient socialist architecture with the gleam of modern glass and steel skyscrapers. Much of our research took place in Zenica, an industrial city 70 kilometers north of Sarajevo. Built around a steel factory, Zenica remained relatively unharmed during the war but its central location attracted a massive influx of displaced citizens from rural areas compounding an already stressed and fragile health care system.

The role of nurses and the transition to higher nursing education in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be blurred. During the war, nurses were often the

only ones left in clinics and hospitals to treat patients who presented with bullet wounds, injuries resulting from flying projectiles, burns, and the aftermath of landmines. Nurses were also faced with combating poor nutrition, exposure to heat and extreme cold, and an alarming infant mortality rate of 25 percent to 30 percent in those women displaced by conflict. The situation demanded that nurses make clinical judgments regarding patient care based on their assessment and to formulate treatment plans that were realistic given the supplies on hand.

Since the end of the war, nurses rarely practice independently of physicians, despite a severe shortage of those who specialize in primary care except for one glowing example. "Patronage" is a community-based home treatment nursing service with independently practicing nurses operating out of the Dom Zdravlja, or polyclinic in Zenica.

Under the remote supervision of a collaborating physician, the service is managed, organized and implemented by nurses. The extreme shortage of physicians in the cities demands that nurses take a leadership role there as well as in rural community health. I was able to accompany Jasna and Dijana, two remarkable nurses who work for Patronage, on a number of house calls. The patients we visited had no local access to health care. The nurses dressed horrendous wounds and demonstrated remarkable knowledge, skill and ingenuity.

During one early morning visit, we treated a 55-year-old woman recovering from a bilateral mastectomy. Her wound blanketed her entire torso and was angry and red with infection. I was astonished to learn that her mastectomy was performed nearly two years ago and that healing has been impeded by recurrent infections. With limited supplies and sub-standard working conditions such as intense heat, filth and cramped quarters, these nurses treated patients, did patient and family teaching, newborn exams,



some immunizations and new mother education. Supplies are limited to what can be packaged and carried. There is no refrigeration in the car so transporting antibiotics is extremely difficult.

Jasna and Dijana told me that there has been considerable progress in the delivery of rural health care. The service is now equipped with two cars and drivers, while only a few decades ago all care was delivered by foot. I was deeply touched by their compassion and holistic approach to nursing care.

I feel privileged to have met some of the most remarkable nurses, true leaders in their field, who are dedicated not only to their patients but also to the science and practice of holistic nursing. My experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina was an unforgettable one, shaped by Carol Etherington's unique perspectives and personal experiences during the conflict. I witnessed many tearful reunions between Carol and locals. It was not uncommon for her to see a familiar face in a café or recall a poignant memory after passing a familiar street corner.

On one occasion, we drove to see Carol's dear friend, Suada, who lives in Stari Vitez, a small city ravaged during the war. Carol and Suada worked together during the war. For a reprieve from the stress and hardships of war, they would walk through a small apple orchard and pick apples directly from the tree. We walked the same path, just for old times' sake.

Carol has taught me to look below the surface, to welcome the toughest conversations, for they reveal a multitude of things, and most importantly, to listen using both my head and my heart. A friend of Carol's told me that she made beautiful things happen during the war. Nurses are a sign of humanity during the darkest of times, and Carol is a shining example.

– JESSICA VANMETER (M.S.N. '07)

## ETHERINGTON HONORED AS VANDERBILT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Carol Etherington, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, is Vanderbilt University's 2007 Distinguished Alumna. She joins an elite group in receiving the Alumni Association's highest honor and is the first nurse recognized in this way.

"Carol is a wonderful example of how one life can touch thousands of others and ultimately help change things for the better," said Harry Jacobson, M.D., vice chancellor for Health Affairs. "We are lucky to have her in our Nursing School, where she inspires and challenges our students."

Former Chancellor Gordon Gee also praised Etherington.

"Carol Etherington is a global citizen whose tireless efforts, often at great peril to herself, have made the world a better, safer place. Whether it is leading a medical team in a refugee camp, advocating for changes in policy, or teaching in the classroom, her life is an example for every member of the Vanderbilt community."

Etherington is an assistant professor of Nursing and a 1975 graduate of the school's master's program. For decades she has been a tireless advocate of underserved and traumatized populations in local, national and global settings.

"This is a very lovely and meaningful honor, but this moment is not about just me," said Etherington, upon learning about the news. "It is about the thousands of nurses and health care providers around the globe. You may never learn their names, but their tireless commitment to others and their humanity changes the world, one by one."

A mental health expert, most of Etherington's work has focused on creating effective community-based programs for the health and human rights of individuals, families and communities who have survived natural disasters, war, crime or other adverse events.

After graduating from college, Etherington joined Frontier Nursing Service in rural Appalachia, providing health care for a largely indigent population. In 1975, she initiated the Victim Intervention Program in Nashville, one of the first police-based counseling programs in the nation. In 1980, she began her international work and in the '90s became actively involved with *Médecins Sans Frontières* (Doctors without Borders), working in Bosnia, Poland, Honduras, Tajikistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Angola. She was instrumental in strengthening the role of mental health in the comprehensive health care program for Doctors without Borders. Etherington went on to become the first nurse elected to the U.S. Board of Directors for Doctors without Borders, and served two terms as president.

Etherington has also continued her work on several missions in the United States, including the aftermath of Sept. 11, the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake, Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. She remains a Red Cross disaster volunteer and, as a community health nurse, participates in local and regional projects related to refugee and immigrant populations.

"Carol is a great example of the profound and important difference that a nurse can make," said Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., dean of VUSN. "Carol's focus at home and abroad is about restoring the whole person and figuring out ways to bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations." – KATHY RIVERS



From left, Elizabeth Farrar (M.S.N. '93), Harry Jacobson, Colleen Conway-Welch, Carol Etherington, and former Chancellor Gordon Gee.

ANNE RAVNER

## Infertility Support Group Launches

Couples who undergo infertility treatment often find the road both arduous and lonely.

Although the woman and her partner receive ample information about the medical side of treatments such as *in vitro* fertilization, for example, they can often be unprepared for the anxiety and depression that can accompany the path to either parenthood or child-free living.

Two Vanderbilt nurse practitioners are forming a support group for couples in the Nashville community who are undergoing infertility treatment.

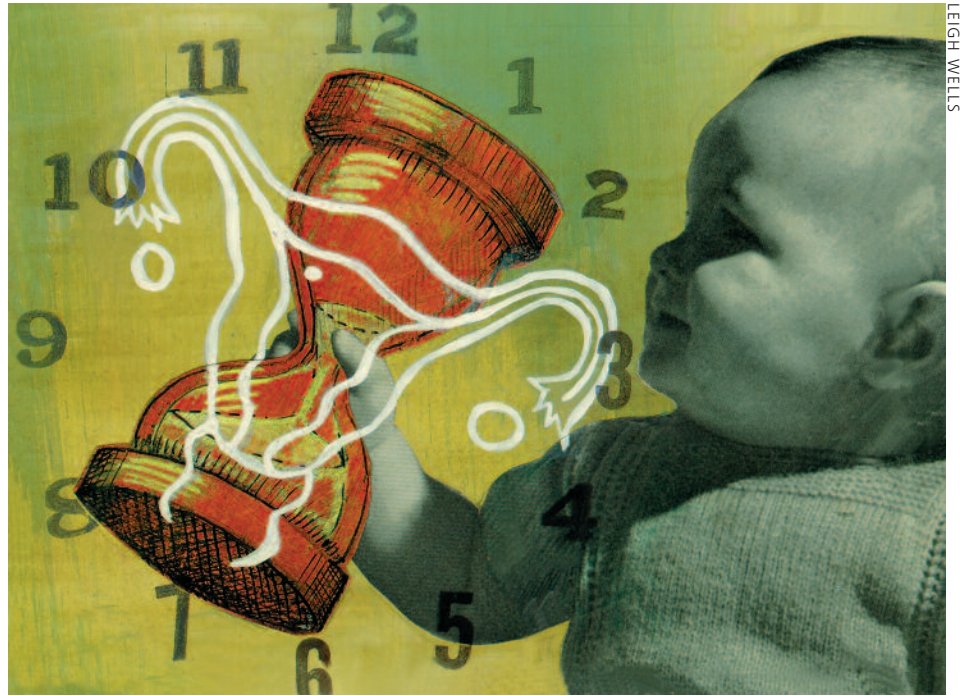
The Fertile Hope Center for Healing is a 12-week program based on the mind-body connection, combining lecture, relaxation and visualization techniques, peer support and yoga — all with the goal of enhancing fertility.

The support group, which will meet for about two and one-half hours, one evening a week at Vanderbilt's Center for Integrative Health on West End Avenue, came about after a conversation between Lucy Koroma, (M.S.N. '05), R.N., a women's health nurse practitioner in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Michele Martens, (M.S.N. '95), R.N., a psychiatric mental health clinical nurse with the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

The two had the same concern — about the lack of psycho-social support for women undergoing infertility treatment — and decided to do something about it. They came up with a plan, which was approved by Nancy Chescheir, M.D., chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"Infertility is a very lonely journey you go through with your partner. It's a lonely process, both during and afterward," says Koroma, who worked for a fertility clinic in Boston before moving to Nashville. "The inability to conceive, or having trouble conceiving, is very anxiety-provoking and couples often don't like to talk about it, even afterward."

About one in 10 American couples is infertile. There are an estimated 6.1



LEIGH WELLS

million women age 15-44 with impaired ability to have children. Research has found that stress not only diminishes a person's quality of life, but also the ability of the body to function normally and efficiently, Martens said. Being worried and upset can hinder fertility, and alleviating stress can increase a woman's chances of conceiving.

Research, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, comparing women in mind-body programs with those receiving only routine medical care has shown that pregnancy and delivery rates were nearly three times higher among the women who receive additional support. In another study, Turkish researchers found that couples attempting *in vitro* fertilization achieved a 43 percent pregnancy rate when their treatment included psychological help, while the group not receiving psycho-social intervention achieved pregnancy rates of 17 percent.

Martens brings personal experience to the program. In addition to her mental health expertise, she and her husband have been navigating what she calls the "fertility maze" since 2002.

"When Lucy and I met, we found that we both have the same passion," Martens said. "Obviously, she doesn't have the same life experience as I do, as far as my fertility journey, but we met and decided we wanted to change things here in Nashville."

The groups will be limited to 12 participants, and sessions will be repeated four to five times a year. Most of the sessions are women-centered, however, there will be one two-hour session for partners of the women. The group participants can also opt for individual and couple therapy.

"It's a couple's condition, therefore both need to go through some sort of therapy," Koroma said. "Primarily the woman is going to be the one invested in the anxiety piece of this, but men can go through anxiety and depression as well."

— NANCY HUMPHREY

**Michele Martens, left, and Lucy Koroma, are forming a support group for couples undergoing infertility treatment.**



SUSAN URMAY



## Red Cross Trains for the Future

Nearly 60 Vanderbilt University School of Nursing students are newly minted American Red Cross certification holders. The American Red Cross set up shop in Frist Hall for a half-day session that detailed many facets of setting up temporary shelters in times of disaster.

Students learned essential information about protocol, supply systems, security issues and logistics. Nurses serve an important role in any disaster since the American Red Cross cannot open a shelter without a registered nurse on duty at all times.

"People usually think of Hurricane Katrina when they think of an emergency, but emergencies are usually not that big," said Marty Conrad, M.P.H., R.N., lecturer in Nursing, who helped bring the program to the School. "Red Cross response teams go to every fire, for instance."

If more than 25 people need housing after a disaster, the Red Cross will set up a shelter. For fewer than 25 people, they will use hotels and other accommodations. Conrad points out that shelters are temporary and the training stresses that as soon as the doors open, shelter staff are also thinking about it closing.

American Red Cross-certified volunteers also do psychiatric counseling.

"If someone has psychological programs, a disaster and having to move to a shelter will often put them over the top," said Conrad. "Nurse practitioners who specialize in psych/mental health are perfect to fill those needs."

The Nashville Area Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to 300 fires, assisted more than 300 families and 1,100 people in the 10-county area. Nationally, the American Red Cross responds to more than 70,000 disasters including home and apartment fires,

hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous material spills, transportation accidents, explosions and other natural and man-made disasters.

The training was conducted by Nancy Meidinger who also works with second-year students specializing in forensics.

– KATHY RIVERS



ANNE RAYNER

**Vanderbilt University School of Nursing students prepare to help in times of crisis.**



**Nursing students Sarah Slater, left, and Lydia Vincent, right, pose with two participants in this year's community outreach event.**

## BIKE RODEO SPREADS SAFETY MESSAGES

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing hosted the 11th Annual Bike Rodeo to teach children to practice bike/wheel toy safety skills by trying out a series of simulated, neighborhood bike-riding environments. This springtime event is designed to help prevent head injuries in children.

The most recent figures from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration report that 70 percent of children age 5 to 15 (27.7 million) ride bicycles. The fatality rate for bicyclists in that same age group is nearly double the rate for all bicyclists. Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes and permanent disability.

Children and their parents came to the Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option Elementary School to participate in seven safety and skills stations. Situations included the "Rock Dodge" that teaches children how to watch carefully for obstacles in the road, and the "Crazy Crossroads" that emphasizes bikers should stop and look both ways before crossing. Participants, who did not already have a helmet, received a free bike helmet and fit-check courtesy of Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Community Giving Campaign. – KATHY RIVERS







# Vine Hill

ENHANCING LIFE IN A COMMUNITY

Leanne Carlton knew there was something horribly wrong with her foot. She had sharp pains and noticed it pointing outward. She had a health care provider, but was not getting helpful answers or effective treatment. “By the Grace of God, I found out about the Vine Hill Community Clinic,” she said. “They pulled me up and saved my life.”

She knew from the minute she entered the clinic reception room that this place was different than the others she visited as a TennCare member. Sandra Ermini, F.N.P., R.N., and instructor at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, and Roger DesPrez, M.D., Professor Emeritus, who serves as educator and consultant for the practitioners, were immediately attending to her. She underwent weeks of testing to determine that she had a rare condition and infection eating away at her foot from the inside out. She was eventually referred to an orthopaedic surgeon who had to amputate her left leg under her knee. She believes if she hadn’t switched to Vine Hill Community Clinic, her infection would have spread and she would have lost her other leg, or worse.

STORY BY KATHY RIVERS  
ILLUSTRATION BY NICHOLAS WILTON



Austin Smiley has been a patient at Vine Hill for three years. The 27-year-old has Williams Syndrome, a rare genetic condition which causes medical and developmental problems. He also has an irrational fear of needles. His father, Bob, typically frets for weeks in advance of any health care visit because what most consider as routine, Austin considers debilitating. That was true the first time he brought Austin to Vine Hill, but his worries were replaced with trust when he met the professional staff. The many nurses and caregivers provide Austin with the right doses of patience, kindness and humor so he can get the thorough check-ups he needs to stay healthy. "Vine Hill made it wonderful," Bob Smiley said. "This is the place we want to be."

• The expansion project at Vine Hill was made possible by major support from the following agencies:

- **The Memorial Foundation**
- **Vanderbilt University Hospital**
- **Tracie and Scott Hamilton**
- **Vanderbilt University School of Nursing**
- **Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency**



### *Sixteen years of progress*

These are just a couple of stories from the thousands of people who have turned to the Vine Hill Community Clinic (VHCC) for their wide-ranging health care needs over the years. What has grown into a tremendous resource for the underserved throughout Davidson County, started 16 years ago with a group of committed staff, advanced practice nurse providers and other faculty members who combined their health care acumen with an entrepreneurial spirit.

The health care needs in this isolated, low-income area near the Tennessee State Fairgrounds were concerning to Amy Harshman Green and Carlene Waller who were both community leaders. They realized that Vine Hill residents, many of whom were living in public housing that was originally built as temporary homes for World War II veterans, were not getting consistent health care. Transportation was a daunting barrier. Residents would have to take two or three buses to reach a health care provider, wait to see the provider and then travel back home, which would often take the entire day during a work week.

As volunteer chair of the Metro Housing Development Authority, Waller secured a floor of the Vine Hill Towers which was previously a nursing home floor. Green located abandoned furniture and equipment, and she and faculty members scrubbed and repainted the

clinic which opened in January 1991. Green and faculty members scrubbed and repainted the clinic which opened in January 1991. Leanne Busby, a faculty member, was awarded a grant by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to start the clinic and she, Nancy Anness, a family nurse practitioner, Lewis Lefkowitz Jr., M.D., the physician preceptor, and Joyce Laben, a psych-mental health specialist, were the core staff. People came. Then, more people came.

The Vine Hill Community Clinic relocated from the Towers building in 2000 to the new community center across the street that also houses a day care center and the Boys and Girls Club. This summer, the clinic marked a new era in health care by more than doubling its size and expanding its services to meet the growing needs of the community, thanks to Harry Jacobson, M.D., VUMC's vice chancellor for Health Affairs, and the Memorial Foundation.

"We are committed to serving the underserved population in our community – the homeless, the pregnant adolescent, international political refugees, disabled adults in state custody, families who do not qualify for Medicaid/TennCare but who cannot afford health insurance, and the list goes on," said Bonnie Pilon, D.S.N., who serves the double role as Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Practice as well as Chief Operating Officer and



Vine Hill provides a wide array of health services to the young, old and everyone in between. Katherine, shown here, has traveled with her stepmother, a patient, from downtown via the bus for a primary care visit.



NEIL BRAKE

Acting Executive Director of the University Community Health Systems, which operates the Vine Hill clinic.

Phil Ryan, executive director of the Metro Housing Development Authority, believes the clinic is an important community resource.

“In my mind, the UCHS clinic at Vine Hill is an important building block for a great city and it’s just as important as what we’re doing with arts, sports and commercial interests in our city,” said Ryan. “The sparkling new facility will help fulfill our mission.”

### A model of care

The Vine Hill clinic’s reception area is usually full and the phone is constantly ringing. Support and nursing staffing are on their feet for 10 hours a day helping clients with their various needs such as episodic illness, chronic illness, minor injuries and physicals including well-woman and well-baby exams. With additional funding, the clinic hopes to offer dental checkups in the future. The enlarged space includes increased square footage on the first and second floors, increasing the number of exam rooms from eight to 13, offices for providers and space for patient support services.

“We provide accessible, affordable, holistic care to patients throughout their lifespan,” said Terri Crutcher, M.S.N., R.N., clinical director, Primary Care and Women’s Health. “Thanks to the expansion, we have added many much-needed services that will make it easier for patients to live in good health.”

The clinic is staffed by nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives. In addition to primary care and mental care services, it has expanded its array of services including midwifery care and specialty gynecological care.

### DESPREZ HELPS VINE HILL FLOURISH

Roger DesPrez, M.D., Professor Emeritus, recently celebrated his 80th birthday and shows no sign of stopping. He serves as a consulting physician at the Vine Hill Community Clinic, a nurse-managed center.

“I’ve always considered being a doctor a privilege,” said DesPrez. “I love seeing patients and working with young professionals.”

DesPrez, a pulmonologist, was recruited from Cornell in 1963 and served as chief of Medicine at the Veteran’s Administration and as a professor of Medicine for 32 years. He was in charge of house staff training and overall medical care. His 1995 retirement was short-lived as he joined the staff of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing-operated Vine Hill Clinic in 1996. At that time, Vine Hill was located on the third floor of Vine Hill Towers and had a staff of three.

Since then, the Vine Hill Community Clinic has moved and expanded its location and services. It continues its affiliation with VUSN and is operated by the University Community Health System. Nurse practitioners see up to 90 patients a day from throughout Davidson County. A majority of these patients are low-income and have various barriers to health care. They may not get regular checkups and come to the clinic with complicated health issues. If a nurse practitioner needs a consultation, DesPrez is an on-the-spot resource.

“Dr. DesPrez plays an important role in the continuing clinical development of our faculty who are assigned to Vine Hill Clinic,” said Terri Crutcher, M.S.N., R.N., clinical director, Primary Care and Women’s Health. “We deal with a wide range of patients including those with diabetes, hypertension and congestive heart failure. His assistance helps us

provide the best care possible for our patients.”

DesPrez has been married to his wife, Patsy, for 42 years. Together they have five children and eight grandchildren. At this point in life, others might devote time to hobbies rather than work, but not DesPrez. Helping people first attracted him to a career in medicine, and his long, remarkable career has led him to where he is happiest – working with patients and teaching health care professionals and students.

“This place keeps me young,” said DesPrez. “I’m in an enviable position because physicians today often don’t have the time they would like to have with their patients. I have the time to dedicate and am happy to do so.”

In 2003, DesPrez was honored by VUSN with the Ingeborg Grosser Mauksch Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring. He is admired and appreciated by staff and patients alike.

– KATHY RIVERS

Vine Hill  
Vital Statistics

Projected number of patient visits:

**13,000**

Number of countries of origin represented:

**29**

Number of patients treated daily:

**65 - 90**

Number of exam rooms:

**13**

Additional services: Well-woman visits for specialty care such as colposcopy and cryosurgery; obstetrical care (prenatal)

Number of advanced practice nurses:

**13**

Number of support staff

**19**

Total square footage including expansion:

**7,589**

Vanderbilt faculty member Anne Moore, pictured with the Vine Hill Community Clinic's new colposcope machine, has begun seeing women's health patients at the clinic.



NEIL BRAKE

“It is crucial that patients have a primary care home with either a physician or nurse practitioner and not have to rely on area emergency departments for primary care,” said Pilon.

Vine Hill is even more than a vital community resource. It is a place for learning and research as well. The clinic provides clinical rotations for VUSN students each year and has a rich research component participating in studies such as the recent Diabetic Retinopathy study (see sidebar). With an entrenched mental health component among its services, the clinic has recently participated in a nationwide study on depression.

### Community outreach

Vanderbilt faculty deliver patient care services at the community clinic. Residents in surrounding neighborhoods in this medically underserved area, as well as throughout Davidson County, use the clinic to access primary care, mental health services and prenatal care.

David Posch, Board president of UCHS said, “This clinic is a tribute to the best of the nursing profession and a great example of what nurses and VUSN can do for the community.”

The clinic serves uninsured, TennCare,

Veterans, and commercially insured patients from a variety of cultural backgrounds. It has a Spanish language translator who assists patients with questions over the phone and who is available to translate during health care visits. Vanderbilt school of nursing students also regularly coordinate health fairs for the children involved in the Boys and Girls Club.

“Vine Hill is a model of care for the city and for the country,” Conway-Welch said. “Our society is only as strong as those most vulnerable among us. Vine Hill’s structure shows us how advanced practice nurses are uniquely qualified to reach out to those who need it most with holistic and primary care that makes a difference in individual lives and has a profound ripple effect in our community. I think in years to come that nurse practitioners will be the primary practitioners who deliver primary care in this country, and who refer to their consulting physicians when appropriate.”

Leanne Carlton and Bob Smiley agree. “Your health is the most important thing,” said Carlton. “The angels at Vine Hill are helping me and thousands of others who have no where else to go.” **VUSN**



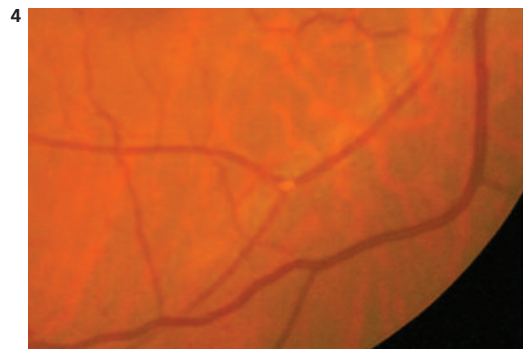
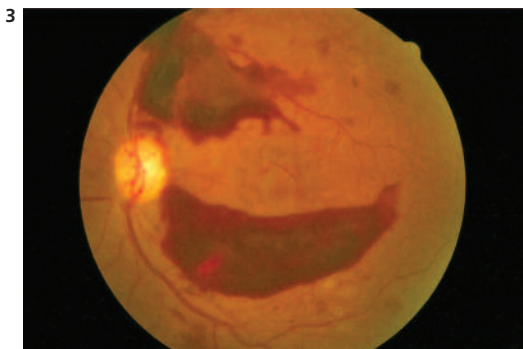
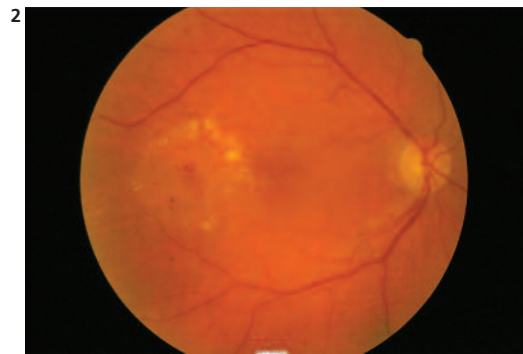
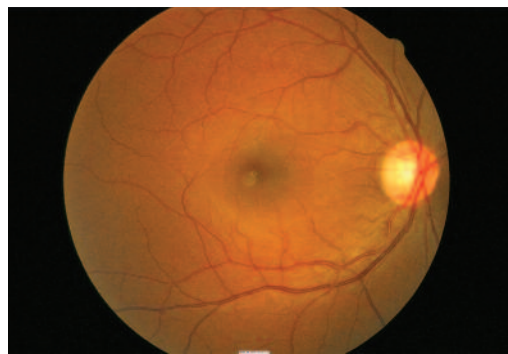
# Diabetic Retinopathy Approach May Help Save Sight

Diabetic Retinopathy screenings at inner-city clinics, such as the Vine Hill Community Clinic, can lead to sight saving treatment for a significant number of patients, according to an article published this spring in *Diabetes Care* by Cathy Taylor, Dr.P.H., M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, and colleagues.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 21 million Americans have diabetes and an additional 40 million to 50 million have pre-diabetes. The CDC estimates that up to 24,000 diabetics each year lose their eye sight due to diabetic retinopathy (DR) - changes in the eye's blood vessels associated with excess sugar in the blood. DR typically does not present symptoms until the patient starts losing vision and in many cases, all vision is lost.

"DR is the leading cause of adult blindness and is almost entirely preventable," said Taylor. "But the system we have now to detect this disease and other diabetes-type related eye problems is simply not adequate."

The study was conducted at the Vine Hill Community Clinic. Adult patients with



diabetes were offered an option for an in-clinic DR screening as part of their regularly scheduled appointment or an ophthalmology referral to the Vanderbilt Eye Institute for their eye care. Of the patients who chose to have a digital retinopathy screening at Vine Hill, 11 percent screened positive for sight-threatening eye disease and 37 percent were referred to ophthalmology for further follow-up.

Vine Hill patients who have diabetes are offered the DR screening as part of their routine visit. Equipment includes commercially available screening equipment and a laptop computer. A nurse dilates the patient's eyes and takes two digital high-clarity images of each eye. Images can be magnified to show minute details and are electronically stored for comparison with future exams. Each day's worth of images are grouped together and uploaded to the

Vanderbilt Ophthalmic Imaging Center where the scans are reviewed by an expert grader and a retinal specialist.

Screening in the clinic saves the patient time off from work and increases the likelihood the patient will get preventive care. The approach also costs about 25 percent of the typical cost of a full-fledged dilated eye exam by an ophthalmologist.

"We know that only about half the diabetics who need these screenings are getting them now, and ophthalmologists are already feeling the strain of the growing demands of diabetes care," said Taylor. "This primary care clinic screening approach can filter out the patients who don't need specialty care so the ophthalmologists can use their expertise on those patients with the greatest need."

In the study, Taylor and her VUSN, VUMC and VHCC

colleagues referred about one-third of the subjects for some sort of specialty care by ophthalmologists.

"Ultimately, this strategy allows us to screen more people, save the precious gift of sight and spend specialty care dollars the best way," said Taylor.

— KATHY RIVERS

These photographs were made using a high resolution digital retinal camera at the Vine Hill Clinic donated by HCA. The images show the central part of the retina – tissue that lines the interior two-thirds of the eye. The retina's function is to capture incoming visual information (light energy) and convert it to electricity that can be sent through the nerves to the visual cortex of the brain. Diabetes mellitus can damage fine blood vessels in the retina that normally deliver oxygen and nutrients to the rods and cones.

1. Normal
2. Sight-threatening disease, diabetic retinopathy, that can be treated with laser intervention
3. Hemorrhage
4. Hollen Horst plaque







VUSN AND  
VUMC UNITE  
AS NEVER  
BEFORE



# united we stand

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and Vanderbilt University Medical Center nursing are entering a new era of integration. The two nursing arms of the Medical Center are knocking down ideological walls in an effort to work smarter for patients and students alike. The result is a growing partnership that is turning challenges into opportunities and transforming ideas into effective new programs.

STORY BY KATHY RIVERS

ILLUSTRATION BY PHILIPPE LARDY/ PHOTOS BY NEIL BRAKE



**Who:**

Debianne Peterman, director of Nursing Education and Development for the Medical Center, left, and Linda Norman, senior associate dean for Academics at the School of Nursing

**What:**

These leaders work closely together to look for new ways to help educate and employ the best nurses in the country.



Linda Norman, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N., senior associate for Academics at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, and Debianne Peterman, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N.C., director of Nursing Education and Development for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, have enhanced the foundation of cooperation. The ultimate goal: helping develop the best qualified nurses in the country for service at the Medical Center. Although they say they are just getting started, there is already a deeper and more consistent blending of efforts as evidenced in several new initiatives.

“With the Medical Center’s new Magnet designation and the school’s Top 20 ranking, it’s a wonderful time for nursing throughout Vanderbilt,” said Norman. “Integration makes our efforts even stronger.”

**Continuing Nursing Education**

Vanderbilt nursing has joined forces is the all-important area of continuing

education. Up until last year, VUMC and VUSN operated independently.

VUMC’s Sandy Greeno, M.S.N., R.N., clinical learning consultant for Nursing Education and Development and VUSN’s Ginny Moore, M.S.N., R.N., coordinator of the VUSN Office of Lifelong Learning, were brought together to examine how to work together to support Vanderbilt’s Continuing Nursing Education. The two nurse planners meet quarterly to exchange information and discuss resources i.e. identifying speakers from throughout the Medical Center and school for nearly 400 programs all together. For instance, Greeno may identify a need to have a course on Death and Dying in Children and turn to VUSN for a high-caliber speaker such as Mary Jo Gilmer, Ph.D., M.B.A., R.N., an expert in palliative care. On the other hand, Moore may need an expert in patient lifting advancements and learn that VUMC has Linda Larson, R.N., an expert for the hospital’s Smooth Moves patient handling system.

The partnership has helped increase communication and marketing of the continuing nursing education offerings to more than 3,000 Medical Center nurses and hundreds of people who regularly turn to VUSN’s Office of Lifelong Learning. The alliance has also conserved resources since the two share one formal reporting relationship with the Tennessee Nurses Association.

“Together, we are able to serve a wider audience with our broad variety of diverse offerings,” said Greeno.

**Preceptorships**

VUSN and VUMC have developed an approach for providing hands-on experiences for pre-specialty (bridge) nursing students. In traditional baccalaureate programs, students have preceptorships in clinics and hospitals spent with one nurse who provides clinical experience without much faculty involvement. VUSN’s pre-specialty program is different from others because it uses a faculty-supervision model



**Who:**

Sandy Greeno, clinical learning consultant for Nursing Education at the Medical Center, left, and Ginny Moore, coordinator of the School of Nursing's Office of Lifelong Learning

**What:**

The two nurse planners meet quarterly to exchange information and discuss resources such as identifying speakers from throughout the Medical Center and school for nearly 400 programs all together.



for all of the clinical courses, including the final practicum. Maria Overstreet, M.S.N., Ph.D.(c) assistant professor of Nursing, and Debbie Arnow, M.S.N., R.N., director of Nursing Education for the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, are helping take the best from both approaches to enhance the student experience and better serve patients.

This summer the floors of the Children's Hospital were filled with VUSN students learning in a new way. Staff nurses and instructors shared the responsibility of providing educational experiences for these nursing students. Instead of calling this clinical experience a "clinical" rotation, it became a "practicum," a term used to reflect a more autonomous role for the students and the involvement of a precepting nurse. However, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing/Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt model also involves direct faculty participation in the precepted clinical experiences.

In this evolving model, the roles of the nursing faculty and the staff nurse ebbed and flowed depending on the students' needs. Some, like Instructor Sharon Fleming, M.S.N., R.N., would typically round with students by going through the patient's pathology, medicines and discharge planning and jointly would provide the direct supervision of the nursing care given by the student with the preceptor. Nursing students had the opportunity to work with and learn from a variety of nurses which made the experiences more robust.

"It is crucial that we look for ways to help our students gain confidence

and develop an increased level of independence," said Overstreet. "At the same time, patient safety is chief concern. Our students work side-by-side with talented nurses, while involved in continual contact with faculty. This provides a deeper, richer understanding of nursing."

Hospital managers are looking for ways to increase the number of preceptorships in both Vanderbilt Children's and Vanderbilt University Hospital for next summer. The School of Nursing will continue to experiment with how best to incorporate faculty responsibilities so the

With the Medical Center's new Magnet designation and the School's Top 20 ranking, it's a wonderful time for nursing throughout Vanderbilt.



**Who:**

Maria Overstreet, assistant professor of Nursing, left, and Debbie Arnow, director of Nursing Education for the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

**What:**

This pair has helped lead the way for a new practicum model that better educates nursing students by involving faculty and nurse mentoring.



nurses and faculty work together for the benefit of the student.

**Tuition Reimbursement for Nurses Employed Full-Time**

Many believe it has never been a better time for VUMC nurses to pursue their master's degrees at VUSN due to the revamped tuition reimbursement program for full-time VUMC nurses.

Three years ago, the School of Nursing established a three-year, part-time study option for nurses employed at VUMC to complete the 39 credit hours for the Masters in the Science of Nursing program of study. Previously the only options were a two-year, part-time study option or full-time option. Spreading out the program over three years allows nurses to take full advantage of the Medical Center's commitment to provide up to 12 credit hours of tuition reimbursement each year.

As a result, VUMC full-time nurses can receive the MSN education for

approximately the cost of only three credit hours total. The advantage for both institutions is that the School of Nursing gets motivated, highly talented MSN students and the Medical Center gets at least three more years of service from a better educated work force.

**Sharing Faculty Resources**

All of these new joint programs are possible due to the growing focus on integration between VUMC and VUSN, including sharing more teaching resources.

Examples include Carl Anderson who works 40 percent of the time in pediatric nephrology and 60 percent within the Nursing School's pre-specialty program. Sheree Allen, M.S.N., A.P.N., works half of her time in the Children's Hospital Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and half the time as an instructor in the School's pediatric acute care nurse practitioner program.

In addition to joint faculty roles, Norman pointed out that the Medical

Center employs more than 400 advanced practice nurses who are positive role models for nurses pursuing their master's degrees.

"Sharing more people between the Medical Center and school cements our partnership," said Norman.

Peterman and Norman have a standing monthly meeting to discuss ideas and look for additional areas for integration.

It all starts with having a better understanding of each organization's goals. Each also believes this process has helped them become advocates for initiatives of both Medical Center nursing and the School of Nursing.

"Any time you can proactively communicate so all the issues are on the table and so each part of the organization is aware of the other's goals and objectives, you will be more effective," said Peterman. "We have come together on some exciting projects so far and have an exciting future of collaboration ahead." **VUSN**



**Who:**

Colleen Conway-Welch, dean of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, left, and Marilyn Dubree, executive chief nursing officer for the Medical Center

**What:**

These two nationally-renowned nurse leaders are the architects of the new era of integration between the Medical Center and the School of Nursing.



## Campaign for Nursing's Future Shows Results

The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future crossed its five-year mark by announcing ongoing support for its program and by expanding its campaign to include nurse faculty recruitment and retention.

In late 2001, with more than 110,000 nurses needed to fill vacant positions nationwide, the United States was in the throes of the worst nursing shortage in its history. Five years later, more than 500,000 men and women have entered the nursing profession but the shortage issue is still not resolved.

"This campaign has been a tremendous boost by show-

ing nursing as a rewarding profession and showing corporate America how a private-public partnership can make a profound difference throughout our society," said Peter Buerhaus, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., professor of Nursing and director of Vanderbilt's Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies, part of the Institute for Medicine and Public Health.

Despite marked increases, the nursing shortage is entering its 10th year and much still remains to be done to stave off a long-term health care crisis, as the perfect storm of aging baby boomers and sicker patients, retiring

nurses and a critical shortage of nursing faculty still lead the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to forecast 1 million nurse staffing vacancies by 2020.

"We are making headway in important areas," said Buerhaus. "We know more people are choosing nursing as a second career, for instance. Now we have the increased interest, we need to make sure we have faculty in place."

In 2006, nearly 130,000 qualified applicants to baccalaureate and graduate nursing school programs were turned away primarily due to an insufficient number of fac-

ulty, according to recent data by the National League for Nursing.

"We are admitting record numbers of students into our advanced nurse practice master's and Ph.D. programs," said Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., C.N.M., dean of VUSN. "The nursing faculty shortage is a real issue, and the new campaign, Focused on Faculty, will spotlight this important piece of the puzzle."

— KATHY RIVERS

STORY BY KATHY RIVERS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAMARA REYNOLDS

# Q + A

an interview with  
commissioner susan cooper



Susan Cooper proves that exercise can include activities such as playing with your grandchildren at a local park or in your backyard. Cooper is pictured with her grandchildren Julianna and Carter.





**Susan R. Cooper, M.S.N., R.N., Commissioner of Health for the State of Tennessee, recently sat down with *Vanderbilt Nurse* magazine. Cooper has nearly 15 years worth of affiliation with Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. As commissioner, she is responsible for more than 3,500 employees and facilities in 95 counties, as well as 21 health-related regulatory boards and nine committees.**

**What impact does the Department Health have on Tennesseans?**

No one realizes how big this department is or the wide range of our duties. We are responsible for protecting the health of the public, promoting health and improving health. We have responsibility for every single person who not only lives here, but who might travel here and visit the hotels and restaurants that we are responsible for inspecting. We have facilities in each county and oversee the state labs and all regulatory aspects of all professionals in health care fields. It is an extraordinary responsibility.

**How do you choose your priorities?**

I choose them the way you eat an elephant – one bite at a time. I have to focus on the core functions of public health to assess where we are today and where we need to be. It really is about the core functions – protecting, promoting

and improving the health of Tennesseans. I try to approach everything that comes across my desk with that in mind. When you prioritize, there are tasks that we *need* to do and many that would be *nice* to do, but we must first tackle the core functions so we can move on to programs that can enhance those efforts. I try to take a proactive approach rather than a reactive approach while focused on building systems and infrastructure that support and promote public health.

**Are there any programs that are near and dear to your heart?**

I'm focused on programs addressing key behaviors – physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and alcohol use, and injury prevention. I want to bring prevention back into the picture when promoting health and fitness. As many nurses see firsthand, the majority of young people in this country are overweight, inactive and unfit. The percentage of overweight young people in the U.S. has doubled since 1980. Here in Tennessee we have an even greater number of overweight high school students. Type 2 diabetes in our children has reached epidemic proportions. To target these issues, we are launching a tour across the state with GetFitTN, the Governor's public awareness campaign to promote physical fitness and healthy nutrition. We'll be visiting with young people, parents, educators, nurses, school officials and

community leaders to help support their efforts and inspire new community-based programs focused on the health and fitness of our citizens. I have a responsibility to all citizens, but especially to our children. I also continue to be committed to transitional services and making sure the Safety Net stays in place so that all Tennesseans have access to health care.

**Are you working on any new initiatives?**

Yes. I'm proud to say Smoke-Free Tennessee passed with strong bipartisan support. We have laid out a very significant tobacco prevention, cessation and control program built on a foundation of science and evidence-based programs. We want to implement programs that will create a return on our investment from both a financial and health outcomes standpoint. Prevention involves making a front-end expenditure where you will see the largest benefits 10 or 20 years down the road.

**How significant is the passage of a 42-cent tax on cigarettes?**

It's monumental for a historically tobacco-driven state to make this type of investment toward improving the health of our citizens. This is a significant investment in preventive health strategies. Teen tobacco use is associated with accessibility, availability, and price of tobacco. Evidence from the Surgeon General's



We want to show people that you can make small steps each day toward a healthier tomorrow, and work your way up to at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day.



report and numerous research studies show that raising the cost of cigarettes is a proven and effective strategy to prevent and reduce smoking among our young people.

**How do you view your role as commissioner?** My job is really a service role. I'm a problem solver and believe that to accomplish our goals, we need to facilitate dialogues between groups. That way, we will come up with ideas much bigger than any one organization or person could do on their own. We need to focus on who will

benefit from our work and how to leverage our collective resources. We are not going to allow our state to be 48th out of 50 any longer when it comes to health. We are not going to allow our children to be at risk for becoming overweight or being overweight. We are not going to allow smoking in areas that all Tennesseans may use. Let's draw a line in the sand – a line based on science and the good of the whole. I believe this is do-able.



**Susan, Eileen (her daughter), and Julianna and Carter (Eileen's children) show that having fun and exercising is a family affair.**

## The health status of our state ought to be the one thing we can all agree on.

**What have you learned so far?** I learn something new every day. I have learned there is a difference between policy and politics. There are extraordinary people across this state who want to do the right thing but are looking for tools, guidance, or encouragement and leadership. I have learned that there is a great role for public and private partnerships to help improve the health status of our state. The ability to put your footprint on it is really humbling. It is a responsibility that I take very, very seriously.

I am trying to drill down to the core problems and bring great minds together. The health status of our state ought to be the one thing we can all agree on.

**How did your connection with Vanderbilt help prepare you for this position?** I have been affiliated with Vanderbilt off and on for a number of years and would say that those relationships at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and Vanderbilt University Medical Center really helped

raise me in my profession. I received both my bachelor's degree and master's degree from the Vanderbilt School of Nursing and have worked at the school and hospital in a variety of roles. All along the way there were many people who have informed my thinking. It is impossible to name them all. However, I would be remiss if I did not recognize Colleen Conway-Welch, Marilyn Dubree and Bonnie Pilon. They encouraged me to explore health policy and become an advocate, not only

for our patients but also for the nursing profession. I credit them, as well as others, for allowing me to pursue a field that most nurses don't go into. Vanderbilt gave me the opportunity to explore options and take risks as well as follow my dreams.

**How significant is it that a nurse is Commissioner of Health?** I think the time was right. Nurses see things through a different set of eyes. Nursing history proves over and over again that we always focus on the patient and we find resources where resources don't commonly exist. I think nurses are extraordinarily smart, well-educated, they bring their education, training and compassion to the table in trying to solve the problem. Most people know that nurses are caring and compassionate. We also have to inform them that we have a rich educational background that we bring with us. Commissioner Virginia Betts and I are members of the Governor's Cabinet, and we have two nurses in the state Senate and one in the House. This is the time to take our advocacy to a new level.

**What is the value of nurses in the health care equation?** The U.S. health care system as a whole doesn't work very well. We need to think about new models of care by first focusing on the work that needs to be done. I think there



- \* GetFitTN is a statewide awareness program developed to address the rising epidemic of type 2 diabetes and risk factors that lead to diabetes, like obesity. This initiative is aimed at educating both adults and children that type 2 diabetes can be delayed or even prevented with modest lifestyle changes like increasing physical activity and a healthier diet.
- \* In 2002, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 18.2 million people in the United States had some form of diabetes, including 206,000 people under the age of 20, and 1.3 million people over age 20 who are diagnosed with diabetes each year.
- \* Tennessee is ranked 48th in the country in overall health status and Tennessee's children are increasingly at risk due to poor physical fitness and diets.
- \* More than 62 percent of Tennesseans are overweight or obese. In 2004, Tennessee ranked fifth in the U.S. for the highest rate of obese adults with direct medical costs related to obesity topping \$1.8 billion in 2003. Tennessee has been recognized as a state with epidemic proportions of childhood obesity, one of the highest rates in pediatric obesity and childhood type 2 diabetes, and one of the highest rates of heart disease in the nation.
- \* Of children born in 2000, one in three is predicted to develop diabetes. The odds increase to one in two for African-American and Hispanic children.

Visit [www.GetFitTN.com](http://www.GetFitTN.com) for more information.



is enough physician work for the physicians, enough advanced practice nurse work for the APNs, and enough registered nurse work for the registered nurses and the list goes on and on. The Institute of Medicine has made some recommendations of a different model of health care. Public health has a history of using professionals to their fullest capacity. I believe that we must integrate the public health/prevention message into all models of care. Nurses can be instrumental in putting health promotion and prevention back into the equation. We also can help focus on the difference between health and health care.

**What is your favorite part of your job so far?** I love going out across the state to talk to the folks who are both working in the health department and who are receiving care in the health department to get a feel for what is happening in the field. This isn't a job that I can do sitting in Nashville. I have to see it and to experience it, to then know how I might impact it. I love working with the administration and the legislature because I enjoy the dialogue. I have had great experiences meeting children, their parents and grandparents with GetFitTN and seeing them realize that some physical activity is doable. It's about starting where you are. We want to show people that you can make small steps each day

toward a healthier tomorrow, and work your way up to at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day.

**What is the most difficult part of your position?** Time is the one resource I do not have enough of. If someone could create a 48-hour day, I still don't know if I would have enough time. Emergency Department nursing taught me to quickly move from the mundane to crisis. In the ED, you might have six traumas coming in, and you and the lead physician would assess patients and assign care teams. I learned about movement through the system and how to triage. This is all very applicable to my job right now.

**What do you want everyone to know about Susan Cooper?** I see this position as my greatest challenge and my greatest opportunity. I feel that every single thing that has happened to me in my lifetime has led me to where I am today. I hope that all the people who have touched my life in some way – nurses, physicians, educators, colleagues, citizens and my children – should understand that I am here because of them.

And, I hope at the end of my time as commissioner, they will think I did an extraordinary job. **vusn**

**CATHY TAYLOR NAMED ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

Cathy R. Taylor, Dr.P.H., M.S.N., R.N., and assistant professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, has been named the new assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health's Bureau of Health Services Administration. In this role, Taylor oversees a system of 13 regional health offices responsible for the oversight of services in 89 rural and six metropolitan county health departments.

"Cathy is a tremendous nurse and knows how to get things done," said Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., dean of VUSN. "She is an innovator, a problem solver and a developer of programs that make a difference."

In addition to her work at the School, Taylor previously served as director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance Disease Management Program, and worked in community health nursing and outreach at the School of Nursing. Taylor was appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen to chair the Tennessee Center for Diabetes Prevention and Health Improvement Board in November 2006.

"The important work of this Bureau touches the lives of thousands of people across Tennessee each day, and has a significant impact on their quality of life," said Taylor. "I am honored and look forward to working to improve the health of the citizens of our state."

– KATHY RIVERS



**Cathy Taylor, assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health's Bureau of Health Services Administration**

SUSAN URMY



PETERMAN



GILMER

### 2007 VUSN FACULTY AWARDS

VUSN is proud to recognize those individuals who received 2007 Faculty Awards:

**Debiante Peterman**, Ph.D., R.N.C., Director of Nursing Education for VUMC – Dean’s Award for Outstanding Service to Faculty and Students

**Mary Jo Gilmer**, Ph.D., M.B.A., R.N., Director, Clinical Management Specialty – Dean’s Award for Recognition of Faculty Achievement in Scholarly Endeavors

**Sarah Fogel**, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing – School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award for Teaching in the Clinical Setting

**Jerry Murley**, Director, Instructional Media Center – VUSN Leading Forward Award for Faculty

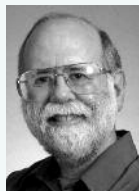
**Ellen Smogur**, executive secretary – VUSN Leading Forward Award for Staff

**Thomas Christenbery**, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing; **Terri Crutcher**, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor of Clinical Nursing; **Pamela Jones**, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor of Clinical Nursing and Assistant Dean, **Susan Newbold**, Ph.D., M.S.N., lecturer in Nursing; **Bonnie Pilon**, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N., senior associate dean for faculty practice and professor of Nursing; and **Cynthia Waller**, M.S.N., R.N., instructor in Clinical Nursing – School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award for Educational Innovation

**Trish Trangenstein**, Ph.D., R.N., professor and director of Nursing Informatics, Ingeborg Grosser Mauksch Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring

**Roberta Bradley**, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing – School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award for Teaching in the Lecture of Small Group Setting

**Sarah Ramsey**, Director of Student Affairs – School Life Staff Award



**Ken Wallston**, Ph.D., M.A., professor of psychology in Nursing, received “The Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award” which was created to honor Chancellor Wyatt upon his retirement in 2000. The award is intended to recognize accomplishments that span multiple academic disciplines. The title is conferred upon a full-time faculty member, regardless of rank or school, for the development of significant new knowledge from research or exemplary innovations in teaching. Wallston will carry the title “Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor” for one year and received a \$2,500 cash award and an engraved silver tray. Wallston was recognized with this award by former Chancellor Gordon Gee in a joint assembly this spring.

### FACULTY NEWS

**Stewart Bond**, Ph.D., R.N., research associate in Nursing, was recently awarded a Claire M. Fagin Fellowship from the John A. Hartford Foundation to study neurocognitive impairment in older cancer patients. The study will look closely at patients with newly diagnosed cancers of the upper aerodigestive system.



**Travis Dunlap**, M.S.N., instructor of Nursing in the Adult Nurse Practitioner program, published “Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* in Critical Care Areas” in the March issue of *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*. Dunlap’s article “Tracking Changes in the Patient with Heart Failure” appeared in the June issue of *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. He also helped develop a chapter for an upcoming book, “Palliative Practices from A - Z for the Bedside Clinician.”

**D. Wade Huffman**, M.D., M.P.H., assistant medical director for the school-based clinics in

Clarksville, recently completed work on his master’s degree in Public Health and graduated in May from the Medical College of Wisconsin. His M.P.H. program was titled “Work-relatedness of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.”



**Linda Hughlett**, M.S.N., C.N.M., and her colleagues at West End Women’s Health Center

achieved national recognition for their patient satisfaction scores during a 12-month period. These providers and staff have consistently ranked in the 90th percentile or higher, rated by patients they serve.

**Elizabeth Moore**, Ph.D., R.N.C., had her dissertation published in the March/April issue of *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*. She also conducted a meta-analysis titled “Early Skin-to-Skin Contact for Mothers and their Healthy Newborn Infants” which was published in the July issue of *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. The research showed that babies who had early skin-to-skin contact were more likely



to breastfeed successfully and to breastfeed for longer than those who did not.

**Shelagh Mulvaney, Ph.D., M.S.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics, has recently published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* an article titled, "Barriers and facilitators of evidence-based practice perceived by behavioral science professionals," and another article in *Sleep & Breathing* titled "Normative psychomotor vigilance task performance in children ages 6 to 11 – The Tucson Children's Assessment of Sleep Apnea."



**Susan Newbold, Ph.D., R.N.-B.C.**, assistant professor of Nursing, has made several presentations

throughout the country regarding the role of informatics in helping the nursing shortage. She also contributed to a report to the Maryland nursing workforce commission documentation work group regarding challenges and opportunities in documentation of nursing care patients.



**Maria Overstreet, M.S.N., R.N.**, assistant professor, and **Sally Miller, M.S.N., R.N.**, instructor

and Skills Lab Manager, presented a poster titled, "Simulation in the Skills Lab: Enhancing Clinical Experiences" at the 7th National Conference on Nursing Skills Laboratories in San Antonio this spring.

**Iris Padilla, Ph.D., F.N.P.**, assistant professor, is a consultant for the American Diabetes Association on a project to develop a workshop module for Latino communities highlighting risk factors, and signs and symptoms of people with diabetes who suffer from mental illness.

**Ellen Tosh Benneyworth, M.S.N., A.P.R.N.**, is serving as care manager, services coordinator and counselor for both residents and families at the Blakeford senior living community in Nashville as part of a new partnership between VUSN and the senior organization.



**Julie Rosof-Williams, M.S.N., A.P.R.N.**, assistant in Department of Pediatrics, is on the Forensic

Nurses Certification Board and chaired the committee that wrote the certification examination for sexual assault nurse examiners in pediatrics.



**Randolph Rasch, Ph.D., R.N.**, professor and director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, is co-

author with Samuel McMaster, Ph.D., and Sharon Crawford, Ph.D., of a paper titled "Metropolitan Community AIDS Network: Faith based culturally relevant services for African-American substance users at risk for HIV," in *Health and Social Work*. He is a member of the Standards & Criteria Masters Subcommittee, National League for Nurses Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and the Board of



**Jane Marie Kirschling, D.N.S., R.N.**, right, the dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Nursing, congratulates **Betsy Weiner** as one of the newest inductees into the school's Hall of Fame.

#### WEINER NAMED TO UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HALL OF FAME

**Betsy Weiner, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.**, senior associate dean for Informatics, was inducted into the University of Kentucky (UK) School of Nursing Hall of Fame in June. She was cited as a pioneer in informatics and technology as it is applied to nursing and for sharing her expertise in bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, and disaster response in Kentucky as well as internationally. Her successful research endeavors have garnered more than \$2 million in funded research and training grants for projects including emergency management, online learning for emergency response and developing informatics competencies for advanced practice nurses.

After earning her B.S.N. from the University of Kentucky (UK), she was awarded a master's degree in nursing from the University of Cincinnati in 1978, and then returned to UK to earn a Ph.D. in higher education/social and philosophical studies in 1982. Her doctorate focused on informatics technology. She has served as a senior associate dean for Informatics at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing since 2000.

**Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., C.N.M., F.A.A.N.**, dean of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, was interviewed for "Conversations with Leaders," a Sigma Theta Tau International book that included conversations with pioneers and leaders in nursing including a chapter titled: "The Business Nurse: An interview with Colleen Conway-Welch." The book was published this fall.

Directors, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF).



**Jennifer Wilbeck**, M.S.N., R.N., instructor in Nursing, published an article titled "Making Sense of Sciatica" in the May issue of *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*.

**Ken Wallston**, Ph.D., M.A., professor of psychology in Nursing, and Kathleen Wolff, M.S.N., R.N., instructor in Clinical Nursing, continue work on their SHADE (Stress, Health and Diabetes Experience) study which involves examining the effects of expressive writing on persons with type 2 diabetes mellitus. This study, funded by a grant from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at NIH, is being conducted simultaneously at Vanderbilt, Penn State, and Syracuse University. Nancy

Kidd, from the School's Center for Research Development and Scholarship, is assisting with the study, and three graduate nursing students – Clarissa Autumn Givens, Andrea Ray Dandridge, and Lauren Porter Sims – have joined the project as research assistants.

**Kathleen Wolff** recently presented a poster at the annual meeting of the American Diabetes Association based on research that she, **Ken Wallston**, Ph.D., and other members of **Russell Rothman**, M.D.'s, research team have been conducting on a Diabetes Toolkit to educate type 2 diabetes patients with low health literacy or numeracy.

**PH.D. NEWS**



**Susie Adams**, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., associate professor and director of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

At the annual American College of Nurse Midwives conference, several students and faculty members were recognized. Awards for faculty included **Julia Phillippi**, M.S.N., C.N.M., lecturer in Nursing, who was recognized with the excellence in teaching award. **Mavis Shorn**, M.S.N., C.N.M., program director for the Nurse Midwifery program, was the recipient of two awards – the W. Newton Long Award (for research) and the ACNM Region III Award for Excellence.

VUSN students **Anitra Ellerby-Brown**, **Lara McCormick** and **Elizabeth (Beth) Hart Austin** each received scholarships. VUSN student Heather Lee Siegel was one of two students out of 40 programs who was selected to present the student report to the ACNM membership.

Program, successfully defended her dissertation and completed her Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky in May. Her dissertation was titled: "Retention of Previously Incarcerated Women in a Community-Based Residential Substance Abuse Program." Adams was also selected as one of Sigma Theta Tau International's (STTI) "Rising Stars" in Research and will be presenting dissertation findings at the STTI Conference in Baltimore in November.

**Maria Overstreet**, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, received a "high pass" on her comprehensive exam at the University of Tennessee Ph.D. program.

**Ben Smallheer**, Ph.D.(c), M.S.N., lecturer in Nursing, successfully completed the qualifying exam process and has been admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. in Nursing Science at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

**FORMER DEAN ARCHER DIES**

Sara Katherine Archer, Ed.D., R.N., former dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, died in Nashville July 5. She was 88.

"Sally," as her many friends called her, was recruited to Vanderbilt in the late 1960s to direct the new medical-surgical nursing major in the master's program. She taught gerontology classes, which was a new field of study at the time. She was a protégé of Dean Luther Christman, assumed the role of dean upon his departure in 1972, and served in the position until her retirement in 1982.

"Sally was a forward-thinking nurse and a strong leader," said Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. "We will miss her smile and her spark,

but her years of service both as a faculty member and dean will never be forgotten."

Mrs. Archer was born in Goldsboro, N.C. She received her associate's degree in nursing from Washington Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing, her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Miami, and her doctorate in administration of adult and higher education from Boston University. Before coming to Vanderbilt, she was a faculty member and director of the gerontology program at Boston University. She joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 1969 to plan and direct a program in medical-surgical nursing.

Mrs. Archer's goal was to expand the nursing program and to promote nurses as health care partners rather than health care assistants.

She was adored by many, but also

could be a tough leader. In her office, she proudly displayed a plaque reading "Illegitimi non carborundum," which loosely translated means, "Don't let the bastards grind you down."



Sara Archer is pictured at the Godchaux Hall Ribbon Cutting in September 2006 flanked by Marilyn Dubree, left, and Adrienne Ames, right.



## CLASS NOTES

**Susan Crutchfield** (M.S.N. '86) earned her Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University in December 2006. She is managing director for FTI Healthcare in Brentwood, Tenn.

**Michael Gooch** (M.S.N. '06) and **Tonia Moore-Davis**, M.S.N., C.N.M., were re-elected to the Board of Directors of Health Occupations Students of America, a pipeline for future health care workers. Gooch is a flight nurse with Vanderbilt Lifeflight and Moore-Davis is a nurse midwife and the clinical practice manager for VUSN's nurse-midwifery practice.

**Cathy Bordash Hogan** (B.S.N. '93, M.S.N. '01) and Chris Hogan welcomed son Andrew Cavan Hogan into their family on Aug. 4, 2005. They live in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**Paul Kadetz** (M.S.N. '06) completed his M.P.H. at Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He was accepted to complete his M.Sc. and doctorate at Green College, University of Oxford (U.K.) in Medical Anthropology.

**Jennifer Camp Lunny** (M.S.N. '94) recently graduated with highest honors from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where she earned her M.S.N. She published an article in *Nursing Spectrum* about guidelines for self-monitoring blood glucose testing. She is an adjunct faculty member at Broward Community College's ADN Nursing Program in Davie, Fla., and at Nova Southeastern University.

**Eleanor Bell Moore** (M.S.N. '02, VU '85) has been accepted

into the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing's Ph.D. Nursing Program at Georgia State University.

**Cara Cahey Osborne** (M.S.N. '01) graduated with a Sc. D. in Maternal and Child Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. Osborne worked in clinical practice at a birth center in Wellesley, Mass., and at Massachusetts General on her way to earning her doctorate. She also gave birth to two sons during that time – Maxwell and younger brother Tate. Her husband recently graduated from Harvard Business School, and the family is relocating to Arkansas.

**Kristin Kane Ownby** (B.S.N. '83) was promoted to associate professor of Clinical Nursing at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing. She and her husband welcomed their first child, James Frederic Ownby, on April 18.

**Patrick Palmyra** (M.S.N. '00), assistant professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, has begun pursuing his Ph.D. at Duke University School of Nursing. He was also awarded the Information Technology Fellowship in Patient Safety and Quality at Duke University Medical Center.

**Susan German Jackson** (B.S.N. '86) is working as the Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, Ky. She also wrote two chapters for a recently published book on breast cancer focusing on pathology physiology and staging of breast cancer as well as systemic treatment.

Two 1984 Vanderbilt School of Nursing baccalaureate graduates have started their own health care company. **Laura Hayes** and **Debbie Dunn Gregory** opened the Nursing Institute for Healthcare Design this spring. The enterprise is dedicated to educating nurse leaders for roles in health care design and construction. The company offers online courses and networking opportunities. Information is available online at [www.nursingihd.com](http://www.nursingihd.com).

**Lucy Todd** (M.S.N. '04) has been named Medical Science Liaison with Baxter Healthcare in Asheville, N.C.

**Kelly Ambrosia Wollaston** (M.S.N. '93 and Founder's Medalist), Colonel in the U.S. Army, was named the chief executive officer of the Evans Army Community Hospital in Fort Carson, Colo. Wollaston finished a tour of duty in Afghanistan this spring where she helped initiate a formal teaching program for Afghan nurses at a hospital in Bigram. **Col. Diana Ruziicka** (M.S.N. '93) is the chief nursing officer at the same hospital.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Julia (Julie) Hudson Brown** (B.S.N. '50) died on March 24, in Augusta, Ga. Married to a United State Air Force Captain, Mrs. Brown served as a civilian nurse at army bases in London after graduation. She came to Augusta when her husband Mark Brown, M.D., accepted the chairmanship of the Radiology Department at the Medical College of Georgia, where he rose to chairman of nuclear medicine. Mrs. Brown

is survived by her three daughters and five grandchildren.

**Rosena Culbertson** (G.N. '35) passed away on May 3, in LaVerne, Ca.

## SEND ALUMNI NEWS AND

## PICTURES TO

Jennifer Woody  
Activities Coordinator/Alumni  
Coordinator  
Vanderbilt University  
2525 West End Ave., Suite 450  
Nashville, TN 37203  
[jennifer.woody@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.woody@vanderbilt.edu)  
(615) 343-7640  
Toll Free: (800) 288-0028

## VISIT US ON THE WEB

[www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing)

# don't forget

Our new Web site is one of the best ways to learn about upcoming Centennial activities. Please check it often.

[www.vusn100.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.vusn100.vanderbilt.edu)

**Dean Colleen Conway-Welch presents Robin Riley with the School of Nursing's 2007 Founder's Medal during commencement.**



SUSAN URMY

**RILEY NAMED FOUNDER'S MEDALIST**

Robin Riley is a family nurse practitioner, mother, grandmother, former business woman — and the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's 2007 Founder's Medalist.

"I reinvented myself to become a nurse," said Riley, honored in this year's commencement ceremony.

Riley retired after working for 27 years with IBM, which took her across the West, and then became a property manager with her sister in Southern Florida for several years. She moved back to Middle Tennessee to be close to her grandchildren, but felt there was something missing in her life. She attended a missionary trip to Mexico with a local church and realized the great need for health care for the underserved.

"I had never done anything clinical before, but we saw patients all day every day and it changed my life," said Riley. "I knew I wanted to use my life to make a difference."

She applied to the program as a non-nurse to become a family nurse practitioner. During her nursing education, she got involved in the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance in the area of dentistry as an important part of overall health.

Her training and self-motivation come in handy in her role at the Sage Memorial Hospital Complex, part of the Navajo Health Foundation. The complex is in a remote area in the northeast corner of Arizona, more than 45 minutes away from any other health care facility. As a family nurse practitioner, Riley helps serve more than 20,000 residents. She spends most of her time in the outpatient clinic where between two and four providers see 30 to 80 patients each day who travel long distances for their health care needs.

She believes Vanderbilt University School of Nursing gave her a strong foundation, particularly in gathering and looking at information, and that her current position provides an opportunity to learn more every day.

"I'm honored and flabbergasted to be recognized as this year's Founder's Medalist," said Riley. "When I go home at night, I feel like I've made a difference."



**Top:** Students carry the school's apricot standard into the commencement processional.

**Middle:** Students stand as the ceremony officially begins.

**Bottom:** The school's informatics leaders gather before the commencement ceremony. Pictured left to right are Trish Trangenstein, Jeff Gordon and Betsy Weiner.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN URMY





**Left:** Melissa Gudan, a graduate of the Family Nurse Practitioner program, was all smiles at the ceremony at Branscomb Quadrangle.

**Below left:** Janae Lemons multi-tasks at commencement.

**Below right:** Stephanie Spence, surrounded by fellow graduates, smiles for the camera while preparing to line up for the processional.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN URMY



More than 225 Vanderbilt University School of Nursing students received their professional pins of Nursing at a ceremony in early August. The students were greeted with a standing ovation by the nearly 2,000 friends, family members and supporters.



**Left:** School of Nursing Dean Colleen Conway-Welch, right, looks on as newly pinned Barbara Bryant is congratulated by her grandmother, also named Barbara Bryant.

**Top:** Recently pinned Anila Bhimani, right, and sister Salima Mohammad after the ceremony.

**Below:** Lipscomb B.S.N. graduates prepare to receive their Lipscomb pins during a candlelight ceremony that took place in the spring.

PHOTOS BY NEIL BRAKE AND SUSAN URMY







“It makes me happy that I am able to help my alma mater and receive income for the rest of my life.”

*Virginia George, Professor Emerita, B.S.N., December, 1947*

GRAPHICS BY WWW.PEPPERMINITCREATIVE.COM

THE VANDERBILT CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

When you establish a Vanderbilt Charitable Gift Annuity, you're not only supporting the School of Nursing, you're also giving yourself income for life – guaranteed. And you'll receive a current income tax deduction.

For a personalized illustration (no obligation), please contact Katie Jackson at (615) 343-3858 or (888) 758-1999 or [katie.jackson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:katie.jackson@vanderbilt.edu). Let her tailor a Charitable Gift Annuity for you to consider.

**Benefits on a \$10,000 Single-Life Charitable Gift Annuity \***

Age	Annuity Rate	Yearly Income
65	6.0%	\$600
70	6.5%	\$650
75	7.1%	\$710
80	8.0%	\$800
85	9.5%	\$950
90	11.3%	\$1,130

\* minimum age of 65 and gift amount of \$10,000