

FALL 2022

vanderbilt nurse



Invaluable and Essential

Preceptors shape the future for
new practitioners and for nursing



V
VANDERBILT
School of Nursing

LINDA NORMAN
Dean Emerita,
Sarratt Society
Chair 2021-22

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW

When I reflect on my 31-year career at the School of Nursing, it gives me great pride to think of all that we accomplished together.

My husband and I decided to celebrate my treasured experience by creating a planned gift to establish the **Don and Linda Norman Scholarship** and support the next generations of leaders in nursing.

You may know firsthand how vital scholarships are to nursing students. Planned gifts have a tremendous impact by significantly increasing the number of scholarships we can offer.

Join me by honoring what the School of Nursing means to you through a bequest or other planned gift. As a Sarratt Society member, you will make a remarkable difference for future generations, and leave a legacy of compassion, care and generosity.

For more information or to request our complimentary guide, *Ways to Give*, which provides an overview of planned giving options, contact Anthony Barclay, executive director of planned giving, at 615-936-5518 or anthony.barclay@vanderbilt.edu.

vanderbiltnurse

Editor
Nancy Wise

Design and Art Direction
Tim Kovick, FINN Partners, Nashville

Contributing Editors
Seth Robertson

Contributing Writers
Tatum Lyles Flick
Jennifer Plant Johnston, MLAS'21
Morgan Kroll
Marissa Shapiro
Betsey Usher, MEd'95
Amy Wolf

Copy Editors
Donna B. Smith
Jennifer Goode Stevens

Photography/Illustration
Dina Bahan
Joe Howell, MLAS'13
Anne Rayner
John Russell
Karlee Sell
Caroline Taylor
Susan Urmey
Brad Young Photography
Vanderbilt Special Collections and University Archives

Web
Megan Clancy, BA'03

Cover Illustration
Alex Nabaum

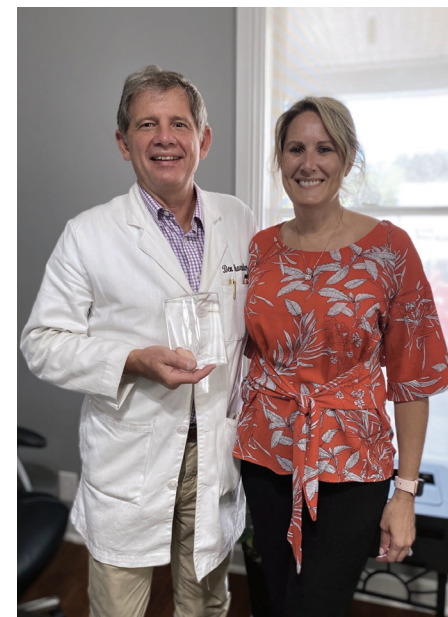
Editorial Office
vanderbiltnurse@vanderbilt.edu
Communications and Marketing
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
461 21st Ave. S., 117 Godchaux Hall
Nashville, TN 37240

VUSN Alumni Office and Association
vusn-alumninursing@vanderbilt.edu
Betsey Usher, Director, Alumni Relations
betsey.usher@vanderbilt.edu
461 21st Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37240
615-322-4836

Vanderbilt Nurse is published twice a year by the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in cooperation with the Vanderbilt University Division of Communications. The editor welcomes letters and comments from readers at:

Vanderbilt Nurse Editor
461 21st Ave. S., Nashville, TN, 37240
Email: vusn-communications@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
© 2022 Vanderbilt University



10 Preceptors Pass It On
Preceptors like Dr. Benjamin Shoemaker (here with his wife, Katrina), generously share their knowledge with students.

Find this publication and past issues of *Vanderbilt Nurse* online at vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltnurse.

Send your email address to vusn-alumninursing@vanderbilt.edu to receive regular electronic updates.

We want to be in touch. Choose one or all of these social media platforms to stay in touch with your classmates, faculty and school.

facebook.com/vanderbiltnurse

twitter.com/vanderbiltnurse

instagram.com/vusn#

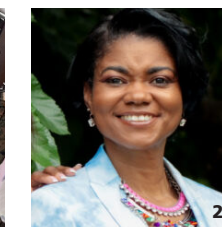
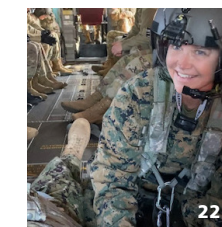
linkedin.com/school/vanderbilt-university-school-of-nursing

vanderbiltnurse

FALL 2022 CONTENTS

features

- 10 Invaluable and Essential**
Preceptors are the bridge between classroom and practice
- 18 The Future Is Here**
Nurse scientists use data science and health technology to transform patient care
- 22 In the Midst of Chaos**
Through war zones and COVID, a student finds she can rely on faculty and classmates
- 24 Lodged in Resilience**
Alumna Erin Miller commits her career to helping abused children feel brave and safe
- 28 More Black Doulas Mean Better Birth Outcomes**
Three nurse-midwives fight for Black maternal health with an innovative training program
- 30 No Regrets**
Veterans, research and now students benefit from longtime Vanderbilt champion



departments

- 2 Message from the Dean**
First year reflections
- 3 News Around the School**
The latest on activities, events and accomplishments
- 32 Class Notes**
Promotions, achievements, moves, marriages, babies and other passages



VUSN MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is to lead in education, evidence-based practice, scholarship, and research in order to provide optimal health care to diverse communities through innovation, inclusion, and compassion.

Dear alumni, colleagues and supporters,

Just a few weeks ago, I celebrated my one-year anniversary as dean of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. What a year it has been! In the past 12 months, the School of Nursing has developed and announced a new master of nursing degree, launched a leadership program for emerging nurse leaders and faculty from underrepresented backgrounds, shared its informatics expertise with educators from across the country and received more than \$5 million in new funding. It also celebrated 455 new advanced practice nurse practitioners, nurse leaders and nurse scientists during Commencement 2022.



JOHN RUSSELL

Each year, Vanderbilt needs at least 1,000 health care providers to precept our more than 500 students.

As the new dean—new to Vanderbilt and to Nashville—I have spent some of this first year getting to know alumni, friends and nursing and community leaders. It has been a delight to hear the high esteem in which they hold Vanderbilt School of Nursing. In many meetings, chief nursing officers and leaders have shared their need for more clinical nurses. In response, the School of Nursing has developed the master of nursing program for those without a nursing background who want to become registered nurses. The program is recruiting now, with our first class scheduled to begin in January. You can read more about it on the opposite page.

I also have been traveling and meeting when I can with alumni and friends of the school. I am continually impressed by our alumni and their careers. Whether just starting out or retiring, they are passionate about nursing and care. In this issue of *Vanderbilt Nurse*, you'll read of two recent alumni—one a military nurse sent to New York City at the start of the pandemic and another fiercely dedicated to the safety and recovery of children who have been abused. Their stories are on Page 22 and Page 24.

Alumni also feature prominently in our cover story on preceptors. As we nurses all know, preceptors are vital to helping students transition from classroom to practice. Each year, Vanderbilt needs at least 1,000 health care providers to precept our more than 500 students. These remarkable providers precept for a variety of reasons: They like to teach, they want to pay it forward or they know how much new providers are needed. Whatever their reasons, we are most grateful for them and their support. As you'll read in the article, we continually need preceptors in all specialties and all over the country; if you haven't considered precepting, I encourage you to do so now. Email VUSN-ClinicalPlacement@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

In this issue, we continue our series on VUSN's signature research areas. The article on Page 18 focuses on our data science and health technology researchers. You'll be introduced to four faculty using data science and health technology to increase health care knowledge and improve patient care.

As I said, this has been a whirlwind and wonderful first year as dean. In addition to the new programs and accomplishments I mentioned above, the school's faculty, staff and leadership continue to strategize and collaborate on forward-moving initiatives that will keep Vanderbilt at the forefront of nursing education and innovation today and in the years to come. I look forward to sharing more about those in the months to come.

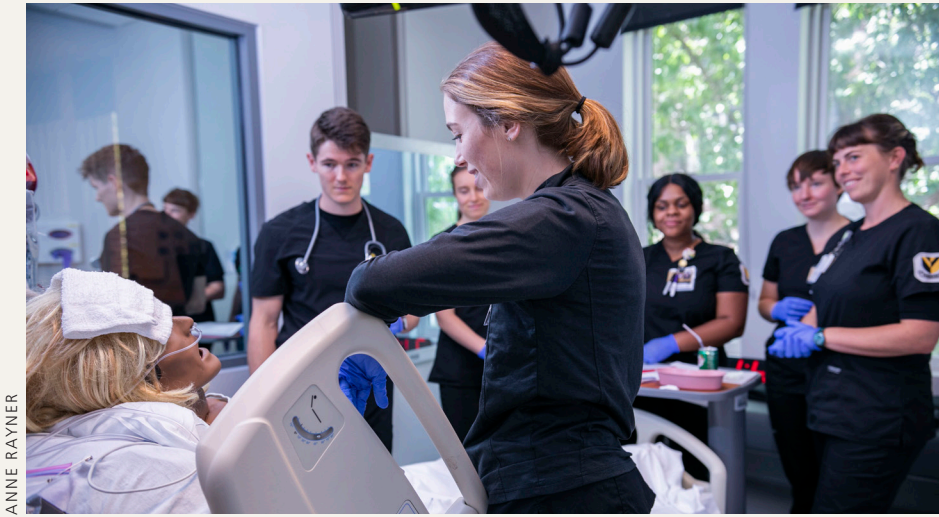
Best,

Pamela R. Jeffries

Pamela R. Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH
Dean
Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing

News Around the School

COMMUNITY RESEARCH OUTREACH SCIENCE FACULTY TECHNOLOGY



ANNE RAYNER

Students test their clinical judgment and care skills in the simulation lab.

VUSN to offer new MN degree for people seeking to become RNs

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has launched a master of nursing degree to help meet the high demand for registered nurses in health care settings throughout the nation. The program aims to attract people looking for a career change or those with a bachelor's degree in another field. The program will begin in spring 2023.

The MN program is a direct response to the dire need for registered nurses nationwide—a need that became more acute throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. “All through the pandemic, we heard about the need for more registered nurses,” says Pamela Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, dean of the School of Nursing and Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing. “There were more jobs than nurses even before the pandemic, and now baby boomers are requiring more health care than ever. Our local health care systems, providers' offices, clinics and long-term care facilities all need more registered nurses.”

The first of its kind in the state of Tennessee, the MN curriculum will prepare graduates to provide holistic care for individuals of all ages, communities and populations while giving consideration to the socioeconomic, cultural, political, environmental and educational influences on health and well-being, says Mary Ann Jessee, PhD, MSN'95, assistant dean for academics, generalist nursing practice and associate professor of nursing.

“A Vanderbilt MN nurse will utilize knowledge of health disparities in taking patient histories that bring socioeconomic and other social determinants of health challenges to light. This is very much in line with the School of Nursing's mission and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. We have a goal and responsibility to foster and graduate highly educated, culturally sensitive health care professionals who mirror the diverse populations they serve,” Jeffries says.

The four-semester degree is grounded in principles of sound clinical judgment

and evidence-based knowledge. Graduates will be generalist nurses with the skills and knowledge required of RNs. As master's-prepared RNs, students will also develop introductory clinical teaching skills and advanced competency in interprofessional teamwork, nursing leadership and nursing informatics.

Students will benefit from the depth and breadth of health care systems in Nashville and the experiential learning model unique to Vanderbilt University. Clinical experience, a program requirement, can be obtained at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and other clinical partners in and around Metro Nashville. Through this experience, students will be able to make informed decisions on their next steps in the nursing profession, says Mavis Schorn, PhD, FACNM, FNAP, FAAN, senior associate dean for academics.

Graduates who receive licensure will be able to work clinically in hospitals, public health and long-term care settings, clinics and as home health providers. Registered nurses can also layer their knowledge with other professional areas of expertise like engineering, business and law, or choose to pursue opportunities in education, research or advanced practice nursing.

The MN program joins the other School of Nursing degree programs, including its Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and PhD in Nursing Science degrees.



The first cohort of Master of Nursing students will start in January 2023.

Faculty honored by professional organizations

Several Vanderbilt faculty were named fellows by their professional organizations this spring, an honor recognizing their accomplishments, professionalism and scholarship.

Professor Sharon Karp, PhD'08, MSN'99, FAANP, was named a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Fellows are recognized for making an impact on the nurse practitioner

profession through publishing, research, developing clinical practice models, teaching innovations, and influencing health policy.

Associate Professor Christian Ketel, DNP'14, FNAP, was inducted as a distinguished practitioner fellow of the National Academies of Practice. NAP fellows are honored for significant contributions to interprofessional health care and exemplary careers.

Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Academics Brian Widmar, PhD'12, FAANP, FCCM, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine. The association recognizes as fellows those who have made outstanding contributions to the field of critical care.

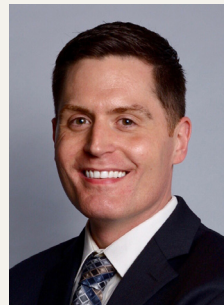
Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing Education Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, FAAN, FAANP, MCCM, was also honored by the American College of Critical Care Medicine. She was named a master, an honor higher than fellow, in recognition of her professional prominence, personal character, leadership, eminence in clinical practice, and contributions to critical care medicine research and education, as well as her service to the organization.



Karp



Ketel



Widmar



Kleinpell

Researcher Alvin Jeffery awarded Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for nursing innovators

School of Nursing Assistant Professor Alvin Jeffery, PhD'17, MS'21, is one of 12 nurse scientists accepted into the third cohort of the Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and Innovators. The prestigious three-year program recognizes early- to mid-career nursing scholars and innovators with high potential to accelerate leadership in nursing research, practice, education, policy and entrepreneurship. It is funded by a \$37.5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Fellows receive \$450,000 to conduct an innovative project or study that has the potential to address a gap in knowledge, meet a vital need, alter care delivery or

design a new solution to advance health. Jeffery, who is also assistant professor at the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Vanderbilt School of Medicine, will soon begin his fellowship project, "Improving electronic health record usability with a novel customization process."

"The role of data science and informatics continues to grow exponentially in health care delivery," says Dean Pamela R. Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, the Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing. "New methods and discovery have the potential to impact large groups of patients, health care providers and health systems. Dr. Jeffery's work with electronic health records, one of the most intrinsic and

beneficial systems in health care, will advance usability for all health care providers and, ultimately, improve patient care."

Jeffery also completed a Medical Informatics Post-Doctoral Fellowship with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs after earning his PhD. He joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 2017 and currently serves on the board of directors for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.



Jeffery



JOE HOWELL

School of Nursing excels in U.S. News & World Report 2023 rankings

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing continues to be ranked as one of the nation's top schools by *U.S. News & World Report* in its Best Graduate Schools Rankings. Vanderbilt's Master of Science in Nursing program was ranked No. 8 and its Doctor of Nursing Practice was ranked No. 7 in the 2023 rankings released in March 2022.

The school's Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner specialty was named the No. 1 AGACNP program in the country. Other VUSN individual specialty programs were ranked highly, taking the No. 2 or No. 3 spot as best in their areas of specialization.

"It's quite an honor to be in the Top 10," says Pamela Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, dean and Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing. "It speaks volumes that despite a worldwide pandemic, challenges in health care and changes in our profession, Vanderbilt School of Nursing consistently delivers high-quality nursing education, preparing the next generation to transition to practice, teach and advance knowledge."

The remainder of VUSN's MSN advanced practice specialties were not ranked by *U.S. News* this year.

"The rankings reflect the hard work and commitment to improving and maintaining excellence in each of the school's specialties over the past decade," Jeffries says. "Our faculty and staff take that commitment very seriously. These impressive results reflect what I see each and every day, as those in the School of Nursing work to ensure that students are fully prepared as confident and effective advanced practice nurses who positively affect the nursing profession and make strides in high-quality patient care."

U.S. News & World Report bases best graduate school rankings on two types of data: expert opinion about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research and students. The surveys and assessments were conducted from late summer 2021 to early 2022.

Individual specialty rankings are:

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (MSN)	No. 1
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (MSN)	No. 2
Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN)	No. 2
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (MSN)	No. 2
Administration (DNP)	No. 2
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care (DNP)	No. 3



CAROLINE TAYLOR

School of Nursing graduates celebrated for resilience and accomplishment

Vanderbilt celebrated Commencement and Investiture in May for those graduating in summer and fall 2021 and spring 2022. In total, 385 Master of Science in Nursing and 62 Doctor of Nursing Practice students graduated. An additional eight PhD in Nursing Science students received their degrees from Vanderbilt Graduate School.

The students were hooded by their program specialty directors or academic director, then each was congratulated by VUSN Dean Pamela Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, the Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing.

“It wasn’t always easy, and I applaud your resilience, cheerful mindsets and can-do-attitudes,” she said. “You studied and learned, and mastered and grew. Today you are here, at the celebration of all you have worked so hard for, surrounded by the family and friends who cheered you on, and the faculty and classmates who are beaming with pride at the nursing professionals you have become.”

MSN graduates included: 53 in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; three in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner/Family Nurse Practitioner (Emergency Care Focus); 32 in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; 68 in Family Nurse Practitioner; 13 in Family Nurse Practitioner/Emergency Nurse Practitioner; 34 in Neonatal Nurse Practitioner; 14 in Nurse-Midwifery; nine in Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner; nine in Nursing and Health Care Leadership; 11 in Nursing Informatics; 11 in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner/Acute Care; 52 in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner/Primary Care; 49 in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan); 21 in Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner; and six in Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care.

Tip Tilton, who completed VUSN’s nursing informatics MSN specialty program, received the 2022 Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Founder’s

Left: Banner Bearer Nhan Dinh, Dean Pamela Jeffries and Founder’s Medalist Tip Tilton wait to process into Vanderbilt Stadium for Commencement ceremonies.

Below: Faculty applaud the graduates. On the platform, left, Tamika Hudson, Joanie Jeannette, Dean Pamela Jeffries



SUSAN URMY

Medal. While at VUSN, Tilton worked as an RN quality improvement coordinator at the John Muir Medical Center in California, where she used her expertise in nursing informatics to solve electronic health record admission documentation issues. Today, she excels in process improvements that improve nursing workloads and patient experience. She is employed as a clinical nurse informaticist at the University of California San Francisco.

Nhan Dinh, MSN’18, a Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate, served as the school’s banner bearer. Dinh, who earned her MSN in the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program, is a published researcher in nephrology and transplant genomics. She is a nephrology transplant nurse practitioner at the University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. On hand to see her receive her doctoral degree was her mother, An Le, who is also a nurse and flew in from Vietnam for the ceremonies.

New directors named for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialties

Assistant Professor Colleen Reilly Moss, DNP, MSN’01, BS’00, has been named academic director for the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty, and Assistant Professor Megan Simmons, DNP’13, PMC’13, MSN’05, has been named academic director for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty. Moss’ appointment was effective earlier this year; Simmons’ is effective Aug. 1.

Moss has two decades of clinical experience in neonatal nursing and has worked in both level IV and level II neonatal/infant intensive care units. Her current clinical practice is at the level IV NICU at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt; she also provides NNP services at Maury Regional Medical Center’s level II NICU, a Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital affiliate.

“Colleen has a passion for teaching and mentoring new neonatal providers,” says Mavis Schorn, PhD, FACNM, FNAP, FAAN, senior associate dean for academic affairs. “She understands and appreciates the challenges facing those who care for these tiny and fragile infants and their families. She is dedicated to not just educating future neonatal nurse practitioners but also equipping them to avoid the burnout and stress that that can sometimes occur.”

Moss joined Vanderbilt School of Nursing in 2019, teaching in the Master of Science in Nursing Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. She received the school’s Sara K. Archer Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty in 2020 and 2021.

Her academic interests include quality improvement and mentorship in the NICU, as well as neonatal sepsis and hypocalcemia. Moss had been interim co-director with Assistant Professor Patricia Scott, DNP, MSN’93, BSN’88.

Simmons has almost two decades of clinical experience in psychiatric-mental health, including serving in long-term care facilities providing psychiatric assessment and medication management services.

She joined VUSN in 2013, where she is an assistant professor in the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. She is also an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and practices as a PMNHP in the Memory and Aging Clinic.

“Megan is an experienced psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner and has been increasingly active in leadership for the PMHNP program. She knows the needs of patients, students, faculty and providers,” Schorn says. “Her experience, knowledge and skills in the psychiatric-mental health field will strengthen the program’s future.”

—Mavis Schorn

Simmons is also a key member of the PMHNP team supporting VUSN’s \$1.92 million Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training Program grant funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Her current research interests include geriatric psychopharmacology, mental health care of older adults and long-term care residents, and treating behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.

Simmons succeeds Assistant Professor Marci Zsomboky, DNP’18, PMC’17, who is stepping down at the end of the summer to move closer to her family in Pennsylvania.



Simmons

“Her experience, knowledge and skills in the psychiatric-mental health field will strengthen the program’s future.”



Moss

“Colleen understands... the challenges facing those who care for these tiny and fragile infants and their families.”

—Mavis Schorn

Vanderbilt joins TSU, Meharry and the Congregational Health and Education Network on \$4M NIH grant to address social factors in health

Sharon Jones, DNP, assistant professor of nursing, and David G. Schlundt, PhD, associate professor of psychology, are participating in a collaborative research project to address health disparities and advance health equity in Nashville.

The five-year project—Engaging Partners in Caring Communities (EPICC): Building Capacity to Implement Health Promotion Programs in African American Churches—is supported by a \$4 million National Institutes of Health grant through its Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity initiative.

The work is led by Rebecca Selove, PhD, director of TSU's Center for Prevention Research, Jemal Gishe, PhD,



Jones

assistant professor of public health, health administration and health sciences at TSU, and Leah R. Alexander, PhD, associate professor in Meharry Medical College's division of public health practice. Rev. Omaràn Lee, director of the Congregational Health and Education Network (CHEN), and Rev. Neely Williams are contributing their expertise to the project.

“Educating people to improve their health literacy and be involved in their own health plan is a core piece of what nurses do every day,” Jones says. “It is vital that we as a community and a society find solutions that mitigate health inequities and overcome health challenges.”

The goal of the EPICC project is to reduce health disparities associated with chronic health conditions such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer by supporting evidence-based health promotion programs led by church members in churches serving African American communities.

“Educating people to improve their health literacy and be involved in their own health plan is a core piece of what nurses do every day.”

—Sharon Jones



JOE HOWELL

Dean Pamela Jeffries and Professor Julie Barroso were recognized at Vanderbilt's endowed chair investiture in March. Endowed chairs are the highest scholastic rank a university can bestow on its distinguished faculty.

University honors dean, Barroso at endowed chair investiture ceremony

Dean Pamela Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, and Professor Julie Barroso, PhD, FNAP, FAAN, were among 36 Vanderbilt faculty honored with endowed chairs by Vanderbilt Chancellor Daniel Diermeier and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs C. Cybele Raver during an investiture ceremony on campus in March. Jeffries received the Valere Potter Distinguished Chair in Nursing, and Barroso received the Julia Eleanor Blair Chenault Chair in Nursing.

“For our faculty members, endowed chairs are the highest honor that a university bestows,” Diermeier said at the ceremony. “They signify, across the academy, that these individuals have achieved—whether by scholarship, research, artistic creation or teaching—all the laurels to which their profession aspires.”

Faculty received specially designed medallions to be worn with their official academic regalia that symbolize the attainment of their endowed chair position. This was only the second endowed chair investiture ceremony in Vanderbilt's history, although the school's tradition of endowed chairs dates back to 1918.

VISTA | Vanderbilt Informatics Summer Teaching Academy

School of Nursing holds innovative informatics conference for nurse educators

Nursing educators challenged with incorporating nursing informatics into their curriculum in accordance with new AACN Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education got a jump start at a three-day Vanderbilt Informatics Summer Teaching Academy (VISTA) held at VUSN July 20-22.

The informatics immersion, led by nursing informatics experts, used AACN informatics essentials as a framework to provide attendees with concrete ways to embed informatics into their curricula.

Attendees learned to identify teaching strategies, develop content and create assessment measures to meet the new competencies. Senior Associate Dean for Nursing Informatics Patricia Sengstack, DNP'10, FAAN, FACMI, was one of the instructors for the conference.

“With the pervasiveness of technology in health care today, and the need for robust analytics, informatics concepts are no longer optional in nursing education,” Sengstack says. “They are now essential components to understand in the delivery of transformational care.”

Other VISTA instructors included Kelly Aldrich, DNP, FHIMSS, director of innovation, and Brenda Kulhanek, PhD, director of Vanderbilt's Nursing Informatics specialty. As educators, the three have approximately a century of combined education experience.



Invaluable and Essential

Preceptors shape the future for new practitioners and for nursing

It's a centuries-old practice: A more experienced practitioner guides a nursing student in how to apply the classroom education they have acquired. As days go by, the student learns from their preceptor and gains expertise in patient care and communications. Eventually, after hundreds of hours of experience, the student becomes a colleague.

“When a student enters their final year in any of the 12 advanced practice nursing specialties, they need at least 500 direct patient care clinical hours,” says Elizabeth Rapisarda, MBA’87, BA’80, assistant dean for clinical placement at VUSN. “A preceptor is a practicing clinician who gives their time and support to train the next generation of advanced practice providers.”

Clinical rotations under different preceptors allow students to apply what they learn in class and simulations to real-life situations. Most find the experience exciting, though sometimes intimidating, and a good preceptor helps them step into clinical practice with confidence.

“Students benefit from sustained interaction over time as they build competency and confidence, and preceptors start to allow greater independence,”

Rapisarda explains. “That growth makes a big difference in a student’s confidence level to become a competent provider.”

Marina Gayed, a future women’s health NP, says she enjoyed watching herself grow. Gayed was precepted by Norma J. Krantz, MSN’98, at the Nashville Breast Center. “As a student, you know a little bit of everything, then when you get to the clinic, you incorporate all of those details into one big picture,” Gayed says.

Krantz says she talks through clinical problems and decisions so that students can learn how to process the information and make decisions.

“I talk out loud about how I’m thinking because that’s what they need to learn,” Krantz says. “The students are excited and want to soak this information

up like a sponge. They ask questions about what they learned in class. That keeps me open to learning new information and sometimes thinking outside of the box.”

Gayed says her experience with Krantz helped her overcome her shyness. “You have to ask patients very personal questions because you’re trying to build a care plan. If you don’t ask questions, then you’re not going to be able to direct anyone to the right path,” Gayed says.

Krantz has precepted 17 VUSN students since 2005. She says she was able to get where she is because other nurse practitioners and physicians were willing to precept her as a nurse practitioner student. “I wanted to pay it forward and hope others will too.”

BY TATUM LYLES FLICK

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX NABAUM / PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Beyond the Classroom

Preceptors play a crucial role in helping students translate classroom learning into real-life situations, evaluate their fit for a specialty and prepare to practice on their own.

Adult Nurse Practitioner David McDowell, MSN'12, precepts students in his Shelby, North Carolina, practice. He helps his students to start to think in patterns and make connections. "The clinical rotation is where students put all of the book work, study, tests and readings into a live situation," he says.

One of his students was Amy Herink, a dual family nurse practitioner/nurse-midwifery student. Herink says she felt being mentored helped her grow.

"Nothing really compared to learning from an advanced provider," Herink says. "Our preceptors give us a lot of freedom and independence to work into the role of nurse practitioner, and then they give us the safety net of their experience and their knowledge. Having that has increased my confidence significantly."

The more students McDowell has worked with, the more he enjoys mentoring.

"It's fun to teach and see people go from day one, where they're following you around and not really saying anything, to the end of the rotation, where they're kind of coming out of the room telling you what's going on," McDowell says. "The biggest part of helping patients is just listening to what they have to say."

Herink says McDowell taught her how to communicate with patients so they are understood and how to advocate for that patient population. "Preceptors are absolutely critical to shaping the next generation of nurse practitioners, and I don't think we can put enough emphasis on how important they are to nursing education," she says.

"I will never forget my preceptors. They will always be my role models and motivation."

—Marina Gayed, WHNP student



1. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP (Intensivist) Preceptor of the Year Galileo MacInnis, MSN, is a nurse practitioner in the Burn Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; students receive invaluable experience from her while precepting in an intense, vital environment. **2.** Then-Women's Health/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP student Finihang Kakyemo, MSN'21, and her preceptor, Tejshri Gohel, MSN'18, at Gohel's practice site in Dallas. **3.** Lindsay Miller, MSN, associate nursing officer for the Vanderbilt Health Surgery, Dermatology, and Orthopaedics Patient Care Centers, received the Nursing and Health Care Leadership Preceptor award in 2021.



Members of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP faculty wanted to be on hand to present the Preceptor of the Year award to Benjamin Hill, MD, of the St. Thomas Medical Group, and his supportive, caring staff. Left, Assistant Professor Kanah Lewallen, DNP, MSN'09; then-student Oumy Niang, MSN'22; Medical Assistant Lacy Pendergrass; Instructor Travis Dunlap, PhD, MSN'02; Dr. Hill; and AGPCNP Specialty Director Leslie Hopkins, DNP, MSN'93.

Precepting Through COVID

In recent years, preceptors played a pivotal role in moving students forward during the onset of the pandemic.

"When COVID hit, everything shut down and we had to pull students from clinicals for a couple of weeks," Rapisarda says. "We made the decision to restart clinical training based on input from preceptors. They ensured that those students received the training they needed and completed their programs. We could not have done it without their help."

Professionals volunteer for a lot of reasons. Many enjoy working with students, some enjoy helping mold future clinicians, others like to keep up with what their alma mater is doing to educate and prepare future NPs. Assistant Professor Michael Gooch, DNP, MSN'05, says that students love precepting with an alumnus. "Every program is a little different, so when the preceptor and the student have been to same school, it gives them some connectivity."

Preceptors come from many backgrounds. Some are VUSN NP or nurse-midwifery alumni, while others are physicians, nurse practitioners or nurse-

midwives from other schools, or other health care professionals.

In addition to the satisfaction that comes from sharing knowledge, preceptors report that they benefit in other ways. "Those who precept consistently enjoy teaching and do it as a way to give back to the profession, but there are lots of benefits," says Associate Professor Leslie Hopkins, DNP, MSN'93, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner specialty director. She says that precepting helps organizations find potential employees and learn about the latest evidence-based practice guidelines.

1. Ashley Johnson, MSN'20, and her former Women's Health NP preceptor, Ebony Smith, MSN'13, at Regional One Health in Memphis. Today, they both work there. **2.** Bree Osborne, MSN'03, works in thoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Hospitalist) specialty named her its 2020-21 Preceptor of the Year. **3.** "I precept because I love to teach and I want to make a difference in medicine. We need good providers, and I would like to think I can contribute to that," says Katherine Jones, MD, the Emergency NP Preceptor of the Year, here with Specialty Director Jennifer Wilbeck, DNP, PMC'06, MSN'99, FAANP, FAAN. **4.** Left, Women's Health NP Specialty Director Ginny Moore, DNP, MSN'90; Norma Kranz, MSN'98, the specialty's 2018-19 Preceptor of the Year; and Shelza Rivas, DNP'17, MSN'15, BA'12. Kranz precepted Rivas, now an assistant professor at VUSN—and Moore taught them both. **5.** Kim Savage, MSN'16, was presented with her PMHNP Preceptor of the Year award when she lectured at the School of Nursing.



“(Preceptors) give us the safety net of their experience and their knowledge.”

—Amy Herink, FNP/NM student

Match Game

Matching students with preceptors across 12 VUSN programs takes a lot of work; VUSN has approximately 500 students in clinical rotations and 1,000 preceptors, and always needs more. Each student has at least one primary preceptor per term who evaluates that student's progress, but many students work with and learn from numerous practitioners. Depending on the specialty, a student may be mentored by as many as 10 health care professionals before completing their degree.

Once health care professionals decide they'd like to be preceptors, they work with VUSN faculty and staff on the details. They may complete a questionnaire, have a phone or Zoom conversation, or meet in person with a VUSN representative. They'll review a clinical syllabus for the student's course and talk about how their daily activities and evaluations might help students become proficient in treating patients. Their agency completes an affiliation agreement with Vanderbilt and discusses requirements.

Clinical sites range from small rural clinics to large metropolitan hospital outpatient and inpatient clinics; in the case of programs like nursing informatics, clinical sites can be with agencies that evaluate health care information.

Not all of what students learn from their preceptors relate to clinical skills. Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP student Yelena Reese has worked

as a registered nurse for almost a decade but learned new skills in her journey to become an NP, including how to offer conversational interactions with patients while also helping them achieve their health goals.

“Previously, I took way too much time collecting patient history and sometimes was carried away with conversations about nonhealth-related issues,” Reese says. “It was especially challenging with elderly patients who needed to talk to someone as much, if not more, than to get medical help. My preceptor taught me how shift the conversation to the issue at hand without appearing dismissive or uninterested.”

Reese's experience helped solidify her desire to practice in adult gerontology.

“Working with my preceptor showed me a different side of gerontology I did not see in the acute care setting or at my current ambulatory job, working with kidney transplant recipients,” Reese says, noting her placement allowed her to work with elderly patients with health issues who still enjoy life while aging gracefully. “They were such a joy to interact with that I looked forward to their appointments and the opportunity to catch up. I certainly hope I will take care of elderly patients like that wherever I end up working.”

As students look for experience to complete their programs, a team of dedicated VUSN faculty and staff works tirelessly to find enough preceptors for students in Nashville and across the country.

“The need for more preceptors limits the number of students we can take in

certain specialties,” says Gooch, who teaches in the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Specialty. “They are an integral piece of our program. For example, in the ENP program, students complete around 1,000 hours of clinicals. Without preceptors, that would be impossible.”

Beyond Tennessee Needed

A major challenge to the need for preceptors is recruiting them in areas where MSN students live and work outside of Middle Tennessee.

Pediatric Primary Care NP student and five-year RN Jessica Lloyd lives in West Virginia and needed a local preceptor. Unfortunately, the nearby university-based health system gives priority to students from that university. “It was hard to find a primary care practice in pediatrics that didn't already have students or wanted to precept somebody who wasn't a WVU student,” she says.

Then program director Brittany Nelson, DNP, BS'00, MSN'01, introduced her to Vanderbilt alumna Caitlin Henby Nelson, MSN'18, who was moving to West Virginia. Even though the two lived miles apart, Lloyd made the three-hour round trip regularly for the experience and feels that it was worth every minute.

“It turned out to be the biggest blessing in disguise because I had a fantastic experience—my preceptor has been the biggest blessing in my clinical journey so far,” Lloyd says. “I wish all students were able to have a VU alumni preceptor because it makes the transition so much easier. Regardless of how long ago they went through the program, they understand what Vanderbilt upholds for their clinical standards and what they expect of students.”

Nelson works at a rural health clinic in primary care pediatrics and volunteered to mentor Lloyd.

“A couple of years into practice, I thought I would like to give back to the VUSN community,” Nelson says. “Precepting is a tangible way to do that. One of my preceptors told me, ‘You don’t have to know everything to be a preceptor. You just have to be willing to learn with the student and be humble enough to be able to admit when you don’t know.’ That made me feel a lot more comfortable taking students earlier in my career, and I would say I’ve not regretted it at all.”

Nelson enjoys mentoring future colleagues and recognizes the benefit of working with students, who often have fresh ideas and knowledge of new guidelines.

“They share with me the things that they’re learning, and there are things that I do not remember or that are new to me,” Nelson says. “I find that students are a great way to keep me on my toes. Also, I know that if I’m teaching somebody, I really need to know my stuff.”

In return, Lloyd says Nelson taught her something that makes a difference in pediatric care: focus on each family as a whole, rather than one patient.

“Caitlin encouraged me to treat the family as a unit and provide for all of them, and that is something if I precept in the future I will carry into that experience,” Lloyd says.

Nelson’s main goal is to help students understand where to look when they do not have an answer and to instill confidence.

“As time progresses, I encourage my students to be as independent as is safe and as they feel comfortable,” Nelson says. “I feel like that was definitely a hallmark of a really good preceptor—someone who let me see patients as independently as possible, and sort of have a tough patient interview before coming back around and helping me work through it. Students begin to understand their roles



as nurse practitioners better and are able to feel confident being the NP.”

To Nelson, mentoring is closely tied to the career she has chosen.

“Maybe that is the best part of nurse practitioners as a community—we’re very collaborative and supportive of one another,” Nelson says. “Being a preceptor is like welcoming our new colleagues into the field. We get to be the face that welcomes them as colleagues, and we get to train them to provide the excellent, comprehensive care that is characteristic of nurse practitioners.”

In their commitment to make sure students leave the program well-educated and thoroughly prepared, the school’s clinical placement team is asking for help.

VUSN has started a new initiative to find more preceptors to help students grow through this critical step in their training. Part of its efforts includes celebrating the many people who already support the program.

“It’s not just the provider who precepts the student,” Rapisarda says. “All the office staff and other providers in the practice play important roles in supporting our students.” The school regularly sends thank you gifts

“Being a preceptor is like welcoming our new colleagues into the field.”

—Caitlin Henby Nelson, MSN’19

to providers’ offices to express its gratitude, and last year launched a Preceptor of the Year program to honor those who volunteer. A preceptor of the year is named for each specialty, and he or she receives a plaque, gifts and recognition. Starting in summer 2022, the preceptor of the year recipients will be invited to the school’s August pinning ceremonies to receive their awards as part of the celebration.

School of Nursing faculty say any medical professional who enjoys teaching and has the patience to listen and help someone grow from a student into a confident practitioner would make a good preceptor.

Lessons learned from preceptors remain with graduates throughout their careers. “I will never forget my preceptors,” Gayed says. “They will always be my role models and motivation.”

Those interested in becoming a preceptor can reach out to clinical faculty or the clinical placement office, or find information online at <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/preceptor/index.php>.



1. The Pediatric Emergency Department Physician Team at the Children’s Hospital at Tristar Centennial was selected as the 2020-21 Preceptor of the Year by the Pediatric NP-Acute Care specialty. **2.** The Family NP specialty named Benjamin Shoemaker, MD, of Ashland City, TN, as its Preceptor of the Year. Shoemaker, here with his wife, Katrina, has precepted VUSN students for more than 25 years. **3.** Pediatric NP-Primary Care student Jessica Lloyd and her preceptor, Caitlin Henby Nelson, MSN’18. Lloyd had a fantastic experience working with Nelson at a rural health clinic in West Virginia. **4.** The Women’s Health NP Preceptor of the Year for 2020-21 was Aubrey Austin, MSN’17, at Women’s Health Specialists, here with Oumy Niang, MSN’22, then a dual WHNPI/AGPCNP student.

Military Aid

Health care providers might not consider precepting nurse practitioner students as patriotic, but Army ER nurse and Emergency Nurse Practitioner/DNP student Jon Capan sees it differently.

“I’ve been an ER nurse for 18 years,” Capan says, but “every day was a massive learning experience. Having been an ER nurse for so long and being really good at what I did as a nurse, then transitioning to this new role of practitioner has been humbling and challenging.”

Capan is a student in the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoe) Long Term Education and Training (LTGET) program. He has been amazed at how well preceptors worked with Vanderbilt’s active-duty students, communicating with the military chain of command and understanding the Army’s medical training needs. Upon graduation, he will head back into military service, “but if there’s any way for me to contribute, especially to Vanderbilt graduate students as a preceptor, then wherever I am in the country, I’d be more than happy to do that.”

Capan, who has deployed five times to places ranging from Iraq to Somalia, stressed that a volunteer preceptor’s work of precepting students, especially those in the military, goes much further than just helping that one person.

“A preceptor’s contribution to military, active-duty students helps our efforts to save the lives of fellow service members and local nationals that we may care for,” Capan says. “This work speaks volumes about our country as the United States takes care of injured locals and of our service members.”

JOIN THE JULIA HERFORD SOCIETY TODAY

Champion the future of nursing as a Julia Hereford Society member. Your annual leadership gift helps fund scholarships, innovative research, experiential programs and so much more.

Visit vu.edu/jhs to see details and make your gift.



Don’t wait! JHS members are invited to a private reception at the Kimpton Hotel during Reunion on Oct. 6, 2022. Visit vu.edu/reunion to learn more. We can’t wait to see you there!

With tech and big data come huge opportunities

BY MARISSA SHAPIRO

Vanderbilt School of Nursing researchers are leveraging data science and health technology to improve health care at the individual and population-wide levels

Chorong Park, Alvin Jeffery, Leanne Boehm and Lori Schirle conduct research using tools and capabilities unheard of only a few years ago.

“The role of data science and technology continues to grow exponentially in health care delivery,” says School of Nursing Dean Pamela Jeffries, PhD, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, the Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing. “New methods and discovery have the potential to impact large groups of patients, health care providers and health systems. You only need to look at the role data has played in forecasting and tracking the pandemic to see its value.” With such a huge opportunity at our fingertips, Vanderbilt School of Nursing researchers, faculty and students have been successfully working to address open questions in their fields.



Leanne Boehm
assistant professor

Critically ill patients in the intensive care unit often experience pain, agitation, delirium, weakness and sleep deprivation that has been linked to post-intensive care syndrome: long term cognitive, physical and mental health problems. Leanne Boehm, PhD’16, MSN’09, FCCM, set out to address post-intensive care syndrome through data science methodologies.

During Boehm’s time interacting with patients as a bedside nurse, she developed an interest in implementing evidence-based care and pursued further education to do so. Through her clinical nurse specialist education and a doctoral fellowship in the VA Quality Scholars program, she was introduced to implementation science—the study of strategy and methods that encourage the implementation of evidence-based practice and research into actual health care use. Discovering how data science can help quality improvement and translational science, particularly for patients experiencing post-intensive care syndrome, has been the main focus of Boehm’s work ever since.

Boehm works with a framework called the ABCDEF bundle (Assess, prevent, and manage pain; Both awakening and breathing trials; Choice of sedation; Delirium: assess, prevent, and manage; Early mobility/exercise; Family engagement and empowerment). Although it is known to improve outcomes for critically ill patients, Boehm acknowledges that as a multidisciplinary team practice, it can be difficult to implement, and the ABCDEF bundle is underutilized in critical care. With an eye toward the organizational structure, process factors and patient factors that can improve ABCDEF bundle implementation, Boehm has developed and tested targeted data science-backed strategies at the organization, unit provider and patient level.

“Data science and my collaborative work with [fellow Vanderbilt nurse researcher] Alvin Jeffery have helped me to identify environmental factors that influence multidisciplinary protocol implementation in intensive care settings,” Boehm says. “Data science practices are also helping me identify phenotypes and trajectories of post-intensive care syndrome in order to better target candidates for the telehealth ICU Recovery Clinic.”

Boehm cites her multidisciplinary, international collaborations and relationship with the Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction and Survivorship Center at Vanderbilt as central to her efforts to identify the recovery needs of ICU survivors and their family members, as well as helping her develop and implement ICU recovery programs working with physical/occupational therapists, physicians, psychologists, nurses, social workers and chaplains. She also credits the collaborative nature within the School of Nursing and its cohort of renowned data science experts, each with their own unique perspective and research interests, as contributing to meaningful, actionable and innovative clinical and research outcomes.



Alvin Jeffery
assistant professor

Alvin Jeffery’s expertise sits at the intersection of data and health care. His work with predictive analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence is in the service of improving patient care. “There exist these mounds of data that could contain information that is key to improving some aspects of health care that are important to patients or to clinicians,” Jeffery, PhD’17, says.

Early in his academic career, Jeffery realized that he could share his expertise in analytics and coding to collaborate with other researchers focused on specific clinical care. His first start was predicting which hospital patients were going to deteriorate and getting that vital information to clinicians in ways that made sense to them. Ever since, he has been on a roll.

With Cathy Maxwell, PhD’12, FAAN, assistant professor of nursing, he has teamed up to create a predictive model that analyzes older adults’ injuries and their outcome trajectories; with fellow nurse scientist Leanne Boehm, PhD’16, MSN’09, he is considering how the availability of equipment in the ICU could influence how well health care providers adhere to evidence-based practice bundles. These all align with Jeffery’s focus on making the right information available at the right time to help clinicians make the best decisions for and with patients and their families.

In May 2022, Jeffery was named to the third cohort of the national Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and

Innovators. The three-year program will provide Jeffery the time and funding to conduct his latest project, Improving Electronic Health Record Usability with a Novel Customization Process.

“There’s a great deal of complex quantitative information bombarding clinicians these days, and I think a big reason why some advanced tools haven’t helped patients is because they’re not delivered in ways that are responsive to how health care workflows actually function,” Jeffery says. “With this fellowship, we’re developing a method that allows us to test different ways of displaying information and hopefully converging on meaningful solutions.”

Recently, Jeffery was awarded a \$2.4 million, five-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He’ll use the funding to develop technology and software that will use multiple types of data in the electronic health record to identify people likely to have substance use disorder, with the specific application of supporting genetic research. “The big difference this project can have is that we are changing how we define substance use disorder for research purposes and how we represent those people in the data that the computer analyzes,” Jeffery says. “The way that we’re thinking about our data and the outcome of our work is not to use data to definitively conclude that a patient has or does not have substance use disorder, but rather how they fall along a continuum.”

“There are really exciting opportunities, for those of us that know how to work with data, to collaborate with others in fields that may seem very different than ours,” Jeffery says. “One of the great things about being at Vanderbilt University is its affiliation with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The sharing of data, resources and expertise really allow those of us who are new to the field of research, and particularly those in informatics-focused research, to really take off with the existing infrastructure that’s available to us here.”



Chorong Park
assistant professor

With the ubiquity of online shopping, anyone with an email address has received a notification of a sale at a favorite retailer or a reminder email of some item that has been lingering in a virtual shopping cart waiting for purchase. This level of personalization is now being leveraged to improve health by Chorong Park, PhD.

Park has developed the Sit Less program, compiled of two research projects focused on monitoring sedentary behavior among chronically ill populations, such as those with type 2 diabetes and heart health concerns including coronary artery

disease. By wearing a Fitbit, study participants passively share minute by minute information on their physical activity in the form of trackable data. School of Nursing Systems Analyst John Norfleet collaborated with Park to build the appropriate back-end data science approach to summarize raw data from the wearable tech into digests that become actionable information. This metabolized data is then fed through a third-party text message service that Park utilizes. It automatically sends personalized text messages to participants with words of encouragement to reach weekly activity level goals.

Focusing on sedentary behavior among those enduring chronic illness, Park has identified a population that is more challenging to reach with mainstream or existing interventions. Another important factor is that by keeping the effort to participate simple, people with lower health literacy including senior citizens, new immigrants and those for whom English is a second language, can take part. “People want to participate and to improve their health, but sometimes their health literacy is so low that we want to make it easy for them by using technology, instead of giving them the responsibility of answering surveys or taking phone calls,” Park says.

Park’s interest in this type of health technology and data science application grew during her postdoctoral studies at New York University. “I had a few mentors working in this area using devices to measure sleep and physical activity. I learned how to use the devices and technology to measure data rigorously,” Park says. “That was the first spark of my interest in this field.”

Illuminating new data-centric findings and other potential impacts of wearable technology are wide open and exciting. The sheer amount of data collected on individual behavior and then harmonized within the total participating group holds the potential to reveal insights that could have been a “needle in the haystack” or a connection between two elements that has never been previously identified. The impact of working with health technology and data science in health interventions like Park’s satisfies short-term, long-term, individual and population-wide considerations.



Lori Schirle
assistant professor

Lori Schirle, PhD, focuses on understanding pain and opioid use. Her work spans the many facets of how people handle and receive treatment for their pain, from measuring opioid use through novel Bluetooth technology that tracks how and when medication containers are opened to capturing pain sensitivity measures, analysis of genetic and gene expression data, and quantifying of centralized pain in health records.

Centralized pain in chronic conditions like fibromyalgia, irritable bowel disease or rheumatic arthritis is a unique phenomenon because the brain and central nervous system act to augment pain sensations that result in pain outside of what would be expected from a stimulus, according to Schirle. Worse for those suffering, there is no diagnostic code for pain, meaning there is no classification nor legitimization of the very real sensations patients suffer through.

To address this gaping need, Schirle is working on a pilot project, Detecting Centralized Pain in Electronic Health Record Data, funded by the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. “We devised a method of detecting and grading centralized pain using diagnostic codes for these chronic painful conditions found in the health records,” Schirle says. “Centralization of pain is believed to impact the transition from acute to chronic pain, and also the effectiveness of various treatments for pain. Using what we termed the Centralized Pain Score, we’re working on a reliable method to detect centralized pain in electronic health record data, which would help further both pain and opioid research.”

Funding from Vanderbilt University’s Seeding Success program is being used by Schirle and her team to investigate potential reasons for the great variation seen in patients’ pain and opioid use after similar surgeries. “We are investigating how an individual’s pain sensitivity and genetic makeup influence postoperative pain and opioid use after total knee replacement,” Schirle says. “We hope to be able to understand how pain sensitivity changes over the course of the surgical period, and if genetic or pain sensitivity are associated with opioid use after surgery.”

Schirle’s work is essential in this region, as Tennessee, in particular, has been hard hit by the adverse effects of opioids. In 2020, close to 80 percent of overdose deaths in the state were caused by synthetic and prescription opioids, according to the Department of Health. With credit to the School of Nursing’s myriad expert collaborators and data science students, as well as the “team science” atmosphere fostered across the university and medical center, Schirle continues to make significant strides in improving the lives of many.

Schirle views data science techniques as integral to her work and a natural result of where her research questions have led her. The techniques she uses to conduct her work have made it difficult to imagine moving forward with health research without incorporating some degree of data science in all current and future projects. “The human body is so complex, with biological and psychological factors interacting with environmental and social ones, that it is difficult for humans to comprehend,” Schirle says. “It takes data science techniques such as machine learning and AI to comprehensively analyze this complexity. Expanding these concepts out to incorporate health systems and populations is an even grander task.”

IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS

In war zones and COVID front lines, Stacey Rokas finds Vanderbilt a lifeline

When U.S. Navy nurse Stacey Rokas, MSN'22, filled out her application to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, she was in South Korea, embedded with the U.S. Marines on a training exercise with an international joint force. She was the officer in charge of medical care.

"I knew I needed to learn more about emergency medicine to provide better care for the Marine Corps and Navy, but I was wavering on going back to school," says the nearly 20-year nursing veteran, wife and mother of 10. Rokas almost withdrew her Vanderbilt application, but then fate stepped in.

"In the middle of this remote area, I sat down with a gunnery sergeant, and he had a big Vanderbilt tattoo on his forearm," she says. "I knew it was a sign."

Rokas returned from deployment and enrolled in Vanderbilt's Master of Science in Nursing program to pursue an emergency nurse practitioner specialty. Building on the foundation of the family nurse practitioner specialty, the ENP specialty prepares advanced practice nurses for dual certification to practice in diverse emergency care settings.

Lifeline

In April 2020, the middle of Rokas' ENP program, the military called her to the front lines again—this time to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City.

"I was deployed with the Navy as a nurse to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens at the height of the pandemic. I had to take care of people on different types of ventilators without staff support, without pharmacy, without respiratory therapy," Rokas says. "It was truly a mass casualty situation."

In the early days of the pandemic, Elmhurst was often called "coronavirus ground zero" and was considered the hardest-hit hospital in New York and, possibly, the country.

That's when Vanderbilt nursing faculty became Rokas' lifeline to this new and evolving disease.

"Vanderbilt became more than just a school. My teachers and my classmates went above and beyond helping me with everything from literal care questions to sending masks and PPE," she says. "It's hard to imagine being in a hospital where there's nothing to clean anything with or the right gear to properly care for patients."

Rokas knew she desperately needed more training on ventilators, so she turned to ENP Specialty Director Jennifer Wilbeck, DNP, PMC'06, MSN'99, FAAN, FAANP, and Instructor Susanna Rudy, DNP'17, MSN'14. They provided moral support as well as practical guidance, like sharing modules on ventilator management and up-to-the-minute information on evolving emergency care protocols for COVID patients.

"In our program, we teach this transition from emergency medicine to critical care, which was essential during Stacey's work with critically ill COVID patients," Rudy says.

Rudy became a lifeline in person during Rokas' deployment at Elmhurst. The ENP instructor traveled to New York City on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to manage out-of-state ambulances that had volunteered to come to the front lines. The two bonded over their shared experiences.

"Not feeling alone in that situation was really everything because I had people to reach out to. It truly showed the character of my teachers and classmates, and I am forever grateful," Rokas says.

Rising to the Challenge

Even before her deployment, hospitals took note of Rokas' stellar abilities under pressure.

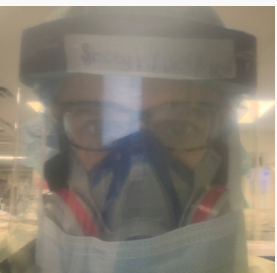
Rokas was doing clinicals at Baptist Memphis and handling COVID triage calls early in the pandemic.

"Compassion is what started me on the journey of being a nurse, and it's essential for everyone in health care. Nursing is one of the toughest jobs, but it's a calling."

—Stacey Rokas



KARLEE SELL



Top to bottom: Rokas in flight on deployment; Rokas in full PPE, including face shield, at NYC's COVID ground zero: Elmhurst Hospital; children's cards and drawings sent to support the health care workers during the worst of the pandemic; fellow students and VUSN faculty stayed connected to Rokas via Zoom.

"On one particular triage call, Stacey was able to identify respiratory distress in a caller over the phone and direct the patient to further emergency care. The leaders of that center were impressed with her ability to function at that level in such a chaotic environment," Wilbeck says. "The pandemic showcased in many ways why the ENP role is so critically important in providing frontline health care resources—and how this niche is especially useful in a pandemic."

"Vanderbilt has consistently been at the forefront of emergency nurse practitioner programs," she says. "We have a uniquely streamlined educational approach where students first become family nurse practitioners to provide them primary care expertise. Then we layer on emergency education, which provides higher complexity specialty care."

When Rokas returned from COVID duty, she was able to complete Vanderbilt's rigorous program with new expertise in her nursing toolbox. Her deployment meant that she couldn't graduate with her original cohort, but her classmates cheered her on as she finished a year later than they did.

"I love being an emergency nurse, and I wanted a master's program that challenged me and pushed me beyond what I had learned in my years of practice, which Vanderbilt definitely did," Rokas says. "But the pandemic taught me that there's still a lot that we don't know."

Bright Future

In the midst of the COVID pandemic and school, Rokas' personal life also changed. She married her fiancé, Bill, after returning from deployment in New York, creating a blended family with her eight children and his two. Following their mother's example, several of Rokas' children are serving in the military.

The family lives near Memphis, Tennessee, where Rokas works in emergency care and is a lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserve. She also plans to work with a health care program that aids the homeless population.

"Compassion is what started me on the journey of being a nurse, and it's essential for everyone in health care," she says. "Nursing is one of the toughest jobs, but it's a calling."

Lodged in Resilience

“Being the person who can represent safety to a child is so impactful.”

—Erin Miller

By Jennifer Plant Johnston, MLAS'21

Photos by Brad Young

Miller has the word “resilience” tattooed on her arm. It’s a reminder to her and to every child she helps of something they already possess.



Erin Miller, one of only two pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE-P) in the state of Florida, is on a mission to encourage more nurses to dedicate their careers to helping child sexual abuse survivors feel “brave and safe.”

“We need more people who are willing to walk kids through this trauma. Being the person who can represent safety to a child is so impactful, and we need so many more,” says Miller, MSN’19.

Miller first discovered her calling as a pediatric trauma nurse at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. After earning a bachelor of science in nursing from Belmont University, she initially applied for the medical surgical nursing team but was offered the pediatric trauma position instead.

“Every step of the journey brought me to where I am today,” she says. “God does that. This was divine intervention. He was trying to tell me, ‘You just wait because you’re going to encounter these patients and you’re going to know exactly why you’re here.’”

The critical role that nurses play in assessing possible child abuse became clear early on when a young patient was

admitted to the hospital with significant facial fractures requiring plastic surgery. “He was just a baby—a toddler,” she recalls. “I thought, ‘This just doesn’t make sense given the injuries,’ so I put in a consult for the CARE Team.” CARE is shorthand for Vanderbilt Children’s Center for Child Protection and Well Being. The CARE Team’s assessment that the child’s mother had inflicted the injuries with a frying pan taught Miller to trust her gut.

The more she experienced, the more she wanted to help the most vulnerable, especially victims of sexual abuse. “I had an affinity with those patients,” she explains. “I wanted to make sure they were going home to a safe place and that our care in the hospital always represented safety.”

One memorable case involved another toddler who had been physically and sexually abused. “She was afraid to talk for a while,” Miller says. “She wanted to hold my hand. I would do that with her if I had a minute. We graduated to talking. By the end of it, she was sprinting around the unit with her baby doll stroller.”

A team of trauma nurses slowly walked the child back through the phases of childhood development to help her overcome fears of normal activities, such as taking a bath. “We got to see her go home with a safe family,” Miller says. “It was such an impactful experience.”

Miller works for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers. She is one of only two certified pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in Florida. “We are everywhere and not in enough places at the same time,” she says.

Leap of Faith

Miller continued her trauma nurse career full time while pursuing her master's degree at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. As a graduate student, she made the fateful decision to enroll in the school's pilot Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program.

"Vanderbilt has been incredible to me in terms of the opportunities and education they've provided. I could never have predicted the opportunities I'd receive as a result of taking a leap into their pilot program," Miller says.

Her SANE certification coursework was followed by a clinical immersion at Our Kids Center, a Nashville nonprofit that provides medical evaluations and crisis counseling in response to child sexual abuse. After the required three-day immersion, Miller continued to reach out to the Our Kids staff for opportunities to learn. "Every week I would text them to see if I could come in and work with them," she says, "and they just kept telling me, 'Yes.'"

"Erin was a shining example," says Hollye Gallion, a nurse practitioner and clinic director who has been with Our Kids for 22 years. "She knew she wanted to do the work and commit to the work. We need more people like Erin in the field, and we need the people full time. You get really good at the work and you understand anatomy and you understand testifying in court. It needs to be something you commit your career to."

Miller continues to seek advice from the Our Kids staff in her current position as nurse practitioner on the child protection team at the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers—a job that she accepted about 24 hours after passing her NP exam. The fact that the Chicago native's parents had recently relocated to the area helped seal her decision.

Miller explains that on a typical day, an exam might include taking a history, establishing a rapport with the child, making them feel comfortable, figuring out where they are developmentally, collecting evidence and checking for injury or sign of infection. If warranted, the practitioners conduct a pregnancy exam, treat infections with antibiotics, provide reassurance and family advocacy, and help with financial issues and food security. In Florida, examiners are even equipped for hurricane season with portable kits. "We are everywhere and not in enough places at the same time," she says.



When working with a child, Miller takes a history and establishes a rapport with the child, making them feel comfortable. She also figures out where they are developmentally, collects evidence and checks for injury or sign of infection.

Helping Kids Still Be Kids

Miller often takes her patients through a series of affirmations. Exacerbating the intensity of the work is the fact that 90 percent of children who experience sexual abuse know and have a relationship with their abusers. The advocacy teams teach children that "your trauma is not your identity. You get to still be a kid, and no one can take that from you," she says.

To avoid experiencing burnout, Miller has sought support through professional organizations, networking opportunities, continuing education and conferences. "We all get those questions and comments: 'How

do you do that? I could never do that.' That can feel very isolating sometimes, especially on a day when you have a really exhausting, emotionally heartbreaking case."

Miller has felt encouraged and supported in her work by School of Nursing faculty, including Ginny Moore, DNP, MSN'90, director of the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty; Pam Waynick-Rogers, DNP, PMC'96, MSN'92, assistant professor of nursing; Jennifer Wilbeck, DNP, PMC'06, MSN'99, director of the Emergency Nurse Practitioner specialty; and Melanie Lutenbacher, PhD, FAAN, associate professor of nursing, emerita.

In addition to her work as a SANE-P, Miller is a pediatric clinical adjunct professor at Ave Maria University near Fort Myers. She often participates in educational panel discussions and will soon provide a five-day clinical immersion for Vanderbilt nursing students.

Outside of work, her passion for helping children recently led her to become a foster parent to a 5-year-old. Despite the weighty demands of her job, "we just figure it out," Miller says. She also finds that going to the gym every morning helps ease the transition from home to work.

"I am an avid CrossFit athlete," she says. "There's something, especially as

a woman, about lifting a heavy barbell above your head. It gives me energy for my day to keep working like crazy and being on call."

Her tireless calling is lodged in resilience. In fact, she had the word tattooed on her body along with an image of a DNA strand. Resilience is what drives her to teach and learn as much as she can to better serve vulnerable populations. And it is what she wants the children she serves to discover they already possess.

"I want to continue gathering as much knowledge as I can," she says. "If there is something more to learn so I can show up for these kids, then I want it, whatever it is."



By Tatum Lyles Flick

Left, certified nurse-midwives Jacquelyn McMillian Bohler, Venus Standard and Stephanie DeVane-Johnson created and lead the Alliance of Black Doulas for Black Mamas.

Black doula training program provides support for Black mothers and families

Vanderbilt teams up with Duke and University of North Carolina to improve Black maternal health

Certified nurse-midwives from three top universities have teamed up to improve pregnancy outcomes for Black women by creating a specialized training program for doulas, persons who support birthing mothers and families.

The Alliance of Black Doulas for Black Mamas is led by Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Associate Professor Stephanie DeVane-Johnson, PhD, MSN'97, FACNM; Duke University School of Nursing Assistant Clinical Professor Jacquelyn McMillian Bohler, PhD, MSN'97; and University of North Carolina School of Medicine Assistant Professor Venus Standard, MSN, FACNM. The project leaders are Black certified nurse-midwives with a combined 60-plus years of midwifery experience.

The three researchers are addressing the U.S.'s Black maternal health crisis. The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rate among developed countries—and the crisis is even more pronounced for Black mothers. Black women are approximately twice as likely to have a moderately low birthweight child and

three times as likely to have a very low birthweight child than white or Hispanic women. Black women are also more likely than white or Hispanic women to die from pregnancy complications—almost 67 percent of which are preventable.

Doulas offer emotional and informational support for pregnant persons and their families. Unlike nurse-midwives, they are not health care professionals; however, their help with breastfeeding, acupressure, birth plans and postpartum and other issues can be crucial, as can their presence as advocates for the mother. Having a trained and trusted doula who can help parents-to-be make healthy decisions and choose proper prenatal care can make a difference in maternal health and birth outcomes.

DeVane-Johnson, McMillian-Bohler and Standard wrote and fine-tuned a plan to train and provide Black doulas to help Black families. In 2020 the doula project was funded by a \$75,000 award from UNC, and the group trained its first 20 doulas. In late 2021 they received a \$545,000 Duke Endowment grant, which will fund the program for three years.

“The goal is to help mitigate Black maternal and infant mortality rates,” DeVane-Johnson says. “Doulas stand in the gap. Sometimes, Black women bring things up to their health care providers and are not taken seriously, or the provider does not talk at a level that the patient and family can understand. The doula is there to bridge that gap and potentially interpret information.”

Other goals include improving patient experiences, providing doulas for free to families, and helping those interested in becoming doulas build critical skills that can later be used to earn wages.

The faculty hope the training creates opportunities for Black women to find their voices and be empowered to ask questions. The program's doulas recognize that birthing parents have the right and need to speak up for their own bodies and health, and help them build the confidence and ability to do so.

“By having a culturally concordant doula, the patient has a personal advocate, educator and support person to help guide and navigate the system as a Black person, whose needs are often dismissed or ignored,” Standard explains.

According to McMillian Bohler, the program's doula/family partnerships offer racial concordance, which can increase trust and understanding.

The doula training is expanded to accommodate the specific needs of Black women, covering topics like reproductive justice and the “superwoman schema,” which says that many Black women care for others at their own expense, increasing stress during a pregnancy.

“I think the fact that we are able to come in and talk about some of these health resources and, I hope, remove some of the stigma, opens up a whole area of health care and wellness to people who desperately need it, who maybe didn't feel like it was for them,” McMillian Bohler says.

DeVane-Johnson works remotely as the community engagement liaison for the program, which is housed at UNC Family Medicine in Chapel Hill. Her research focus is the history of breastfeeding, and she presents lectures to doula-trainees to help them understand the hurdles faced by Black women who want to breastfeed. Research indicates that breastfeeding decreases cancer risks in mothers and improves health outcomes for babies.

“Black women have the lowest breastfeeding rate of any race,” DeVane-Johnson says. “When variables such as socioeconomic status, education and marital status are controlled for, similarly positioned white women still tend to breastfeed at higher rates.”

Doulas help solve communication issues and offer consistent labor support for those who don't have it, something that has been shown to decrease time in labor and the need for pain medications.

“Doulas are there to empower, uplift and elevate birthing families,” McMillian Bohler says. “If something doesn't feel right, the doulas help them recognize that

they need to speak up and keep speaking until their voice is heard.”

The doulas are also trained to recognize preterm, term and postpartum warning signs that may put parent and baby at risk.

They train over the course of seven weekends. While on-call with patients, they assist with birthing plans, help pack bags for the hospital and even attend appointments, depending on how much support the birthing parent needs. Once trained, a doula is paired with three Black families who receive assistance for free.

DeVane-Johnson says program applicants need to be Black, have a passion for birth work and have a desire to support women in labor. In the past, applicants may not have been financially able to secure training, but thanks to the grants, training is free.

Applicants are screened to make sure they have reliable transportation, have jobs flexible enough to allow them to leave to attend a birth and are vaccinated against COVID-19.

“Being a doula often is different than what many people imagine,” McMillian Bohler says. “They may have a romanticized notion of what the job is like. Babies come all the time, anytime, and doulas have to be able and willing to drop whatever they may be doing to come to a birth.”

Eventually, the team would like to see doula training expanded to serve other populations. “Our goal with this program is to create a doula training model that can be tailored for birthing people with disabilities, those in the LGBTQ+ community, making things culturally relevant to whatever specific marginalized population that is birthing, because it's these marginalized populations that have the worst birth outcomes,” DeVane-Johnson says.

The program has one year of data, and the group looks forward to evaluating the incoming qualitative and quantitative data, something the new Duke Endowment grant will help them do over the course of the next three years.

While the program currently trains doulas to work in North Carolina's Durham, Wake and Orange counties, the faculty hope to receive funding to expand the program elsewhere.

“We want to disseminate this program throughout the country,” Standard says. “We want to reach out to other academic hospital-affiliated institutions and integrate this program into their maternal care systems.”

“The strength of the program is the expertise of the entire team and the integration of the expertise,” she says. “Although each university could independently support the doula program with its hospital system and academic affiliation, a collaboration between the three universities positively impacts the project as a whole.”

“By having a culturally concordant doula, the patient has a personal advocate, educator and support person to help guide and navigate the system as a Black person, whose needs are often dismissed or ignored.”

—Venus Standard

BY MORGAN KROLL

Veterans, research and now students benefit from longtime Vanderbilt champion

When Frank and Ethel Battle moved to Nashville from Louisiana to start a new chapter as newlyweds, neither knew that the move would set Ethel on a path that not only changed her focus as a nurse but would also lead to expanded psychiatric care for thousands of American veterans.

Ethel Battle, MSN'70, had earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Dillard University in New Orleans, and soon after arriving in Tennessee, she accepted a position as a night-shift nurse at the Veterans' Administration medical center in Murfreesboro.

Eager to embrace new challenges and advance her career, Battle was looking for an opportunity to progress beyond the night shift—an opportunity that presented itself at a social gathering. "I happened to be at a get-together once with the head of the psychiatric-mental health program at Vanderbilt, Shirley Burd, and the chief nurse at the Murfreesboro VA, and they started telling me about Vanderbilt's psychiatric nursing master's program and encouraged me to apply," Battle recalls.

She applied, was accepted and received a year's leave from her position at the VA to further her education. Vanderbilt also awarded her a scholarship, providing her with significant support that she has generously paid forward over the years by supporting Vanderbilt nursing students and others through scholarships.

Battle's experience at the School of Nursing was transformative. One of only six students in her master's degree program, she focused on areas in psychiatric nursing ranging from developing clinical skills to conducting research. She credits the nursing school faculty and her education for giving her the foundation and support needed to thrive in her career.

"Many people at Vanderbilt were instrumental in helping me," Battle says. "I kept in touch with them over the years, but now most of them have passed away. It has been an eye opener for me about the contributions that we can make while we are still living—and about how much I have appreciated all the help that Vanderbilt has given me."

New era, new vets

After earning her master's degree, she returned to the Murfreesboro VA prepared to take on new responsibilities and initiatives, including helping the scores of new veterans returning home from the Vietnam War.

"Nobody could relate to them because they were different," Battle recalls. "They wore their hair long, they wore beards and they liked loud music, so I used to come to work in blue jeans and T-shirts just to relate to the group. I had a Vietnam veterans' group, and I was getting calls from VAs around the country asking what we were doing for them—they didn't know what to do. I enjoyed working with those veterans, and I received so much input from Vanderbilt faculty that helped me to do so."

Battle also launched a nursing research seminar on neuropsychiatric patients that she then led for 18 years. The seminar originally included only clinicians and researchers from surrounding hospitals and institutions in the Murfreesboro area, but later expanded to include nurses and doctors in hospitals across Tennessee, the country and eventually, around the world.

"One year we had people from Switzerland attend our seminar; it was very encouraging and rewarding to see that kind of interest. One of the psychologists attending said she would like to collaborate with me in setting up a small group of patients and write it up as an outcome type of project," Battle says. "We later published several papers from that one project on intractable neuropsychiatric patients, and we were invited to present our work in Montreal at the APA [American Psychological Association] convention. I feel honored that so many people worked with me as a nurse, and with other nurses all together."

of Vanderbilt Black Alumni (AVBA), which she has generously supported both philanthropically and as a volunteer.

Recently, Battle established her third charitable gift annuity to support endowed scholarships at the School of Nursing. A charitable gift annuity provides a donor with an immediate tax deduction as well as a fixed income that is guaranteed for life. Her latest gift supports the Dean Colleen Conway-Welch Scholarship in Nursing, in honor of Battle's admiration for the late dean's transformational leadership and vision for the nursing school. Over the years she has watched with pride as the

In addition to her work with the VA, Ethel Battle (second from left, front row) also taught at the School of Nursing. Here she poses with other clinical instructors, faculty and staff at the entrance to Godchaux Hall in 1975.



Battle served in various roles during her career of more than three decades as a psychiatric nurse at the VA, including as a clinical specialist and later as chair of the research department—a role usually reserved for those with a PhD or MD. She also held positions in nursing quality management before she left the VA in 1994 and pursued a second career in financial planning.

No regrets

Since then, Battle has traveled around the globe and made the most of retirement. "I look back with no regrets because I've lived my life to the fullest and enjoyed every minute of it," she says. Her connection to Vanderbilt has never waned, and she has been a longtime champion of the nursing school and several other areas of the university, including the Association

School of Nursing's Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program has become recognized as one of the best MSN programs in the nation.

"I support the nursing school to give back and to help students," Battle says. "I have firsthand experience of the benefits scholarships can provide and believe strongly that education is the key to opportunity. I am a strong believer in education because it enhances our ability to thrive in the chaotic world in which we live today."

For more information about charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts, visit vu.edu/plannedgiving or contact Anthony Barclay, executive director of planned giving, Development and Alumni Relations, at 615-936-5518 or anthony_barclay@vanderbilt.edu.

JOHN RUSSELL

VANDERBILT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Class Notes

50s

Frances McGaughy Edwards, BSN'53, MSN'76, was interviewed for the *Me and My Friends* podcast in September 2021, which was featured in *Main Street Nashville*.

70s

Vaughn Gaston Sinclair, BSN'74, MSN'78, PhD'82, retired as professor, emerita, from VUSN.

Marilyn Dubree, MSN'76, celebrated her 45th year at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in October.

Rumay Harrell Alexander, MSN'77, was elected as a board member of the Leapfrog Group in September 2021.

Susan Roberts Cooper, BSN'79, MSN'94, is senior vice president and chief integration officer at Regional One Health in Memphis, Tennessee.

80s

Martha Davidson, BSN'82, is treasurer of the Southeast Region Wound Ostomy and Continence Society Board, where she has also served as president-elect and president.

Leslie Hague Bouton, BSN'83, is in medical operations with MD Squared in Bellevue, Washington.

Katie Kilbane Brennan, BSN'83, MSN'87, is associate nursing officer at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's primary care patient care center.

Melanie Hall Morris, BSN'83, MSN'86, was featured in "How to Keep a Journal" in *The New York Times Magazine* in November.

Sarah Nichols Hutchison, BSN'84, is manager of transition management at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Sabrina Downs, MSN'85, retired in September 2021 from her role as senior director of nursing professional practice and Magnet recognition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Kim Dishman Parham, BSN'85, joined Thynk Health in Lexington, Kentucky, as vice president of strategic partnerships and clinical liaison in 2021.

Nancy Hoskins Anness, MSN'86, was featured in the spring 2021 issue of *Catholic Awakening* in "Passion for Service: A Nurse Practitioner's Story."

Susan Germann Yackzan, BSN'86, received the 2021 VUSN Lulu Wolf Hassenplug Award for Distinguished Career in Nursing at the school's alumni awards ceremony. She is associate vice president and a nurse scientist for the Baptist Health System in Lexington, Kentucky.

Nina Page Waltzer, MSN'87, is a primary care nurse practitioner at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl and at the Flowood Community Work Center for women. She volunteers as an item writer for ANCC's AGPCNP exam.

Martha Buckner, MSN'88, co-presented "Academic-practice Partnership Supports the COVID-19 Workforce" on the American Nurses Association's *COVID-19 Nurse Innovation Stories* blog.

Sandy Leake, MSN'89, was interviewed by 10News in Knoxville, Tennessee, in October 2021 regarding the pressures COVID-19 places on the health care workforce. She is chief nursing officer at University of Tennessee Medical Center.

90s

Gwen Holder, MSN'90, is director of nursing informatics at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Debbie Dunn Gregory, BSN'84, was a panelist for "Influential Women in Data Science," hosted by the Society of Women Engineers at the Memphis Data Conference. She co-authored "Communication and COVID-19: Challenges in Evidence-based Healthcare Design," in the book *Communicating Science in Times of Crisis*, published in May. Gregory also co-chaired the International Nursing Conference for Excellence in Healthcare Design.

Susie Leming-Lee, MSN'90, DNP'11, was promoted to associate professor at VUSN.

Ginny Moore, MSN'90, received a \$1.5 million Health Resources and Services Administration grant to enhance the Vanderbilt Nursing Education SANE Program. She co-chaired the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health annual conference, where she received the Inspiration in Education Award. In November, the Asian American Pacific Islander Nurses Association presented her with its Yu (Philip) Xu Mentoring Award at the Emory-AAPINA International Nursing Research Conference.

Alison Edie, MSN'91, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2021. She is an assistant professor at Duke University School of Nursing in Durham, North Carolina.

Kay Jones, MSN'91, is a nurse practitioner at Nashville Sports Medicine and coordinates all research projects for Nashville Sports Medicine Foundation.

Sharon Yardley, MSN'91, retired from the faculty of Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, in September 2021.

Cheryl Nail, MSN'92, is chief nursing officer at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Leslie Welch Hopkins, MSN'93, was promoted to associate professor at VUSN in 2021.

Mike Briley, MSN'94, received the Best of Jackson Award—Primary Healthcare Clinic for the second year in a row. The award is presented by Jackson Entrepreneurs.

Misty Sperry Chambers, MSN'94, presented, "Ensuring Safe Spaces," for the American Nurses Association's *COVID-19 Nurse Innovation Stories* blog, posted in 2021.

Sarah Fogel, MSN'94, PhD'01, retired from her role as professor and director of the ASN to MSN PreSpecialty program at VUSN.

Heather Wareing Keimig, BS'94, MSN'95, teaches natural family planning.

Donna Hamby, MSN'96, was named to the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence's Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing Program. She is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Stephanie DeVane-Johnson, MSN'97, was featured on the *Milk Minute* podcast episode, "Black Breastfeeding Equity and Opportunity for Change."

Jenny Hannagan Kim, MSN'97, was voted president-elect of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

Janna Vick Miller, MSN'97, is a family nurse practitioner at a Tennova Family Practice rural health clinic in Dover, Tennessee. She earned her doctor of nursing practice and is an adjunct nursing professor at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Allison Ankuta Broomall, MSN'98, is a nursing professional development specialist at the Medical University of South Carolina Children's and Women's Hospital in Charleston.

Rozalinde Browne Christodoulos, MSN'98, is founder and owner of Advanced PICC Specialists, a company that provides peripherally inserted central catheter service to hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers.

Lynnette Berggren Clancy, MSN'98, is a nurse practitioner in endocrinology with Prevea Health in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Rolanda Johnson, PhD'98, was elected chair of the steering committee for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Network, and invited to serve on the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing, a joint effort of the American Nurses Association, National Black Nurses Association, National Association of Hispanic Nurses and National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations. She was promoted to professor at VUSN in 2021.

Kim Kinghorn Steanson, MSN'98, was promoted to academic director of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Acute Care specialty at VUSN, where she is an assistant professor.

Erika Benson, MSN'99, is a family nurse practitioner living in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar conducting research on sex education at a nongovernmental organization.

Sharon England Bryant, MSN'99, was interviewed by *Clinical Advisor* for "Spotlight on Non-ventilator-associated Hospital-acquired Pneumonia."

Liam Hein, MSN'99, PhD'06, is an associate professor at the University of South Carolina College of Nursing in Columbia.



Kyle Rybczyk, MSN'98, was featured by *The Tennessean* in "The Tight-knit Team behind Vanderbilt's Moderna Vaccine Trial Fights to Stay Grounded," and "One and 100: Kyle Rybczyk, Nurse Practitioner," part of a series on the impact of COVID-19 in the South.

Julia Cain Phillippi, MSN'99, received the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health's* inaugural Outstanding Peer Reviewer Award for the decade 2011–20.

Jennifer Ezell Wilbeck, MSN'99, PMC'06, was interviewed for the NP Schools blog on "Day in the Life of an Emergency NP."

00s

Angel Anthamatten, MSN'00, received the VUSN Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching Award from students in the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty.

Amy Helms, MSN'00, is a women's health nurse practitioner at Health First in Viera, Florida.

Jason Jean, MSN'00, DNP'19, is an instructor in the Nursing and Health Care Leadership and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs at VUSN.

Patrick Palmieri, MSN'00, was named a fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He is director of the EBHC South America: A Joanna Briggs Institute Affiliated Group and chairman of the board for the Sigma Foundation of Nursing.

Julie Womack, PMC'00, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in October 2021. She is an associate professor of nursing at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Terrah Foster Akard, MSN'01, PhD'08, received the VUSN Alumni Award for National Leadership at the school's annual awards ceremony.

Marlee Crankshaw, MSN'01, DNP'10, was interviewed for the Academy of Neonatal Nursing *ANNTalks* podcast, "Leadership: Workforce Engagement."

Becky Edwards, MSN'01, is a nurse practitioner at Dermatology & Skin Care Center of Birmingham in Alabama.

Gerald Meredith, MSN'01, DNP'10, was elected to a three-year term as an at-large member of the Veterans Administration Medical Executive Board. He is a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner with the VA in East Tennessee.

Colleen Reilly Moss, BS'00, MSN'01, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN and named a 2021-22 Vanderbilt University Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow. She received the VUSN Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching Award from students in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty, and in December, was named director of the VUSN Neonatal NP specialty.

Travis Dunlap, MSN'02, received the 2021 VUSN Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching Award from students in the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner specialty.

Aimee Chism Holland, MSN'02, received the Nurse Practitioner Award for Excellence for Alabama from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in October.

Melanie Allison, MSN'03, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Krista Koleas, MSN'03, was posthumously awarded the VUSN Alumni Award for Clinical Achievement in Nursing, presented to her family during the school's annual awards ceremony in October 2021.

Sarah Mannie, MSN'03, is an assistant professor in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Bree Fryz Osborne, MSN'03, was named the 2021 VUSN Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Specialty Preceptor of the Year. She is a nurse practitioner at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in thoracic surgery.

Lisa Bushnell, MSN'04, is a nurse practitioner at Epiphany Dermatology in Taos, New Mexico.

Linda Hughlett, MSN'04, DNP'13, is chief nursing officer and senior vice president at Regional One in Memphis, Tennessee.

Janet Mulroy, PMC'04, DNP'16, joined the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses board of directors in July 2021.

Leigh Guinn Powers, MSN'04, DNP'11, is a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner at Bluewater Behavioral Health in Niceville, Florida.

Ben Smallheer, MSN'04, PhD'11, wrote "Early Recognition of Preventable Factors Associated with Delirium Saves Lives and Costs," for the book, *Best Practices in Nursing: An Issue of Nursing Clinics*, published by Elsevier in September 2021.

Denise Woodring Cochran, MSN'05, was named Preceptor of the Year for the VUSN Nurse-Midwifery specialty in 2021.

Sarah Halberg Cossette, MSN'05, was named among *AzBusiness* and *AZRE* magazines' Most Influential Women in Arizona. She is vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Cancer Treatment Centers of America Phoenix.

Michael Gooch, MSN'05, is a contributing author for *Emergency Nurse Practitioner Core Curriculum*, published by Springer in August 2021. He was appointed to the Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association's Advanced Practice Transport Nurse Committee as one of two liaisons to the ASTNA Board.

Alana Murphy Ludwick, MSN'05, DNP'12, is director of nursing at Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Washington.

Jennifer Mitchell, MSN'05, is clinical director of Vanderbilt Health OnCall.

Bette Moore, PhD'05, retired in August 2021 from VUSN where she was an associate professor.

Carrie Plummer, MSN'05, received the VUSN Alma Gault Award for Public Service at the school's alumni awards ceremony.

Missi Willmarth Stec, MSN'05, DNP'10, joined Wilson Health in Sidney, Ohio, as a certified nurse-midwife, and in September 2021, became a professor at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in Atlanta.

Erica Anderson Stone, MSN'05, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Julie McFarlane Hamm, MSN'06, is president of the Tennessee Nurses Association.

Brandee Madden, MSN'06, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN. She is a member of the Dismas House board of directors in Nashville and was recently certified as a tobacco treatment specialist.

Ashlie Pullen, MSN'06, is deputy chief nurse of emergency preparedness for the State of Georgia Department of Public Health in Atlanta. She created and piloted an online residency program in both Georgia and Wisconsin for public health nurses and earned her doctor of nursing practice in leadership and management from Indiana Wesleyan University in August 2021.

Bethany Domzal Sanders, MSN'06, was named the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* reviewer of the year for 2020. She is a PhD student at VUSN.

Meg Shifrin, MSN'06, was promoted to associate professor at VUSN and received the Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching Award from students in the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner specialty. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2021.

Cara Calloway Young, MSN'06, PhD'10, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2021.

Carol Ziegler, MSN'06, DNP'12, was appointed head of house for Gillette House in Vanderbilt's undergraduate residential program. In September, she was invited to chair the new Planetary and Global Health Committee of the American Nurses Association's Innovation Advisory Board. Ziegler recently started Thrive Holistic Care and is the Vanderbilt representative for the Lancet Commission on Climate and Health.

Lindsey Baksh, MSN'07, DNP'19, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Susan Beaird, MSN'07, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Deonna Moore, MSN'07, PhD'17, is associate nursing officer at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Transplant Patient Care Center and Vanderbilt Lung Institute.

LeTizia Baxter Smith, MSN'07, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN and was featured in a *Nurse Educator Tips for Teaching* podcast, "Mentoring Nursing Faculty: Inclusive Scholarship Support Group."

Jessica Van Meter, MSN'07, DNP'15, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN in 2021. She shared a Children's Emergency Care Alliance EMS Star of Life Award for saving the life of a baby as a Vanderbilt flight nurse.

Ashley Brown, MSN'08, is a family psychiatric nurse practitioner at Mental Health Cooperative in Nashville.

Brittany Hagy Brodyhill, BS'06, MSN'08, DNP'13, is featured in the *NP Pulse: The Voice of Nurse Practitioner* podcast, "NP Leadership: Going the Extra Mile," recorded in November 2021.

Amanda Brown Comer, MSN'08, is system director of advanced practice providers at Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation in Memphis, Tennessee, where she leads and develops the implementation of system-wide, team-based, integrated clinical care models.

Claire Givens Crunk, MSN'08, was featured by *The Tennessean* in an article about Trace Femcare, the company she founded, which manufactures tampons made from hemp.

Matt Schroer, MSN'08, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN. He received the VUSN Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching Award from students in the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty in 2021.

Kanah May Lewallen, MSN'09, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Courtney Young Pitts, MSN'09, DNP'11, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2021 and was appointed for a four-year term to the National Advisory

Council for Nursing Education and Practice by the U.S. Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Jannyse Starks Tapp, MSN'09, DNP'11, welcomed a daughter in August 2021.

Dani Williamson, MSN'09, is author of the book, *Wild & Well: Dani's Six Commonsense Steps to Radical Healing*, published by Morgan James in November 2021.

10s

Gary Dodd, MSN'10, wrote, "The Practice of Giving Thanks Can Benefit Our Overall Well-being," published by *The Tennessean*.

Elaine Harwood, DNP'10, is an assistant professor of nursing at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina.

Michele Hasselblad, MSN'10, received one of the first postdoctoral fellowships from the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare at Ohio State University.

Alane O'Connor, DNP'10, received the VUSN Linda Norman Alumni Award for Innovation in Health Care at the school's annual alumni awards in October 2021. She is director of perinatal addiction treatment at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Anika Phillips, MSN'10, is a certified nurse-midwife at HealthPartners Clinic Stillwater Lakeview Campus in Minnesota.

Blake Salmony IV, MSN'10, joined the VUSN PreSpecialty faculty in June 2021. He is an assistant in medicine in the Vanderbilt Eskind Endocrine Department.

Patricia Sengstack, DNP'10, was promoted to professor at VUSN. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics in 2021.

Tony Smith, DNP'10, shared a Children's Emergency Care Alliance EMS Star of Life Award for saving the life of a baby as a Vanderbilt flight nurse.

Julia Martin Steed, MSN'10, PhD'18, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN and was also selected as a Vanderbilt Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow.

Lisa DeLille Bolton, MSN'11, is a care management nurse practitioner at Nashville General Hospital's outpatient clinics.

Allie Hush Deckard, MSN'11, is a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Division of Developmental Medicine at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Cathy Ivory, PhD'11, was named to the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in November.

Kasey Kohring, MSN'11, joined CHI Memorial Women's Health Associates in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a women's health nurse practitioner in September 2021.

Natasha McClure, MSN'11, was promoted to associate professor at VUSN.

Sarah Osborne, MSN'11, is an advanced practice registered nurse with the Owensboro Health Medical Group in Kentucky.

Mary Lauren Whitehead Pfeiffer, MSN'11, welcomed a daughter in September 2021.

Stephanie Abbu, MSN'12, was interviewed for the *Academy of Neonatal Nursing ANNTalks* podcast, "Self Care Isn't Selfish."

Kate FitzPatrick, DNP'12, was named associate dean for nursing health systems partnerships and innovation and professor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. She is chief nursing executive officer at Jefferson Health.



Asa Briggs, MSN'12, was elected to the Clemson (University) Alumni Association board of directors.

Kalisha Bonds Johnson, MSN'12, joined the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in September 2021 as an assistant professor.

Cathy Maxwell, PhD'12, received the 2021 VUSN Dean's Award for Recognition of Faculty Achievement in Media.

Kathryn Braunlin McNabb, MSN'12, BS'10, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Lisa Taylor, MSN'12, DNP'14, is an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing in Albuquerque.

Sheila Umayam, MSN'12, DNP'14, was featured in the *Kennedy Krieger Institute Potential Magazine* in a story about one of her patients at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders in Baltimore, where she is a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Grace Appert Campbell, MSN'13, BS'12, is program director of Mission Santa Maria in Olon, Ecuador.

Courtney Cook, DNP'13, was promoted to associate professor at VUSN.

Angela Douglas, MSN'13, joined the faculty at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio, as an assistant professor in August 2021.

Dionne Duplantier, MSN'13, presented "Technology to Ready Responders" on the American Nurses Association's *COVID-19 Nurse Innovation Stories* blog, posted in 2021.

Karen Hande, DNP'13, became the first Vanderbilt faculty member inducted as a Fellow of

the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education in September 2021.

Lydia Rotondo, DNP'13, is a member of the Systems-Based Practice Working Group of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

John Shields, DNP'13, is a nurse anesthetist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Shannon Morris Stevenson, MSN'13, BA'11, joined the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta, as an assistant professor.

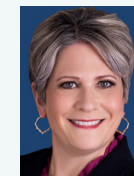
Brynn Atchley Byers, MSN'14, was named among Champions of Health Care 2021 by the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* in September.

Colleen Cusick, MSN'14, DNP'17, is director of materials management and general services at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Stacey Denver, DNP'14, is executive director for pediatric outpatient services for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Marjorie Eiland, MSN'14, was named the 2021 Preceptor of the Year by the VUSN Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care specialty. She is a nurse practitioner at Ross Bridge Medical Center Pediatrics in Hoover, Alabama.

Brittany Hollibaugh Haskell, MSN'14, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.



Kimberly Hatchel, DNP'14, was featured on the *Stirring the Shot* podcast, "Ask The CNO,"

in November 2021. She is chief nursing officer of Blake Medical Center in Bradenton, Florida.

Melanie Keiffer, DNP'14, is vice chair of graduate programs and a clinical professor at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

Hannah Wachtmeister Kestner, MSN'14, DNP'16, was named a Vanderbilt University Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow. She is an instructor at VUSN.

Elaine Dauwalder Porter, DNP'14, joined the staff at Washington Regional Hospitalists in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in October 2021. She was elected to serve on the Society of Vascular Nursing's board of directors for the 2021–23 term.

Susanna Rudy, MSN'14, DNP'16, is a contributing author for the first edition of *Emergency Nurse Practitioner Core Curriculum*, published by Springer.

Paula Tucker, DNP'14, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2021. She is on the faculty of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta.

Dina Velocci, DNP'14, was named president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology starting August 2021.

Stefani Davis Yudasz, MSN'14, DNP'16, received the 2021 VUSN Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching Award from students in the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty.

Lacey Cross, MSN'15, received the 2021 VUSN Dean's Award for Recognition of Faculty Achievement in Academic Endeavors.

Misty Evans, DNP'15, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN.

Emily Fischer, MSN'15, is an orthopedic nurse practitioner at Medstar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., where she specializes in hand and upper extremities and is cross-trained in total joints and spine.

Mary Pullias Henderson, MSN'15, is a nurse practitioner in occupational health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Rishi Mistry, MSN'15, received the 2021 VUSN Catherine Hanley Class of 1912 Rising Star Alumni Award. He is clinical director of Yakima Pediatrics in Washington.

Javier Rodriguez, MSN'15, is a nurse practitioner at Norton Healthcare in Louisville, Kentucky, specializing in inpatient and outpatient vascular surgery.

Gaither Smith, MSN'15, is a certified nurse-midwife with the Virginia Hospital Center Physician Group in Arlington.

Jessica Walker, MSN'15, DNP'17, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN in 2021.

Gail Armstrong, PhD'16, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She is a member of the Quality and Safety Working Group of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and a professor at Oregon Health & Science University School of Public Health in Portland.

Janelle Delle, DNP'16, was named a Vanderbilt Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow.

Bekah Hayes, MSN'16, DNP'20, welcomed her first child in November 2021. She is an instructor in VUSN's PreSpecialty program.

Kayla Pelfrey Johnson, MSN'16, is a family nurse practitioner at a CVS Minute Clinic in Hixson, Tennessee.

Mindy Johnson, MSN'16, DNP'18, was promoted to assistant professor at VUSN and was named a Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow. She is a contributing author of the book, *Emergency Nurse Practitioner Core Curriculum*, published by Springer.

Erica May, MSN'16, DNP'18, is an instructor in the Emergency Nurse Practitioner specialty at VUSN.



Leslie Miller Price, MSN'15, was selected as the first Planned Parenthood clinician to serve a three-year term on the Planned Parenthood Federation of America National Medical Committee, a panel of reproductive health providers and researchers who determine medical protocols for affiliates nationwide. She is lead clinician of specialty services at Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest.

Morgan Murray, MSN'16, BA'14, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at the Elkton Clinic in Kentucky, where she provides primary care at three rural health clinics, seeing mostly Medicaid and uninsured patients, and instructs family nurse practitioners in pediatric care.

Amanda Stefancyk Oberlies, PhD'16, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2021. She is chief executive officer of the Organization of Nurse Leaders.

Sarah King Ryan, MSN'16, is a nurse practitioner with Geriatric Consulting Group in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Kimberly Savage, MSN'16, was named the 2021 Preceptor of the Year by the VUSN Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty. She is the owner of Psychiatric Care and Consulting in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

Christina Alexander, MSN'17, BS'16, recently started working in interventional cardiology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Aubrey Austin, MSN'17, was named the 2021 Preceptor of the Year by the VUSN Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty. She is a WHNP at Women's Health Specialists in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Adele Caruso, DNP'17, was inducted as a 2020 Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Marshay James, DNP'17, received the 2021 VUSN Sara K. Archer Excellence in Teaching

Award from students in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner–Acute Care specialty.

Alvin Jeffery, PhD'17, was named to the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses board of directors. He is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Essentials Tool Kit Working Group on Information and Healthcare Technologies, and received a loan repayment award from the National Institutes of Health.



Cerrissa Hugie, MSN'17, DNP'18, is author of the book, *Cultivating and Creating Healthy MyNDSpaces: 9 Strategies to Emotional Wellness and Personal Growth*, published in August 2021. She is founder and owner of MyNDSpace Mental Health in Charleston, South Carolina.

Alexis Myers, MSN'17, BA'14, received *Pittsburgh Magazine's* Excellence in Nursing–Community Award. She is a member of the VUSN Alumni Board.

Brooke Faught, DNP'18, was inducted as a 2020 Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She is a women's health nurse practitioner at Urology Associates in Nashville, specializing in female sexual and pelvic floor medicine, urology and vulvoscopy.

Olivia Floyd, PMC'18, is a nurse practitioner at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, specializing in adult post-acute care and substance use disorders. She works at the Johns Hopkins After Care Clinic, a post-discharge clinic that aids largely underserved patients, and rounds with the Hopkins inpatient Substance Use Disorders Consult Service.

Eric Hall, MSN'18, welcomed a daughter in October 2021.

Tempesst Merricks, MSN'18, co-presented "Avoiding Burnout while Practicing Telepsychiatry," hosted online by ReifyResilience.

Tristan Strong, MSN'18, BS'12, is owner of Strong Health and Wellness in Nolensville, Tennessee.

Tiffinie Zellars, MSN'18, DNP'18, is an assistant professor at the Belmont University School of Nursing in Nashville.

Cate Enstrom, DNP'19, became a National League for Nursing certified nurse educator in December 2021.

Hannah Ritter Lee, MSN'19, received a 2021 DAISY Award for her work in the Adult Urology Clinic at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Molly Lodigiani, MSN'19, is a nurse practitioner at Steward Medical Group in Newton, Massachusetts, specializing in internal medicine.

Abby Markus, MSN'19, is a nurse practitioner at Diabetes Management Associates in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, where she manages all aspects of diabetes care.

Adrienne Janicik Maurer, MSN'19, is an advanced registered nurse practitioner at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, a teaching associate in the University of Washington School of Medicine, and an affiliate member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, all in Washington state.



Micah Skeens, PhD'18, is a principal investigator and nurse scientist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, practicing in a pediatric oncology clinic. Her research is funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and focuses on digital health interventions to improve adherence and symptom burden in pediatric oncology and bone marrow transplant patients. She has several studies evaluating the psychosocial impact of COVID on children.

Sheila Metzger, PMC'19, is the subject of a *Yahoo! News* story about her holistic women's health practice in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Jolene Ramirez, DNP'19, is a board member for Dismas House in Nashville, where she sits on the program committee. Ramirez is associate chief nursing officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

20s

Alison Bradywood, DNP'20, was named chief nursing officer of Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle.

Ashley Johnson, MSN'20, is a women's health nurse practitioner at Regional One Health in Memphis, Tennessee.

Matias Massaro, MSN'20, is a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner in the Vanderbilt University Counseling Center.



Anand Brahmbhatt, MSN'20 is a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio.

Joy Pieper, DNP'20, is an associate professor and assistant to the nursing department chair at Crown College in Saint Bonifacius, Minnesota.



Theresa Moore, MSN'20, was named a Minority Fellow of the American Nurses Association/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She is pursuing a DNP at VUSN.

Angel Williams, MSN'20, partnered with Tennessee state legislators to spearhead the Violence Against Nurses Bill, signed into law in May 2021, providing stronger penalties for those convicted of assaulting nurses in the workplace.



SEND ALUMNI NEWS AND PHOTOS TO

vusn-alumninursing@vanderbilt.edu

615-322-4836

VISIT US ON THE WEB
nursing.vanderbilt.edu/
alumni/classnotes.php

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Hayes, BSN'41, of Atlanta, June 7, 2021. She was 102.

Bettie White Cleino, BSN'44, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, August 9, 2021.

Martha Tucker Austin, BSN'45, of Charlotte, North Carolina, July 9, 2021.

Martha Crews McBurney, BSN'47, of Alexandria, Louisiana, November 20, 2021.

Josephine West Shultz, BSN'47, of Tesuque, New Mexico, July 29, 2021. She was 100.

Jane Bragdon Hanron, BSN'49, of Hingham, Massachusetts, May 15, 2021.

Janet Krause Buehler, BSN'57, of Bakersfield, California, June 23, 2021.

Gigi Grossman Eley, BSN'67, of St. Louis, August 31, 2021.

Dorothy Hinch Gaskin, MSN'69, of West Columbia, South Carolina, June 2, 2021.

Jo McKee Wright, BS'65, MSN'73, of Franklin, Tennessee, November 8, 2021.

Catherine Nweke, N'75, of Austin, Texas, May 17, 2021.

Susanne Fisher Berger, BSN'77, of Raleigh, North Carolina, July 31, 2021.

Eula Lee Marable, MSN'77, of Detroit, April 14, 2021.

John Stepulis, MSN'77, of Honolulu, November 20, 2021. He was married to his classmate, **Ruth Smalley Stepulis,** MSN'77.

Charlotte Francis, BSN'78, of Florence, South Carolina, November 3, 2021.

Ed Blackman, MSN'79, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 8, 2021.

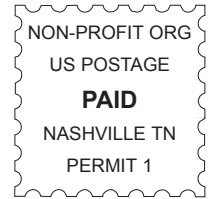
Helen Byers Brown, MSN'79, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, July 26, 2021.

Lissa King Madigan, BSN'79, of Little Rock, Arkansas, July 26, 2021.

Opal Peacock Canarina, MSN'81, of Modesto, California, October 15, 2021.

Kathy Steen, MSN'21, joined the staff of Inspired Psychiatric Care, owned by **Elizabeth Blanchard Hills,** MSN'18, in Overland Park, Kansas. She is a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner.

Brett Young, MSN'21, was named inaugural manager of patient care services for the Vanderbilt at Home program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
Vanderbilt® and the Vanderbilt logos are registered trademarks of The Vanderbilt University. © 2022 Vanderbilt University. All rights reserved.

NEW MASTER OF NURSING OPENS DOORS



Scholarship gifts will increase access for outstanding students

The School of Nursing has launched Tennessee's first master of nursing (MN) degree to address the high demand for registered nurses across the nation. The program aims to attract people looking for a career change or those with a bachelor's degree in another field. MN students will gain crucial clinical skills grounded in health equity and health justice, and develop expertise in interprofessional teamwork, nursing leadership and nursing informatics. They will deliver first-rate, comprehensive care and be well prepared for leadership or educator roles.

Your scholarship gift will change lives by making a master's degree possible for low-resourced but extremely promising students.

Be the difference-maker whose gift turns dreams into reality for talented students and experienced professionals wishing to pursue our rewarding vocation.

To learn more about supporting nursing scholarships, contact Chris Cloar, director of development, at 615-875-1704 or VUSNgiving@vanderbilt.edu

