

SPRING 2019

vanderbiltnurse



Window to the future

New building advances learning, innovation and interaction

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Editor

Nancy Wise

Design and Art Direction

Diana Duren

Director of Publications

Kathy Whitney

Contributing Writers

Kelsey Herbers
Nancy Humphrey
Jessica Pasley
Jan Read
Betsey Usher

Photography/Illustration

Dina Bahan
Gregory Fricker
Steve Green
Hall+Merrick Photographers
Joe Howell
Anne Rayner
John Russell
Susan Urmy

Web

Megan Clancy
Diana Duren

Cover Photograph

Steve Hall (Hall+Merrick Photographers)

Editorial Office

Communications
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 Avenue S.
Nashville, Tennessee 37240
(615) 322-4836

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Vanderbilt Nurse Editor

461 21st Ave. S. Nashville, Tennessee, 37240
Email: vunurse.magazine@vanderbilt.edu

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SCHOOL OF NURSING
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

MISSION AND VALUES
STATEMENT

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



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Students, faculty and staff have embraced the new building's features and possibilities
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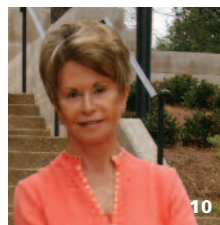
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Dear alumni, colleagues and supporters:

The cover of *Vanderbilt Nurse* beautifully captures the combination of the Collegiate Gothic style of Godchaux Hall with the contemporary glass expanse of our new four-story atrium. Together they form the entrance to the new School of Nursing building, which opened with great celebration on Jan. 22. It is a beautiful structure with lots of light, learning space, conference/seminar rooms and areas for congregating and learning. As you'll read in this issue, the building is designed to meet current needs and future possibilities. I

can't say enough about how delighted we are to be occupying it. Students, faculty and staff alike take pride in it and regularly show it off to family, friends and others outside the school. I do that myself. The building's features are remarkable and will allow the school to advance in key areas of education, research, informatics and clinical practice.

The School of Nursing was fortunate to have talented and knowledgeable partners in the creation of the building. The Vanderbilt Campus Planning and Construction unit was essential in launching and shepherding the project from conception to completion. Architectural firm Hastings Architecture designed a beautiful, functional and imaginative building. Our outstanding construction manager, DF Chase, translated that design into bricks, stone and glass. They directed every step of the construction as our day-to-day partner in erecting our new building. I am most grateful to all of them for their dedication, creativity and hard work.

Opening the building wasn't the School of Nursing's only great accomplishment this spring. On March 12 *U.S. News & World Report* revealed that VUSN had jumped seven spots to be ranked as the No. 5 DNP program and the No. 8 MSN school in its 2020 Best Graduate Schools of Nursing. These are the highest positions VUSN has ever reached and mark the first time we are ranked in the Top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report*. This is a great achievement and a testimonial to the hard work of our faculty, staff, students and alumni over the past several years. While rankings are but one measure of VUSN's impact on nursing education and practice, it is rewarding to have our commitment to excellence recognized.

Our celebrations were tinged with sadness, however, as the school lost two greats recently. Dean Emerita Colleen Conway-Welch died in October 2018 after fending off pancreatic cancer for several years. Hundreds attended her memorial Mass at Cathedral of the Incarnation; many of her School of Nursing family shared memories and gratitude during an intimate memorial we held in November. Dean Conway-Welch's death came only a few months after we met for a memorial to Virginia George, professor emerita and founder of our Family Nurse Practitioner program. Both of these VUSN champions would have been thrilled with our new building and our strong showing in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. We pay tribute to them in the article on p. 10.

This *Vanderbilt Nurse* is packed with information about our building, school activities and alumni, student and faculty accomplishments. I invite you to read more about them and to come visit us when you're in Nashville. If you don't make it to the school over the summer, we look forward to showing the new building to many of you at Reunion this fall.



Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN
Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing
Dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
linda.norman@vanderbilt.edu

UNDER THE ROOF

Some fun and interesting specifics on what it took to construct the new School of Nursing building



39
TRADES

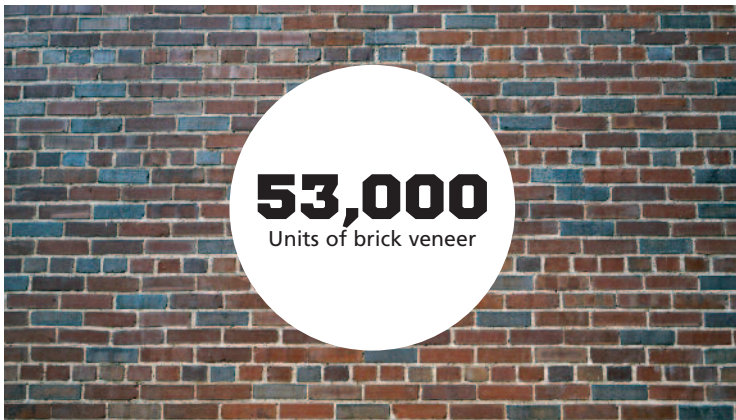
39
Subcontractors

500+
Construction workers

15
Coordinating VU departments



172
Windows



53,000
Units of brick veneer



5,585
Sq. ft. of Rulon wood in atrium and lobby

85
Tons of reinforced steel

5,070
Linear ft. of HVAC ductwork



629
GALLONS OF PAINT

3,113
Sheets of drywall



8,370
Sq. ft. of gray floor tile

1,272
Pieces of limestone

1,510
Linear ft. of radiant heat coil/piping in atrium floor

SUSAN URMY



The first class of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner students recently completed a three-day immersion course.

Help for sexual assault survivors when and where needed

Imagine surviving the most horrific experience in your life — a sexual assault — only to find that you had to travel elsewhere for treatment from someone with specialized training. That's what the majority of sexually assaulted Americans — women, children and men — have to do. Although one in six women and one in 33 men will experience an attempted or completed rape, there are only about 1,500 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in the country.

VUSN has received a \$1.43 million grant from a U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) initiative to develop and launch a SANE education program. Vanderbilt's program is projected to increase the number of SANE-trained and certified advanced practice registered nurses practicing in emergency departments in rural or underserved U.S. communities.

SANEs have specialized education to conduct forensic examinations that have been shown to provide better physical and mental health care for assault survivors, deliver better evidence collection and support higher prosecution rates. They treat patients holistically, with compassionate and comprehensive care that takes into account the patient's current acute care needs and the possible long-term effects of sexual assault.

Mavis Schorn, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, is the grant's principal investigator. "Currently, there are just over 800 sites in the country that provide SANE services," said Schorn, VUSN senior associate dean for Academics. "The need for SANEs is particularly high in rural areas. Research has shown that the incidence of sexual assault in rural communities exceeds that in urban areas. Some states report few or no examiners in rural areas."

Because they are in emergency departments, emergency nurse practitioners (ENP) are often the first to treat victims of sexual assault. Increasing the number of ENPs educated as SANEs will mean those patients will receive swift, specialized care. Additionally, many of VUSN's ENP graduates choose to practice in rural or underserved areas.

VUSN launched its SANE education program in January 2019. In addition to ENP students, the first 15-member class included women's health and pediatric nurse practitioner students.

The SANE project team also includes Assistant Professor Keeley Bowman, DNP; Associate Professor of Nursing and Medicine Melanie Lutenbacher, PhD, FAAN; Professor and Emergency Nurse Practitioner Academic Director Jennifer Wilbeck, DNP, FAANP; and Associate Professor and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Academic Director Ginny Moore, DNP.

Alumna named new assistant dean of diversity and inclusion



Rolanda Johnson, PhD'98, assistant dean for Academics and associate professor of Nursing, has been named assistant dean for Diversity and Inclusion for Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

She replaces Assistant Professor Jana Lauderdale, who returned to her faculty role.

As assistant dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Johnson oversees VUSN's efforts to support and foster an environment that is culturally appreciative and inclusive, particularly for historically under-represented and marginalized groups and individuals. She will continue as assistant dean for Academics, charged with helping

students with special curriculum needs or who experience academic difficulty.

"We're very fortunate to have Rolanda in this leadership role," said Linda D. Norman, DSN, FAAN, VUSN dean and the Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. "With her experience in academic enhancement services, as the longtime adviser to the Black Student Nurses Association, and through her research in health promotion for African Americans and in black racial identity, Rolanda will bring expertise and wisdom to the role of VUSN's assistant dean for Diversity and Inclusion."

Johnson joined the School of Nursing in 1998, the same year she received her PhD in Nursing Science from Vanderbilt. In her 20 years at VUSN, she has provided leadership for a variety of initiatives, including serving as director of the Fisk University-Vanderbilt University Nursing Partnership Program, re-establishing the school's Black Student Nurses Association, and representing VUSN in campus-wide programs. Johnson was the first African American to hold a vice-chair position in Vanderbilt's Faculty Senate. She has also been influential in helping recruit minority students to VUSN and by increasing minority visibility at the school.

American Academy of Nursing and National Academies of Practice select VUSN faculty



Maxwell



Phillippi



Schorn

Three Vanderbilt University School of Nursing faculty were inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing in November. Assistant Professor Cathy Maxwell, PhD; Assistant Professor Julia C. Phillippi, PhD, FACNM; and Senior Associate Dean for Academics Mavis Schorn, PhD, FACNM, were honored during the AAN's annual policy conference. Fellows are selected based on evidence of significant contributions to nursing and health care, including how the nominee's nursing career has influenced health policies and the health and well-being of all. Fellowship is considered one of the most significant honors a profession can bestow.

Schorn was also named a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in Nursing. She was selected in recognition of her leadership and achievements in nursing, education and research. She has served as senior associate dean since 2013 and oversees academic programs and services for the School of Nursing. She is active in interdisciplinary education and works with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center student-run clinic, Vanderbilt Program for Interprofessional Learning, Southeast Consortium for Interprofessional Education and the Vanderbilt-Meharry Alliance Interprofessional Collaboration.

CAROLINE TAYLOR



Reunion 2018 giving reaches new record

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing alumni contributed more than \$460,000 in honor of Reunion 2018. The record-setting Reunion total includes gifts made by more than 200 alumni in class years ending with a '3 or '8, as well as all VUSN Quinqs (alumni who graduated from the School of Nursing more than 50 years ago).

Redesigned MSN programs in informatics and leadership launch in fall 2019

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing recently redesigned two of its Master of Science in Nursing specialty programs and relaunched them with revised curricula, educational formats and degree requirements. The programs, Nursing Informatics (NI) and Nursing and Health Care Leadership (NHCL), are now accepting applications for admission in fall 2019.

In announcing the redesigned specialty programs, VUSN Dean Linda D. Norman, DSN, FAAN, Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing, said that the school recently re-evaluated the two specialties to determine if there were newer or better ways to serve students and prepare them for leadership roles. "Nursing, perhaps above all professions, understands the need to periodically revise programs

of study to meet the needs of a rapidly changing health care system and incorporate the best practices, thinking and evidence," she said.

One major change for the two specialties was making them part time only, which is a significant draw for many registered nurses who want to continue working full time while obtaining a master's degree. Both programs will be offered in a modified online learning format that allows students to complete degree requirements without relocating or giving up employment. The programs will incorporate on-campus interactive immersion experiences periodically during the program of studies.

As part of the relaunch, all members of the fall 2019 NI and NHCL classes will receive scholarships valued

at 10% of their first-year tuition.

Curricular changes for Nursing Informatics incorporate newly emerging informatics competencies, concepts and innovations, as well as customized practicum experiences. VUSN's leadership specialty has been renamed Nursing and Health Care Leadership based on feedback from nursing professionals; it incorporates stronger experiential learning, new collaborations with Nursing Informatics and a focus on real-world learning.

Associate Professor of Nursing Patricia Sengstack, DNP, FAAN, has been named academic specialty director for Nursing Informatics. Associate Professor of Nursing Rick Watters, PhD, will serve as interim director for Nursing and Health Care Leadership.

Nursing and medical students team up to vaccinate Nashville's needy

Refugee children, people without health insurance and Nashville's homeless were among 756 people who received free flu vaccines through an extensive Shade Tree Clinic vaccine outreach program coordinated by a School of Nursing student and two Vanderbilt University School of Medicine students.

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner student and Milah P. Lynn Scholar Lexa Taylor, RN, and medical students Sarah Brown and Emilie Fischer worked with area nonprofits Siloam Health, Bridge Ministry, Room in the Inn, Nashville Community Outreach and Resource Center and the Nashville International Center

for Empowerment to host 14 fall vaccine events. The students recruited fellow student volunteers and directed the administration of tetravalent flu vaccines.

While vaccination events aimed at underinsured families, refugees and immigrants primarily took place in clinic locations on weekends, much of the vaccine outreach to the homeless occurred at night. The students provided vaccinations under the Jefferson Street Bridge during Bridge Ministry's weekly dinner, food and necessities distribution and prayer service for homeless and disadvantaged individuals.

School of Nursing students and faculty have long



GREG FRICKER, VUSM

School of Nursing students prepare vaccines for an outreach event to the homeless.

collaborated through Shade Tree Clinic, a VUSM student-run clinic that provides free health care and medications for Nashville's underserved population.

In August 2018 Shade Tree moved from its longtime location on Dickerson Pike to clinical space provided by

VUSN next to the Vanderbilt Nurse-Midwives and Primary Care Clinic at 2410 8th Ave. S. The new Shade Tree Clinic location offers expanded clinical space, a dedicated workroom, and improved laboratory, social work office and front desk area.



Incoming AGACNP students who intend to earn DNP degrees can do so in only eight semesters.

New BSN-to-DNP pilot begins in August

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is launching a pilot BSN-to-DNP program that gives registered nurses with Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees the ability to earn the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in only eight semesters. The program will integrate the advanced practice courses typically associated with the master's-level nursing degree with DNP courses.

The BSN-to-DNP pilot program is in conjunction with VUSN's Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) specialty; students will earn the DNP degree with a focus on expert clinical practice in acute and critical care. They also will have the option to focus their studies as hospitalists or intensivists.

"Vanderbilt's DNP program is well known for educating outstanding nurse scholars who use evidence-based knowledge to improve health care outcomes, nursing management and education," said Linda D. Norman, DSN, FAAN, dean of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and the Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. "The DNP is the highest clinical degree in nursing, and many nurses have it as their professional goal. We decided to assess interest in a BSN-to-DNP program with this pilot program that combines our DNP education with our nationally known AGACNP specialty."

Terri Allison, DNP, FAANP, directs Vanderbilt's DNP program. "Health care needs and health care delivery are increasingly complex," Allison said. "A DNP degree adds a skill set not attained in a master's program. That skill set provides graduates with the ability to impact patient and system outcomes in practice and within their organizations."

Vanderbilt's BSN-to-DNP program is shorter and will require fewer credit hours — 67

hours — than the current path many students take for obtaining a Master of Science in Nursing degree (40 credit hours) and then advancing to DNP studies (an additional 36). For students who intend to earn a doctoral degree, the program will translate into savings of time and money.

The pilot is structured so that students will complete AGACNP and core DNP coursework first and then transition into DNP-specific practice courses. They will be eligible to take AGACNP certification exams upon completion of specialty-specific course work and will be doctorally prepared nurse practitioners upon graduation.

Allison and AGACNP Academic Director Brian Widmar, PhD, FAANP, co-developed the curriculum for the program and will work collaboratively on student and clinical site selection.

Etherington inducted into Tennessee Health Care Hall of Fame

Associate Professor of Nursing Emerita Carol Etherington, MSN'75, FAAN, has been inducted into the Tennessee Health Care Hall of Fame in recognition of her contributions to health and health care.



Etherington's work has focused on traumatized populations, and designing and administering programs to address health

and mental health needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by crime, war or disaster.

In the 1970s she was the first nurse employed by the Davidson County Police Department, where she established police-based crisis counseling programs still in existence. Later, Etherington established a volunteer mental health pool for the Red Cross and led response to floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and the 9/11 terrorist attack.

She has worked with Doctors Without Borders in Bosnia, Poland, Honduras, Tajikistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Angola and Eastern Chad.

Etherington was made faculty emerita in 2013. She is chair of the Metro Nashville Board of Health and associate director of community health initiatives for the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health.

The Hall of Fame honors Tennessee's greatest health and health care pioneers, leaders and innovators. It was established by Belmont University and The McWhorter Society and is supported by the Nashville Health Care Council.

New alumni awards increase awareness and diverse accomplishments

The School of Nursing Alumni Association recognized eight alumni and friends of the school with its Distinguished Alumni Awards during Reunion 2018. Honorees were nominated by fellow alumni and colleagues and selected by the association's board of directors.

The awards this year included new categories and honors. The expanded categories allowed the association to recognize alumni at varying stages of their careers and in different areas of impact from academics to public service to clinical excellence and support of the School of Nursing. This year's award categories and winners were:

- Lulu Wolf Hassenplug Alumni Award for Distinguished Career in Nursing: Randolph Rasch, MSN'79, dean of Michigan State University College of Nursing.
- Alumni Award for National Leadership: Jessica Van Meter, DNP'15, MSN'07, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- Alma Gault Alumni Award for Public Service: Annie Moon, MSN'03, Indian Health Services' Chinle Service Unit, Chinle, Arizona.
- Alumni Award for Clinical Achievement in Nursing: Jennifer Park-



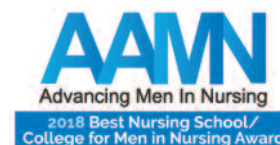
Dean Linda Norman and Annie Moon, who received the first Alma Gault Alumni Award for Public Service

er Kurkowski, MSN'09, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.

- Catherine Hanley Class of 1912 Rising Star Alumni Award: Jordan Plaxico, MSN'16, BA'14, Clinic at Mercury Courts, Nashville.
- Alumni Award for Innovation in Health Care: Anna-Gene Chalfant O'Neal, MSN'92, MBA'92, BSN'88, CEO, Alive Hospice, Nashville.
- Friend of Nursing Award: C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD'80, Deputy CEO and Chief Health Systems Officer, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- Honorary Alumna Award: Marty Sutherland, VUSN faculty practices, Nashville.

Best Nursing School for Men

The American Association for Men in Nursing (AAMN) has named Vanderbilt University School of Nursing an AAMN Best School of Nursing. The honor recognizes a nursing school for significant efforts in recruiting and retaining men in the nursing profession. In informing VUSN of the honor, the AAMN noted that its recognition review committee was very impressed. "Your history, consistency, quality and commitment to creating an inclusive environment for men who are becoming professional nurses is impressive. You should be very proud of your work and the work of your leadership team," they wrote. Among the information the AAMN reviewed was material on how the school meets male student and faculty needs, data on student pass rates, demographics and statistics on male students, faculty and staff. Professor Tom Christenbery, PhD'04, MSN'87, and Instructor Chance Allen, MSN'12, led the drive for the recognition.



STEVE GREEN



Vanderbilt's DNP program is ranked No. 5 and its MSN program is ranked No. 8 in the country.

School of Nursing rises to Top 10 in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings

In the *U.S. News & World Report* annual rankings of graduate nursing programs released in March, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing rose to the No. 5 rank for its Doctor of Nursing Practice program and to No. 8 for its Master of Science in Nursing program. Those positions are the highest rankings VUSN has received and mark the first time Vanderbilt has been ranked a national Top 10 best graduate nursing program.

"We're thrilled with our significant rise in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings," said Linda D. Norman, DSN, FAAN, VUSN dean and Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. "It's rewarding that the hard work by our faculty, staff, students and alumni over the past several years is being recognized."

"The rankings speak to the quality of the school and reflect the esteem our peer institutions have for VUSN and its graduates, faculty, scholarly work and innovations," she said, noting that 40% of MSN and DNP scores come from peer assessment, more than any other factor evaluated.

Six of VUSN's programs were recognized as being in the Top 5 of their specialties. The Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialties ranked No. 2. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Nursing Informatics ranked No. 3. The Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program is in the No. 4 spot. Nurse-midwifery programs were not ranked this year, so VUSN's Nurse-Midwifery specialty remains tied as No. 1 in the country.

To determine scores for nursing schools, *U.S. News & World Report* uses a ranking

methodology based on a weighted average of 14 indicators. The data comes from statistical surveys sent to administrators of 584 accredited schools of nursing which offer master's or doctoral programs. Specialty program rankings are based on assessments by nursing school deans and deans of graduate studies who identify up to 10 schools offering the best programs in each specialty area. The surveys and assessments were conducted in fall 2018 and early 2019.

In addition to peer assessment, schools are evaluated on factors that include research activity, faculty credentials, faculty participation in nursing practice and the percentage of faculty members with significant achievements. The schools' acceptance rate, program size, faculty-student ratio and students' undergraduate GPAs are also considered. Individual specialty scores are based completely on peer assessment.

STRONG, VISIONARY AND UNFORGETTABLE

Vanderbilt's nursing champions remembered

BY NANCY HUMPHREY

V

anderbilt University School of Nursing lost two trailblazing and visionary icons just 80 days apart in 2018 – one a longtime dean who transformed nursing education at Vanderbilt and nationally, and the other a champion of nurse practitioners and founder of the school's Family Nurse Practitioner Program.

They were both strong women known to speak their minds, who educated, nurtured and made national leaders of many of the school's students and faculty members.

Colleen Conway-Welch, PhD, CNM, FAAN, FACNM, dean of VUSN from 1984-2013, died Oct. 12, 2018, following a courageous battle with cancer.

When Conway-Welch was recruited to become VUSN's dean, the school was educating approximately 100 baccalaureate students and a few master's degree students. It had no doctoral program. First on her agenda was overhauling the school's curriculum, starting with the introduction of an accelerated master's program.

Under her leadership, VUSN opened its PhD program in 1993 and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program in 2008. Today VUSN is one of the largest schools of nursing in the country and continually ranked as a top nursing school nationally. When she retired as dean in 2013, she was named Dean Emerita by the university.

World changer

Conway-Welch received numerous recognitions and honors in her career, including being elected into the Modern Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2017 and receiving the Health Education Visionary Award from the Society for Women's Health Research in 2018. She was also active in health policy and education, and was named by President Ronald Reagan

to serve on the President's Commission on AIDS in 1987. In 2006 she was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University. In 1997 she was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science and was appointed to the National Bipartisan Commission on Medicare, a 17-member commission made up of 10 members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and seven health care leaders.

Conway-Welch was married to prominent Nashville businessman Ted Welch and the couple was active in the Nashville community and national political circles. Welch died in 2014.

ANNE RAYNER





Opposite: Colleen Conway-Welch outside Patricia Champion Frist Hall, completed in 1997.
This page: (Top) Conway-Welch and students in the 1980s. (Middle) Vanderbilt University Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, Conway-Welch and VUMC President and CEO Jeff Balser, MD, PhD, at Conway-Welch's retirement event. (Bottom) Conway-Welch with then-Senior Associate Dean for Academics Linda Norman at Investiture in 2013.

“

She changed the School of Nursing, but her impact went beyond that. She was a visionary champion of causes that mattered.”

CEOs as her friends, she treated everyone with genuine interest and graciousness. “She was the same to people great or small,” Norman said.

Bonnie Pilon, PhD, professor of nursing emerita, called Conway-Welch “the most significant mentor in my professional life” in a letter she wrote to her shortly before her death and shared with *Vanderbilt Nurse*.

“I have learned so much from you. Your penchant for inclusiveness is tremendously moving. You gave me confidence to talk to senators and representatives, testify before the state legislature, and give Congressional briefings. No way was I ever going to be doing any of that without your mentorship and confidence in me. You are one of the few leaders I’ve encountered who has a natural capacity to ‘raise the bar’ on performance and then provide the necessary resources for your team to meet these expectations (even when we were sure we could not possibly do it). That is a gift and I was a direct beneficiary since 1989.”

Mentor and friend

VUSN Dean Linda Norman, DSN, FAAN, was recruited to Vanderbilt by Conway-Welch and the two worked together for nearly 30 years.

“Colleen was my friend, mentor, colleague and ally,” said Norman, the Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. “She changed the School of Nursing, but her impact went beyond that. She was a visionary champion of causes that mattered. The country’s attitude toward persons with HIV, for example, was shaped by Colleen’s compassion and knowledge in her work on the President’s Commission on the HIV Epidemic.”

Norman said that even though Conway-Welch was a national nursing leader and counted senators, presidents and



Randolph Rasch, PhD, FAANP, now dean of Michigan State University College of Nursing, met Conway-Welch in 1984 and was recruited by her in 2002 as director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and co-director of the Nurse-Midwifery/FNP dual program.

“I would describe her as a visionary,” he said. “She was always thinking ahead and had her finger on the pulse of what was happening in health care. She believed nurses should not just be contributors but leaders in health care. She was a national leader and expected us all to develop our expertise and knowledge in that way.”

Rasch, MSN’79, was summoned to Conway-Welch’s office soon after arriving at VUSN. “I wondered what trouble I was in, but she called me in to pick my brain about my perspective on an issue. I realized at some point what she was really

doing was getting me to think about the issue in a particular way because she knew I could,” he said. “She was giving me a gentle nudge, letting me know ‘you have these competencies and capabilities.’ She was leading me through a different way of thinking about an issue and allowing me to see myself in a different way. That’s the kind of person she was.”

Rasch, who spoke at the VUSN memorial service for Conway-Welch, said he considered her a friend as well as a mentor. “Even as dean she positioned herself more in the role of a colleague than a boss.”

Virginia George — FNP pioneer

Rasch also had a special professional and personal relationship with VUSN’s Virginia George, BSN’47, MS’72, CFNC, professor of nursing emerita, and an early

champion of nurse practitioners. She died July 26, 2018.

George was founding director of Vanderbilt’s Family Nurse Practitioner Program, one of the first in the Southeast. She taught at Vanderbilt for 27 years, earning numerous teaching awards and serving in many leadership roles. Rasch, who spoke at her memorial service, was one of her students.

He remembers meeting the outspoken George during an admissions interview, where she suggested they look at his transcripts. Rasch jokingly told her he’d rather not, then after she did, she replied, “Well, I can see you had a good time your first two years, but you’ve had straight A’s your second two years.” George, he said, recognized the promise that existed beyond his transcript.

George, “warm, open and inviting,”



Opposite: Virginia George volunteered with Siloam Family Health Center after retirement from VUSN.

This page, clockwise from left: Dean Colleen Conway-Welch, George, and her daughter, Lee Anne George, in 2012. George with former student and colleague Randolph Rasch at renovation ceremonies for Godchaux Hall. George with students in the 1970s.

SUSAN URMY



always cheered her students on, Rasch said. “She helped us see that we could not only be nurse practitioners, but problem-solvers and (health) system problem-solvers,” he said. “She let us know we were accepted into this program not only because of what we could do clinically, but also as leaders. She followed our careers long after we were gone (from VUSN).”

Dedicated to nursing and teaching
George joined the VUSN faculty in

1964 as an instructor in maternal and child nursing. She became an assistant professor in 1970, the year she was recognized with the school’s Shirley Titus Award for excellence in teaching. She was named associate professor two years later.

In 1973 she was appointed director of Primex, Vanderbilt’s post-BSN family nurse clinician certificate program for RNs. In 1975 she planned and oversaw the transformation of the Primex program into the School of Nursing’s first family

nurse practitioner graduate degree program. She led the program for 15 years, teaching courses, writing academic papers and grant proposals and mentoring students. She won the school’s Sara K. Archer Award for graduate-level teaching in 1989.

After retirement in 2000 she remained involved in state and local politics, took medical mission trips and helped with community health clinics in Nashville, including the Fall Hamilton School Clinic and Siloam Family Health Center. In 2005 she established the Virginia M. George Nursing Scholarship, awarded annually to a VUSN nurse practitioner student.

Norman knew George as both a colleague and friend. “Virginia was a trailblazer in advancing the profession of family nurse practitioners. She was one of the first, and she developed Vanderbilt’s FNP program, which became, and continues to be, our largest specialty. Personally and professionally, she was someone who freely spoke her mind — and when she did, it was smart to listen. She had great wisdom and was dedicated to nursing and to Vanderbilt.”

George is survived by her daughter, Lee Anne George, BS’77 (Peabody), and son-in-law David Rapp, BA’73, of Washington, D.C., and a sister, Mary Savoye of Towson, Maryland. She was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Ralph T. George, and daughter Kittye George.

“

She helped us see that we could not only be nurse practitioners, but problem-solvers and (health) system problem-solvers.”

WHERE TECHNOLOGY AND WELLNESS COMBINE

Future-focused building advances learning,
innovation and human interaction

The sun-filled four-story atrium in Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's new expansion is a hub of connectivity. A professor and student sit on the bench under the monumental staircase consulting a laptop screen. Across the gray tile floor, a dozen students work on laptops, tablets and smartphones at tall tables. In the lobby's raised landing area, students gather on upholstered semicircular benches to eat and catch up with classmates they haven't seen since their last on-campus intensive session.

BY NANCY WISE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY

VANDERBILT PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES AND
STEVE HALL, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS





“This is what we envisioned. This is what we worked for,” said Dean Linda D. Norman, DSN, FAAN, the Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing.

“This is a building that combines technical advancements with wellness solutions and opportunities for human interaction.”

The technology includes conference/classrooms with advanced collaborative capabilities, an interactive classroom for flipped learning, a virtual classroom that can be used for educational production from creating course lessons to transmitting dissertation conferences across the globe, and the jewel in the building’s crown: a state-of-the-art simulation and skills lab that fills its third floor.

The new structure was also designed and built (and is now operated) to positively impact the well-being of its occupants. Air quality, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mental well-being were factored into the building’s creation.

“This expansion — lobby area, atrium, five-story building and welcoming green spaces — represents a commitment to interaction, collaboration and unification,” Norman said. “The building was designed with built-in places for students to engage with each other, faculty and students from elsewhere on campus.”

The School of Nursing opened its new \$23.6 million expansion Jan. 22 after an intense 20-month construction period. The 29,947-square-foot structure is located between Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall, the Nursing Annex and Patricia Champion Frist Hall. Construction manager was D.F. Chase; Hastings Architecture was the architect.

A few weeks after completion, the building was in full use and Norman said she was delighted to see that its communal spaces are being used for connection.

“This expansion — lobby area, atrium, five-story building and welcoming green spaces — represents a commitment to interaction, collaboration and unification.”

Dean Linda Norman



▲ The atrium provides places for students to work or meet during breaks from class.

United student services

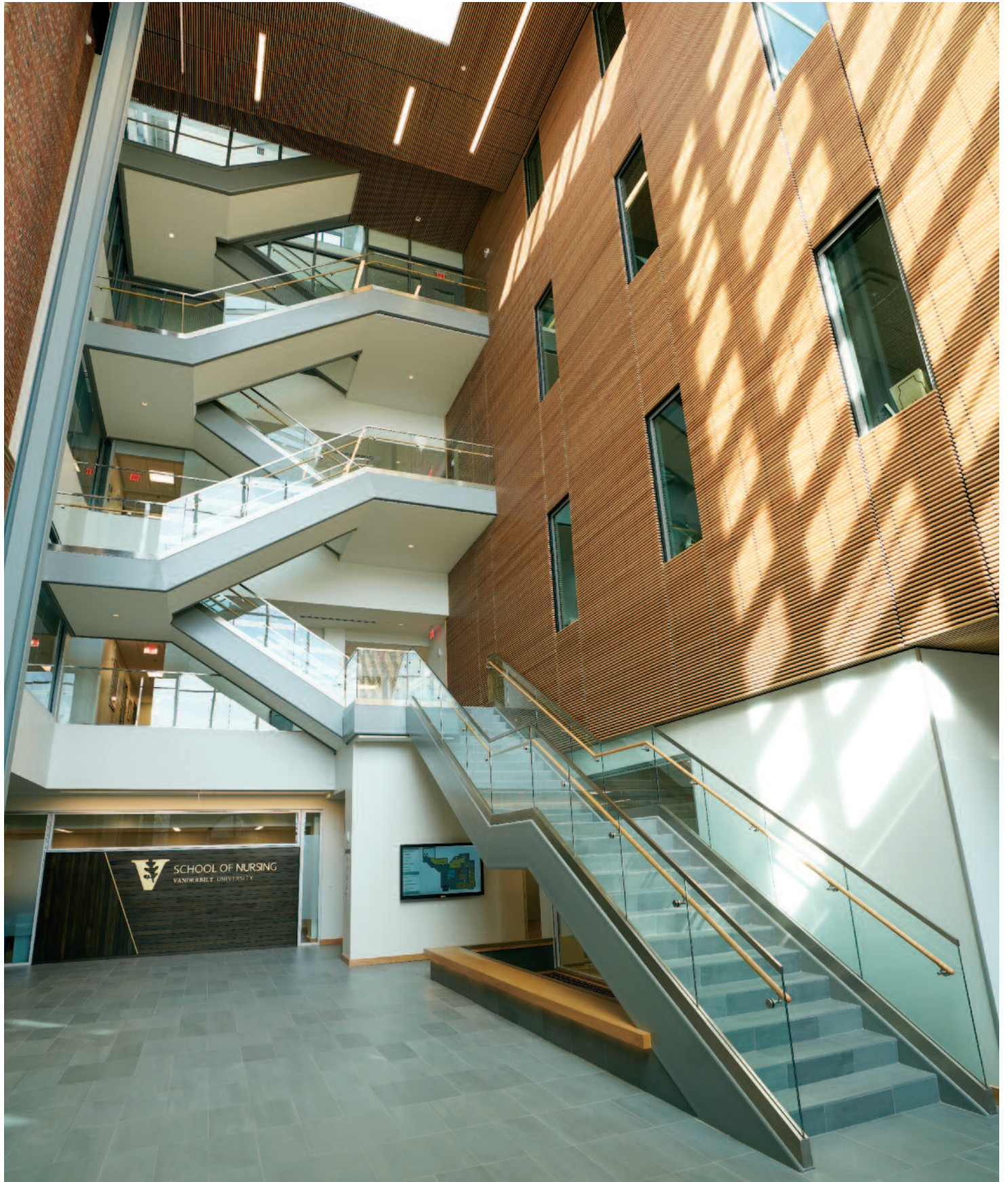
The completion of the building saw the return to campus of the school’s Clinical Placement office and its Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner faculty and staff.

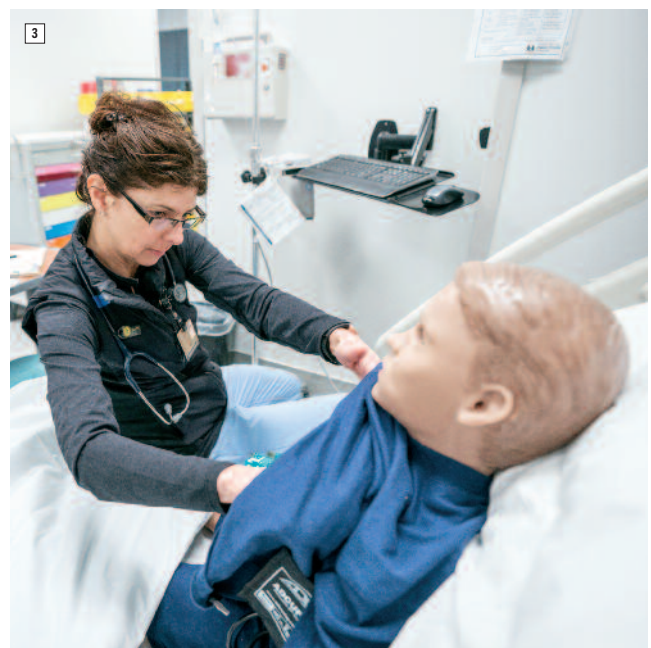
Lack of space had caused them to be housed on 18th Avenue, away from classrooms and colleagues.

“We’re thrilled to be in the new building,” said Elizabeth Rapisarda, MBA’87, BA’80, senior director of Clinical Placement. “We find it more efficient to coordinate with faculty and other departments, and it’s certainly more convenient



▲ Above: The existing exterior wall of historic Godchaux Hall forms one side of the atrium. Opposite: The monumental staircase is self-supporting with no visible support beams that block light.







▲ **Opposite and above:** A fast-track simulation for Emergency Nurse Practitioner students was one of the first to be held in the Simulation and Skills Lab. 1. Priscilla Akuetey makes notes regarding a young adult presenting with an STD. 2. Simulation Lab nurse Diana Kelley helps Candice Ryan-Supples tend to a toddler with a laceration to be cleaned and stitched. 3. Elizabeth Yester examines “Dennis,” the school’s newest and most realistic pediatric simulation mannequin. 4. Simulation Lab nurse Christine Cahill assists Yester in caring for a patient with an abscess to be drained and dressed.

“The Simulation and Skills Lab was built with spacious bays so students can learn in groups. Each bay is equipped with audio and video so that simulations can be shared live or recorded to be reviewed by the group.”

Dean Linda Norman

for students, as we help them set up their clinical placements or work with them when an issue comes up. We’re no longer blocks away, which definitely facilitates scheduled, as well as drop-in, conversations.”

Clinical Placement offices are on the building’s second floor near the offices of the senior associate dean of Academics and assistant dean for Diversity and Inclusion. Other student-centered offices are housed on the building’s first floor. Admissions, financial aid, registrar and student affairs offices are clustered together and accessible to students; the school’s alumni director has an office nearby.

Experiential and immersive

Connection was also a requirement for the building’s technology. All of the building’s conference/classrooms are equipped with technology that can connect occupants in the room to those at other locations. “The Wachtmeister Interactive Classroom and the Virtual Classroom have collaboration and learning as their main purposes,” Norman said. “The Simulation and Skills Lab was built with spacious bays so students can learn in

groups. Each bay is equipped with audio and video so that simulations can be shared live or recorded to be reviewed by the group.”

A technically advanced skills and simulation lab was at the top of Norman’s must-have list when planning for the expansion. Students and faculty were then using an L-shaped retrofitted space in the nearly 100-year-old Godchaux Hall. It had a mix of high-tech and older simulation equipment and mannequins, but for advanced simulations, classes used the more spacious CELA center operated by the School of Medicine.

The new Simulation and Skills Lab is nearly three times as large as the old space and includes 13 patient care bays with observation control rooms fitted with one-way glass, two debriefing conference rooms and simulation preparation areas. Each bay has a hospital bed, functioning headwall, vitals’ monitor, simulated gas outlets and computer. The lab has a dedicated obstetrics bay, but it, and all the other areas, can be transformed for emergency, pediatric, bedside, neonatal or practitioner office simulations. The lab is also home to several new high-fidelity nursing simulation mannequins designed to provide realistic interactions and challenges for students.

The authenticity of the technology, settings and simulations give students clinical decision-making experience and help them develop complex skills in a variety of health care scenarios ranging from cleaning and stitching a laceration to intubating a patient.

The school also expanded its simulation staff with the addition of Jo Ellen Holt, DNP, CEN, CCNS, assistant professor and Skills and Simulation Lab director. Holt and a team of four full-time nurses create and coordinate simulations for the school’s nearly 400 PreSpecialty students, as well as many of the school’s advanced nursing specialties.

Technologically advanced classrooms

The building’s fourth floor houses two technologically advanced rooms: the Virtual Classroom and the Wachtmeister Interactive Classroom.



▲ Instructor Kanah Lewallen used the Wachtmeister Interactive Classroom for a session on deprescribing for older adults with her Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP students. Some groups discussed information on interactive displays while others used simulators to experience physical challenges such as arthritic hands, tremors and hearing loss. The groups then rotated so every student could experience each activity.



The Wachtmeister Interactive Classroom supports flipped classroom teaching, an approach to education where students study lecture material on their own time and use class time for interactive learning. To make that possible, the Wachtmeister is equipped with five interactive 4K displays, a panoramic camera and touch panels. The room can be arranged into a variety of groups or configurations. The instructor can project content on all five screens or each screen can be controlled by students and display individual content. Students can wirelessly present material from their laptops, tablets or smartphones.

“Using technology enables our students to become active learners, engaged in the material,” said Betsy Weiner, PhD, FACMI, FAAN, senior associate dean for

Informatics and Centennial Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing. “It allows faculty to interact with the students and their content in a more dynamic manner than traditional lectures. It’s transformative.”

Studies have found that students perform significantly better in active learning environments and have increased involvement in class, Weiner said. The classroom is the first on Vanderbilt’s campus, and Weiner anticipates that it will play a role in transinstitutional opportunities as faculty conceptualize innovative lessons and projects.

Next door to the Wachtmeister is the Virtual Classroom. With blackout shades down and furnishings at a minimum, the room resembles a production studio — and that’s exactly how it functions. It pro-



vides faculty a high-quality setting in which to produce classes for online and distance learning. It will also support streaming doctoral defenses to other locations.

The room's greatest asset is its flexibility. It's equipped with three video cameras, green screen, sound muffling and a lighting grid. With shades up and chairs positioned in front of the windows, it can be a setting for a panel discussion or, as it was used recently, provide an opportunity for Nursing Informatics faculty to record a series of videos for prospective students.

Uniformly connected

The building's seven conference rooms serve multiple needs. They can be used for classes, meetings, seminars and collaborative conferences.

On the building's top floor, the Christy-Houston Foundation Conference Room is in demand for classes and meetings, as it gives a sweeping view of 21st Avenue and Nashville's eastern skyline.

Below: All conference rooms are equipped with interactive displays that can be used as white — or green — boards. **Right:** Lecturer Janelle Delle holds her Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing class in the Christy-Houston Foundation Conference room on the fifth floor.



The room, along with the Holeman Reynolds Conference Room on the second floor, the Agnes F. Godchaux Conference Room on the third floor and all collaborative spaces in the building, operate with the same advanced technology. This synchronicity means that anyone in the school can operate the smartboards and interactive displays in any room. It also means that any room can be used for classes, seminars or meetings, depending upon availability. The rooms are all furnished with equipment that allows streaming from them to other similarly outfitted rooms within the school.

Designed for well-being

The first thing visitors to the School of Nursing building notice is the light-

“Using technology enables our students to become active learners, engaged in the material. It allows faculty to interact with the students and their content in a more dynamic manner than traditional lectures. It’s transformative.”

*Senior Associate Dean, Informatics
Betsy Weiner*



Vision-sharers

Bringing the School of Nursing expansion from concept to reality required commitment, teamwork and vision. One group of exceptional people brought all three: our generous donors. They are friends, foundations, alumni and parents of past students — all committed to excellence, advancing knowledge and ensuring that our students are well prepared to take their places as health care providers and leaders.

We most gratefully acknowledge our visionary donors for making possible these dynamic spaces in our new building.

**Sandra C. Chase, BSN'69,
and Dean F. Chase, BE'69**
Sandra Coats Chase Terrace

**Agnes K. and Frank A.
Godchaux III, BA'49**
*Agnes K. Godchaux
Conference Room*

**Anne Marie and Hans F.E.
Wachtmeister, EdD'86**
*Wachtmeister Interactive
Classroom*

**The Christy-Houston
Foundation, Inc.**
*Christy-Houston Foundation,
Inc. Conference Room*

**Janis Holeman Reynolds,
MSN'69, BSN'68**
*Holeman Reynolds
Conference Room*

1. Dean Norman, Douglas Kilmer, Janis Holeman Reynolds and Associate Dean for Development Steven Barnes with the school's thank-you gift of a commemorative print. 2. Barnes and Dean Norman present Anne Davis, Christy-Houston Foundation President, with the foundation's personalized print of the building. 3. Sandra Coats Chase and Dean F. Chase. 4. The Wachtmeister family before touring the building: Seph Kestner, Hannah Kestner, Hans Wachtmeister, Dean Norman, Anne Wachtmeister, Jane Cousins and Robert Cousins.



filled atrium and the building's multiplicity of windows and glass. The two are key to one of the building's wellness features: Its lighting supports human circadian rhythms with optimum light intensity for at least four hours a day every day of the year. The atrium is filled with natural light from a skylight and glass wall. Offices and classrooms are designed with a mixture of natural light and task lighting.

Lighting that supports occupant health is one component in the WELL Building Standard, a performance-based system of measuring, certifying and monitoring features that affect human health and well-being in the built environment. The building was planned and built to meet the program's rigorous standards; the university will apply for WELL Silver certification later this year. The building was also constructed to meet LEED Gold certification for sustainability.

"It makes synergistic sense that our expansion is Vanderbilt's first building constructed to WELL standards," Norman said. "Nursing takes a holistic view of health and seeks to care for the entire person. The building was designed to meet the needs of our students, faculty and staff in everything from air quality to comfort and natural light."

WELL standards were considered for every aspect of the building. For example, all the materials used for carpets, flooring and walls have low or no VOC (volatile organic compounds) content, which means that they don't release harmful materials into the air. To optimize air quality, ductwork was sealed in plastic during construction to avoid drawing contaminants from construction into the HVAC system.

Other wellness components include acoustical treatments to reduce mechanical equipment noise, an open staircase to encourage low-impact stair climbing and the incorporation of nature through colors, textures and materials.

In the atrium and lobby, a dark brown wood wall draws the eye. "The wood comes from the basswood tree that had been on the building site," Norman said. "Incorporating the reclaimed wood was something we specifically requested be

part of the expansion." The receptionist's desk, a display cabinet and planters are also made from the tree's wood.

Green spaces

Outside, the school's entrance has been reconfigured. Gone is the small parking lot hidden behind unruly magnolia trees. In its place is a spacious circular turnaround, landscaped drought-resistant grasses and inviting outdoor green space. Benches, tables and chairs invite students, faculty and staff outside for lunch, conversation or squirrel watching. The magnolias and hollies have been trimmed for appearance and safety.

The wider driveway and entrance allow the School of Nursing to be visible from 21st Avenue.

A second outdoor green space is reachable from the building's fifth floor. The Sandra Coats Chase Terrace includes tables, chairs and a carpet of sun-loving plants. Accessible by school ID card, the terrace provides a quiet place to have lunch, study, recharge or meet.

Norman frequently walks around the building during lunchtime. She talks with students eating in the lobby or working on their laptops in the atrium. She may pop by the rooftop terrace or visit the faculty/staff breakroom. She checks in with faculty and staff, and takes the pulse of the community.

"This is a place where students can learn, be challenged and grow as health care professionals," she said. "It's technologically advanced, and that technology has multiple purposes. It not only prepares students to be successful in their careers but it will inspire new methods of learning and advance interactive collaborations by faculty and staff."

"This new building is a place where the well-being of the whole student is supported and where faculty, staff and students can be inspired by their surroundings," Norman said.

"People really love being in this space. It's physically beautiful, but it's more than that. People — students, faculty, staff, visitors, even — sense the purpose."

Whatever It Took

The School of Nursing building owes its existence to the 2008 recession. Then-Dean Colleen Conway-Welch and her team knew that the school's growth would require expanded space for teaching, faculty offices and clinical training. She knew just where to get it: add two floors on top of Patricia Champion Frist Hall, which had been designed for just that. The architectural plans were ready — all that was needed was the go-ahead from Vanderbilt's administration. Then the recession hit and the decision was made to hold off until a better economic environment.

By 2016, however, the need was extreme. Godchaux, Frist and the Nursing Annex buildings were packed. The Clinical Placement office had to be located off campus, along with the faculty and staff of the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty. Some researchers were working blocks away in Vanderbilt's Sony building. Dean Linda Norman had discussed the need with Vanderbilt administration and the plans for two floors on top of Frist were brought out. Evaluating them with eyes focused on growth and technology, however, it was clear that adding two floors to the existing building was not going to be sufficient.

Touring the school's buildings and area with representatives from Campus Planning and design firm Hastings Architecture, Norman brought them to the 21st Avenue South side of Frist Hall and showed them a small, irregularly shaped V of land where Frist and Godchaux were joined by a one-story enclosed lobby.



“What about this?” she asked. “Can you do anything with this?”

The architects came back with plans to replace the lobby with a four-story atrium and construct a five-story expansion that would fill in the area between Godchaux and Frist.

“No one ever told us the challenges we’d have setting up a construction site right in the middle of three buildings in use 12 months a year,” Norman said. “We had jackhammering outside classrooms, sparks from welding flying right outside offices and bulldozers clearing rubble next to where students were walking to class. Our students, faculty and staff were nonchalant — all of us had the same view: We’d do whatever it took to get the new building built in the timeliest manner.”

The project hit other challenges. Getting permits when needed was difficult with city offices backlogged by Nashville’s building boom. Excavation revealed pipes, cables and fiber-optic lines that lay in the building’s path. A

planned weeklong power outage necessary for the electrical system had to be postponed for months when it was discovered that a crucial piece of equipment needed to be replaced beforehand so that neighboring Medical Research Building III could remain operational.

Even with those challenges, the project was on track to have the new building’s third-floor Skills and Simulation Lab open for the start of classes in August 2018. Then another unexpected obstacle beyond the contractor’s control arose. When it came time to tie the building’s water and steam lines into the existing ones, it was discovered that the existing lines weren’t buried where campus plans said they were. The new building’s lines would need to make a dogleg to connect to their actual location — and that would require custom-made parts that would take more than six weeks to create and deliver.

To everyone’s disappointment, the move into the new building would be postponed. While the work on the lines

was underway, the school’s staff refined plans to move furniture and people into the building in stages.

Furniture started arriving in October. A temporary occupancy permit was received. Faculty and staff began moving into the new building in stages. By the end of the year, nearly everything was in place. Once the building passed fire inspection, it was ready to officially open on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

“We had jackhammering outside classrooms, sparks from welding flying right outside offices and bulldozers clearing rubble next to where students were walking to class.”

Dean Linda Norman

Celebration to remember

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing threw wide the doors to its new building Jan. 22 and welcomed donors, health care leaders and other guests for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening celebration that included building tours and demonstrations highlighting its state-of-the-art technology.

1. Dean Linda Norman, Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, Provost Susan R. Wentz and Board of Trust Chair Bruce Evans, BE'81, cut the ribbon to open the building. 2. Dean Norman thanked supporters and recognized donors in her opening remarks. 3. Faculty, staff, alumni, students, donors, elected officials and community health care leaders filled the atrium for the ceremony. 4. State Rep. John Ray Clemmons and State Rep. Robin Smith were among the dignitaries attending. 5. Sandra Coats Chase, BSN'69, Dean F. Chase, BE'69, and Chancellor Zeppos during the reception. Chase's firm, D.F. Chase, served as the project manager for the building.







1. Vanderbilt University Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos uses the green screen technology in the Virtual Classroom to indicate WELL features incorporated in the new building. 2. Simulation and Skills Lab Director Jo Ellen Holt (center, in gold) describes the capabilities of the new lab and some of the advanced simulation exercises that will now be possible for students.





3. Board of Trust Chair Bruce Evans, left, and Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion James E. Page Jr. at the grand opening. 4. Faculty and staff found the monumental staircase gave them a clear view of the ceremony in the atrium. 5. Left to right, U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn talks with Assistant Professor Bethany Rhoten, PhD'13, MSN'09, and Senior Associate Dean for Research Mariann Piano, the Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor of Nursing. 6. The late afternoon sky shows through the skylight in the atrium just before the grand opening began.



'Doreway on 21st Avenue

Set back from 21st Avenue South with an open circular drive, the new School of Nursing building seamlessly extends from Godchaux Hall to present a wide, welcoming face to the world. Gone is the parking lot that fronted Godchaux, and the magnolia trees that blocked the view of the school have been judiciously pruned to improve safety and let in light. The landscaped outside area invites students and the Vanderbilt community outdoors to connect and study. With its open and visible front, the School of Nursing gives Vanderbilt a new face on the east side of campus.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE HALL,
HALL+MERRICK









A FOUNDATION OF COLLABORATION

Immersion week sets VPIL students on interprofessional track from the start

Tucked away in an Olin Hall conference room on the Vanderbilt University campus, 36 adults huddle over Lego pieces. Eleven teams have been assigned to assemble multicolored Legos using the written directions included in the packet. The result should be a Frankenstein figure. Each team must time their progress.

Hands fly up as teams complete the task. Once a monitor approves the completed model, the team disassembles the figure and rebuilds it in hopes of improving their time. Just as they are becoming comfortable with their process, the teams are thrown a twist — additional multicolored pieces. Can teams rebuild AND beat their best prerecorded times?

The exercise, meant to simulate the growing challenge of providing health care in a more efficient and effective manner, creates much discussion, whispers and even laughter as the groups figure out how best to complete the task efficiently. This assignment is one of several team-building exercises for the newest members of the Vanderbilt Program in Interprofessional Learning (VPIL).



BY JESSICA PASLEY
ILLUSTRATION BY GETTY IMAGES

The two-year interprofessional program draws students from multiple disciplines — medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, divinity and counseling — to work together in a collaborative method to treat patients. The teams of students are assigned to the same clinical setting for the duration of the program. The goal is learning from each other in an effort to improve health care delivery and outcomes.

Intensive and immersive

Before the VPIL program officially begins, each student participates in a weeklong orientation known as Immersion, an intensive introduction to VPIL that sets the tone for the teamwork-themed health care model.

The concept was a perfect fit for Brooke Hazen, who is enrolled in the nurse practitioner adult gerontology primary care program at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and is a Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholar (*see p. 40*).

For as long as Hazen can remember, Vanderbilt University Medical Center has been a part of her life, becoming the standard of excellence in her family.

Her parents were longtime patients at VUMC and she grew accustomed to interacting with the various specialties that provided care.

Once she was accepted into the School of Nursing, she learned about VPIL and she knew it was a track she had to follow.

“The interdisciplinary aspect of the program is what attracted me,” Hazen said. “I researched it and saw the relevance and importance of this in my own family.”

“I remember how important it was to have all of my dad’s care team, which included many specialties, on the same page. Having this intense introduction to this approach to health care is invaluable.”

Immersion is designed to create healthy team dynamics. Students participate in team building exercises to help in the development of communication and shared decision-making.

Team-based patient care

The Lego building exercise is just one activity during the week to engage the various team members. The class is divided into 11 teams, each assigned to a different clinic in which they will work during the two-year VPIL program.

VPIL program directors are eager for the Immersion week of activities. It’s the perfect entry to the many disciplines of health care. Immersion week introduces students to the essential theme of health care before they venture into their separate clinical pathways — a team-based style of caring for patients.

“We want to get the students before they step into their individual programs,” said Shannon Cole, DNP, MSN’94, instructor of Nursing at VUSN and co-director of VPIL. “They are already thinking about what it will be like as an advanced practice nurse, as a doctor, as a pharmacist, so before they get into those silos, we want to introduce them to this

concept of learning and treating patients before they establish their professional identities.”

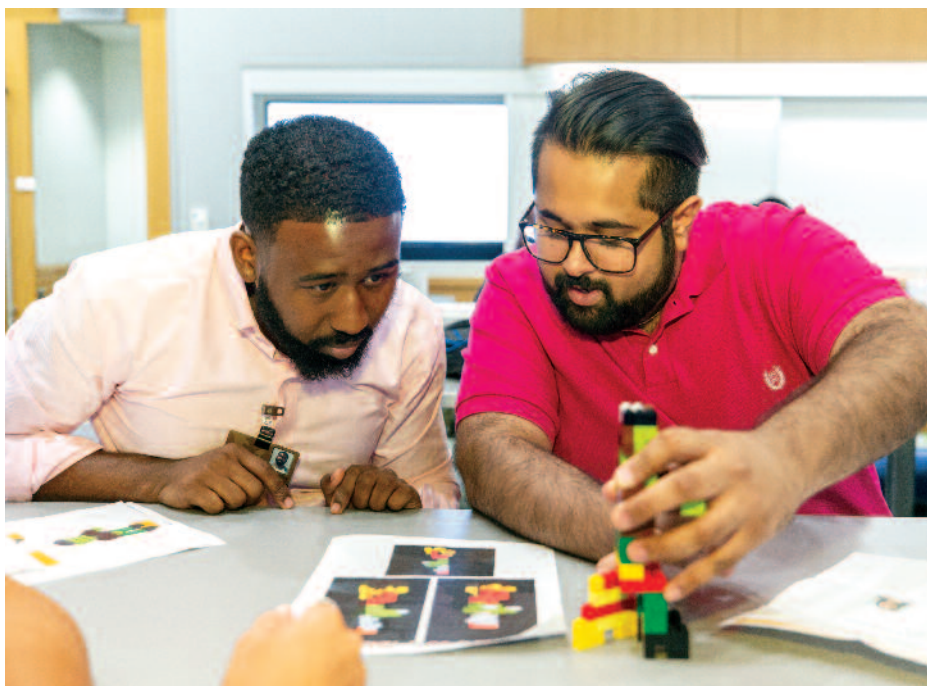
“We want our students to practice at the top level of their professions while realizing the important pieces of the puzzle that the other professions are bringing to the table,” Cole said.

Cole and Melissa Hilmes, MD’00, BS’96, associate professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, are tasked with overseeing the unique teaching experience that results in clinicians who are versed in a collaborative clinical work environment.

“Medical teams care best for patients with medically and/or socially complex problems,” Hilmes said. “One single professional or discipline cannot address the many facets of patients, and teams can help. We should train our professional students to approach health care as a team.”

VPIL started with four disciplines —

■ From left, School of Medicine student Matthew Nettles and School of Nursing student Anand Brahmhatt confer on constructing a Frankenstein figure out of Legos as part of a team-building exercise for new VPIL members.



JOE HOWELL

medical, nursing, pharmacy and social work — and schools in and outside of Vanderbilt when it launched in 2010. It has grown to include counseling and divinity for the patient-focused health care teams that work together to think about the health care experience.

Rebekah Finley, a pharmacy student at Lipscomb University, sees VPIL's collaborative focus as the foundation of how medical teams should operate.

"It is the vision of medicine and puts the patient in the forefront," Finley said. "Collaborative care is 21st century care — placing pharmacy in combination with medicine, nursing and social work. It's the holistic approach to care.

"During the Immersion week, we really learned about the other disciplines and their roles. We are learning how to use not only our strengths but also discovering our weaknesses and how best to improve on them to provide the best care to patients, which will only make our health care teams stronger," she said. "It was great starting off learning these concepts. Not everyone is on the same page and I think during Immersion, we saw that four brains working together had a much better outcome."

A broad framework

Those realizations are what Immersion week organizers hope for as students from different specialties connect prior to starting in their individual programs. Inspiring them is the premise behind the Lego activity led by Rebecca Lofton, PharmD, instructor and clinic coordinator.

"The Lego exercise allowed the teams to work together in a respectful manner," Lofton said. "It provided a platform for the teams to get to know each other, observe each other's styles and personalities. It was a fun and nonthreatening way for the members to learn how each member of their group approaches problem-solving. It's a practice that reaches far beyond what they are doing in the classroom and in clinic rotations while in school."



JOE HOWELL

From left, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine student Aisha Suara, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing student Brooke Hazen and Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy student Kennedy Manning will work together at The Eskind Diabetes Clinic for the full two years of their VPIL program.

During the Immersion week, not only are students introduced to various concepts of interprofessional learning but they are also given a tour of the Nashville community and experience an additional learning module.

Students saw firsthand the importance of approaching health care from a holistic perspective when they were tasked with meal preparation for a family on a reduced budget. The activity showed students barriers to healthy living and many other factors that affect a patient's decision-making and ability to follow through with specific treatment plans.

"There are a lot of things that impact a person's health, which is not just genetics or family history," said Meredith Huszagh, a first-year medical student at VUSM. "Immersion gave me a good broad framework on how to think about things. It was invaluable to learn what skillsets others can offer so that we can collaboratively enhance the patient experience. There are so many other factors outside of the molecular things we focus on in medical school. Through this experi-

ence I have a better perspective of how many other factors affect disease and patients."

Students prepared a budget-friendly meal for the entire class using only items available at the neighborhood stores within communities that are typically labeled as disadvantaged. Student teams then cooked their meals in a community center or church.

"Immersion was an incredible way to learn more about approaching patients from different sides," Hazen said. "We are all engaging the patient in different facets, but this really taught me to consider the different factors impacting a patient. I feel so much better prepared going into my classes.

"It also re-emphasized the importance of community and the role it plays in a person's health. The interdisciplinary, team atmosphere goes hand in hand with the future of health care. We got our first dose of that during Immersion."

“Nursing is on the forefront of seeing the impact of climate change,” says Carol Ziegler, shown here at Vanderbilt University School of Engineering-Nashville Metro Water Services (VUSE-MWS) Renewable Energy Site.



A CLIMATE OF CARING

*New course studies intersection of nursing, health,
justice and climate change*

CAROL ZIEGLER, DNP'12, MSN'06, spent her younger years discussing climate change with her environmentalist father, but it wasn't until a trip to Kenya in 2009 that she saw the direct impact it could have on every aspect of a society.

"They're agrarian, so their lives are dependent on weather," Ziegler said of the population in Kitale, Kenya. "I've always known about climate change, but I didn't really see the role of health care providers until I was there. That's when I started tying together the links between health and climate and thought, 'Where are the nurses, and why aren't we talking about this?'"

Ziegler joined Vanderbilt University School of Nursing four years later and teaches in the nurse-midwifery/family nurse practitioner dual focus program. She also coordinates global health initiatives for the School of Nursing and is affiliated with the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health.

BY KELSEY HERBERS
PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN RUSSELL

Fueled by her interest and commitment to global health, Ziegler applied to teach a University Course in 2018, a new Vanderbilt University initiative to promote novel and creative transinstitutional learning.

She proposed “Planetary Health, Policy and Social Justice,” an innovative class that would explore the intersections of primary health care, planetary health, climate change, social justice and policy. In keeping with the initiative’s focus, it would endeavor to address one of today’s most captivating challenges and be open to undergraduate and graduate students from all 10 Vanderbilt schools.

Ziegler’s proposal was one of five selected for the 2018-19 academic year. The three-credit-hour course launched as an elective in January. Drawing undergraduates from the School of Engineering and Peabody College and graduate students from Nursing, Engineering and Owen Graduate School of Management, the course stresses interprofessional teamwork, cultural sensitivity and addressing health disparities.

Connected solutions

“Climate change is a fundamentally interdisciplinary problem,” said Jonathan Gilligan, PhD, associate professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences in the College of Arts and Science and a guest lecturer for the course. “To understand it, one must understand connections between the economy, energy technology, the Earth’s physical climate system, ecosystems and human health. Each of these things interacts with all of the others, so we can’t make good decisions unless we are thinking about all of the parts.”

Ziegler believes that climate change is the best scaffold for interprofessional learning. “It’s an existential threat, and that’s a good way to get people to align with one another,” she said. “It’s often presented as a political issue, but it’s really about human survival. The increase in

weather events and the number of hot days is affecting the lifespan of carbon-based life on Earth. So, the question becomes, ‘How do we move through that in a way that’s not politically divisive and is cooperative rather than competitive?’”

According to Vanderbilt Law School Professor Michael Vandenberg, JD, the David Daniels Allen Distinguished Professor of Law and also a guest lecturer for Ziegler’s course, approaching these issues through a health care lens may help bring unity to an often-controversial topic.

“Climate change is one of the most polarized issues in the country, but support for public health has appeal across the political spectrum,” Vandenberg said. “When people understand that climate change poses a genuine threat to public health, this perspective can help them keep an open mind to interdisciplinary approaches to research and to adopting common sense solutions.”

The role of nursing

Within the health care spectrum, Ziegler believes nurses are uniquely situated to discuss climate change due to their position on the frontlines of care across the globe.

“Nursing is on the forefront of seeing the impacts of climate change, so I think we’re equipped to speak to how things like air quality and heat will impact people’s health. We’re also equipped to speak to how tertiary impacts like food shortages, conflict and migration will all impact health and health systems,” Ziegler said. “We need to be educated on how these impacts look and how we can help adapt and relay information to our populations and back across to policymakers.”

Nurses are also poised to compress

the time it takes to turn health issues seen on the ground into meaningful change.

“We’re good at making issues feel personal. If we can talk to people about quitting smoking and make it personal by relating it to lung cancer — taking this broad, abstract concept and turning it into a physical action you can take to avoid it — then I think we have the language to do that broadly about issues like climate change,” Ziegler said.

Because climate change causes unpredictable impacts that vary by environment, a better understanding of weather-related health consequences can prepare nurses for major public health emergencies as well as inform them of factors that may affect patients over time.

Additionally, since disasters disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, such as those in low-income communities, nurses can help ensure health systems are positioned to provide access to care for all who need it.

“I believe that nurses are vital to addressing the issue of climate change and in helping to design policy solutions in all aspects of health care — local, state-based, nationally and internationally,” said Josh Lehrer, a VUSN PreSpecialty student taking the course.

“I know that nursing is among the most trusted professions in the United States, and that we truly can lead the way toward a more sustainable future for our planet. Most important, we have an obligation to put time and effort toward implementing sustainable development goals with interdisciplinary teams throughout the public, private and nonprofit sectors to ensure the well-being of our patients and communities.”

Lehrer, who receives the Kathleen Suzanne Nelson Memorial Scholarship, is pursuing his Master of Science in Nursing degree to become an FNP. He enrolled in the class to gain insight on how health care providers can help craft solutions to remedy climate change’s dire impacts.

“We must take bold measures to tackle the imminent threats to human health



SUSAN URMY

As their community project, PreSpecialty student Joshua Lehrer and Vanderbilt School of Engineering graduate student Charles Doktycz propose that the former University Club be replaced with sustainable housing for graduate students.

that climate change is already posing while still providing the best quality care possible,” he said.

Sustainable, interprofessional learning

Ziegler hopes her students coming from different disciplines will use the course to keep climate change at the front of their minds as they grow into leadership roles within their own industries.

Summer Rucker, a civil and environmental engineering major, enrolled in the course in hopes of pursuing sustainability in her work.

“I want to be able to holistically approach climate change so I can involve that thinking in solving world problems in my major of engineering,” Rucker said. “It’s important to understand the natives of the community you are trying to help, to make sure they are aware of every step in the process and to make sure there won’t be any health effects in the future. Always think about the future.”

Ziegler’s course operates in a “flipped classroom” environment, meaning students prepare for interactive work sessions with assigned readings and online learning modules. In-class sessions involve an hour spent with an expert guest lecturer on topics such as carbon mitigation,

ecosystem disruption, health impacts, adaptation and policy advocacy.

Guest speakers for the spring 2019 session include Vanderbilt professors Vandenberg and Gilligan, as well as community leaders such as Sanmi Areola, interim director of Health at the Metro Nashville Public Health Department, and Kimberly Jackson, founder of nonprofit HIDE (Health Impacts of Degraded Environments).

Actionable change

The second hour of each class is dedicated group time for the course’s semester-long, community-based projects, in which students create a health impact model, vulnerability assessment, adaptation assessment and actionable plan for change for a local community.

“The main goal of the project is to have students identify a local population that is at risk to a health impact from climate change,” Ziegler said. “Their charge is to come up with an intervention that addresses human adaptation to climate change while also mitigating the carbon associated with that development.”

Projects range from creating a climate-based Montessori curriculum for students at a local elementary school to

working with the Cumberland River Compact on flood mitigation and adaptation strategies in Sumner County. Another group will focus on the Green New Deal movement and explore how the broad, integrative ideology behind it might improve adaptation in Nashville.

Lehrer’s group plans to keep its project close to home by identifying potential holes in Vanderbilt’s own plan for a reduced carbon footprint and proposing action to close any gaps.

“It involves looking at areas of Vanderbilt’s operations where we can work to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions,” Lehrer said. “Efforts are already underway, but it will be great to focus on one or two initiatives to help launch with my fellow classmate and see the progress made as I continue my studies after this course.”

Students will also create policies surrounding their proposed changes, which will be presented at the end of the semester to a panel of judges from the Metro Nashville Public Health Department and other organizations in positions to create meaningful action.

“It’s important for students to understand the difficult trade-offs confronting policymakers, advocates and business managers on environmental issues,” Vandenberg said. “Students who are exposed to the critical thinking we require on policy issues will be better managers and policy advocates down the road.”

Since most community projects will take longer than one semester, each project will be carried into future classes, which will pick up the process where it was left during the former semester.

“My hope is that by the end of at least the next spring semester, we either have a solid policy we’re helping to move forward that relates to climate in Nashville, or we’ve had some kind of impact on community adaptation,” Ziegler said.

“I don’t want this to just be a class. I want it to have teeth.”



The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation: Three decades of impact

BY JAN READ

On clinic day every week, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing student Brooke Hazen gets to the hospital early. Her 12-hour day starts at 6:30 a.m. with the charge nurse's report on patients and case review with an instructor before hands-on patient care begins.

"We're taking vital signs, helping patients shower and walk, administering shots and IVs and interpreting lab results," she said. "It's the best way to solidify what we're learning. I couldn't believe the pace at first — it's very intense. The faculty has high

expectations for us, and they give us a lot of support. I love it.

Hazen is in the school's PreSpecialty program, which provides a two-year path to a master's degree for students with bachelor's degrees in fields other than nursing. She's studying to be an adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. She is also part of the Vanderbilt Program for Interprofessional Learning, in which students in nursing, medicine, pharmacy and social work team up weekly to collaborate on clinical- and classroom-based activities.

One reason that Hazen can dive into her studies headfirst is due to her scholarship from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, which has provided more than \$4.5 million in support to hundreds of Vanderbilt nursing students since 1971.

"The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation has been transforming lives for decades," said VUSN Dean Linda D. Norman, DSN, FAAN, the Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. "The Foundation understands it is not only supporting nurse leaders but also the patients and families whose lives will be touched by our graduates. We are forever grateful for their long partnership with our school."

Hazen said she was excited to be accepted to the School of Nursing, but wasn't sure how she was going to pay for the program. "The day I got the letter about the scholarship, I just cried," she said. "The cost of higher education prevents a lot of people from pursuing their real passion. Scholarships like these open doors and help people like me make the decision to be the person who can go into the community and make a difference."

Like many of her fellow students, Hazen's path to a nursing career wasn't direct.

She grew up in rural Pelham, Tennessee, halfway between Nashville and Chattanooga, in a home filled with music. She studied music and vocal performance as an undergraduate, focusing on a career as an opera singer.

But alongside the music was always an interest in health care. Hazen's father, a veteran, had chronic health issues for most of her life, and she was a full participant in his care, attending doctor's appointments and helping him at home. After her graduation, she began to take health-related classes and worked as a research assistant at Vanderbilt.

She was still committed to pursuing singing as a career, and about five years after earning her undergraduate degree, she applied — and was accepted — to the prestigious Peabody Institute conservatory at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

"I thought for the longest time that singing would be all I wanted to do," Hazen said. "I was very much committed to singing as a life career. But in thinking through the costs associated with earning that advanced degree, I started to reconsider my choices."

Then her father's sudden passing put her at a crossroads.

Hazen opted against starting a graduate degree in voice. "I still sing all the time, as much as I can, but music is not the career path for me to pursue," she said. "I realized there was more I could do with my life." An overseas medical mission trip reinvigorated her interest in health professions, and she chose to apply to VUSN.

Carrie Davis Conway, senior program officer for the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, isn't surprised by Hazen's path to nursing. "So many of the Foundation's scholarship recipients are pursuing second careers," she said. "Because they have already earned an undergraduate degree, they have very limited options for financial aid. To stop working and launch a new career is an incredible sacrifice."

The Foundation was created to honor philanthropist and businesswoman Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans (1872–1953), the wife of Joseph B. Whitehead, one of the original bottlers of Coca-Cola. Widowed in 1906 at the age of 34, Lettie Pate took over her husband's bottling business and real estate interests, guiding



ANNE RAYNER

Some of VUSN's Lettie Pate Whitehead scholars met with Carrie Conway, senior program officer for the Foundation. Seated, from left: Brooke Hazen; Carrie Conway, Senior Program Officer, Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation; Brenda Escobedo. Standing, from left, Anna Brooks; Lauren Guengerich; Chandler Washburn; and Annika Gunderson.

both to great success. She became one of the first female directors of any major American corporation when she was appointed to the board of The Coca-Cola Company in 1934.

"When I visit the institutions we support, I am able to see in very human terms how the Foundation is making a difference in students' lives," Conway said. "Nursing is such an incredible, impactful field with so many exciting opportunities."

After earning her MSN, Hazen plans to enroll in Vanderbilt's Doctor of Nursing Practice program, with a goal of teaching and influencing public policy.

"The DNP program prepares us to be

clinical leaders and administrative leaders," she said. "Nursing is an important, powerful field that plays a huge role in the changing health care system. I feel very strongly about my place in all that. This career allows me to make an impact for myself, for my family, for my community and for my nation."

"Just one person can make a huge change. The scholarship gives me the chance to be that person."

"The cost of higher education prevents a lot of people from pursuing their real passion. Scholarships like these open doors and help people like me make the decision to be the person who can go into the community and make a difference." — Brooke Hazen

Class Notes



Rumay Harrell Alexander, MSN'77, co-authored an article for a June 2018 *USA Today* supplement featuring men in nursing.

'70s

Joan Michael King, BSN'72, MSN'75, received the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses Distinguished Member Award in July 2018.

Diane Coty Roberts, BSN'73, and **Audrey Pyle, BS'12**, co-authored "Suicide Prevention for School Communities," published by the National Association of School Nurses in April 2018.

Deborah McMillan, N'75, retired from the Army in 1992 as a lieutenant colonel. She has since served as a hospice nurse in Dayton, Ohio, taught nursing in Fairborn, Ohio, worked in home care and adult daycare in Columbus, Ohio, and been a private duty nurse in Delaware, Ohio.

Trish Trangenstein, BSN'75, received the VUSN Dean's Award for Faculty Achievement in Informatics Endeavors in May 2018.

Sally Samoriga Cherner, BSN'76, retired in September 2017 after a career in the pediatric OR and psychiatry.

Patty Chaffin Hofstetter, BSN'77, retired in July 2018 from her role as a senior quality and safety adviser for Vanderbilt University Medical Center's accreditation and standards team. She had been at VUMC for over 40 years.

'80s

Diana Donley Haller, BSN'81, is married and living in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Erin Byrne Rodgers, BSN'82, MSN'86, received the VUSN Dean's Award for Faculty Achievement in Academic Endeavors in May 2018.

Annette Stone Isaksen, MSN'83, is self-employed as a board-certified integrative health coach in Silverdale, Washington.

Melanie Hall Morris, BSN'83, MSN'86, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in April 2018.

Debbie Dunn Gregory, BSN'84, was honored by the Nursing Institute for Healthcare Design as the first recipient of the Debbie Gregory Leadership Award. She is co-editor of the *Health Environments Research and Design Journal*.

Cindy Comer Borum, BSN'85, published in *CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing* in April 2018.

Barbara Klug Giambra, BSN'86, is an assistant professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She earned a PhD in nursing from Indiana University in 2014.

Susan Gernamm Yackzan, BSN'86, completed her PhD at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing in December 2017. She is a research consultant/oncology clinical nurse specialist at Baptist Health Lexington in Kentucky.

Nancy Davis, BSN'88, is now a group leader in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology at Vander-

bilt University Medical Center. She and her husband returned to Nashville after living in Wisconsin for 30 years.

Kim Kullman Moore, BSN'89, was named manager of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center cardiovascular intensive care unit in July 2018.

'90s

Gwen Holder, MSN'90, received the Vanderbilt University Medical Center **Adrienne Ames (MSN'75)** Transformational Nursing Leader Award in May 2018.

Susie Leming-Lee, MSN'90, DNP'11, received the VUSN Tradition Meets Innovation Award in May 2018.

Susan Christos McKenney, MSN'92, is a nurse practitioner at Pardee Internal Medicine in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Diana Ruzicka, MSN'93, is president of the National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA.

Shannon Cole, MSN'94, was named co-director of the Vanderbilt Program in Inter-professional Learning in June 2018.

Terri Crutcher, MSN'94, received the VUSN Dean's Award for Recognition of Faculty Achievement in Clinical Practice in May 2018.

Amy Hall Hull, MSN'94, and **Lisa Fournace, MSN'04**, co-published a paper in the November/December 2017 issue of *Urologic Nursing*.

Angie Long, MSN'96, is a certified nurse-midwife in a new, private, all-female provider practice in Nashville called Women Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Mike Mezmar, MSN'81, was re-elected as Commissioner for Harlingen City, District 3, in Texas.



Kuei-Ru Chou, PhD'97, was inducted in May 2018 into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame.

Jenny Hannagan Kim, MSN'97, was named a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in June 2018.

Kathy Simmons Moss, MSN'97, MBA'97, received Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Five Pillar Award in May 2018.

Kristin Sohn, MSN'97, completed a neonatal-perinatal fellowship at University of California Davis and works as a neonatologist in Reno, Nevada.

Margaret McKinney Buxton, MSN'98, co-presented at the American College of Nurse-Midwives annual meeting in May 2018.

Rene Love, MSN'98, DNP'10, is principal investigator at the University of Arizona in Tucson for a U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grant to increase the number of mental health nurse practitioners.

Laura Hein, MSN'99, PhD'06, is an associate professor at Uni-



Beth Middleton Ginzinger, BSN'85, was named chief strategy officer for Blue Cross

Blue Shield of Arizona in April 2018.



Julie Foss, MSN'86, retired in February 2018 after 30 years of managing the Medical ICU at Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital.

versity of South Carolina College of Nursing.

Sharon Karp, MSN'99, PhD'08, received the VUSN Tradition Meets Innovation Award in May 2018.

Julia Cain Phillippi, MSN'99, was named to the American Academy of Nursing 2018 class of fellows. She published in the May 2018 *Birth Issues in Perinatal Care*.

Kathleen Quinn, MSN'99, is chief health care officer at Discovery Integrative Healthcare and Psychotherapy Centers, with offices in Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana.

Angela Wilson-Liverman, MSN'99, received the **Mary Jane Werthan (MSN'90, MMHC'13)** Award from the Vanderbilt University Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. She is director of the Advanced Practice Division of the Department of OB-GYN at Vanderbilt.

'00s

Tricia Craig Booher, MSN'00, is a nurse practitioner at Dermatology and Skin Cancer Consultants in Humboldt, Tennessee.

Patrick Palmieri, MSN'00, was named the Margaret Jean Watson Distinguished Professor at the Escuela de Enfermería of the Universidad Norbert Wiener in Lima, Peru. In January 2018, he was elected chair of the board of directors of Sigma Foundation for Nursing.

Cindy Scott, MSN'00, is director of nursing at Correct Care Solutions in Nashville.

Dawn Vanderhoef, MSN'00, PMC'13, was selected to participate in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2018 Leadership for Academic Nursing Program.

Bedelia Russell, MSN'01, received the Outstanding Faculty Award for Professional Service by Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, where she is an associate professor at the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing.

Emily Durbin Edwards, MSN'03, was named director of nursing support at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

Kiersten Brown Espailat, BS'99 (Peabody), MSN'03, is the stroke program manager at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Melissa McGuire Logue, MSN'03, is a stem cell transplant nurse practitioner at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Julie Perry, MSN'03, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Missouri in May 2018.

Carolyn Freeman, MSN'04, has been a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Pathways of Tennessee, an outpatient community mental health clinic, for over 24 years.

Linda Hughlett, MSN'04,



Melody Riggerbach Wilkinson, MSN'99, was named a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in June 2018. She is an assistant professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

DNP'13, has been named director of women's services at Region One in Memphis.

Eydie Cloyd, MSN'05, co-presented at the American College of Nurse-Midwives annual meeting in May 2018.

Celia Forno, MSN'05, is self-employed as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner for adults and children in Raleigh, North Carolina.

April Kapu, MSN'05, DNP'13, was appointed to the Tennessee Commission on Pain and Addiction Medicine.

Heather Hair Meissen, MSN'05, presented at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses National Teaching Institute meeting in May 2018.

Bette Moore, PhD'05, wrote "The Dreaming Road," a book about the passing of her daughter.

Abby Luck Parish, MSN'05, received the VUSN Tradition Meets Innovation Award in May 2018.

Megan Simmons, MSN'05, DNP'13, welcomed a baby girl in March 2018.

Erica Anderson Stone, MSN'05, earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Michigan in May 2018.

Bethany Domzal Sanders, MSN'06, received the Tennessee Nurses Foundation 2018 Scholarly Writing Award.

Julie Stembriage, MSN'06, is on staff at WakeMed Physician Practices in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Kirsten Wister, MSN'06, is a nurse practitioner at Sonora Family Care, a nurse-managed primary health care clinic in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Cara Calloway Young, MSN'06, PhD'10, was awarded the Rising Star from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties in April 2018. She is an assistant professor at University of Texas Austin School of Nursing.

Lauren Fincher DeVine, MSN'07, is an assistant in otolaryngology at the Pediatric ENT clinic at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Cynthia O'Neal, PhD'07, is associate dean for undergraduate programs at University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Shelley Thibeau, MSN'07, PhD'15, is director of the Mothers' Milk Bank of Louisiana at Ochsner Baptist, providing donor human milk to critically ill infants.

Jessica Van Meter, MSN'07, DNP'15, co-directs a bachelor's degree in emergency nursing program for nurses at Georgetown Public Hospital Corp. in Guyana, in collaboration with the University of Guyana and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She received VUMC's Inspiring Global Nurse Award in May 2018.

Rose Vick, MSN'07, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Arizona in April 2018, and received the Mary Opal Wolanin Research Endowment.

Britney Summer Broyhill, BS'06 (Peabody), MSN'08, DNP'13, presented at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses National Teaching Institute meeting in May 2018.

Kalyn Bowra Crosby, BS'07 (Peabody), MSN'08, is a nurse practitioner at Nashville Skin.

Kanah Lewallen May, MSN'09, was featured by the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association as a Rising Star in 2018.

Linda Zajac Woods, MSN'09, completed the Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast triathlon in Panama City Beach, Florida, in May 2018.

'10s

Christine Taherian Cahill, MSN'10, joined VUSN as a simulation lab nurse in January 2018.

Kelly Davis, MSN'10, received Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Jerita Payne Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year Award in May 2018.

Jie Deng, PhD'10, is an associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in Philadelphia.

Stuart Downs, MSN'10, DNP'13, was honored with Atlanta's Executive Nursing Leadership Excellence Award. He is now chief operating officer and vice president of Well-Star Atlanta Medical Center.

Linda Fisher, PhD'10, is director of education and training at Business Intelligence Frameworks.

Deborah Currey, DNP'11, became a medical acupuncturist and a battlefield acupuncturist through the U.S.

Army. She is a pain management nurse practitioner at Orlando VA Medical Center.

Cathy Ivory, PhD'11, was honored by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society—Alliance for Nursing Informatics with the Nursing Informatics Leadership Award in March 2018.

Kim Kuebler, DNP'11, received the *American Journal of Nursing's* Textbook of the Year Award for 2017.

Angela Quinn, MSN'11, was elected to the American Health Council Nursing Board. She owns Mobile Skin Screening in Phoenix.

Leslie Binford, MSN'12, is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and founder of PsychMed Solutions in Nashville, specializing in medication management for the adult population.

Stacey Jackson Hall, MSN'12, married David Hall, BA'09 (A&S) in February 2018. She is an advanced registered nurse practitioner at University of Florida, Gainesville.

Lauren Hansen, MSN'12, DNP'15, opened Bloom Wellness and Aesthetics in Nashville in November 2017.

Tamika Hudson, MSN'12, received the Doctor of Nursing Practice from Samford University in May 2018 and was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society.

Cathy Maxwell, PhD'12, was named to the American Academy of Nursing 2018 class of fellows. A paper she co-authored was published in the *Journal of Community Health Nursing* in July 2018.

Heather Sevcik, MSN'12, co-presented at the American College of Nurse-Midwives annual meeting in May 2018.

Ali Grubbs, MSN'13, co-directs a bachelor's degree in emergency nursing at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation in Guyana, in collaboration with the University of Guyana and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Megan Wenk Hammerbeck, MSN'13, is a nurse practitioner at Regional Health in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Misti Lynn, MSN'13, started an integrative health practice, Halcyon Health of the Southwest, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Zoe Harran Panizzi, MSN'13, is a nurse practitioner at FirstHealth Behavioral Services in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

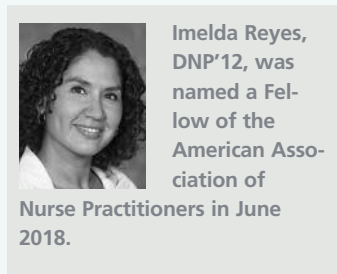
Michele Sazama, DNP'13, is an adult nurse practitioner at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center Clinic in Gilbert, Arizona.

Jessica Rogers Searcy, MSN'13, DNP'15, and her husband welcomed a baby boy in March 2018.

Edward Sizemore, DNP'13, is a family nurse practitioner for KentuckyOne Health Primary Care Associates in Clay City, and instructor at University of Kentucky College of Nursing in Lexington.

Susan Butler Ching, MSN'14, is a certified acute care pediatric nurse practitioner at Phoenix Children's Medical Group in Arizona.

Jenny Cotton, MSN'14, received the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Nursing Pro-



Imelda Reyes, DNP'12, was named a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in June 2018.

fessional Development Award in May 2018.

Kimberly Hatchel, DNP'14, was named chief nursing officer of KentuckyOne Health in February 2018.

Katie Krill, MSN'14, earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Utah College of Nursing in 2016. She and her husband welcomed a daughter in June 2017.

Ulrike Muench, Post-Doc'14, was named to the American Academy of Nursing 2018 class of fellows.

Carolyn Smith, BS'13 (Peabody), MSN'14, is a pediatric nurse practitioner in the rheumatology clinic at Children's of Alabama, Birmingham.

Alex Alford Brunhoeber, MSN'15, DNP'17, is an instructor at VUSN.

Brenna Gillis, MSN'15, DNP'17, was the 2018 Vanderbilt University Founder's Medalist for the School of Nursing.

Justin Groce, MSN'15, is a nurse practitioner at Bradshaw Health in Lebanon, Tennessee. He also manages an online personal training and nutrition coaching business.

Adrian Hitt, MSN'15, is a care ambassador at Better Therapeutics in Nashville.

Melissa Kalensky, DNP'15, is a family nurse practitioner at Rush Oak Park Hospital in Chicago and an assistant professor at Rush University College of Nursing.

Rishi Mistry, MSN'15, is medical director of Community Health of Central Washington in Yakima.

Rachael Prusha, MSN'15, married Tom Divinnie in September 2017.

Lucy Wall, MSN'15, is a nurse practitioner at Hermitage Family Practice in Tennessee.

Lisa Heap, MSN'16, is a family nurse practitioner at the Oregon Medical Group in Eugene.

Shantel White, MSN'16, is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Mednax in Houston.

Allyson Cole, MSN'17, is a nurse practitioner at Elite Primary Care in Cumming, Georgia.

Kathleen Cylkowski, MSN'17, is a certified nurse-midwife at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas.

Ashley Geppert, MSN'17, is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Kristin Gigil, PhD'17, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's Health in Fort Worth.

Jami Hicks, MSN'17, is head of the Children's Clinic of Rusk in Texas.

Alicia Johnson, MSN'17, is a certified nurse-midwife at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare – Covenant Midwives and Women's Health Center in Waterloo, Iowa.

Courtenay Lahey, MSN'17, joined Northeastern Vermont

Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury in February 2018.

Margaret Macon, BA'16 (A&S), MSN'17, is a nurse practitioner at Kennesaw Gynecology in Georgia.

Robin Mickelson, PhD'17, is a Quality Scholar Fellow at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Nashville.

Alys Moore, MSN'17, is a certified nurse-midwife, licensed family nurse practitioner and trained birth doula at Baby and Co. in Nashville.

Lynnea Myers, PhD'17, is an assistant professor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. She is also a PhD student and Brainview researcher at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

David Roae, MSN'17, joined Jones Memorial Medical Practices in Belvidere, New York, in January 2018.

Jensine Russell, DNP'17, became the Patient Care Manager–Inpatient Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in June 2018.

Ashley Trantham, MSN'17, joined CHI Memorial Family Practice Associates in Harrison, Tennessee, in February 2018.

Amanda Gonzales, MSN'18, is a value analysis manager at the University of Colorado in Aurora.

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Levering Nelson, BSN'40, of St. Louis, Jan. 30, 2018, at age 101

Katie Wolff Nelson, BSN'46, MSN'63, of Maryville, Tennessee, March 24, 2018

Virginia Maxwell George, BSN'47, MA'72 (Peabody), VUSN professor emerita, of Nashville, July 26, 2018

Dorothy Chapple, BSN'48, also known as Mother John Marie Stewart, of Amarillo, Texas, May 26, 2018

Mavis Burton Dauphinee, BSN'49, of Wilber, Nebraska, May 4, 2018

Ann Demonbreun Charlton, N'53, of Knoxville, Tennessee, May 4, 2018

Mary Butts Keil, BSN'53, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Jan. 28, 2018

Margo Smith McCaffery, MSN'61, of Marina Del Ray, California, Jan. 8, 2018

Liz Davis Johnson, N'64, of Watkinsville, Georgia, June 14, 2018

Barbara Buchholz Dorman, BSN'65, of Houston, March 17, 2018

Mary Kay Sauder, MSN'72, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Jan. 26, 2018

Julia Moseley Garner, MSN'80, of Gainesville, Georgia, Dec. 30, 2017

Vicki Turner, BSN'85, MSN'90, of Brentwood, Tennessee, April 7, 2018

Carol Brandon, MSN'05, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Feb. 25, 2018

SEND ALUMNI NEWS AND PHOTOS TO

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