The College of Nursing commemorated its 60th Anniversary with a Day of Celebration on April 6. It featured a conference and the 60th Anniversary Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony.

The all-day conference, “Partners in Advancing Global Health: Educating the Next Generation,” took place in the Connelly Center’s Villanova Room. There were two keynote addresses:

- “Let’s Get Rid of the Patient,” by Louis Hugo Francescutti, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., FRCPC, professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta, and past president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; and

That evening, in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church, the College awarded two Medallions at the 60th Anniversary Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony.

- The 60th Anniversary Medallion was awarded to the Connelly Foundation. Emily C. Riley, executive vice president, accepted on behalf of the foundation.
- The 60th Anniversary Alumni Medallion was awarded to Helene Moriarty Cincotta ’77 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., nurse researcher at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

At the Mass, the presider was the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., president of Villanova University, and the homilist was the Most Rev. Daniel T. Turley, O.S.A., Bishop of Chulucanas, Peru.

For more information, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing.
Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing:

The College of Nursing is SIXTY! The vision of our founder, Father Francis X.N. McGuire, O.S.A., and the pioneering efforts of the first co-directors, Sr. Alma Lawler, R.S.M., and Sr. Margarella O’Neill, O.S.F., have developed into a mature College of Nursing. Our College has earned the respect of the profession and is viewed with distinction as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. Over these 60 years, talented faculty and thousands of alumni have made distinguished contributions to both the profession and the improvement of health care. Your ideas and performance have created the outstanding reputation that we enjoy and are reflective of a Villanova University education.

Throughout the decades, the support of our presidents, vice presidents for Academic Affairs, trustees, and faculty and staff leaders have been a continuous source of encouragement and a stimulus for achievement of our goals. Driscoll Hall is only one obvious symbol of the University’s confidence in us.

Nursing education and American health care have experienced enormous changes over the years of the College’s formation as a leadership school of nursing. The influence of technology, a more diverse society, globalization, and changes in the way nursing education and nursing care are taught and delivered have challenged us, contributed to changes in curricula and teaching strategies, and led to the creation of new programs.

Your investment in the College’s strategic initiatives and its students has made many of our aspirations a reality. Your support and the volunteer activities of alumni and our Board of Consultants have made enormous contributions to our advancement. In particular, an endowment from the Connelly Foundation, which was awarded 10 years ago, was the catalyst for progress and attainment of several strategic goals. It continues to serve that critical role in our development. Foremost among the goals we have achieved is the Connelly-Delouvrier International Scholars Program that supports opportunities for students to receive part of their clinical education with our faculty in Peru, Nicaragua, South Africa and the Dominican Republic and on Native American reservations. That gift also allows us to provide critical faculty programs and student development and augments resources dedicated to our state-of-the-art simulation labs. A major gift of James O’Donnell has helped to promote Villanova Nursing through the national media, and the recent funding of our first endowed faculty chair by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Moritz gives further evidence of the confidence and trust placed in us by those who believe in our capacity to help others through nursing education, practice and research. Summer internships for students at Independence Blue Cross and that organization’s ongoing support through scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students have made a significant difference in preparing nurses and nurse educators for the future. Generous gifts and endowed scholarships continue to make it possible for students to attain a Villanova Nursing education. We thank all of you for your help in making us successful. Thank you for making our future possible.

These are challenging times but I am optimistic about the future. The stage is set to move the College to a new level of its development. The next phase will require focused attention to increasing scholarly productivity and faculty research that engages students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. We have the opportunity and the maturity to demonstrate how scholarly inquiry in nursing can be fostered and developed within a liberal arts environment that is not an academic health center or research-intensive institution. In this way, we will also differentiate ourselves from peer nursing programs. Well-prepared faculty researchers will join current teachers-scholars. Through their combined work and grantsmanship, we will engage in increased scholarly work and publication that will yield substantive, innovative outcomes to shape nursing education and improve patient care for the future. Involvement of our students in faculty research, in addition to increased collaboration with our clinical partners and colleagues from other disciplines within and beyond the University, will provide the context for developing this culture of research. The atmosphere will complement our existing strength in teaching, service and scholarly endeavors that currently informs our academic pursuits.

The concern for excellence in teaching and assuring the endurance of Augustinian values and mission-relatedness will remain priorities of the College of Nursing. They will be enhanced, not compromised. The College will continue to increase its distinctiveness and become a national exemplar for our peer schools and colleges of nursing. The College of Nursing will continue to thrive. It will take hard work, committed faculty and significant resources to support this kind of development. It is the next logical step. It is my vision for the future and hopefully, one that is shared by our many stakeholders and one that will be embraced and realized.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor
Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence

This year, the College of Nursing commemorates six decades of advancing nursing. Among the last decade’s standout achievements are Driscoll Hall, doctoral studies and reaching out internationally.
As today’s students prepare to depart for clinical experiences in Peru, South Africa and many other locations in the world, or lug backpacks into Driscoll Hall’s classrooms and clinical labs brimming with new technology, they follow in the footsteps of six decades of College of Nursing graduates who have “Ignited Change” in nursing. Nursing students were the first women to study full-time at Villanova University. Our Nursing students are eager to pursue lives marked by a passion to make the world a better place. Each of their stories enriches the College’s history as Nursing marked its 60th Anniversary with a Day of Celebration on April 6.

Ever since Villanova established a College of Nursing in 1953, administrators, faculty, students and staff have built upon that foundation to create a college that has evolved to meet the needs of an ever-changing health-care system and nursing profession. Throughout the College of Nursing’s history, the priority has been the education of nurses within the framework of Catholic beliefs and values and the heritage of the Order of St. Augustine.

During the last half of its history, the College has initiated changes that significantly position the school and its graduates for future success. Students are encouraged to study abroad, thanks to the Connelly Foundation’s establishment of an endowment. With the 2008 opening of Driscoll Hall, they gained a home in an entirely new building, an expansive 75,500-square-foot environmentally friendly structure featuring an auditorium, lecture hall, clinical simulation labs and more. Like the bricks and mortar used to construct Driscoll Hall, the changes over the past 10 years have been the result of strategic planning designed to strengthen and sustain a college renowned for its academic excellence. The range of recent enhancements includes an increasingly globalized undergraduate curriculum, an accelerated program for college graduates in other disciplines, increased interprofessional and interdisciplinary activities, and two doctoral programs.

The last decade has been emblematic of the work undertaken by countless individuals, observes M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. She notes how the Connelly Foundation’s gift, announced in April 2003 during the College’s 50th Anniversary celebration, played a pivotal role in allowing the College to reach its current stage of development. It has provided support for student and faculty development, enhancement of technology and lab resources, and creation of the Connelly-Delouvrier International Scholars Program. This program enables students, under the supervision of Nursing faculty, to pursue a portion of their clinical coursework in other countries and in the United States with multicultural populations. Connelly-Delouvrier Scholars have had clinical practica in a nurse-managed birthing center on the Texas-Mexico border and community health experiences on Native American reservations. They have learned about healthcare systems through electives in Ireland and Japan. Others have received clinical course experiences in Peru, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and South Africa, where they apply their knowledge and skills and provide culturally appropriate care to marginalized populations. Currently, Panama and Ghana present new opportunities for future experiences.

The Connelly Endowment, scholarships endowed by friends of the College, the support for promoting the College through the media (provided by a University trustee) and Driscoll Hall are symbolic of the commitment of the University trustees and administration, our friends and alumni who support the ongoing development of the College and its students. Dean Fitzpatrick notes, “This generosity reflects an appreciation of what nursing contributes to society; to the academic environment; to scholarship designed to improve patient care; and to the value of the College, as an expression of Villanova’s mission.”

Although the College maintains a primary focus on health care in the United States and its ever-changing landscape, it encourages...
international students to contribute to our understanding of global health while they study and learn at Villanova. They enrich campus life with their experiences and diverse cultures. Twenty years ago, the first nursing students from the Sultanate of Oman arrived and began their M.S.N. studies at Villanova. These graduates are now leaders who have revolutionized and transformed their country’s health-care system.

“It’s been really great to watch nursing develop in Oman,” observes Ruth McDermott-Levy ’96 M.S.N., ’08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing. “We’ve done such a great job that the nurses from Oman can now study for bachelor’s degrees in their country. They’re coming to Villanova and other universities for master’s and doctoral degrees.”

The creation of the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program 10 years ago was another major milestone that had been part of the College’s longterm strategic plan. The College began this Ph.D. Program in part to respond to the nursing faculty shortage affecting universities across the country, says Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, director of the program. The Ph.D. Program has graduated 26 students, 24 of whom are now in nursing faculty roles. Among these graduates are several who have received prestigious grants and scholarships. In particular, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence and Independence Blue Cross have been our partners in assisting doctoral students with financial support.

As part of a national movement, advanced practice nurses can now study in Villanova’s Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (D.N.P.). The D.N.P. Program enables nurses with master’s degrees in advanced practice (nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists and nurse midwives) to pursue additional study geared to participation in the development of innovative models of health-care delivery. The D.N.P. Program has the potential to play a crucial role in ensuring that clinical experts are prepared as leaders in health policy development and in projects that enhance the quality and safety of patient care. According to Debra Shearer, Ed.D., M.S.N., FNP-BC, director of the program, “Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that advanced practice nurses are knowledgeable about evidence-based practice, leadership and finance in order to become competent and effective leaders in their specialties.”

The College’s accelerated bachelor’s degree program for adults with earned degrees in other fields is also marking its 10th anniversary. When the current class graduates in July, more than 500 students, from across the country, will have completed this program. Maryanne V. Lieb ’85 M.S.N., R.N., coordinator of Second Degree Options, points out: “Accelerated programs have grown in popularity over the last 15 or 20 years. They invite into our profession a very special group of people.” She adds that students with previous degrees who come into the accelerated program “bring rich experiences and diversity to nursing.” Those who enter the second degree program often have “risked a lot,” including leaving secure jobs, to take on the intensive full-time study, Lieb emphasizes. The College strives to connect these adult students with peers and role models who can help them make this life transition as easily as possible.

During the last 10 years, two new academic centers were established in the College. They enhance its mission and interdisciplinary goals. The Center for Global and Public Health, established in 2003, extends the College’s engagement in international health and creates programs that address health-related factors important to the quality of life in various regions of the world and within diverse populations in the United States. The MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education opened in 2011 as a result of a gift from the MacDonald Family Foundation and Take Shape for Life...
Foundation. It serves as a locus for interdisciplinary collaboration in promoting health and nutrition through education and research that fosters development of healthy lifestyles.

The College has definitely established itself and plays a crucial role in nursing education locally, nationally and internationally. Evidence of its quality is validated by its designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. Development of new academic programs, centers and support from benefactors, alumni and the College’s Board of Consultants have been significant in its progress. The board was established in 2007 to serve in an advisory capacity to the dean. It provides an external perspective on matters that affect the nursing profession, the College and its strategic directions. It includes alumni, parents of students, health-care leaders and friends of the College.

In the decades to come, the College of Nursing will continue to further its 60-year history through increased scholarship and research while maintaining the quality of the programs and activities that have already been developed. The recent generous gift of an endowed faculty chair in the College from Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz, Jr., D.D.S., ’51 VSB is a major testimony to the support we receive from our friends and their confidence in the nursing profession. The use of this endowed chair for the advancement of research and scholarly inquiry in nursing will be a major catalyst in the next stage of our development. The success of the College of Nursing has resulted from the efforts of many groups. Villanova will continue to educate nurses who are ethical and intelligent leaders, expert practitioners, scholarly professionals and caring individuals who “Ignite Change.”

As a senior, Brooke Bettis ’12 B.S.N., R.N. traveled to Chulucanas, Peru, as part of her health promotion practicum. She was so moved by the experience that this March she returned as a volunteer, joining Nursing seniors during their clinical experience there.

In the Dominican Republic, Flower Habte ’12 B.S.N., at the time an accelerated second degree student, weighs an infant during a Nursing experience there that enhanced her education.
With the dramatic shift in U.S. demographics and the rise of an increasingly complex health-care system, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) is urging nurses to earn their doctorates. Fewer than 1 percent of all American nurses currently have doctorates. Nurses will be teaching and practicing in a multicultural nation becoming ever more so, and older. Those 65 and older are poised to make up nearly 20 percent of the population by 2030. The health-care system must respond as well to a spike in a variety of chronic conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension and arthritis.

The College of Nursing has heeded the IOM’s call in two ways, with the creation of its Ph.D. in Nursing Program in the summer of 2003 and the launch of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Program in June 2012. Both are fully accredited and help students think creatively, reach farther and embrace the challenges of professional practice. The Ph.D. in Nursing Program, with its focus on research, prepares students to be leaders in academia and teach increasingly diverse nursing students. The practice-focused D.N.P. Program emphasizes educating advanced practice nurses about new models of health care and prepares them to develop systems that will deliver care in new and different ways.

The Ph.D. Program, which admitted its first cohort in 2004, has graduated 26 students. From all walks of life, they include those not long out of college and individuals who have been professional nurses for years. Emphasizing research and theory development, this program is designed to prepare nurses as teachers and scholars who can help to alleviate the national nursing shortage by working with diverse students.

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This table compares these two types of doctoral programs for

“I chose to enter the Ph.D. in Nursing Program because my intention is to pursue a future in research and higher education. Villanova University’s Ph.D. prepares me to join my clinical background with an academic career in nursing education and scholarship.”

—Amanda Jenkinson, M.S., R.N., OCN, a graduate assistant in the College of Nursing, is a former faculty member at Gwynedd-Mercy College in Gwynedd Valley, Pa.
“When exploring doctoral programs, it was important to me to find a program that had an extensive clinical option that would advance my current nursing practice. The D.N.P. Program has already greatly enhanced both my clinical knowledge and leadership skills. By completing its requirements, I am preparing for the future of health care. As a practicing D.N.P. clinician, I will have the opportunity and necessary skills to transform the health-care system.”

—Matthew McCoy ’01 M.S.N., CRNA is a nurse anesthetist at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., and assistant director of clinical education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nurse Anesthesia.

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<th>Ph.D.</th>
<th>D.N.P.</th>
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<td><strong>OBJECTIVES</strong></td>
<td>A research-focused doctorate that prepares nurses to conduct research that generates, tests, refines or extends theory and knowledge relevant to culturally competent nursing and nursing education, as well as teach diverse student populations in a variety of classroom and clinical settings within academic programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STRUCTURE</strong></td>
<td>A practice-focused doctorate that prepares advanced practice nurses, including nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives, with knowledge in evidence-based practice, organizational leadership and financial acumen to inspire and implement innovations in nursing practice and health care.</td>
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<td><strong>OUTCOME</strong></td>
<td>Designed as a full-time program to accommodate the working clinician, this online program is offered through classes two nights a week. It begins in early summer with an on-campus seminar. Students meet on campus once a semester for course content and D.N.P. project guidance. The program is designed to ensure that graduates attain the required advanced knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of the health-care system.</td>
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The program is designed to prepare teacher-scholars in nursing for academic careers in higher education.

The application of empirical and theoretical knowledge to design, implement, evaluate and intervene in the clinical environment based on evidence.

With the offering of the Ph.D. in Nursing and D.N.P. programs, the College continues to prove crucial to helping nurses achieve the most prestigious academic degrees in an effort to navigate and shape the ever-changing landscapes of nursing and health care.
Out of the SHADOWS

The College of Nursing’s first interdisciplinary course on human trafficking inspires students to reach out in the health-care community to address a crisis that is growing not only internationally but close to home.
they are everywhere. They may work at a local farm, in your favorite salon or in your neighbor’s home. They are young and old, from this country and abroad, forced into everything from prostitution to migrant, restaurant and factory work. Often, they have been swiped from their families, beaten and starved. They are the countless women and men trafficked into, and from within, the United States, bought and sold in a modern-day slavery system that has woven a far wider web than the one many of us remember from our middle school history courses.

Worldwide, as many as 27 million people are victims of human trafficking, according to the U.S. Department of State. While those working to prevent and prosecute human trafficking in the United States say it is difficult to pinpoint how many victims there are, the State Department estimates that each year as many as 17,500 people are trafficked in the country—and that says nothing about the victims already here. Philadelphia is in the top 15 to 20 U.S. cities for domestic sex trafficking, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Those working with victims locally have said there are likely thousands in Philadelphia. As more people are trafficked each year, including girls targeted at nearby shopping malls and forced into prostitution in the city, the spotlight on this pervasive problem has grown.

This fall, the College of Nursing launched its own educational effort, teaming up with the School of Law and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) to offer Villanova University’s first course on human trafficking.

Three professors are guiding this interdisciplinary course: Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor of Nursing; Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Morgan ’97 VLS, J.D., adjunct professor of Law; and Billie Murray, Ph.D., LAS associate professor of communication. The course addresses the growing need for information in the health-care community about identifying and responding to health issues for victims; understanding the relevant laws; and communicating the problem to health professionals, law enforcement officials and the public. Among the guest speakers were two from the FBI and a representative from Dawn’s Place, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that aids trafficking victims. As part of the course, the College hosted a Q&A on “Human Trafficking on the Streets of Southeastern Pennsylvania,” focusing on young teens. The session in Driscoll Hall Auditorium was open to the campus community.

“The students have been amazing,” notes Dr. Copel. “That’s the most rewarding part of the class, seeing the students really getting involved. They’re talking to health-care professionals about human trafficking. Because of things like industrial accidents, those professionals are most likely to see people who have been trafficked.”

Class members reached out to health-care professionals in a variety of ways, including a forum for employees of Lankenau Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital and Paoli Hospital. Students spoke at a health fair at the Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center in West Chester; addressed Villanova students, faculty and staff; and urged area legislators to post information in their offices.

Sr. Magdalena “Lena” Nwaenyi, SHCJ, ’10 B.S.N., ’12 M.S.N., who graduated in December with a master’s degree in Health Care Administration, said the interdisciplinary approach has been incredibly beneficial, allowing students to address the problem more effectively. “Human trafficking is one of the tragedies of the 21st century,” said Sr. Lena, who is from Nigeria. “We believe slavery is all over, but no, it’s not. In the 21st century, we are still talking about human trafficking.”

Sr. Lena and her classmates worked hard to reach people inside—and outside—the University. As Dr. Murray pointed out, “We wanted the course to be service-based so they’re out in the community and helping. Some students want to start a group on campus advocating awareness.”

The course’s faculty and students emphasize that human trafficking, while often portrayed in the media as happening solely to girls in far-away countries, entraps people locally as well. It ensnares boys and girls, men and women, and right here—potentially in front of our eyes.

“We believe slavery is all over, but no, it’s not. In the 21st century, we are still talking about human trafficking.”

—Sr. Magdalena “Lena” Nwaenyi, SHCJ, ’10 B.S.N., ’12 M.S.N.

To read more about the course visit www.villanova.edu/nursing and click on News & Events.
The College of Nursing is pleased to announce that it has received its first endowed faculty chair. The Diane L. & Robert F. Moritz, Jr., D.D.S., ’51 VSB Endowed Chair in the Villanova College of Nursing was created on November 12, 2012, through the generosity of Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz, Jr., D.D.S., ’51 VSB.

“The endowment of a faculty chair is symbolic of the progress the College of Nursing has made and its commitment to scholarship and research as a means to advance nursing practice through education, and ultimately improve patient care,” explains M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor.

Philanthropy—and Villanova University—are both important to the Moritzes. The Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Moritz Sr. Chair in Systems Engineering was inaugurated in 2006 to both honor Dr. Moritz’s parents and to give back to Villanova.

This new endowed chair is a tribute to the College and Dean Fitzpatrick, who first met the couple during the Engineering chair inauguration. She and Mrs. Moritz in particular developed a friendship. “It only took a brief conversation with her,” recalls Mrs. Moritz, “to see her as a lifelong friend.”

Both Dr. and Mrs. Moritz feel that the seeds of their philanthropy were planted by their fathers who worked hard to provide a great education for their children. Mrs. Moritz graduated from Delaware Hospital’s School of Radiologic Technology and later became certified in mammography. She developed an appreciation of the medical field, ultimately retiring from 30 years in general radiologic technology. Dr. Moritz earned his marketing degree from Villanova, then served as a naval officer on a destroyer escort, the U.S.S. George E. Davis. Shortly thereafter he enrolled in Temple University’s dental school, and after graduating spent more than two decades in private practice and another as a consultant.

Dr. Moritz’s four years at Villanova were an indelible influence. “It was a great experience,” he notes, recalling the camaraderie. At a meeting with University Advancement staff, he became more aware of the Strategic Plan and endowment goals. “I have four years of fond memories at Villanova. We wanted to give back. This is where we can help,” he says. He sees the endowed faculty chair as creating something worthwhile, supporting education while bringing additional prestige to the College and recognition of the scholarly work of those expert Nursing faculty who will eventually hold the chair into the future. When appointed, a faculty member will be a chairholder for five years.

Robert F. Moritz, Jr., D.D.S., ’51 VSB and his wife, Diane, have provided funding to create an endowed chair that will recognize the scholarly work of Nursing faculty members.

“I have four years of fond memories at Villanova. We wanted to give back.”

—Robert F. Moritz, Jr., D.D.S., ’51 VSB
The College of Nursing has a distinguished history of educating nurses who are prepared to enter the profession as providers of patient-centered, quality nursing care. To maintain this level of excellence, and in response to factors including changes in health care, the demographics of populations served, and reports and recommendations from professional and health-care organizations, in the spring of 2010 the undergraduate faculty initiated the process of revising the undergraduate Nursing curriculum.

Notes Dean Louise Fitzpatrick, “The curriculum redesign will prepare nurses for greater leadership and collaboration on interprofessional teams and for participation in developing and implementing new models of care delivery in community-based settings to an ever-growing diverse and older, chronically ill adult population.”

The revised curriculum is consistent with the College’s faith-based mission to educate individuals who will be prepared to provide a vital service to society and who are liberally educated, clinically competent, compassionate and ethically motivated.

The revision includes an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and interprofessional collaboration that will enhance patient care and help to prepare students for evidence-based practice education.

Research, landmark studies, accreditation criteria and the changing landscape of health-care policy all served as the impetus for the curriculum revisions. Among these are the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) “Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice”; the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) initiative; and the landmark report on “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” published by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 2010. The 2010 national Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as well as other legislative and regulatory influences, also served to inform the faculty during the process.

Among the major changes in U.S. demographics is the increase in longevity. Nurses must be better prepared to provide care to an aging population with chronic illnesses and receiving care in a variety of health-care, community and home settings. In addition, the focus on global health has a major influence on curriculum.

Increasingly, technological advances affect disease prevention, detection, information management and clinical decision-making. These advances have contributed to a change in how nursing is taught, as well as to a more complex health-care environment that requires greater interdisciplinary collaboration. The growth of knowledge about genetics and subsequent interventions influence the health care of individuals, families and populations. Thus nurses must obtain a foundation in genomics.

Attention to quality and safety in providing patient care is also of great importance. Faculty reviewed the QSEN recommendations and integrated them across the undergraduate curriculum. In addressing the factors that led to curricular changes, the unique qualities of a Villanova Nursing education and Augustinian values remained the cornerstone of the program. 

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continue to guide educational efforts throughout the program.

In line with changes to come, high-fidelity simulation, standardized patients (SPs) and innovative teaching strategies are being introduced to freshmen and threaded throughout their four years. These new strategies have brought about active learning and eliminated reliance on a lecture-based teaching approach.

Clinical practica experiences have been revised to complement the new courses and to reflect changes in health care. High-fidelity simulation and the use of SPs augment the experiences students are gaining in a variety of health-care, community and global settings. Options for clinical enrichment experiences and global health opportunities are continuing to expand nationally and internationally. Faculty oversee curricular development, implementation and evaluation through committees that address these areas.

A unique feature in the curricular design enables seniors to select from seminars focused on clinical or issues-based topics, some of which also will lead to interdisciplinary work. By following an informed and methodical process, and with a focus on Augustinian values, faculty members are continuing to develop Villanova nurses in the evolving health-care and higher education arenas.
Nursing’s Future: the Urgency for Action

While the nursing profession consistently is named one of the most trusted in the country, the public is often in the dark when it comes to identifying what it is that nurses actually do, beyond caring for patients at, say, the hospital bedside. That full spectrum—unfortunately unbeknownst to many—is an exhaustive list that proves crucial in shaping health-care policy, treating a population increasingly beset by chronic conditions; and navigating a rapidly changing, and incredibly complex, health-care system.

The country’s more than 3 million nurses—the largest segment of its health-care workforce—must strive to eliminate that dearth of knowledge. They must change their profession from within, including increasing the number of nurses with advanced degrees, to cement nursing as a science-based field understood as crucial to transforming the health of a nation undergoing dramatic demographic changes. That was a main conclusion of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) 2010 report on “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.”

To better treat patients in an increasingly complex health-care system, and to become more transformative voices in shaping policy, the IOM report urged nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training, to achieve higher levels of education, to shed the image that they are assistants, to work hand-in-hand with physicians and other professionals to redesign health care in the country, and to use data and technology more effectively in their everyday work.

One of the 18 individuals who crafted the IOM’s report vividly brought to life its findings as he gave the College of Nursing’s 34th annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing last fall. Noted Michael Bleich, Ph.D., R.N., NEA-BC, FAAN, “One by one, individual by individual, we start imprinting a message about why the public deserves us and why our science is critical to the health-care system.” Dr. Bleich is dean of and professor at the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College in St. Louis. He spoke on “Framing the Future of Nursing in Higher Education: Urgency for Action,” on November 13, 2012, in the Connelly Center.

Dr. Bleich challenged students and faculty to take a stake in the future of nursing. He called upon them to help rewrite the profession so that everyone within the medical sphere, and the public, understands the wide-reaching, and vastly important, implications for nurses.

“Nursing is the only discipline—the only discipline—that understands the person in the context of the family, in the context of the community,” Dr. Bleich said. “When people say to you, ‘Why do you want to be a nurse? You seem smart enough; you should’ve been a physician,’ you might have something to say back to them. You might say, ‘Well, physicians focus mainly on disease, and my specialty is focusing not just on the individual, but the impact of the disease on the patient, the community and the family—and the dynamics of that. Furthermore...do you know we’re the only discipline that looks at the patient, the family and the community from a holistic perspective? We’re not just fixed on disease. Our science is about illness and how you live with it.’”

Dr. Bleich invoked a number of the IOM report’s key points, including its call for a dramatic increase in the number of nurses who attain bachelor’s degrees and doctorates. By the year 2020, the report stated, 80 percent of nurses should have at least a bachelor’s degree and nursing doctorates should double. The greater a nurse is educated, not only will she or he be better able to navigate the health-care system but will be able to advocate more effectively for the place of nurses in setting health-care policy. This includes creating a system focused more on preventative care than solely responding to illness, he added.

The speaker inspired students to embark on careers that will make a world of difference when it comes to the health of a nation. “Not only was he eloquent and engaging, but he left me thinking about my future as a nurse,” commented Kayla Leslie, a freshman from Westchester, N.Y. “Dr. Bleich emphasized the importance of lifelong learning, so that we never stop evolving in our profession.” Adds freshman Patrick Smith, a Presidential Scholar from Melrose, Mass., “I had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Bleich after his lecture. His passion and interests have further encouraged and affirmed my desire to learn more public policy and examine what I can do to alter the current state of health-care management.”

To view Dr. Bleich’s lecture, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing and click on News & Events.
Immersed in Innovation in Silicon Valley

Two Nursing undergraduates were among the 15 Villanova University students who traveled to northern California’s high-tech Silicon Valley in January for a week of networking with other Villanovans and corporate leaders. As part of a five-day lecture series, they learned from CEOs, directors and presidents of organizations including Apple, McAfee, Twitter, Genentech, Genomic Health and Stanford University. This was the second Villanova in the Valley program organized by the Villanova School of Business (VSB) Center for Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship. The theme “Innovation and Technology: Redefining How We Work, Live and Play,” promoted a dialogue with industry experts and an understanding of company cultures, professional development and capital formation.

Nursing senior Molly Gilmore and junior Karley McBreen joined other Villanovans with such diverse majors as accounting and chemical engineering. A New England native, Gilmore has a minor in business through VSB’s Summer Business Institute. She appreciates that a better understanding of organizations and their business structures could lead to a career in hospital administration. McBreen, of Prospect Park, Pa., agrees that technological advances keep the United States on the forefront of medical advancement. “The profession is always evolving,” McBreen notes, “and with projected changes in health care and its systems, it’s important to understand business and administration.” •

Pediatric Screenings Aid a Montana Reservation

The College of Nursing rekindled a relationship with the Blackfeet Nation in Browning, Mont., when eight second-degree adult Nursing students took part in a 2012 Spring Break pediatric clinical opportunity there. They were guided by Michelle M. Kelly ’94 B.S.N., ’12 Ph.D., CRNP, clinical assistant professor.

The approximately 12,000 members of the Blackfeet tribe, who are predominantly Roman Catholic, live on an expansive reservation. Like many Native Americans, they are susceptible to a variety of health conditions and social disparities. For example, 60 percent are unemployed. There is an alarming high school drop-out rate, as well as high rates of teen pregnancy and alcohol/drug/gambling addictions. The reservation has an Indian Health Services (IHS) 28-bed hospital whose emergency room, the busiest in the state, has eight beds.

During their week absorbing tribal culture, the students mostly worked with 78 children in grades 4-8 at the De La Salle Blackfeet School. The school has no nurse or health educator. Its administrators welcome the relationship with the College, recognizing the potential to bring preventative and screening services to the children.

The students focused on health screenings that meet community needs and address the high rates of poor nutrition and obesity, as well as the risk of diabetes mellitus. They completed blood pressure checks, height/weight/body mass indices and vision screening. To prepare for the experience, Reagan Devine ’06 B.S.N., R.N., a Family Nurse Practitioner student, worked with Dr. Kelly to develop a diabetes screening tool for school-age children. •

The home of this branch of the Blackfeet Nation is a rugged, 1.5 million acre reservation encompassing their ancestral lands.
Meet Four Members of the Board of Consultors

The College of Nursing’s Board of Consultors is comprised of successful leaders in a variety of arenas, including health care, education, business and nonprofits. Each member brings a rich context to his or her advisory role.

Here we feature four members, including the newest one and one concluding his term (see page 30 for a fifth profile, of Donna DiPalma Cassidy ’79 B.S.N.).

Rear Adm. (Ret.) James W. Eastwood ’68 B.C.E. oversees five scholarships benefiting Nursing students.

“In the U.S. Navy, Villanova nurses have ruled the profession.”

Rear Adm. (Ret.) James W. Eastwood ’68 B.C.E. wishes he could talk with his eighth grade teacher from South Philadelphia’s St. Monica School. What would he tell Sr. Miriam Daniel? “I paid attention when she said ‘Always think of others before you think of yourself,’” he said. This NROTC and Engineering graduate of Villanova University, who is also a Vietnam veteran, has served not only his country but his community. That service includes offering his expertise to the College’s Board of Consultors and overseeing five scholarships for Nursing students, which to date have assisted nearly 20 Villanova nurses.

Eastwood credits his upbringing for his endeavors. “I truly believe that my parents and the Catholic education I received are the foundation of my entire outlook on life,” he noted. “My Navy experience taught me that in order to lead you had to take care of those people for whom you were responsible. In building my business, the same concepts applied, which led naturally to looking for other ways to support causes that are important to me.”

In 2001, Eastwood retired from the Navy Reserve as a two-star admiral, having completed his final tour as deputy, vice commander, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic Fleet. Over his distinguished career, he earned numerous service medals and commendations.

His business career has been equally stellar. He has held leadership positions in one of the nation’s first proprietary hospital corporations, which through various transitions became Granary Associates, a facilities development division focused on architecture, design and real estate services for corporate, public and health-care industries nationally. Eastwood, who was appointed executive vice president in 1983, led the company’s expansion and ultimately acquired the firm. He was named chairman in 2004. The firm is now part of the publicly held Canadian-based Stantec, where he is vice president, Program & Project Management for the U.S.

Eastwood’s community service has been wide-ranging, including leading the successful conversion of the Philadelphia Naval Base. He remains connected with his alma mater. “Although I’ve supported the Engineering school for years, I’ve always been drawn to those who give service with humility and tenderness,” he explained, noting that he is a supporter of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, an order he knew as a boy.

Nurses are part of his life. “While in Vietnam, I recognized the great things our nurses were doing,” he said, adding “In the U.S. Navy, Villanova nurses have ruled the profession.” In his civilian role, Eastwood also appreciated the impact of Villanova nurses, observing how they “are tremendously prepared for the workplace. We enroll very talented young people and the University does a great job of educating and expanding their value system already instilled by their parents. Being in the health-care industry for 35 years, I know Villanova nurses have a wonderful reputation. Now we are seeing our graduates as COOs of hospitals. No one really knows what health care will look like in 10 years, but our grads will surely be involved in high levels.”

Looking back, Eastwood is proud of what he—“a little kid from South Philly”—and his wife, Linda, have accomplished. He elaborated, “We have three wonderful children (all Villanovans), one great son-in-law (Villanovan), one beautiful daughter-in-law and four future Villanova grandchildren.” He also appreciates his consultor role: “I enjoy being with the talented board they have assembled and I try to provide guidance with my business acumen and leadership expertise wherever possible.”

Eastwood believes Dean Louise Fitzpatrick and Assistant Dean for Administration Rose O’Driscoll ’64 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. care about their students beyond graduation. He is equally interested in the years to come. “Linda and I are big fans of young people who are so important to the future of this great country,” he said. “We enjoy their enthusiasm and have been inspired by those who want to attend Villanova’s College of Nursing and help where financial support is needed. They inspire us with their attitudes and gratitude....Many of those who have graduated still stay in touch and we know where they are all working.”

Eastwood’s advice to future Nursing students is always the same: “You’re special, do the best you can and never forget where you came from.”
John J. Quindlen ’54 B.A. (Acct.) has more than a few things in common with nurses. This former member of Villanova University’s Board of Trustees and current member of the College’s Board of Consultors not only has a talent for working with a variety of people, but also for educating and mentoring. He held many positions over a lengthy career at E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company, from which he retired 20 years ago as chief financial officer and senior vice president. He “grew up” in the credit division, honing his interpersonal skills, and in his controller position succinctly described his role at the time by stating “I manage trauma.”

Quindlen’s background has been invaluable to the College. He didn’t hesitate to serve on its Board of Consultors when asked by Dean Louise Fitzpatrick, whom he has known for more than 30 years. He appreciates her leadership; she values his perspective as a corporate finance expert and as a Villanova trustee who served for 10 years, several of them spent chairing its finance committee.

Through that trustee lens, Quindlen sees the College of Nursing as “extremely important to Villanova.” In describing the College and adding up its assets and reputation, he translated his sentiment into accounting language: The College is “very much a net plus” for the University.

On the Board of Consultants, he is able to offer a “broad view from a guy who has sat in a lot of seats here...a member of the search committee for the president, as a trustee, chair of the finance committee. I have a sense of what makes this place work,” he noted.

“I can’t help but be impressed by the alumni of the College. The graduates have done extremely well and it says a lot about the school,” Quindlen said with pride. He sees the College playing a pivotal role in health care going forward. “In today’s environment there is a big need for our alumni. They offer a lot and accomplish a lot. We will need even more nurse practitioners,” he observed. He acknowledges that alumni success stems from the unique education Villanova nurses receive. “Credibility takes many shapes,” Quindlen offered, citing an article he wrote for the Villanova School of Business years ago with the theme “There’s more to it than the numbers.” He added, “A person’s education needs to be full.”

Quindlen highlights the intrinsic value of developing a person who can not only problem-solve but identify problems before they occur. “I place a high value on that,” he stated emphatically. “I want someone who can find the curves we haven’t seen yet.” That ability and intelligence required should be matched by the attention paid to people. “Interpersonal skills are critical,” he said speaking of business. “The same applies to health care.”

His personal life is as robust as his career. He and Kitty, his wife of nearly 60 years, have five accomplished children who are Villanova alumni and 14 grandchildren, two of whom are following in his footsteps seeking degrees in business. Community involvement remains part of the persona of Quindlen, who is a former naval officer.

Described in an Archdiocese of Philadelphia news release as being “an active member in Catholic affairs,” Quindlen was appointed in 2010 by then-Cardinal Justin Rigali to the challenging role of chairman of the Blue Ribbon Commission, a strategic advisory group charting the future of Catholic education in the Archdiocese. He has also chaired building committees for two Archdiocesan high schools in the western suburbs of Philadelphia and The Support Trust of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, which administers funds on behalf of elderly and infirm Augustinians.

Still in motion, Quindlen serves on boards, offering fresh ideas and then moving on. He is energized by his golf club board in Vero Beach, Fla., and other interests. Whether in the Philadelphia suburbs or Florida, he maintains his respect for the College’s continuing accomplishments and its alumni.

“I have a sense of what makes this place work,” noted John J. Quindlen ’54 B.A. (Acct.), who served as a Villanova trustee. The College of Nursing, he noted, “has a fine reputation.”
When asked to serve on the College’s Board of Consultors, Brian Reilly drew upon his longstanding admiration for nurses—Jeannette, his wife of 24 years, is one and their daughter Britten is studying to become one at the College—and his respect for a college he believes exemplifies success. He knew his answer would be yes.

Reilly, a managing director at Barclays in investment banking and head of U.S. equity capital markets, said he is thrilled to become part of the Board of Consultors, which Dean Louise Fitzpatrick established in 2007. He met the dean at Britten’s freshman orientation in 2011, when, he noted, he “learned more about the College of Nursing, Villanova University and the Augustinian tradition, and I realized this is a pretty special place.”

Shortly thereafter, Reilly was approached about joining the board by Daniel Finnegan, an inaugural member. Noted Reilly, “I thought, ‘What a great way to become involved with a profession that I care about and that touches my family, while at the same time having the opportunity to help Dean Fitzpatrick and her faculty accomplish their mission.’”

A graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School who has for about 20 years worked in high-level corporate finance leadership roles, Reilly hopes to apply his extensive background in business to the board. As an investment banker, he has advised on several merger and acquisition deals, such as the $15 billion sale of Barclays Global Investors to BlackRock. He has also advised on initial public offerings and other capital raisings for many companies, including Cinemark Holdings, Time Warner, Five Below, Dunkin’ Brands and Vanguard Health.

Reilly lauds Villanova nurses for exemplifying his definition of success. “To me, success is defined by making a difference each day and having the courage to effect change for the better,” he said. “If, at the end of each day, I have made even a small difference in my business or in someone else’s career, I can go to sleep knowing it was a successful day. Isn’t that what Villanova nurses are all about? Villanova University invites all of its students to ‘Ignite Change.’”

He praises the College for its academic, as well as humanitarian, endeavors. “The College of Nursing, through its challenging curriculum and commitment to human service, prepares and empowers future nurses to promote wellness by ‘teaching while they nurse,’” he said. “Villanova, in my mind, clearly is equipping these young nurses with all of the tools necessary to enjoy success over the course of their careers.”

The Reillys, who have three children, live on Long Island. He believes in the power of community service. In addition to his position as a consultor, he serves on the boards of community organizations, including the Police Athletic League in Manhasset, N.Y., for which he also is girls’ lacrosse coach.

“Whether through coaching young athletes, mentoring students or providing any advice I can to a worthy organization, I find it enormously gratifying to make just a small difference in another person’s day, to put a smile on someone’s face, even for just a moment,” Reilly noted. “To me, that is what service is about. It is pretty neat that nurses have the opportunity to do that every day they walk into work.”

Board of Consultors Chairman Richard J. Kreider ’83 B.A. (Acc.) is delighted to have Reilly on the board. Kreider said Reilly’s experience will help to further boost the College as a place of academic excellence. “As we continue to expand and diversify the board, Brian’s background was the perfect fit for us—a business and legal background, as well as a father of a Villanovan,” Kreider said. “From the first time we spoke, I knew he had the desire to ‘Ignite Change,’ and I am extremely happy to have him join our board.”
For more than a decade, helping others advance has been a key part of **Daniel Finnegan’s** relationship with Villanova University and the College of Nursing. In October 2012 he completed his term with the Board of Consultors after serving since 2007 as an inaugural member. He had initially talked through with Dean Louise Fitzpatrick the concept of establishing the board as a means of increasing the visibility of the College.

Finnegan had no affiliation with Villanova until the oldest of his three daughters, Alexandra “Ali” ’03 B.S.N., R.N., received a tennis scholarship from the University. As Morgan Stanley’s executive director for Private Wealth Management, he knew that given the cost of higher education, college was an investment. “As a father, you guide your daughters in the right direction,” he noted. He encouraged them to seek a career in nursing so they could be true to who they are and serve others, but also be successful and self-sufficient. Both Ali and Cathleen “Cassie” ’08 B.S.N., R.N. enjoy their nursing careers at New York City’s Hospital for Special Surgery. Marissa “Missy” ’09 LAS has been equally successful in her career with brand company AOL.

He and his wife, Christine, had not been deeply involved with Villanova until tragedy struck. Ali’s best friend and roommate, Eileen Lupton ’03 B.S.N., died as a result of a porch collapse in Chicago shortly after graduation. Christine and Ali flew to the Midwest to be with the Luptons, and Finnegan called the Rev. John P. Stack, O.S.A., Villanova’s vice president for Student Life, to alert him to the news. Shortly thereafter, Finnegan recalled, “Chris called to tell me Father Stack was on the altar (at Eileen’s funeral). I was touched and impressed. I saw what he did for one of 1,600 graduates and had to ask ‘What can I do to help?’”

Finnegan wanted to honor the memory of Eileen Lupton, whose “smile melted a room.” Recalling much-needed scholarship assistance he received as a senior at The Catholic University of America, he established The Daniel M. and Christine A. Finnegan Endowed Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Eileen S. Lupton ’03. He became involved with the University’s Parents Executive Committee and subsequently met Dean Fitzpatrick. Both believed an advisory group could raise the profile of the College, especially if it brought together people of different backgrounds, including business perspectives. Noted the dean, “Dan encouraged me to form our Board of Consultors. He had experience as a member of the Board of Regents at The Catholic University of America and helped us to lay the groundwork for what has evolved as an outstanding and supportive advisory group.”

Delighted at having seen the construction of Driscoll Hall as Nursing’s new home, Finnegan looks forward to remaining connected to the College as an emeritus member of the board. He knows Augustinian values are demonstrated daily on the campus and by the alumni, especially the nurses. “This group of nurses is what it’s all about,” he said. Villanova “is a beautiful place and I am honored to be a part of it.” He adds, “It’s been nothing but a joy.”

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**Daniel Finnegan “helped us lay the ground work for what has evolved as an outstanding and supportive advisory group.”**

— Dean Louise Fitzpatrick

Having completed his term on the Board of Consultors, Daniel Finnegan calls his relationship with Villanova University and the College of Nursing a “success story.”
Two Juniors Present Their Scholarly Work on Campus

Aurora Vandewark, a junior Honors Nursing student and Presidential Scholar from Kirkland, Wash., received a Villanova Undergraduate Research Fellows (VURF) grant last summer for her project assessing the breastfeeding attitude and knowledge of Nursing students. During her first two years at the College, Vandewark developed a strong interest in maternal-child health. That interest, combined with volunteering in high school at a hospital breast health center, inspired her research. Her faculty mentor was Clinical Assistant Professor Michelle M. Kelly ’94 B.S.N., ’12 Ph.D., CRNP.

Vandewark presented a poster at the Villanova Undergraduate Scholars Day in September 2012, and submitted her findings to the Journal of Human Lactation. She looks forward to incorporating research into her career and is interested in pursuing an M.S.N. in nurse midwifery, eventually earning a Ph.D. in nursing.

Also presenting at Scholars Day was the College’s second VURF grant recipient, junior Joseph J. Dovidio III from Doylestown, Pa. He was shocked to learn that on average 15 people are killed every day and more than 1,200 injured in accidents reportedly involving a distracted driver, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Younger and inexperienced drivers (age 20 and under) have the greatest proportion of distraction-related crashes ending in fatality.

Dovidio felt compelled to investigate further. His research project, “Driving to Distraction and Beyond: A Secondary Analysis of Teen Drivers and Risk Taking Behaviors,” involved data from a 2009 federally funded study by his faculty mentor, Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., professor of Nursing. She focused on Internet risk behaviors and provided him with an avenue to pursue his mission of analyzing preventable deaths in adolescents. As a future nurse, Dovidio feels a great deal of responsibility for this population because “the No. 1 cause of death as reported by the CDC is still accidental injury.”
Four Doctoral Students Named Jonas Scholars

Four Nursing Ph.D. students have been selected as Jonas Scholars for 2012-2013. The Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence is a groundbreaking program that deploys philanthropy to advance the nursing profession through grants and programs designed to develop outstanding faculty, advance scholarship and spark innovative practice. It was established by the Barbara and Donald Jonas Family Fund in 2006.

Terri Ares, M.S.N., RNC-NIC, CNS-BC, who is supported through the College partnership with the Jonas Center, is due to complete her degree requirements this summer. Her dissertation is on “The Professional Socialization of Students in Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs.” Ares is a lecturer at California State University in Dominguez Hills.

Karen May, M.S.N., R.N. in her dissertation focuses on “Assessing Faculty Knowledge of Disability-Related Law and Academic Accommodations.” May is an assistant professor at Neumann University in Aston, Pa. The awards for Ares and May are matched by Villanovans Michael J. ’67 LAS and Theresa Wilson Mruz ’67 B.S.N. of Huntsville, Ala.

Lyn Starrs-Zorn, M.S.N., CRNP, a second-year student, is supported through the Jonas Nursing Scholars Program for Veterans Health. She anticipates completing her coursework in 2017. Starrs-Zorn is a nurse practitioner in the General Surgery/Trauma Service at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Her research will focus on the effects of polytrauma on veterans and their families.

Amy Weaver, M.S.N., R.N., supported through the National League for Nursing’s partnership with the Jonas Center, is due to complete degree requirements this summer. She is an instructor at Youngstown State University in Ohio. Her dissertation title is “The Effect of a Model Demonstration During Debriefing on Students’ Clinical Judgment, Self-Confidence and Learner Satisfaction During a Simulated Learning Experience.”

Education Aims to Reverse Obesity Trends

The College of Nursing’s M. Donald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE) has added to its educational programming. It now offers monthly interdisciplinary webinars.

The second annual COPE conference, “Weight Management Tools to Engage and Sustain Behavior Changes,” took place March 16. It featured best-of-practice examples of interdisciplinary health-care teams working to reverse the obesity trend in both child and adult practice settings. The speakers offered suggestions on “tough talk” about obesity for patients and families, outlined realistic lifestyle changes and reminded the health-care teams that they are part of the solution to this epidemic. A preconference workshop focused on “Sharpen Your Social Media Skills Today!” Participants worked hands-on with their smart phones and laptops to increase their proficiency with social media to serve clients.

Visit villanova.edu/COPE for details and to join COPE Contacts.
A Harvest of Remedies in a Nicaraguan Herb Garden

For more than nine years, Elizabeth Keech ’66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. has been devoting time to Nicaraguan communities, accompanied by students from the College of Nursing. In her work, including home visits to rural villages, the assistant professor of Nursing has observed the frequent use of herbal remedies to treat various ailments, such as burns, snake bites and parasites in children. In part due to extreme poverty and lack of health-care resources, many communities rely upon herbal preparations for their health-care needs.

In developing countries, up to 80 percent of the population use some form of alternative or complementary medicine, according to the World Health Organization. Using herbs for both the treatment and prevention of disease is one of the most commonly practiced forms of complementary medicine in traditional medicine, which is founded on a culture’s health knowledge, beliefs and experiences.

To examine practices in Waslala, Dr. Keech and senior Alexandria “Ally” Reo conducted a study in summer 2012 examining the use of herbal supplements among community health workers and a local herbalist. Reo, a track and field athlete from Parsippany, N.J., asked participants to identify the herbs they used most frequently, what they were used for, their methods of preparation and their perceived effectiveness. Reo noted, “The first challenge was to determine the Latin name of the herbs, as the health workers were using the common name in Spanish.”

Dr. Keech describes their visit with Marcelino, an herbalist: “The home, located in the mountains, had a well-tended garden and a cabin stocked with clearly labeled plant and tree matter. This gentleman had a book that he used as a reference and he was organized and committed to assisting community members. As we explored the garden, the herbalist picked leaves and shared them with us. Many were familiar to us, such as mint and oregano. Others were unknown to us but were fragrant and tasted pleasant. He pointed out one herb that they had come to learn was dangerous to use because it caused kidney damage.”

Once they had overcome language barriers regarding the nomenclature, Dr. Keech and Reo began their study of the function and use of herbs. Through the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database, which Falvey Memorial Library purchased and now can be used by all on campus, they prepared a workshop on safe uses, side effects and contraindications for the herbal preparations. This spring, Dr. Keech and Reo will offer this workshop in Waslala. In November 2012, they presented their findings at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, held in San Francisco.

“Our biggest concern is the belief that a single herb has multiple uses,” noted Dr. Keech. “The likelihood that the herb would have a wide range of uses seems unrealistic. We definitely need much more evidence-based research on the effects of the herbs.”

“We definitely need much more evidence-based research on the effects of the herbs.”
— Elizabeth Keech ’66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.
A path around the globe led three adult students to the College of Nursing. The Peace Corps already had taken them to far-flung countries where they volunteered for two years to aid youth in the Dominican Republic, to teach nutrition in Peru or to assist at a health clinic in Madagascar.

Through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program, these three returning Peace Corps volunteers—Teddy Fitzpatrick, Lauren Gianoni and Hannah Ronning—are now earning a Nursing degree through the accelerated B.S.N. program while continuing to work with underserved populations, this time in the United States.

In December 2010, the Peace Corps selected Villanova as a Coverdell Fellows Program site. Coverdell Fellows may apply to the College’s accelerated B.S.N. program for college graduates with degrees in other fields, or if they already have a B.S.N., they may apply to the College’s graduate programs.

Fitzpatrick, a Texas native who received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in special education from Florida State University, had worked with at-risk adolescents in Texas and taught GED courses to incarcerated students in North Carolina. He then applied to the Peace Corps, and in the Dominican Republic developed after-school reading programs for middle school students with special learning and behavioral needs. He also conducted teacher training workshops focusing on non-traditional teaching methods, classroom management and curriculum adaptation for children with special needs. He hopes to bring to nursing what he experienced in the Dominican Republic: patience, competence and compassion.

Gianoni, of Erie, Pa., served with the Peace Corps in two small towns in Peru—La Cuesta and Samne. A kinesiology graduate of Penn State, in Peru she taught nutrition and English to a group of mothers. She received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from DePaul University and served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar, a large island in the Indian Ocean. In Vohitsara, a village near the country’s largest lake, as a health education volunteer she assisted a midwife at a clinic. She taught women and children about water sanitation, vaccination and nutrition. She led cooking demonstrations for new mothers and organized community health workers to educate individuals in even more remote areas. She also launched a micro loan program to help girls pay for middle school and provided education on HIV/AIDS. Ronning, who now assists newly arrived refugees at the Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia, hopes to pursue a dual master’s program in nursing and public health.

Read more about these students and see additional photos by following the News & Events link on villanova.edu/nursing.
Regional Approach Benefits Advanced Practice Nursing

The College of Nursing has joined eight other area nursing schools with advanced practice programs to form the Graduate Nurse Education Network of Greater Philadelphia. This new network also includes the health systems and ambulatory care clinics that provide clinical placement opportunities.

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) submitted the application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to become a site for a Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration initiative, as mandated under the national Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. HUP, in collaboration with Penn’s School of Nursing, will lead the network over the four years to demonstrate a regional approach to clinical education.

Advanced practice nurses (APRNs) include nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) and nurse midwives (CNMs). The network’s goal is to increase the supply of APRNs to provide access to health-care services for the increasing number of Medicare beneficiaries.

Currently, nursing schools use a variety of sites for clinical education for NPs. A regional view of these sites should increase efficiency. The network will use a state-of-the-art APRN Clinical Training Matching Program, an information systems platform similar to the “Match Day” one familiar to medical students applying for residencies. This program will connect APRN students and sites and handle the myriad documentation and reports.

The College is participating through its NP program and related clinical sites. The hope is that this demonstration project can be replicated nationally.

College Supports “Joining Forces” Initiative

The national “Joining Forces” campaign calls on health professionals to be aware of the health issues facing service members, veterans and their families. In response, at the College of Nursing, Dean Louise Fitzpatrick’s appointment of the “Joining Forces” committee a year ago quickly resulted in a multi-pronged, robust agenda that has drawn in undergraduates, faculty and alumni.

These endeavors include a resolution from the campus chapter of the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) supporting “Joining Forces” and education on traumatic brain injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; a talk by Air Force Capt. Elizabeth Hoettels, M.S.N., R.N.; and a panel from the Coatesville (Pa.) VA Medical Center on suicide prevention among veterans. Faculty members and students were featured presenters at the “Joining Forces to Restore Lives: Nursing Education and Research in Veterans Health” national conference, sponsored by the University of South Florida College of Nursing in November 2012 in Tampa.
Multi-site Study by ANNA Addresses Long-term Dialysis Care at Home

Catheter-related blood stream infection (CRBSI) is a major cause of patient morbidity, mortality and higher health-care costs. For a patient with kidney failure who is dependent on hemodialysis several times a week to rid the bloodstream of the body’s waste products, an infected dialysis catheter is a costly and potentially lethal risk. Reducing infection has become an important safety goal in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Tamara M. Kear ’09 Ph.D., R.N., CNN, assistant professor of Nursing, is a member of the Research Committee for the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA). She was among the five committee members who together received a $15,000 ANNA research grant to investigate how eliminating dressings over hemodialysis catheter insertion sites would impact the rate of CRBSI, since the published literature was inconclusive on this point.

How long-term dialysis patients take care of their catheter sites at home plays an important role in preventing infection. Despite instruction, patients often get their bulky dressings wet while showering, then don’t always change the gauze as they should. Not having a dressing to contend with would be less messy.

The team’s approach involved educating the study’s 49 adult participants from nine Southwestern dialysis units in how to care for the catheter site without using a dressing, and tracking how they fared. One group followed a shower protocol taught by nursing staff; the other was instructed in other bathing options.

Dr. Kear focused on the study’s qualitative aspects, investigating catheter care practices at home before and after study participation, perceptions of the showering procedure, and the showering and catheter care education provided. During the six-month study, she interviewed participants prior to, during and at the completion (not all were able to remain in the study). One participant commented, “I had always been told that catheters were a death sentence, and this showed me that they can be well cared for.”

—a patient in the ANNA study

McKenna Honored for 25 Years of Service to the College

Karen McKenna ’70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., a clinical assistant professor of Nursing who is an expert in diabetes and community and home health, is being honored by the College of Nursing this year for her 25 years of service. She has taught a wide variety of courses and is well versed in public health, international experience and underserved populations. McKenna has coordinated the College’s Connelly-Delouvrier International Scholars Program and has led students on global health experiences to Nicaragua, Honduras, South Africa and, most often, Peru. In Philadelphia, she volunteers at the Catholic Worker Free Medical and Dental Clinic in Kensington, caring for individuals who are homeless or uninsured, and at Unity Clinic.

Internationally and locally, Karen McKenna ’70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. has developed expertise in diabetes, public health and caring for underserved populations.
Building Strong Bones in Elderly Chinese Immigrants in Philadelphia

Older adult Chinese immigrants with low educational and income levels are at high risk for osteoporosis and low bone mineral density. The traditional lifestyle modifications promoted in many U.S. health education programs are not effective for Chinese immigrants due to culture, language and access barriers.

Bing Bing Qi ’94 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, recently received funding from the American Nurses Foundation (ANF) to investigate the impact of an osteoporosis program on immigrant Chinese residing in Philadelphia’s Chinatown.

Three Nursing colleagues serve as consultants. They are Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research; Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D., LDN, assistant professor; and Denice Ferko-Adams, M.P.H., R.D., LDN, director of the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education.

The long-term goal is potentially to halt the increasing prevalence of this debilitating disease in this vulnerable population. Specific goals include to encourage osteoporosis prevention awareness; to increase adoption and adherence to exercise, a calcium-rich diet and osteoporosis medication; and to develop participants’ skills to promote healthy bone density.

The study will be conducted at housing facilities for seniors. Participants will join in classes on healthy cooking and dining and on aerobic and resistance training. The classes have been developed on the social ecological model, which incorporates components known to strengthen self-efficacy and outcome expectations to improve adherence to osteoporosis prevention behaviors related to exercise, diet, and supplements and medication use. The model includes verbal encouragement for evidence of positive osteoporosis preventive behaviors, role modeling, elimination of challenges and ongoing education to incorporate into everyday life. All classes will be conducted by experts who are fluent in Mandarin or in cooperation with an interpreter.

Bing Bing Qi ’94 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. (back row, second from right) seeks to halt osteoporosis among residents of Philadelphia’s Chinatown. She is pictured with her father, Baoming Qi (on her right), and participants in her osteoporosis study who became her good friends.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Angelina C. Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE, assistant dean of the Undergraduate Program, authored two book chapters, “Pelvic Muscle Exercises” and “Perineal Care” in the Evidence Based Practice Book: A Clinical Guide to Evidence Based Practice.

Elizabeth M. Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC, assistant professor, published the FNP Text Addendum in ANCC’s Family Nurse Practitioner Review Manual.

Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS, professor, with Sinead Kemmey ’12 B.S.N., published “Challenges and Strategies in the Recruitment and Retention of Older Adolescents and Young Adult Childhood Cancer Survivors in Research” in Oncology Nursing Forum, 39 (5), 483-490.


Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMH CNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, contributed:
- content on psychiatric medications to McGraw-Hill’s Nurse’s Drug Handbook (7th edition), edited by P.D. Schult; and
- psychiatric-mental health questions to the 2012 NCLEX-RN 250 New-Format Questions: Preparing for the Revised NCLEX-RN.

Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D., LDN, assistant professor, co-authored with Joanna McGrath, M.S.N., R.N., adjunct clinical assistant professor; Kimberly K. Trout, Ph.D., R.N., CNM, associate professor; J. Flanagan and J.D. Frey “A Pilot Study to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Intake in Pregnant Latina Women” in Journal of Primary Care and Community Health, 3 (1), 2-5.

Lynore DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N.-BC, assistant dean and director of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care, published in Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing a guest editorial on “Professional Stewardship” 43 (10), 436 and two Administrative Angles columns on “Should You Have a Speakers’ Table?” 43 (6), 245-246 and “The Real World Is Becoming Clickable” 43 (2), 53-54.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor, published:
- “Urban Seventh Grade Students: A Report of Health Risk Behaviors and Exposure to Violence” in Journal of School Nursing, 28 (2), 130-137; and
- co-authored with S. Gresko “Perceptions of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and How
a Pulmonary Function Printout Influenced Practice” in Nursing Research and Practice (Article ID 794585).


Tamara M. Kear ‘09 Ph.D., R.N., CNN, assistant professor, published:
- “Does the Direct Application of Prooxidone-Iodine Ladden Hemostasis of the Cannulation Site After the Removal of Hemodialysis Needles?” in Nephrology Nursing Journal, 39 (5), 409-412; and
- “Is Intravenous Ascorbic Acid an Effective and Safe Option for Increasing Hemoglobin Levels in Hyporesponders to Epoetin Alfa?” in Nephrology Nursing Journal, 39 (2), 137-140.

Margaret “Peggy” G. Lyons ’87 B.S.N., D.N.P., R.N., CRNI, program coordinator of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care, published:

Bette A. Mariani ’82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, published:
- “The Effect of Mentoring on Career Satisfaction of Registered Nurses and Intent to Stay in the Nursing Profession” in the 2012 Nursing Research and Practice. Epub: doi:10.1155/2012/168278:
- “Our Ethical Responsibility in the Transition to Practice for New R.N.s” in Pennsylvania Nurse, 67 (2), 4-7; and


Ruth A. McDermott-Levy ’96 M.S.N., ’08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, published with N. Kaktins “Preserving Health in the Marcellus Region” in Pennsylvania Nurse, 67 (3), 4-12.


Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Ph.D. Program in Nursing, published:
- a paper, “Preparing for Tomorrow, Today” in MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing, 37 (6), 357; and

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, co-authored with Colleen Avery ’09 B.S.N., R.N. and Patricia M. Haynor, Ph.D., R.N., NHA, associate professor and coordinator of the B.S.N./M.S.N. Gateway Program for R.N.s, “Interactions of People with Disabilities with Nursing Staff during Hospitalization” in American Journal of Nursing, 112 (4), 30-37.

Joyce S. Willens ’83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.-BC, assistant professor, published in Pain Management Nursing:
- with C. DePascale and J. Penny “Role Delineation Study for the American Society for Pain Management Nursing,” 11 (2), 68-75;
- “Why Does It Take So Long to Process My Manuscript?” 13 (2), 69; and

FACULTY LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS


Elizabeth M. Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC, assistant professor, was named to the “Top 100 Nursing Faculty 2012, B.S.N. to M.S.N. Online.” She joined colleagues in presenting a lecture, a poster and a workshop at the American College of Nurse Practitioners National Clinical Conference, in October 2012 in Toronto. She co-authored the poster “Disability-Related Content in Nurse Practitioner Programs: Need for Change,” with Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, and Lisa Wetzel-Elfinger ’09 M.S.N., R.N. Dr. Blunt gave the lecture “Minor Procedures: Part Deux” and a skills workshop on “Minor Procedures: Part Deux” with adjunct faculty member Colleen Stellabotte, M.S.N., CRNP.

Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS was promoted to the rank of professor.

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMHCBN, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, presented “Evaluation of a Co-parenting Program” at the 7th Annual Crozer-Key- stone Health System Nursing Research Symposium at Widener University, Chester, Pa., in October 2012.


Christine M. Crumlish ’74 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCN, ACNS-BC and Catherine Todd Magel, Ed.D., R.N., BC, assistant professors, received the 2011-2012 MEDSURG Nursing Research for Practice Writer’s Award from the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN was promoted to the rank of professor and in October 2012 was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.
Denice Ferko-Adams, M.P.H., R.D., LDN, director of the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education, received the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ 2012 Medallion Award in October at the 2012 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Philadelphia.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, in May 2012 took part in an invitational conference in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss the Ministry of Health’s Strategic Plan for the Future of Health Care Services and the Education of Health Care Professionals. In New York City in October 2012, she was the guest speaker at the Centennial Celebration of Nurses’ Educational Funds, Inc. (NEF), on whose board she has served for 30 years. Her talk included highlights of NEF’s history and the importance of private philanthropy to the development of postgraduate and graduate education in nursing. NEF’s celebration took place at the Cornell University Medical School Faculty Club. Dean Fitzpatrick was named to a two-year term on the International Academic Nursing Alliance, an advisory council of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Tamara M. Kear ’09 Ph.D., R.N., CNN, assistant professor, received a grant for “Hypertension in Haitian Immigrants Living in the Dominican Republic: An Investigation of Rural Sugar Cane Communities” from the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. She presented a poster on that topic at the American Academy of Nursing’s 39th Conference in Washington, D.C., in October 2012.


Margaret “Peggy” G. Lyons ’87 B.S.N., D.N.P., R.N., CRNI, program coordinator of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care, received the 2012 Research Award from the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International in November 2012.

Bette A. Mariani ’82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, will be working with colleagues on grant-funded projects:

• “What’s Wrong with This Patient: Integrating Quality and Safety Through Simulation,” with co-principal investigators Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS; professor;

• “A Qualitative Study Exploring Faculty Perspective, Insight and Perceptions on Structured Debriefing,” with co-principal investigators Dr. Cantrell and Colleen M. Meakim ’84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the Learning Resource Center.

Amy E. McKeever ’08 Ph.D., R.N., CRNP, assistant professor, in May 2012 gave the keynote speech, “Nursing Scholarship: From Passion to Clinical Practice,” at the Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony at Temple University College of Health Professions and Social Work, Department of Nursing.

Kelly Ann P. Nestor ’06 B.S.N., ’08 M.S.N., ANP-BC, clinical instructor, presented a poster, “A Smart Prescribing Lesson,” at the American College of Nurse Practitioners Annual Clinical Conference in October 2012 in Toronto. She and Elizabeth M. Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC, assistant professor, received a Villanova University Vital Grant for “Use of Standardized Patients in NP Education.” Last fall, she was elected an at-large member of the Policy, Education and Practice Committee for The Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 B.S.N., ’05 M.S.N., ’11 Ph.D., R.N., CNE, adjunct clinical instructor, presented a poster, “The Effect of Simulation Training on Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Competency in Performing IM Injection,” at Sigma Theta Tau International’s Innovations in Nursing Education Research Conference, held in Indianapolis in June 2012.

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Ph.D. Program in Nursing, gave a keynote address, “Nursing Scholarship: Today’s Evidence, Tomorrow’s Opportunities,” at the Delaware Nurses Association in October 2012. She also gave three presentations:

• “Treasurer Basics,” with J. Burdine and “Millennium Development Goals: What They Mean for Nursing Practice,” both at Sigma Theta Tau International’s Leadership Academy, held in Indianapolis in September 2012; and

• “Using Evidence to Improve Healthcare Delivery and Outcomes,” at the Annual Nurses Week Lectureship at Saint Francis Hospital, Wilmington Del., in May 2012.

Suzanne C. Smeletzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, presented:

• a webinar, “Approaches to Training Healthcare Providers on Working with Patients with Disabilities” in October 2012 for the Association of University Centers on Disability;

• a webinar, “Women’s Health Issues Over a Lifespan” for an ARC HealthMeet in January;

• a faculty development program, “Preparing Tomorrow’s Nurses to Care for Persons with Disabilities” in September 2012 for Widener University’s College of Nursing; and

• a lecture, “Adequacy of NP Programs in Preparing Graduates to Care for Patients with Disabilities,” in October 2012 for the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting and Expo, held in San Francisco. Co-authors of the paper it was based on were Elizabeth M. Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC, assistant professor; H. Marozsan; and Lisa Wetzel-Effinger ’09 M.S.N., R.N.

Jodie Szlachta ’07 M.S.N., ’11 Ph.D., CRNA, associate program director of the Villanova University College of Nursing/Crozer–Chester Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia, was re-elected to a two-year term on the board of The Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, associate professor, was selected as the National Student Nurses Association 2012 Honorary Member. In November 2012 she was named Advisor of the Year for the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania.

Bette Wildgust ’97 M.S.N., M.S., CRNA, clinical associate professor and program director for the Villanova University College of Nursing/Crozer–Chester Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia, received the 20th Annual Program Director of the Year Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in August 2012 at its annual meeting, held in San Francisco.


Suzanne T. Zamerowski, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, presented:

• a lecture on “Genomics for the Advance Practice Nurse,” in November 2012 at the College of New Jersey; and

• a paper on “Genomic Health Care: A Primer for Developmental Disability Nurses,” at a meeting in July 2012 of the Developmental Disability Nurse Association in King of Prussia, Pa.
Faculty Experts Present at National Conferences

2012 NLN EDUCATION SUMMIT


- a paper by Bette Mariani ’82 B.S.N.,Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, and Angelina C. Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE, clinical assistant professor and assistant dean and director of the Undergraduate Program, on “Student and Registered Nursing Staff’s Perceptions of 12-Hour Clinical Rotations in an Undergraduate Baccalaureate Nursing Program”;

- a paper by Elizabeth Bruderle ’90 B.S.N.,Ph.D., R.N., clinical assistant professor, and Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 B.S.N., ’05 M.S.N., ’11 Ph.D., R.N., CNE, adjunct clinical instructor, on “No More Abandoned Notebooks: Freshman Capstone Scenarios Bridge Content”; and

- a poster by Ph.D. student Terri Ares, M.S.N., RNC-NIC, CNS-BC, on “An A.N.D. and B.S.N. Concurrent Enrollment Model.”

CONTINUING EDUCATION’S 39TH PNEG CONFERENCE

“Nurse Educators: On a Journey of Excellence” was the theme of the College of Nursing’s Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care’s 39th Annual National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development. It took place in Philadelphia on October 25-28, 2012, in cooperation with the Professional Nurse Educators Group.

Villanova’s CE program has hosted the conference for the last three years. Participants from five Canadian provinces, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Iceland, as well as 34 states, attended. Among the faculty and staff presentations were:

Presentations:

- Angelina C. Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE, clinical assistant professor and assistant dean and director of the Undergraduate Program, and Frances M. Amorim, M.S.N., R.N., CCE, coordinator for Clinical Education
- Colleen M. Meakim ’84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the Learning Resource Center, “Standards of Best Practice for Patient Simulation.”

Four of the College’s five presenters at the NLN Summit were (from left) Angelina C. Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE; Elizabeth Bruderle ’90 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.; Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 B.S.N., ’05 M.S.N., ’11 Ph.D., R.N., CNE; and Bette Mariani ’82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. With them is Lesley A. Perry, Ph.D., R.N., associate dean and professor of Nursing.

SOUTH FLORIDA’S “JOINING FORCES” CONFERENCE

Nursing faculty and students, both graduate and undergraduate, were featured presenters at the “Joining Forces to Restore Lives: Nursing Education and Research in Veterans Health Conference,” sponsored by the University of South Florida College of Nursing. It took place in November 2012 in Tampa (see page 22).

Presentation:

- Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, “The Lived Experience of Verbal Abuse for Military Wives: Why is This Happening?”

Posters:

- Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Ph.D., NP-C, R.N., assistant professor, and Nursing senior John Barrow, “After the War: Personal Experiences of Health Care as Told by United States Veterans of the Vietnam Conflict”; and
Grant Supports Study of Doctoral Teaching and Research

The College of Nursing continues to contribute to nursing education through its scholarly endeavors. The latest faculty study, conducted through the College’s Center for Nursing Research, is “The Effect of Teaching Demands on Research Productivity of Doctoral Program Faculty.” The study is supported by nearly $300,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Evaluating Innovations in Nursing Education program.

Principal investigator Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the center, explains that the project aims to examine the research productivity and scholarship of faculty who teach and mentor doctoral students. She and her Nursing co-investigators, Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., professor, and Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Ph.D. Program in Nursing, also plan to assess perceptions of faculty and administrators about the effect of involvement in doctoral education and specific barriers and benefits to productivity associated with involvement.

Amidst the call to double the number of nursing faculty with doctorates and the need to increase the scientific base of nursing practice, the subject has become a critical one for nursing education. The researchers hope ultimately to identify the successful strategies that faculty employ to achieve work-life balance and to maintain research productivity.

Disability Simulations Funded with Grant from ASPE

The work of incorporating into the curricula the care of people with disabilities continues at the College of Nursing. A grant from the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE) will support the use of standardized patients (SPs) with disabilities in the undergraduate program. This complements the work being undertaken through another grant supporting the use of SPs with disabilities in the graduate-level Nurse Practitioner curriculum.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, submitted the proposal to ASPE and directs the project. Her team members include Elizabeth Bruderle ’90 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., clinical assistant professor; Colleen M. Meakin ’84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the Learning Resource Center; assistant professors Bette Mariani ’82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. and Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Ph.D., NPC, R.N.; and Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 B.S.N., ’05 M.S.N., ’11 Ph.D., R.N., CNE, adjunct clinical instructor.

The overall goal is to improve the ability of Nursing undergraduates to care for people with disabilities. The team’s philosophy is that “people with disabilities are or should be in charge of their own care and truly are the experts on their disability.”

The project will include training people with disabilities to serve as SPs and exploring their perceptions of the student interactions, as well as evaluating the communication skills and attitudes of the students and their reactions to the encounters.
BREAKFAST BRINGS TOGETHER SCHOLARS AND DONORS

Special friends of the College of Nursing make possible the education of many future Villanova nurses. Scholarship recipients and their families had a chance to meet and thank their generous donors, as well as share their Villanova stories, at the annual Scholarship Breakfast, held in Driscoll Hall on September 15, 2012, during Villanova University’s Parents’ Weekend.

The Robert and Frances Capone Scholarship
Meghan E. Linnehan, junior, Nashua, N.H.
Pamela M. and John W. Cembrook Family Endowed Scholarship
Vallena Lipske, freshman, Sebastopol, Calif.
Beatrice A. Chase ’54 Scholarship for Nursing
Victoria R. Steiner, junior, Syracuse, N.Y.
David and Christine Clark ’94 Endowed Scholarship
Kelly Lam, freshman, Forest Hills, N.Y.
Richard W. and Martha B. Coyle Nursing Scholarship
Heather Yin, junior, Denver, Colo.
The Frances Farrell D’Ambrist Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Kari Miller, sophomore, Roughkeepes, N.Y.
Makenzie Miller, sophomore, Riverton, N.J.
Dean’s Nursing Scholarship
Samantha Goff, junior, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
The Eastwood Family Nursing Scholarship
Stephanie J. Gailor, senior, Lancaster, Pa.
Sarah E. Sheerin, freshman, Lancaster, Pa.
The Linda D. and James W. Eastwood ’68 Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Kathryn Farrell, freshman, Drexel Hill, Pa.
Kathryn Scully, sophomore, Springfield, Pa.
PPJOC Endowed University Scholarship
Carolyn Peng, senior, Philadelphia
The Memorial Endowment of Margaret S. and Jeremiah J. Enrique
Meghan E. Linnehan, junior, Nashua, N.H.
Melissa Pfeifer, sophomore, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
Gregory Thesing, freshman, Millville, N.J.

The Eileen Greyson Hoffman ’61 Scholarship for Nursing
Jessica Lee, senior, Albany, N.Y.
Mary Alice Holland Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Conte, senior, Glen Mills, Pa.
The Kreider Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Maggie Wang, senior, Philadelphia
The Eileen S. Lupton ’03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Marie E. McClure, senior, Coatesville, Pa.
Gerald M. and Carolyn A. Miller Family Scholarship
Heather Yin, junior, Denver, Colo.
The Mother Teresa Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Established by Peter and Colleen Schleider in Memory of Richard and Ellen Wright
Esther Lee, sophomore, Fullerton, Calif.
Hyein “Katie” Lee, freshman, Oakland Gardens, N.Y.
The Mary V. O’Donnell Endowed University Scholarship
Elizabeth M. Long, sophomore, Kensington, Conn.
The Col. Julia B. Paparella and Dr. Benedict A. Paparella Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Karley R. McBreen, junior, Prospect Park, Pa.
Daniel D. Peschio, Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Kristyn Hydock, senior, Deland, Fla.
The Pizzi Family Nursing Scholarship
Kathryn Farrell, freshman, Drexel Hill, Pa.
Jolyssa Lewis, sophomore, Philadelphia
The Pompizzi Family Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Zoe Gasparotti, senior, Cockeysville, Md.
The Alexis Rosenberg Foundation Endowed Scholarship
Maureen T. Lynch, junior, Hillsborough, N.J.
The Margaret Mary Starzynski Memorial Fund Scholarship
Ashley Phillips, sophomore, Maplewood, N.J.
Nicholas Strickler, senior, Levittown, Pa.

For more information regarding donation to scholarship funds or other opportunities within the College of Nursing, contact Sue Stein, University Advancement officer for the College, at (610) 519-7980 or by e-mail at sue.stein@villanova.edu.
Cassidys Fund Two Doctoral Scholarships

Joseph Cassidy ’79 VSB and his wife, Donna DiPalma Cassidy ’79 B.S.N., have long believed that they want to leave the Earth in better shape than they found it.

From that belief, in 2012 they established two College of Nursing scholarships for third-year Ph.D. in Nursing students in good standing, including The Donna DiPalma Cassidy ’79 Nur and Joseph Cassidy ’79 VSB Doctoral Nursing Scholarship Fund. The Eileen A. Dowrick Doctoral Nursing Scholarship Fund honors Joseph Cassidy’s mother, who passed away in May 2012; her family and friends joined him in contributing to the fund. The first recipient is Adaorah NU Azotam ’09 M.S.N., CRNP, PNP-BC (see page 31).

“We have been fortunate in life and feel the need to share our success by presenting opportunities to individuals with similar aspirations,” Joseph Cassidy said. “We have always maintained a spirit of giving, but sponsoring scholarships allows us to connect with recipients on a more personal level.”

The inspiration to create the two scholarships came after the couple heard Dean Louise Fitzpatrick speak about the future of nursing in the United States, and specifically about the shortage of nursing faculty across the nation.

“When you think of the aging population in this country, we need to be producing more qualified nurses, not fewer,” Joseph Cassidy noted. “This got Donna and me thinking—how do we reverse this trend? After some discussion, we concluded finances must play a big part in deciding whether, and how, to continue with an advanced nursing degree. What if we could lighten the financial burden of the educators or nurses by providing scholarship money?”

The Cassidys, who met during their senior year at Villanova, have long been involved with the University. A conference room in Driscoll Hall’s Administrative Suite was named in honor of Donna Cassidy through the generosity of her husband. For the last dozen years he has been a volunteer for Villanova’s Office of University Admission through the Alumni Recruiting Network, attending high school fairs and answering questions, while growing the Connecticut program into a robust one. He also interviews accepted students applying for merit scholarships, and the Cassidys host receptions for accepted students from Connecticut. In 2004 he received Villanova’s Goodwill Ambassador Award.

Donna Cassidy, who represented the Class of 1979 at the Inauguration of the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., as University president, serves on the College’s advisory board. “I am honored to be a member of the Board of Consultants,” she said. “I have enormous respect for Dean Fitzpatrick and all the professors and staff. They have collectively created an educational environment that both teaches and nurtures its students to be outstanding health-care providers and leaders in industry and the community.”

As a Nursing alumna she understands well how the College prepares students for the real world, which for her meant her former role as a pediatric nurse. The College’s “mission, even to this day, is to look at and treat every person as a human being,” she noted, which prepared her to “work and live in a diverse society.”

“Villanova taught me to treat everyone with compassion and kindness, which still drives every aspect of my life with my family, friends, work and volunteering,” she added. The College’s nurses “are people who are able to function well in society and create a world that will some day be better for all of us.”

Active on behalf of the nurturing university where they met as students, Joseph Cassidy ’79 VSB and his wife, Donna DiPalma Cassidy ’79 B.S.N., through their philanthropy are responding to the need to produce more nursing faculty.

A n anonymous donor has signed a pledge to establish the Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick Endowed Scholarship. Additional contributions by others may be made to this fund.

In 2012, Lisa Freer ’91 B.S.N. and her husband, Brad, started a fund to create the Lisa Smith Freer ’91 and Bradford F. Freer College of Nursing Endowed Scholarship for undergraduate Nursing students.

Please contact Sue Stein by phone at (610) 519-7980 or by email at sue.stein@villanova.edu for more information.

TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED
ALUMNA BECOMES FIRST DOWRICK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

It is impossible to separate the future of Adaorah NU Azotam ’09 M.S.N., CRNP, PNP-BC from the suffering she has seen. A former PICU nurse at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and now a pediatric nurse practitioner in the emergency room of St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, she knows how horrific it is to encounter abused children coping with their world of pain.

“It’s a huge problem,” said Azotam, a third-year Ph.D. in Nursing student. “I saw so many times children who were on life support for head injuries that were inflicted. It was very, very sad. I dealt with that on a daily basis.” She quickly realized that nurses were some of the most important people in the fight against child abuse, yet they did not always feel empowered to report it.

That awareness set Azotam on the path to her dissertation. She is researching if state-mandated education on child abuse for nurses seeking licensure or re-licensure makes a difference when it comes to reporting abuse. She will compare the policies of four states—Pennsylvania, New York, Iowa and Minnesota—to see what works, and what does not.

Azotam hopes her research will make an impact on the education of nurses and, ultimately, in the lives of countless helpless children who must rely on mandated reporters to draw attention to their situation. She credits Villanova with allowing her to recognize her dream and research such issues. Her dream—and dissertation—just got a $10,000 boost, thanks to being named the first recipient of The Eileen A. Dowrick Doctoral Nursing Scholarship Fund.

“Having met the [Cassidy] family during Homecoming, I am excited to find that we had many things in common. I am proud to carry on the legacy of Eileen Dowrick through my research and continued aid to vulnerable populations,” she said.

Azotam’s parents hail from Nigeria, where her grandmother was a midwife. Since coming to Villanova in 2008 to begin the Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner master’s program, she has fallen in love with the College and been inspired and blessed by its passionate students and faculty who seek to change the world.

After completing her Ph.D., she hopes to keep one foot in academia and the other in the clinical world. Some day she would love to return to her home country to bring medical equipment and to work. Whatever she ends up doing, and wherever she may be, Azotam believes it will always have the scent of Villanova: of compassion, justice and a desire to make everyone’s life better. •

Help the College of Nursing Reach 60 for Sixty!

In honor of this 60th Anniversary of the College of Nursing, the 1842 Heritage Society has set a goal to inspire 60 new members from the College of Nursing or individuals whose gift will one day support the College. Join the 1842 Heritage Society by:

• Naming the College of Nursing in your Will or estate plans
• Including the College as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy
• Making a life income gift benefiting both you and the College.

These types of gifts either cost you nothing during your lifetime or pay you income, and you will receive special membership benefits. But most of all, through your inspired generosity, you will leave a legacy for the College of Nursing and future generations of Villanovans.

Contact Steve Grouke, planned giving specialist for the College of Nursing, by phone at (610) 519-3587 or by e-mail at stephen.grouke@villanova.edu to learn how you can be part of this exciting initiative and help us reach 60 for Sixty!

“I am grateful for the care and compassion my daughter received from the Cardiac Care nurses at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia who helped save her life—many of which were graduates of the Villanova College of Nursing. This is why I am so inspired to make such a gift.”

— John Scalia ’87 VSB

“Giving back to the College of Nursing through a bequest in my estate plans helps to support educational opportunities for future students and keep the Villanova legacy alive.”

— Grace Spena ’80 B.S.N., ’85 M.S.N.

1842 HERITAGE SOCIETY VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
Mother and Daughter Alumnae Share Core Values

There is an adage about apples not falling far from trees. For at least one pair of College of Nursing mother-daughter alumnae, the saying is true.

At Syracuse University, Janice Filicetti ’82 M.S.N., R.N. was glad she started her nursing career with a B.S.N. “so I didn’t have to play catch-up to pursue a graduate degree,” she recalls. She soon enrolled in Villanova University’s first graduate Nursing program class, earning her M.S.N. in Nursing Administration. From there Filicetti launched her 20-year career in nursing administration, beginning as the assistant director of nursing in education and research at Philadelphia’s Fox Chase Cancer Center. In 1991 she moved on to St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center in Lawrenceville, N.J., where she was the director of nursing and became certified in rehabilitation nursing. She now enjoys a busy life as a “retired” nurse.

Felicetti’s role modeling of professional nursing and achievements were not lost on her children, especially her youngest daughter, Carol Filicetti Chwal ’91 B.S.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., R.N. Chwal knew early on that she, too, wanted to be a nurse but more importantly to “be a Villanova nurse.” Chwal credits her education as “opening many doors for me both as a staff nurse but also now in leadership.” It “gave me the skills that helped me to quickly adapt into the diversity of the healthcare environment. In fact, my Villanova Nursing education helped me become an assistant nurse manager on my unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania after only 16 months.”

“My Villanova Nursing education helped me become an assistant nurse manager on my unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania after only 16 months.”

—Carol Filicetti Chwal ’91 B.S.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., R.N.

education with a professional nurse who also provides patient care.

Of the programs Chwal is involved with or created, her role as a founding member of the Philadelphia Area Magnet™ Consortium (2009) is a highlight. This consortium brings nursing staff from more than 10 Magnet™ hospitals together quarterly to share ideas and create initiatives; it annually hosts a conference attended by more than 100. Magnet™ hospitals represent fewer than 7 per cent of all hospitals in the world and are recognized for their high-quality patient care, innovative practices, nurse empowerment and engagement for a strong professional practice environment. Chwal credits her time at the College as giving her “the background for being able to pull something of this scale together because I know what excellence in nursing is all about.”

Chwal is committed to helping nurses who have an identified substance abuse problem, an interest that developed when she became a clinical nurse specialist after earning her M.S.N. She began the Helping Hands program at AMH to focus on identifying and preventing chemical dependency among professional nurses. The program promotes a healthy work culture that recognizes the significant challenges individuals have and encourages them to come forward for support and assistance. Helping Hands works in collaboration with other AMH-based programs and the Pennsylvania Peer Nurse assistance program.

Chwal recalls how special it was to have her mother affix her Nursing pin at Convocation. Both alumnae embody the mission, heart and education of the College of Nursing.
NURSING ALUMNI NOTES

1950s
Rosalie Ghilardi Miranda ’59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. in April 2012 was honored by the Catholic Philanthropic Literary Institute at its 50th Father Edward J. Sourin Memorial Award Dinner in Philadelphia. Dr. Miranda, president of Neumann University in Aston, Pa., was recognized for her tireless advocacy in promoting its Catholic Franciscan identity. The College of Nursing awarded her a Medallion in 1999.

1960s
Mary Elizabeth Halphen Greipp ’60 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., FAAN in May 2012 received the Rutgers University School of Nursing Alumni Nursing Excellence Award. She was recognized for extraordinary and enduring contributions to the nursing profession as a leader, scholar and educator/clinician. Dr. Greipp is a professor emerita at Rutgers.

Judy Colla ’65 B.S.N., CNM, M.P.H. in October 2012 received the Clinical Star Award from the American College of Nurse-Midwives Foundation, celebrating her longevity in the field of midwifery. She has been in clinical practice continuously since 1975, having spent her entire career at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. A teacher and mentor to countless midwives, she is described as “the elder stateswoman of Penn OB/GYN and Midwifery Care. Her clinical expertise and experience are widely respected by the nurses, attending physicians, residents and midwife colleagues with whom she works.” Colla, a trailblazer in the region, in 1977 created with a physician colleague The Midwife and The Doctor, a pioneering model of CNM/M.D. collaboration. It empowers women through their experiences during pregnancy and childbirth.

1970s
Mary D. Naylor ’71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and the director of New-Courtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in September 2012 received The President’s Award from the Friends of the National Institute for Nursing Research. It honors her successful gerontological research program examining quality and economic indicators and her tireless advocacy in the care of older adults. In November Dr. Naylor was awarded the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging from the Gerontological Society of America, an honor recognizing practice that is informed by research and analysis and research that directly improves policy and practice. Her clinical trials have proven that patients who were discharged in the care of a nurse-led transition team achieve better quality of life than those who did not receive transitional care. Dr. Naylor is a member of the College of Nursing’s Board of Consultants and Villanova University’s Board of Trustees.

Donna Torrisi ’72 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP, FAAN, network executive director of the Philadelphia-based Family Practice and Counseling Network, and Susan Warner Salmond ’73 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., CNE, CTN, ANEF, FAAN. dean of the School of Nursing, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, were inducted as Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing on October 13, 2012, in Washington, D.C. Dr. Salmond was also inducted as a Fellow into the National League for Nursing (NLN) 2012 Academy of Nursing Education in September at the NLN Education Summit in Anaheim, Calif. Last August, Torrisi was asked to serve on the Advisory Board for the Johnson & Johnson-Duke Nurse Leadership Program, a one-year certificate program at Duke University to prepare APNs as leaders and partners in addressing the gap in health-care services to the underserved.

Loretta Quigley ’75 B.S.N., M.S., R.N. is academic dean at St. Joseph’s College of Nursing in Syracuse, N.Y. She oversees all major academic operations of the college.

Helene Moriarty ’77 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., nurse researcher at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center, spoke in June 2012 to the College of Nursing’s second-year Ph.D. students in Driscoll Hall. Her topic was mixed methodology in research—collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data.

1980s
Paula Devlin Agosto ’85 B.S.N., R.N., M.H.A. in January was named senior vice president and chief nursing officer of The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She is responsible for advancing nursing and respiratory practice and leading nursing research while supporting the hospital’s commitment to exceptional patient care. Her extensive leadership experience includes successful cross-organizational improvement and operating plan initiatives. She began her career there in 1985 as a PICU staff nurse.

Catherine Lovecchio ’85 B.S.N., ’08 Ph.D., R.N. and Mary Jane K. DiMattio ’92 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. co-authored a 2012 article with S. Hudacek. “Clinical Liaison Nurse Model in a Community Hospital: a Unique Academic-

Don’t Miss Out on News and Updates from the College

The College of Nursing is moving more and more to electronic communications. Without your e-mail address, we cannot provide you with important information about your alma mater. The College uses the Villanova University alumni database, so your update will go to that office.

It’s quick and easy by any of these methods:

1 PHONE
Call 1-800-VILLANOVA (1-800-845-5266)

2 E-MAIL
Send an e-mail to alumni@villanova.edu

3 ONLINE
Update your Nova Network profile information online at www.villanova.edu/advance/alumni/vuonline.htm

We look forward to staying in touch with you!
Dear Fellow Alumni,

The Nursing Alumni Association (NAA) has been very active this past year, most notably hosting two very successful networking events, in Philadelphia and Bryn Mawr, Pa. We had a diversity of class years in attendance, as well as some soon-to-be-alums from the accelerated B.S.N. program. Additionally, the NAA partnered with the Villanova University Alumni Association for two events in New York City and northern New Jersey to encourage participation at regional alumni chapter networking opportunities. We plan to host and partner for other events in the spring; please watch for details.

Thank you to all of you who responded to my membership plea last summer. Our organization cannot continue without your support. Having said that, our board is in the middle of overhauling the membership campaign process, and you will hear much more about that in 2013. Our goals are to articulate fully the value of membership, and keep it simple to join and simple to maintain.

Villanova University’s College of Nursing has been an important part of my life since graduation—and I’m certain you feel the same. The College has prepared us, and continues to prepare students for the challenges of health care in the 21st century, and has given us many career choices and opportunities.

Your support of your Nursing Alumni Association is critical. Learn more by following the link on villanova.edu/nursing.

Be part of our collective future and stay connected to the College of Nursing.

I hope you were able to return to campus for the College of Nursing’s 60th Anniversary Day of Celebration on April 6, which was a very joyful occasion. Villanova nurses around the world can take pride in the College’s first six decades of achievements, and we look forward to being part of many more.

Joanne F. Gurney ’71 B.S.N., ’88 M.S.N., R.N.
President, Nursing Alumni Association

Mary Ellen Smith
Glasgow ’87 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., ACNS-BC
in August 2012 became professor and dean of the School of Nursing at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, bringing broad experience as a nurse educator and scholar to her new role. Formerly professor and associate dean for nursing and continuing nursing education at Drexel University, the alumna is a 2010 recipient of the College of Nursing’s Medallion for Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Education.

1990s
Kathy Bowles ’90 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, along with a colleague, on August 21, 2012 rang the NASDAQ Stock Market closing bell. The work of Dr. Bowles’ research team led to the development of a proprietary discharge decision support system, D2S2, used by RightCare Solutions, LLC. This system helps both health-care providers and insurers better manage the discharge process and improve patient care, thus effectively reducing costs.

Stephanie D. Conners ’93 B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., NEA-BC in June 2012 became senior vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer (CNO) at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J., a 600-bed academic medical center. She was most recently CNO of Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, a position she held since 2004.

Theresa “Terri” Adams ’95 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. in June 2012 successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in the interdisciplinary leadership program at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa. Her dissertation title is “The Evaluation of Service-Learning as an Innovative Strategy to Enhance B.S.N. Students’ Transcultural Self-Efficacy.” She is an assistant professor of nursing at Alvernia.

Salwa Al-Obeisat, D.N.Sc., ’95 M.S.N. was promoted to associate professor at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, where she teaches maternal and child health nursing, women’s health issues,
adolescent health and health promotion. From 2003 to 2006 she served as dean of the nursing school at Hashemite University in Zarqa, Jordan. A mother of five children, she also has served on or advised several national and international committees with a focus on the health of women and children.

2000s

Catherine “Kate” Loeper McDonald ’00 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. in August 2012 received a $930,796 NIH-funded five-year award to support “Promoting Teen Health: A Web-Based Intervention to Prevent Risky Driving.” Building on her past predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, this award prepares her for a research-intensive career developing and testing web-based interventions directed toward threats to teen health. Dr. McDonald is the Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Patricia Marie Gresham ’01 M.S.N., R.N., ANP-BC, CCRN in September 2012 joined the faculty of South Texas College in McAllen as an associate degree nursing instructor.

Raja Jadelhack ’02 M.S.N., R.N., a student in the College’s Ph.D. in Nursing program, has published an article, “Health Promotion in Nursing and Cost-effectiveness,” in the summer 2012 Journal of Cultural Diversity, 19 (2), 65-68. In Saudi Arabia, she is nursing director, Jeddah Region, Directorate of Health Affairs, Ministry of Health.

Bridgette Carter Brawner ’03 B.S.N., Ph.D., APRN in summer 2012 was appointed as assistant professor of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She earned both an M.S. and a doctorate from Penn’s School of Nursing and was named the first Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow there. Villanova’s College of Nursing honored Dr. Brawner with the Emerging Scholar Award in 2012.

Lt. Cmdr. Katie Brennan Macapagal (U.S.N., NC) ’03 B.S.N., ’10 M.S.N., CPNP, CPN, RNC, CLC (center) in January moved to Yokosuka, Japan, with her husband, Paul, a naval public affairs officer. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner in the pediatric clinic at Naval Hospital Yokosuka. On January 4, before leaving the Washington, D.C. area, she was promoted to lieutenant commander. She is seen here with her classmates and former Navy nurses Jessica Wagner Bonds ’03 B.S.N., R.N. (left) and Courtney Crane Charest ’03 B.S.N., R.N., who attended the celebration.

Kristen Kreider Triesch ’05 B.S.N., R.N. has completed her M.S.N. in the family nurse practitioner specialty at Long Island University.

Lt. Elyse Braxton (U.S.N., NC) ’06 B.S.N., R.N. in October 2012 received the Educate for Service—Service through Professional Achievement Award. It is one of the highest honors bestowed by Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa., where in 1987 she earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and international business. The award recognizes her exemplary service and achievements within the military as well as her disaster relief efforts.

Susan M. Holmes ’06 B.S.N., R.N. was one of six nurses from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia who presented in March 2012 at the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) 59th Congress in New Orleans. Their session was titled “5 Easy Pieces to Solve the Puzzle: How to Attend Best Practice for Quality and Safety Using Lean Six Sigma.” Holmes practices as an otolaryngology and head and neck operating room nurse.

Talin Bakalian ’07 M.S.N., R.N. is now in California with her husband and two young children. She is a part-time faculty member at California State University, Northridge, teaching health assessment and mental health theory and clinical.

“In it is at Villanova that I first experienced my personal growth and professional development and I am always proud of my Villanova education that prepared me for such a challenging future.”

—Nezam Al-Nsair ’97 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.

WELL-PREPARED TO LAUNCH A B.S.N. PROGRAM

Nezam Al-Nsair ’97 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. is associate professor, director of nursing and department chair at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. In January 2012, he became the director of Mount Union’s B.S.N. program. His initial role was to develop the program and he successfully sought approval through the Higher Learning Commission, the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Board of Nursing. He is also submitting for its initial accreditation, which will start next fall, as well as promoting the program, recruiting faculty and developing clinical affiliations. Dr. Al-Nsair was previously associate chair of the nursing program at Walsh University, a Catholic university in North Canton, Ohio. One of his main roles was the development of its new online/hybrid M.S.N. and D.N.P. programs.
Rachel Aldins Montgomery '08 B.S.N., R.N. was honorably discharged in October 2011 from active duty with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. She served three years at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C., on the pediatrics unit, where she attained Clinical Ladder Level IV. She was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for her service. In May 2012, she was accepted to the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where she is pursuing the M.S.N. in Healthcare Administration. With her is her father, John Aldins '08 VSB, on the day she graduated from the Army Officer Basic Leaders Course in October 2008.


Ruth Crothers '10 Ph.D., R.N., GCNS-BC, CNOR in September 2012 presented “Challenge for a Maturing Profession: The History of Nursing Continuing Education 1957-1974” at the American Association for the History of Nursing's 29th Annual Conference in Savannah, Ga. She is a clinical nurse specialist in gerontology at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, Pa.

1st. Lt. Ryan Diehl (U.S.A., NC) '10 B.S.N., R.N. completed Army ROTC while a second-degree student at the College of Nursing. In San Antonio, Texas, Diehl is enrolled in the Army's course for emergency department nurses until May, when he will be assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C. A recent assignment took him to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on a medical-surgical unit, where he was both a staff and charge nurse. Prior to this, he was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. on the famous Ward 57 that specialized in the care of wounded warriors from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Sr. Magdalena “Lena” Nwaenyi, SHJC, '10 B.S.N., '12 M.S.N., shown here during Winter Convocation on December 12, 2012, returned to her home country of Nigeria after receiving her master’s degree in Health Care Administration from the College of Nursing. This March, she begins her position as administrator of a new Holy Child Clinic in the northern village of Gidan Mangoro and also plans to open a Holy Child Primary Clinic in another village, Jikwoyi. Sr. Lena also works with a program that focuses on reducing maternal and child death and educating girls on good health practices. She said she feels confident Villanova has prepared her well to work in these two rural areas where childhood malnutrition, malaria, typhoid fever and HIV/AIDS are prevalent.


Lorraine Rusch '10 Ph.D., R.N., ACNS-BC in April 2012 received the Midwest Nursing Research Society Nursing Education Research Section Award for Outstanding Dissertation. It was titled “Exploring Clinical Reason and Decision Making in Nursing Students.” She is an assistant professor at Creighton University School of Nursing in Omaha, Neb.

Suzanne F. Foley '11 Ph.D., RNC, WHNP-BC, presented a poster, “A Fresh Look at the Postpartum Period: New Mothers’ Needs during the First Months at Home,” at the 2012 Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses Convention in June, held in Washington D.C.


Lisa Thiemann '12 Ph.D., CRNA in August 2012 became chief credentialing officer of the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists, based in Park Ridge, Ill. Dr. Thiemann has more than 15 years of experience in the nurse anesthesia profession. Previously she was the senior director, Professional Practice, and chief practice officer for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), where she was instrumental in the development and implementation of AANA’s evidence-based process for practice-related document creation.

In Memoriam: Faculty and Students

Joan Ulmer Bretschneider, a former College of Nursing faculty member in maternal-child health, died December 14, 2012 at her home in Germantown, Pa. She was 69 years old.

Mary Ann Potts, of Woodbury Heights, N.J., an R.N. to B.S.N. student, died suddenly on November 21, 2012, at age 54. She was a nurse manager at the Radnor, Pa., office of Home Health Network. A lifelong learner, she was described by colleagues and faculty at the College of Nursing as upbeat and ready to assume challenges with grace.

Alumni and Friends

Margaret Mary Callan Hagan ’59 B.S.N., of Media, Pa., died on September 3, 2012, at the age of 79.

Sonya Kay DePaula ’84 B.S.N. died on September 10, 2012, in Tahlequah, Okla., at the age of 75. •

Do You Have News to Share?
Stay in touch—tell us about your latest job, award and other news.

Contact Ann Barrow McKenzie, Phone: (610) 519-6814 E-mail: ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu
Global Nursing, Inspired by Caritas

Traveling the world on medical missions has not always been the easiest route for Rebecca Young ’08 M.S.N., R.N., CCRN, CSC, CRNP. But she could not imagine her life without it. A hospitalist for Internal Medicine Hospital Specialists in Lancaster, Pa., Young has done everything from establishing a clinic in Nicaragua—her most recent mission—to providing cholera relief in Haiti. Ever since she was a child, hearing her friends and family talk about their life-changing medical trips, she has wanted to undertake such missions.

Working with a variety of people, including doctors in Lancaster and individuals from Medical Missions International, Young has also trekked to Honduras, Ecuador, India and Kenya. Her international efforts straddle numerous spheres, including refugee care, surgery, cholera care and general medical clinics. She noted that, as a nurse practitioner, she has been able to “function at a very high level due to the physician shortage” in various countries.

She was able to see patients and prescribe medication when necessary.

Young was inspired to travel to Nicaragua after a friend pointed out that there was no medical clinic in a village, Mesatepe, about an hour from Managua, the capital. The two spent about six months gathering supplies and volunteers for a 10-day medical trip to set up a clinic. They focused on malnutrition, parasites, gastrointestinal issues and dental work. They also dealt with mental health and infections.

While she loves her missions, Young emphasized the hardships one can encounter in radically different environments. “Being able to allow others to lead, and to be flexible in another culture, where things are not always done the way you are used to seeing them done in the U.S., is very important,” Young said. “That being said, I have met the most fascinating people and have made friends for life through some of the trips.”

Young’s desire to help, whether across the ocean or as a hospitalist in Lancaster, was one of the reasons she applied solely to Villanova’s College of Nursing for graduate studies.

“I feel that the Catholic idea of charity is very important and is emphasized there,” Young said. “Global nursing, and the idea of using your skills for ministry, was emphasized. I felt that the quality of the program, along with the philosophy of Villanova, made it a perfect fit for me.”

“Being able to allow others to lead, and to be flexible in another culture...is very important.”

—Rebecca Young ’08 M.S.N., R.N., CCRN, CSC, CRNP
This summer heralds the College of Nursing's new pathway for registered nurses (R.N.s) to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree: distance learning taught by Nursing faculty. The College has always had a commitment to R.N.s seeking to earn a B.S.N. The need for these opportunities has escalated as the B.S.N. degree has become a requirement for the future, a move supported by employers and the 2010 Institute of Medicine's report on “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.”

The College will continue to offer the R.N.-to-B.S.N. program on site. The new distance learning option brings the College of Nursing experience to individuals across the United States who because of work and personal life demands would otherwise be unable to attend Villanova University. These students are graduates of associate degree and diploma nursing programs. The R.N.-to-B.S.N. Program accepts 60 credits from a prior nursing education program (30 nursing and 30 non-nursing credits).

Villanova offers selected programs via distance learning with the assistance of a technology and customer service provider to assure 24-hour support and an expeditious application process. Courses are on an eight-week cycle, with weekly online meetings in real time with faculty. Students may work in online groups to explore issues from the perspective of nurses practicing in health-care organizations across the country.

Many of the program's highly seasoned faculty have more than 15 years of experience in distance learning teaching. Each student's progression will be guided by a faculty advisor. This program offers an excellent opportunity for R.N.s to actualize their desire to complete their B.S.N. degree from Villanova.

Learn more at www.villanovau.com.