Beyond the
BIG ORANGE
Preparing our students to meet the needs of people at home and around the world
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Check out the Alumni/Development page on the College of Nursing Web site:

http://nightingale.con.utk.edu

Keep in touch with the UTK College of Nursing online:
- Send announcements to the “Class Notes” section or let us know of address changes
- Find out about upcoming alumni events
- Visit the photo gallery
- Read a downloadable PDF version of Nursing Report

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A project of the College of Nursing of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with assistance from the Creative Services Division of UT Public Relations, 865-974-2225. Rev. 7734
Dear Alumni and Friends,

The past year has been an exciting one for the College of Nursing. We received federal funding to establish a graduate program in homeland security nursing, the first of its kind in the nation. The announcement, which was picked up by national news networks, generated much excitement, and we immediately began receiving inquiries about the program from across the nation. In part because of this new frontier, the doctoral program grew exponentially.

Early last year, the university launched the “Ready for the World” initiative, an ambitious plan to help students gain the international and intercultural knowledge they need to succeed in today’s global society. The plan calls for internationalizing the curriculum and providing opportunities for students to study abroad. Many of the activities that the College of Nursing faculty and students were engaged in fit well into this initiative. We have interacted with various cultures, both at home and abroad, and some of these are described in this issue of the Nursing Report. Our course, “Transcultural Nursing,” was already in place, and we continue to embrace new ideas to expand students’ horizons, expose them to multicultural perspectives, and make them “Ready for the World.”

College of Nursing graduates continue to be in demand. At the time of graduation in May 2006, 50 percent of the BSN graduates had accepted positions in the Knoxville area, 26 percent had accepted positions in other Tennessee locations, 14 percent had accepted positions out of state (two of which were military assignments), and 10 percent were still undecided where they would work. August 2006 graduates from the nurse anesthesia specialty were hired before the ink on their diplomas was dry, and master’s graduates with other clinical specialties were also in high demand. Several of our doctoral graduates assumed nursing faculty positions.

We recently hosted the 5th Annual Scholarship Banquet, which recognizes our generous donors and outstanding scholars. Donors and guests who have attended from the beginning remarked how much this event has grown over the years. It is to the credit of our generous donors that scholarship endowments have increased, thus providing more money to distribute to deserving students. If you wish to contribute to one of the scholarship funds or establish a new endowment, please call the Development Office at 865-974-2755.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to you for your loyal support of the College of Nursing. You have made a big difference in the lives of our students by helping us to maintain the standard of excellence by which we have built our programs. It is with your continued support that we can scale to even greater heights in nursing education.

Warm regards,

Joan Creasia, RN, PhD
Dean and Professor
Kenneth Phillips Appointed Associate Dean

This summer, the College of Nursing welcomed Dr. Kenneth D. Phillips, new associate dean for research and evaluation. This is Phillips’s second time at UT, having served as assistant professor in the college before becoming director of the Center for Health Promotion and Risk Reduction in Special Populations and associate professor in the College of Nursing at the University of South Carolina.

Phillips holds a doctorate and a master’s degree in nursing from UT, and he received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from East Tennessee State University. He has been engaged in college teaching for nearly two decades, and is recognized for his skill in teaching advanced pathophysiology, measurement, psychoneuroimmunology, and quantitative research methods. Among Phillips’s many accomplishments, he has achieved an international reputation in scholarship and research regarding HIV/AIDS.

Board of Visitors Members Recognized for Nursing Excellence

Two College of Nursing Board of Visitors members, Janice McKinley and Laurie Acred-Natalson, received awards at the Regional Recognition Celebration for Clinical Excellence at the Knoxville Convention Center in May 2005. The Tennessee Organization of Nurse Executives sponsored McKinley’s nomination and cited her excellent nursing leadership and political advocacy as benefiting the nursing profession as a whole. Janice is currently the President of the Tennessee Organization of Nurse Executives. Acred-Natalson’s success and leadership skills as director of medical–surgical units at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center garnered her clinical excellence recognition.

Program Evaluation and Accreditation

The College of Nursing participated in three program evaluations during the 2004–05 academic year. The first, the university’s academic program review, occurred in November. Two external nursing reviewers joined three members of the University of Tennessee faculty from various disciplines to compose the evaluation team. The 2½-day review culminated in a report that attested to the health of the academic programs in the college.

In April 2005 a team of three reviewers from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education conducted their site visit to reaffirm accreditation of the baccalaureate and master’s programs. Their findings were also very positive, and the college was awarded accreditation for the maximum time of 10 years.

Also in April, a team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) was on-site to reaffirm the university’s accreditation status. The campus’s quality enhancement plan, which is part of the affirmation process, was developed with a focus on international and intercultural awareness. The College of Nursing, with international and intercultural outreach already in place, enthusiastically embraced the plan. The SACS visit also had a positive outcome, and the university’s accreditation status was reaffirmed, requiring no monitoring for a full 10 years.

Governor Names Preston to State Board of Nursing

In November 2005 Governor Phil Bredesen of Tennessee appointed UT nurse anesthetist John C. Preston to the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Preston is one of four people newly appointed to the board. He serves in the College of Nursing as the director of UT’s master’s program in nurse anesthesia.

As a member of the Tennessee Board of Nursing, Preston participates in setting state standards of acceptable practices in nursing and will impose penalties when those standards are not met. The board is also responsible for interpreting license and registration requirements for schools and individual nurses.

“It is an honor for the University of Tennessee to have an experienced nurse anesthetist such as Dr. Preston appointed by Governor Bredesen to serve on the Tennessee Board of Nursing,” said Dean Joan Creasia. “As we continue our efforts to bring more nurses into the field and to educate our best nurses for advanced-practice roles, it is essential for highly qualified individuals, like John, to serve on statewide boards and to represent the interests of nurses throughout Tennessee,” she said.

Preston was appointed to the board on the basis of his strong leadership skills and his expertise in advanced-practice nursing. His term on the state board ends in 2009.

Dr. Maureen Groër Now USF Distinguished Professor

Dr. Maureen Groër was appointed to a distinguished professorship at the University of South Florida in Tampa in January 2006, leaving her position of associate dean for research and evaluation. Except for a 5-year hiatus at the Massachusetts General Institute for the Health Professions, Groër had been with the College of Nursing since 1980. Among her many accomplishments was the research study on post-partum immunity funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research. In 2005 she was the national speaker for the lactation specialist workshops of the La Leche League International, which were presented in eight U.S. cities. Groër presented the data generated from her funded research, “Influence of Lactation on Postpartum Stress and Immunity.”

Staff Spotlight

Leslie Johnson, secretary/manager of the Learning Resource Center and Clinical Laboratory, received the “Send Roses” award from Chancellor Loren Crabtree in April. Johnson’s good nature and exceptional organizational skills make her a perfect person for her position. She interacts daily with some of our 250 undergraduate nursing students, faculty members, and other staff members and is always pleasant and helpful, even during stressful times.

One of Johnson’s duties is to help with the technological equipment. As one can imagine, faculty members and students are often stressed when equipment does not work. Johnson answers the calls for help, provides the solutions, and always remains calm.

The Learning Resource Center houses one of the College of Nursing’s computer labs. Students use this lab every day to research nursing and health-related topics, write papers, and view such media as videos and CD ROM’s. Johnson is always available to help them find and use the resources and provide such reference books as the APA Manual to assist in their writing.

Congratulations to Leslie Johnson for doing an outstanding job!
College Notes

After the devastating damage from Hurricane Katrina last fall, the university admitted many students from New Orleans. The College of Nursing welcomed nine students who had been displaced by the hurricane from the University of New Orleans, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Delgado Community College.

Tami Wyatt, assistant professor, received the 2006 GlaxoSmithKline Research Fellowship for Asthma Education.

Dr. Sandra McGuire, chair of the MSN program at the College of Nursing, was appointed to AARP’s National Policy Council. The council is made up of 25 experts from around the country who advise the AARP Board of Directors on policy. McGuire is serving on the Health and Long-Term Care Committee. Selection for the council is highly competitive.

Dr. Jan Lee, associate dean for academic affairs, completed the HRSA Management Institute, a 7-month fellowship for women in academic leadership in positions within higher education. Lee also has been asked to lead the UTK Global Advisory Council, which is overseeing implementation and evaluation of the “Ready for the World” initiative, the campuswide effort to help students gain the international and intercultural knowledge they need to succeed in today’s world.

Dr. Mary Gunther received the 2005 College of Nursing Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award and was one of the 10 finalists for the UT Outstanding Alumni Teaching Award.

The Gamma Chi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society presented awards to the following faculty members in April 2006: Sandra Thomas, Excellence in Research; Carole Myers, Outstanding Dissertation; Allie Brown, Excellence in Education; Mary Lynn Brown, Excellence in Clinical Practice; Pat Melcher, Community Service Award.

Susan Speraw and Jo Wade received the Best Overall Story Board Award at the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality, the fifth annual forum for improving children’s healthcare.

Dava Shoffner and Maureen Nalle designed and conducted the second annual Tennessee Leadership Institute for Nursing Excellence through a contract with the Tennessee Center for Nursing. The purpose of the institute, held in April 2006, was to support leadership growth of registered nurses who are involved in direct patient care.

Faculty Appointments

The College of Nursing was successful in recruiting several new faculty members and welcoming one member back to the fold. Dr. Lora Beebe joined the faculty last fall as an associate professor, coming from the University of Florida in Gainesville. She received both a master’s and a doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky and her undergraduate degree from Marshall University. Her clinical specialty is mental health nursing, and her research focuses on interventions with schizophrenic clients.

Assistant professor Dr. Becky Fields returned to the College of Nursing after 3 years at the University of Kentucky. She received nursing degrees from the College of Nursing and has clinical specialties in mental health and gerontology. Her current research focuses on cardiovascular conditions.

Dr. Jo Wade, also an assistant professor, received her basic nursing education in England, a BSN and an MSN from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and a PhD from the University of Tennessee. Her clinical specialty is pediatrics, which fills a critical need in the College of Nursing. Her research focuses on the experience of parents of a child with a bipolar disorder, and she will continue her research program with this population.

Carole Myers is another accomplished nurse, who for several years ran her own business, which dealt with selecting and negotiating third-party payer insurance contracts for large corporations in many states. She sold that business, decided she wanted to spend the remainder of her professional career teaching, and enrolled in the PhD program at the College of Nursing. She is a family nurse practitioner, and her research focuses on health policy, specifically TennCare.

Gaylord Honored by Chancellor

The land-grant mission of the University of Tennessee directs us to use our intellectual capital to benefit the citizens of our state. The Chancellor’s Award for Academic Outreach goes to a faculty member who exemplifies this aim.

The 2006 honor was bestowed upon the College of Nursing’s Dr. Nan Gaylord, assistant professor. In 1995 she established a school-based student health clinic at Vine Middle Magnet School to combine clinical care with learning opportunities for UT’s undergraduate and graduate students. The clinic outgrew its space during the first year of operation, so Gaylord found a warehouse space and raised more than $65,000 to renovate it. The clinic moved to the new location in 1997 and now averages more than 2,000 visits each year.

Gaylord also received the Chancellor’s Award for Extraordinary Community Service. Besides her work with the clinic at Vine Middle, Gaylord is a member of seven advisory boards or councils that oversee or provide care to children in the Knoxville community.

Congratulations to Nan Gaylord for these honors.
Homeland Security Nursing: On the Front Lines

“There is no such thing as ‘homeland security nursing.’”

Dr. Susan Speraw, associate professor in the College of Nursing, heard that statement many times over the past year. The idea that nurses might obtain graduate degrees specializing in the area of mass-casualty nursing was foreign to anyone outside military circles. “People often had no concept of what I was talking about, because ‘homeland security nursing’ as a formally recognized specialty within public-health nursing had not yet been conceived,” she says. “And when people did understand, there were, in some circles, negative political connotations to the use of the phrase homeland security.”

The idea of developing a homeland security nursing concentration in graduate nursing education was sparked by the needs first identified when response to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 was analyzed. More recently, however, events surrounding the Southeast Asian tsunami of December 2004 and the horror of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 have confirmed the urgency of the need for nursing leaders who can meet the complex healthcare needs of people affected by disaster. Although nursing is the largest occupation in all of healthcare and the backbone of the healthcare industry, nursing educational needs in this area have been largely unmet. The emphasis in civilian mass-casualty training traditionally has been almost exclusively on first responders, including law-enforcement and firefighting officials. The question remained, however: What happens to the masses of people after they are rescued by police and firefighters and treated by paramedics? After first responders care for them, then what?

Problems identified during hurricanes Katrina and Rita serve as perfect examples of the healthcare limitations of many cur-
rent disaster plans. Clearly we need to be better prepared at every level of healthcare delivery. “Most hospitals have a plan to deal with ten victims or even a hundred injured people in an emergency,” says Roberta Lavin (MSN, ’91), a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and chief of staff for the U.S. Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness. “But what are they going to do when you have an incident where they say, ‘Now you have to handle ten thousand?’ How are you going to do that?”

Says Speraw, “The reality is that once the first responder rescues or stabilizes a survivor, that person will be transported to a health facility, and in all likelihood, the person who receives the patient will be a nurse. If the facility is not prepared to receive survivors, if there are inadequate supplies or staff to deal with the surge of patients, if the receiving nurse is not skilled in assessing patients’ reactions to disasters or in responding to toxic or biological exposures, then valuable time will be lost, and care will be less than ideal. First responders absolutely need training in disaster response, but so do the nurses who are hospital administrators and emergency room staff; so do nurses who work in public-health centers and physician’s offices. Furthermore, nurses need to be visibly represented among governmental leaders who make policy that impacts communities, regions, or agencies. They need to be top managers who plan for or supervise disaster response.”

Now in her fifth year at UT Knoxville after a career of many years in clinical practice in nursing and child psychology, Speraw was the primary author of a 3-year grant awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The $650,879 award provided seed money that enabled the college to establish the Homeland Security Nursing Program, which started in fall 2005, the first program of its type in the nation. “Nurses have always been trained to care for the complex needs of individuals, families, and communities,” Speraw says. “But through the Homeland Security Nursing Program, we will be training professionals to provide care in extraordinary circumstances—at times of disaster when the numbers of patients overwhelm the capacity of hospitals and clinics, or when exposure to toxins, radiation, or biological agents makes providing routine care impossible.”

Although named “homeland security nursing,” the new specialty is not tied to any governmental office, is not political in its approach, and does not focus solely on the United States. It is based on a broad worldview, preparing nurses to function in disasters or mass-casualty events in any setting. The program takes an all-hazards approach, teaching students about all threats to human safety—including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, environmental, and ideological threats—whether they are naturally occurring, acciden-

tal, or manmade. “It is critically important that our graduates understand that no mass-casualty event takes place in isolation,” says Speraw. “Response is influenced by world events and impacts how people, communities, and nations interface with one another. Homeland security nursing is not just focused on hospitals or clinics; its context is the world. Our nurses are going to have that global view.”

The new program offers several options. Its courses are offered as a concentration in both the master’s-degree and doctoral programs of the college. The concentration has two tracks: management and advanced clinical practice. Post-master’s certification is available for nurses who already hold a master’s degree but wish to obtain new skills in this specialized field. Program participants share courses and hands-on experience with fellows in the UT graduate medical fellowship in homeland security studies, as well as with students from other UT colleges and departments. The program features internships with local, state, and federal agencies; simulation exercises; and work with disaster-relief agencies. There also is a strong community-service component, with each student contributing to a project that benefits the public good. All doctoral students will also complete research for a dissertation on a topic related to homeland security or disaster—emergency preparedness.

The birth of a good idea

In fall 2004 Speraw was preparing a proposal for a forensic nursing grant when she met with a professor in UT’s
Graduate School of Medicine who was developing a fellowship program in homeland security medicine for physicians. Speraw walked out of the meeting realizing that “there is nothing remotely like this in nursing—and there needs to be.” Speraw immediately called Dr. Jan Lee, the associate dean for academic affairs of the College of Nursing, and set up a meeting with Dean Joan Creasia. “I know that you asked me to write a forensic nursing grant application,” Speraw told the dean, “but this is what we should be doing. It is innovative and desperately needed and will place the college in a national leadership position.” Creasia strongly agreed. Many state, regional, and local agencies and departments also pledged support for the proposed program. They saw value in a graduate nursing program that would prepare scholars, leaders, managers, and clinical specialists to plan for mass-casualty disasters; manage logistics of an event in progress effectively; work cooperatively with local, state, and federal officials and responders; develop and implement policy; and provide care to victims of trauma or toxic exposure.

In July 2005 the college received word that the grant was funded and that the federal agency wanted the program to be started in the 2005–2006 academic year. Speraw and Lee would be co-directors of the project.

A press conference with Chancellor Loren Crabtree and both federal and state officials was arranged to announce the grant award. “As a research university, we have an obligation to educate students to deal with society’s most pressing needs,” Chancellor Crabtree told the crowd. “Clearly the issues surrounding homeland security are a top national priority. Through this new program, we are working to do our part to prepare tomorrow’s leaders. The College of Nursing will lead the nation in this emerging specialty and further enhance its reputation for academic excellence and service. We are grateful to our state and federal partners who recognize UT’s potential to lead such an opportunity and for their continued role in ensuring that we develop the very best experience for our students, who in turn serve our nation and the world.”

Dean Creasia echoed Crabtree’s sentiments and expressed great pride in the role that the college will play in developing a new nursing specialty. “Despite the growing realities of terrorism in our world, there are few programs beyond in-service and continuing-education programs that train professionals in homeland security or disaster response,” she said. “Yet nurses are uniquely qualified through their broad range of such skills as management, education, risk assessment, triage, and delivery of total patient care with a holistic approach. We will assume a key leadership role in emergency preparedness and response through this exciting and innovative program.”

Capt. Lavin, who traveled from Washington, D.C., for the announcement, commented, “In the past, one of the most limiting factors in responding to mass-casualty events has been the number of nurses available to support existing staff during a crisis when the number of victims can rapidly overwhelm even the best hospital. Having innovative programs that train nurses to work within the National Response Plan will ensure the nation has caring professionals who are better prepared to plan for and respond to terrorism. This program is truly a service to the nation.”

“I’m thrilled,” Speraw said that day, “for the University of Tennessee, proud of the College of Nursing, and excited about what our graduates can contribute to this region and our nation. This is really something special for the profession.”

The program today
Requirements for admission to the program are stringent. Applicants to the college’s graduate programs must be admitted to UT Graduate Studies, meet or exceed a specified GPA in their previous college work, and have competitive scores on national examinations for graduate-school placement. All program applicants also must hold a bachelor’s degree in nursing, though most of those applying to the doctoral program already hold an MSN, as well. All applicants also must have at least 2 years of full-time experience in acute-care nursing—preferably in critical care, major trauma, emergency, or psychiatric–mental health—or in nursing management. The reason for the experience requirement is that the program builds on already-expert skills. Course work exposes students to advanced material in homeland security threats, international relations,
ethics, and principles that are key to scholarship, leadership, and advanced practice in homeland security, emergency preparedness, and disaster response.

“Students in our program have extraordinary credentials and amazing motivation,” Speraw said. “Their experiences and willingness to be part of such a cutting-edge program makes for a dynamic learning environment.” The first cohort, which entered in fall 2005, included three students in the master’s program and six doctoral students. One MD fellow from the UT Graduate School of Medicine and one law student also completed the course work and enriched the perspective of the whole group. The second class—entering in fall 2006—includes one master’s-degree student, two seeking the post-master’s certificate, and seven in the doctoral program.

Speraw’s first year has been intensely focused on developing the best education possible in this emerging field. Partners contributing expertise, consultation, and collaborative support have included the Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Center for Homeland Security and Counterproliferation, the UT Graduate School of Medicine’s Center for Homeland Security Studies, and the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site, a program of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Guest lecturers from within UT included professors from the colleges of Nursing; Engineering; Communication and Information; Arts and Sciences; and Education, Health, and Human Sciences, as well as some from the Institute of Agriculture and the Institute for Public Services’ Center for Industrial Services.

From the homeland security community beyond UT, distinguished representatives of federal, state, and local agencies shared their expertise. “They have held us spellbound for hours. During the inaugural year,” Speraw says, “our emphasis was on building partnerships within this campus and relationships across the country. The result is an extraordinary curriculum, wherein students have been exposed to national leaders and local experts, as well as scholars who share this campus with us. I am proud that our students have learned from the very best in every field.”

Many state and federal agencies have already contacted Speraw for access to the program’s graduates. Medical centers are interested in them because experts predict that mass-casualty preparedness will assume increasing prominence among accreditation requirements for hospitals and healthcare centers. Federal and state agencies want the research expertise and scholarship that the program’s graduates will bring, as well as their knowledge about the interface of homeland security and public health. “Agencies recognize the credibility that our graduates will bring, and they are already asking about their availability for internships and long-term employment,” Speraw says. “One department head in state government told me, ‘People in this program will be stars long before they graduate.’”

As 2006 ended, the college celebrated the graduation of its first group of homeland security nurses. They include three who come away with MSN degrees and one who has completed her doctorate. Their futures hold great promise.

For more information
Anyone who would like information about the program can contact the College of Nursing on the Web at http://nightingale.con.utk.edu or Dr. Susan Speraw at 865-974-7586 or at ssperaw@utk.edu. Applicants can also contact the directors of the two graduate-degree programs. For the MSN program, contact Dr. Sandra McGuire at smcguire@utk.edu; for the Ph.D. program, contact Dr. Sandra Thomas at sthomas@utk.edu.
In fall 2006 the UTK College of Nursing's doctoral program admitted a dozen nurses, growing the program to 32 candidates, the largest number in the program's 18-year history. This growth is fostered by the reputation of the program's quality, interest in the new homeland-security nursing concentration, and the urgent need for nursing faculty members at academic institutions.

When these students graduate, they will join the 47 UTK College of Nursing doctoral graduates throughout the country who already have made significant contributions to nursing practice, theory, education, research, and administration. Their list of presentations, publications, research grants, and other accomplishments is too long to itemize. In a double-first for the college, in December 2006 Tonya Broyles became our first BSN-to-PhD student, and at the same time, she became the nation's first doctoral prepared nurse in homeland security nursing.

Ties that bind

When doctoral graduates talk about their times at UTK College of Nursing, they find strong ties that bind. Most people know that the pursuit of a doctoral degree in nursing isn't for the faint-hearted. People enter the program knowing it takes years of work and dedication to earn a PhD and that pursuing a doctorate takes time away from family and work, not to mention the financial burden they will incur.

What most people don't know about are the positives our PhD graduates take with them. A recent survey revealed that they still have warm memories of their fellow classmates and dedicated professors, an environment that supported their unique learning styles, and each person's intellectual breakthroughs. The students left the program feeling that they were, indeed, experts in their area of study.

“My most memorable experience,” said Dr. Vicki Slater (PhD '96), “was my interview when I applied for the program. When I was asked why I wanted to attend, I said, 'I've just discovered this phenomenon of healing touch and I want to understand it.' Dr. Thomas looked stunned. I have since realized that UTK was probably the only program in the world that would have accepted a student with such an unusual goal. It was the perfect program for me.”

Kathleen Ann Walker (PhD '01) recognized “an overall sense that uniqueness is encouraged and supported” within the program. “For example,” she says, “not everyone in my class completed their dissertation in the same time period or manner. They made their own way and made it their own learning. Life is a relational process, and it is the process—not just the result—that is important and most rewarding.”

“Experiencing and absorbing ideas from intense study, along with the nurturing environment, allowed me to discover confidence in my own ideas and findings,” said Dr. Jean Croce Hemphill (PhD '05). “My experience awakened a new creativity that continues to influence my work.”
Graduates often remember specific experiences in classes and research groups, such as the Phenomenology Research Group, various collaborative projects, and certainly, defending their dissertations. Mary Gunther (PhD '01) spent a weeklong preceptor-ship with nurse theorist Dr. Jacqueline Fawcett at her home in Waldoboro, Maine. Dr. Steve Krau (PhD '95) recalls meeting and engaging in dialogue with theorists Dorothy Johnson, Betty Neuman, and Sr. Callista Roy, who spoke at UT at the annual lecture funded by Mary Boynton, a retired nursing faculty member.

But people mostly remember their classmates. “The encouragement from fellow students was wonderful,” says Cynthia Winker (PhD ‘96). “Competition, if present at all, was constructive and positive.” Jo Wade (PhD ‘03) says she had “wonderful discussion sessions with fellow students and faculty on so many interesting topics.” Ellie Brooks (PhD ’95) says she remembers “the support, friendship and encouragement from fellow students and doctoral faculty.” Carolyn Robinson (PhD ’98) remembers her “lasting friendships with other PhD students.”

The beginning
The colleges of nursing on UT’s Knoxville and Memphis campuses collaborated to develop the first PhD program in Tennessee. The two colleges were encouraged by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), which recognized the need for doctoral level instruction for nurses, to collaborate and develop a common curriculum.

In 1988 members of the faculties of both colleges met in Nashville to develop the curriculum, which THEC approved later that year. Dr. Sandra Thomas and UT Health Science Center’s Dr. Mary Jane Ward led the effort to iron out a curriculum that still serves as the basis of both colleges’ programs today. UT Memphis accepted its first student in 1988; UT Knoxville, in 1989.

In 1992 Jane Tollett and Mary Anne Modrcin became the first nurses to graduate from the UT Knoxville nursing doctoral program. Dr. Maureen Groër was the original chair of the program, and Dr. Thomas became the acting chair in 1992 when Groër left to work in Boston. Thomas, who has been instrumental in the program since its inception, became the permanent chair in 1993.

The two University of Tennessee programs—although based on the same curriculum—have always operated separately. Thomas says, “the problem is the 400 miles between us. Students aren’t mobile enough to go between the two campuses.”

The contagious excitement of research
The addition of doctoral students made a significant contribution to the academic reputation of the College of Nursing. Thomas says: “The PhD program gave the college a research focus that it never had before. We always produced good nurse generalists from our BSN program and advanced practice nurses at the master’s level, but we never had a strong research focus.

“The doctoral program allowed us to work with other disciplines on campus because all our doctoral students take courses outside the College of Nursing. It put us on the map with regard to scholarship, because the faculties of other colleges on this campus saw the quality of our students and served on their dissertation committees. In the eyes of the university, the College of Nursing was finally producing scholars as well as practitioners.”

The formation of research teams, composed of faculty members and doctoral students, created a sense of excitement about research in the college. Early teams were led by Drs. Martha Alligood, Debra Wallace, and Sandra Thomas. When Maureen Groër returned from Massachusetts, her grant funding enabled the college to establish a fully equipped laboratory for psychoneuroimmunology studies. In recent years, faculty–student teams led by Dr. Joanne Hall and others have continued to fuel excitement about scholarly inquiry. Dozens of students have made their first conference presentations and published their first papers as a result of their work in the faculty-led research teams. Each year nearly two-dozen faculty members and students travel to the Southern Nursing Research Society conference to present their work, and the college’s PhD students have made many national and international presentations, as well.

Lessons Learned: Words of wisdom from our PhD graduates:

Stand up for yourself! You do know what you are talking about. You worked through a PhD!

Think big! You can do anything when you set your mind to it.

Steve Krau (1995)
I learned not to take myself so seriously. I was among a distinguished faculty and very bright students. We were focused on our purpose and were very driven. In retrospect, this immersion and focus hampered getting to know faculty members and my peers to the extent I would have liked. As a result, I take time to know my peers and my students on a more personal level, and this makes all the difference.

Ellie Brooks (1995)
You always have to keep your mind open. Recognize when change is needed; make the necessary change; move forward and never second-guess yourself.

Phyllis duMont (1998)
I cannot express this as a single lesson, but the transformation in the way I think regarding concepts and their relationships was unexpected, yet it impacts my worldview.

Clara Boland (2000)
Of all that I learned, I think the most important thing was not to doubt my abilities. I guess I heard, ‘After all, you’re the expert!’ enough times from Debra Wallace, Martha Alligood, and Sandra Thomas that it finally took hold.

Mary Gunther (2001)
The value of life learning and how teaching can be fun!
The common thread
The person who was at the inception of the program and has overseen the studies of every doctoral student is Sandra Thomas. Thomas, a nurse psychologist, is a longtime researcher in the field of anger and violence. She started her career as a graduate of the St. Mary’s diploma school, then earned the subsequent degrees that led to her recognition as a prolific writer with more than 100 publications. She is recognized nationally as a leader in her field.

She recently published a second edition of Transforming Nurses’ Anger and Stress: Steps Toward Healing, which includes insights from her years of research on nurses’ anger. The 2004 book recently garnered two “Book of the Year” awards from the American Journal of Nursing. It was selected in the category of professional development and issues as well as the category of psychiatric mental health nursing. She is a fellow of both the American Academy of Nursing and the Society of Behavioral Medicine. She received the 2004 research award from the International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses. “Sandra Thomas’s demonstrated passion for research and scholarship and her exemplary level of accomplishment serve as prime motivators for the success of our doctoral students,” said Dean Joan Creasia.

A hallmark of Thomas’s tenure as the director of the college’s doctoral program has been her insistence that students pursue research in their area of interest and that the program provide them whatever flexibility they need to continue in their jobs. “Students can undertake whatever dissertation topic they want. We encourage people to study what they are passionate about—not what we want them to study. We teach doctoral classes only on Thursdays and we allow for part-time students. That’s not true of all PhD programs,” Thomas says. “Most programs usually want you there full time only, Monday through Friday. We don’t do that. We have a lot of part-time students and people who commute from homes as far away as five hours to come to class on Thursdays. We try to be accommodating in that way.”

Thomas maintains a passion for her work with doctoral students. “I interact with the smartest people in nursing during the time they are most intellectually curious, and it’s continually stimulating and energizing,” she says. “I think it’s the best job in the world, and I hope I can do it until I am at least 80!”

The future of the doctoral program
The recent growth of the PhD program is timely, Thomas says. The faculty shortage in the nation is acute. At present, there are a thousand unfilled faculty positions in the United States. According to the Tennessee Center for Nursing’s 2005 report, “Curing the crisis in nursing education: A master plan for Tennessee,” approximately 380 new nursing faculty members are needed in Tennessee over the next 5 years to replace retirees and to produce adequate numbers of new RNs to care for the people of Tennessee.

“We want to encourage nurses with their master’s degree—and their friends—to come back to school and work on their doctorates,” Thomas says. “It’s critical for the advancement of the profession. The ‘union card’ to join a university faculty is a PhD. Those who love teaching or research need to have a PhD in order to have university rank and to advance professionally.”

“Historically, the greatest challenge for doctoral students is financing their study,” she says. Although PhD students are eligible for federal traineeship support, the government still mandates that most of the money be awarded to master’s students preparing for clinical practice roles. Given the current faculty shortage, nursing organizations are lobbying for a greater proportion of funding for PhD students. However, this has not happened yet.

“Tuition may be paid for students who work at a hospital,” Thomas says, “but books and other expenses aren’t usually covered. Those who commute have to drive and stay in a hotel at their own expense. We do have some teaching assistantships, but students who work elsewhere are unable to devote 20 hours a week to teaching at UT. Some of the students really struggle,

Lessons Learned: Words of wisdom from our PhD graduates:

Becky Fields (2002)
To be open to opportunities and possibilities for myself, as well as my career. This allowed me to leave home to pursue a job opportunity.

Linda Mefford (1999)
With perseverance, endurance, and good traveling companions, you can succeed in almost any journey that you are led to undertake in life.

Molly Meighan (1998)
It’s persistence that counts, not necessarily perfection.

Mary Ann Modrcin (1992)
My stat classes and those in my cognate were important.

Carolyn Robinson (1998)
To take pride in my work, and to complete assignments in a timely fashion.

Janet Secrest (1997)
“The clearest thing you can say is that it (life, experience, meaning, etc.) is ambiguous.” —Howard Pollio

Angela Wood (1998)
Persistence is 90 percent of the battle.

Cynthia Winker (1996)
Never, never give up. We are surrounded by people who want us to succeed.

Diane Weed (2004)
I learned I could accomplish more than I ever expected.

Jo Wade (2004)
You need a lot of help to reach a goal, but with the right help, anything is possible.

Marilyn Smith (1996)
How to receive constructive feedback without getting my feelings hurt.

Mona Shattell (2002)
I learned I could write well, which gave me confidence to write more. I learned that it was my professional responsibility to write and publish—a lesson I take seriously.

Kathleen Walker (2001)
A professor can and does influence one’s life for better or worse at UT. A vast majority greatly influenced me for the better.
and I'd like to be able to help them more. It's probably our biggest problem.

“We need more scholarships allocated specifically to PhD students,” says Thomas. “I hope that some of our graduates will make bequests to a doctoral scholarship fund.”

### PhD Program Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Mary Anne Modrcin</td>
<td>Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Tollett</td>
<td>Retired, Chief of Residential Care Programs, Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C. Also pioneered innovative programs for pain management and for rehabilitation of homeless veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Kaye Bultemier</td>
<td>Clinical practice, women’s health, Oak Ridge, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Smucker</td>
<td>Self-employed nurse-practitioner, lives in Brasstown, NC. Immediately after graduation started the first parish nurse program in Tennessee and directed it for several years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Kenneth Phillips</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheryl Russell</td>
<td>Clinical practice, outpatient psychiatry, Veterans Administration, Columbia, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Ella Brooks</td>
<td>Vice President, Academic Affairs, SI Tanka University, Eagle Butte, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen Krau</td>
<td>Faculty, School of Nursing, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Gayle Denham</td>
<td>Faculty, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria Slater</td>
<td>Holistic private practice, Clarksville, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marilyn Smith</td>
<td>Faculty, West Virginia University, Charleston, WV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cynthia Winker</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer, Bariatric Partners, Charlotte, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Janet Secrest</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Chattanooga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phyllis duMont</td>
<td>Coordinator, Clinical Research Management, MSN Program, University of Maryland, Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heidi Ehrenberger</td>
<td>Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate Studies, Southern Adventist College, Collegetdale, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katie Lamb</td>
<td>Retired but still teaching, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Margaret (Molly)</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolyn Robinson</td>
<td>Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Elizabeth Jesse</td>
<td>Faculty, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice McCurry</td>
<td>Faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom McKay</td>
<td>Director of Allied Health, Cabrillo College, Apts, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Merford</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Clara Boland</td>
<td>Clinical consultant, educator and research nurse, University of Missouri, Sinclair School of Nursing, Columbia, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara May</td>
<td>Faculty, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Reesman</td>
<td>Chair, Department of Nursing, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Janet Witucki-Brown</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Mary Gunther</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Servey</td>
<td>Faculty, East Carolina State University, Greenville, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Gerstle</td>
<td>Faculty, Southern Adventist College, Collegetdale, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gerry Ann (Molavi)</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Chattanooga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathleen Ann Walker</td>
<td>Psychiatric/Mental Health Outpatient Services, Frontier Health, Kingsport, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Becky Fields</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mona Shattell</td>
<td>Faculty, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gregory Caseloufou</td>
<td>Faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Desiree Batson</td>
<td>Faculty, Southern Adventist College, Collegetdale, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Josephine Wade</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latricia Diane Weed</td>
<td>Faculty, Troy University, Troy, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Smith</td>
<td>Faculty, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Jean Croce Hemphill</td>
<td>Nurse practitioner, Department of Surgery, James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, Johnson City, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blair Short</td>
<td>Faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon George</td>
<td>Faculty, University of Alabama at Huntsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karyn Casey</td>
<td>Veterans Administration, Cincinnati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Carole Myers</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kim Bolton</td>
<td>Faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tonya Broyles</td>
<td>Faculty, UT Knoxville</td>
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Intercultural Outreach: Education for the 21st Century

Intercultural opportunities are becoming increasingly important components in nursing education. These opportunities to interact and work with various cultures, both within and outside the U.S., are valuable experiences for future nurses.

The spring 2005 semester marked an exciting time for community-health nursing students at UT. Merging two community-health classes challenged the faculty to find clinical placements for a class and a half of nursing students in one semester. The result was a greater range of experiences for our nursing students and the opportunity for the College of Nursing to form new community partnerships.
Little Mexico
One such opportunity was “Little Mexico,” a community of about 50 Hispanic families near Sweetwater, Tennessee. The adults speak no English. They work in nearby factories and live in a cluster of rather dilapidated mobile homes, some of which have no heat. Sometimes several extended families share one trailer. Nursing students prepared medication information in Spanish, made home visits to pregnant mothers, and participated in a health fair staffed by undergraduate and graduate students, members of the nursing faculty, and other healthcare providers connected to the college. At the health fair students provided blood-pressure screening, blood-glucose checks, and skin checks. This community outreach will be expanded to include “Los Piños,” another nearby cluster of Hispanic families, in 2007.

Red Bird Mission
Another group of community-health nursing students traveled north from Knoxville by UT vans across the Kentucky border to Beverly, Kentucky, site of the Red Bird mission. These students experienced rural Appalachia up close and personal. The students accompanied Meals on Wheels delivery staffers, riding along on twisting mountain roads, delivering meals to the homebound elderly. Others assisted the clinic’s nurse practitioner, observing some of the health problems prevalent in this county with low employment and high poverty. Students accompanied the public-health nurse on home visits. The students worked on house-improvement projects such as replacing skirting around the outside of a trailer to improve the insulation of the home, installing a new toilet, and painting. This was a great learning experience for students as they worked together, played together, and talked around the evening campfires over s’mores. They experienced another world only a few hours away from Knoxville.

International Mission
Besides the Little Mexico and the Red Bird Mission efforts, in 2006 CON faculty members led an international nursing mission to Central America. A group of graduate and undergraduate students traveled over spring break for a 10-day experience in Costa Rica and Panama, working with Nicaraguan immigrants in Costa Rica and indigenous people in Panama. Under the auspices of International Service Learning (ISL)—an organization that coordinates such student-trip details as trans-
portation, setup of clinic sites, and providing local trans¬
lators and health professionals—students participated in
health clinics in slums and remote schools, providing pri¬
mary care, dentistry, and home visits.

In Panama the home visits were to wooden houses with
dirt floors. Families gathered upon our arrival, sitting on
wooden benches to visit while a baby played in a rough
wooden crib built a little above the dirt floor, and children
stepped away a few feet to relieve themselves in the grass.
Drinking water was collected in wooden tubs sitting on
back porches. Community-health students collected infor¬
mation on health needs of the families and individual fami¬
ily members to give to the doctor. They got down on the
floor to demonstrate exercises for one pregnant woman.
They provided health education, including instructions
about boiling drinking water. Our students practiced nurs¬
ing assessment in another culture, learning to apply the
process while gaining an understanding about how others
live: the vast differences but, perhaps more important, also
the similarities that bind humans together.

Even those among us who spoke Spanish experienced lan¬
guage barriers. One of our students held a degree in Spanish
and served as a translator for the home health assessments,
but not everyone spoke Spanish. One such person was a
family matriarch who spoke only her own indigenous lan¬
guage, so her son translated her words into Spanish, and
then our Spanish translator put them into English. We used
the universal lan¬
guage of music as the
son played his guitar
and sang in Span¬
ish. Then he offered
his guitar to us, and
one of the students
with a beautiful voice
took the guitar and
sang the same song
in English. The old
lady beamed at us all
and gave us big hugs
when it came time for us to leave. I would give the world to
hear her stories from a lifetime in the misty mountains of
Panama.

A Panamanian health-department nurse who also spoke
almost no English conducted communitywide immuniza¬
tion clinics in several schools, allowing nursing students
to administer the immunizations. All the children, dressed
in their neatly pressed uniforms of white shirts with navy
skirts or pants, lined up for fluoride treatments. In each
of the villages in the mountains, the public-health nurse
conducted an afternoon women's clinic, allowing the stu¬
dents to participate in collecting Pap smears on the preg¬
nant women who came for prenatal visits. In Costa Rica
the dentist let our students pull teeth and administer local
anesthetic injections. The students would not have had
these hands-on experiences in the United States, where
clinical experiences have become more observation-cen¬
tered. Furthermore, these intercultural community-health
experiences have increased the cultural sensitivity of our
future nursing corps. NR

Bonnie Callen is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing.
UT Conference Looks at Growing Latino Population

A growing Latino population is changing the demographic landscape of Tennessee and creating new challenges for professions, the public sector, and communities around the state. This past spring, the University of Tennessee teamed up with several groups in the Knoxville community to provide some guidance through a conference, “The New Latino Immigration to Tennessee: Opportunities and Challenges.”

The College of Nursing sponsored a continuing-education session during this conference for nursing professionals to discuss how immigration affects their work. The session, “Immigration and the Latino Population: The Health Impact” featured speakers and a panel of CON faculty. Dr. Rocio Huet, MD, of the Huet Health and Wellness Clinic in Alcoa, presented current perspectives on Latinos and health. Huet also serves as chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee for the Knoxville Academy of Medicine and on the Latino Health Coalition in Tennessee’s Office of Minority Health. Dr. DeAnn Pendry, of UT’s Department of Anthropology, spoke about her work with low-income Mexican Americans with diabetes, as well as research related to provider–patient communication and the health education and promotion interventions used with these patients.

A panel presentation with members of the CON faculty highlighted current initiatives by the faculty and students to meet the healthcare needs of the Latino population in our community. Faculty participants, pictured left to right, are clinical instructors Mary Sowell and Karen Lasater, assistant professor Dr. Bonnie Callen, and clinical instructor Pat Melcher. Assistant Professor Maureen Nalle and Associate Dean Jan Lee served on the conference’s planning committee.


Speraw, S. (October 2005). “It’s the people that make the environment good or bad: The patient’s experience of the acute care hospital environment.” Alabama State Nurses Association, Montgomery, AL.


Grants and Contracts


Thomas, S. P. (2003–present) “Phenomenological study of registered nurses’ experiences of giving care in the hospital setting” (funded in part by University of Tennessee Research Incentive Fund).


Wade, J. (2005). Faculty First Technology Grant, University of Tennessee Office of Research.
Mary T. Boynton Distinguished Lecture 2005
Jacqueline Campbell speaks on Nursing Domestic Violence Survivors

The annual Mary T. Boynton Distinguished Lecture was held October 5, 2005, at the Airport Hilton with Dr. Jacqueline Campbell, the Anna D. Wolf Endowed Professor and associate dean for faculty affairs in the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, with a joint appointment in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Campbell’s BSN, MSN, and PhD are from Duke University, Wright State University, and the University of Rochester schools of nursing, respectively. She has been conducting advocacy policy work and research in the area of domestic violence since 1980 and has been at Hopkins since 1993. Campbell has been the PI of 10 major federal research grants and has published more than 145 articles and seven books on this subject, including the new textbook *Family Violence and Nursing Practice*, co-authored by Janice Humphreys. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Nursing and was a member of the congressionally appointed U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. She was recently named the recipient of the American Society of Criminology’s 2005 Vollmer Award and is the Institute of Medicine/American Academy of Nursing/American Nurses’ Foundation scholar-in-residence for the 2005–06 academic year.

Following a luncheon, Campbell presented “Sanctions and Sanctuary: Nursing Care of Survivors of Domestic Violence.” Her comments addressed an array of topics, including legislative updates and an exploration of the incidence of domestic violence in countries outside North America. Campbell identified nursing’s role as prevention and treatment of consequences. Victims of domestic violence are very likely to be seen in the healthcare system with mental and physical health sequelae: injury; chronic pain; gastrointestinal and gynecological symptoms, including STDs; depression; and post-traumatic stress disorder. She described tools with which nurses can assess and identify potential and actual victims in order to help make informed plans regarding their safety.

Cosponsors of the program were East Tennessee State University’s College of Nursing, the Rho Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Carson Newman College, the Fort Sanders Nursing Department at Tennessee Wesleyan College, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s School of Nursing, and the University of Tennessee Medical Center’s Department of Patient Care Services. NR

Pictured, left to right: Dean Joan Creasia, Jacqueline Campbell, and Mary Boynton.
CON Alumni Awards, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Sylvia Hart Distinguished Alumni Awards
Named in honor of the founding dean of the University of Tennessee College of Nursing, the annual Dr. Sylvia E. Hart Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes an outstanding graduate who has made significant achievements in the nursing profession and service to the college. Sylvia Hart retired as dean of the UT College of Nursing in June 1992 after 21 years of distinguished service. Her dedication and commitment to the college made it the excellent academic institution it is today. The following two nurses are the recipients of the Hart Award for the academic years 2004–05 and 2005–06.

Vickie Moore, BSN ’76 and MSN ’80 (2004–05)
Vickie Moore has a long history of nursing excellence. Formerly the senior vice-president for nursing at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta, Moore provided outstanding leadership for the first Magnet-credentialed hospital in Georgia. Under her leadership, St. Joseph’s received the American Nurses Association Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence in 1995 with re-designation in 1999 and 2004, only the third hospital in the nation to receive the award three times. Moore is currently a nursing consultant in the areas of healthcare management, patient safety, and quality of care.

A 1976 BSN and 1980 MSN graduate of the College of Nursing, Moore has held administrative and clinical positions within nursing practice and education in Asheville, North Carolina, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She was a 1997 nominee for the YWCA Atlanta “Woman of Achievement.” She sits on the boards of the Georgia Nursing Foundation, Nursing Spectrum, the Georgia Organization of Nursing Leaders, the St. Joseph Hospital of Atlanta Board of Directors, and the UT College of Nursing Board of Visitors. She is a published author, contributing to two nursing texts on the topics of shared governance and hospital re-engineering, as well as writing many articles on nursing leadership. Moore has contributed to her community through speaking engagements to students, scouts, business leaders, and legislators to advance healthcare issues. She is a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2003 and helped to establish the first “Health and Aging Day” for the program. Moore also served as a medical venue administrator for Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Olympic Games. Besides her many professional accomplishments, her great joy is mothering her two daughters, who provide their own set of challenges to her skill and creativity.

Margaret Heins-Laning, MSN ’87 (2005–06)
To say that Dr. Margaret Heins-Laning is an advocate of nursing would certainly be an understatement—she has dedicated most of her life's work to advancing the nursing profession. A native of the Gibbs community of Knox County, Heins-Laning attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, to complete her pre-nursing course requirements before transferring to UT’s health sciences campus in Memphis to earn a BSN degree. After graduation she worked the night shift at John Gaston Charity Hospital in Memphis before returning to Knoxville to teach nursing at Ft. Sanders Hospital School of Nursing. She later was named the director of education at St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing, where she spent 28 years until the school closed in 1988. Heins-Laning then rejoined the Ft. Sanders Hospital School of Nursing as its director and steered its transition to a merged BSN program with Tennessee Wesleyan College.

Over the years Heins-Laning has contributed in many ways to the nursing profession in Tennessee. As president of the Tennessee Nurses Association in the 1960s, Heins-Laning documented the case for baccalaureate nursing education in East Tennessee. In 1967 she wrote a letter to Andy Holt, then the president of UT, requesting that a BSN program be established at the Knoxville campus. University officials agreed, and with considerable local support the College of Nursing was formally established in 1971.

During her career, Heins-Laning went on to earn a master's degree in education in 1961 and an EdD in educational psychology in 1975. She also earned an MSN in 1987 from the UTK College of Nursing. She has been a member and chair of the Tennessee Board of Nursing, one of 35 charter fellows of the American Academy of Nursing, president of District 2 of the Tennessee Nurses Association, president of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation (which she was instrumental in establishing), a member of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Executives, and a member of the board of the Tennessee Health Care Consortium for Nursing. She also helped establish the peer assistance program for chemically dependent nurses in Tennessee.

Outside of nursing, Heins-Laning can often be found playing tennis three or four times a week.
Outstanding Alumni of the Year Awards

The University of Tennessee College of Nursing Alumni of the Year awards formally recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement in nursing administration, education, or clinical practice. These alumni of the college were honored with outstanding alumni awards:

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING ADMINISTRATION

Teresa Levey, BSN ‘96 and MSN ’02
Teresa Levey is the director of cardiovascular services at the University of Tennessee Medical Center Heart, Lung, and Vascular Institute. She is described by those who nominated her as an inspirational nurse administrator, whose compassion and guidance has encouraged many of her staff members to pursue advanced nursing degrees.

Karen Foster Wooten, BSN ’76
A nurse manager at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Karen Wooten embodies the true Volunteer spirit. In her spare time, Wooten is a volunteer for the Kidney Foundation and serves as coach—manager for the Karns community intramural softball league.

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING EDUCATION

John C. Preston, BSN ’85
John Preston was a faculty member in the nurse anesthesia program for the UT Health Science Center, in Memphis, before his appointment as the coordinator of the nurse anesthesia concentration at the UTK College of Nursing. He has received many accolades for teaching, including the 2003 UTK College of Nursing Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award and the 2004 Sigma Theta Tau Excellence in Education Award. Under Preston’s leadership, the nurse anesthesia program was found to be in total compliance with all accreditation standards and criteria of the Council of Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, and the program’s graduates excel on their certification exams.

EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT CARE

Leslie Klein, BSN ’96 and MSN ’99
Leslie Klein is a family nurse practitioner at University Urology at the UT Medical Center in Knoxville. Her most gratifying accomplishments are in direct patient care, where she helps patients with interstitial cystitis, a chronic and painful bladder condition that is often overlooked and misdiagnosed. As a staunch advocate for patients suffering from this condition, Klein often speaks about interstitial cystitis at local and national nursing conferences to educate other healthcare providers about available treatment options. She also co-founded the Knoxville chapter of the Interstitial Cystitis Support Group to help patients know they are not alone with this debilitating condition.

Jean Fitzgerald, BSN ’83
Jean Fitzgerald has been the nurse manager of 9-East at the University of Tennessee Medical Center for 22 years. She worked as a staff nurse in pediatrics and critical care before joining the UT Medical Center. Her staff comments that she sets a high standard for patient care, and she is diligent in finding the necessary resources to meet patients’ social, spiritual, and financial needs.

Ann Waters Walker, MSN ’88
Ann Walker is a tenured assistant professor of nursing at Tennessee Wesleyan College—Fort Sanders School of Nursing in Knoxville. She was instrumental in establishing the BSN program at Tennessee Wesleyan Fort Sanders School of Nursing. She says her greatest pleasure in teaching has been to foster the personal and professional growth of nursing students, and her involvement in NSNA as a faculty advisor and liaison at both the local and state levels has given her the chance further that maturation process.

Dr. Gayle Denham, PhD ’96
Gayle Denham is a professor of nursing at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. Her vision to make a difference in the mental health of Kentuckians living in underserved areas of Eastern Kentucky led to her winning a $1-million HRSA grant to develop and offer a rural psych—mental health nurse practitioner program. The grant will have significant impact on rural Eastern Kentucky, where penetration rates for mental health services are as low as 25 percent.

Stephanie Frazier, BSN ’95 and MSN ’00
Stephanie Frazier is a nurse practitioner with Regional Obstetrics Consultants at the UT Medical Center. She is described by her colleagues as a nurse who consistently strives to improve her clinical skills and professional knowledge to take care of high-risk obstetric patients.

Kelli Tidwell, MSN ’00
Kelli Tidwell is a family nurse practitioner with Endocrinology Consultants of East Tennessee. Her supervisor, Dr. Casey Page, says Tidwell shows a great deal of poise, maturity, and excellent judgment and has a genuine desire to help people. According to Page, “Kelli has the enviable ability to effectively communicate with patients and put their worries at ease. I would rate her skills as second to none and feel that she has greatly enhanced our medical practice.”
From Patients to Caregivers

College of Nursing students Lauren Smith (BSN) and Kelly Greene (MSN) have both battled illness and injury. Their experiences during these difficult times helped shape who they are today, and who they aspire to be in the future. Now, they are preparing for careers in nursing. These are their stories.

Lauren Smith is a senior from Chattanooga in the Bachelor of Science degree program at the UTK College of Nursing. She plans to graduate in May 2007. Lauren Smith is also a rarity: she’s a nursing student who was previously a patient and chose nursing, at least in part, because she was the patient.

In February of Smith’s freshman year at Girls Preparatory School, she was diagnosed with Ewing’s sarcoma, a form of bone cancer. After the surgery to remove the tumor in her skull, she underwent 52 weeks of chemotherapy and 6 weeks of radiation.

“That year was grueling, draining, frustrating, and depressing,” Smith says. “I spent most of it in and out of the oncology clinic at the T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital in Chattanooga. It was over the course of that year that I built relationships with the nurses who inspired me to pursue a career in pediatric oncology. My nurses, Jennifer Dean and Debra Daniels, and my nurse practitioner, Charlotte Hughes, became my second family.”

What did they do? “It’s indescribable,” Smith says. “There’s never an easy answer when you try and explain how people change your life. It wasn’t that each of my nurses did one thing for me. It was the fact that they all did so many things for me. Their attitudes, the encouragement, the comfort, those were all big things that helped me get through. But to try and fully explain the impact they had on me, that’s next to impossible.”

Part of the goal of nursing school is to help students learn to practice nursing with empathy—to practice from the perspective of the patient. For some, it’s something that’s hard to learn unless they’ve actually been the person at the other end of the stethoscope.

Smith turned 15 during her year of treatment. She was one of the oldest children in the oncology clinic, and it was the younger children who inspired her. Patients as young as 3 and 4 years of age “had more courage than I had myself.”

“There’s no way I could be scared or upset when these very young children had no idea why they had to take medicine that made them sick or made them feel bad. They were so happy to be kids and to be living. To them cancer was just another thing they had to do during the day. After their treatments, they would go do crafts or play Nintendo. They may have had cancer, but they didn’t let it control their lives. That was inspiring to me. I knew it would be a blessing if I could ever work with kids that lived life they way they did.”

February 2006 marked 5 years that Smith’s cancer had been in remission. She’s had no complications, and is now a senior in the BSN program. She wants to graduate, obtain her license, and work in pediatrics. It is her dream to someday work her way into pediatric oncology and “give back what I was given,” she says.

Kelly Greene is a master’s entry student in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program at the UTK College of Nursing. She was 18 at the time of her accident. She graduated in December 2006 with a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

My best friend, Cristin Sutphin, and I had graduated as co-valedictorians from Seymour High School in May 1999. That fall she left for Roanoke College in Virginia, and I enrolled in Maryville College here at home, majoring in biology. I hoped to someday go to medical school. On the day before Thanksgiving, Cristin and I left my home to go watch her younger sister’s ballet performance at the “Fantasy of Trees.” About a mile from my home, Cristin lost control of the car, hydroplaning into oncoming traffic. Another car rounded the curve and hit my side head on.

An elderly man and woman were the first people to arrive at the accident. Having little or no medical training, they walked around the car praying for us until the next person arrived. Tracy Woody, a nurse at UT Medical Center, had just finished up her night shift and was heading home on Sam Houston School House Road. She stopped and ran to our car to help. After discovering that Cristin had already passed away, she heard me gasp for air. She
then took equipment from her car, intubated me, and essentially breathed for me until paramedics arrived.

At UT Hospital I was discovered to have the following injuries: a broken ankle, requiring three pins; a pelvis broken in six places, requiring an external fixator; a broken hip; 12 broken ribs; a broken clavicle; a broken scapula; a vertebral break at the C1–C2 level, requiring a halo device; a collapsed left lung (I had a chest tube); a damaged, nonfunctioning kidney; and minor damage to my spleen. I also suffered from a traumatic brain injury that impaired my swallowing ability, which required an NG tube, which later became a PEG tube due to my noncompliance. I lost so much blood from the broken pelvis that I required a transfusion. I spent 3 weeks in the trauma unit on a ventilator. Two or three days before a scheduled tracheostomy, I took my first independent breath! From the UT trauma unit, I was moved to Fort Sanders Select Specialty unit and then on to the Patricia Neal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) floor.

While I was an inpatient on the TBI floor, I received physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, Monday through Saturday. In physical therapy on January 21, 2000, I walked to my mother for the first time. The external pelvic fixator was removed a few days later, and I was discharged from the hospital on January 26 with a halo, a PEG tube, and multiple physical and mental handicaps. I was readmitted to UT for a cervical fusion in the middle of February and was discharged the first day of March. My mother, who had quit her job of 23 years after realizing the severity of my condition, took me to and from PT, OT, and speech therapy three times a week for the month of March, and I began the Fort Sanders Traumatic Brain Injury Program the first day of April. There my aphasic deficits were addressed with activities that taught basic vocabulary, including the use of adjectives, synonyms, and antonyms, and I also relearned the skills of reading and basic mathematics like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. I went to the program every day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. until my "graduation" the last week of July (a total of 4 months). I took a 4-hour post–head-injury driving examination in August and began school on a part-time basis at Pellissippi State 2 weeks later. The next semester, I registered as a full-time student at Maryville College and graduated in May 2004.

This outline of my hospitalization and recovery is full of stories of how nurses served both my family and me during this time. The nurses worked out a way to wash my hair every other day while I was still in a halo because Mom had mentioned that I would have never let anyone see me with dirty hair—a girl thing, no doubt. Nurses went with my family—strangers at first, but not for long—to eat in the cafeteria after their shifts. Even after my discharge, nurses drove to my house just to check in on us. Now, 6 years later, nurses still call my mother and schedule lunches to get updates on my recovery.

I appreciate the countless nurses who cried with my family as I made little progress over what seemed like an eternity. I appreciate the tears that fell on the first day that I walked with no assistance in the Patricia Neal physical therapy room. By the end of my recovery, no one could differentiate staff from family. We all struggled together, as a team, for such an awesome result. I am who I am, where I am, and what I am today due to these individual nurses who crossed my path.

Because I chose the nursing profession after my accident, my experience not only has affected but also has molded my perspective on nursing. I treat each patient just as I liked to be treated, as an individual, with respect and appreciation. I try to adopt the patient’s perspective on the hospital experience in order to provide better care. NR

To learn more about how you can help support students in the College of Nursing, contact the Development Office at 865-974-3597 or by e-mail at jcreasia@utk.edu.

President—Aubrie Gatlin (BSN ’06)
Vice President—Kasey Church (BSN ’06)
Secretary—Ashley Nicely (BSN ’06)
Treasurer—Nan Montgomery (BSN ’06)
Public Relations—Kim Rhoden (BSN ’06)
(Also pictured, Mary Sowell (third from right), CON faculty member)
UNIVERSITY AWARDS

University Citation for Extraordinary Professional Promise
Laura Smith (BSN ’06)
Carole Myers (PhD ’06)
Alva Reid (PhD ’06)
Rachel Davidson (MSN ’05)

University Citation for Extraordinary Academic Achievement
Nan Montgomery (BSN ’06)

Undergraduate Top Collegiate Scholar Awards
Ling Davis (BSN ’06)
Eric Atwood (BSN ’06)

COLLEGE AWARDS (2005–06)

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Lynn Butcher (MSN ’05, Adult Health)
Katie Beck (MSN ’05, Adult Health)
Lauren Beavers (MSN ’05, Women’s Health)
Jessica Lay (MSN ’05, Women’s Health)
Rachel Davidson (MSN ’05, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner)
Jennifer Montgomery (MSN ’05, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner)
Nicole Sandifer (MSN ’05 Women’s Health)
Jeanie Kirby (MSN ’05, Nursing Administration)
Janice Farr (MSN ’05, Nursing Administration)
Deborah Graf (MSN ’06, Family Nurse Practitioner)
Susanna Shepherd (MSN ’06, Family Nurse Practitioner)
Amy Tourville (MSN ’06, Family Nurse Practitioner)
Stephanie Wilkerson (MSN ’06, Women’s Health)

Heins-Laning Leadership Award
Aubrie Gatlin (BSN ’06)

Dean’s Award
Charity Levy (BSN ’06)

Outstanding Clinical Practice Award
Rachel Davidson (MSN ’05, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner)
Deborah Graf (MSN ’06, Family Nurse Practitioner)

Knoxville Neonatal Associates Excellence in Nursing
Carole Copenhaver (MSN ’05, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner)

Martha E. Rogers Excellence in Scholarship Award
Carole Myers (PhD ’06)

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS (2005–06)

Susan Moeller Memorial Scholarship
Lynzi Sutton (BSN ’06)

Sally E. Townsend Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Johnson (BSN ’06)

Susan H. Maples Scholarship
Amy Hurt (BSN ’06)
Kara Freeman (BSN ’06)
Carrie Edwards

Fraker Family Scholarship
Gina Darby

Shaumberg Nursing Scholarship
Sarah Lynch (BSN ’06)

Dale H. Goodfellow Scholarship
Ling Davis (BSN ’06)
Charity Levy (BSN ’06)

Betty Jo McAfee Greene Memorial Scholarship
Joe McAmis (MSN ’06)
Hyangwon Kueem

Sylvia Hart Nursing Scholarship
Lori Seal (BSN ’06)
Brad Stansberry (MSN ’06)

Sam Burge Memorial Scholarship
Victoria Davis (BSN ’06)

Dr. and Mrs. Lee Alton Absher Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship
English Cranfield (BSN ’06)
Kevin Knack (BSN ’06)

Baptist Health System/Fields Family Scholarship
Tokumbo Akinleye (BSN ’06)

Knoxville Academy of Medicine Alliance
Gabriel Wilder (BSN ’06)
Aehee Rothfuss (BSN ’06)

Artie Ruth Reilly Scholarship
Morgan Henry (MSN ’06)
Lori Montgomery (BSN ’06)
Jessica Elkins (BSN ’06)
Krista Outshaw (MSN ’06)
Lori Potts (BSN ’06)

UT Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship
Lindsay Plott Newman (MSN ’06)
Jill Patterson (MSN ’06)
Rochelle Aaser (MSN ’06)

Dr. Theresa S. Dyer and Harold K. Dyer Graduate Nursing Scholarship
Connie Tagenhorst (MSN ’06)

Judith Watson Memorial Scholarship
Katie Hancock
Lacy Sinquiefield (BSN ’06)

UT College of Nursing General Scholarship
Mercedes Corraliza (BSN ’06)
Reneta Atkins (MSN ’06)
Lisa Qualman (BSN ’06)
Haley Hodge (BSN ’06)

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Gamma Chi Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau Sylvia Hart Award
English Cranfield (BSN ’06)

UT Federal Credit Union Scholarship
Eria Ware (BSN ’06)
Jennifer Greene (MSN ’06)

Sylvia Hart Nursing Scholarship

Established by founding dean Sylvia Hart, the Sylvia Hart Nursing Scholarship is awarded each year to nursing students who achieve academic excellence. The 2005 recipients were BSN student Lori Seal and MSN student Brad Stansberry. Pictured with the recipients are Allie Brown (left), faculty member and scholarship committee chairman, and Dean Joan Creasia (right).
Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society

Miriam Allman
Eric Atwood (BSN ’06)
Robert Banks
Anila Bhimani (BSN ’06)
Lacey Boring (BSN ’06)
Candace Carter (BSN ’06)
Kasey Church (BSN ’06)
Susan Church
Jennifer Cox (BSN ’06)
Ling Davis (BSN ’06)
Nathan Davis
Terena Deuso
Candice Dingus (MSN ’06)
Tony Elkins
Ashley Estes (BSN ’06)
Jody Fletcher
Catherine Goff
Belinda Griffin
Laura Harrison
Sandra Harville
Robbie Hurst
Stephanie Jones
Alison Keene (BSN ’06)
Catherine Kingery
Lori Kitts
Kevin Knack (BSN ’06)
Charity Levy (BSN ’06)
Amanda McLain
Grace Monger (BSN ’06)
Vau Montgomery (BSN ’06)
Elizabeth Moore (MSN ’06)
Todd Nidiffer
Jill Patterson (MSN ’06)
Josua Poche
Amy Province
Lisa Qualman
Michael Robbins
Lori Seal (BSN ’06)
Stephen Sharp
Anna Smith
Rebecca Smith
Brad Stansberry (MSN ’06)
Lynzi Sutton (BSN ’06)
Ann Marie Torrence
Teresa Wantland (BSN ’06)
Sherry Welbes (BSN ’05)
Erikka Westman (BSN ’06)
Kelly White (BSN ’06)
BSN

1976
Eleanor Hamilton Lehner lives in Hoover, Alabama, and is employed as a care coordinator at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama.

1980
Sharon Begley is an ambulatory resource nurse at the Children’s Hospital in Denver, where she has worked in various roles for the past 20 years. On Halloween employees dress up in non-scary costumes, so in 2002 Sharon dressed up as a “real nurse” by pulling out the white nursing uniform she wore for her UT pinning ceremony. A piece of white paper became her cap, and she wore her nursing pin. Sharon mentions that her shoes were not work shoes! She got lots of smiles and comments ranging from, “I remember when we dressed that way; that’s the way a nurse should look; you remind me of my mom when she worked 3 to 11.”

Sharon said that putting on her old uniform caused her to reminisce about her days as an enthusiastic nursing student and as a new graduate in Charleston, South Carolina. She wonders about her classmates and encourages them to write and give a quick update!

1984
Cassie Kolm Dixon earned a master’s degree in library and information science at the University of North Carolina. She now works in the field of medical librarianship and teaches classes at Rowan-Cabarrus College. Cassie and her husband, Glenn, live in Kannapolis (near Charlotte) with their two children, Graham and Simone. They are mourning the loss of their oldest son, Zack, who died along with his prom date in April 2004 as the result of a tragic automobile accident.

1994
Betty Gail Dunlap Willocks is a registered nurse with Peninsula Knoxville Clinic. She lives in Louisville, Tennessee.

1996
Trina Gipson-Jones lives in Hampton, Virginia, and graduated from the doctoral program at Hampton University. Her doctoral education focused on family nursing, and her dissertation was titled “The Relationship Between Work–Family Conflict, Job Satisfaction, and Psychological Well-Being Among African American Nurses.” Trina has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

1998
Robinson McDowell Gilmore III lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is a nurse anesthetist with Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

2000
Julie Megan Perry Poteet is a registered nurse at Parkwest Surgery Center in Knoxville. She lives in Powell with her husband, Darrell.

2002
Beth Pickens Moore works in the pediatric intensive care unit at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She is married to Brad.

2003
Amanda Marlin Pilkinton is working at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital in the pediatric recovery room. She is currently in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at MTSU and hopes to graduate in December 2007. Amanda and her husband, Jesse, welcomed their first child in November.

2004
Joe Simmons  
1430 Duncan Loop North, Apt. 302  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
727-386-5285

Last year Joe wrote that he had just finished a 3-month critical-care internship program designed to help nurses who are interested in critical-care nursing more easily achieve their goals. He loves it in sunny Florida and is working in a cardiac surgical intensive care unit. He says it is fun and exciting, and he wants to start travel nursing. He wrote, “Hope you guys don’t miss me too bad. I love you all and miss you very much.” We do miss you, Joe!

2005
Julie Lynn Berry Thomas is a registered nurse at Children’s Hospital in Knoxville. She lives in Knoxville with her husband, Charles.

MSN

1979
Lois Doane received the Lane W. Adams Quality of Life award from the American Cancer Society. The award is given to individuals who excel at providing compassionate, skilled care and counsel to persons with cancer and their families. Lois is an oncology clinical nurse specialist at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. In her capacity there, she is responsible for ensuring quality of care for cancer patients. Her work in the area of quality of life for cancer patients is extensive and includes research in patient-controlled analgesia, which contributed greatly to the body of knowledge in the area of cancer pain management and the acceptance of PCA for patient care for at-home patients with advanced cancer. She is frequently asked to share her knowledge on a local, regional, and national level. Lois is currently completing work on a PhD in the UTK CON.

1996
Brenda Gayle Simpson Smith who lives in Sylva, North Carolina, is a nursing instructor for Haywood Community College in Clyde. She and her husband Michael have one child.

1997
Kristine Biggie of Philadelphia (the one in Pennsylvania) is a trauma nurse practitioner in the department of trauma surgery at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She and her husband, David, were married in 2003—they eloped to Italy! Kristine wrote that she accepted what she thought would be a short-term position as an RN in pediatric ICU at Children’s Hospital and ended up falling in love with critical care. “Thanks to Dr. Goodfellow for pounding all of that pathophysiology—I sure do use it!” Kristine also does some part-time teaching for the University of Pennsylvania as a pediatric clinical instructor.

Carol Carter Wolfenbarger lives in Morristown, Tennessee, and joined the staff of Cherokee Health Systems as the vice-president of quality management to assist in implementing state-of-the-art quality-improvement initiatives and disease-management protocols.

Melanie Jo Hill lives in Cordova and works as a cardiology nurse practitioner at the Heart Center of Memphis.

PhD

1998
Heidi Ehrenberger (’98) was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health and coordinator of the clinical research management master’s program at the University of Maryland.

Mary Gunther (’01) received a teaching award determined by student vote at the spring UTK CON Convocation ceremony.

Recent graduates Carole Myers (’06) and Alva Reid (’05) received Professional Promise awards at this year’s UT Chancellor’s Honors Banquet.
Carolyn Robinson (‘98) presented a paper, “Differences in Risk Perception about a Potential Environmental Health Hazard and Honest Communication with the Public,” at the American Public Health Association in Boston this fall. Carolyn is on the faculty of the UTK CON.

Sharon Sarvey (‘01), who teaches at East Carolina University in Greenville, won one of five Distinguished Professor awards from the University of North Carolina’s Board of Governors.

Mona Shattell (‘02) received a $9,500 grant for a study of the mental-health patient’s experience of being understood. She was accepted into a post-doctoral research training program and taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Mona presented research in Montreal and Crete last summer. A paper she coauthored with Dr. Sandra Thomas and two other colleagues is forthcoming in Archives of Psychiatric Nursing. Mona is on the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Jo Wade (‘04), currently on the faculty at the UTK CON, represented the college at the Sigma Theta Tau International Conference as the “rising star.” Her dissertation examined the experience of parenting a child with bipolar disorder. Jo presented her research in Finland this summer at the Qualitative Research on Mental Health Conference.

MARRIAGES

Amber Bell (BSN ‘03) and Michael Clifton on April 29, 2006
Amber Elizabeth Bennett (BSN ‘05) and Eric Randall Wetherington on August 27, 2005
Lacey Ann Boring (BSN ‘06) and Cory Reid King on August 5, 2006
Holly Catherine Cada (BSN ‘04) and Collin Daniel Downing on March 19, 2005
Shannon D. Campbell (BSN ‘02) and James Stephen Burton on December 18, 2004
Mary Michael Copp (BSN ‘00) and Mark Andrew Conkin on March 19, 2005
Brooke Suzanne Williams and Jacob Matthew Geldrich (BSN ‘04) on July 2, 2005
Steffanie Michelle Geldrich (BSN ‘04) and Eric Scott Campbell on July 8, 2006
Marseille Elizabeth Gering (BSN ‘06) and Nicholas Foster Waddington on June 17, 2006
Meredith Lynn Graves (MSN ‘00) and Richard Charles Disharoon on April 21, 2006
Tracy LeAnne James (MSN ‘03) and James Robert Achenbach on March 11, 2005
Heather Michelle Johnson (BSN ‘06) and Brandon Christopher Artiles on October 6, 2006

Lisa Myers-Davis (BSN ‘04) and D. Tyler Elliott on August 20, 2005
Sarah Elisabeth Rasnick (BSN ‘99) and Jeffrey Rice King on March 5, 2005.
Holly Melissa Rozzelle (BSN ‘97) and Robert William Pierce on November 20, 2004
Elizabeth Ruth Kent and Solon Michael Snyder (BSN ‘06) on July 8, 2006
Elizabeth Wright Sumner (BSN ‘04) and John Davis Thurman on July 10, 2004
Molly Erin Theg (BSN ‘05) and Eric Alan Van Cleve on October 29, 2005
Lacey Dawn Zimprich (BSN ‘05) and Justin Douglass Mynatt on June 18, 2005

IN MEMORIAM

Sally Marie Freschman (BSN ‘82), of Knoxville, died on July 27, 2005.
Elizabeth (Betsy) G. Green (MSN ‘79), of Signal Mountain, died on January 22, 2006. Betsy Green was an instructor for 30 years at Erlanger School of Nursing and Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

We want to hear from you!

“Class Notes” gives you the opportunity to stay in touch with the UTK College of Nursing and your former classmates. Please send us the latest news about your job and further education, as well as any family news you wish to share.

There are three easy ways to keep in touch—
• Mail: UT College of Nursing, Student Services Office, 1200 Volunteer Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37996
• E-mail: Beth Barret, Director of Student Services, at bbarret@utk.edu
• Fax: 865-974-3569

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Name (Please include your name while at UT) ____________________________________________

Circle all degrees that apply: BSN  MSN  PhD  Year________

Address _ ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Home phone __________________________________ Work phone ______________________  E-mail address __________________________________

___ Check here if this is new contact information.

News: _____________________________________________________________________________

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New Endowment Funds

1978 graduate creates endowment fund for all the mothers in his life

Joe and Cindy Emert wanted to honor the two most important nurses in their lives when they established the Clarice Stewart Emert and Betty Simpson Papp Endowment Fund for Intercultural Healthcare Opportunities. Joe Emert, a 1978 graduate of the BSN program, and his wife, Cindy, named the endowment after their mothers, both of whom were nurses.

“My mother practiced as an obstetrics and emergency room nurse in Maryville and my mother-in-law practiced as a medical–surgical nurse in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and in Knoxville,” Joe Emert said. “I wanted to do something to honor them and help students at the College of Nursing.”

Income earned from the endowment will be used to provide financial assistance to students participating in an intercultural learning experience. Each year a group of nursing students travels abroad to participate in a unique clinical experience. The trip allows students to learn about other cultures while delivering healthcare to an impoverished area. Previous outings include trips to Ghana, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

Emert, of Knoxville, is the president of First Choice Medical in Maryville, Tennessee. The company is a distributor of Medtronic Sofamor Danek medical products. He previously worked as a staff nurse at Blount Memorial Hospital before becoming a sales representative for Sofamor Danek in Memphis.

New nursing scholarship endowment memorializes late physician

Dr. Edwin W. Schaumburg was a great friend to and advocate of the nursing profession. It has been said that he thought nurses were the unsung heroes of medicine. When he suddenly passed away on February 7, 2005, it seemed fitting to his widow, Joanne Schaumburg, to designate memorial contributions toward the establishment of a nursing scholarship.

A graduate of Denison University and the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Dr. Schaumburg founded Orthopaedic Associates of Knoxville (now known as University Orthopaedic Surgeons) and practiced medicine for 27 years. He moved to Knoxville to complete his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Tennessee Medical Center after serving in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972.

Recipients of the Dr. Edwin W. Schaumburg Scholarship Endowment are selected on the basis of financial need, academic performance, and a demonstrated interest in orthopedic nursing.

Founding dean creates new endowment fund

Dr. Sylvia Hart, the founding dean of the UTK College of Nursing, recently established a new endowment fund to support activities that advance the mission of the college.

The Sylvia E. Hart Nursing Awards Endowment Fund will be used to support faculty and student achievement awards and college research efforts, as well as to provide travel assistance for faculty members or students participating in an intercultural healthcare trip.

Hart retired as the founding dean of the College of Nursing in 1992 after 21 years of distinguished service to the university. Her dedication and commitment to the college made it the excellent academic institution it is today. As dean, Hart obtained nearly $5 million in external funding to build the college, and she was instrumental in the development of all its academic programs.

Member of the Board of Visitors establishes scholarship endowment

Ronald E. Lawrence, a Knoxville businessman and member of the college’s Board of Visitors has pledged to endow a new scholarship fund.

Lawrence, president of Lawrence Healthcare, has been an active member of the College of Nursing’s Board of Visitors since 1999. He is also a past president of the UT Knoxville Chancellor’s Associates. Lawrence Healthcare provides consulting and healthcare services to nursing-home facilities. Besides Lawrence Healthcare, Lawrence also founded other successful healthcare companies, including Health Associates Inc., a pharmacy provider; Hallmark Health Services LLC, a provider of rehabilitation and nutrition services; and Family Services Inc., an in-home healthcare provider. He also established the Lake City Health Care Center and the Farragut Health Care Center.

When fully endowed, the Ronald E. Lawrence Family Nursing Scholarship Endowment will support an undergraduate or graduate student with an interest in family practice or gerontological nursing.

Ronald and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Loudon County, where they raise championship Tennessee Walking Horses. They are currently developing a winery on their farm.
New endowment fund honors alumna’s late grandmother

As a young woman growing up in mountains of Eastern Kentucky, Ora Lovelace Ragsdale often dreamed of becoming a nurse. She would be the one who would gladly assist when her family and friends became sick. When her late husband, Horace, fell ill with crippling rheumatoid arthritis, it was Mrs. Ragsdale who managed to take care of him until his death in 1966.

Mrs. Ragsdale’s compassion and empathy for the sick was an inspiration to her granddaughter, Vickie Mullins Moore. Her grandmother’s influence was so great that Moore decided early to become a nurse. She pursued a formal nursing degree at the University of Tennessee, graduating with a BSN in 1976 and an MSN in 1980. Moore credits her late grandmother for most of her success in the nursing profession. “She was my role model. She instilled in me a desire to care for others and to become a nurse,” said Ms. Moore.

Just a few days before Mrs. Ragsdale passed away at the age of 94 in 2004, Moore established a nursing fellowship fund to honor her beloved grandmother. When fully endowed, the Ora L. Ragsdale Fellowship Endowment Fund will offer an aspiring nursing student a chance to become a leader in his or her field. The fellowship will be awarded annually to a graduate student who has an interest in nursing leadership.

“It is the family’s hope that this fellowship will help others who aspire to become nurse leaders by advancing their nursing education,” said Moore.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?

Do you have plans for your house? Not the blueprints that the carpenters used, nor any plan for remodeling, but plans for final disposition.

For many of us, our homes represent the single most valuable asset in our estates. This is true not only in a monetary sense but in other respects, as well. Perhaps you raised your family in this dwelling place and it has become a storehouse of many precious memories. The four walls have witnessed sorrows and joys, trials and successes, romance, friendship, and many other personal experiences. It has been a place of refuge and comfort, a shelter from the clamor and stresses of life.

Yet someday, other owners will walk through the front door and claim every nook and cranny as their own. They will begin building their own memories. As you look down the road and consider various ways you might transfer ownership of your house, here are three charitable plans to think about.

GIVE AND STAY

First, you can give your home to the University of Tennessee and continue to live there as long as you want. The advantage is that you receive an income-tax charitable deduction to apply against taxes for as many as 6 years. You also relieve yourself from having to worry about selling or disposing of your home later when you are enmeshed in health needs or other concerns. This gift arrangement is called “the life-reserved plan,” and it may fit your particular needs.

GIVE AND RECEIVE INCOME

A second gift option is to transfer ownership of your home (or vacation home) to the University of Tennessee in exchange for a lifetime stream of income. The university will take care of selling your home. Such a plan could work well should you intend to move into a senior community or other retirement setting. This plan also provides an income-tax charitable deduction.

GIVE AND SELL

A third plan involves a combination of giving and selling your house. For example, Mr. and Mrs. Homeowner are ready to move into a retirement village and need to dispose of their house. They want to use part of the proceeds to create an endowment at the UTK College of Nursing, but they also need the infusion of cash to enhance their investment income.

Consequently they split the property in half and give the university a 50-percent undivided interest and retain the other half for themselves. The university will sell the property and divide the proceeds. By including the university, they not only receive an income tax charitable deduction but also obtain assistance in the selling process.

In this short article it is impossible to present all the ways and benefits of using your home to meet your personal needs and to accomplish your charitable goals. For more information on giving opportunities, please contact the college’s Development Office at 865-974-3597.

New endowment fund honors alumna’s late grandmother

As a young woman growing up in mountains of Eastern Kentucky, Ora Lovelace Ragsdale often dreamed of becoming a nurse. She would be the one who would gladly assist when her family and friends became sick. When her late husband, Horace, fell ill with crippling rheumatoid arthritis, it was Mrs. Ragsdale who managed to take care of him until his death in 1966.

Mrs. Ragsdale’s compassion and empathy for the sick was an inspiration to her granddaughter, Vickie Mullins Moore. Her grandmother’s influence was so great that Moore decided early to become a nurse. She pursued a formal nursing degree at the University of Tennessee, graduating with a BSN in 1976 and an MSN in 1980. Moore credits her late grandmother for most of her success in the nursing profession. “She was my role model. She instilled in me a desire to care for others and to become a nurse,” said Ms. Moore.

Just a few days before Mrs. Ragsdale passed away at the age of 94 in 2004, Moore established a nursing fellowship fund to honor her beloved grandmother. When fully endowed, the Ora L. Ragsdale Fellowship Endowment Fund will offer an aspiring nursing student a chance to become a leader in his or her field. The fellowship will be awarded annually to a graduate student who has an interest in nursing leadership.

“It is the family’s hope that this fellowship will help others who aspire to become nurse leaders by advancing their nursing education,” said Moore.
Nursing scholarship established for graduates of Bradley Central High School

James L. Ayers recently established an endowed nursing scholarship for graduates of Bradley Central High School in Cleveland, Tennessee.

The James L. and Clara Beene Lauderdale Ayers Jr. Nursing Scholarship Endowment will be awarded annually by the College of Nursing Scholarship Selection Committee. Mr. Ayers created the scholarship in memory of his late wife, Clara, a former nurse who graduated from Bradley Central High School in 1953. Mr. Ayers is a 1954 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Engineering.

“We are very honored that Mr. Ayers wanted to establish this scholarship in his wife’s memory at the UTK College of Nursing,” said Dean Joan L. Creasia. “Every additional scholarship is another opportunity for someone who might otherwise forgo a college education. Investing in scholarships is an investment in the future of the nursing profession.”

Dean of the college establishes scholarship endowment

Joan L. Creasia, dean of the University of Tennessee College of Nursing, has pledged to establish a graduate-level endowed scholarship fund.

The Joan L. Creasia Nursing Scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduate student who demonstrates successful academic performance and financial need. “Endowed scholarships help students break through the financial roadblocks to education. Many students lack substantial financial support from their families and must work at part-time jobs to help defray the cost of tuition and other expenses,” said Dean Creasia. “With financial assistance from the college, students can reduce the amount of time they spend working at a job and spend more time on their academic pursuits.”

Dr. Creasia has served as dean and professor of the UT College of Nursing since 1995. She is a 1978 graduate of the master’s program. She earned a BSN degree from the University of Vermont and a doctorate in nursing from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. She has been recognized by many professional nursing organizations for her outstanding leadership skills.

Thanks to the Board of Visitors of the UTK College of Nursing for all of their helpful advice and loyal support.

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