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“Thank you!”

The Colleen Conway-Welch Legacy



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“I was so grateful when I learned of my scholarship—it means a lot to me that people see the value in the way Vanderbilt prepares nurses.”

—Rachel Adams
Class of 2014

As a health care consultant, Rachel Adams

gained valuable experience in health care management and policy, but she wanted to make an impact in the lives of patients and families every day.

“My goal is to help families improve their health by taking a preventative care approach,” says Adams.

Now a Vanderbilt nursing student, Adams appreciates the encouragement she receives from faculty—in the classroom and the clinic. “I’m inspired by their compassion for both patients and students.”

Support from the Sally Baum Nordlund and D. Craig Nordlund Scholarship is helping make Adams’ dream to become a family nurse practitioner a reality.

If you’d like to support dedicated nursing students like Rachel through scholarship endowment, please contact Sydney Haffkine at (615) 322-8851 or sydney.haffkine@vanderbilt.edu to learn more.



SCHOOL OF NURSING
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

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, practice and informatics. These values are pursued through the integration of information technology and faculty-student interactions and transactions, while embracing cultural and academic diversity.



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The Dean's storied career leaves a lasting legacy for Vanderbilt and the nursing profession.

vanderbiltnurse

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make connections@vusn

We want to reach out to you. Pick one or all of the ways below to stay in touch with your classmates, faculty and School:

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ANNE RAYNER



 web link

To view the Dean's video greeting visit vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltnurse

While we have accomplished so much together, I still believe the best is yet to come.

As most of you know, I will be stepping down as Dean at the end of this academic year, followed by a year of Sabbatical – so you are not rid of me yet! It has been a great honor and privilege to lead this School for the past 29 years.

I have worked every day to increase the value of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing diploma by educating clinicians, researchers and leaders with the skills to impact health care at the individual, community, national and international levels. Together, we have done just that.

We have transformed nursing education at Vanderbilt and across the nation. We have advocated for nurses, advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared nurses in such a way that it has resonated throughout the world of nursing. We have grown in the areas of research, informatics, teaching and faculty practice, enriching our students and our community. We have prepared our graduates to enter an ever-changing health care system, and we nurtured our students and their critical thinking skills to address the most challenging problems in our industry.

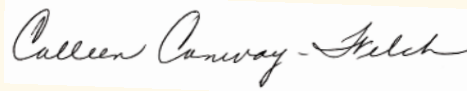
It has not been easy, but then again, nothing worth doing is ever easy.

This has all been possible because of the combined talents and expertise of faculty, students, graduates, community leaders and staff working together toward common goals that have elevated the education and profession of nursing. Each faculty member has been a tireless educator always striving for excellence. Each student has shown incredible persistence and tenacity in pursuit of his or her education. Since 1908, each graduate has become an ambassador for the School and a role model to others in their careers. Each staff member has worked tirelessly to make the School appear to run effortlessly.

Your School, our School, is larger than any one of us dreamed. We are the largest professional school on campus with about 1,000 students and have a fierce devotion to technology and blended distance learning, a combination of electronic learning via computer as well as in person learning here at Vanderbilt. This is where nursing education is going in the future. We already have at least 10 years of experience, making us the canary in the coal mine.

Ours is a collective strength. While we have accomplished so much together, I still believe the best is yet to come.

Thank you,



Colleen Conway-Welch, PhD, CNM, FAAN, FACNM
 Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing
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ANNE RAYNER



Former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, a successful health care entrepreneur before serving in public office, challenges audience members to dig deep for health care delivery solutions.

BREDESEN SHARES INSIGHTS

More than 200 students, faculty and community members gathered to hear former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen discuss his thoughts on meaningful health care reform, as part of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Centennial Lecture Series. His take-away message: Members of the health care community, not just elected officials, have responsibility to help solve the health care problem.

“I really do believe medical centers like Vanderbilt ought to be leading the discussion in the country,” said Bredesen. “It’s a nonprofit organization, with and headed by some very smart people ... and I would much rather the people standing within 500 yards of me now do the fixing than a bunch of accountants or management consultants or someone else operating out of a K Street office in Washington.”

The problem, according to Bredesen, is that in the U.S. “if you have health insurance, the purchase of health care is extremely inelastic. The cost of a procedure, the cost of a drug, the cost of services in that system has little to do with whether it’s consumed or not.

“We have the logical and perfectly foreseeable result of the payment system, the economics of which we’ve adopted for health care,” he added. “If we see that as a core issue, we can work to find solutions.”

Bredesen focused his comments on what he called the broad shapes of the health care issues in our country.

(continued)

March of Dimes Celebrates Nurses

Each year, The Middle Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes recognizes nurses who demonstrate excellence in various aspects of the nursing profession. At the recent awards ceremony, seven nurses from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and Vanderbilt University School of Nursing were honored:

- VUSN PhD student Bethany Andrews-Rhoten was recognized as the Graduate Nurse of the Year.
- Kim Domaradzki, BSN, RN, VUMC Perinatal quality consultant, was named Quality & Risk Management Nurse of the Year.
- Chelsea Cash, BSN, RN, ENPC, Pediatric Emergency Nurse at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, was recognized as Emergency Nurse of the Year.
- Carol Huber, BSN, RN, VUMC Lactation Consultant, NICU, was named Pediatric Nurse of the Year.
- Sharon Karp, PhD, CPNP, VUSN assistant professor of Nursing, was recognized as the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year.
- VUSN Professor Sheila Ridner, PhD, ACNP, was named Research Nursing Nurse of the Year.
- Erin Rodgers, MSN, CPN, VUSN assistant professor of Nursing, was recognized as Graduate Nursing Education Nurse of the Year.

Under the Affordable Care Act, he expects health exchanges will transform how health is delivered because there will be a substantial decline in employer-based insurance that will have cost and innovation implications. He also shared his concerns about how to pay for the new law.

“The biggest shape in reform is one that isn’t there,” he said. “If you believe it’s all about the economics, you need to find better ways of financing the delivery of health care, and I do not see a robust quality assurance structure.”

He believes that the health care industry needs a set of quality standards – measuring techniques in real time to see if standards are being addressed. Bredesen provided examples of certain illnesses, like diabetes, with wide treatment protocols, and other illnesses with little or contradictory treatments. He cautioned that quality assurance is not about counting visits, but about assessing the individual care.

“It’s hard to believe that setting quality standards by doctors, nurses and medical field professionals would not

“I really do believe medical centers like Vanderbilt ought to be leading the discussion in the country,” said Bredesen.

transform process for the better,” he said.

As far as future reforms, he would like to see a health care system that provides a base level of care as a right of citizenship. He believes health care has to be delivered through some system of care that eliminates silos and balances cost of care appropriately

with objective and public quality measures. He also would like to see a strong quality assurance system with public results so customers can “vote by their feet.”

VUSN Supports *Call the Midwife*



The School of Nursing’s Nurse-Midwifery Service and Nurse-Midwifery Academic Program came together to locally sponsor Seasons 1 and 2 of the PBS show *Call the Midwife*. The series is based on the memoirs of the late Jennifer Worth, who shares the world of midwifery and family life in East London in the 1950s. The characters are nuns and midwives who live in Nonnatus House, a facility dedicated to the Anglican nursing nuns from early in the 20th century. Between 80 and 100 babies are born each month in the neighborhood, and the midwives primary work is bringing safe childbirth to women. The first season addressed variety of health and societal issues.

To kick off the series premiere last fall, VUSN invited the public to Vanderbilt’s Sarratt Cinema to get a sneak peek of the first episode and participate in a panel discussion with experts Margaret

Buxton, MSN, CNM Clinical Practice Director, West End Women’s Health Center; Michelle Collins, PhD, CNM, director of the VUSN Nurse-Midwifery Program, and James Epstein, PhD, Distinguished Professor of History at Vanderbilt.

Additionally, Buxton and Collins blogged about each weekly episode on the Nashville Public Television website. Comments included observations about the differences and similarities between midwifery care in the 1950s and now and comparing the culture of midwifery between the United Kingdom and the United States. Cueing off the show, they discussed issues such as sexually transmitted disease, contraception and the philosophy of nurse midwifery care.

Call the Midwife Season 2 started airing in late March, with additional blogs by Buxton and Collins. To read the blog posts, visit: wnpt.org.



JOE HOWELL

The Clinic at Mercury Courts staff recently welcomed Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives Beth Harwell, right, for a tour of the new facility. Aaron Scott greets Harwell and VUSN's Bonnie Pilon, DSN, RN. Lipscomb University's Chad Gentry, Pharm.D., background, helped coordinate the visit and guide the tour.

The Clinic at Mercury Courts Gets HRSA Grant

More than 1,200 underserved and disadvantaged people in Nashville will gain access to high-quality primary care thanks to a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Division of Nursing grant recently awarded to The Clinic at Mercury Courts. The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing primary care clinic, operating in conjunction with Urban Housing Solutions, was opened in 2012 to serve people and families transitioning from homelessness and other poverty situations.

"This is a tremendous boost. It gives us much-needed support to effectively provide health care to members of the community who are often the hardest to reach and those who need high-quality health care the most," said Bonnie Pilon,

DSN, RN, senior associate dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships at VUSN.

This grant will provide resources to target two specific groups: 1) People living in transitional and low-income housing in urban Nashville, most of whom are uninsured, and 2) homebound and group housing residents, a majority who are elderly, frail and low income, who will receive medical house calls from advanced

practice nurses teamed with a pharmacist and counselor.

In addition to providing health care, the HRSA grant is the first of its kind in Middle Tennessee that brings together interprofessional, licensed providers working with a nurse-led primary care site. The health professionals team includes a family nurse practitioner, a pharmacist, a physician and a master's-prepared professional counselor/health advocate. The group will provide preventive and chronic disease management.

"We have piloted programs where students from different health care areas learn side by side, and this is a great clinic site to continue that model of learning. This grant takes things one step further by bringing together licensed providers working as a team," said Pilon. "This will allow us to create, implement and test this approach like never before. We hope what we learn will be scalable in other communities across the country."

The Clinic at Mercury Courts, located on Murfreesboro Pike in the former motor lodge of the same name, is a nurse practitioner-run primary care clinic in partnership with Urban Housing Solutions, a nonprofit committed to affordable housing for low income individuals and families. The grant will serve residents in nine apartment complexes in a 2.5-mile radius of the clinic.

MARTIN EARNS VANDERBILT GLOBAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

The School of Nursing held its December 2012 Pinning Ceremony at Benton Chapel to celebrate the completion of specialty coursework for more than 20 students. During the ceremony, Mary Martin earned her pin from the Nurse-Midwifery specialty and became the first VUSN student to earn the Vanderbilt Global Health certification.



Dean Search Underway

A search committee has been named to make recommendations to Chancellor Nick Zeppos and Jeff Balser, MD, PhD, vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, for a new Dean of Nursing at Vanderbilt University.

“This individual will be responsible for building upon the school’s rich heritage of more than 100 years of leadership in nursing education,” said Balser. “The School of Nursing plays an instrumental role at Vanderbilt, helping fulfill our mission to train the nation’s next generation of leaders in health care while also making significant contributions to our clinical and research endeavors.

“Dean Conway-Welch and her senior leadership have set the school on a strong strategic path,” he added.

The committee is chaired by Robert Dittus, MD, MPH, associate vice chancellor for Public Health and Health Care and senior associate dean for Population Health Sciences. Other committee members are: Leanne Boehm, School of Nursing PhD candidate; William Cooper, MD, MPH, Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair and professor of Pediatrics; Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, Executive Chief Nursing Officer; Thomas Elasy, MD, MPH, Ann and Roscoe Robinson Chair of Clinical Research at the Diabetes Center and director of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health; Kevin Johnson, MD, MS, Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair, Professor of Biomedical Informatics and chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics; Joan King, PhD, MSN, professor of Nursing; Melanie Lutenbacher, PhD, MSN, associate professor of Nursing; Morgan McDowell, School of Nursing Master’s candidate; Jonathan Metzl, MD, PhD, Frederick B. Rentschler II Chair and Professor of Sociology and Medicine, Health and Society; Bonnie Miller, MD, senior associate dean for Health Sciences Education; Lorraine Mion, PhD, MSN, Independence Foundation Chair of Nursing Education; Sandra Moutsios, MD, assistant professor of Medicine; Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology; Paul Sternberg, MD, assistant vice chancellor for Adult Health Affairs and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; Clare Thomson-Smith, JD, MSN, assistant dean for Faculty Practice; and David Raiford, MD, associate vice chancellor for Health Affairs, liaison with the search committee and VUMC executive leadership.

PhD in Nursing Science Program Starts New Approach for Reaching Prospective Applicants

For the first time, a VUSN academic program hosted webinars as a recruitment strategy. Two PhD Program Information webinars were held in fall 2012 reaching more than 95 potential applicants. Melanie Lutenbacher, PhD, associate professor of Nursing and chair of the PhD Admissions Subcommittee, facilitated the Webinars along with fourth-year PhD student Lee Ann Jarrett, RN, and Program Manager Irene McKirgan.

“We were delighted with both the number and the interaction of participants,” said Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN and co-director of the PhD in Nursing Science Program. “The application process for a doctorate program is involved and time-consuming. Applicants have lots of questions and many are anxious about the process.” Ann Minnick, PhD, RN, FAAN, and co-director of the PhD in Nursing Science Program added, “The more people we can reach to explain our program’s format, requirements and what to expect during the admissions process, the greater likelihood the application experience is positive for everyone.”

contact

For more information about the PhD in Nursing Science Program, visit our website at nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd or call toll free (855) 868-7410.



ETHERINGTON EARNS MLK JR. AWARD

As part of Martin Luther King Jr. Day festivities throughout the Vanderbilt campus this year, Carol Etherington MSN, RN, associate director of Community Health Initiatives and associate professor of Nursing, left, pictured with Jana Lauderdale, PhD, RN, assistant dean of Diversity for VUSN, received the annual Martin Luther King Jr. award. The award is given to a caregiver who embodies what King stood for. Etherington is well known for her work with underserved populations locally and globally.

Spotlight on Nursing Research//Lymphedema in Head and Neck Cancer Patients

DANIEL DUBOIS



The road to further nursing research and higher education for Jie Deng started with the 2003 SARS outbreak in China. At the time, Deng was the Associate Chief Nursing Officer at Peking University Health Science Center in Beijing.

“Our nurses were incredible – the sacrifices they made for their patients. We had very limited knowledge at the beginning, and that made me see the need for nursing research as the foundation for providing the best health care to patients,” said Deng.

Fast forward about six years, Deng, PhD, MSN, RN, is one of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing’s newest faculty members. She left her home in China after 12 years in various nursing positions to pursue a PhD at Vanderbilt

University School of Nursing, which she completed in 2010, followed by her post-doctorate which she completed in 2012.

Deng was interested in symptom management, and throughout her doctoral education worked with cancer patients. She gained experience and growing curiosity through strong mentors such as VUSN’s Sheila Ridner, PhD, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center’s Barbara Murphy, MD, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Nancy Wells, DSN, but it was really listening to patients that attracted her to study secondary lymphedema and post cancer treatment in head and neck cancer patients.

“Some breast cancer patients told me their lymphedema was even worse than their cancer. It affected their daily life and relationships with family – things like

grandparents who couldn’t hold their grandbabies because of swelling in their arms,” said Deng.

She recalls seeing her first patient in the Vanderbilt-Ingram’s Head and Neck Cancer Clinic who asked for advice on how to handle neck swelling. Deng promised to look up information in the literature and was surprised to see so few research articles in the area.

As VUSN faculty, Deng is working on several projects, including a validation instrument for rating external lymphedema in head and neck cancer patients – truly ground-breaking work that opens up the field to future interventional studies.

“I want to dedicate myself to lymphedema research, teaching and service,” said Deng. “Teaching is an important part of that because it really feeds the research environment. I’ve had exceptional mentors, and I am very interested in mentoring pre-doctoral students, residents and fellows and eventually post-docs.”

While Deng is a proud nurse, nurse researcher and professor, she’s also a proud mom. She and her husband have three children – Julia, 11, Michael, 3, and Jacob, born in August 2012.

– KATHY RIVERS

For more information on this topic:

Deng, J., Murphy, B.A., Dietrich, M.S., Wells, N., Wallston, K.A., Sinard, R.J., Cmelak, A.J., Gilbert, J., & Ridner, S.H. (2012 Jul 12; 2012 Epub Ahead of Print). The Impact of Secondary Lymphedema after Head and Neck Cancer Treatment on Symptoms, Functional Status, and Quality Of Life. Head & Neck. doi: 10.1002/hed.23084 PMID: 22791550

*Deng, J., Ridner, S.H., Dietrich, M.S., Wells, N., Wallston, K.A., Sinard, R.J., Cmelak, A.J., & Murphy, B.A. (2012). Factors Associated with External and Internal Lymphedema in Patients with Head and Neck Cancer. International Journal of Radiation Oncology *Biology* Physics, 1, 84(3):e319-28. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2012.04.013 PMID: 22652102.*

I was so inspired by Dean Conway-Welch's career and her impact on the nursing profession that I decided to attend VUSN. She inspired me to make one of the best and most important decisions of my life.

JENNIFER DAVID, RN (CLASS OF 2014 PNP)

Colleen has been a tremendous influence on me personally and professionally. She was kind enough to marry my father in 1985. She has been a role model for me throughout my career, encouraging me to get my master's degree, which has served me very well. I am always proud to say that I am a VUSN graduate.

ALICIA WELCH DAVENPORT, BSN '85

I consider the term of Colleen Conway-Welch as dean a special time of growth for the School of Nursing.

VIRGINIA GEORGE, BSN '47B

Thank you.

The Colleen Conway-Welch Legacy

BY JOHN HOWSER AND KATHY RIVERS

She cares about all of our nursing students and expresses how she feels. She supports ALL of the staff and faculty here at VUSN which makes working for her and VUSN a rewarding process.

KRISTIE SMITH, M ED., VUSN

I was considering a business or law background when I met her. She told me, "If you go to nursing school, the world will be your oyster." She was right. Nursing has changed my life and allowed me to help many more people.

MO RASSEKHI, MSN '97

Without her vision and innovative thinking, I wouldn't be a practicing nurse practitioner today. Her creation of the Bridge program allowed me the opportunity to pursue the goal of becoming a nurse practitioner as a midlife career change.

AMY THOMAS, MSN '12, ANP-C

CCW made a difference in nursing and to me personally by improving the image and status of nursing. I have always been proud of my profession and the work I do, but Colleen has made it more visible, and I thank her for that.

CHARLOTTE COVINGTON, MSN '89, BSN '69, FNP-BC

In 1985, after Colleen Conway married Ted Welch, she signed an informal written agreement between the two of them that she would resign as dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing after five years. Eight years later Welch lovingly tore up the agreement and handed her the pieces.

Twenty-nine years later Conway-Welch is stepping down at the end of the academic year. She is the second-longest sitting dean of any U.S. nursing school, but her legacy isn't simply a measurement of time. It is reflected in the indelible impact she's made on the school she loves, the world of nursing and the many people she has inspired along the way.

“Colleen’s contributions to Vanderbilt have been enormous,” said Jeff Balser, MD, PhD, vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “Her vision for innovation in advanced practice training for nurses has set a national standard, and has made Vanderbilt a leading destination for nursing education and research.”

Transformational Leader

Nearly three decades ago, Conway-Welch filled her car with most of her worldly possessions in Colorado and headed for Nashville as the incoming dean of the School of Nursing, which was on the brink of closing.

“On the drive out, even I thought I was crazy for making this leap — I was a divorced, Irish-Catholic, 40-year-old female professional woman with no Southern connections or music skills, going to Nashville. It felt like an incredible risk,” she said. “Then I told myself, it was just another adventure.”

She accepted the position with two stipulations: First, the undergraduate program would have to be overhauled; Second, the school would have to move from underneath the umbrella of the provost and instead report directly to the Medical Center vice chancellor for Health Affairs, at that time Roscoe R. (Ike) Robinson, MD.

She thought she would serve at the school for about five years — enough time to rejuvenate it with the new accelerated “bridge” to master’s program, the original

idea for which she credits to Jean Watson, Dean of Nursing at the University of Colorado, in the early 1980s.

“Sometimes you can’t do things in increments, you have to just find the window and drive the truck through it,” said Conway-Welch. One of those cases was the decision by her and the Nursing School faculty to no longer admit freshman into the program. “I woke up in a cold sweat the night before telling the registrar, but we needed to press on.”

She thinks the biggest difference she has made in her professional career is developing the bridge program, where students have several different entry points toward earning their Master’s in the Science of Nursing degree. Now, accelerated programs are common and flourishing around the country.

From the start, Conway-Welch believed her primary responsibility was to continue to increase the value of all nursing degrees from Vanderbilt. “That’s what I set out to do, and that’s what I’ve done.” VUSN currently ranks 15th in the latest *US News and World Report* rankings.

Ironically, one of her very first fundraising visits was one of her most successful. It was to Ted Welch, father of a Vanderbilt nursing school student and prominent local businessman. Conway-Welch recalls preparing in her Green Hills condo the night before. She wrote down all the key points and practiced her delivery in front of the mirror for hours.

Ten minutes into the meeting, Welch agreed to give the school the amount requested. Conway thanked him, but rattled on with her presentation.

Their next meeting was a dinner date. Colleen and Ted’s courtship ensued and the two married just three months later.

Visionary

There is no question that Conway-Welch ushered in an era of nursing education reform at Vanderbilt, which continues

today. Her ability to see what is on the horizon for nursing, and to help set the stage through educational opportunities, preparing VUSN’s graduates for an ever-changing health care environment, has been the hallmark of her career.

“Colleen has done things as a dean that really have not been done in any other place. She sets the bar, particularly for private school deans, for the scope of things we should be involved in beyond academics, research and a little practice. We have been one great big demonstration project,” said Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN, the Valere Potter Menefee Chair in Nursing and senior associate dean of Academics.

During her deanship, the school’s faculty practice network has flourished, starting with Bonnie Pilon, DSN, RN, FAAN, senior associate dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships, coming on board in 1989. The network now includes several clinics in underserved neighborhoods, two nurse-midwifery clinics, a school-nurse contract with Metro Davidson County, and others. These sites improve access to health care for patients and serve as places for students to gain valuable clinical experience.

“Colleen is always moving to the next horizon. She saw things and continues to see things that the rest of us don’t always see clearly. She has pushed and dragged us into the next decade and into the next century,” said Pilon.

Her vision and leadership resulted in the school’s academic progress. Realizing the need to provide nurses with doctoral education, Conway-Welch opened the PhD program in 1993 and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in 2008.

Before others considered how technology could offer new options of curriculum delivery, Conway-Welch saw it as the wave of the future. Today, VUSN is known nationally as a role model for successful use of information technology. More than half of the 1,000 students currently enrolled are educated via blended distance-learning programs, spending part



Dean Colleen Conway-Welch Scholarship

An endowed scholarship has been established in honor of Dean Conway-Welch to acknowledge her remarkable leadership that has transformed nursing education at Vanderbilt and across the nation. Please contact Sydney Haffkine at (615) 322-8851 or sydney.haffkine@vanderbilt.edu for more information.



of their classtime physically at VUSN and the rest in clinicals and classes online.

“Colleen is a true visionary. When she first recruited me here in 2000, her comment was ‘I need some senior leadership in this area because we need to know what to do next. I trust you to figure that out,’” said Betsy Weiner, PhD, RN, the Centennial Foundation Professor of Nursing and senior associate dean for Informatics.

Advocate

As Conway-Welch rejuvenated VUSN, people across the country took notice. She has become a national leader in the world of health care, never shying away from difficult or controversial issues. When addressing students at graduation, she tells them that with a nursing degree, they can be entrepreneurs, policymakers, advocates and more. She says it, because she has lived it.

In 1997, she was elected into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. President Ronald Reagan named her to “The Presidential Commission on Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic, 1988,” a bipartisan commission on the HIV epidemic. In 2006, she was appointed by President George W. Bush for a five-year term as a member of the Board of Regents for the Uniformed Services University of the Health



Sciences. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

“Dean Conway-Welch has made contributions in all areas of nursing, but her support of nursing research has been extraordinary. During her involvement in the national leadership effort, the National Institute of Nursing Research was established. Her unwavering support of science, especially in the areas of post-doctoral fellowship, has resulted in increasing the number of nurse scientists whose discoveries have positive effects on patients, families and communities,” said Ann Minnick, PhD, RN, senior associate dean for Research.

“The thing that I admire most about her is that she is so committed to the work that is being done here at the school



Pictured here: Faculty and staff congratulate Dean Conway-Welch on getting inducted into the Institute of Medicine. Conway-Welch with husband, Ted, and beloved dog, Heidi, at their Nashville home.

and its impact on society and health care in general,” said Becky Keck, MSN, RN, senior

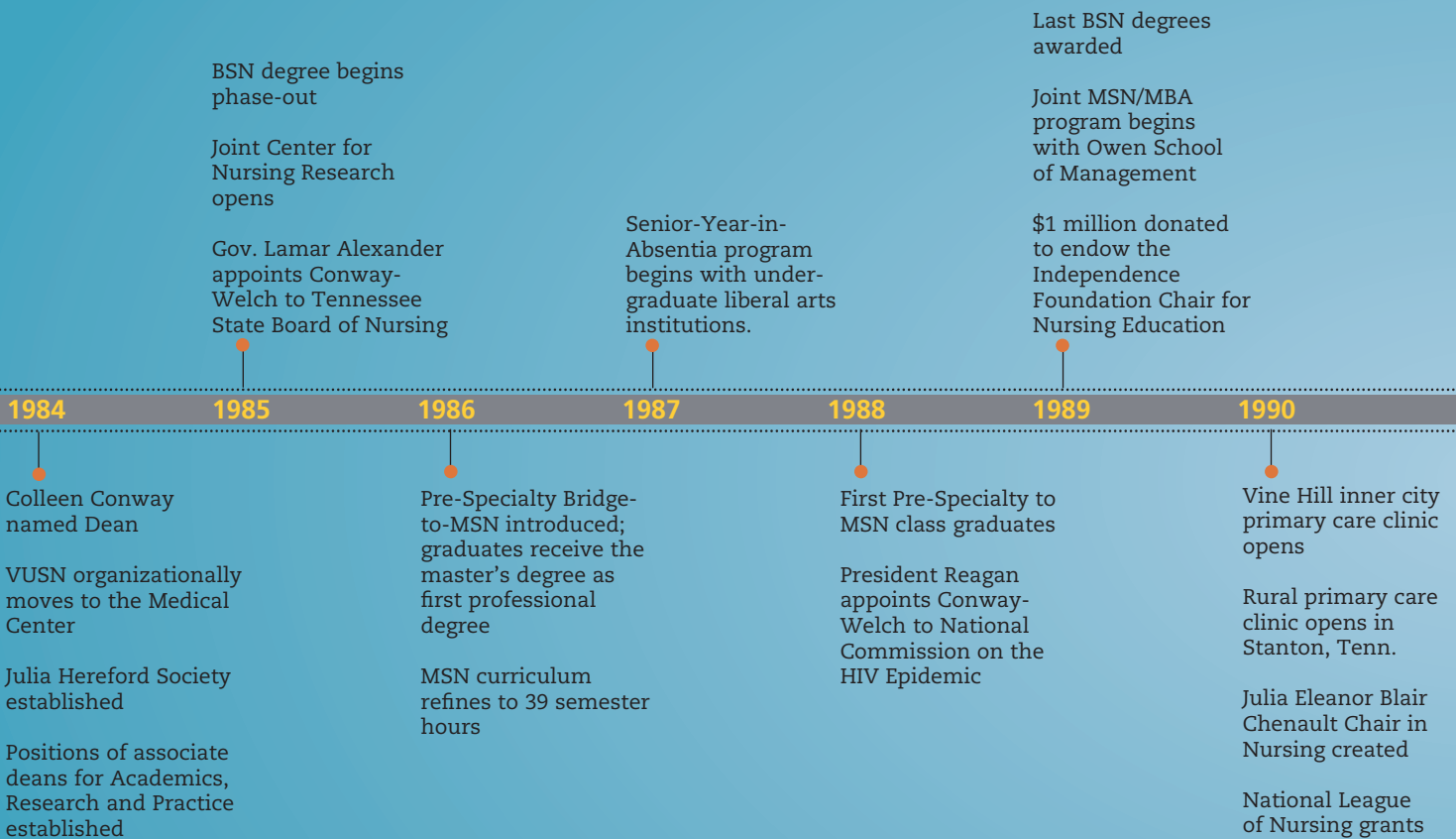
associate dean for Administration and Operations and chief administrative officer at VUSN. “She has been a very active advocate for nursing policy and for public health issues – on state and national levels.”

Conway-Welch will continue to serve as a member of the Vanderbilt faculty, working with her successor and Balsler, in support of the School of Nursing and nursing and health policy issues.



Sometimes you can't do things in increments, you have to just find the window and drive the truck through it.” - Colleen Conway-Welch

Through the years...



1985



1988





1991
First Biomedical Research Support Grant received by Judy Ozbolt

1992
PhD program admits first class

1993
Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation awards first student nursing scholarship

1994
Patricia and Tommy Frist give funding to build Patricia Champion Frist Hall

1995
Fall Hamilton school-based clinic opens

1998
House Speaker Newt Gingrich appoints Conway-Welch to National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1997

1998

1992
First MSN/MBA student, Anna Chalfant O'Neal, graduates

1992
Conway-Welch joins the Healthcare Leadership Council Board of Trust

1992
Hearst Foundation commits \$100,000 to endow a minority scholarship fund

1992
VUSN receives \$150,000 from DHHS Division of Nursing to initiate PhD program

1994
Nurse-Midwifery program receives \$100,000 grant to establish women's health practice with support from Gov. Ned McWherter

1997
Patricia Champion Frist Hall completed

1997
Conway-Welch named to Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences

1997
First PhD student, Kuei-Ru Chau, graduates

1997
VUSN becomes only school approved by the Pentagon for Air Force Academy graduates to earn MSN degree

1997
VUSN enters field of distance education with synchronous and asynchronous learning methods



2002



VUSN sponsors International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education

Betsy Weiner, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, named to the newly established position of Senior Associate Dean for Educational Informatics

VUSN receives Division of Nursing five-year grant to expand community primary care clinics

National Center for Emergency Preparedness established

The National Institutes of Health/National Center for Research Resources awards \$1.3 million to renovate Godchaux Hall

VUSN partners with Fisk and Lipscomb Universities to offer pre-specialty nursing curriculum leading to a undergraduate degree given by their home school

Postdoctoral program begins

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

Pre-Specialty (bridge) and MSN program receive eight-year accreditation from National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission

East End Women's Health and Birthing Center opens in East Nashville

Nancy and Hilliard Travis endow the Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor of Nursing Chair; Conway-Welch named to chair

Vanderbilt ranks 12th among private Schools of Nursing in NIH funding

First employer-based, nurse-practitioner-run primary care clinic opens at Sanford Corporation in Lewisburg, Tenn.

West End Women's Health Center opens with nurse-midwifery practitioners

Frist Nursing Informatics Center opens in Frist Hall

VUSN receives federal grant to establish a local Medical Reserve Corps

Faculty Practice begins "Vandy Calls" for nurse practitioner house calls to frail elderly

Two primary care clinics open at employer sites at Maryville and Dickson, Tenn.

Martha Rivers Ingram Chair in Nursing created



2001

2005

2010



2012



Godchaux Hall completes renovation

President George W. Bush appoints Conway-Welch to Board of Regents position of the Federal Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Bonnie Pilon receives grant to expand house calls program across Davidson and Wilson counties

VUSN addresses nursing faculty shortage by offering a PhD in Nursing Science through distance learning format

VUSN celebrates its Centennial

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program begins

VUSN receives full eight-year re-accreditation for the MSN program from National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission

First class of DNP students graduate

VUSN receives Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation grant for Vanderbilt Program in Interprofessional Learning

Nursing Clinical Simulation Skills Lab becomes Laerdal Medical Corp. Center of Educational Excellence

U.S. News and World Report ranks VUSN 15th in graduate nursing school rankings

VUSN opens faculty practice at the Clinic at Mercury Courts, serving homeless and people with transitional housing

VUSN achieves landmark of 1,100 enrolled students



2006

VUSN ranked 19th in top nursing schools by U.S. News and World Report

Nursing Annex renovation completed

Vine Hill Community Clinic becomes a Federally Qualified Health Care Center

Vine Hill Clinic doubles in size to serve additional populations

2009

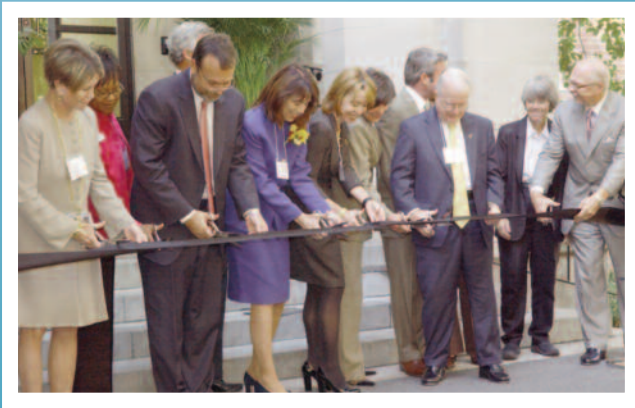
Modern Healthcare names Conway-Welch to Top 25 Women in Healthcare

Distance Learning extended to virtual reality environment of Second Life through \$1.6 million HRSA grant

Betsy Weiner receives \$1.3 million from HRSA to deliver faculty development in informatics, simulation and telehealth

2011

VUSN partners with the School of Medicine and Peabody College of Education and Human Development to offer a new Master's degree in Health Professions Education



2006

2012

There are many ways to say “thank you.”

Here are some quotes from people who have been inspired by Colleen Conway-Welch over the years.

Dean Conway-Welch's unmatched leadership in nursing and health care has not only positively influenced thousands of young people to make nursing their professional choice, but has positively impacted decisions made at the national level of health care.

On a more personal level, her presence always brings out that “pride of being a nurse” – and particularly, a Vanderbilt nurse.

Robin Diamond, MSN '78, JD, RN

Dean Conway-Welch has energized nursing with her spirit of excellence and long-standing dedication. Attaining my MSN from Vanderbilt, after my children went off to college, has been an extremely rewarding and fulfilling accom-

plishment and I owe that in part to the excellent learning environment at the Vanderbilt School of Nursing with Dean Conway-Welch at the helm.

Deborah M. Taber, MSN '01, RN

When I looked for examples of innovation and creativity in our discipline, I often looked to Vanderbilt and Dean Conway-Welch's leadership. I was never disappointed. Colleen Conway-Welch is a visionary leader and a major force for change and progress impacting our national healthcare system and the profession of nursing. I know my career has been highly influenced by her actions and her example.

**Andrea (Andi) Parodi, DSN, RN
Vanderbilt BA '99**

Before she died, my mom, Rebecca Clark Culpepper, MSN, RN, the assistant hospital director for Quality Assurance and Education, shared with me Colleen's secret to success at Vanderbilt. She said, “Colleen changed the way nursing and medicine interact at Vanderbilt and in the overall profession. She was the first to be so much more successful at working with the Medical School and Hospital Administration because she approached them as a member of the health care team, rather than as nursing vs. medicine.”

DeMoyné K. Culpepper, MSN '00, BSN '89, RN

Colleen has created a legacy to a profession, to a community, to a nation; she has been at the forefront of change in nursing education, public policy and political action. Her optimism, willpower and determination have pushed through barriers and created change. She is the epitome of someone living her purpose and who loves what she does.

Debbie Hill, VUSN

When I graduated from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing 65 years ago I had the best nursing education offered at that time; it has been a privilege to follow the progress that

The Dean has innovative ideas about the future of nursing, puts them into action at VUSN, and encourages the nursing community to also engage them. Her quality focus and support of faculty and alumni – in addition to current and prospective students – continues to inspire and motivate me.

Deb Partee, MSN '83, BSN '79

has been offered under the leadership of Dean Conway-Welch.

Martha Crews McBurney, BSN '47A

I have not had experience working with Colleen directly, but I have seen her testifying at the Tennessee Legislature as an advocate for the rights of Nurse Practitioners regarding epidural pain management. She is so articulate and was able to convey the importance of the role of the nurse practitioner in rural practices. She is a model for future students.

Sandra A. Rosedale, MSN, RN

Colleen's determination birthed the highly respected and influential nurse-midwifery academic program and faculty practice at VUSN. Her persistence has allowed thousands of women in Middle Tennessee and beyond to opt for a holistic, evidence-based model of care. Her visionary leadership, understanding and contributions to health policy, and many personal accomplishments combine to make her my special nurse-midwifery leader role model.

Mavis Schorn, PhD, CNM

CCW is one of those people who, just when you think you have them figured out, does something unexpected, and very often, something unexpectedly wonderful. Without question and not without occasional controversy, Colleen has been an incontestable force for nursing, for nurses and for Vanderbilt, impacting lives of countless students and faculty, and ultimately the lives of the patients for whom they care.

Carol Etherington, MSN '75, RN

Dean Colleen Conway-Welch has devoted her time to ensuring that nurses and health care professionals are prepared to deal with real world disasters. With her leadership, VUSN has developed the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education, the National Center for Emergency Preparedness and the Middle Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps.

Stephen Guillot, Director, NCEP

Dean Conway-Welch will always stand out to me as one of those rare, highly exceptional people one encounters throughout life who has left a lasting impression influencing so many people even beyond the nursing community. We will all miss her presence, but I am forever grateful to have been a student under her leadership.

Tracy Johnson, DNP '10, FNP-BC

During my 20 years of academic life under the direction of Colleen, I learned that an abundant academic life starts with a rise in consciousness in knowing that what one wants may not be what one needs, and often is not even what one truly

wants. Colleen is a steward of making smart choices.

**Lynda L. LaMontagne, DNSc, PhD, RN
Professor Emerita**

Thank you, Dean Conway-Welch, for your leadership and vision for the MSN-bridge Program. Your assistance with an opportunity to practice at Mayo Clinic for my final clinical was an amazing, diverse experience that has helped me in my clinical career.

Lynnette Clancy, MSN '98, APNP

All I can say is that Colleen is a terrific Dean. She cares about her faculty and is very supportive. What I admire the most about Colleen is her forward vision and belief in creativity. This is the first school I have worked where the Dean supported the creativity of his/her faculty.

Karen D'Apolito, PhD, APRN, NNP-BC, FAAN

I would not be a nurse without Colleen who oversaw the development of the bridge program that brought me to the profession. I have heard Colleen say nursing is a career with countless opportunities, and this has inspired me to forge a unique path always staying open to new possibilities.

Francie Likis, DrPH, NP, CNM, MSN '94, FACNM

With your exceptional leadership ability and zeal for excellence, you helped to re-define the nursing profession as a profession beyond bed side care. Your creativity and brilliance opened new doors for nurses. You took the Vanderbilt program to a height that I could not even imagine when I graduated 20 years ago. Thank you!

Lola Bamigboye, MSN '93, RN

Colleen has shaped my career trajectory and influenced the lives of untold numbers of patients and family members for the better. She always encouraged me to risk the next challenge. She approved every novel faculty practice arrangement that I brought her way and each made profound and lasting differences in patient care.

Jim Pace, DSN MDiv, MSN '81, ANP, BC, FAANP

Dean Colleen Conway-Welch was my first exposure that nurses could be national and international voices when it comes to health care and being a patient advocate. She was instrumental in changing my perception about how influential nurses can be on a larger scale.

Pamela Waynick-Rogers, DNP, MSN '92, APRN-BC

She embodies innovation, excellence and respect for the profession of nursing. All these qualities have shaped the program of nursing at Vanderbilt and nursing across the nation. From the bridge program to disaster training to the doctoral program to informatics, her hand has helped prepare nurses of the future. Thanks to her and her extraordinary vision we all benefited.

Diane Deslauriers, MSN '04, RN

Any time that someone would find out that I graduated from the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, it was always followed by the question "do you know Dean Conway-Welch?" I have taken her example.

Thanks for modeling and role modeling for me the true leadership skills of a nurse leader!

Doug Arrington, PhD, MSN '88, current VUSN alumni board president

Colleen has remained at the head of the nursing education pack, so far ahead on the curve that she often predicted trends and had to coax the rest of us to catch up. She has given the school footing to lead in the future. I salute Colleen for all of her many achievements and am grateful to call her friend.

Doreen James Wise, MSN, BSN '68, EdD

Dean Conway-Welch's contributions to the profession of nursing are enormous, having advanced not only nursing education but also the way nursing care is delivered in the clinical setting here at Vanderbilt and elsewhere around the entire world. Her efforts to place the School of Nursing at the nation's forefront have had an enormous impact on the University, our country and on the many thousands of students educated under her leadership.

C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs

Dean Colleen Conway-Welch is the embodiment of a servant leader. She instills in her colleagues the importance of knowing not only a colleague's/student's name but also the person him-/herself. Her calm demeanor is an inspiration to all with whom she is associated. She models leadership through collegial relationship rather than directive.

Susan Mott-Coles, MSN '93 DNP, RN, AOCN, ACNP-BC

Dean Colleen Conway-Welch had the vision when she came to Vanderbilt in 1984 to create a nursing school that would meet the demands of the 21st Century. She did this by changing the educational mission to one that graduated Advanced Practice Nurses. By doing this Dean Conway-Welch catapulted Vanderbilt Nursing School into one of the finest schools in America as well as making Vanderbilt the "go to" university for advanced nursing education.

Frank H. Boehm, MD

Professor and Vice Chairman, Department OB/GYN Vanderbilt

Graduating from the highly esteemed VUSN is one of my proudest achievements. With this great honor comes a greater responsibility. I strive to exemplify the values of excellence in service, compassionate care, dedicated mentorship, and continual learning. Thank you, Dean Welch! God bless you for your years of faithful service.

RaShaye Freeman, DNP, APRN, MSN '02, FNP-BC, ADM-BC, CDE
She taught me that when sit-

She could get me to do projects about which I was ambivalent: chairing the committee that recommended discontinuation of the baccalaureate program and designating me to co-found Vine Hill Clinic. It all turned out better than I had anticipated. She could envision the future before the rest of us.

Joyce K. Laben, JD, MSN, FAAN
Professor Emerita

ting at a table full of men, and you are the only woman in the room trying to communicate the vision of executive leadership, hold up your head high, speak authoritatively, dress for success and demand what is right for the success of the School of Nursing and its mission, no matter how intimidated you might feel.

Dawn Pemberton, VUSN

Dean Conway-Welch was my dean and became my friend. Her beautiful mix of warmth coupled with her knowledge about nursing and life formed the backbone of our friendship. She helped me solidify my position as a nurse, attorney, speaker, author and entrepreneur, to which I am truly grateful.

Elizabeth Gardner Rudolph, JD '89, MSN '85, VSN '82, RN

The day before I was to have exploratory abdominal surgery, by a non-Vanderbilt oncologist, for a second onset of cancer, Colleen called the Vanderbilt Cancer Clinic and got me a next-day appointment with Dr. John Greer. With a recurrence of stage-4 Hodgkin's disease, John started chemotherapy that day without surgery. He saved my life and five years later saved the life of my wife, who had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Colleen helped save my family.

Jerry Murley, VUSN

I believe "growth of the School" captures many of the changes Dean Conway Welch has spearheaded. It has not only been in record numbers of admissions, the growth of the

school has been in forging a new approach to education through the creation of the Bridge Program, the creation of nine nurse practitioner programs, the expansion of the faculty to provide the necessary teams to shepherd students through the NP programs, the development of both a PhD program as well as the DNP program.

Joan King, PhD, ACNP, ANP FAANP, MSN '75, BSN '72

Colleen became a true mentor and adviser to me. She and I talked a lot about my hopes and dreams, and she always was there to encourage me. I am a proud Vanderbilt-educated Family Nurse Practitioner. She saw something in me that I didn't even know was there. I am forever grateful.

Cindy Scott, MSN '00, FNP-C

At the new student reception, Dean Conway-Welch warmly shook my hand, noted what program I was entering, and then simply said "Oh good, you'll be able to help everybody." It was so refreshing to hear this during a season of life where many people didn't understand my educational choices!

Sharon Foley, MSN '12, CNM/FNP

Colleen has never been too busy

From small requests to large projects, you listened, asked questions and if you sensed merit in the idea, you gave the “green light” plus the resources needed. I will miss your humor, pet adventures, vision, and your sense of adventure and risk taking where nursing is concerned. I will always think of you as “the wind beneath our wings.”

**Jana Lauderdale, PhD,
RN, FAAN**

to put the interests of her family first. She inspires me as a professional woman, but that she puts being a stepmother and wife ahead of all demanding voices at work, impresses me more.

Janetta Fleming, BSN '79
If everyone's life is a journey,

I have been privileged to work with Colleen since her arrival at Vanderbilt. As she began her leadership journey with the School of Nursing, she committed herself quickly to supporting both the development of the academic work of VUSN and to the partnership of Nursing and the clinical enterprise. In addition to her support of Vanderbilt Nursing and VUSN, she has been an extraordinary philanthropist. She has given of her time and energy to many organizations that quietly supported vulnerable women and families in our community. I lost count of initiatives where she was behind the scenes making connections of people with projects to support community organizations.

Marilyn Dubree, MSN '76, RN, NE-BC
Executive Chief Nursing Officer, VUMC

Colleen has certainly been there for me, many, many steps of my journey. In addition to her professional support, she has stood by me when I've dealt with very personal issues such as divorce and the death of a loved one that pushed me toward depression and alcohol abuse. It was Colleen that got me into treatment, and when I was accused of faltering, it was Colleen who stood up for me. I'm still here at VUSN because she believes in me. I thank her every day for that.

Sandy Church, VUSN

Colleen's understanding of interdisciplinary nursing impacting health care is imaginative and powerful; she is a sure example of dignity and empowerment to VUSN and beyond.

**Christine Shih, RN, CS, MSN '99,
FNP, ANP, PNP**

I've worked for Colleen for five years now. I've never worked for a boss who, no matter how busy she is, will stop what she's doing and thank us for a job well done. She has strength, intelligence and compassion. Colleen may be retiring, but these halls will always have her presence and her distinct laughter.

Connie Hess

When Clayton Christensen coined the term "disruptive innovator" he must have been inspired by Colleen! As a leader and a mentor, Colleen is never all about herself, she is all about the collective VUSN.

Donna McArthur, PhD, MSN '77, FNP-BC, FAANP

Seven years ago, Dean Conway-Welch took the time, as I was walking down the corridor at Godchaux Hall to talk with me about nursing out west and the eminent national changes. Through her encouragement and inspiring words about me returning to school at age 48, I successfully pursued my DNP degree. I am so grateful.

**Chris Skinner Fox, BSN '80,
CRNA, DNP**

Upon my arrival at Vanderbilt, I was deeply impressed by the pro-nursing atmosphere. I chose to obtain my MSN here, and Dean Conway-Welch was an inspiration. After hearing her speak, I realized that she is truly nurse's nurse.

**Theresa Shalaby, MSN '10, RN,
CCRP**

Dean Colleen Conway-Welch spearheaded VUSN to be a top 20 nursing school, and without such an excellent education, I would not be able to do what I

love to do most, which is treat patients with evidence-based care.

**Jennie Harper, MSN '08, BSN '06,
ACNP-BC, AOCNP**

The Dean has always been a champion for excellence in nursing practice and makes sure nursing's voice is heard locally, nationally and interna-

tionally. While every nurse may not have personally crossed her path, the Dean has made a difference to every nurse.

Cathy Ivory, PhD, RN-BC

I can not think of the School of Nursing without thinking of Dean Conway-Welch, and I can not think of Dean Conway-Welch without thinking of everything she has done for the school. As a graduate and an advanced practice nurse at VUMC, I am very grateful for her vision, knowledge, and all that she has done.

Debbie Snedegar, MSN '92

I will probably never know all that Colleen has done for nursing, but I am sure of her influence at VUSN. Her unyielding acceptance and support over the years have been astounding! As she has cultivated her faculty, she has remained a force in nursing around the world.

Sarah C. Fogel, PhD '01, MSN '94, RN

Lights. Camera. Action.

*See What Goes Into Building One of Vanderbilt's
First Massive Open Online Courses*

Nutrition instructor Jamie Pope lectures to her students on the power of superfoods, with a rainbow-colored collection of nutrient-rich fare on the table before her and a green screen draped behind her.

Her class is 50,000 students strong and growing. Except for a throng of studio lights, camera equipment, computers and a teleprompter, not a single student is present – at least not physically – for the entire seven-week course.

Instead, they will watch the lectures from the comfort of their homes, or perhaps a coffee shop or library, in some cases halfway around the world, and submit all work online.

BY CHRISTINA ECHEGARAY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN HOLLAND



The course,

Nutrition, Health and Lifestyle: Issues and Insights, is a hybrid of Pope's two current and extremely popular courses within Vanderbilt University's School of Nursing, Introduction to Nutrition and Nutrition and Health: Issues and Insights. It also serves as one of five pilot courses marking Vanderbilt University's virtual entrance this spring into the world of MOOCs, or Massive Open Online Courses, on the digital learning platform Coursera.

With an established history in digital learning more than a decade long, the School of Nursing was an obvious department to include in the Coursera endeavor while Pope's far-reaching nutrition expertise was a prime pick for a broad and far away audience.

"I think the practical application aspect of my course has made it appealing," said Pope, MS, RD, LDN. "I've seen the nutrition classes in the School of Nursing grow over the last decade to the point that we fill lecture halls with waiting lists. What we are seeing on Coursera is an extension of that."

The nutrition and health topics she poses are applicable to the diverse worldwide audience MOOCs seek to attract. They are not limited to the brick and walls of a classroom, a face-to-face lesson or even restricted to the United States' borders.

Pope breaks down the science of nutrition, dispels and validates food and supplement myths and equips her students with the ability to navigate the evolving world of diets and healthy lifestyle trends. Each semester, Pope's face-to-face courses fill up quickly, attracting a myriad of students in nursing and across undergraduate majors who want to learn how to apply nutrition to their daily personal and professional lives. Coursera will allow Pope to extend her classroom size and share her knowledge outside of Vanderbilt.

MOOCs are a growing trend in the era of distance learning. They appeal to people of all ages from all over the world who are enticed by the idea of learning for free with access to some of the greatest minds at top universities only a click away. In many cases, no prerequisites are required to sign up for courses.

At this point, no college credit is offered for these online classes, though people who finish a course can often earn a certificate of completion. There is no charge for enrollees.

Coursera, launched by two Stanford University professors in 2011, has more than 3.1 million registered students and is one of several MOOC platforms available on the Internet. Vanderbilt and its five courses are among the more than 62 participating universities and 334 courses available, the numbers show on the Coursera website.

Long before the existence of the phrase MOOCs or the platforms, such as Coursera, the School of Nursing had been participating in distance learning since the

distributed course delivery in flexible formats for the interactive learner.

"We've been in this production mode for a number of years because we wanted to do more than video stream," she said. "Now, we have a variety of tools depending on what it is we are trying to accomplish."

Among the many tools are blackboard e-technology, discussion boards, Second Life virtual reality world and electronic proctor devices that allow students to take tests from their home. But these distance learning courses are different than MOOCs in that students have to be enrolled and receive college credits.

Weiner has a full-fledged support team of 17 staff, such as videographers and graphic designers capable of producing animated content. She has lent her team and its existing resources and experience to help conceive Pope's Coursera nutrition course.

Her team's development over the years and its technology and informatics capabilities made the School of Nursing an ideal place to pilot a Coursera course.

"I thought it was appropriate because we have the expertise, and Jamie's course is a popular class. A lot of students outside the nursing major take the course," Weiner said.

"I've seen the nutrition classes in the School of Nursing grow over the last decade to the point that we fill lecture halls with waiting lists. What we are seeing on Coursera is an extension of that."

late 1990s, beginning with live video stream of course lectures that allowed students to view instructor talks from their computers and via mailed DVDs.

With the recruitment of Betsy Weiner, PhD, RN, to Vanderbilt in 2001 to serve as the senior associate dean for Educational Informatics, the School of Nursing embarked on an ambitious decade of developing and expanding on

"I think we not only have a track record of trying new things, we have a faculty and student body that are always looking to improve patient care and learning at the same time. I have never worked with a group that is as willing to say, 'Let's try that.' We have to stay on top of whatever the newest technology is, especially in the consumer market."

Pope is new to the world of online

teaching, but she is far from being a novice in the realm of nutrition. She began working at Vanderbilt 26 years ago in obesity research, weight management, health promotion and heart disease prevention, later becoming an instructor of Nutrition at the School of Nursing in 2000. She also is a longtime member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and has served as media representative for the Tennessee Dietetic Association. She also served for more than a decade as a nutrition consultant to the company Smart Balance Inc.

Outside of Vanderbilt, she is a published co-author of several best-selling books, including “The T-Factor Gram Counter” and “The Last Five Pounds: A Liberating Guide to Living Thin.”

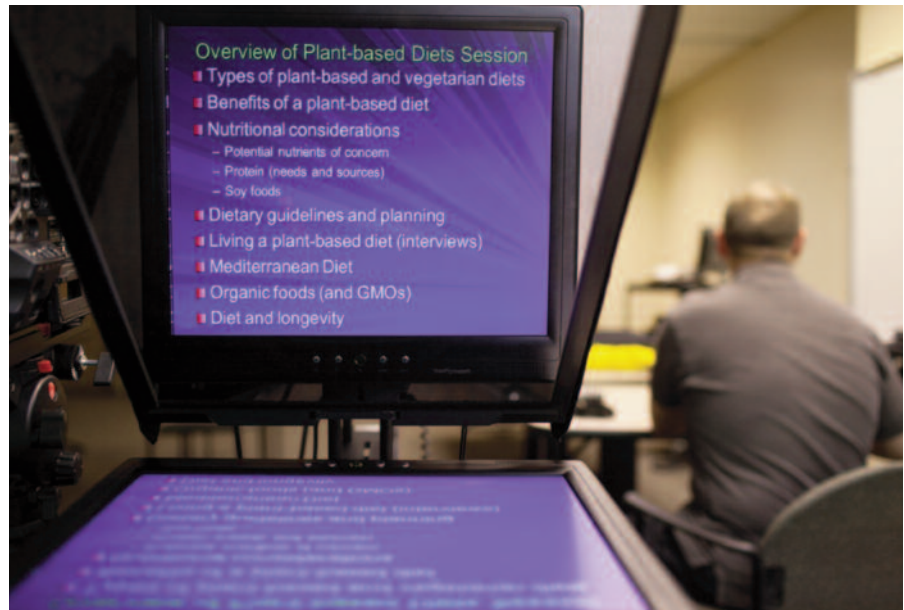
When Vanderbilt’s Provost Richard McCarty and School of Nursing Dean Colleen Conway-Welch asked Pope in September to be a part of the Coursera pilot, she said she wasn’t familiar with MOOCs, their potential, or even what would go into developing such a curriculum. But she didn’t hesitate to participate.

“I was honored to be asked to teach one of Vanderbilt’s inaugural Coursera courses and didn’t consider not accepting the invitation,” she said. “I saw it as an opportunity to broaden the scope of my teaching, and in a sense, serve the Vanderbilt community and beyond.”

She and the four other Coursera instructors from Vanderbilt got to work immediately, holding meetings every other week to collectively devise engaging and effective high quality courses, academically and technically.

An intense undertaking far greater than even she understood, Pope has been videotaping two-hour sessions for each week of the Coursera course. But instead of the traditional continuous lecture format typical for the live classroom, her weekly lessons will be broken down into about nine, five- to 10-minute video segments.

During tapings, she refers to a PowerPoint slide on a teleprompter to guide her through the topic discussion.



LAUREN HOLLAND

Much of the work to build a Coursera class takes place behind the cameras. VUSN’s in-house expertise in videography, graphic design and course delivery has been a tremendous asset in turning this pilot into a reality.

She flows, then trips over a word.

“Wait, let’s do that again,” she utters with a giggle. She notes how she loves video editing so that her lectures will at least appear seamless.

“I actually find it easier to stand up in front of my ‘live’ classroom and teach with their faces and participation than filming segments for Coursera in front of a camera,” she said.

The number of learners who will watch her and absorb her material is staggering, a fact Pope tries not to dwell on. Even her mother is taking the course, she jokes.

“My course is past the 54,000 mark and it doesn’t launch until May 6, so that enrollment will be even greater by the time it starts,” she said. “I try not to focus on the huge numbers – it’s daunting, but certainly makes me re-evaluate what I teach and how I teach it.”

Double-checking her nutrition facts, ensuring she’s up on all the latest trends, is her goal. She’s charted her seven-week course on a seven-page spreadsheet.

Many of her segments will include lectures in front of a green screen, which

will allow the VUSN graphic designers to insert slides and animation behind her. But she’s getting creative. With the resourcefulness and support of VUSN videographers Greg Tipton and Clay Sturgeon, and VUSN graphics manager Keith Wood, she’s doing Skype interviews with nutrition professionals, photo slideshows with voiceovers by other experts and in-person interviews.

Any class materials or resources will be free, via reliable websites she recommends. Coursera courses do not require students to purchase books or materials.

Questions will be embedded within the short video segments to assess and reinforce learning and then an online quiz will conclude the weekly session that contributes toward a course “grade.” Another part of the students’ participation and grade will be to research a dietary supplement or other nutrition-related topics and submit conclusions on their validity or lack thereof.

But she admits this is a time-intensive learning process and that although she is the instructor, the other Coursera team members are all working hard to

help make her course, and all the Vanderbilt offerings, top-notch technically and academically.

Pope is hoping to draw on wisdom of what does and doesn't work in the Coursera platform from Vanderbilt senior Natthew Arunthamakun, a Neuroscience major, who took her "live" Nutrition courses two years ago. His interest in nutrition and health sparked, he kept in touch with her after completing the courses, and when she began Coursera, the two mapped a plan for him to explore the Coursera platform and work with her through independent study.

Attrition rates for MOOCs tend to be high, with a chunk of students not finishing the courses, and she wants to retain as many students as possible.

Arunthamakun recently completed his first Coursera course on Drugs and the Brain, taught by a neuroscience professor at CalTech. He's only taken live courses with Vanderbilt professors, so it was alluring to try a course with an instructor at another institution.

Coursera, launched by two Stanford University professors in 2011, has more than 3.1 million registered students and is one of several MOOC platforms available on the Internet.

"My first impression was skeptical as I wondered if it was like any other online courses I have seen or heard about from commercials. However, as I researched and read more, I realized the prestige and the involvement of top tier universities and professors from around the world being involved in Coursera," he said.

"The credentials were there and I realized that this was a wave to freely educate the public throughout the world and how it can bring awareness and spread knowledge to areas where education can be difficult to obtain."

Through his Coursera course, Arunthamakun has given Pope the good and the bad of the online platform, ranging from ease of access to information to the pitfalls of not having the in-person

guidance of an instructor.

"It works well as lectures/videos can be reviewed and access to links and research studies is provided that pertains to the specific topic at hand," he said. "It is almost like a college lecture, however it lacks in the personal interaction between the student and teacher. It is difficult to expound on the knowledge that is being taught and is only limited to what the professor wants you to know."

In turn, Pope believes because of all this work her live lectures will improve and her knowledge base will expand, making for a better course for her Vanderbilt students.

"I think it is going to help my teaching. I am learning even more about the topics I teach about, and it is helping me develop content for my own courses. I really have to step back and look at my material," she said.

While navigating the challenges, Pope has hopes about what she would like people to get out of her Coursera course. For those who can't be in the face-to-face lecture hall with her in courses N231a and N231b, she seeks to provide awareness and a base.

In the end Coursera students won't get a grade per se, but if they have fulfilled the coursework and watched the lectures they will obtain a certificate of completion.

"There is a lot of confusion in nutrition about what we should do, what we shouldn't do. Not that I am going to give concrete answers, but I want to give people more of a foundation so they can evaluate better on their own, and I want to give them a better grasp of terms so when read and hear things about nutrition, they'll understand how it impacts them," she said.

Pope confers with Vanderbilt senior Natthew Arunthamakun, computer whiz and former nutrition student of hers, who is a key member of the team helping bring the Nutrition course to life.



LAUREN HOLLAND

Vanderbilt's Virtual Classes Attract Huge, New Audiences

More than 176,600 people have registered (as of press time) to attend five Vanderbilt courses this spring and summer, virtually that is. The university's first foray into massive, open, online courses—or MOOCs—launched March 4 on the platform Coursera.

"The public response to these offerings speaks well for Vanderbilt's reputation in the world at large; people are demonstrably interested in what we do," Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Cynthia Cyrus said. "It also shows the way in which digital courses can be a sort of megaphone, amplifying the wonderful knowledge and exciting ideas our faculty bring and sharing them out with the global community."

The Coursera partnership is one of the first outcomes of the Chancellor's Committee on Social Media and the Internet, convened in February 2012.

"Because Chancellor (Nicholas) Zeppos put this committee in place, Vanderbilt was able to take action very quickly," said Douglas Schmidt, professor of computer science, associate chair of the Computer Science and Engineering Program and one of the fac-

ulty teaching a Coursera course this semester. "We're now poised to be on the cutting edge of and leading new developments in this arena, rather than just reacting to them."

Schmidt, and other faculty interviewed, believe teaching through Coursera will improve the experience of their own students in Vanderbilt classrooms.

"I plan to use the videos I am producing for Coursera for the face-to-face class I am teaching at Vanderbilt now. We won't have to spend so much time in class going over introductory material—the students can watch the videos on their own time," Schmidt said. "We can then spend the time in class doing what people come to Vanderbilt for—mentorship and collaboration and creating a design studio experience in the classroom. It's really about personalizing the education for the students."

The pilot courses are being produced largely with existing resources, with staff and students from across campus pitching in with video production, all on an extremely tight timeline.

"The provost asked me to participate on a Friday and our course profiles went live on Coursera on

the next Wednesday, so I didn't have much time to overthink the prospect and had to jump right in to course planning," Pope said.

Schmidt's course and that of David Owens, professor of the practice of management and innovation, began the first week of March. Owens' own experience taking a Coursera course, and failing to complete the assignments, led him to customize his course on innovation to include different levels of engagement.

"One thing I've been thinking about is that it is unfortunate that people don't press through," Owens said. "I set my class up to include three levels—the basic level involves watching all of the videos—approximately 20 hours—and taking embedded quizzes along the way." Owens' second tier involves completion of different tasks and exercises, while the third requires participa-

tion in a group project.

While students globally have the potential to benefit from the online classes, Cyrus and others also see this as a potential boon for Vanderbilt alumni.

"Our alumni are excited to have the chance to be 'back in the classroom'—both to remind themselves of what makes a Vanderbilt education special, and to sample pieces of our campus offerings that they might not have had time for when they were here," she said.

The pilot project will continue in the fall of 2013, with courses will be hand-selected so each of the colleges and schools has the chance to participate. Cyrus anticipates having an open call for additional Coursera proposals during academic year 2013-2014.

— By Melanie Moran

web link

Visit vu.edu/digital-learning to watch videos about digital learning at Vanderbilt and to learn more about these initiatives.

VANDERBILT COURSERA COURSES

Pattern-Oriented Software Architectures for Concurrent and Networked Software:

Doug Schmidt

Leading Strategic Innovation in Organizations:

David A. Owens

Data Management for Clinical Research:

Paul A. Harris, Stephany Duda, Firas Wehbe

Nutrition, Health and Lifestyle: Issues and Insights:

Jamie Pope

Online Games: Literature, New Media and Narrative:

Jay Clayton



an interview with Betsy Weiner and Tom Christenbery

Sigma Theta Tau International's Iota Chapter was founded in 1953 at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. In honor of the group's 60th Anniversary, Vanderbilt Nurse sat down with Senior Associate Dean of Informatics Betsy Weiner and Tom Christenbery, professor and IOTA Chapter president, to discuss the history and future of the organization.

What is Sigma Theta Tau International?

TC: It's the nursing honor society – an international organization that focuses on a global commitment to improve health of all citizens primarily through nursing scholarship. The Iota Chapter was founded by 14 members, and today we have more than 2,000 members. Ours was the eighth chapter, and now there are more than 480 chapters worldwide.

BW: The national organization was started in 1922 in Indianapolis by six nursing

students, originally housed in a hallway at Indiana University. STTI has expanded to an entire building in Indianapolis, which is all paid for by members. They have grown to serve 130,000 active members in more than 85 countries.

TC: The message is clear – never underestimate what six nursing students can do.

Tell us more about the research focus.

BW: I've enjoyed watching how the group has expanded their thinking about clinical scholarship over the

years, while always promoting leadership. Not everyone has to conduct peer-reviewed research and turn their work into an R01 for it to be meaningful to the world of nursing.

TC: Every year the Iota Chapter helps sponsor a Nurse Research Day which nets lots of quality improvement projects developed by staff nurses. We have a panel that evaluates the research posters and selects three entries for monetary awards. We invite School of Nursing students to view the posters, so they can get an idea of the kinds of important questions that staff nurses are asking, take those questions and develop clinical protocols. Our students are right down there in the trenches.

BW: The chapter's research awards are about putting your money where your mouth is. They are not large, but they are important. They begin to help students, particularly our doctoral students, who need money to support their projects. It goes a long way toward later recognition, and students get the message that they are not alone. They have the Iota Chapter behind them. They are standing on the shoulders of the people who are in the chapter.

TC: Yes, and little grants breed big grants.

What other things does the chapter sponsor?

TC: Since the inception of the Doctor of Nursing (DNP) Program, Iota has sponsored the DNP Scholarly Project Presentation Day. Students present their poster and do podium presentations for a review panel of experts. Three are given special recognition. It looks great on your resume as you are starting the next career phase.

Why was STTI needed in the first place?

BW: When STTI was formed in 1922 there was a growing need for an honor society in nursing. Other academic subjects had them, and nursing needed one, particularly with the emphasis on the baccalaureate beginning to turn out scholars. Also, one of the ways to get recognized in your own university was to get recognized first in your own honor society. At Vanderbilt, there was talk about starting an STTI Chapter as early as 1939, but there were concerns. Was the School large enough? Did it make sense for a private school of nursing? There was some friction over the years, but the students felt strongly about legitimizing nursing as a scholarly discipline. They didn't give up.

BY KATHY RIVERS

PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL DUBOIS



Once you understand the STTI philosophy, most people get hooked. You can be inducted as a student, or you can be inducted as a nurse already in your career.

So, 1953 was when things came together?

BW: Yes. It is very important that Vanderbilt was the eighth chapter founded. The chapter names follow the Greek alphabet. Though Iota is the ninth letter in the alphabet, we are the eighth chapter because the Beta Chapter folded. Over the years, it's become very prestigious to belong to a one-letter chapter. When the chapters come together for the biennial conventions, they are positioned by founding date. The Iota Chapter representatives are literally down in front of this large gathering. We are closer to the microphone, and I think people listen a little better. Other chapters acknowledge the rich history the Iota Chapter brings.

TC: When you understand the STTI history, you realize that our grandmothers did the work to get us there.

What interaction does Iota have with other chapters?

TC: The latest example is that we had a member of the Iota Chapter who moved to London. She became a member of a chapter they are just getting started, Phi Mu. There are fewer than 15 members and we want to help mentor them along and

look for joint projects we can share.

BW: Being in STTI is a wonderful common denominator. When I travel internationally, I usually call Sigma headquarters to ask if there are any chapters or honor societies trying to become a chapter. I'll mix the trip in with a consultation to a younger chapter about how to do things.

Tell us about STTI firsts.

TC: Sigma was the first nursing organization to supply nursing research grants. It published the first scholarly nursing journal, *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, and it developed the first electronic library of research – the Virginia Henderson International Library.

BW: Virginia Henderson was one of Iota's members. We are proud to have her signature in our induction book. She went to a number of the Sigma conventions and loved talking and sharing her wisdom with young nursing students. She died just short of turning 100.

What happens during the conventions?

BW: Every two years, we have a convention that unveils a biennial theme branded by the president of

the organization. In between conventions, we have regional assemblies that help officers learn how to become leaders and share ideas to get individual chapters going. This structure has really helped us be a relevant group. For example, this year's Presidential Call to Action from Dr. Suzanne Prevost, who was our celebration speaker, is "Give Back to Move Forward." Each convention also offers a continuing education program of events as well as the Biennial Convention of Delegates where important organizational issues are presented, discussed and voted.

What makes you the proudest?

BW: I take great pride and delight over the student presentations – how much they have grown in a short amount of time. I know the faculty effort that was put into helping each student and the external committee members who helped the student think things through. I almost feel like a proud parent.

TC: Iota and its activities don't just fall out of the sky. People on the board are highly involved in their own careers, and own families, and still find time to make Iota work. It does take a lot

of time and work. Our grandmothers are smiling down on us during Iota board meetings.

What are the membership requirements?

TC: Once you understand the STTI philosophy, most people get hooked. You can be inducted as a student, or you can be inducted as a nurse already in your career. We have members who, for instance, did not have a chapter associated with their nursing school. We have members who work at non-Vanderbilt hospitals. We have a rich variety that makes our group all the stronger.

BW: You can also have dual membership. I joined the STTI Chapter at the University of Cincinnati in 1978 and am also a member of the Iota Chapter. It's literally just a few dollars more a year. That way I can stay in touch with my original chapter as well as Iota. I would encourage more people to consider dual membership.

What are the benefits of membership?

BW: We are a community of committed scholars. The way I got to meet all the big names in nursing was often because of STTI. I had the



This archival photo was taken when Alice Malone, STTI national vice president, visited for the installation ceremony of the Iota Chapter. (L to R) Virginia Crenshaw, counselor, Barbara Massenburg, secretary, Alice Malone, national vice president, Phyllis Hayes, president, Mary Lou Moore, president-elect, Nancy Armistead, treasurer, and Marie Buckley, archivist.

joy of sitting next to Joyce Fitzpatrick at a Sigma event or picked other nursing leaders up at the airport. Part of where I am in my career is because of STTI. When I was chapter president, I had a regional coordinator to bounce ideas off of and I learned a lot. I later served as regional coordinator myself, as well as a member of the board at the international level. I'm currently a member of the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library Advisory Group. I don't want to list all the boards and commit-

tees I have served on, but to point out that for everything I put into STTI, I got back out 20 times what I invested.

TC: We have monthly board meetings, annual meetings, and a monthly newsletter. Most importantly, we help people feel connected. We share and build scholarship at the local level. We want to know what each other is doing. When we have induction ceremonies, you

can see how important this commitment – this sacrifice for scholarship – these new members are making.

What makes STTI relevant?

BW: It was built on the right professional values that would allow it to have right foundation worthy of lasting 60 years, and beyond. If it had been built on a foundation of sand, with a short view of only what was important in 1953, it wouldn't have lasted.

TC: Health care is constantly changing and nursing is constantly changing to meet growing needs. A constancy is the standard of scholarship.

We have not wavered on that in 60 years, and I'm very proud of that.

What do you want everyone to know?

TC: The idea that our chapter began with a group of dedicated nursing students who understood the importance of scholarship or research before that was fashionable. We still believe in that initial mission, even though life around us changes.

BW: We have to remember the philanthropic nature of what good things can be done through STTI. For those who are STTI members of another chapter, I encourage you to consider dual membership with the Iota Chapter. For those who are Iota Chapter members but haven't gone to local, national or international meetings, I encourage you to get more involved. Believe me, once you attend a convention or hear a debate, you will be impressed. For those nurses, who never had the time or interest to consider membership, now is a wonderful time to seek membership.

It was built on the right professional values that would allow it to have a strong foundation worthy of lasting 60 years, and beyond.



Charlene Tosi, BSN '68, lives in Fenton, Mich., and has published a new book, "Discover Your Woman Within: Journey to Wholeness." It can be purchased on her website www.womanwithin.com. Her son designed the cover.

40s

Eunice Moe Brock, BSN '41, celebrated her 95th birthday and also welcomed two more great grandchildren in 2012 – Violet Elisabeth Voelker was born on Nov. 18, and Elon Hawkeye Kvares, her eighth great grandson, was born Dec. 8.

Virginia Maxwell George, BSN '47B, enjoys living in Belmont Village, an assisted living residence in Nashville.

60s

Connie Reid, BSN '65, enjoys reading and her grandchildren in her retirement. Son, Adrian, and his wife Rebecca, welcomed Eleanor Alma Reid in February 2012, the couple's first child and Reid's first granddaughter. Daughter Megan and son-in-law Thom Saylor relocated their family that includes Jacob, 12, and Daniel, 10, to Franklin, N.C., for Thom's new job as recreation manager in the U.S. Forest Service for the Nantahala Forestry District.

Donna C. Miller, BSN '66, is retired from her 46-year nursing career – the last 30 years in hospice care. Career highlights include becoming a Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse and being named one of the "100 Great Nurses in Dallas/Ft. Worth" in 1998. She remains active as an organist and choir director in a Lutheran

church and is grandmother to three, with another on the way.

70s

Elsie Wilson, MSN '74, PhD, CNM, ARNP, completed her PhD in Theology from International Seminary, Plymouth, Fla., graduating Magna cum Laude. Her dissertation was titled, "Applying Principles of Midwifery to the Ministry: A Comparison of Physical and Spiritual Birth." She received an award for Outstanding Dissertation, and hopes to publish it sometime in 2013. Although retired as a certified nurse-midwife who worked extensively in the Frontier Nursing Service, she plans to teach her dissertation principles to midwives, ministers and others.

Betsy Merlin Stewart, BSN '78, married Vanderbilt University alumnus Kent Taylor Stewart, BE '77, on Aug. 27, 2011, and resides in Nashville.

80s

Anne C. Page BSN '80, is a Perianesthesia Specialist at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., where she blends direct patient care in Anesthesia with Quality Improvement projects and staff development. She holds both CAPA & CPAN certification. Anne and her husband, Philip, BE/ME '80, are the parents of Eloise Page Spetko, BA Mathematics '07. To celebrate

their 30th reunion, Anne met fellow '80 BSN classmates **Judy Baird Cunningham, Anne Chandler McAlister, and Pamela Petros Litchford** in Sanibel Island, Fla., in November 2010.

Julie Lindley, RN, BSN '83, is the director of Health Service and Physical Education at Grapevine-Colleyville, Independent School District in Texas. She spoke at the Texas School Nurses 11th Annual School Nursing Conference on "Delegation: The Professional School Nurse Role" to 350 school nurses from across the state. She also serves as the Governmental Liaison for the State School Nurse Association.

Beth Hartman Plonk BSN '84, MSN, CFNP 1989 and 1990 from the University of Virginia, lives in Durham, N.C., working as a case manager at Duke Homecare and Hospice. Beth received the Drew Award for Excellence in Hospice Nursing Practice and was also selected by the National Association for Home Care and Hospice as one of the top 50 home care and hospice nurses in the nation for 2012.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, BSN '84, RN, FAAN, pub-

lished two papers: "Urban Seventh Grade Students: A Report of Health Risk Behaviors and Exposure to Violence," in the *Journal of School Nursing*, 28(2), 130-137 and co-authored a second paper with Susan Gresko, "Perceptions of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and How a Pulmonary Function Printout Influenced Practice" in *Nursing Research and Practice*, (Article ID 794585).

Sharon Adkins, MSN '88, RN, received the State Award for Excellence for increasing awareness and acceptance of Nurse Practitioners from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners at their annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. Sharon is the executive director of the Tennessee Nurses Association.

90s

Leigh Ann Chandler, MSN '91, GNP-BC, began a new hospice nurse practitioner job with Lifetime Care Hospice in Rochester, N.Y. The job was a dream come true for her and she plans on working on her Palliative Care certification this year.

Kelly A. Wolgast, MSN '93, Founders Medalist, earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice



Kate Carlson Wrammert, MSN, '03, and husband, Jens, welcomed twin boys, Grant Patrick and Lucas Andrew, in April 2012. Kate is an Oncology Nurse Practitioner at the Winship Cancer

Institute of Emory University in Atlanta, where she has worked since 2004.

Laura Beth Brown, MSN '04, president, Vanderbilt Home Care Services and vice president, Vanderbilt Health Services, was recognized with the Health Care Emerging Leader of the Year award by Leadership Health Care (LHC), an initiative of the Nashville Health Care Council to nurture the talents of future health care leaders. She was noted for her active participation in a range of programs and for serving as a role model. She is also a former board member of LHC.



(DNP) in Executive Nurse Leadership in December 2012 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Kelly is an assistant professor at VUSN, teaching in both the Health Systems Management MSN Program and the DNP Program. Kelly's daughter, Marley, will be attending Penn State University this fall. Kelly received her BSN from Penn State in 1985.

Nicole Swann, MSN '97, lives in Louisville, Ky. She became a board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner in 2011 and works part-time in private practice in Crestwood, Ky., at Positive Connections. Nicole recently started a full-time position in community mental health at Communicare, in Bardstown, Ky. She has two children, Savanna, 14, and Luke, 11.

Meredith Schrader Florentz, MSN '98, is in her 14th year as a labor and delivery nurse at St. Johns Hospital, Maplewood, Minn., and is busy raising two kids, two cats, and lots of fruits and vegetables in her garden.

Deborah Lanius, MSN '99, started working at the Veteran's Administration Outpatient Clinic in Rock Hill, S.C., in June 2012.

Carl Wherry, MSN '99, has served as the senior nurse practitioner at UCLA Medical Center for neurocritical care since 2004. He is a member of the California Association of Nurse Practitioners, and he and his wife are busy with 6-year-old twins.

2000s

Katie Moran Bostrom, MSN '00, was nominated for Real Awards for her achievements in neonatal nursing practice. She recognized that the local Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and its infants could benefit from improved developmental, kangaroo method, and family-centered care. She has chaired the committee, raised funds, presented on the topic, and revised policies. She has collected data to show improvement and used this to get further funding and support.

Katie Cope Murchison, MSN '00, welcomed daughter Emma Fraser Murchison on July 31, 2012, joining big sister Abby, 6. Katie continues to work in reproductive endocrinology with Fertility Center of Chattanooga and Knoxville, and is looking forward to precepting a VUSN Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Program student this year.

Jacky Carver, MSN '01 was re-appointed to a second term on the Tennessee Medical Examiner Advisory Council by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Additionally, she serves on the advisory council of the Upper Cumberland Human Resources Agency and as the chairman of the board of the Smith County Help Center.

Amy Costner-Lark, MSN '01, DNP, APRN, is a heart transplant nurse practitioner at the Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute and assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing. Amy founded a Costner Medical Missions in 2004. The non-profit organization has taken seven medical/dental mission trips to Ecuador, Peru and the Galapagos Islands. The next trip is May 18-26, and she recruits medical providers and non-medical volunteers who will treat around 500 patients in three days.

Leigh Lindsey, MSN '03, recently completed her PhD in Education and Organizational Leadership from the University of Louisville and teaches at Western Kentucky University. The title of her dissertation is

"Mentoring of Rural Nurse Managers. The Experiences of New Rural Nurse Managers: Does Mentoring Make a Difference?"

Terri Hartman, MSN '04, RN, HACP, is the Privacy Office director at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Both of her daughters graduated from college; Lana, from the University of Louisiana, and Dana, from Southern Methodist University. Dana is teaching English at the Hanvit School in South Korea, and Lana is teaching Latin and English at the Louisville Classical Academy.

Betsy Perky, MSN '04, is engaged to Brandon Kennedy, a graduate of David Lipscomb University who lives in Brentwood, Tenn. The wedding is planned for May and the couple will live in Thompson Station, Tenn.



Liz Nacozy Wessel, MSN '06, and her husband, James, live in Huntsville, Ala. They recently adopted Kate, a 16-month-old baby girl from China, who joins daughters Molly, 2, and Anne, 4. They

are planning several trips to Vanderbilt in coming months and years for surgeries for Kate's cleft lip/palate. Liz hopes to see classmates while in Nashville and is grateful to have such a solid nursing background.



Andrea Boohaker, MSN '07, and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Robert Gabriel Dean, on Sept. 30, 2012. They live in Houston, Texas, where Andrea works for The University of Texas (UTHealth) as an orthopaedic trauma nurse practitioner.

Bethany Andrews, MSN '09, ACNP, married Kevin Rhoten on Sept. 29, 2012.

Brittany Haemmerlein, MSN '09, welcomed son Harrison Alexander on Dec. 24, 2012. He joins big brother William Fieldon, 3. She has also started a new position at Centerstone, a national not-for-profit provider of community-based mental health care. In addition to her clinical practice as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, she has accepted the position of nursing supervisor.

Joanna Vallie, MSN '11, RNC-OB, C-EFM, is the nurse director of obstetrical nursing at Emerson Hospital in Concord, Mass. She spent the last 20 years at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, where she was most recently director of maternal child health. She oversaw a number of administrative and clinical projects, including leading the organization in achieving a "Baby Friendly" designation.

Colette Bennett Andrews, MSN '12, and Thomas Douglas MacKinnon Wolford, both of

Nashville, were married Oct. 26, 2012, at Saint Joseph Catholic Church. Colette recently joined the AMG Critical Care Group at Centennial Medical Center as an acute care nurse practitioner. Doug is an attorney with Community Health.

Sharon Foley, MSN '12, is a certified nurse-midwife with Geisinger Health System in Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

Ellie Kenemer, PMHNP, MSN '12, moved to Carolina Beach, N.C., and is doing telehealth with ACT Medical Group in Wilmington. Ellie is enjoying her new career, and her dog, Celeste, enjoys her retirement on the beach.

Kathy Naifeh, RN, MSN '12, landed a position with the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs as a Nursing informaticist within one month of graduation. She is the Nursing ADPAC (Automated Data Processing Application Coordinator) and VANOD (VA Nursing Outcomes Database) coordinator. She notes that the learning curve is high, but it has been very satisfying due to the administrative and nursing staff support.

Angela Steadman, MSN '12, works for Carey Counseling Center in Paris, Tenn. She loves VUSN and made lots of friends from all over the country while in nursing school. She encourages other classmates to join the Facebook page: "Vanderbilt University PMHNP Class of 2012."

Angela Sterling, MSN '12, was recently promoted to Clinical Manager for the Rehab and Orthopedic Unit at Memorial Hermann Hospital-Northwest in Houston, Texas.

Melinda Weaver MSN '12, recently became a provider for Cole Family Practice in Nashville. The practice group is owned by fellow Vanderbilt alumni, Amy Clark-Cole, MSN '07, and employees include Weaver and Annie Cole-Bradley, MSN '11. The group recently opened its second location in East Nashville's Riverside Village.

IN MEMORIAM

Louisa L. Spell, BSN '41, died Aug. 2, 2012, in Emory, Va.

Bessie Balch, BSN '49, died in January, in Nashville.



John Savage, DNP '12, CRNA, APRN, pictured second from the left in this family portrait, is the Vice President of Operations at Community Care, Inc. He presented his VUSN Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) project poster, "The Current State of Anesthesiology Controlled Medication Security in Ambulatory Surgery Centers," at the Tennessee Nurses Association Annual Meeting and at the American Nurses Association 7th Annual Nursing Quality Conference in Atlanta.



Janye Wilson, MSN '10, announced the birth of her daughter, Eden Marie Wilson, born on July 22, 2012. Janye is a Clinical Research Management graduate.

Helen I. Pamintuan, BSN '54, died Oct. 3, 2012, in Norman, Okla.

Patricia Macbeth Short, BSN '58, died Oct. 30, 2012, in Williamstown Commons, Mass.

Betty Jane BJ Montfoort, NR '59, died Dec. 26, 2012, in Overbrook, Kan.

Linda Swann Dumat, BSN '63, died Sept. 16, 2012, in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Phyllis L. Ratliff, BSN '70, died Oct. 3, 2012, in Bluffton, S.C.

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2012 Reunion

Reunion weekend was a full three days of activities for nursing school alumni, including special recognition for the VUSN Quinqs, the Class of 1962, who celebrated their 50th anniversary of graduation. On top of that, the Vanderbilt Commodores won against the University of Massachusetts en route to their second Music City Bowl game.



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



1. L-R: Lisa Ray Pascale, BSN '83, Donna Ray Iverson, BSN '82 and Julia Sobo Theriot, BSN '82

2. Dean Colleen Conway-Welch thanks Virginia George, BSN '47B, and her daughter, Leigh Ann George, for the Virginia Maxwell George Family Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Fund.

3. Ruth Dvorak Stringfield, BSN '62

4. Mary Lynn Beazley Donohoe, BSN '62

5. Courtney Wilson, MSN '97, and Kristi Barrett Giemza, MSN '97

6. L-R: Doug Arrington, MSN '88, VUSN Alumni Association Board president, congratulates Francie Likis, MSN '94, DrP, who was recognized with the Excellence in Nursing Award at the Reunion Brunch.

Other Alumni Award Recipients:
Clinical Achievement in Nursing: Ellen Martin, BSN '69, MS, CNM, FACNM

Friend of Nursing: Emanuel O. Doyne, MD

Honorary Alumnus: Kathryn Rivers

The President's Award of Distinction: Marie H. Thomas, BSN '77, MSN, PhD





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In 1988, **Doug Arrington** received his master's degree from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Arrington established a bequest through his will to enhance the possibilities of tomorrow for the next generation of Vanderbilt students. Arrington shared,

“Now more than ever, we have the chance to participate in something truly meaningful at Vanderbilt. Through a planned gift, we can leave a lasting legacy to support scholarships and make advanced practice nursing accessible for future students.”

Join the many alumni and friends like Doug Arrington, and create a lasting legacy at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Ask one of our Planned Giving officers how you can make a gift from your estate or establish a gift annuity that will pay you income for the rest of your life. Please contact Anthony Barclay in the Office of Planned Giving at (615) 936-5518, (888) 758-1999, or plannedgiving@vanderbilt.edu for more information.



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