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The College of Nursing has established multiple connections in our Knoxville community, in rural areas of Appalachia, in the nation, and beyond to support education, research, and practice. The photos on the cover represent the college’s collaboration with nurses in Zimbabwe, community-based nursing care through telehealth technology, interprofessional educational opportunities through the Appalachia Community Health and Disaster Readiness Project, and community outreach through the Precious Prints Project.
DEAN’S MESSAGE

DEAR COLLEAGUES, ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS:

I don’t believe it is news to anyone that today’s health care systems are facing dramatic and complex challenges. These organizations strive to improve the triple aim of providing safe and quality care while controlling costs. Competition for business, coupled with payment reform and ever-changing regulations, creates the need for organizations to be nimble and progressive. As an academic institution, we bear the responsibility of educating the best-prepared nursing graduates that will thrive in today’s complex health care environments. However, we recognize that we cannot be successful in this mission of graduating well-prepared nurses alone.

In this edition of the The Volunteer Nurse, you will read about the connections that we have established and nurtured to support education, research, and practice at the College of Nursing. These connections are bolstering cutting-edge interprofessional educational opportunities that improve our graduates’ ability to work in teams promoting safety and quality. They are also advancing nursing science by answering important questions that will positively impact health and health care. And, these connections are facilitating community-based nursing care that prevents illness, improves health, and provides students with real-life experiences critical to their learning. The stories in this report are exemplars of the valuable connections that the College of Nursing has with other colleges at the University of Tennessee, in our Knoxville community, in rural areas of Appalachia, in the nation, and beyond.

Over the summer, we renewed connections with our alumni at College of Nursing alumni receptions in Nashville and Atlanta, and we are planning a spring event in Memphis. We are working on reinvigorating our Alumni Council and encourage you to be involved in alumni activities.

In closing, we recall the wise advice from Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Thank you for keeping connected with us so that together we can make an impact through nursing education, research, and practice. To continue to stay connected, visit volconnect.com to update your alumni information, and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/utknursing.

Warm regards,

Victoria Niederhauser, DrPH, RN
DEAN AND PROFESSOR
@VOLNursingDean
National Institutes of Health Researcher Joins College of Nursing

Lynda Hardy has joined the College of Nursing as associate dean for research.

Hardy has extensive experience in research administration in the private and public sector, most recently serving as the senior program director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health.

During this time Hardy was responsible for the development, coordination, and administration of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts with a special focus on clinical trials, global health, infection, and noninfectious diseases across the lifespan.

“Dr. Hardy’s expertise in advancing nursing science in clinical and governmental agencies will bring new perspectives to the College of Nursing,” said Dean Niederhauser. “Her drive, energy, and passion for collaboration and research will strengthen our impact on health and health care in Tennessee and beyond.”

Hardy’s research background specializes in the areas of child health, HIV/AIDS, and trauma. She has been involved at the national level in work groups focusing on big data, biomedical informatics, and Ebola.

Additionally, Hardy has held academic appointments at Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University, Baylor University, George Washington University, and the University of Maryland.

Hardy graduated with a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a focus in nursing and epidemiology; she has a Master of Science in Nursing from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the State University of New York.

Nursing Grad Named to UT Alumni Board of Directors

Mei Ling Davis, a 2007 graduate of the BSN program, has been elected to the UT Knoxville Alumni Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning July 1. Established in 2009, the board includes UT Knoxville alumni from various walks of life and is representative of the university’s alumni population. What all board members have in common is a desire to support their institution and move it forward in conjunction with the chancellor and other campus leadership.

Davis is chief executive officer of Ventry LLC and acting chief financial officer of the Gingrich Team, with over fifteen years of combined professional experience in business, engineering, and health care environments conducting direct patient care, contact center telenursing, contract management, business administration, finance, project management, facilities management, and regulatory compliance. Her past responsibilities were in health and safety, facility management, automated material handling systems, and radioactive waste management. Davis is the founder and owner of Ventry LLC. She holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, both from UT. She also completed a master’s certificate program in government contracting from the George Washington University. Davis is a project management professional and volunteers her time to the East Tennessee Project Management Institute chapter and as an adjunct faculty member of the College of Nursing.

New Director of Office of Student Services

Lori Hunter has fifteen years of experience in providing academic support to students and joins the College of Nursing Student Services Office from her previous position as director of the Academic Support Center and Disability Services at Maryville College.

Hunter spent thirteen years at Maryville and, prior to that experience, two years working with disabilities services at Chattanooga State Community College. She has experience in academic advising, developing programming for student academic support services, teaching courses in effective learning strategies, coordinating services for students with disabilities, and providing individualized academic coaching to students. While at Maryville she was an active member of the campus Student Intervention Team, the Enrollment and Recruitment Management Team, and the Academic Standing Committee.

Hunter is excited to be working with nursing students to help them meet their educational and career goals. “I enjoy working directly with students. Each day at work is different, and that keeps me going in this field. I truly enjoy seeing a student succeed against what sometimes seems great odds. I believe in their ability to persist to meet their goals and help them find the tools to succeed,” she said.

A two-time UT graduate, Hunter has a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in educational psychology. She serves on the board of directors of the New Opportunity School for Women Foundation, which supports the growth of the New Opportunity School for Women, a three-week residential school for Appalachian women to help women from this region overcome obstacles arising from limited education, poverty, domestic violence, and other difficult circumstances. She is married to Allen Hunter, and they have a seven-year-old daughter, Olivia.
College of Nursing Receives $2 Million Grant to Support Nurses in Appalachia

The College of Nursing has been awarded a $2 million grant from the US Health Resources and Services Administration to improve clinical education for family nurse practitioner students through innovative academic partnerships.

“Nearly half of our nursing graduates go on to work in practices that serve rural populations,” said Dean Niederhauser. “This grant allows us to provide advanced training and implement new models of care delivery which focus on health care analytics, population health, reaching more patients via telehealth, and improving support services.”

The grant will support the college’s academic partnership with Chota Community Health Services and Community Health of East Tennessee.

“We, along with our community partners, are committed to improving the education of family nurse practitioner students to better prepare them to practice in rural communities upon graduation,” said Karen Lasater, clinical assistant professor and project director for the grant. “We’re grateful for the interprofessional collaboration with the College of Pharmacy at UT Medical Center, the Haslam College of Business, and the Department of Public Health and Nutrition for helping us make this happen.”

Lasater and Katie Morgan, clinical instructor, will serve as co-primary investigators for the three-year grant, which runs from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018. The US Department of Health and Human Services serves as the granting body for the Health Resources and Services Administration.

First Senior Class Endowment Established

The graduating class of 2015 established the first-ever College of Nursing Senior Class Scholarship Endowment to provide a way for senior nursing students and their families to give back to and show their support of the college. The fund will be used to create a College of Nursing scholarship to help rising senior students achieve their dreams of becoming a nurse. Allie Arnette, a 2015 BSN graduate, initiated the endowment.

“I believe in the College of Nursing because it has shaped the person I am today,” Arnette said. “The College of Nursing has provided me with scholarships to help relieve the financial burden of college and to allow me to focus on my classes and to be involved on campus. The College of Nursing has given me the opportunity to experience the world and various cultures of nursing through the Costa Rica spring break service-learning trip and the Scotland Student Nursing Exchange program. However, most importantly, the College of Nursing has provided me a family away from home made up of supportive faculty, staff, and friends and classmates. I believe in the College of Nursing because it has pushed me to be the best I can be.”

For more information on contributing to the scholarship endowment, contact Debby Powell at dpowell@utfi.org or 865-974-3397.

College Establishes Torchbearer Professorship

Tami Wyatt, assistant dean of graduate programs and co-director of the Health Information Technology and Simulation Lab, has been named the first Torchbearer Professor in Nursing. This is the first endowed position in the college to be funded by private donations.

“I am most humbly honored to receive the Torchbearer Professorship in Nursing and represent the College of Nursing,” said Wyatt. “I will do my best to carry on the Torchbearer tradition by serving as a scholar, teacher, and leader of the valued goals of the University of Tennessee and the College of Nursing.”

Wyatt has received numerous federal and corporate grants for her work related to technology’s role in improving consumer and professional health education.

“Tami Wyatt has distinguished herself in the nursing profession on a regional, national and international level,” said Dean Victoria Niederhauser. “Her work in innovative educational technology has positively impacted students and faculty across the globe.”

Wyatt is a fellow of both the American Academy of Nursing and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a member of the Academy of Nursing Education, a Scholar of the Harvard Macy Institute, and a Scholar of the Mobile Health Training Institutes of the National Institutes of Health.

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For more information on contributing to the scholarship endowment, contact Debby Powell at dpowell@utfi.org or 865-974-3397.
Advanced practice nurses are needed as preceptors to develop and educate the next generation of APNs.

For more information, contact Lucie Phillips at lphill41@utk.edu or 865-974-7553.
Big Orange Family Campaign

The Big Orange Family campaign is an annual monthlong initiative to promote philanthropy among faculty and staff on campus. Unlike traditional fundraising programs that often focus on monetary goals, the objective of the Big Orange Family campaign is participation. Faculty and staff participation demonstrates that UT is one of the best investments for a potential donor's philanthropic support. When we give, we inspire others to give as well.

The College of Nursing was cited as the most improved unit on campus for this year’s campaign with 78.5 percent participation, which is an increase of over 23 percent from the previous year.

College Establishes Community Partnership for End-of-Life Care in Rural Appalachia

Even though hospice care has been available for over forty years in the United States, many families in rural Appalachia lack knowledge about end-of-life care options and the role of hospice. Hospice care attends to the patient and family during this challenging time in a holistic manner using an interdisciplinary health care team to assist with pain and symptom management, psycho-social-spiritual care, medical equipment, medications, and bereavement support.

Rural Appalachian people have a unique geographic, cultural, and economic heritage. Appalachians' rich cultural values and beliefs include a sense of belonging, love of “our mountains,” strong family ties, firm faith, hard work ethic, and fierce independence and pride. Scott County in East Tennessee, in the heart of rural Appalachia, is designated a medically underserved and health professional shortage area, and residents there have limited access to health care. Low literacy and poverty are widespread, with 26 percent of Scott County’s residents living below the poverty level (compared to 15.8 percent in Tennessee and 13 percent in the United States).

This three-year project, established by faculty members Sandy Mixer and Mary Lynn Brown, aims to create a community-academic partnership with Scott County church and community leaders and residents to increase families' knowledge about and use of end-of-life care services. The goal is to serve individuals and families with end-of-life care education to contribute to their quality of life and help foster dignified death.

The project seeks to collaborate with and build upon the expertise of families, churches (including pastors and lay members), community partners, and health care providers (such as palliative care teams and hospices). Academic resources including end-of-life care experts from the College of Nursing, a videographer, engineers, extension agents, graphic artists, and educators will work collaboratively to develop culturally relevant methods for educating about end-of-life care. A train-the-trainer format will educate church and community leaders, who in turn will teach individuals and families about end-of-life care resources.
Nursing Students Advance International Health Care Through Service-Learning Missions

Since 2004, the College of Nursing has partnered with International Service Learning (ISL) to provide international clinical experiences for nursing students serving impoverished refugee communities in Costa Rica, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Ghana. ISL is a US-based educational organization that provides college students with opportunities to use their education, skills, and passion to assist developing countries in improving health care to individuals and communities.

This year was the fourth consecutive year that College of Nursing students and faculty traveled to central Costa Rica over spring break to provide health assessments and diagnoses—and, more importantly, to bring needed health education into those communities. This year’s team consisted of two faculty members, including Clinical Assistant Professor Lynn Blackburn, faculty advisor for the International Clinical Experience, and eighteen students.

“We often have students who’ve never been out of the country before,” said Blackburn. “So sometimes there is a culture shock, but we are not in any way superior to people in these underserved communities, and I think [the students] do a good job at understanding that and learning from the community.”

The experience provides nursing students with an opportunity to help disadvantaged populations in developing countries. The students are able to put their nursing expertise to work while immersing themselves in a new culture. This year, students provided care and health education to nuns working at an orphanage for disabled children and worked alongside Costa Rican physicians in assessing and diagnosing acute care problems, providing free medications, and providing prenatal care and women’s wellness health education.

“It provides a perspective how very different it is in a developing country versus a developed nation like the US.”

“ISL finds these communities and develops the relationship, and helps students and faculty understand who the community is that we’re going to visit and what the expectations are,” said Blackburn.

One advantage in working with ISL is the collective impact made possible by the collaborative effort. Were UT to arrange these health care missions independently, Blackburn said, the services provided by faculty and students would be a one-and-done experience, with little value for the partnering community. “What we do is a drop in the bucket, but lots and lots of drops are better for the community,” she said.

In partnering with ISL, faculty-led health care groups from across the nation and around the world are able to go into underserved communities continually and keep the care of that community ongoing.

Blackburn’s first health care mission was in 2011 in Aikido, Peru. Blackburn said it is a wonderful experience for students to develop cultural competencies and perspectives of global issues.

“Many students express the same things I felt when I went the first time, and that is that it tends to be a life-changing experience,” said Blackburn. “It provides a perspective how very different it is in a developing country versus a developed nation like the US.”

Blackburn said the students typically come back changed and become much stronger, better health care providers. The program has influenced students in the past to continue working in international health care outreach and make donations to fund future international health care mission trips.

“It provides a perspective how very different it is in a developing country versus a developed nation like the US.”

Blackburn said the students typically come back changed and become much stronger, better health care providers. The program has influenced students in the past to continue working in international health care outreach and make donations to fund future international health care mission trips.

“I think having students engage in looking at communities with incredible needs brings home what we talk about in nursing,” said Blackburn. “People have much more in common than they have differences.”

It provides a perspective how very different it is in a developing country versus a developed nation like the US.
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The Volunteer Nursing Champion award recognizes an individual who is committed to improving health care and has made significant contributions to the nursing profession and an impact on the community. It was created as a way to recognize and thank those who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. Recognizing volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to community involvement, and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives.

Joe Mont McAfee was selected for this award because of his dedicated service to the College of Nursing and other organizations that benefit the overall well-being of the community. A Knoxville native, McAfee is a long-standing member of the College of Nursing Advisory Board. Over the years he has helped strengthen the college’s reputation in the community through his volunteer board service. He currently serves on the development committee and has a record of excellence in board participation and a passion for advancing the College of Nursing.

McAfee received both a BS in business administration and a JD from the University of Tennessee in 1960. He has worked for Egerton, McAfee, Armistead and Davis PC since 1964; his practice areas include taxation, estate planning, probate, and corporate and commercial law. He is president of the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation board and the Helen Ross McNabb Center board. He is also a board member of Home Federal Bank, the Tennessee Valley Fair, and Physicians Medical and Educational Research Foundation. McAfee served as a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the US Army from 1961 through 1963.

This year’s recipient of the Dr. Sylvia E. Hart Distinguished Alumni Award is Sandra Thomas, professor and chair of the PhD program in nursing and editor in chief of Issues in Mental Health Nursing.

Thomas’s initial nursing preparation was at St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing. She holds bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education as well as a master’s degree in nursing. Thomas’s clinical specialization is psychiatric and mental health nursing, and her practice and research have primarily focused on women’s stress, anger, and depression. She conducted the first large-scale comprehensive study of women’s anger, which received considerable media attention, including an invited appearance on Good Morning America and articles in numerous newspapers and magazines. She has presented her research around the globe, including cities in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. She is the author of more than 150 journal articles, books, and book chapters. She has a special interest in using existential phenomenology to study people’s lived experience. This research method is elucidated in her textbook, Listening to Patients, coauthored with Howard Pollio (2002, Springer Publishing). She co-chairs an interdisciplinary phenomenology research group that has been meeting every Tuesday since 1994.

Thomas joined the faculty in the College of Nursing in 1983, becoming its ninth doctorally prepared faculty member. She directed a Kellogg grant for graduate education until 1987, and then began working on development of the proposal for a PhD program. She has taught in the PhD program since it opened in 1989 and has served as chair of the program since 1993. She has chaired thirty-four dissertations and served on seventy-two other dissertation committees for students within nursing and in related fields such as psychology, education, and child and family studies. As the editor of Issues in Mental Health Nursing since 1997, she has a special interest in mentoring new authors and reviewers. In 2009 she started a mentoring program for new manuscript reviewers involving doctoral students from Norway, Sweden, Australia, and the United States. All PhD students in the College of Nursing are offered the opportunity to participate in this mentoring program.

Thomas is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. She holds memberships in the American Nurses Association, the American Psychological Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, the International Council on Women’s Health Issues, Phi Kappa Phi scholastic honor society, and several psychiatric nursing organizations.

This prestigious award will be presented to Thomas as part of the NighinGala festivities on Sunday, November 1, at the Knoxville Marriott.

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Clinical Assistant Professors Lynn Blackburn and Karen Lasater laid the groundwork for a partnership between the College of Nursing and nurses in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Supported by the college and the Knoxville Rotary, Blackburn and Lasater traveled to Zimbabwe earlier this year to begin the collaborative relationship between the college and St. Philip’s School and the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe.

“This College of Nursing wants to establish a long-term working relationship with Zimbabwe health care workers—to improve the health status of Zimbabwe residents, set up potential clinical sites for our nursing students, and identify potential research projects focusing on improving the health of Zimbabwe,” Lasater said.

Lasater helped establish the school’s nursing library and trained local nurses in the HINARI system, a computer program set up by the World Health Organization to give third world health care providers free access to the latest health literature and research.

Blackburn taught continuing education classes for practicing midwives at St. Philip’s and several midwifery classes at the medical school. Additionally, faculty from the College of Nursing participated in educational offerings through distance-based technologies.

Blackburn said she valued interacting with the nurses in Zimbabwe and working “through another cultural lens” during her two weeks abroad.

“Trips of this kind enhance my cultural competency, and make me a better role model and professor for my students,” she said.

The two professors also assisted in teaching a two-day breast health lecture with Jenny Edge, the South African physician who developed the program.

“The health issues in Zimbabwe are significant,” explained Dean Niederhauser. “With education, nurses can play a vital role in improving the health and health care in communities”

Blackburn and Lasater agreed that the nearly 9,000-mile trip was a great experience. Lasater looks forward to returning and is “very eager to learn and collaborate with UT in the future to improve health in Zimbabwe.”

Nursing Fall 2015
Examination Station

New video technology provides improved access to health care for schoolchildren.

The school nurse uses a Bluetooth stethoscope that allows her and the VSHC medical professional to hear a patient’s heart and lung functions.

By Amanda Womac • Photography by B. J. Crawford and Dustin Brown
It started with an innocent sneeze in homeroom. By second period, the normally energetic seventh-grader was feeling a bit feverish. Now, as she shuffles into the lunchroom, her body is aching, her eyes are watering, and her head is pounding. Sounds like someone might have the flu.

Situations like this often result in calls to parents who must leave work early to pick up their sick child, then spend countless hours in a crowded doctor’s office waiting room. But what if the school nurse could provide a diagnosis instead?

A telehealth stethoscope uses the same wireless Bluetooth data transfer technology found in cell phones.

It may sound like concierge medicine in the Hamptons, but it’s actually made possible by a new health care technology system implemented at Knoxville’s Vine School Health Center (VSHC). Nan Gaylord, registered nurse and associate professor of nursing at UT, is the driving force behind this unique concept.

“We’re attempting to serve those kids who don’t have easy access to health care.”

– Nan Gaylord

HOW IT WORKS

The telehealth system works like a video conference call, but with medical equipment. School nurse Jennifer Hoskins uses the Bluetooth stethoscope that allows her and the VSHC medical professional to hear a patient’s heart and lung functions.

One examination room at VSHC serves as the hub. It contains a video camera, a large monitor, a laptop computer, and networking infrastructure that connects to similar setups at the other schools.

An appointment is initiated when a school nurse calls VSHC to request a session with a medical professional.

Once the secure connection is made, video streams from each location appear on the monitors, and each person logs in to the telehealth software via laptop.

Sore throats, ear infections, skin rashes, and breathing issues can all be diagnosed via the telehealth system. For example, if a student is complaining of a sore throat, a school nurse can connect to VSHC and show the child’s throat using a lighted instrument with a small camera on the end.

Once the VSHC medical professional has provided a diagnosis, the school nurse can contact the parents and let them know what’s going on without them having to leave work or make an appointment after school. The system also helps cut down on the number of emergency room visits.

This story originally appeared in the spring-summer 2015 issue of Quest.
“The project began because we saw a lot of students in the area who we were trying to serve, but just couldn’t because they were unable to come to us,” Gaylord said. It was clear that an alternative method was needed to deliver vital medical services to the community, so she researched ways to connect with other schools and discovered a solution.

Gaylord partnered with Lisa Wagoner, registered nurse and director of health services for Knox County schools, to write a proposal to the US Department of Health and Human Services. In 2011 they were awarded a grant to purchase a telehealth system that allows VSHC staff to virtually examine patients at eleven other Knox County schools over a secure network.

“Many of the parents at our schools do not have transportation or are in jobs that make it very difficult for them to take off work and afford the services. We’re attempting to serve those students who don’t have easy access to health care,” said Gaylord. That is why the priority is to link to Title I schools where a majority of students are from low-income families.

GETTING RESULTS
Only seven schools were connected and 152 children served during the first year of the program. The number of students almost doubled during the second year, and even more are expected to take advantage of this beneficial technology in the coming years.

Additional funding through the College of Nursing for intraprofessional education and practice now enables eleven Knox County schools to use the telehealth system. According to Gaylord, the VSHC has incredible community support but is constantly seeking additional public and private funding.

“I’ll talk all day about telehealth, I love it so much,” said Jennifer Hoskins, the registered nurse at Pond Gap Elementary School. “I’ve seen students receive health care that is desperately needed, such as getting an ear checked out before it becomes a full-blown infection. Early access to health care is huge, and this system allows me do my job better.”

For now, Gaylord is focused on increasing capacity and teaching medical professionals across several disciplines how to use the telehealth system. So the next time your child ends up getting sick at a school, they just might experience an innovative medical solution like the one Gaylord and her team brought to Knoxville.
Living to Serve

“It is really simple—the greater the blessings, greater the responsibility.” —LINDA VAUGHN

With the quickness of a grasshopper, Buck Vaughn (’59) jumps from his office chair and dashes through the door to the other side of the narrow two-lane street.

The stranger, seemingly unfazed by the whizzing cars, slowly presses on in a motorized chair through cracked pavement and weeds. Picking up discarded soda cans, she views the urban pasture as her resource for living, but to Vaughn it represents harm’s way.

Flailing his arms for traffic to slow down, Vaughn walks alongside the edge of what has become a speedway, until the woman reaches a wide bend in the road. It’s still not safe by Vaughn’s standards, but he urges her to be careful. She becomes a fixture on his prayer list.

And so does the elderly man Vaughn’s wife, Linda, met during a routine grocery run. She paid nearly $30 for his meal of ribs, greens, cornbread, and a gallon of milk. Before tending to her own grocery list, Linda prayed for the hunger pains of the frail stranger to at least temporarily subside as she watched him exit the automated doors with a satisfied grin.

Random acts of kindness have been part of the Vaughns’ routine long before such gestures drew fanfare and media praise.

Five years ago, a fancy plated chicken dinner—at the College of Nursing’s annual Night in Gala—turned into a party with a purpose. The lives of nursing students affected by domestic violence stayed with Linda well past the table chit-chat with Nursing Professor Ginger Evans. Before dessert, Buck already knew that the College of Nursing would be added to their mile-long charity list. The car ride home confirmed his suspicions.

Together with Jim and Natalie Haslam, the Vaughns created the Student Emergency Assistance Endowed (SEA) Fund. It acts as lifesaver for students who are victims of sexual or domestic violence or another life-altering event that might threaten class and clinical requirements.

“To help those who are less fortunate,” says Linda, “is part of our hearts.”

While Linda served on the advisory board of the College of Nursing, her loyalties are not to any one college or agency, but instead to being a change agent, leaving the world a better place.

“It is really simple—the greater the blessings, greater the responsibility.”

Although the sign outside the building says it’s a lumber company, the inside looks more like the Mad Men television series married a sports memorabilia aficionado.

Slices of the wood-paneled walls barely peek through hundreds of hanging framed photos, newspaper clippings, thank you notes, and brochures of famous football players, coaches, track stars, and boxers. It’s a who’s who rundown: Olympic medalists Ralph Boston and Wilma Rudolph; basketball coaches Al McGuire and Sonny Smith; football coaches Vince Dooley, Phillip Fulmer, Gene Stallings, and Dick Butkus; former pitchers Sparky Lyle and Jim Bunning; NFL Hall of Famer Ray Nitschke; first baseman Todd Helton; and football greats Peyton Manning and Chad Pennington.

The montage of sports legends continues on every surface area—end tables, side tables, windowsills—except for Vaughn’s oversized ’70s-throwback wood desk. A few photos of the lumber executive’s family neatly dot the outer edge of the desk while a paper calendar and even fewer business files and papers find placeholders.

You don’t have to look any further than his office to know what is important to him—“my beautiful wife, our three children and five grandchildren (which includes a soft spot for their fluffy white-haired Westie, Lillie), sports, and my God.”

Upon introductions, Vaughn shakes hands and then digs in his pocket to offer a small metal cross with a poem, “The Cross in My Pocket,” on a business-sized card. He always carries one and has plenty more on hand to give away daily.

Sharing the gospel and convincing others—athletes and community heavy hitters alike—to walk out the love of Christ is how Vaughn continues to raise millions for charitable causes like the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley. And it is how he spearheaded Knoxville’s unsuccessful bid to land the 1992 Olympic Trials for track and field. Even though New Orleans was the chosen host, Vaughn quotes Runner’s World magazine: “Knoxville was most prepared to host the event.”

He was on the ground floor with others in starting Knoxville’s first Women’s Professional Golf Association tournament in the 70s and United States Golden Gloves Boxing Championship in 1987.

After years of dreaming, in 1980, he rallied the talents of givers and thinkers to create the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame. A star-studded annual dinner celebrates and inducts Knoxville-connected athletes of mythical proportions. But for more than three decades, the real superheroes of the evening are the children of the Boys and Girls Clubs, who benefit greatly from the funds raised during this event and the Phillip Fulmer Invitational, formerly the D. D. Lewis Golf Tournament.

Vaughn’s father, Emmet Pryor, after whom he is named, planted the Boys and Girls Club seed. He
helped create the Vestal club.

His parents also passed along the entrepreneurial gene to Vaughn, who has been at the helm of Emmet Vaughn Lumber Company since he was thirty. Founded in 1956 by his father and his mother, Blanche, the lumber company enjoys a national reputation as one of the leading wholesalers and distributors of mostly Appalachian hardwood lumbers. Even with the dark cloud of the economic downturn and the overseas pull on US furniture-making companies, Vaughn revamped and continues to vow to sell only to US companies.

Just as the Army paratrooper of the famed 82nd Airborne Division and UT business graduate believes in keeping jobs in his own backyard, he believes in helping his neighbors.

With “the most beautiful wife” at his side in business and giving endeavors, Vaughn applies that same can-do attitude by maxing out the minutes on his dated flip phone to call soldiers to the front lines of fundraising for “people helping people” nonprofits.

Having been intricately involved in many board appointments, Linda Vaughn put Knoxville’s Interfaith Clinic and Helen Ross McNabb on her husband’s radar. The Delta Airlines retiree, who has worked at Emmet Vaughn Lumber for the past twenty years, is anything but a seat warmer at board meetings.

“She gets to work,” Vaughn says dotingly. “She’s going to find out the needs and figure out how we, as a couple and community, can fulfill our duty to be a blessing to someone else.”

Their calling to write dozens of life-changing checks monthly has earned them enough awards, accolades, and resolutions to create a Hall of Fame of their own, but they don’t care to talk about the lifetime achievement awards bestowed upon them, “because that is not why we do this,” they wholeheartedly agree.

“We want to be change agents for good—for babies, toddlers, kids, college students, adults—for people,” says Linda.

“It’s God’s calling we are working to fulfill, not ours.”

Although he is an alumnus of UT’s Haslam College of Business, Buck Vaughn and his wife, Linda Vaughn, have added the College of Nursing to their long charitable list with a scholarship endowment for students who are victims of sexual or domestic violence.
Jenn and Chris Swindle cherished every moment of the six days, four hours, and twenty-two minutes their baby daughter, Alexandria, was alive.

Aware that Alex’s life might be short, Jenn Swindle received a Precious Prints kit from a friend at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Nursing before her daughter was born at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. It’s a small sterling silver pendant bearing Alex’s fingerprint.

“Nothing will change this feeling of loss,” Jenn Swindle said. “Nothing will take away this pain. But my pendant is a tangible memory of the life Alex lived, physically touched by my little angel. It’s a reminder that Alex was real. And some days, I just need a reminder that she was real.”

Knowing how much the Precious Prints pendant meant to her, Swindle encouraged the College of Nursing to partner with UT Medical Center to offer the pendants to other families who lose a child at that hospital.

Instructor Lynne Miller started the Precious Prints project in the College of Nursing about three years ago. Run by the Student Nurses Association, it has already provided more than 150 families with tangible reminders of their children’s short but precious lives.

The college has provided Precious Prints kits for grieving families at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital since 2012 and Parkwest Medical Center for over a year. Since this spring, the college is also providing kits for families who lose a child at UT Medical Center.

Each added hospital represents a funding commitment. Nursing students hold fundraisers and collect donations to provide the kits to local hospitals so there’s no cost to the hospital or
the grieving families. One of the ways nursing students raise money for Precious Prints is through the annual Sprint for the Prints race.

“This is a project that helps so many different groups. It provides a great service to hospitals and a real comfort to grieving families,” Miller said. “It is also great for students because they learn to give back to the community. They learn leadership and about helping people. It’s great for the university because it goes right along with our mission of creative activity, outreach, and engagement. “

The college works with a local business, Precious Metal Prints, which makes the pendants.

The college keeps each partner hospital stocked with Precious Prints kits and trains nurses in how to use them. When a baby dies, nurses ask the family if they’d like a remembrance pendant. If they do, the nurses take a fingerprint of the child and mail it to the vendor, who creates the pendant and mails the finished product to the family.

College of Nursing students spent a week at UT Medical Center, training about forty nurses in labor and delivery, the mother/baby unit, and the neonatal intensive care unit how to use Precious Prints kits.

“The hospital staff have been so welcoming and so supportive. I think they are passionate about having Precious Prints to offer families,” Miller said. “We look forward to this partnership with UT Medical Center so we can provide this special memory for families who experience this indescribable loss.”

Katherine Bolton, a 2015 graduate who chaired the Student Nurses Association philanthropy committee that raises money for Precious Prints, said 120 student nurses are directly involved in the project and the effort really highlights the art of nursing for them.

“The caring, supportive, family-centered component of nursing is a piece that is not easily taught in a book or a classroom,” she said. “Precious Prints is a way for our student nurses to invest in families and honor those patients whose lives ended too soon.

“We have seen through the years how a silver fingerprint charm can provide a tangible remembrance of a life and calm a mother’s heart. Seeing a mother touch her charm when she remembers her baby and hearing stories of the sweet time they spent together, even though it was short, has made this project turn into a passion for me,” she said. “I feel proud to be part of a university that trains up future nurses with knowledge and sends them out with passion.”

Jorie Zajicek, senior in nursing, shows UT Medical Center nurses a video about the Precious Prints project.

Prints are provided at no cost to the family and are received by mail several weeks after the pendants are created.
1. The interdisciplinary water kiosk build team
2. Red Bird Mission Water Kiosk has been open since July 2015.
3. Collaboration with Knoxville area partners.
4. Clay County community members using the water kiosk.
5. Students preparing materials for the build at UT’s fabrication lab located in downtown Knoxville.
A
bout 90 miles north of Knoxville, just across the Kentucky line, is Clay County, a community of people who possess a fierce love of heritage and family, an unshakable pride in the land, and a deep belief in God. However, it is also a place of extreme poverty where, in some of the rural areas, a majority of the water sources are contaminated and the county ranks near the bottom of the state’s counties for major health indicators.

It is here that UT faculty, staff, and students have been working alongside community partners to improve the county’s wellness and disaster readiness through practical and innovative methods. The Appalachia Community Health and Disaster Readiness Project is also giving students the opportunity to learn through service and gain hands-on real-world experience in improving the lives of others and helping to bring about meaningful change.

The interdisciplinary project combines the expertise of faculty and students from the College of Nursing, the College of Architecture and Design, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Law Enforcement Innovation Center to address Clay County’s needs.

“This is a much more holistic approach to solving community issues when dealing with water, sanitation, housing, disaster preparedness, and communication,” says Tracy Nolan, a registered nurse and director of community outreach at Red Bird Mission, one of the project’s partners and an agency that has been ministering in that region of Appalachia since 1921.

“Having architects, nurses, law enforcement personnel, and civil and environmental engineers at the table opens up new opportunities to solve problems in ways never before explored,” says Tracy Nolan, executive director of Manchester Memorial Hospital and director of Emergency Management Services for the county.

The three-year project grant, which began in fall 2013, is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration.

The project’s priorities are to strengthen community wellness through a process of community engagement and knowledge-sharing; enhance safety, security, emergency preparedness and readiness; and establish a model of interprofessional practice that can assist rural communities to prepare for disasters or other large scale public health emergencies.

Two years into the project, the team has listened to the concerns of Clay County residents; built a clean drinking water kiosk; taught classes on winterizing homes; offered winter safety education, including distribution and use of carbon monoxide monitors based on the type of heating sources many families use; conducted health surveys; assessed damage caused by severe flooding; and trained hospital officials on basic and advanced disaster life support. Currently, the team is working on developing a healthy home handbook with residents to improve quality of life.

“After our research team leaves, I would like to see the community put into action some of the solutions we’re offering and carry those out themselves,” says Stasie Ruskie, a doctoral nursing student. “That way, they’re empowered to take over and better their own community.”

UT’s relationship with Clay County was established years ago when nursing students, through a partnership with Red Bird Mission, began practica experiences in community and public health nursing. It paved the way for collaboration on the current Appalachia Project.

As part of the grant, Nursing Research Professor Susan Speraw—the project’s original principal investigator, who has since retired—secured commitments from the Red Bird Mission and David Watson. Their support was critical in the project’s success and facilitated building relationships with the residents.

“It took time for the residents to get to know us, gauge our sincerity and commitment to them, and feel comfortable that we understood their community and weren’t going to violate their trust,” Speraw says. “From our partners, we heard reports of universities that have come into the area in the past, conducted research, collected data, and left nothing beneficial in their wake. It was clear the community’s experiences with universities in the past have not been positive. Our intention is to fulfill our promises.”

As part of the project, faculty and students have taken on the entire community as the client and are looking for ways to address the challenges on a countywide basis. Many residents live in isolated hollows tucked away in steep mountains.

There is practically no cell phone coverage, which makes communication difficult. Lack of infrastructure translates into nonexistent septic systems or sewer lines, so many residents straight-pipe raw sewage into streams and creeks. Leaky pipes contribute to the growth of interior mold, which compounds lung problems such as asthma and black lung, which stems from years of working in coal mines. A major flood in spring 2013 severely damaged foundations and compromised the safety of homes.

Students and faculty have made numerous trips to Clay County to become more familiar with the area and to learn from residents and community partners. In architecture studio classes, students immersed themselves in Appalachian history and culture.

“Without first learning about their history and what’s important to them, you couldn’t successfully design for them,” says Holly Harris, an architecture alumna.

Designing for a flood-prone area was unexpected because it’s not a condition students typically have to tackle, says Steven Whitmore, a Master of Architecture student.

“If I had to deal with that in a real-world context and I hadn’t had this experience, I wouldn’t know what to do,” he says. “We struggled, and when you struggle with being in an uncomfortable position, you’re going to learn a lot.”

“The ability to collaborate with students and professionals that
we would otherwise never cross paths with has been an endeavor that everyone has learned from and immensely enjoyed,” says Jarod Dotson, an undergraduate architecture student.

Participating in the Appalachia Project has required laying down the idea that one person or entity can solve Clay County’s challenges, says Lauren Oppizzi, a graduate student in the College of Nursing.

“We all are drawing from each other’s strengths and we’re able to show that collaboration is a very valuable skill,” she says.

**SERVICE-LEARNING**

In the spring, senior engineering students met with local officials and toured the community’s existing dam to understand water supply issues. They subsequently developed a preliminary design and cost estimate for an extensive new water reservoir to serve the entire county. Clay County officials used the students’ report as a talking point when they met with their federal representatives to seek assistance this fall, says John Schwartz, associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

The College of Nursing and Law Enforcement Innovation Center, based in UT’s Institute for Public Service, is working with Clay County Emergency Management and Red Bird Mission to review response plans; provide disaster planning training; and develop an emergency disaster plan for the Red Bird Campus to create a more effective response during critical incidents, says Don Green, the center’s executive director.

John McRae, professor of architecture, envisions solutions that come out of the Appalachia Project during the next few years will become a model of interprofessional practice that can help other rural communities improve their quality of life and prepare for disasters and other large-scale public health emergencies.

UT faculty will also apply lessons learned in Clay County to the training of disaster professionals, allowing them to more effectively manage emergencies in rural isolated communities.

**CLEAN WATER, CLEAN LIFE**

After thorough assessment of the community’s water sources and needs, the Appalachia Project team began to develop plans to build a water kiosk so Clay County residents would no longer have to get their water from contaminated wells and streams. With the help of community partners Red Bird Mission, Clay County Emergency Management, Knoxville area partners, UMCOR [the United Methodist Committee on Relief] and private donors, the interdisciplinary team of nursing, architecture, and engineering faculty and students designed and built a water kiosk at Red Bird Mission during UT’s spring break.

Project manager and nursing clinical instructor, Meghan Hayes says, “It’s difficult to imagine that less than a hundred miles from Knoxville lies an area that has limited access to such a basic need. The Red Bird Mission water kiosk began to impact the residents of Clay County, UT faculty and students, and Knoxville partners even before construction commenced, through increasing hope and innovation to all those involved with this unique collaboration. The kiosk continues to impact community members, and has the potential to alter the quality of life for thousands of families through safe water access, awareness, and education in this Appalachian region. The kiosk project has made a lasting impression on the faculty and staff involved, and it is our hope that it is just the beginning as we continue to look at what can be achieved when disciplines from nontraditional fields come together.”

Lisa Davenport, clinical assistant professor of nursing and project director for the Appalachia Project, says the water kiosk has the potential to serve thousands of families. For a nominal fee, area residents can obtain clean water from the kiosk, located on the Red Bird Mission campus.

Along with providing information about the kiosk and how it works, the team is conducting a water education program that focuses on topics like heart health, sanitation, oral health, and cancer prevention, and builds awareness about contaminated wells and springs in the area. They are also collecting demographic information, conducting baseline water knowledge surveys, and determining community members’ intent to use the kiosk.

According to Nolan, efforts are now needed to acquire and make available to the community safe, durable, water containers for use at the water kiosk. “When at-risk families come to Red Bird Mission Outreach offices seeking help with food and clothing assistance, we would like to also provide them with clean water education and approved containers so they could leave that same day with clean drinking water to take home to their families. And then the containers would be a sustainable means for the families to assist themselves in the future and improve their health outcomes,” Nolan said.

To achieve project aims, engagement with stakeholders at all levels is critical. “Our team continues to broaden community partnerships and leverage resources to address health and readiness needs. We hope to provide a solid foundation for sustained health and preparedness by offering community focused intervention, education and training”, Davenport says.

“I am humbled and grateful to UT for choosing to work with Red Bird Mission and the Clay County community, for seeing the strength and worth in our people, and believing they can work with us to empower us to bring sustainable positive change,” Nolan said. “UT’s team of professionals and students give all of themselves, offering up their unique skills and knowledge, and honor our community through their respectful, compassionate engagement.”

For more information about the Appalachia Project or to find out how you can help, contact Lisa Davenport at ldavenp1@utk.edu or Meghan Hayes at mhayes54@utk.edu.

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I believe in the College of Nursing and our wonderful faculty! I believe because of the way Tess Kennard eloquently combines discipline and compassion; Deb Chyka ignites passion into undergraduate researchers; Susan Fancher brings authenticity to clinical simulation experiences; Tami Wyatt inspires innovation and leadership; Lynne Miller lovingly grabs us by the shoulders and reminds us who we are; Shelia Swift leads with tenderness and wisdom; Carrie Bailey demonstrates intentional care and meaningfully impacts everyone around her.... There are so many faculty members who inspire us every day.

I believe in the College of Nursing because of the way faculty exemplify high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent direction. The University of Tennessee and we as students are so much better for it.

For me, these are the wildest and most disorienting years, punctuated by some of the sweetest moments in all my life. I believe that we owe the majority of those sweet moments to you. We are inching, and learning so much, and the awkwardness is worth it and the fumbling is worth it and the growing pains are worth it, because every once in a while we feel something inside ourselves, and it feels like a calling. So thanks for being the patient, kindhearted, resolute instructors who continually deposit hope when our tanks are empty. We are your biggest fans!

Rebekah Massi
BSN Class of 2016
Architecture seemed to be a perfect fit for Matthew Burleson. He even met his future fiancée, also an architecture student, at freshman orientation. Then there was the beginning of his sophomore year.

“I had my gall bladder removed, my dad was diagnosed with cancer, and my apartment caught fire,” he says. “I said, ‘This is a sign,’ and I took a break. I took that semester off.”

When he came back to UT, he had a new career goal to be a nurse. “From my own healing and with my dad—we were in the hospital setting a lot—I came to the realization that I was meant to care for people,” Burleson says. So he worked hard to meet the course requirements to transfer into nursing and was accepted into the program.

His class was among the first to use the HITS (Health Information Technology and Simulation) lab, a collaborative research effort between the College of Nursing and the College of Engineering that simulates the patient care environment.

“Here I am today,” says Burleson, a Johnson City, Tennessee, native who served as a student ambassador and showed around prospective nursing students.

The other good news is that his father is cancer-free. Burleson graduated in May along with Emily Bingham, his fiancée in architecture, and they are planning a November wedding.

While spending time in the hospital, Burleson was drawn to the nurses and the way they interacted with the patient as well as his family. “You can’t just take care of that person. You have to take care of everyone in the room,” he says.

Burleson says he hopes to work for a couple of years, perhaps in critical care, in the Knoxville area before deciding whether he would like to pursue an advanced degree.
Throughout her more than forty years at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital in Knoxville, Laura Barnes has seen the nursing profession grow and become more complex. In her own career, she started working as a staff nurse and rose through the management and administrative ranks to become vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer before retirement.

“The vast critical thinking skills that nurses need to take care of patients today and the technology involved in taking care of patients today has gotten much more complex than the many years ago when I started out as a clinical nurse,” says Barnes (’84, ’87), who retired in February 2015.

When she first became a nurse, it was through a diploma she received at a local hospital. She came to UT to earn her bachelor’s in nursing and her master’s in maternal child nursing. Today, it is hard to keep straight the variety of opportunities available to students upon graduation from either undergraduate or graduate programs.

“I think when I graduated from nursing school, you were much more limited in what you could do,” she says. “There are so many ways you can choose to practice the art of nursing. I think that gets broader every year as new opportunities arise and health care changes.”

Barnes’s first management position was as head nurse of the pediatric intensive care unit. She then became involved in managing different areas such as critical care. She developed a home health department and child life department, and she was one of the administrative liaisons to the hospital’s family advisory council. “Throughout my years, I was privileged to be in management in a variety of roles, but the focus on the care of the child was always at the center in each role,” she says. While her time spent directly with patients diminished, she found ways to be an advocate for nurses at the hospital by “supporting staff in their roles and trying to make it a great place for them to practice nursing and removing barriers that they may have to provide the best care of kids and their families,” Barnes says.

Before retiring, Barnes helped start a nursing research council in collaboration with the College of Nursing as part of nursing’s shared leadership model at the hospital. One study was focused on culture, how a family’s care affects their beliefs, and how nursing responds to different cultures in providing care.

In reflecting upon her own experience as a child having surgery and watching the nurses who cared for her, Barnes likes to ask new nursing graduates why they chose to work at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital. “The vast majority had experience as a student, patient, friend who was a patient,” she says. “I think those experiences are more important than people realize.”

Laura Barnes
BSN, Class of 1984
MSN, Class of 1987

“Throughout my years, I was privileged to be in management in a variety of roles, but the focus on the care of the child was always at the center in each role.”
Rebecca S. Koszalinski received her PhD and master’s (education emphasis) from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. She earned her BSN at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and a diploma in histotechnology from Marshfield Labs/St. Joseph’s School of Histotechnology in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Koszalinski’s research incorporates disabilities and disabling conditions with technology in order to develop interventions for health promotion and illness prevention. She is an alumna of the Summer Genetics Institute at the NIH (NINR, FAES) and is active in Sigma Theta Tau, the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG), and Omicron Delta Kappa. She is also a certified HeartMath trainer. Koszalinski has published with and reviews for Psychiatric Perspectives in Nursing and Rehabilitation Nursing.

Jennifer Tourville was born in Sevierville, Tennessee, and resides there still. She received her BSN from East Tennessee State University and her MSN from Vanderbilt University. She is currently enrolled in the DNP program at Vanderbilt and will be finished next year. She is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner and will continue to practice part time for Hamblen Pediatric Associates while beginning her full-time faculty position in the College of Nursing. Her focus is newborn and infant care with research related to parental education regarding proper care during illness. As a clinical instructor, Tourville will be teaching the maternal-newborn clinical rotation for the senior undergraduate class by providing hands-on training at the UT Medical Center and the simulation lab on campus.

Pamela R. Wilson-Lucas received her BSN from UT and her MSN from East Tennessee State University. Lucas is a board-certified family nurse practitioner. Before coming to UT, Wilson-Lucas held a practitioner position at the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where she provided comprehensive free health care. She is an active member of the American Nursing Credentialing Center and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. Wilson-Lucas’s research interests are restructuring and improving patient outcomes through nurse practitioner innovations, leadership, and policy.

Davis Named Interim DNP Chair

Sharon Davis is interim chair of the DNP program following Margaret (Peggy) Pierce’s retirement in June. Davis is a women’s health nurse practitioner who received her diploma in nursing from St. Mary’s Medical Center in Knoxville, her BSN and MSN from UT, and her DNP from UT Chattanooga. For most of her nursing career, Davis worked in the clinical setting, including eleven years as a nurse practitioner, until she joined the College of Nursing faculty in 2010. Her doctoral work was educating obstetrical health care providers in motivational interviewing, focusing on pregnant women with substance abuse disorders.

Davis has continued her work with pregnancy and substance abuse with the Metropolitan Drug Commission’s Born Drug Free Tennessee campaign and an interprofessional effort to educate Knox County obstetrical providers on addiction and the screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) process. She was awarded a grant from the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists for the Born Drug Free Tennessee project. Davis also serves as a member of the Knox County Prescription Pain Abuse Coalition and has helped the Tennessee Department of Health with a presentation of its chronic pain guidelines across the state.

For her work with substance abuse, Davis was named the 2014 Tennessee Nurses Association Member of the Year. She has an avid interest in health policy and currently serves as the director of government affairs on the TNA board. She also serves as the legislative liaison for the Tennessee Section of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing.
Niederhauser to be Inducted as Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing

College of Nursing Dean Victoria Niederhauser has been named to the American Academy of Nursing’s 2015 Class of New Fellows.

Niederhauser is being recognized for innovations that create seamless academic progression for nurses, building strategic partnerships to enhance learning and practice, and implementing programs to improve access to care for vulnerable and rural populations.

“I am humbled and honored to join an esteemed group of nurses who make a difference every day in the lives of patients, families and communities,” said Niederhauser. “I look forward to representing the University of Tennessee and the College of Nursing at the induction ceremony this fall.”

The ceremony will take place during the academy’s annual policy conference—Transforming Health, Driving Policy—on October 17 in Washington, DC.

“We are pleased to welcome this talented class of clinicians, researchers, policy leaders, educators, and executives as they join the nation’s thought leaders in nursing and health care,” said academy President Diana J. Mason. “We look forward to working with them to continue the academy’s work in transforming health policy and practice through the use of our collective nursing knowledge.”

The academy fellows, with the addition of this newest class, represent all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and twenty-four countries. Academy fellows include hospital and government administrators, college deans, and renowned scientific researchers.

Selection criteria include evidence of significant contributions to nursing and health care, and sponsorship by two current academy fellows. Applicants are reviewed by a panel composed of elected and appointed fellows, and selection is based in part on the extent to which the nominee’s nursing career has influenced health policies and the health and well-being of all.

The academy’s more than 2,300 fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care.

Niederhauser joins Tami Wyatt, assistant dean and director of graduate studies; Sandra Thomas, director of the PhD program in nursing; and Professor Joanne Hall as the fourth UT College of Nursing faculty member to be inducted into the academy.
Faculty NEWS

FACULTY ACCOLADES

Laurie Acred-Natelson was recognized with the inaugural Maureen Nalle Leadership Award on behalf of the Tennessee Nurses Association District 2. This award is newly named after the untimely death of Maureen Nalle to honor her historical involvement with TNA at local, regional and state levels. Nalle’s leadership extended well beyond the work of TNA as she demonstrated a commitment to leadership excellence in the nursing profession.

Carrie Bailey received her PhD in educational psychology and counseling from UT.

Carrie Bailey, Mary Lynn Brown, Susan Fancher, and Tami Wyatt became certified as health care simulation educators (CHSE).

Lora Humphrey Beebe received the Award for Excellence in Research from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Julie Bonom is serving as president of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and Terri Durbin will take over in October.

Kimberly Brown and Shelia Swift were selected to receive the 2015 Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award by the May 2015 graduating nursing class.

Mary Lynn Brown was selected to receive the 2015 Outstanding Classroom Teacher Award by the May 2015 graduating nursing class.

Nan Gaylord was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She also led the Vine School Health Center to become a semifinalist for the Monroe E. Trout National Award to nonprofits making a difference.

Lyn Hardy received the National Institute of Nursing Research Director’s Award for Team Player for her work as team lead and senior program officer in the area of wellness and immunology.

Mary Sue Hodges was selected for the 2015–2016 Geriatric Education Center Faculty Scholars Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Sadie Hutson received the UT Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award and was selected as the recipient of the Alan Solomon Oncology Nursing Faculty Award.

Tess Kennard retired from the Reserve Navy Nurse Corps after thirty-six years. She received letters of appreciation for her service from the president of the United States, the surgeon general, and Rear Admiral Christina M. Alvarado.

Phillip Moore is serving on the Tennessee Nurses Foundation Board of Trustees.

Carole Myers was selected as an SEC Academic Leadership Development Program Fellow. She also attended the American Association Membership Assembly as the elected representative from Tennessee.

Marian Roman was elected chair-elect of the Graduate Council for the 2015–2016 academic year and will assume the role of chair the following year.

Reba Umberger received the 2015 Excellence in Research Award from Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Chi chapter and became certified as an adult, pediatric, and neonatal acute/critical care knowledge professional.

Tami Wyatt was named assistant dean and director of graduate studies and has been promoted to the rank of professor.

Brown Receives DAISY Faculty Award

The DAISY Faculty Award was presented to Clinical Associate Professor Mary Lynn Brown during the college’s spring commencement ceremony. Nominated by students and fellow faculty members, Brown was carefully chosen through a blind review process by a selection committee made up of advisory board members and faculty.

Brown’s nominator said her philosophy of teaching is to set a high bar of excellence and then help students develop stepping stones to reach high goals. As an experienced critical care nurse, she is comfortable caring for complex acutely ill patients. She makes sure that students provide appropriate care and develop essential skills. Brown consistently displays kindness and compassion when interacting with students and patients.

A collaborative program of the DAISY Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the DAISY Faculty Award is a national recognition program that honors teachers for their commitment and inspirational influence on future generations of nurses.
Leaving A Legacy

Many of us want to provide for our loved ones—and we also want the College of Nursing to thrive for generations to come. How is it possible to do both?

There are many options available to you:
• Making a bequest through your will or living trust
• Naming the college the full or a partial beneficiary of your retirement plan, stock, mutual fund or brokerage account, savings account, CD, or checking account
• Creating a charitable gift annuity that will provide you and or a loved one with income for life

These options can help you now, protect what you’ve earned for the future, and provide for the people and causes you care about in the years to come. Some gift plans can be put into place today without any loss of income.

For more information on other ways of supporting the college, please contact Debby Powell, Director of Development, at dpowell@utfi.org or 865-974-3597.
UT COLLEGE OF NURSING CLASS OF 2017