College Celebrates Five Decades of Progress
Mark your calendar!

For more information on these upcoming events, call (610) 519-4900.

Fall 2003

October 24-26  Homecoming Weekend at Villanova University
October 26    Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International induction brunch
November 2    Undergraduate Open House program for prospective students
November 4    Nursing Alumni Reception and 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing. The speaker is L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, D.N.Sc., R.N., dean and professor, The University of Memphis Loewenberg School of Nursing (see box).

Spring 2004

March 23    Graduate Open House for prospective students
March 28    Nursing Alumni Society Graduation Tea
College of Nursing Candidates’ Brunch
April 15    Alpha Nu Research Day
April 17    College of Nursing Annual Mass and Awards Ceremony
May 15    College of Nursing Convocation
May 16    Villanova University Commencement

You are cordially invited to the 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing, co-sponsored by the College of Nursing and Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

The guest speaker is L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, D.N.Sc., R.N., dean and professor, The University of Memphis Loewenberg School of Nursing. She will address “Restructuring Nursing Out of Nursing Service.”

Tuesday November 4, 2003
7:30 p.m.
Villanova Room, Connelly Center

Join faculty and fellow alumni for a reception preceding the lectureship in the President’s Lounge, Connelly Center, at 6 p.m.

This event is supported by a grant from the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies.

For more information, call (610) 519-4900.

On November 4, L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, D.N.Sc., R.N., will be the guest speaker for the Distinguished Lecture in Nursing.

Individual cakes at the 50th Anniversary gala on April 26 featured the logo, done in icing.

Cover Photos:
Scenes from the College’s history and from this year’s anniversary events are grouped around a celebratory banner on campus. Among those depicted are (left of the banner) Bing Bing Qi ’94 M.S.N.; two Nursing students from Oman; (bottom row, from left) Susan Chianese Slaninka ’69 B.S.N.; Nursing students modeling historical uniforms; and Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown (USA ANC, Ret.) ’59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN.
Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing:

With this new academic year, a new phase in our development as a college of nursing also commences. This year will see the inauguration of our Ph.D. program. Moving ahead and making progress is the mantra of our College. To move forward to new goals is energizing, despite the very real effort and sometimes tedious tasks that are required to advance our agenda for nursing education at Villanova University. Your interest, encouragement and support help to propel us.

Along with many of our faculty, I have had the opportunity to serve Villanova long enough to be able to reflect clearly on where we have been, where we are now, and where the College must go if we are to maintain a leadership position among schools of nursing. Charting the course and implementing our strategic plan both imply change. Our long-term experience at Villanova facilitates our identification and documentation of those essentials that should not change, as well as those things that must change if we are to continue to thrive. Most certainly, our challenge will be to create nursing education for the future—a future influenced by technology, a fragmented health-care system, a demand for more nursing research, and political and economic exigencies—while remaining committed to the preservation of our Catholic Augustinian values, our emphasis on the individual learner and our service ideal.

The extraordinary 50th Anniversary gift of a $4 million endowment from the Connelly Foundation to the College will be significant in helping us meet the challenge in many important ways. We are extremely grateful for the confidence that the Connelly Foundation and the Connelly family have demonstrated in us through this endowment.

The rest is up to us.

As alumni and friends, you play an important role in our continued progress. Your financial contributions will be increasingly important, but your ongoing interest and active involvement in the College and its students are essential as well. It is my privilege to have served as dean for these 25 years. I can assure you that there is always more to do, and as we continue to move ahead, I thank you for your support. Ours is a future full of possibilities!

Sincerely,

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor of Nursing
A doctoral program in Nursing has been announced by M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing. The new Ph.D. program is designed to prepare nurses as teacher-scholars for academic careers in higher education. It will address a national need for nurse educators, who are increasingly in short supply. The proposal for the Doctoral Program in Nursing was reviewed and approved by the Villanova University Board of Trustees in April 2002 and reaffirmed this past April.

Doctoral education in nursing builds upon baccalaureate and master’s preparation through emphasis on research and theory development. Villanova’s new Ph.D. program is distinguished by its special focus on the application of nursing knowledge and scholarly inquiry that address professional and practice concerns as they relate to the pedagogical process. The Ph.D. program in nursing seeks to educate graduates who will be:

- well-prepared to teach diverse populations of students in a variety of educational and clinical settings using state-of-the-art technology,
- equipped to provide leadership as the architects of curricula and masters of evaluation,
- active contributors to the advancement and development of research and
- active participants in the various roles of faculty members within an academic institution.

By inaugurating this program, Villanova will contribute to the essential supply of nursing faculty for the future.

The program will combine innovative and traditional modalities and will offer distance learning opportunities in the Fall and Spring semesters, as well as on-site experience during Summer sessions. The length of the program (designed as 51 credits) will vary depending on a candidate’s previous education, currency of graduate education and individual needs. Students will be admitted during the Spring Semester 2004 and will begin courses next June.

Although the nursing shortage has received considerable press, the shortage of nursing faculty is even more acute, as documented by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing and other nursing

First Class Begins 14-Month BSNEpress Program

The College of Nursing’s BSNEpress program enables students with a bachelor’s degree in another discipline—and who have fulfilled prerequisites and met admission requirements—to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 14 months. BSNEpress students may earn their degree with full tuition support through an innovative partnership with the Jefferson Health System, based in Radnor, Pa.

In May, the program’s first class of 26 men and women, ranging from 23 to 43 years of age, began their coursework. They come from a variety of backgrounds, with degrees in physical education, chemistry, biology, criminal justice, psychology, computer science, Spanish and English, among others. Many students have commented positively on the quality of the faculty and the support that faculty members offer to them. They also remark on the College’s array of learning resources.

This first class recognizes the community spirit at Villanova. Student Katie Franklin says, “Villanova professors draw on (our) life experiences and nurture the unique strengths of each individual. The support and encouragement I receive from my fellow students make the challenging curriculum more manageable. I am proud to be in the first class of the BSNEpress. I look forward to continuing Villanova’s 50-year tradition of compassionate care in a clinical setting.”

BSNEpress students take the same courses and participate in the same number of clinical hours as do traditional, four-year Nursing students, but do so in a compressed timeframe. The BSNEpress program begins in May of each year and ends in August of the following year. Students must be able to devote considerable time to their studies, due to the program’s intense, concentrated nature. “The students are working hard and yet are very excited about this new program. They are receiving a high-caliber education in a program that maximizes their prior degrees and prepares them to enter the workforce quickly as competent professionals,” says Maryanne V. Lieb ’85 M.S.N., R.N., coordinator of BSNEpress.

Because the cost of additional education may inhibit qualified students from pursuing nursing as a career and because of the critical shortage of nurses, Jefferson Health System offers tuition awards for students in the BSNEpress program. In exchange, the students must agree to work at any one of Jefferson’s many premier hospitals and care delivery sites for 24 months after graduation. The members of the Jefferson Health System include Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Frankford Hospitals, Magee Rehabilitation, Main Line Health and Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Inc.

For more information about BSNEpress, call Lieb at (610) 519-6596, e-mail her at maryanne.lieb@villanova.edu or visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/bsn/bsn_press.
Members in Nursing

education accrediting bodies. Nearly two-thirds of the existing professoriate in nursing will be eligible to retire within the next eight to 10 years, but only 40 percent of newly graduated nurses with doctoral degrees seek careers in academia. By inaugurating this program, Villanova will contribute to the essential supply of nursing faculty for the future as the College of Nursing takes its next developmental step.

The College will seek highly qualified nurse applicants who are committed to academic careers. With a 20-year track record in graduate education and 50-year history of quality undergraduate education in nursing, the College is well-positioned to move in this direction.

For further information about the doctoral program, call (610) 519-4900 or visit www.nursing.villanova.edu.

Welcome, Class of 2007!

It’s been a banner year. This fall, the College of Nursing welcomed 82 incoming freshmen from 14 states, from Maine and the East Coast to way out West—California, Oregon, Washington and even Hawaii.

The College not only exceeded its target of 80 new students, but doubled the number of applicants received the previous year. Among these outstanding freshmen are a Presidential Scholar, three Villanova Scholars and five Navy ROTC full scholarship recipients. This exceptional Class of 2007 will continue the College’s 50-year tradition of excellence.

A Tribute to the College’s Staff

Whether we think about the day-to-day operations of the College of Nursing or the huge undertaking of the 50th Anniversary year-long celebration, the College would not be where it is today without the efforts of its staff. We are thankful for and honor the contributions of these talented individuals who are a valuable part of the College family. They are (from left) Ann M. Barrow ’86 B.S.N., ’91 M.S.N., R.N.; Sharon Roth-DeFulvio; Thomas Galla; Marie Paolucci; Geri Hansen; Mary Murphy; Susan Leighton; Louisa Zullo; Bernadette Rau; Carol Rae; Denise Meikle; Barbara Nolan; Colleen Meakim ’84 M.S.N., R.N.; Mimi Snyder; and Brooke Eastwood.

Continuing Education Offers Clinical Research Course

Last spring, 30 individuals interested in working in the pharmaceutical research arena participated in a new College of Nursing Continuing Education course, “Introduction to Clinical Research.” Offered on five consecutive Saturdays in March and April, the course was developed and taught by two nurses employed in pharmaceutical research. Robin Wells, M.S.N., R.N., a senior clinical research associate for Cephalon, Inc. in West Chester, Pa., and Jo Dole, Ph.D., R.N., is a development project coordinator for AstraZeneca in Delaware.

The course provides an introduction to the world of pharmaceutical research, as well as an opportunity to explore the multiple responsibilities of clinical research coordinators (CRAs), and clinical research coordinators (CRCs). Its goals are to identify the multiple roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing clinical trials and to explore regulations and controls that influence pharmaceutical research.

The diverse group of students in the course included R.N.s, clinical specialists, medical technologists, a medical social worker, a clinical scientist, research associates, information scientists, quality management coordinators and registered dieticians. More than two-thirds of them had already had experience in clinical research.

Participants enjoyed the detailed presentations, group activities, exposure to current employment opportunities, the experiences of the presenters, and the many sample protocols and forms.

For information about the course, call contact Louisa Zullo, program assistant, at (610) 519-4930, e-mail her at louisa.zullo@villanova.edu or visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/cont_ed.
The College of Nursing’s yearlong celebration of its 50th Anniversary culminated with a weekend of festivities and tributes on April 25-27. The spirited events reflected the theme of the anniversary—“A Heritage of Distinction: Transforming Hearts and Minds.” The special events began with a two-day conference that drew Villanova nurses from around the country and the world. Many stayed on Saturday evening for the Anniversary Mass and Awards Ceremony, followed by the black-tie gala with its very special announcement of the Connelly Foundation’s $4-million endowment for the College of Nursing. On Sunday, the Alpha Nu brunch concluded the festivities.

Throughout the celebration, the steadfast mission of the College—and the talents and achievements of its alumni—were acknowledged in many ways. In “Celebrating Fifty Years,” a multimedia presentation on Saturday, guests could see scenes depicting life in the College since its founding in 1953.

Each anniversary event attracted participants with varied backgrounds and areas of expertise. Together, these individuals represent a unique quilt of people, emblematic of the College’s 50-year history and those who have shaped it. This historic occasion also foretells the extraordinary future to come.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, has described the College’s first five decades as “an odyssey of uninterrupted progress.” As the College develops its new doctoral program, creates additional opportunities for international study for students and expands its programs at all educational levels, it remains committed to its values and embraces its future in shaping nursing, health-care delivery and our social fabric.

Conference Highlights Achievements of Villanova Nurses

A two-day conference by Villanovans, and for Villanovans, launched the 50th Anniversary weekend. On April 25-26, alumni and friends of the College of Nursing gathered at the Villanova Conference Center for “Advancing Nursing Scholarship, Education and Leadership: 50 Years of Achievement.” The conference showcased alumni successes in research, clinical practice, management, nursing education, and military and public service. A consistent theme heard throughout the sessions was the solid preparation in knowledge, skill and service that each graduate received within the ethical framework of Villanova University. During their distinguished careers, these alumni have drawn upon their Villanova Nursing education and its values to guide them.

In her opening address on Friday, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, spoke on “The Odyssey and Vision: a Dean’s Perspective.” The Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing drew upon her 25 years of experience in guiding the College.

In the keynote address, Rosalie Ghilardi Mirenda ’59 B.S.N., D.N.Sc., R.N., president of Neumann College in Aston, Pa., illuminated the mission of Catholic nursing education. The Nursing alumna cited Villanova as an exemplar of this mission, for it is “where my professional journey began,” she noted. “Catholic Augustinian higher education at its best blends the active and contemplative styles of life,” she observed. “The Augustinian synthesis between mind and heart and the reciprocity between love and knowledge are distinctive features of Catholic Augustinian educational institutions, and, indeed, most challenging for all responsible for achieving the mission. As administrators, faculty, graduates and learners in this environment,

At the College of Nursing 50th Anniversary Conference, Dr. Rosalie Ghilardi Mirenda ’59 B.S.N., president of Neumann College, delivers to fellow Villanovans her keynote address on “The Unique Mission of Catholic Nursing Education.”
we are all responsible for achieving the mission.” (The College has published her address in a commemorative booklet.)

Mary Duffin Naylor ’71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in her address provided insight into the impact of research on nursing practice.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday, more than 20 alumni of the undergraduate and graduate Nursing programs presented multiple concurrent sessions, which were moderated by more than a dozen other Nursing alumni. These Villanova nurses, who have gone on to distinguish themselves professionally, came back to share information about their lives and contributions.

In the Friday sessions, alumni presented their research findings, along with their views on trends in health care for the United States in general and for specific populations such as oncology patients, the elderly and the underserved. The presenters offered engaging discussions on how nurses are shaping policy, health service and public service.

At a reception Friday evening at Dundale on the West Campus, conference participants could visit with fellow alumni as well as network professionally.

On Saturday, Gloria Ferraro Donnelly ’63 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, dean and professor at Drexel University’s College of Nursing and Health Professions, shared her “kaleidoscopic view” of nursing education. Subsequent sessions addressed information technology, distance learning, the College’s worldwide influence and the future contributions to be made by alumni.

In viewing the poster exhibit on display, participants learned about the research of Villanova Nursing faculty members.

Concluding the conference was a distinguished panel whose members contemplated the life of the College and coalesced the viewpoints expressed by Villanova nurses throughout the weekend. The panel was titled “Fifty Years of Distinction: Gateway to the Future.” Those taking part werevern, M.A., R.N., FAAN, FRCN; Lucille Joel, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN; and Margaret McClure, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN. (Villanova awarded Ferguson and Joel honorary degrees in 1988 and 1989 respectively.) The moderator was Nan Hechenberger ’56 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. The panelists were united in their predictions of even brighter days ahead.

Those who attended the conference were overwhelmingly positive in their evaluation of the program and the chance to renew acquaintances and meet colleagues practicing in diverse settings or teaching.

A Special Thank-You from the 50th Anniversary Co-chairpersons

To all who contributed to making our 50th Anniversary celebration a huge success, we offer a special thank-you! Our appreciation extends to each of you, and especially to M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing; the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International; the Nursing Alumni Society; the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy; the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58 A&S, University president and his staff; John P. Johnnies, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs at Villanova, and his staff; and many other campus departments and offices. Without their support, the celebrations would have been much more modest.

Most importantly, we would like to extend our sincere and deep appreciation to the many alumni who worked tirelessly on committees, to the honorary committee members, and to the alumni who contributed memorabilia and attended many of the events. Without your efforts, our celebrations would not have been as successful. To our faculty and staff, we also salute your invaluable efforts. To quote the dean, “The entire series of events far exceeded my expectations.” We hope you enjoy the recap of events in this magazine.

It was a very busy anniversary year—lots of work, lots of fun, but best of all, a renewal of alumni relationships. Thank you!
Ceremony Celebrates College’s History and Honors a Top Nursing Scholar

At the St. Thomas of Villanova Church, the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58 A&S, University president, and more than 20 other priests concelebrated the Anniversary Mass on Saturday, April 26. The College’s faculty, staff, students and alumni participated in the liturgy, as did Campus Ministry and its pastoral musicians. Sister M. Margarella O’Neill, O.S.F., one of the two founding co-directors of the Division of Nursing (which became the College of Nursing) was on hand and was recognized for her pioneering role.

Father Dobbin in his homily drew attention to the College’s anniversary theme. Transforming hearts and minds is at the core of the College of Nursing, he said. Father Dobbin described the College’s alumni as skilled professionals and caring individuals who are recognized as such around the world.

The College commissioned a unique 50th Anniversary Medallion, which was presented during the awards ceremony to Donna Zimmaro Bliss ’81 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, FGSA. “Nursing is a caring profession but it is also an intellectual pursuit—Donna exemplifies both,” noted M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing. Dr. Bliss is recognized nationally and internationally for her teaching, clinical expertise, scholarly publications and well-funded research.

Following her graduation from Villanova, Bliss worked in critical care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and earned two advanced degrees from Penn: her master's degree (as a critical care clinical nurse specialist) and her Ph.D. (in 1992). She then became a faculty member at the University of Minnesota, where she is the Professor in Long-Term Care of Elders and a Horace T. Morse-Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher. Her research there at the Center for Nursing Research on Elders explores the relationship between physiologic function and nutrition and their enhancement of quality of life in the elderly. Bliss is also the associate editor of Nursing Research.

Bliss has received numerous grants, written countless articles, presented her work around the country and served on many committees and boards. She shares her expertise with students and colleagues by teaching and mentoring. Her contributions to the profession and its body of knowledge are recognized frequently, as evidenced by her selection for membership in the American Academy of Nursing.

Also at the awards ceremony, Elise Robinson Pizzi, M.S.N., R.N., CRNP, assistant professor of Nursing, was recognized for her 25 years of service. Dean Fitzpatrick described Pizzi as “an exemplar for her students and peers…an excellent teacher and clinician.” Pizzi’s expertise in gerontology, as expressed through her teaching and service, was cited as greatly influencing the care of older adults.

A Letter to Those Who Could Not Join Us for the Celebrations

Dear Fellow Alumni:

There is so much to share when telling the story of the College of Nursing’s 50th Anniversary celebration. In the Villanova tradition, there was plenty of time to catch up with good friends and good food. During the cocktail reception after the opening day of the conference, we enjoyed the evening breeze and classical guitar music on the veranda at Dundale, the University’s Victorian mansion on the West Campus. At conference breaks and brunch at the Villanova Conference Center, we mingled while marveling at the desserts and the beautiful woodland setting.

During several events, we admired our tools of the trade displayed behind glass...yes, there were exhibit cases with all of the College’s memorabilia, such as the first tuition bills that were only hundreds—and not thousands—of dollars. There were glass syringes, old filmstrips and the original meeting minutes from when the College was founded. We delighted in the tributes to those who shaped the College’s history, including the oil painting in memory of Sister M. Alma Lawler, C.R.S.M., who was one of the two founding co-directors. There was also an enormous timeline showing all of our significant events over the last 50 years.

In the multimedia presentation, “Celebrating Fifty Years,” we smiled as we glimpsed fellow Villanova nurses. It was fun to see students modeling the old uniforms (remember that cap?) and freshman Orientation attire (oh, those beanies!). The Wildcat mascot was as energetic as ever, presenting a cake and leading the band in “Happy Birthday” for the Nursing students who gathered in Fall 2002 to kick off the anniversary season. Graduate students had their own cake and celebration during their Graduate Scholars’ Day in April.

Throughout the past year, our 50th Anniversary banners have been hard to miss. They were festively displayed on St. Mary Hall and fluttered along Ryan’s Way for all to see. The College’s mission and spirit were also reflected in our commemorative calendar—a collection of photos, people and events that captured what we are all about.
One of the most notable events of the College of Nursing’s 50th Anniversary weekend came during Saturday evening’s gala, on April 26, when the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58 A&S, University president, announced the Connelly Foundation’s $4 million endowment of the College’s initiatives.

The 450 guests gathered in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center were enthusiastic in their response to the news, for the endowment represents a significant investment in the College’s future initiatives and marks the College’s founding.

This latest gift to the University from the Connelly Foundation has resulted in the establishment of an endowed deanship in the College of Nursing. Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, dean of the College since 1978 and professor of Nursing, has become the first Connelly Endowed Dean. This portion of the endowment provides the resources needed to enhance program development, support professional development of students and faculty, and greatly assist in keeping the College’s programs responsive to the ever-changing and challenging needs of the health-care system and the profession.

A second portion of the endowment will be allocated to enhance technology and laboratory resources for teaching and learning in the College.

A third portion expands the Connelly-Delouvrier International Scholars Program to support Nursing students, both for international study experiences and multicultural experiences in the United States.

At the gala, Emily C. Riley, the Connelly Foundation’s executive vice president and a former Villanova trustee, offered remarks on behalf of her sister, Josephine C. Mandeville (the Foundation’s president and CEO), the Foundation’s officers and its board. Riley summarized the Foundation’s evaluation of the College’s graduates, indicating that they are well-educated and highly regarded. The Connelly Foundation was established in 1955 by the late John F. and Josephine C. Connelly. (Riley and Mandeville are their daughters.)

The pride we felt throughout the conference as we shared accomplishments and goals for the future continued on into Mass—another moving occasion. We heard soaring music and wonderful tributes that evening at the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. Afterward, a bagpiper led the 450 guests to the Connelly Center for the gala dinner. There, we caught up with more friends during the cocktail hour and enjoyed this wonderful party. At the reception, students were garbed in nursing attire from those five decades. Their starched uniforms, caps and long skirts elicited many fond memories and smiles.

It is evident that others see us as a premier college of nursing. In the displays at the gala, there were so many congratulatory letters—from deans, politicians, military and civilian leaders and many others—that we couldn’t read them all. Dinner was fantastic, as was the setting. The Villanova Room was transformed, with the 50th Anniversary gold decorations reflecting the sparkling white lights. The icing on the cake—literally—was the 50th Anniversary logo decorating our individual desserts—almost too beautiful to eat!

We all remember the vitality we discover at every Villanova event, and that same energy has infused each celebration during the College’s yearlong anniversary. The enthusiasm of Villanova nurses across the generations was inspirational. As we reconnect with classmates, we rejoiced in what makes the College of Nursing so special—dedicated people with diverse talents. We know you were with us in spirit!

Cordially,

Ann M. Barrow ’86 B.S.N., ’91 M.S.N., R.N.
Coordinator of College Relations
A brunch on Sunday April 27, sponsored by the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, concluded the weekend-long 50th Anniversary celebration. The guest speaker was a Villanova Nursing alumna who served as chief of the Army Nurse Corps from 1979 to 1983. In her talk, “A Heritage of Distinction: One Nurse’s Journey,” Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown (USA ANC, Ret.) ’59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN imparted the wisdom she gained during many years of professional service in the military and later in nursing education. Villanova awarded the alumna an honorary doctorate in 1981. She is a former member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees.

During the brunch, Lois Buchanan Wilmer ’86 B.S.N. (left) converses with her former teacher, Col. Julia Boland Paparella (USA ANC, Ret.), associate professor emerita of Nursing (right), as Betty Ann Curran ’57 B.S.N., a member of the first graduating class, looks on.

Several members of the Nursing undergraduate Class of 1966 reunite at the brunch with a former faculty member. (Front row, l-r): Elizabeth Kelly Keech ’66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, and Annette Paczkowski Day ’66 B.S.N. (Back row, l-r): Judith Klimek ’66 B.S.N.; former faculty member Cass Oblacynski M.S.N., R.N.; Patricia Grady Schneider ’66 B.S.N.; and Barbara Park Drake ’66 B.S.N.

Alumna Who Led Army Nurse Corps Addresses Alpha Nu Brunch

At the brunch, Col. Julia Boland Paparella (USA ANC, Ret.), associate professor emerita of Nursing, was honored for her military service and her influence on the development of the College of Nursing.

As the many generations of Villanova nurses headed back home after the weekend's festivities, they could reflect on how the anniversary theme of “A Heritage of Distinction: Transforming Hearts and Minds” might continue to prove inspirational in the future as well.

Several generations of Villanova nurses headed back home after the weekend's festivities, they could reflect on how the anniversary theme of "A Heritage of Distinction: Transforming Hearts and Minds" might continue to prove inspirational in the future as well.

You Support our Future!
Your Annual Fund contributions make a difference! Sincere thanks for your ongoing support of our endeavors. You help ensure a bright future for the College of Nursing.
Research Project Focuses on Exercise and African-American Women

There are many barriers to regular exercise. Some may be internal (among them, lack of interest or perceived value) and others are external (such as the weather, the cost or neighborhood safety). A new research project by two College of Nursing faculty members will examine the exercise barriers experienced by two clinical populations of African-American women: those with cardiovascular disease and those with breast cancer. For their multi-phased study, Sara Reeder, Ph.D., R.N. and Mary Pickett, Ph.D., R.N. chose these two populations because epidemiological evidence reveals that African-American women have the poorest outcomes following cardiovascular events and breast cancer diagnosis.

Clinical data are sparse about these two high-risk groups since prior studies have not successfully recruited substantial numbers of African-Americans. Heart disease death rates are more than 40 percent higher for African-Americans than for Caucasians. The death rate for all cancer is 30 percent higher for African-Americans than for Caucasians. African-American women have a higher death rate from breast cancer despite having a mammography screening rate that is nearly the same as that of Caucasian women.

Overall, numerous studies have shown the benefits of exercise in reducing heart disease and breast cancer. The American Heart Association Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity, the American Heart Association and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services all recommend that adults adopt a physically active lifestyle. The groups agree that adults “should engage in at least moderate activity for 30 minutes or more on five or more days of the week.” Furthermore, “45 minutes or more of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity on five or more days of the week may enhance reductions in the risk of breast and colon cancer and heart disease.”

The two faculty members bring a unique set of research skills and experiences to support their project’s success (see page 12). Dr. Reeder, an assistant professor, has a strong and sustained background in the care of patients with cardiovascular disease and has conducted studies examining the outcome of women who have had myocardial infarction. Dr. Pickett, an associate professor who has focused her research on oncology nursing, has six years of collaborative experience as part of a multi-institutional study that explored how a self-paced walking exercise program could be beneficial in women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Testing the effects of an exercise intervention is a challenge in light of the fact that most Americans live sedentary lifestyles and may resist increasing their level of physical activity. Prior research reveals that approximately half of those who attempt to incorporate an exercise program revert to their previous activity levels within three to six months.

Dr. Manfredi Retires

Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., R.N., former assistant dean and director of the graduate program in Nursing, retired in June. Over the past eight years, she has guided the graduate program to become the internationally known resource that it is today.

On May 20, a reception was held in Dr. Manfredi’s honor in the President’s Lounge of the Connelly Center. At the College of Nursing Convocation on May 17, Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, awarded the College’s Medallion to Dr. Manfredi for her outstanding service.

At the College of Nursing Convocation in May, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, awarded the College’s Medallion to Dr. Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., R.N. (right), who retired in June.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Manfredi practiced in staff development and nursing administration at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Elizabeth, N.J. After earning her doctoral degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, she taught nursing administration in the graduate program at the University of Rhode Island School of Nursing.

In 1985, Dr. Manfredi joined Villanova’s Nursing faculty. She taught nursing administration for many years before becoming the driving force behind the graduate program. Under her leadership, it expanded from two to seven concentrations and has seen steady growth in its enrollment. Prior to her retirement, Dr. Manfredi had been assisting with preparing for Villanova’s new doctoral program in Nursing. She is known for her skills in grant writing and management, her generosity as a mentor and teacher, and her quiet volunteer work with those less fortunate.
New Appointments

In 2002-2003, the College of Nursing welcomed an assistant dean, three faculty members, a member of the professional staff and a coordinator of the BSNexpress program.

Marguerite Stuhler Schlag ’68 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N. In July became assistant dean and director of the graduate program in Nursing. She comes from the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J., where she was the assistant vice president for professional practice, education and research. Dr. Schlag succeeds Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., R.N., who retired in June (see page 11).

Dr. Schlag oversees the expansion and further development of the M.S.N. program and is implementing the College’s recently approved Ph.D. program to prepare nursing faculty. “I am delighted to be returning to Villanova,” she noted. “I am looking forward to working with the faculty and administration to continue our long tradition of preparing excellent clinical nurses and initiating the doctoral program to ensure nursing faculty for the future.”

She earned her M.S.N. at Case Western Reserve University and her Ed.D. at Rutgers University. During her career, she has focused on nursing education. She taught at Villanova’s College of Nursing (1970 to 1973) and held a faculty appointment at Rutgers.

Dr. Schlag served as a member of Villanova’s Board of Trustees (January 2000-June 2003) and was the honorary chairperson of the College of Nursing’s 50th Anniversary celebration. The College in 1998 honored her the Medallion for Leadership in Nursing Practice and Health Care Delivery.

Mary Pickett, Ph.D., R.N. in August was appointed a full-time associate professor after serving as a visiting associate professor since 2001.

Dr. Pickett teaches community health and oncology nursing. Her clinical, teaching and research focus has been in oncology nursing. She has investigated quality of life issues related to breast cancer and prostate cancer patients, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and palliative care. Widely published, she has conducted many funded research studies and has been a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Rhode Island and Thomas Jefferson University.

She received her B.S.N. from Salve Regina University, her M.S.N. from St. Louis University and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Sara Reeder, Ph.D., R.N. in August 2002 joined the College as a full-time associate professor. For the past two years, Dr. Reeder has been teaching part-time in the graduate program, including an Internet-based nursing research course and “Advanced Pathophysiology” and “Nursing Care of Adults.” She also teaches a sophomore health assessment course.

Dr. Reeder received her B.S.N. from Howard University and her M.S.N. and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

Her clinical background in critical care nursing includes 20 years of service in the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps, where she achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. She served on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and Tuskegee University.

Her research is focused on cardiovascular nursing. In Pitt’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, she investigated predictors of myocardial infarction in women. She published several articles related to cardiovascular health.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth “Beth Ann” Reedy Ph.D., R.N., who joined the faculty in August 2002, recently was awarded her doctorate in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. As a doctoral student, she received federal funding to study the care of premature infants in the United States between 1900 and 1950. The results of her research were published in Nursing History Review. She also received several honors, including the Student Research Award from the Association for the History of Nursing and Penn’s University Fellowship Award.

She received her M.S.N. from the University of Pennsylvania and her B.S.N. from Gwynedd-Mercy College. Her clinical practice specialty is pediatric critical care. She now applies that expertise in teaching clinical and theory courses in parent-child nursing to undergraduates. Dr. Reedy has also taught at Thomas Jefferson University.

Ann M. Barrow ’86 B.S.N., ’91 M.S.N., R.N. joined the College in September 2002 as coordinator of college relations. She is responsible for planning and implementing marketing strategies, exploring partnership opportunities, participating in recruitment efforts, offering editorial and Web support, and assisting with continuing education program planning and alumni affairs.

Publications


Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor, “Assembling Rigor in Qualitative Research,” Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, 13 (4), 84-86.


Awards and Leadership Achievements

Theresa Capriotti ’95 M.S.N., CRNP, DO, clinical assistant professor, in April received Villanova’s Student Government Association Teacher of the Year Award for Nursing, based on student votes. In 2002 she received Villanova’s prestigious Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., CS, DAPA, associate professor, presented a research session on “The Lived Experience of Partner Abuse in Physically Disabled Women” at the APNA 16th Annual Conference of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing; Integrating Practice, Research, and Education, held in Dallas, Texas, in October 2002.

Lynore DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N., BC, assistant dean and director of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care, was named co-editor of the Administrative Angles column of The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing.
Belle Erickson, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, is the new coordinator of the B.S.N. Express program. This accelerated 14-month program gives college graduates a way to complete their nursing courses and clinical practice. "The B.S.N. Express program provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals to achieve their dream of becoming a nurse, and does so with the highest degree of integrity. To be part of that is wonderful for me," says Lieb.

Experienced in teaching adult learners, Lieb formerly was professor of nursing at Delaware County Community College in Media, Pa., and has also taught nursing at The Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing. She earned her undergraduate degree at Neumann College. In 2000, Villanova's College of Nursing honored her with its Medallion for Service.

Rosernary Schiller-Okolowski, M.S.N., R.N., longtime faculty member in the College of Nursing, died of pneumonia on April 22 in Springfield, Pa. She was 58 years old.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she received her B.S.N. in 1968 and her M.S.N. in 1970 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She was appointed to Villanova's Nursing faculty in 1970 and was a valued colleague. The assistant professor taught maternal child health and research methodology to countless students. An expert clinician and educator, she was recognized for her ability to make complex topics easily understood.

Family, friends and colleagues attended a May 19 memorial service in Corr Chapel at Villanova. Schiller-Okolowski was remembered for her devotion to her students; her sharp analytical mind; her tremendous sense of humor; and her love of the beach, baseball and books. Repeatedly, fellow faculty members recalled her as "the smartest person I know."

Her husband, Dr. John A. Okolowski, died in 2000. She is survived by her brother, Vincent Vosoas, and two daughters, Amy and Nell.

Memorial donations will be used to purchase nursing books for Falvey Memorial Library, and may be sent to the Rosemary Schiller-Okolowski Memorial Fund, c/o Villanova University Office of Development, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19085.

J. Largé '54 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., associate professor emerita of Nursing and former director of the College's graduate program, died of organ failure in Darby, Pa., on September 16. She was 75 years old.

A Philadelphia native, Dr. Largé was a graduate of the Hahnemann School of Nursing who completed her B.S.N. at Villanova. She received her master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University. Early in her career, she taught pediatric nursing at Villanova and in 1996 was instrumental in establishing the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Largé went on to teach nursing at Temple University and later taught in the graduate nursing program at Rutgers University-Newark. She returned to Villanova and became the first director of the College's graduate program when the M.S.N. program was inaugurated in 1980. She held that position until her retirement in 1988. Villanova honored her by granting her emerita status.

Throughout her career, Dr. Largé was active in professional organizations, especially the Pennsylvania Nurses Association and the Committee for the History of Nursing Museum at Pennsylvania Hospital. She will be remembered for her commitment to the nursing profession and her loyalty to Villanova.

She is survived by her sister, Jeannette Large.

Contributions in Dr. Largé's memory may be made to Villanova University College of Nursing, Villanova, PA 19085 or the Museum of Nursing History, 761 Sprout Rd., No. 299, Springfield, PA 19064.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, who in May was promoted to professor and who also serves as director of Nursing Research, presented "Knowledge About Bone Mineral Density Test Results: Necessary But Not Sufficient" (with V. Zimmerman) at the 2002 State of the Science Congress, held in Washington, D.C., in September 2002. She is president of the Eastern Nursing Research Conference and was honored with the Journal of Neuroscience Nursing Award for Writing Excellence for 2002.

Bette Wildigust, R.N., CRNA, adjunct assistant professor, was elected as CRNA educator representative (through 2009) for the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

Joyce Willems '83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, presented "Pain and Pain Management" at the American Interventional Radiology Nurses Association meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in March. She also was one of 15 pain management experts invited from across the nation to participate in the National Pain Management and Oncology Nurse Care Clinical Advisory Meeting in Las Vegas in July, sponsored by Endo Pharmaceuticals.
Barbara Felder ’00 B.S.N., R.N., OCN has dedicated her 14-year nursing career to the care of cancer patients. She practiced in home health settings and later became a staff nurse in the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Treatment Center’s Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic, where she practices today.

Not one to slow down in terms of her education and exploration of issues in oncology nursing, after earning her B.S.N. at Villanova, Felder continued right into the College’s Adult Nurse Practitioner master’s degree program.

While in her current position in outpatient oncology, Felder published “Multiple Myeloma and Its Treatment” in the November 2002 Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. Her case study illustrated the complexities of care for these patients. By the time her article was published, Felder had already completed the yearlong research project she conducted as her independent study in the Nursing master’s degree program. Two faculty members guided Felder’s work: Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, now professor, and Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor.

Motivated by an interest in truth-telling and whether it affects hope in patients, Felder set about to investigate the theoretical underpinnings. She conducted her study, “Hope and Coping in Patients with Cancer Diagnoses,” at an outpatient cancer treatment center. The 183 participants (male and female) had varied cancer diagnoses and were at different points along the disease trajectory, from newly diagnosed to end stage; 71 percent had advanced disease. Felder began her research with a concept analysis of hope and then developed her own definition. She then found a theoretical framework and tools that used the same framework she did. To study coping, Felder also obtained a definition, tool and theoretical framework.

Participants in her study completed two evaluation tools, the Herth Hope Scale and the Jalowiec Coping Scale. Felder’s findings indicated that levels of hope were consistently high across all diagnoses and the disease trajectory. She sees many implications for nursing. “Nurses have a responsibility to foster and maintain hope. To paraphrase Jean Watson (a noted nursing theorist), care is always possible, even when cure is not.” The alumna’s study outlines characteristics of hope, hope fostering and hope hindering behaviors of nurses, and suggests hope assessment tools to assist nurses in patient care.

Her research already has had an impact on the Philadelphia-area oncology care community. Felder presented her work at the College of Nursing’s Graduate Scholars’ Day in April, and at the Oncology Nursing Research Symposium and the Symptom Management Rounds at the outpatient center where she works. She looks forward to reaching more colleagues and is currently preparing a manuscript for publication.

Felder is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and Phi Kappa Phi. In April, she was recognized for her achievements with the Nursing Alumni Society Graduate Scholarship.

She hopes more nurses will become involved in research and contribute to the advancement of nursing knowledge. She says she felt a “tremendous sense of accomplishment” once her research was completed. After she receives her M.S.N. in December, Felder plans on remaining in direct patient care, concentrating on the area she finds most satisfying: palliative care. “End of life issues are very important. Many patients can benefit from palliative care—it brings quality of life to those who have incurable diseases. I believe it should begin at the time of diagnosis,” she says. The alumna intends to use her research findings in practice. Nurses, she suggests, “can reframe unrealistic hope into something more constructive. There is no situation that’s hopeless; there’s always something we can do.”

To learn more about Felder’s research findings, contact her at barbara.felder@villanova.edu.

"Many patients can benefit from palliative care...I believe it should begin at the time of diagnosis."
—Barbara Felder ’00 B.S.N., R.N., OCN
For the fifth year in a row, a group of College of Nursing seniors opted to experience their “Community Health/Health Promotion” clinical rotation in an impoverished rural community in Peru. As part of a Spring Break mission trip, 11 Nursing students, three Nursing faculty members and five Campus Ministry students traveled to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas. The Campus Ministry students helped rebuild the home of an elderly woman. The one-week trip was arranged with the assistance of Campus Ministry and the Rev. Richard Appici, O.S.A., director of the Augustinian Mission Office.

The College of Nursing sponsored its faculty, the students raised funds to cover their costs and members of the Villanova community also generously helped support the College’s efforts. This year’s donations enabled the group to bring a supply of prenatal vitamins with iron. They also brought equipment such as blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes, and continued their efforts on educating parish workers in taking blood pressures.

During the weeks before leaving for Peru, Nursing students planned their health education presentations on diabetes, maternal nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, heart health and hygiene. By having their materials translated into Spanish, the students could assure that their efforts in Peru would be ongoing after they returned home. Their presentations were well-received by the local nurses as well as by the parish health workers who serve their communities as health-care resources.

As word spread of the Nursing students’ daily afternoon presentations, attendance soared from 22 the first day to more than 80 by the end of the week. Parents brought their children for impromptu exams while elderly residents sought advice on arthritis and other health problems.

Nursing students spent mornings on home visits, encountering poverty, another culture and the gratitude of the people. Guiding the students were assistant professors Elizabeth Keech ’66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.; Karen McKenna ’70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N.; and Debbie Wimmer ’83 M.S.N., R.N., PNP. Wimmer joined the trip this year to complete general pediatric assessments so that health needs of children could be met on future trips.

Two highlights of the trip were the high regard the people had for nurses, and their respect for the students. While the students found it challenging to adapt their knowledge and skills to nursing and health promotion in a Third World community, they took great satisfaction in being able to provide much-needed care to those who rarely have access to health care.

In Chulucanas, Peru, Katie Brennan talks with community members about healthy diets. As a Nursing senior last spring, she chose to do a clinical rotation in an impoverished area.

Assistant Professor Debbie Wimmer ’83 M.S.N., R.N., PNP completes an impromptu physical assessment on a Peruvian child.
Nursing Students Make an Impact on Health in Honduras

In June, seven students from the College of Nursing traveled to Honduras for a week as part of the clinical requirement for their "Community Health/Health Promotion" course. Arrangements were made through the assistance of Campus Ministry with the Rev. Dennis O'Donnell to stay at Amigos de Jesus, a Catholic orphanage.

In preparation for the trip, the students worked with two Nursing assistant professors—Elise R. Pizzi, M.S.N., R.N., CRNP and Karen McKenna '70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N.—to gather data about health problems.

Once the students had identified the region's major health problems, they developed educational presentations to be given in Spanish. They focused on hypertension management; breast-feeding, breast self-examinations and breast health; sexual development and feminine hygiene; and maternal and general nutrition. The students and their educational sessions—delivered at local schools and at the health clinic in Macualiza—were well-received.

Another goal of the trip was to assess the community's pediatric needs, especially the health of the boys at Amigos de Jesus and other nearby orphanages. Assistant Professor Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., R.N., PNP joined the other faculty members to assist with this project.

Based on the students' successful health presentations, they were encouraged to provide other sessions, and they quickly did so. For the boys at Amigos de Jesus, the students gave presentations on male sexual development and personal hygiene. And for the padrinos (the couples who supervise the boys) and other workers at the orphanage, the students demonstrated first aid, seizure management and the Heimlich maneuver.

Faculty and students met with the nurse in charge of the clinic in Macualiza, and through her generosity all of the boys at Amigos de Jesus were immunized against measles, rubella and tetanus.

The students and faculty also did physical assessments on 26 boys at Amigos de Jesus and 34 girls at La Flecha, a local girls' orphanage. This provided not only valuable assessment experience for the students but also a rare opportunity for the children to have their medical needs assessed and documented.

During the week, students soon redefined their understanding of the terms "hot" and "humid." Because the orphanage's water system had failed before their arrival, they lived with extremely limited access to clean water for most of the trip. One by one, they addressed and eventually surmounted each challenge. The students learned a great deal, both as nurses and as people, and community members received invaluable health information and services. Nursing faculty members are exploring the possibility of returning to Honduras.

The College of Nursing is proud to announce its latest award for baccalaureate students, the Petro Award, made possible by the generous donation of Joseph Petro and Dr. Helen Yura Petro. The couple established the Joseph and Helen Yura Petro Nursing Theory Award this year "to honor the College of Nursing during its 50th Anniversary and to acknowledge its role in enhancing professional nursing education and practice."

The award was established in part in memory of Dr. Mary Blackburn Walsh for her nearly 40 years' work in the development of the Nursing Process and Nursing's Human Need Theory. Dr. Yura Petro, an internationally respected nurse scholar to whom Villanova awarded an honorary doctorate in 1984, is a pioneer in this field. Her seminal work with Dr. Walsh on the development of the Nursing Process greatly influenced the profession.

As a senior this spring, Julia C. Gannon (center) became the first recipient of the Joseph and Helen Yura Petro Nursing Theory Award, presented at the College of Nursing Convocation. With her are M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, and John R. Johannes, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs at Villanova.
The Rev. Francis X.N. McGuire, O.S.A., ’32 A&S, D.D., who as the 24th president (1944-1954) of Villanova founded the College of Nursing, died on May 9 at St. Joseph Villa in Chestnut Hill, Pa. He had been residing there during the renovation of St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on campus. Father McGuire was 93 years old.

Beloved by the faculty, staff, administration and alumni of the College, Father McGuire was a familiar figure at the College of Nursing Mass each spring. He was an honored guest at the College’s 50th Anniversary Student Celebration in October 2002. It was the last public event he was to attend. Father McGuire was “a raconteur, telling stories of his life, and the many famous people he’d met,” recalled M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing.

In 1939, he received his doctorate in divinity from the Gregorian University and returned home to begin his career at Villanova, as prefect of studies. In 1941, he became vice president, and three years later was appointed president. During his decade as president, Father McGuire oversaw the transformation of the campus from college to comprehensive university. Just 34 years old when he was named Villanova’s youngest president, he undertook initiatives that dramatically transformed both the physical campus and the institution’s visibility. Chief among these were the establishment of the College of Nursing and the Villanova School of Law in 1953. Father McGuire was known for his vision and the development of new programs, his ability to raise outside funds, and his wisdom and congeniality. He brought much favorable attention to Villanova.

He continued serving at a number of Augustinian institutions, and in 1996 returned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery. In good weather, he often sat on the lawn outside, where he spoke with students and watched the University’s continuing growth.

Following a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Father McGuire was interred at the Augustinian cemetery on campus.
News from Our Graduates

1980s
Constance Morris Badger '58 B.S.N. retired as a nurse-practitioner in the School District of Philadelphia.

1990s
Mary Greig '80 B.S.N., professor and chair of the Rutgers University Department of Nursing, received the 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, honoring her outstanding teaching and research maintained throughout her career. She received her M.S.N. degree from Penn and her doctoral degree from Rutgers.

1970s
Gloria J. McNeil '70 B.S.N., Ph.D., APRN, BC, has been named assistant dean of student affairs and associate professor with tenure at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Nursing. In addition to her administrative duties, she serves as the lead faculty member for the master's degree program acute/critical care advanced practice nursing track. Dr. McNeil is the author of the AACN Guide to Acute Care Procedures in the Home and the recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding work. Mary Duffin Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, recently received the school's first annual Claire M. Fagen Distinguished Research Award, recognizing her research in transitional care of older adults. During a May program at the school honoring her contributions to the profession, she presented a session on her work, "Transitions in Health: Building Bridges Through Science." Jo Ann A. Rousers '75 B.S.N., '02 M.S.N., CRNP, OCN, CHPN, a recent graduate of the College's Adult Nurse Practitioner program, is a nurse practitioner at Consultants in Medical Oncology and Hematology in Drexel Hill, Pa. While a graduate student, she received the College of Nursing Medallion for Distinguished Academic Achievement. Her independent study, a series of self-study modules and competencies, was titled "Self-Study Program and Clinician Competency Tool for Assessment and Management of Oncologic Emergencies." These individual modules are being posted online in the Oncology Nursing Forum.

1980s
Susan Dehaven Garnotte '81 B.S.N. is a nurse who attended a recent Commissioned Officer Commissioning ceremony in May. She earned her M.S.N. degree in 1988 and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Kappa Delta R and Phi Kappa Phi.

Portrait of Our Alumni

In preparation for the 50th Anniversary session, the College of Nursing commissioned a study of its alumni. Here are some of the highlights from the respondents:

- At least 47 percent have earned a master's degree and 6 percent have earned a doctoral degree.
- 88 percent are currently employed, most of them in nursing, either full-time or part-time. The majority (42 percent) are employed in a hospital-based clinical practice; with 20 percent in a non-hospital clinical practice setting and 12 percent in nursing education.
- Many have served as a board officer, presented at conferences, received research grants, or authored book chapters or professional articles.

It is clear that we continue to have a proud heritage of distinction.

In Memoriam

Sister Joseph Ellen Doran, O.S.F., '55 B.S.N. died in June at Assisi House in Aston, Pa. She was 81 years old. She served as a nursing supervisor for 18 years at St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia. She was also a practical nursing instructor and started a nursing ministry.

Joan Martin Doyle '56 B.S.N. died on September 21, 2002, in Norristown, Pa. She served in the Navy Nurse Corps during the Korean conflict.

Drucilla-Marie Edmonds Gleaves '58 B.S.N., of the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia, died in September 2002. She was a retired nursing educator and administrator from the Medical College of Pennsylvania nursing school in Philadelphia.

Dr. Barbara Lowery '66 B.S.N., of Villanova, Pa., died in October 2002. She was associate provost and Independence Professor of Nursing Education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. An internationally known and highly respected nurse researcher, Dr. Lowery was also a longtime supporter of Villanova's College of Nursing and a charter member of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Jean Callahan '77 B.S.N. died on May 12, 2002, in Norwalk, Conn.

Dr. Jean Arrell Brown '86 M.S.N. died on April 7 in Westtown, Pa. She was most recently a faculty member at Immaculata University.

Jennifer Robinson '94 B.S.N. died on May 18, 2002, in Newark, N.J.

Sandra Alves '00 M.S.N., of King of Prussia, Pa., died in September. She was a nurse-anesthetist at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, Pa.

Eileen S. Lupton '03 B.S.N., of Lake Forest, Ill., died when a porch collapsed on June 29 in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. A Memorial Mass celebrated at Villanova on July 2 was attended by faculty, staff and friends. Lupton, 22 years old, was looking forward to her career in pediatric nursing. She was described by one of her nursing professors, Dr. Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., as "the kind of nurse you'd want taking care of your family member."

Lupton's admission essay for Villanova reflected her view of her kind of nurse you'd want taking care of your family member.

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- 88 percent are currently employed, most of them in nursing, either full-time or part-time. The majority (42 percent) are employed in a hospital-based clinical practice; with 20 percent in a non-hospital clinical practice setting and 12 percent in nursing education.
- Many have served as a board officer, presented at conferences, received research grants, or authored book chapters or professional articles.

It is clear that we continue to have a proud heritage of distinction.
Greetings from the Nursing Alumni Society

Dear Fellow Graduates:

The Nursing Alumni Society had a wonderfully busy and successful year. We have 181 active (dues-paying) members and welcomed 101 B.S.N. and 36 M.S.N. graduates. With your support, we continue to award annual undergraduate and graduate scholarships, sponsor the tea for Nursing degree candidates, and contribute to the College of Nursing Mass and Awards Ceremony. We are always looking for meaningful ways to participate in student life, and this year we will begin attending the “Welcome Back” picnic for new and returning students.

The highlight of the academic year was the 50th Anniversary celebrations. There was something for everyone—students, alumni and friends of the College of Nursing. If you attended any of these events, I am sure you enjoyed them. Those who weathered the torrential downpours of Alumni Reunion Weekend in June were delighted with the multi-media retrospective of the College’s history by decades. The Nursing Alumni Society’s anniversary gift to the College was an oil portrait of Sister M. Aimee Lawler, C.R.S.M., one of the two founding co-directors of the College.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Marguerite Stuhler Schlag ’68 B.S.N., E.D.D., R.N., the new assistant dean and director of the graduate program. We also extend congratulations and warm thanks to M. Louise Fitzpatrick, E.D.D., R.N., FAAN on the occasion of her 25th anniversary as dean. She has tirelessly led the College through its evolution, developing it into one of the premier Catholic schools of nursing.

Opportunities to assist prospective graduate students:

If you’re an M.S.N. graduate of the College, consider coming to campus for a Graduate Studies Open House in October or next March to speak with prospective M.S.N. students. Contact Geri Hansen at (610) 519-4834 or e-mail at geri.hansen@villanova.edu for more information.

This new year brings a few changes to our alumni board. Many thanks to Kathryn Ralph Brooks ‘78 B.S.N., ‘84 M.S.N. for a job well done. We welcome Patty Snyder ‘94 B.S.N. to the board. Please think about participating in the ballot process. We will be looking for a treasurer and a board member to join us next spring. You may contact a board member through our Web site (www.nursing.villanova.edu/alumni) or complete the self-nomination form below. Use the same form to sign up for an e-mail newsletter being developed—another way to keep up with the College.

If you have not visited our Web pages, take a moment to do so. Be sure to check the e-mentoring area. This program has enabled Nursing alumni to identify their areas of expertise and sign up for mentoring via the Web.

Please mark your calendars for this year’s events: the 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing (November 4), the Nursing Alumni Society Graduation Tea (March 28, 2004), and the College of Nursing Mass and Awards Ceremony (April 17, 2004). We enjoy seeing you and appreciate your participation. If you have any questions or ideas, or would like to volunteer your time and energy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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

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Call for Nominations to the Nursing Alumni Society — and Send Us Your News!

To nominate yourself for the following positions in the Nursing Alumni Society, please complete this form and mail for receipt by December 15, 2003.

Options to assist prospective undergraduate students:
- Meet with or call prospective candidates in your region to answer their questions (November through April);
- Contact accepted students in your region to offer your congratulations (February through April);
- Host social get-togethers at your home for candidates in your region (April through August);
- Share your expertise by giving a 15-minute talk about your specialty to high school students who are exploring the profession. (For more on this Spring Semester program, called Discover Nursing, visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/announce ments/discovernursing.html)
- Keep track of your classmates and encourage them to keep in touch.

If you are interested in assisting prospective undergraduate students, contact Mary Murphy at (610) 519-7651 or by e-mail at maryl.murphy@villanova.edu.

To update your alumni profile, please call the Villanova Alumni Association at 1-800-VILLANOVA or e-mail alumni@villanova.edu.

Please print:

Name:

Home address:

Street:

City:_________________________State:_____Zip:____________

Home telephone:

E-mail address:

Employer:

Position/title:

Work address:

Street:

City:_________________________State:_____Zip:____________

Work telephone:

Villanova University degree(s) and year(s):__________________________

E-mail address:________________________________________

Yes, please send me future College of Nursing e-mail newsletters.

Here is my news for class notes:_____________________________________

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Serving on board the USNS Comfort are (from left) Cmdr. Maryalice Morro ’83 B.S.N., Lijg. Colleen Mahon ’00 B.S.N. and Ensign Rebecca Carmichael ’01 B.S.N. They were pictured during refueling operations in the Persian Gulf in late March, shortly after Operation Iraqi Freedom began. In April, the College received a joint statement from these three Navy nurses: “On the occasion of Villanova’s College of Nursing’s 50th Anniversary celebration, we alumni serving on board the USNS Comfort find ourselves in the midst of turmoil and tragedy and have relied on the skills and knowledge learned from Villanova’s outstanding College of Nursing. Our education and experience thus far have prepared us well to meet the many challenges we face; to adapt, respond, create, teach and care. We collectively agree that in this time of strife, we are proud to care for the men and women fighting to bring freedom to the Iraqi people.”

Become Involved in Nursing’s Future

The College’s 50th Anniversary has spurred an even greater interest among alumni in becoming involved in the College of Nursing. If you are looking to help future Villanova nurses, consider the following opportunities. You may also complete an online form (www.nursing.villanova.edu/alumni) to let us know of your interest in volunteering.

Opportunities to assist prospective undergraduates:
- Meet with or call prospective candidates in your region to answer their questions (November through April);
- Contact accepted students in your region to offer your congratulations (February through April);
- Host social get-togethers at your home for candidates in your region (April through August);
- Share your expertise by giving a 15-minute talk about your specialty to high school students who are exploring the profession. (For more on this Spring Semester program, called Discover Nursing, visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/announcements/discovernursing.html)
- Keep track of your classmates and encourage them to keep in touch.

If you are interested in assisting prospective undergraduate students, contact Mary Murphy at (610) 519-7651 or by e-mail at maryl.murphy@villanova.edu.

If you have not visited our Web site, take a moment to do so. Be sure to check the e-mentoring area. This program has enabled Nursing alumni to identify their areas of expertise and sign up for mentoring via the Web.

Please mark your calendars for this year’s events: the 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing (November 4), the Nursing Alumni Society Graduation Tea (March 28, 2004), and the College of Nursing Mass and Awards Ceremony (April 17, 2004). We enjoy seeing you and appreciate your participation. If you have any questions or ideas, or would like to volunteer your time and energy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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

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Share Your Thoughts...

If you are interested in sharing with prospective students your reflections about Villanova and the College of Nursing, please visit the Nursing Alumni Society Web site (www.nursing.villanova.edu/alumni) and complete the testimonial form.
On basketball courts, softball fields and indoor/outdoor tracks, three College of Nursing students are putting their talents into play. As they strive for athletic achievement, they’re learning to engage in teamwork, develop personal and team goals, and stay committed and dedicated. The lessons they learn in athletics also are proving useful in their study of nursing.

Sophomore Jenna Viani had the wonderful experience of being part of one of the biggest upsets in the history of women’s basketball: the Wildcats’ win over the University of Connecticut on March 11. Villanova’s 52-48 defeat of the Huskies ended UConn’s 70-game winning streak, earning the Wildcats the Big East title and advancing them to the NCAA tournament. This game “was most definitely the most exciting experience of my basketball life,” Viani acknowledges. “Being an athlete takes a lot of determination,” she realizes, but it also helps her develop into “being a good teammate.” She adds, “These qualities I will take into my career as a nurse.”

The women’s softball team travels around the country—a very demanding schedule. Sophomore Kristen Strait, third baseman for the Wildcats, says playing softball is “helping me out considerably with my study of nursing. I have learned how to work with all different kinds of people, how to accept and work with people who have different opinions and views.” Strait credits her mother, who is a nurse, as being influential in her own career choice.

Likewise, senior Paul Moser tracks his interest in nursing to his mother’s career. Last spring, Moser was a member of Villanova’s NCAA National Championship distance medley relay team. “It is very difficult to balance nursing and track as I advance in my nursing career studies,” he says. “I am lucky to have a great support team, which consists of my professors, my coach and my mother, who’s a nurse.” Moser’s most memorable moment on the team occurred as a freshman. After he completed his first event, Marcus O’Sullivan, Villanova’s track and field head coach and a three-time Olympian, came over and commended him.

As the College’s student-athletes become experts in managing time, juggling schedules and developing team-building skills, they find those skills can cross over from the field, court or track to the hospital, clinic or wellness center.