

VILLANOVA NURSING

SPRING/
SUMMER
2011

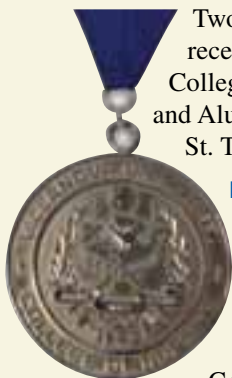
A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING



Public Health: A Global Agenda



Medallions Awarded to Distinguished Nurses



Two distinguished alumnae and a loyal colleague received the College of Nursing Medallion, the College's highest award, at the 22nd Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony on April 9 in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church.

■ Medallion for Distinguished Contributions to the Profession: **Tara Siegal Cortes '67 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, executive director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, professor and Mathy D. Mezey Chair, Geriatric Nursing, New York University College of Nursing

■ Medallion for Distinguished Service to the College of Nursing: **Mary Ann McGinley, Ph.D., R.N.**, senior vice president for Patient Services and chief nursing officer, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

■ Medallion for Excellence in Clinical Leadership: **AnnMarie Young Papa '77 B.S.N., '95 M.S.N., D.N.P., R.N., CEN, NE-BC, FAEN**, interim clinical director, emergency nursing and clinical nurse specialist, Emergency Department, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; president, Emergency Nurses Association

For more about the Medallion recipients, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing.

Mark your calendar!

- May 14** College of Nursing Convocation/ Baccalaureate Mass
- May 15** Commencement
- June 10–12** Alumni Reunion Weekend
Friday: Clinical Simulation Demonstration, Driscoll Hall
Saturday: Chat with the Dean
Alumni Continuing Education event: "Reducing Stress Through Financial Health," Christina Larson Kelly '74 B.S.N., president, Larson Financial Planning, Inc. and member of the College's Board of Consultors
- June 11** Continuing Education: NLN preparation course for Certification as a Nurse Educator (CNE) Exam
- November 14** 33rd Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing
Bobbie Berkowitz, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, dean and professor, Columbia University School of Nursing and senior vice president, Columbia University Medical Center

For the full Continuing Education listing, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce.

VILLANOVA NURSING

Vol. 30 No. 1 Spring/Summer 2011

Features

- Public Health: A Global Agenda2
- World Outlook, Regional Resource5
- Fast Track to Excellence **Inside Back Cover**

Departments

- Perspectives.....1
- College Highlights.....6
- Faculty Focus.....15
- Supporting the Next Generation of Villanova Nurses24
- Alumni Focus26

Published by the Villanova University College of Nursing, Driscoll Hall, Villanova, PA 19085-1690.

Produced in cooperation with the University Magazine Group, based at The Johns Hopkins University.

Contributing editor: Donna Shoemaker

Designer: Pam Li

Cover photos: Istockphoto.com

Standard class postage paid at Villanova, PA 19085-1690

College of Nursing Board of Consultors

Chairperson: Richard J. Kreider '83 B.A. (Acc.)
Rear Adm. (Ret.) Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N.
Donna DiPalma Cassidy '79 B.S.N.
Pamela Cembrook
Helen R. Connors '64 B.S.N., Ph.D.
Rear Adm. (Ret.) James W. Eastwood '68 B.C.E.
Stephen P. Fera
Daniel Finnegan
Margaret "Meg" R. Garrett, Esq., '72 B.S.N.
Sandra Myers Gomberg '85 B.S.N., '90 M.S.N.
Christina Larson Kelly '74 B.S.N.
Claire Baldwin Lindley '86 M.S.N.
J. Patrick Lupton
William McCune
Stanton "Stan" B. Miller, M.D.
Thomas F. Monahan, Ph.D.
J. Brien Murphy, M.D.
Mary D. Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D.
John J. Quindlen '54 B.A. (Acc.)
Ann Scheve '80 B.S.N.
Lynne A. Thelan
Thomas Treacy '69 B.S. (Edu.), '71 M.A., Ed.D.
Emeritus Member: H. E. Dr. Ali Mohammed al-Moosa

Editorial Board

Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N., Editor
Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.
M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N. FAAN, *Ex officio*
Patricia Haynor, Ph.D., R.N., NHA
Lesley A. Perry, Ph.D., R.N., *Ex officio*
Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF

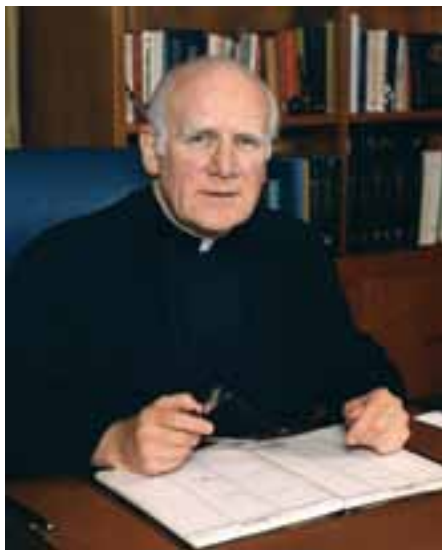
Dear Alumni and Friends
of the College of Nursing:

The passing of Father John Driscoll, Villanova's 30th president, has special significance for me. He recruited me to Villanova. He believed in Villanova's potential and gave many of us the opportunity to create new programs. He viewed these initiatives as a means to advance our colleges and to further develop the University's mission and stature. For the many who knew him, he will be remembered for his warmth, humor and the courage to make difficult decisions. He could be stubborn, but always respectful and kind. He was a gracious and charming person. He was proud to be a member of the Order of St. Augustine. He wanted the best for the University and everyone in it. His concern for employees who were undergoing hardships or crises in their lives never waned.

While president, despite demands on his time, he gave special attention to the older Friars with whom he lived in community at St. Thomas Monastery—pausing to pass the time of day, and demonstrating appreciation for the contributions they had made as younger men. Often, I have characterized him as a pastoral president. He was always the priest. He displayed a sense of humility. He was an Augustinian who lived the charisma—and yes, he happened to be the president of Villanova University.

Father Driscoll's accomplishments for Villanova University are numerous and will continue to be chronicled. He took personal interest in the College of Nursing and our initiation of Graduate Education. He wanted us to grow academically and professionally, but he also understood nursing education's role, and its commitment to preparing people for a vocation of service, rooted in the same tradition of which he was a part. He was generous in sharing what he could with those who needed help and he was eager to see capable students receive educational opportunities that often required assistance beyond their family's finances.

Father Driscoll “will always be a part of Villanova and our College of Nursing—not because he was the president, not because the building bears his name, but because of the person he was.”



The Rev. John M. Driscoll, O.S.A., '48 A&S, for whom the College of Nursing's Driscoll Hall is named, died at the age of 87 on March 3. He served as president of Villanova University from 1975 to 1988.

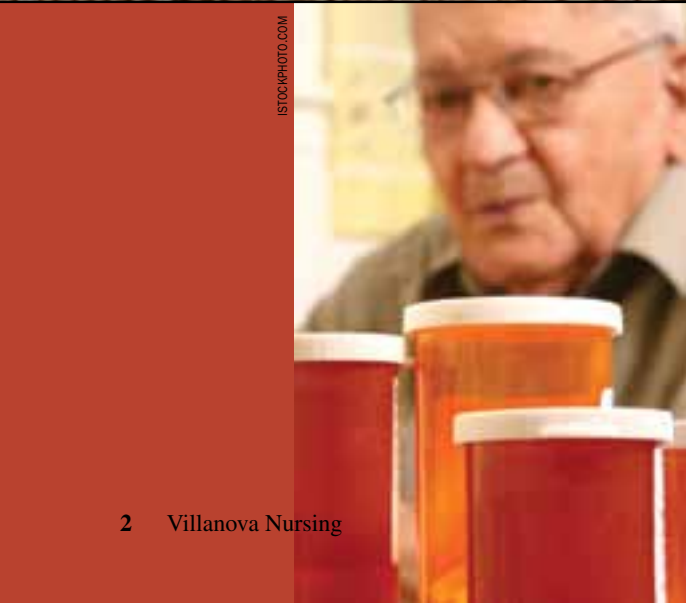
Father Driscoll genuinely liked people, and displayed a generosity of spirit in serious moments as well as in exciting and jubilant ones, like April 1, 1985, when we celebrated our NCAA men's basketball championship in Lexington, Ky. He enjoyed the opera, a Broadway show and dinner with friends. In retirement, like his good friend and vice president for Academic Affairs, Father Larry Gallen, he maintained a lively interest in the University and those of us with whom he had worked and developed friendships. He was always eager to hear about what the College of Nursing was planning and doing.

Father Donohue and the University Trustees made possible a great tribute that Father Driscoll lived to see and enjoy. In Fall 2008, before the dedication of the College of Nursing's new home, Father Driscoll took a private tour of the new building with the Prior of the Monastery and one of its nurses. He was amazed by its beauty, the technology in the labs and the landscaped setting. He was awed when we asked him to note the large letters above the entrance that read DRISCOLL HALL. That day, like that of the formal dedication, Father Driscoll was with us—here, in Driscoll Hall. He will always be a part of Villanova and our College of Nursing—not because he was the president, not because the building bears his name, but because of the person he was. His greatest legacy was his demonstration of care and concern for others. It is my

privilege and that of the College of Nursing's faculty, students and alumni to remember him as an exemplar and friend.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick
Connolly Endowed Dean and Professor

PUBLIC HEALTH: A



GLOBAL AGENDA

At a time when improving public health is crucial for national security and international stability, the nursing profession is on the frontlines of policy, promotion, advocacy and action.



Health-care reform, obesity in America, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, radiation exposure in Japan, the H1N1 epidemic, cholera in Haiti: Public health issues capture our attention. They vault into the news headlines, enter mainstream and pop culture, and land at the forefront of the global health agenda. Television and Internet images dramatically show us the health consequences of large-scale disasters and epidemics.

The world pays attention when Bono fights AIDS in Africa through promoting “Red” theme products, when George Clooney draws attention to civil war in Darfur and when the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gives millions to combat and prevent Third-World illnesses like malaria. From races for cures to First Lady Michelle Obama joining “Sesame Street” characters to promote exercise and healthy foods, interest in public health has ignited action. Furthering these campaigns is the rapid growth both in electronic communications and the social media connecting us around the world.

Public health is the practice of preventing disease and promoting good health within populations, whether in a neighborhood, a nation or worldwide. Even in antiquity, communities tried to

take measures, such as quarantine, to halt and prevent illnesses. History has demonstrated the deadly consequences stemming from inadequate public health practices. Medieval Europe’s poor hygiene and sanitation helped to spread the “Black Death,” the plague that killed some 25 million people—an estimated 30 percent of the population. While the first vaccine (smallpox) dates back to 1796, with no flu vaccines yet available in 1918, up to 50 million people died worldwide during the Spanish flu pandemic.

In the United States, the 19th-century “sanitary revolution,” spurred by industrialization and crowded city slums, introduced clean water and sewage disposal, as well as government action to halt the spread of disease. During two world wars and particularly the New Deal era of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as three decades later during the presidencies of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, the relationship between economics, population health and the consequences of poverty and lack of health education became a major focus of concern. That discussion continues in the current health-care reform debate.

The Affordable Care Act, enacted in March 2010 and still under political fire, addressed the need to move health care from treatment of illness to prevention, which is a cornerstone of public health and public health policy. The federal govern-

ment also has a 10-year plan, “Healthy People,” for disease prevention and health promotion. To cite the impact of just one contemporary public health issue, the obesity epidemic is estimated to affect two-thirds of the U.S. population (see page 6).

Nursing and public health

The role of nurses in public health has a rich history that initially developed in the late 1800s and flourished as waves of immigrants came to the United States. In tenements and clinics, visiting nurses set out to prevent illness, provide direct care, and teach healthy ways to individuals and families across the life cycle. Their work was supported by philanthropists who were not only concerned about the needs of these new Americans but about maintaining health in cities and crucial communities. The sphere of visiting nurses includes understanding environmental and socio-economic factors and the needs of increasingly diverse populations.

One theme that has clearly emerged is how well-educated nurses, capable of functioning in interdisciplinary and community groups, have been taking roles in shaping public policy. Today, both the mission of public health and the goal of nursing the public require a global view. Nurses proactively become involved in making health care more responsive to all people and to its delivery at home and abroad. The nursing profession views advocacy for health-

TODAY, BOTH THE MISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE GOAL OF NURSING THE PUBLIC REQUIRE A GLOBAL VIEW.

care reform as a priority. The profession's shaping of public policy, along with its commitment to addressing health promotion, disease prevention and the needs of vulnerable groups, provides the context for direct care of individuals and populations.

Essential for national security

Despite its vital importance in protecting and promoting health, the contribution of public health to economic stability, and its role in promoting national security, until recently have been silent. However, policy-makers in recent times have recognized that taking action to improve public health is crucial to far more than the nation's health.

Disease knows no national boundaries. The H1N1 pandemic highlighted the global economic consequences of an infectious disease outbreak. With a major outbreak, not only are there workplace costs related to absenteeism and lost productivity, but the fear of spreading illness impacts industries such as transportation, tourism, agriculture and commerce. The Trust for America's Health (www.healthyamericans.org) projects that an influenza pandemic like the one in 1918 could inflict

\$680 billion in economic losses in the United States alone—a more than 5.5 percent drop in the Gross Domestic Product.

Sound public health infrastructure, services and practices are vital to national security. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense have found that cultural clashes, along with “poor human development,” are “key contributors to social unrest, violent conflicts and state failure,” noted the American Forces Press Service in reporting on a January 2009 talk by Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. By assuring clean water, working sewers, passable roads, electricity, food, health-care access and other vital services, the military improves stability within a region or country.

On the global front, the World Health Organization and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals address critical needs and public health objectives. President Barack Obama's \$63 billion Global Health Initiative (May 2009) represented a partnership with countries to invest in such areas as maternal and child health, nutrition and infectious diseases. In September 2010, the Obama Presidential

Policy Directive on Global Development, the first of its kind from the executive branch, recognized that sustainable development “is vital to U.S. national security and is a strategic, economic and moral imperative for the United States.”

A new energy on campuses

The new wave of interest in and energy for promoting public and global health can be seen among college students. An April 2009 report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies remarked that on campuses, an “unprecedented and palpable surge of attention and growth” is fueling global and public health studies, which are “a natural channel for student compassion and action.”

At Villanova University, students in fields from nursing to engineering to economics want to know how they can use their passion and professional skills to improve the quality of life. Through the College of Nursing's Center for Global and Public Health (see page 5), the College can capitalize on that enthusiasm and engage students in intellectual discussions about what public health really means and its relevance to the world community.



World Outlook, Regional Resource

In its first year, the College's Center for Global and Public Health has been developing partnerships and programs to encourage the campus and the nursing profession to engage locally and internationally.

The College of Nursing is a leader among nursing schools that offer their students learning opportunities in public and global health, an initiative made possible at Villanova University with funding from the Connelly Foundation Nursing Endowment. Building on that success, the College recognized the critical need for furthering study on such issues and so in April 2010 launched the Center for Global and Public Health. While enhancing the College's programs, the Center reaches out to everyone at Villanova who has an interest in public health. It strives to be a resource for all, from the sophomore studying political science to the faculty member in the business school.

"The Center is designed to be a locus for interdisciplinary education and activities that address important issues of public health and health-care delivery throughout the world," explains M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. "It represents a response to one of the priority initiatives of the College's *Strategic Plan*."

In pursuing this mission of leveraging the expertise of Villanova and its partners, the Center focuses on educating students, faculty, staff and the professional community about public and global health issues. It is crucial to understand the relationships among the biological, cultural, political and socioeconomic factors that influence health and illness worldwide. Thus faculty affiliated with the Center will be fostering relationships and collaborations across the University to help highlight the linkages among different disciplines. The Center's advisory committee includes faculty representatives from all five of Villanova's colleges and schools.

This first year has been an active one, featuring collaborations with groups such as the Office of Mission and Ministry and

Villanova Students Against Breast Cancer. The Center has co-sponsored educational events on important health issues—malaria, the global water crisis and breast cancer, to name a few. The Center collaborated with the College's Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program to offer faculty development seminars on global health issues. With the College, the Center co-sponsored the Health and Human Values

Kim Connolly, M.P.H., R.N., director of the Center, is working on other endeavors to further the mission. Beginning next fall, Villanova will host former Peace Corps volunteers through Nursing's newly forged affiliation with the Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program (see page 13). Another initiative is the development of a global health minor for Villanova undergraduates. Its aim will be to introduce students

THE CENTER HAS CO-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS ON IMPORTANT HEALTH ISSUES—MALARIA, THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS AND BREAST CANCER, TO NAME A FEW.

Lecture Series presentation on community nursing in the 21st century. Last fall, during the Alumni Leadership Summit, hosted by the Villanova University Alumni Association, the Center provided a panel session on global health.

Through the Center, the College is developing partnerships with Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore colleges to promote an exchange of academic expertise. Also being explored is the possibility of sharing courses related to health and culture, with a goal of enhancing learning opportunities for students at Villanova and these neighboring colleges. There are ongoing conversations with community partners, such as the Center for Public Health Research (based at the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research at Main Line Health) to plan externships to enable students from different disciplines to apply their classroom public health knowledge to a field setting.

from diverse majors to the background and theory required to understand global health issues and challenges.

Around the world, it is an exciting time for public health. There are vital issues to study and options to explore. The Center for Global and Public Health presents the College of Nursing with a new opportunity through which students, faculty and the larger community can become engaged in learning about health issues worldwide and reflect in action the words of Villanova's mission "to build a just and peaceful world."

For more information on the Center for Global and Public Health, please contact Kim Connolly, M.P.H., R.N., director, by e-mail at kimberly.connolly@villanova.edu or by phone at (610) 519-5902. Visit the Center's Web site at www.villanova.edu/nursing/global.

College Develops Center for Obesity Prevention and Education

The MacDonald Center will seek to combat this worldwide epidemic.

Obesity rates in the United States have reached epidemic proportions. Two-thirds of adults are either overweight or obese and 17 percent of adolescents and children age 5 and older are overweight. Individuals who are obese have a significantly increased risk of death from all causes as compared with those who maintain a healthy weight. The rise of obesity and its associated medical co-morbidities, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, has led to a call to action from all segments of society, including health professionals, educators, government agencies, community planners, politicians and the food industry.

In response to this health crisis, the College of Nursing at Villanova University will establish the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education. Combating the escalation in obesity demands a parallel increase in educational efforts. The Center ultimately will foster the development of healthy life styles and behaviors among Americans through the education of health professionals, community groups and the public. Funded by the Take Shape for Life and the MacDonald Family foundations, the Center will include national experts to advise on the latest developments in combating this epidemic. The Center will serve as a model for the promotion of healthy



Col. (Ret.) Bradley T. MacDonald '71 A&S has initiated funding from the Take Shape for Life and the MacDonald Family foundations to provide support for the new center.

weight management, obesity prevention and intervention through education. Its goals include the creation of programs in obesity education and obesity management; relationships with health agencies and corporations for customized employee programs; and related scholarly endeavors for faculty, students and the community.

The planning for staff and programs has commenced, with the official opening slated for October 6.

Funding from the foundations was at the initiation of Col. (Ret.) Bradley "Brad" T. MacDonald '71 A&S, executive chairman of the Board of Medifast, Inc. and co-founder of Take Shape for Life. The family foundation is named after his grandfather, Dr. Charles E. MacDonald, a notable and highly decorated Army surgeon who was an early pioneer in fighting tropical diseases and in developing the first motorized U.S. Army ambulance used in combat prior to World War I.

In the family tradition, Brad MacDonald is a retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve colonel, having served 28 years, and a former Augustinian who credits his education at Villanova for his success as an executive. He was named the 2006 "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the consumer products category by Ernst and Young for the State of Maryland and is vice chairman of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. MacDonald demonstrates a deep commitment to his community of faith, the Marine Corps and his extended family and community at large.

"Augustinians like Father John Melton, O.S.A., and Father Larry Gallen, O.S.A., have had and continue to have a major impact on my life," said MacDonald. "Dr. Louise Fitzpatrick and her staff share the same Augustinian values of building a

Doctoral Student Was Among First NLN Jonas Scholars

Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N., CNE, who graduates this May with a Ph.D. from the College of Nursing, was one of the first five doctoral students chosen from a national pool as the inaugural group of National League for Nursing (NLN) Jonas Scholars, who will advance the science of nursing education. She is an adjunct faculty member of the College.

The NLN Jonas Scholars Program supports nursing Ph.D. candidates as they complete their dissertations. Her dissertation, which she successfully defended in

March, focused on "The Effect of Simulation Training on Baccalaureate Nursing Students' Competency in Performing Intramuscular Injection," which meets a specific NLN research priority of Evaluation Research in Nursing Education.

The program is funded through grants from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, based in New York City. The center was established by Barbara and Donald Jonas, philanthropists who through their generosity are championing and supporting the development of nursing faculty.



Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N., CNE, an adjunct faculty member at the College, graduates this May with a Ph.D. from the College.

community of nurses and health-care professionals that can have a positive impact on the lives of thousands of professionals and paraprofessionals who look to Villanova University and the College of Nursing for leadership in examining and educating their students on the major health issues of our day.”

The Center will serve as a model for the promotion of healthy weight management, obesity prevention and intervention through education.

Notes Dean Fitzpatrick, “The generosity of the Take Shape for Life and MacDonald Family foundations addresses a critical health concern and has the potential to improve public health through education. The Center’s programs will provide for interdisciplinary collaboration and enhance the capacity of nurses to implement effective strategies for prevention and health promotion.”

Due to the role of nurses in the care and education of the public and their frequent opportunities to interact with diverse populations, they potentially can make a key contribution to addressing this issue. Nurses influence a variety of environments, including schools, community centers, workplaces, food manufacturers and vendors, hospitals, health practitioner offices, public health departments, and professional and political organizations.

The College of Nursing is positioned to play a significant role in promoting obesity prevention and intervention education of health professionals, educators, students and community members. Through the united expertise of nurses, registered dietitians and other health professionals, the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education will endeavor to mobilize strategic actions to address the obesity epidemic.

Thank You IBC and PHEF!

The College of Nursing and its students have benefited from the generosity and vision of Independence Blue Cross (IBC), a leading health insurer in southeastern Pennsylvania. A five-year joint commitment between IBC and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation (PHEF) concluded in 2010 with 476 scholarships having been awarded to Villanova Nursing students, for a total of \$2,262,193. This generous project expedited the education of many undergraduates, as well as the graduate study of master’s and doctorally prepared future nurse educators.

The commitment began when the late G. Fred DiBona was president and CEO of IBC. He realized the critical need for nurse educators to ultimately ease the nursing shortage and improve patient care. After consulting with selected nursing deans in the area, including Dean Louise Fitzpatrick, IBC launched its Nurse Scholars Program in cooperation with PHEF.

IBC also supports the education of the College’s students through its summer internships. They provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about the health insurance industry from “the inside” by working with IBC case managers or in IBC’s community health center clinics.

Last summer’s IBC interns included senior Sylvia You, of Flourtown, Pa., who worked in IBC’s Medical Policy Department. “I was always interested in the business side of health care,” You notes. She built on her knowledge of nursing research, literature reviews and critiques as she gained experience in gathering background information to write policies related to coverage for various surgical procedures. She appreciated this broadened view of health care. “We saw other options for nurses,” You adds.



Summer internships offered by Independence Blue Cross gave seniors Sylvia You (left) and Jennifer Hoang a chance to go “behind the scenes” in the health insurance industry.

Classmate Jennifer Hoang, a native of Drexel Hill, Pa., during her summer IBC internship worked in Medicare case management. She evaluated referrals from hospitals for patients to be discharged and even co-managed a case. Hoang, who gained behind-the-scenes knowledge of insurance, observes “In order to fully care for your patient, you need to know his or her resources.”

These internship opportunities have greatly enhanced students’ understanding of health care in all its dimensions.

The College of Nursing is grateful not only for Fred DiBona’s vision but for the continuing support of IBC’s former CEO Joseph Frick and of the PHEF staff, particularly Michael Hershock and Joseph Manotti.

One Educational Step at a Time

Two Venezuelans set out to change their country's nursing.



Through a one-way mirror in Driscoll Hall, Ana Esclusa '10 B.S.N. (left, standing) and Fruna Lara '10 B.S.N. observe how Nurse Anesthesia students use computerized human patient simulators during a scenario mimicking open-heart surgery. As students, they were intrigued with the technology as a curriculum support tool, since it is not used in Venezuelan nursing education.

The 2010 International Year of the Nurse (IYNurse) was the centennial of the death of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The year of celebration was established to involve the world's estimated 15 million nurses in showcasing their commitment to global health.

For two Venezuelan nurses, Villanova Nursing classmates Fronilde "Frana" Lara '10 B.S.N. and Ana Esclusa '10 B.S.N., IYNurse concluded with an important step in their own commitment to global health: They received their undergraduate diplomas from the College of Nursing. They, like other international students at the College—from South Korea, Congo, the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian West Bank, Japan, Nigeria and Kenya—hope to advance nursing in their homeland.

These two young women, friends since age 12, come from the capital, Caracas, "a small society where everyone knows everybody," says Lara. They are adventurers and sports enthusiasts who intensely follow World Cup soccer. Like many other Nursing students, they had alumni ties to the University and the College, among them Linda Wroblewski de Gonzalez de Mendoza '76 B.S.N., a family friend, and Lara's sister, Maria Lara '04 B.S.N. Fruna Lara was inspired by her sister's example, as well as her own experience of caring for their grandfather after a stroke. "I have always liked older people," explains Lara, who would like to become a geriatric nurse practitioner.

Like Lara, Esclusa has a love of both science and people. Combining this with her early exposure to health-care through

various sports-related injuries, she became interested in the operating room.

In Caracas, both women graduated from the three-year nursing program (akin to an American associate's degree) at the private Colegio Universitario de Enfermia. Their nursing education there included a mix of sciences and exposure to specialty areas, followed by internships at private clinics and public hospitals, the latter run by the government of President Hugo Chávez and often in poor condition. Venezuela has few master's-prepared nurses in education and little professional organization, which also means few mentors. After graduating, Lara practiced in an outpatient surgery clinic for two years and Esclusa was a surgical nurse. "I love the O.R.," Esclusa says, but she knew she wanted to do more.

The two nurses believe their profession



Lara (left) and Esclusa appreciate how the education they received at the College of Nursing furthers their goals of advancing nursing education and practice in their homeland of Venezuela.

is underestimated and currently limited in Venezuela. Physicians who had been exposed to education abroad encouraged them to continue their studies in a country where nursing was more advanced as a

profession. With their Villanova connections, along with their desire to elevate nursing care and curricula in their country and practice, both nurses realized that change must start with education. “We

have to keep studying. When you have the opportunity, you can’t lose it,” says Lara. Esclusa concurs: “I had the practice but I was lacking knowledge. It felt like it wasn’t complete.”

At Villanova, they enjoyed their Nursing education experience and see the campus as a welcoming community for international students. They cite Driscoll Hall’s facilities as a plus, including its technology that supports the curriculum. Both valued the faculty and how the College’s approach differed from their experience in Venezuela because it encouraged them to think about the broader issues. They discovered how faculty members reach out to students and communicate with them; in short, they develop a partnership. “It makes you grow up in a professional sense,” explains Lara. At home, she says, “We need better education. Critical thinking is what is missing.”

Both nurses want to improve the quality of Venezuelan nursing education and practice. With that aim, they are studying for the licensing examination to practice in the United States, and then they plan to earn advanced degrees. Esclusa, who wants to become a nurse anesthetist, sees teaching in her future as well, so that she can share her experience and new knowledge with nursing students at home. Lara agrees: “It has to start with us.”

Serving New York’s Home Health Needs, 24/7

Joan Marren, M.Ed., M.A., R.N., chief operating officer of the nation’s largest visiting nurse agency, captivated a Driscoll Hall Auditorium audience last fall with her insights on the business of health care, the changing population of consumers and newly emerging policy directions that impact nursing in the community.

Marren is the COO of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY), which has 12,660 employees, including more than 2,500 nurses. Its motto is “We’re here for you 24/7.” Her talk on November 8, 2010, was part of the 16th Annual Health and Human Values Lecture Series, whose theme was “Improving the Health of Citizens and Communities Around the World.” The College of Nursing offered the lecture in collaboration with its Center for Global and Public Health.

In addressing “Community Nursing in the 21st Century,” Marren discussed her role and the diverse health-care environment in which VNSNY operates. Its home health care and community-based health services reach all five boroughs as well as Nassau and Westchester counties. In 2009, VNSNY provided services to about 30,000 people a day, from newborns to seniors. About 55 percent of its clients were minorities, and more than one-third spoke languages other than English in the home. On VNSNY’s staff are nurses who can speak one or more of the 50 languages needed to serve this diverse population.

Marren noted that among the “new consumers” (65 and older) of health care, the “oldest of the old” will nearly double from 11 million to 20 million. They will have multiple chronic conditions, while

wanting to maintain their independence and “age in place.”

As COO, Marren provides leadership to all clinical, business and financial operations of five subsidiary corporations, with a consolidated operating budget of nearly \$1 billion. Her tenure at VNSNY has been characterized by a passionate commitment to designing and implementing new care-delivery models to improve care outcomes for patients.

As it serves its patients through health promotion, case management, hospital admission prevention and transitional or end-of-life care programs, VNSNY’s goal is to increase communication among providers, promote self-care management that achieves measurable improvements in health, and improve clinical care and outcomes.

Educating Nurses “Should Concern All of Us”

Meet Richard J. Kreider '83 B.A. (Acc.), chairperson of the College's Board of Consultors.

When engaged in the intensity of the financial world, the nursing profession might not come to mind. But for Richard J. Kreider '83 B.A. (Acc.), it does. Kreider is a director at New York's Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company (KKR), a leading global alternative asset manager in the United States. He is also the chairperson of the College of Nursing Board of Consultors.

Why did a former accountant with Deloitte Haskins and Sells and a graduate of Villanova's College of Commerce and Finance (now the Villanova School of Business) become interested in nursing? It started with his alumni activities in the VSB and the Villanova Financial Club in New York City. When Dr. Thomas F. Monahan served as dean of the business school (1996-2003), Kreider recognized the scope of a dean's role, including strategic planning, fund-raising, budgeting and recruiting. (Dr. Monahan currently is a member of the Board of Consultors and the VSB faculty.) Kreider's interest continued when his daughter Kristen

enrolled in the College. (Kristen Kreider Triesch '05 B.S.N., R.N. is now a mother and practicing nurse at North Shore–Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Manhasset, N.Y.) Her experiences prompted Kreider's recollections about his own classmates who were Nursing students and who had many demands placed on them in the challenging curriculum. It was during this time that his interests turned to nursing.

“While Kristen was at school, my wife Marianne and I had the chance to hear Dean Fitzpatrick speak at all of the Nursing events held during Homecoming and Parents' Weekend,” notes Kreider. He admired all of the initiatives at the College yet understood the issues of resources. In terms of financial support and offering guidance, he became interested. “My focus shifted to the College of Nursing,” he says. “The nurses in today's world do so much yet always seem to be overlooked. Villanova's College of Nursing is one of a select number of schools that has been nationally recognized by the



“The nurses in today's world do so much yet always seem to be overlooked,” notes Richard J. Kreider '83 B.A. (Acc.).

National League for Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for the third consecutive time.”

Board of Consultors

The College of Nursing is grateful to the members of its Board of Consultors who serve in an advisory capacity to the dean and provide an external perspective on matters that affect the nursing profession, the College and its strategic direction. Members of the board include College and Villanova University alumni and parents, as well as nursing, health-care and business leaders.

The current members of the Board of Consultors are:

- **Rear Adm. (Ret.) Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N.**
Executive Director, Healthcare Operations Joint Task Force, National Capital Region
- **Donna DiPalma Cassidy '79 B.S.N.**
Former Chair and Board of Education member, Trumbull, Conn.
- **Pamela Cembrook**
President, Friends of Methany of the Methany Medical and Education Center
- **Helen R. Connors '64 B.S.N., Ph.D.**
Associate Dean and Professor, Academic Affairs and Executive Director, Center for Healthcare Informatics, University of Kansas
- **Rear Adm. (Ret.) James W. Eastwood '68 B.C.E.**
Chairman, Stantec
- **Stephen P. Fera**
Vice President, Social Mission Programs, Independence Blue Cross
- **Daniel Finnegan**
Executive Director, Private Wealth Management, Morgan Stanley
- **Margaret “Meg” R. Garrett, Esq., '72 B.S.N.**
Senior Counsel/Director of Risk Management, Johns Hopkins Health System
- **Sandra Myers Gomberg '85 B.S.N., '90 M.S.N.**
Chief Executive Officer, Temple University Hospital
- **Christina Larson Kelly '74 B.S.N.**
President, Larson Financial Planning, Inc.

“The nurses in today’s world do so much yet always seem to be overlooked. Villanova’s College of Nursing is one of a select number of schools that has been nationally recognized by the National League for Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for the third consecutive time.” —Richard J. Kreider ’83 B.A.

Kreider saw the value of a Villanova Nursing education and wanted to invest his time and talent, as well as financial support, in it. In 2004 he and his wife established The Kreider Family Endowed University Scholarship. Educated by Franciscan Brothers and Augustinian Friars, he was formed by the sense of community and giving back to help others. “It was this framework that influenced our decision to create the scholarship. Marianne and I were talking about how difficult it’s becoming to attend college. We are fortunate enough to be able to provide financial help to a qualified student, and in keeping with the beliefs of the Augustinians and Franciscans, the scholarship was created,” he explains.

Kreider’s relationship with the College evolved further. “Seeing the transformation of Nursing students from their freshman year to their senior year, and the Augustinian values of caring and compassion they exude, made it easy for me to ask if there was anything I could do to help,” he says. “I only had to ask once, and the rest, as they say, is history.”

As the new chairperson of the College’s four-year-old Board of Consultors, which serves in an advisory capacity to the dean and offers external perspective on the College’s strategic direction, Kreider is building on the foundation established by his two predecessors, Rear Adm. (Ret.) Christine Bruzek-Kohler ’74 B.S.N. and

subsequent interim chairperson Dr. Helen Connors ’64 B.S.N. Health-care professionals on one subcommittee provide insight on trends in their fields. Members of other subcommittees offer informative perspectives relating to their diverse backgrounds.

For Kreider, it is vital to promote the pivotal role of nurses in society to those beyond the walls of the College and the profession.

“You don’t have to be a nurse to get involved or give to the College of Nursing,” affirms Kreider. “With health-care becoming such an important part of the future and the economy, the need to have professionally educated nurses is critical. At some point we are all going to need a nurse, so educating them should concern all of us, not just the colleges of nursing. Parents, alumni from other colleges who are married to nurses, corporations or foundations—to name a few—are all avenues to explore. While we may not have the grace, aptitude or compassion needed to become a nurse, we can make a difference by investing in nursing.”

- **Chairperson: Richard J. Kreider ’83 B.A. (Acc.)**
Director, Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts & Company
 - **Claire Baldwin Lindley ’86 M.S.N.**
Vice President, Patient Services, Bryn Mawr Hospital
 - **J. Patrick Lupton**
Higher education admissions consultant
 - **William McCune**
President, Delaware County Memorial Hospital
 - **Stanton “Stan” B. Miller, M.D.**
Director, Center of Public Health Research, Lankenau Institute for Medical Research and Adjunct Professor, Jefferson School of Population Health
 - **Thomas F. Monahan, Ph.D.**
John M. Cooney Endowed Professor, Accounting & Information Systems, Villanova School of Business
 - **J. Brien Murphy, M.D.**
Physician and volunteer educator, Penn Medicine Department of Plastic Surgery
 - **Mary D. Naylor ’71 B.S.N., Ph.D.**
Villanova University trustee; the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and Director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania
 - **John J. Quindlen ’54 B.A. (Acc.)**
Retired CFO and Senior VP, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
 - **Ann Scheve ’80 B.S.N.**
Adjunct faculty member, Villanova University College of Nursing
 - **Lynne A. Thelan**
Clinical Nurse Specialist, retired; author of *Critical Care Nursing: Diagnosis and Management*
 - **Thomas Treacy ’69 B.S. (Edu.), ’71 M.A., Ed.D.**
Educational consultant and psychologist
- Emeritus Member:*
- **H. E. Dr. Ali Mohammed al-Moosa**
Chairman, Tender Board; Deputy Chairman, Board of Governors, Central Bank of Oman

Faculty and Students Present at National Forum

In the remote mountain villages near Waslala, Nicaragua, Villanova University's Nursing and Engineering faculty and students for years have been promoting health and a clean, accessible water supply. Could cell phones help in this health promotion effort? That's one approach being explored by two assistant professors in the College of Nursing who paired with two Nursing seniors to present at the 138th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting on November 10, 2010, in Denver. The meeting's theme was "Social Justice: A Public Health Imperative."

Elizabeth Keech '66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. teamed up with senior Caitlin Krenek to present "Assessing Health Outcomes Using Telehealth in Remote Areas of Nicaragua." Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N. paired with senior Katie Weatherbie to present "Self-identified Learning Needs of Lay Health Workers in Rural Nicaragua." These two aspects for study are part of Villanova's multidisciplinary project "Improved Rural Health Care Through Low-cost Telecommunication in Waslala, Nicaragua." A Nursing

group has been working with faculty and students from the College of Engineering and the Villanova School of Business. "Having the opportunity to collaborate here at Villanova with students of other disciplines broadens our students' perspectives," explains Dr. Keech.

The nurses are assessing the learning needs of Waslala's community health workers (CHWs) and their understanding of the region's health issues. The Villanovans will be aiding them in using cell phone technology to assess and treat fellow community members who have health concerns but who live at a distance from trained medical professionals. The nurses also are working with local officials to gain support and collect more background information. Since

the area's health-related statistics (such as births or deaths) are either unreliable or not reported at all, the nurses are assisting the community with capturing such data consistently and building a foundation of health records that can be used for evaluation of interventions.

In Denver, Krenek enjoyed meeting others with similar goals and collaborating with them. "It really opened my eyes to possible professional paths I can pursue in the future," the senior notes about the large, multidisciplinary conference. Weatherbie was impressed with how the sessions "showed the impact research can have on a population." She adds, "Speaking to people interested in our project after we presented was encouraging as well."

Six Nursing Students Elected to Who's Who

The academic, service and leadership achievements of six College of Nursing students were recognized on January 28 with their induction into the prestigious Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges. At Villanova University's recognition dinner, held at the Llanerch Country Club in Havertown, Pa., the six joined other Villanova students who were similarly honored that night. The Nursing students inducted were (from left, holding commemorative plates) Caitlin Krenek, Allison Telleri, Alison Spicer, Megan Walsh and Meghan Barowski (not pictured Kimberly Uy). M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connolly Endowed Dean and Professor (center), and Carol Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, associate professor of Nursing, joined in celebrating with the new members.



Two Nursing faculty members teamed up with two seniors to present their health promotion project in Nicaragua to a national multidisciplinary group in Denver. Speaking at the fall meeting of the American Public Health Association was an "energizing experience" says Elizabeth Keech '66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor (right), who was joined by (from left) Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, and seniors Katie Weatherbie and Caitlin Krenek.



For Third Time, College Named as NLN Center of Excellence

The College of Nursing proudly announces its continued designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. The National League for Nursing (NLN) awarded the honor to the College for the third consecutive time at its Education Summit 2010 in Las Vegas on October 1.

“The Center of Excellence [COE] designation reflects the quality and national distinction of nursing education at Villanova,” observes M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor.

The COE designation identifies nursing schools of exceptional quality and is separate from accreditation. Schools are reviewed in one of three categories of their choice. The College’s designation was related to its commitment to “Creating Environments that Advance the Science of Nursing Education.” In 2004, NLN chose the College as one of the first three schools to receive the inaugural three-year COE designation, and recognized it again in 2007.



On stage last October for the presentation of the Center of Excellence designation to the College of Nursing were: (from left) Beverly Malone, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, chief executive officer of the National League for Nursing; five Nursing doctoral students: Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N., CNE, who graduates this May and is also an adjunct faculty member; Kelly Reilly, M.S.N., R.N.; Kim Ratelle, M.S.N., R.N.; Pennie Sessler-Branden, M.S.N., CNM; and Terri Ares, M.S.N., R.N.; four Nursing faculty and staff: Angelina Arcamone '82 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education; Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Doctoral Program; Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the Learning Resource Center; and Marycarol McGovern '68 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor; and NLN President Cathleen M. Shultz, Ph.D., R.N., CNE, FAAN.

Former Peace Corps Volunteers to Study at the College

After a rigorous process, the U.S. Peace Corps has selected the College of Nursing as a Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program site. Through this exciting new partnership, the College will welcome returned Peace Corps volunteers to campus. The program’s goal is to provide them with an opportunity to continue working with underserved populations, but this time in local settings, while engaging in formal study to advance their careers.

At Villanova, Fellows may choose nursing as a second career and enroll in the accelerated B.S.N. program, which is designed for college graduates with degrees in other fields. Fellows who are already nurses with a B.S.N. degree may enroll in the Graduate Program in Nursing in a

specialty such as Nurse Anesthesia, Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Education or Health Care Administration.

“I can’t think of a better way to honor the University and College commitment to human service and the nurturing of a global community than to initiate a Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program here at the College of Nursing,” says Kim Connolly, M.P.H., R.N., director of the College’s Center for Global and Public Health. Connolly, who spent two years with the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa, serves as the coordinator of the College’s Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program. “Launching it during the Peace Corps’ 50th anniversary year makes it even more exciting,” she notes.

The Fellows’ education will be enriched

by an internship serving an underserved population, where they can continue to apply the experience they gained living and working overseas. The College has a variety of collaborating community organizations to use as internship sites. In addition, Fellows will participate in professional seminars with other Nursing student leaders, will present their Peace Corps experience to other Villanova students and will partner with faculty mentors to achieve career goals.

If you have served in the Peace Corps and would like to be added to the College’s database for this program, please contact Kim Connolly, M.P.H., R.N., by e-mail at kimberly.connolly@villanova.edu or by phone at (610) 519-5902.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars Accelerate Their Careers

This year, 10 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) Scholars have been learning leadership skills while being mentored at the College of Nursing. The NCIN Scholarship Program, initiated in 2008, was developed to help alleviate the shortage of nurses and increase diversity in the workforce. The grants provide scholarships to college graduates from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds who are transitioning into nursing in an accelerated B.S.N. program. The four men and six women enrolled in May 2010 in the College's 14-month second-degree accelerated program, which is tailored to adult learners seeking to earn a B.S.N. degree.

The College received a grant of \$100,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to award the 10 scholarships. As part of the program, the scholars take part in a Leadership Development Plan

to facilitate their successful transitioning into the nursing profession. "The plan provides support and advocacy in the areas of academics, professional development, community involvement and mentoring," notes Maryanne Lieb '85 M.S.N., R.N., coordinator of the second-degree program. "Based on personal experience and professional goals, the Scholars are mentored by nurse leaders who share a mutual interest and also serve as advisors to prospective students." NCIN Scholars meet monthly for a seminar, collaboration and open discussion. To support the Leadership Development activities, the foundation awarded the College an additional \$1,500 grant.

NCIN Scholar Flower Habte, who has a bachelor's degree in business administration from La Salle University, is being mentored by Michelle Kelly '94 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP, a neonatal nurse practitioner and Nursing faculty member. "This

has been an amazing opportunity for me," says Habte, who hopes to practice in pediatrics or a neonatal ICU. "I am grateful to have such a knowledgeable mentor to share her experiences and wisdom in NICU and pediatrics to understand the role further and get all my questions answered."



Be a Fan! Be a Follower!

Through social networking sites, the College of Nursing continues to engage and update alumni, parents, students and prospective students, faculty and friends. Don't miss out on the latest in College news, Nursing's impact on the community and other happenings.

You can follow our blogs for the College (villanovanursing.blogspot.com), as well as for our Continuing Education (CE) Program (villanovanursingce.blogspot.com).

Fan our Facebook pages for:

- the Villanova University Nursing Alumni Association
- Villanova University College of Nursing
- Villanova Nursing Global Health Experiences and
- Villanova Nursing Continuing Education (CE).

In December 2010, the College launched its new e-newsletter, *Villanova Nursing e-news*, as a supplement to this magazine. If you did not receive this first issue, and would like to, send your e-mail address to ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu to be added to our list.

Questions or comments? Please e-mail Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N., coordinator of College Relations, at ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu. We look forward to having you among our followers and fans!



The 10 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing Scholars enjoy their first day on Villanova's campus in May 2010 before beginning the second-degree accelerated nursing program. They are (from back left) Flower Habte, Lou Pagnoni, Dorris Ogbuehi, Emily Lang, Gregory Calucci, Mona Akhlaghi, Anthony Ruffo, Jordona Ndon, Shawn Ellison and Lauren Dornin.

Students Promote Health in Arab-American Community

Newly arrived immigrants who settle in the Greater Philadelphia area frequently seek assistance from the Arab-American Community Development Corporation (AACDC). This nonprofit organization provides services addressing health-care needs, citizenship learning, English language skills and immigration issues for the estimated 30,000 Arab-Americans in the five-county area. The College learned about AACDC from its founder and executive director, Marwan Kreidie; he is an adjunct professor of political science at Villanova University.

Under the guidance of Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, the College's seniors may participate in a community health clinical rotation at this social service agency. This experience provides an opportunity to address health promotion strategies that take into consideration the culture and Muslim religious practices. While on AACDC's campus, the students experience a kind of cultural immersion without traveling abroad.

"Immigrant populations are vulnerable to many of the social determinates that influence health, such as poor quality housing, income, education, being powerless and discrimination," explains Dr. McDermott-Levy. "The way population health data is collected, the Arab immigrant community does not usually show up on the 'health needs radar screen,' but they are subject to

"...the Arab immigrant community does not usually show up on the 'health needs radar screen,' but they are subject to many of the same problems of other minority groups." — Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy

many of the same problems of other minority groups. I am able to use my experience with the College's Arab-Muslim students from Oman to understand cultural, religious and health practices to help students address the needs of this important group. My opportunities led to my doctoral dissertation concerning Muslim women college students studying in the United States."

For the past three years, AACDC has provided a rich setting for Nursing student interactions with the community. The



At the Arab-American Community Development Corporation in South Kensington, Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N. (center), assistant professor of Nursing, confers with Zeina El Halabi (left), AACDC's associate director, and Wiam Mutan, a volunteer for AmeriCorps.

center, located on Germantown Avenue in South Kensington, offers an Islamic day school, a food bank for families, job skill training, health education programs, support services to refugees and scholarly programs open to the public.

After completing a comprehensive community assessment of the Center, the Nursing students develop a health promo-

tion program to meet community needs. They have worked with an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) tutor to teach breast health, healthy food choices and managing stress related to acculturation, as well as a program on integrative pest management. They provide information about health insurance options for adults and children, and also health lessons and health screenings for children in the adjoining day school. One positive consequence of Villanova Nursing's presence is that a

community member now offers weekly exercise classes for Arab women; the classes are modeled after a presentation by the Villanova students.

The students may observe an Islamic worship service and sample Arab food, which enriches their understanding of the community's culture and daily life.

The relationship with this clinical site has enhanced the development of needed services for this immigrant community while providing the opportunity for Nursing students to learn community assessment skills, health education, and cultural and religious competence through cultural immersion. Working with interpreters is useful experience for caring for those who are not English speakers.

Dr. McDermott-Levy hopes to expand health promotion by offering occupational health topics in the work settings where many of these community members are employed.

The students' experience with this new immigrant population is one example of how the College extends its reach to diverse cultural groups and populations in Greater Philadelphia.

Expert Midwife Used Creativity and Skill in Haiti

A cold drip of a shower, a supply van that made it over the mountains and an IV that kept a 4-year-old from dying of cholera were just a few of the things for which Kimberly K. Trout, Ph.D., R.N., CNM was grateful last Thanksgiving. A certified nurse midwife and assistant professor in the College of Nursing, Dr. Trout volunteered that week with Midwives for Haiti, a nonprofit organization.

Passionate about promoting maternal health and wellness, Dr. Trout carried through in Haiti a mission that has grown from her research at several Philadelphia area hospitals. Being involved with the Haitian people and providing care to them in their dire situation was an experience that affected her deeply. During her 23 years as a professional, she reflects, “I never felt more proud to be a nurse.”

In this poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, 76 percent of babies are delivered by non-qualified persons, according to Midwives for Haiti. That contributes

to the country’s having the highest infant and maternal mortality in the hemisphere. Fifteen percent of Haitian newborns have low birth weight and 25 percent of Haitian children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

During her week there, Dr. Trout had planned to deliver babies and teach women about providing prenatal care and skilled birth assistance. But soon she found that her skills were required on another front: cholera. Following Haiti’s catastrophic earthquake of January 12, 2010, the nation’s need for help has grown even greater as the disease spreads rapidly through the countryside. As of early January, there had been more than 3,500 deaths from cholera.

Dr. Trout and Megan Donaghy, R.N., CNM, a colleague from their midwifery practice at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, landed in Port-au-Prince with supplies for their clinical work. Dr. Trout also brought donated materials, including neonatal stethoscopes; demonstration supplies such as incision and breast models; hand

sanitizer; vitamin, calcium and iron pills; and bed sheets contributed by College of Nursing staff and faculty. Women who are giving birth are told to bring their own sheet to the maternity ward so that they don’t have to lie on the cold plastic atop the metal litter, but many don’t have a sheet to bring. They also are asked to bring a bucket.

The team’s home base was Hinche, 60 miles away in the central plateau. The first vehicle they loaded for the three-hour mountainous trek developed a flat tire, so they reloaded supplies onto an overcrowded van. Soon, they were crossing over rocky streambeds by foot to reach a mobile prenatal clinic in Fonbren. There, they cared for 21 patients before having to depart due to the threat of a flood.

Fluent in French and accompanied by a Kreyol interpreter, Dr. Trout performed prenatal exams and did health promotion teaching at the clinic. The Haitian women receive worm and malaria prophylaxis, as well as tetanus shots. But complicating their lives now is the potentially fatal danger of cholera. This waterborne disease can dehydrate and kill within hours. The women live with no reliable water supply, electricity or sanitation, and wash in the rivers and streams.

On a visit to an orphanage in Azile, run by the Daughters of Charity, Dr. Trout hugged and played with children being treated for malnourishment. “Patty-cake was a favorite game of the kids, and many just wanted to be held,” she recalls. She spent several days at Hôpital Ste. Thérèse de Hinche, assisting where the greatest need was—in the dozen or so cholera tents and the church’s makeshift cholera ward. On average, two people a day were dying. Dr. Trout assessed countless patients for dehydration and hung IV bags from tent ties to keep them alive. “Basic nursing skills were needed the most,” she explains.

Luckily, the team was able to gain IV access on 4-year-old Mirlinda, who was near death but rebounded after a day of fluid and electrolyte replenishment. An equally happy occasion occurred with the birth of a girl in the hospital’s maternity ward. The laboring mother was having severe back pain, but there were no analgesics. The patient benefited from Dr. Trout’s



In Haiti, where cholera has claimed more than 3,500 lives, Kimberly K. Trout, Ph.D., R.N., CNM (left) was part of at least one miraculous outcome. Mirlinda, a 4-year-old with severe dehydration, on the day before had collapsed just after a medical volunteer finally could insert an IV. She improved enough to sit up—IV fluids still infusing—and sip oral rehydration solution.

expertise in using sterile water papules to relieve her pain and ease her labor. This low-tech approach—small injections of sterile water under the skin in the lower back—created a more pleasant and safe birth experience for the mother.

When not caring for patients, Dr. Trout consulted with a Partners in Health (PIH) volunteer to explore additional topics to include in teaching modules for community health workers and new mothers. PIH, founded by Dr. Paul Farmer, provides health services, advocacy, training and health research to address the significant unmet needs in developing countries. Dr. Trout's suggestions included recognizing and treating breastfeeding complications, umbilical cord care and Caesarean-section wound care. She also aided her interpreter from Midwives for Haiti in organizing an electronic record for statistical analysis of birth data. That work is ongoing.

Through her nurse midwifery practice and her research on perinatal outcomes in

gestational diabetes, Dr. Trout demonstrates her dedication to safe and healthy pregnancies and births. Her passion and compassion not only have benefited new mothers and their babies in Haiti but her patients in Philadelphia and the Villanova Nursing students she supervises in clinical rotations. For her, the benefit flows both ways. Like others who have felt the pull of Haiti's great need, Dr. Trout simply says, "I want to go back."



Dr. Trout and Megan Donaghy, R.N., CNM (right), a midwifery colleague from Philadelphia, assisted in the delivery of a girl in the Haitian hospital's maternity ward in Hinche.

Four Faculty Members Reach 25-Year Milestone

The College of Nursing is celebrating the 25 years of service of four faculty members who have had distinguished careers at Villanova University. Each one, including **Marycarol McGovern '68 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor (see page 18), has made significant contributions to the nursing profession and the College. They were honored during the 22nd Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony on April 9 in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church.

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, is highly recognized for her work as a mental health scholar and psychotherapist, with a specialty in women and domestic abuse.

Her research and presentations in the area of mental health counseling are noteworthy. Dr. Copel applies her extensive clinical experience to her teaching of undergradu-



ate, graduate and doctoral students. She also has been actively involved in Villanova's governance as a former member of the University Senate and as a current member of the Faculty Congress and the University Rank and Tenure Committee.

The name of **Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF**, associate professor, is synonymous with SNAP (the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania). Since 1985, Dr. Weingarten has served as faculty advisor of Villanova's SNAP chapter, which has received frequent recognition from both the state and national levels, including SNAP's "top chapter" award the past two years. She has mentored many student leaders who served as officers in the National Student Nurses' Association, which has honored her with its "Leader of Leaders" award. In her theory and clinical courses, Dr. Weingarten applies her exper-



tise in obstetrics and neonatal care, the nursing profession and health promotion.

Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., CRNP, clinical assistant professor, represents Villanova throughout the world as a pediatric nurse practitioner by volunteering for Operation Smile and Medicines for Humanity. In the Middle East, East Asia, Haiti, Siberia and Africa, she has provided health care in remote and underserved communities. The College's students benefit from her global health experiences as she leads them to the Dominican Republic and Africa to take part in an international health course or a senior pediatric clinical experience. Professor Wimmer also brings to life her international nursing experiences by teaching graduate students in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program.



Faculty Transitions

Tamara Kear '09 Ph.D., R.N. began

her new faculty role in January as an assistant professor, teaching adult health and illness to undergraduates. She completed her doctoral degree at the College in 2009 after defending her dissertation, "An Investigation of Transformative Learning Experiences During Associate Degree Nursing Education Using Narrative Methods."



Dr. Kear earned her A.S.N. and B.S.N. degrees from Gywnedd-Mercy College and her M.S.N. from Thomas Jefferson University. During her eight years of nursing faculty experience at Gywnedd-Mercy, she was an active and engaged member of that faculty.

Her clinical background includes medical-surgical, nephrology and dialysis nursing. At Villanova, she has shared her clinical expertise with adult learners in the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, as well at professional conferences and through serving as a clinical editor for Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

The dedicated nurse educator is a member of several clinical, educator and research-oriented professional organizations, including the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, the Eastern Nursing Research Society and Sigma Theta Tau International. As a consultant for the National League for Nursing, Dr. Kear reviews and revises online simulation and certified nurse educator programs.

Michelle M. Kelly '94 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP joined the faculty in August



2010 as a clinical instructor, teaching pediatrics to traditional and accelerated second degree B.S.N. students.

Kelly completed her B.S.N. at Villanova and her M.S.N. as a pediatric acute chronic

nurse practitioner at the University of Pennsylvania. At Thomas Jefferson University, she earned a postmaster's certificate as a neonatal nurse practitioner. A Nursing doctoral student at Villanova, in fall 2010 she successfully defended her dissertation proposal, "Life After Prematurity: Special Health Care Needs, Working Memory, and Health-Related Quality of Life among 9 to 11 year-old Children Born Prematurely." Her career ambition is to educate providers of health care at all levels about the realities of prematurity. Close to term is not close enough, she believes.

Experienced in clinical areas and teaching, Kelly has practiced in pediatric critical care as a staff nurse and as a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP). At the Nemours Cardiac Center at the A. I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., as a PNP she worked with infants with complex congenital heart defects, in duPont's pre-surgical area and in its PNP-run clinic. For the last several years, she has been with Main Line Health for duPont/Nemours, caring for critically ill neonates and their families. Concurrently, at the College of Nursing, she has been teaching undergraduates as an adjunct clinical faculty member and has been a preceptor for PNP students. She is a pediatric consultant for the Upper Darby School District's ACCESS Program.

Kelly has published several articles on prematurity and given numerous professional presentations. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, as well as many nursing and advanced practice professional organizations.

Marycarol McGovern '68 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor,

retires in May after 25 years of service to the College. A respected colleague and beloved teacher, she is known not only for her sense of humor and advocacy of students and patients but for her knowledge as an educator. Dr. McGovern's expertise in critical thinking and curriculum development has led to numerous scholarly publications and presentations, as well as to her appointment



chairing the College's National League for Nursing Center of Excellence Committee. This committee developed the College's recent application for designation as a Center of Excellence. She has received the Villanova Innovative Teaching Award and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Outstanding Teaching, the latter at Villanova's Commencement ceremonies this May.

Kelly P. Nestor '96 B.S.N., '08 M.S.N., ANP-BC returned to her alma mater in August 2010 as clinical instructor, teaching in the Nurse Practitioner (NP) program.

After earning a B.A. in political science from Duquesne University, Nestor worked in the insurance industry. She later completed her B.S.N. at Villanova and returned to earn her M.S.N. in the Adult NP tract.



Her nursing career includes cardiac critical care for both pediatric and adult populations, as well as management experience in several regional hospitals. At Temple University Hospital, Nestor was a cardiac transplant coordinator for both inpatient and outpatient services. She gained hospice experience while earning her M.S.N. Nestor maintains her NP practice with Western Main Line Medical Associates in Exton, Pa., where she sees patients in a long-term-care facility.

Nestor, who has both teaching and presentation experience, is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, the American and the Pennsylvania nurses' associations and several NP organizations. In the College's Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, she lectures on gerontology and palliative care. She foresees earning a doctoral degree and having an impact on policy-making in nursing and health care.

Faculty Publications

Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, co-authored with **Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP**, associate professor, the article "Risky Internet Behaviors: A Case Study of Online and

Offline Stalking” in the *Journal of School Nursing*, 26 (6), 436-442.

Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS, associate professor, published:

- *Schaum's Outline of Pediatric Nursing* (2010, McGraw-Hill) and
- the article “Enhancing the Clinical Experience for Undergraduate Nursing Students: Revisiting the Clinical Associate Model” in *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*, 26 (5), E10-E16.

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, published:

- *Nurse's Clinical Guide to Psychiatric and Mental Health Care*, 2nd edition (2009, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins). This book has been published in English, Japanese, Korean and Indonesian;
- three chapters—“Psychosocial Concerns of the Individual and Family,” “Homeostasis, Stress and Adaptation” and “Health Promotion and Education”—in *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 12th edition, **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research; B. G. Bare; J. L. Hinkle; and K. H. Cheever (eds.) (2010, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins); and
- the chapter on “Reporting Suspected Domestic Violence” in *Behavioral Health Procedures and Skills*, L. Ruhf (ed.) (2010, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins).

Lyn DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N.-BC, assistant dean and director of the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, published two articles in *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*: “The Institute of Medicine's Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions,” 41 (8), 340-342 and “Calculating the Financial Return on Educational Programs,” 41 (4), 149-150.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP, associate professor, published the article “Risky Internet Behaviors of Middle-School Students: Communication with Online Strangers and Offline Contact” in *Computers Informatics Nursing*, November 24, 2010.

Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, co-authored with C. Fazzini the article

“Identifying the Key Personnel in a Nurse Initiated Hospital Waste Reduction Program” in *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, 34 (4), 306-310.

Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, published the article “Progress in Ethical Decision-making in the Care of the Dying” in *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing*, 29 (2), 73-80.

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Doctoral Program in Nursing, published three articles:

- “Lifestyle Strategies for the Prevention of Vision Loss” in *Holistic Nursing Practice*, 24 (5), 284-291;
- “To Engage in Evidence-Based Practice, You Must First Find the Evidence” in *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 21 (6), 463-466; and
- “Oral Intake During Labor: a Review of the Evidence” in *MCN: the American Journal of Maternal and Child Health Nursing*, 35 (4), 197-203. This article was selected as the Best Practice Article of the Year by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Dr. Sharts-Hopko co-authored:

- with **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research; **Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor; **Vanessa Zimmerman '98 M.S.N.**; and **Janice Duffin '01 M.S.N.** the article “Healthcare Experiences of Women with Visual Impairment” in *Clinical Nurse Specialist*, 24 (3), 149-153;
- with **Eileen Condon '08 B.S.N., R.N.** the article “Socialization of Japanese Nursing Students” in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 31 (3), 167-17. This was based on Condon's independent study, conducted during her senior year at the College, when an American Council Fellowship enabled her to visit St. Luke's College of Nursing in Tokyo.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research:

- co-authored with **Gail Robinson-Smith, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor; M.A. Dolen; **Janice Duffin '01 M.S.N.**; and **M. Al-Maqbali '01 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N.** the article “Disability-Related Content in Nursing

Textbooks” in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 31 (3), 148-155; and

- authored the chapter “Improving Health and Wellness of People with Disabilities” in the *International Encyclopedia of Rehabilitation*, J.H. Stone, M. Blouin (eds.).

Kimberly K. Trout, Ph.D., R.N., CNM, assistant professor, co-authored with T. Averbuch and M. Barowski the article “Promoting Breastfeeding Among Obese Women and Women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus,” in *Current Diabetes Reports* (5), November 5, 2010.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, associate professor, published two articles:

- “A Life Changing Journey: From the PSNA Summit to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center” in *Pennsylvania Nurse*, 65 (3), 14-16; and
- “Caring for Troops When Transition Is a Way of Life: Nursing at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany,” in the *American Journal of Nursing*, 110 (10), 44-47.

Joyce S. Willens '83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., BC, assistant professor, co-authored with C. DePascale and J. Penny the article “Role Delineation Study for the American Society for Pain Management Nursing” in *Pain Management Nursing*, 11 (2), 68-75.

Faculty Leadership and Achievements

Angelina Arcamone '82 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education, presented “Student and Registered Nursing Staff's Perceptions of 12-hour Clinical Rotations in an Undergraduate Baccalaureate Nursing Program” at the Fifth Annual Crozer-Keystone Health System Nursing Research Symposium, held at Widener University in October 2010.

Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN, BC, assistant professor and coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Programs, presented:

- two hands-on workshops, “Minor Procedures for Nurse Practitioners” and “Minor Procedures: Part Deux,” at the American College of Nurse Practitioner Conference in Tampa, Fla., in October 2010; and

■ “An Innovative Approach to Standardized Patient Recruitment” and “The Influence of Pharmaceutical Company Sponsored Educational Programs, Promotions and Gifts on the Self-reported Prescribing Beliefs and Practices of Certified Nurse Practitioners in Three States,” at the Networking for Healthcare Education Conference at Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge, England, in September 2010. Attendees came from England, Ireland, South Africa, Japan, Europe and New Zealand.

Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor; **Gale Robinson Smith, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor; and **Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N.**, director of the Learning Resource Center, were awarded a Villanova University VITAL grant for their project, “Developing Empathy with Undergraduate Psychiatric Nursing Students through a Simulation of Hearing Voices That Are Distressing (HVTAD) Program.”

Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS, associate professor, received funding from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Nursing Schools Association (PHENSA) for “The Role of Structured Debriefing on Students’ Clinical Judgment Abilities in Simulation.”

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, was inducted into the National Council on Family Relationships Legacy Circle in November 2009 for outstanding service to the health and well-being of families. She presented “The Experience of Verbal Abuse for Women with Disabilities” at the Sigma Theta Tau 20th International Nursing Research Congress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice, held July 2009 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP, associate professor, presented “Social Networking Patterns of Adolescents, Youth and Offenders” at the International Association of Forensic Nurses’ 18th Annual Scientific Assembly, held in Pittsburgh in November 2010.

Marita Frain '69 B.S.N., Ed.M., R.N., assistant professor, was honored in April 2010 with the Alumni Achievement Award in Nursing Education from the Nursing Education Alumni Association of Teachers College, Columbia University, where

she earned her master’s degree. The award was presented at the 47th Annual Isabel Maitland Stewart Conference on Research in Nursing and Annual Awards Ceremony.

Assistant professors **Elizabeth Keech '66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, and **Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N.** co-presented with other Villanova University faculty members “Sustainable Water Solutions for a Rural Community in Nicaragua: An Interdisciplinary Intervention with Nursing and Engineering Students” at Villanova’s Conference on Sustainability in November 2010.

Maryanne Lieb '85 M.S.N., R.N., clinical assistant professor, presented “Evidence Based Learning Strategies for Teaching the Adult Learner” at “Nursing Research in the 21st Century: Current Issues and Trends,” the Crozer-Keystone Health System Nursing Research Symposium, held at Widener University in October 2010.

Bette Mariani '82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, presented “Case Study Education: Professors as Students” at the National Technology and Social Science Conference, held in Las Vegas in March 2010. Dr. Mariani was accepted as a Nurse Scholar in the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Faculty Mentor Leadership Development Program. As part of the 18-month program, she will develop and implement a sustainable education leadership project on simulation, a project aimed at improving educational outcomes.

Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, presented:

- “Greening the Curriculum: Integrating Environmental Health Concepts into a Baccalaureate Curriculum—One School’s Story” at “Our Environment, Our Health: A Nurse’s Call to Action,” co-sponsored by the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and the University of Maryland School of Nursing. This first national conference for nurses on human health and the environment took place in Baltimore in June 2010; and
- “Teaching the Needs of Immigrant Populations and Cultural Competence through Community Partnerships” at the 138th American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition,

held in Denver, Colo., in November 2010.

Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the College’s Learning Resource Center, presented “Integration of Simulation into the Curriculum” at the Education Management Solutions Third Annual Arcadia Summit, held in Oakland, Calif., in August 2010.

Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, presented “American Society for Bioethics and Humanities: Core Competencies for Healthcare Ethics Consultation” to the Main Line Health Institutional Ethics Committee at Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital in April 2010.

Bing Bing Qi '94 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, presented “A Chinese Version of Self-efficacy and Outcome Expectations for Osteoporosis Medication Adherence Scales: Reliability and Validity Assessment in Chinese Immigrants” at “The Many Dimensions of Nursing Research,” the College of Nursing’s Annual Research Symposium, held in February 2010.

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN chairs the Sigma Theta Tau International 2011 Congress Committee for the 22nd Annual International Nursing Research Congress, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, July 11-14.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research:

- presented “Health Promotion Issues in Individuals with Down Syndrome” at Princeton University’s Down Syndrome Conference in November 2010;
- co-presented with L.M. Long-Bellil, C.L. Graham, K.L. Robey, L. Woodward and J.G. Reiss “Access to Medical Care and the Americans with Disabilities Act: Educating Health Professionals as a Force for Culture Change” and co-presented with K. Blisard, S.L. Combs and C. Roche “Unheard Voice: Addressing Violence Against Women with Disabilities,” both at the American Public Health Association’s Disability Section Chair’s Forum, held in Denver, Colo., in November 2010; and
- presented “Healthcare of People with Disabilities: Identifying Issues and Solutions” for the Mu Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, at Mount Saint Mary College in Pough-

keepsie, N.Y., in April 2010; and

- presented “Comprehensive Care Team: The MS Nurse and MS Center,” an August 2010 Webinar of the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the National MS Society.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, associate professor:

- presented “Caring for Wounded and Ill Troops: Volunteering with the Chaplains’ Wounded Warrior Ministry Projects at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany” at the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania 58th Annual Convention, “Defying Gravity: Nursing Without Boundaries,” held in November 2010 in Lancaster, Pa.; and
- co-presented with C. Hysell and S.K. Chase “Academic Progression: Know Your Options” at the National Student Nurses’ Association National Convention, held in Orlando, Fla., in April 2010.

Bette Wildgust ’97 M.S.N., M.S., CRNA, clinical associate professor and program director of the Villanova University College of Nursing-Crozer Chester Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia, has been named to the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. Based in Harrisburg, the board establishes rules and regulations for the licensure and practice of professional and practical nursing in the Commonwealth and provides for the examination of all applicants. Her nomination by Gov. Edward G. Rendell was confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate in March 2010.

Joyce S. Willens ’83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., BC, assistant professor, in September 2010 received the American Society for Pain Management Nursing’s Distinguished Service Award, presented at its national conference in Minneapolis. She was recognized for her leadership and outstanding local and national contributions promoting accessibility to quality pain management through public and professional education. In June 2010 Dr. Willens presented “Strategies for Taking the Pain Certification Examination” at Paoli (Pa.) Memorial Hospital and “Professional Opportunities in Pain” at Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital’s 9th Annual Pain Seminar.

Recent Grants for Research

Through their research, faculty continue to improve care and safety among diverse populations. Recent grants have spurred the following scholarly work.

- **Preparing NPs to care for people with disabilities.** The College has received a three-year federal grant for its project “Preparing Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to Care for Patients with Disabilities: Integration of Content into the Nurse Practitioner Curriculum.” The project aims to improve the nursing care of this much underserved group. The grant is from the Advanced Education Nursing Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Leading the project are Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN, BC, assistant professor and coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Programs, and Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research.

“Disability affects one in every fourth or fifth person in the U.S.,” notes Dr. Blunt. “This number is expected to increase because of the aging of the population, survival of many children with developmental disabilities and childhood illnesses well into adulthood, improved management of chronic illnesses and trauma, and adoption of healthy lifestyles by many. Although nurse practitioners provide excellent primary care, many are not as well-prepared to work as effectively with patients with disabilities as we would like.”

They will identify and test NP teaching strategies at the College and then share findings nationally. Individuals with disabilities will be integrated into classrooms and simulation labs to provide students with the same educational experiences caring for these patients as for all individuals. Students in all three NP tracks—Adult, Pediatrics and Family—will complete a clinical practicum experience in a setting that includes individuals with disabilities. Currently, most NP programs do not have this component.

Dr. Smeltzer notes that “We hope to change the curricula of NP programs across the country to include content related to disability so that future nurse practitioners are able to provide quality care to this population.”

There is strong empirical evidence that individuals with disabilities receive health care less often and are offered less effective and less aggressive treatment than their non-disabled counterparts. In light of this disparity, in 2005 the U.S. Surgeon General issued a “Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities,” recommending measures to ensure accessible, comprehensive health care to enable these individuals to have full, engaged and productive lives. The Call to Action specifically identified the need for health profession education programs, including medicine and nursing, to teach students about disability.

- **Quality of life for African-American women after breast cancer.** Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, has a career-long commitment to researching breast cancer. With principal investigator Andrea Barsevick, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, of Philadelphia’s Fox Chase Cancer Center, she is studying “Problems and Resources of African American Breast Cancer Survivors (AABCS),” funded by a four-year American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant.

“Our grant will focus on AABCS because less is known about their survivor challenges or the resources available for dealing with these challenges,” Dr. Bradley explains. “This study is unique because it will help us learn how African-American women deal with stress after their breast cancer treatment has ended.” She adds, “Having women tell their stories and answer questions on a survey will give us a better idea of what it is like to be an African-American breast cancer survivor.”



Our ultimate goal is to develop a product or program that addresses quality of life needs of AABCS and prepare for its evaluation in future research.”

■ **Risk and Internet-related behaviors in adolescents.** Keeping youth safe on the Internet is not only a passion but a mission for Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP, associate professor. She is the principal investigator for the study “Self Exploitation and Electronic Aggression: High Risk Internet Behaviors in Adoles-

cents,” funded by a grant of nearly \$314,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. The two-year award will support the project through 2012.

“The primary goal of this research project is to examine the relationships between a range of risk-related and Internet-related behaviors,” says Dr. Dowdell. Her project will survey

high school students about participation in self-exploitative and risky social networking behaviors (such as auto-pornography, “sexting” and Face Roulette) that may increase victimization. Assessment of their Internet knowledge and practice is vital to understanding what motivates some adolescents to create and distribute explicit photos of themselves or others. The project will also address questions specific to electronic aggression, about what differentiates (from their victims) the students who use the Internet to embarrass, harass or bully them. Knowledge gained from a high-school population will provide insights for designing developmentally appropriate strategies that have the potential to enhance existing Internet safety programs.



Villanova Nurses Take Active Roles at Three National Forums

NLN Education Summit 2010

Several faculty members and graduate students participated in the National League for Nursing (NLN) Education Summit 2010, “Shaping History, Reforming Health Care: the Power of Nursing Education,” which took place September 29-October 2, 2010, in Las Vegas.

- **M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, participated in a plenary session, “The Inspiration and Innovation of Nursing Education.” This panel of nursing leaders who have had an impact on national and regional nursing education discussed challenges, successes and future vision.
- **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Doctoral Program in Nursing, presented “Becoming a Researcher in Nursing Education: A Special Session for Doctoral Students” and co-presented “CNE Recertification and Preparing for Your CNE Certification Exam.”
- **Pennie Sessler Branden, M.S.N., R.N., CNM**, doctoral student, presented a poster on “Professional Advocacy by the Nurse: a Literature Review.”
- **Kelly Reilly, M.S.N., R.N.-BC**, doctoral student, co-presented a paper “Connecting Conversations.”
- **Jennifer Kasker, B.S.N., R.N., PCCN**, M.S.N. student, presented a poster, “Teaching with Music and Lyrics... Hello, Learners!”

At the Summit, the College of Nursing was re-designated for the third year as a NLN Center of Excellence (see page 13). **Marycarol McGovern ’68 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, and **Angelina Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, CCE, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education, represented the College’s Center of Excellence Committee for the presentation.

PNEG Presenters

The College’s Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, in cooperation with the Professional Nurse Educators Group (PNEG), organized the 37th Annual National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development, “Gateway to Innovation and Creativity in Nursing Education,” which took place in Baltimore in October 2010. Many Villanova Nursing faculty members, alumni and students presented, including the following podium presenters:

- **Karen Blake ’87 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP**, adjunct clinical faculty member, “Autism Spectrum Disorder: a New Generation of Complex Patients”;
- **Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS**, associate professor, “Revisiting the Clinical Associate Teaching Model”;
- **Maryanne Lieb ’85 M.S.N., R.N.**, coordinator, Second Degree Options and clinical assistant professor, “Assuring Competence and Confidence with Fundamental Skills in Accelerated Program Students” and “A Tried and True Accelerated B.S.N. Program for College Graduates: The Proof is in the Product”;
- **Catherine Todd Magel Ed.D., R.N., BC**, assistant professor, “Facilitating the Role Transition from Clinical Practice to Academic Education”;
- **Gale Robinson-Smith Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor; **Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor; and **Colleen Meakim ’84 M.S.N., R.N.**, director of the Learning Resource Center, “Using Simulation as a Strategy to Teach Undergraduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing”;

- **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, “Disability: An Often Ignored Issue in Nursing Education”;
- **Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF**, associate professor, “Succession Planning in Nursing Education: Issues and Innovative Strategies for Success”; and
- **Anne Vitale '08 Ph.D., R.N., APRN, BC**, “Basic Strategies for Novice Faculty Teaching Online Asynchronous Nursing Courses.”

Those presenting posters at the PNEG national conference in Baltimore included:

- **Majed Alamri, M.S.N.**, doctoral student, “Motivation in Nursing and Evidence-based Practice Barriers”;
- **Tamara Kear '09 Ph.D., R.N.**, “An Investigation of Transformative Learning Experiences During Associate Degree Nursing Education”;
- **Margaret G. Lyons '87 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNI** and **M.S.N. student Jennifer Kasker, R.N., PCCN**, “Need for a Re-Start? Results of an Intravenous Catheter Insertion Course for Experienced R.N.s.”;
- **Bette Mariani '82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, clinical assistant professor; **Angelina Arcamone '82 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education; and **Jennifer Cummins '00 M.S.N., R.N., CEN, BC**, M.S.N. student and adjunct faculty member, “Student’s and R.N. Staff’s Perceptions of 12-hour Clinical Rotations in an Undergraduate Program”;

- **Jennifer Specht '98 B.S.N., R.N.**, doctoral student, “Effect of Mentoring in Levels of Role Conflict and Role Ambiguity Experienced by Neophyte Faculty”;
- **Jodie Szlachta, M.S.N., M.S., CRNA**, doctoral student and associate program director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program; and **Carlene McLaughlin '09 M.S.N., CRNA**, adjunct faculty member, “Perceptions of First and Second Year Nurse Anesthesia Students of a Peer Learning Model in HFPS”; and
- **Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF**, associate professor, “Cherry Ames: Innovative Role Model or Past Stereotype?”

A Prominent Role at the ENRS Scientific Sessions

The following faculty and students were on the program for the 23rd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), held at Philadelphia’s Penn’s Landing March 23-25:

- **Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP**, associate professor, two papers: “Middle School Students and Risky Internet Behaviors: Communication with Online Strangers and Offline Contact” and “Health Risk Behaviors of Adolescents and Young Adults with a History of Asthma”;
- **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Doctoral Program in Nursing, two papers: “Access Among Adult Women Respondents to the 2008 National Health Interview Survey” and “Self-Reported Vision Status as a Correlate of Health Care Access Among Adult Women Respondents to the 2008 National Health Interview Survey”;

- **Patricia Mynaugh, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, a paper, “Rio Grande Area Women and Maternity Staff Members Report on Perceptions of Prenatal Care Deterrents and Suggestions for Prenatal Care”;
- **Bing Bing Qi '94 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, a paper, “Theoretical and Clinical Implications of the Self-Efficacy Enhanced Osteoporosis Preventive Education Program”;
- **Michael Conti, M.S.N., CRNA**, doctoral student, a poster, “Nurse-Physician Communication and its Effects on Patient Safety: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back”;
- **Stephanie Jeffers, M.S.N., R.N.**, doctoral student, a poster, “End of Life: A Concept Analysis”;
- **Christina Lam, M.S.N., R.N.**, doctoral student, a poster, “Patterns of Heart Failure Symptom Recognition and Strategies to Improve Self-Management Practices: An Integrative Review”;
- **Lynz Parker B.S.**, second degree B.S.N. student, a poster, “Health and Health Care Correlates of Self-Reported Musculoskeletal Conditions, and Selected Mental Health Alterations, Among Adult Respondents to the 2008 National Health Interview Survey.”

Scholarship Brunch Draws Together Donors and Beneficiaries

Special friends of the College of Nursing make possible the education of many future Villanova nurses. Scholarship recipients and their families had a chance to meet and thank their generous donors, as well as share their Villanova stories, at the annual Scholarship Breakfast in Driscoll Hall. It took place on September 18, 2010, during Villanova University's Parents' Weekend.

The Robert and Frances Capone Scholarship

Alison W. Spicer, senior, Carver, Mass.

Father John J. Farrell, O.S.A. and Robert J. Capone Scholarship

Colleen M. McCormick, senior, Yardley, Pa.

Beatrice A. Chase '54 Scholarship for Nursing

Victoria R. Steiner, freshman, Syracuse, N.Y.

The Jill Laura Creedon Scholarship for Nursing

Elizabeth A. Witte, junior, San Jose, Calif.

The Frances Farrell D'Ambrisi Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Adriane Weigand, senior, Allentown, Pa.

The Eastwood Family Nursing Scholarship

Sarah E. Sheerin, sophomore, Lancaster, Pa.

Stephanie J. Gailor, sophomore, Lancaster, Pa.

The Eastwood Family Nursing Scholarship and PPJOC Endowed University Scholarship

DeAnna M. DelGaiso, junior, Philadelphia

The Linda D. and James W. Eastwood '68 Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Caitlin B. Rhoades, junior, Glassboro, N.J.

The Memorial Endowment Fund of

Margaret S. and Jeremiah J. Enright
Corrine Sermania, senior, Havertown, Pa.
Lindsey E. Waters, senior, Ephrata, Pa.



The College's fall 2010 scholarship recipients include (front row, from left) Alyssa Canino, Victoria Steiner, Adriane Weigand, Carolyn Schultz, Makeba Calliste, Sarah Sheerin, Marie McClure, Karley McBreen, Christine Bochanski, Sinead Kemmy, Stephanie Gailor; (back row, from left) Lauren Robinson, Catherine Capozzola, DeAnna DelGaiso, Shakia Blount, Colleen McCormick, Lindsey Waters, Andrew Masiello, Alison Spicer, Corrine Sermania, Zefie Nikolis, Caitlin Rhoades and Elizabeth Witte. Not pictured: Heewon Cho, Hana Lee and Lisa Rivera.

The Daniel M. and Christine A. Finnegan Endowed Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Eileen S. Lupton '03

Christine V. Bochanski, sophomore, Lansdowne, Pa.

The Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 Scholarship for Nursing

Alyssa M. Canino, senior, Rockville, Md.

Mary Alice Holland Memorial Scholarship
Catherine J. Capozzola, junior, Delmar, N.Y.

The Kreider Family Endowed University Scholarship

Zefie Nikolis, senior, Albertson, N.Y.

The Eileen S. Lupton '03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Marie E. McClure, sophomore, Coatesville, Pa.

The Mother Teresa Endowed Nursing Scholarship Established by Peter and Colleen Schleider in Memory of Richard and Ellen Wright

Lauren A. Robinson, junior, West Chester, Pa.

Theresa Wilson and Michael J. Mruz Scholarship in Nursing

Lisa J. Rivera, junior, Brick, N.J.

The Mary V. O'Donnell Endowed University Scholarship

Hana Lee, junior, Ridgefield, N.J.

The Col. Julia B. Paparella and Dr. Benedict A. Paparella Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

Sinead C. Kemmy, junior, Norwood, Mass.

The Pizzi Family Nursing Scholarship

Karley R. McBreen, freshman, Prospect Park, Pa.

The Alexis Rosenberg Foundation Endowed Scholarship

Heewon A. Cho, junior, Seoul, Korea
Carolyn J. Schultz, senior, Allentown, Pa.
Shakia Blount, junior, Philadelphia

The Margaret Mary Starzynski Memorial Fund Scholarship

Andrew E. Masiello, junior, Staten Island, N.Y.
Makeba V. Calliste, senior, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Major Gifts Officer Appointed for Nursing

Liz Hertneck in February joined University Advancement as a major gifts officer for the College of Nursing. Previously, she was assistant director of the Annual Fund at Lafayette College, where she raised funds from multiple constituencies and managed reunion class volunteers. During her years with Special Olympics in both New Jersey and Washington, D.C., Hertneck gained experience soliciting corporate sponsorships and creating training events for volunteers.



Experienced in annual giving and corporate sponsorships, Liz Hertneck will focus on major gifts for the College of Nursing.

Hertneck earned her B.A. in psychology from Loyola College in Maryland and her M.S. in human services management from what is now McDaniel College. A two-sport varsity athlete at Loyola, she continues to be an enthusiastic swimmer and runner. She looks forward to meeting Nursing alumni, parents and friends.

First Recipients Presented with Rogerson Scholarship

Two Nurse Practitioner (NP) students in the College of Nursing's Graduate Program are the first recipients of The Carina Joy Rogerson Endowed Memorial Graduate Nursing Scholarship, presented on December 9, 2010, at the College's Winter Convocation in Driscoll Hall. Named for the late Carina "Cari" Rogerson '09 M.S.N., R.N., who died in October 2009 just after completing her M.S.N. requirements, the scholarship assists NP students.

The first to benefit from the generosity of the Rogerson family and other donors to the scholarship fund are:

- Morgan Laubach, B.S.N., R.N., an Adult NP student from Blue Bell, Pa. and
- Amy J. Brickner, B.S.N., R.N., a Pediatric NP student from York, Pa.

Laubach had the opportunity to meet Craig Rogerson (Cari's husband), at the ceremony and received the award from him. Brickner was unable to attend. Both women are slated to complete their NP degrees next December.



Pediatric Nurse Practitioner student Morgan Laubach, B.S.N., R.N., and Craig Rogerson are flanked by Dean Louise Fitzpatrick (left) and Marguerite K. Schlag '68 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., assistant dean for the Graduate Program. Laubach is one of the first two students to receive The Carina Joy Rogerson Endowed Memorial Graduate Nursing Scholarship.

New Scholarships Generously Funded

E. Michael '65 A&S and Christine Pompizzi completed their commit-



At Commencement in May 2009, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., '75 A&S, president of Villanova University, greets the Pompizzi family (from left): E. Michael '65 A&S, Jessica '09 B.S.N., Christine, Victoria and Richard.

ment in December 2010 to create The Pompizzi Family Endowed Scholarship for Nursing. Their daughter, Jessica Pompizzi '09 B.S.N., R.N., is a recent graduate. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to Nursing students with financial need; its inaugural recipient will be named next fall.

In honor of the retirement of Elise Pizzi, M.S.N., CRNP from the College of Nursing faculty, her husband, Charlie, created The Pizzi Family Nursing Scholarship in July 2010. This restricted scholarship provides financial support to a full-time, first-year Nursing student who has demonstrated financial need. The scholarship is awarded for one academic year with preference for renewing the award to the same individual in subsequent years, providing the recipient continues to meet the conditions of eligibility and is in good academic standing.



Rose O'Driscoll '64 B.S.N., assistant dean for administration (left), guided Lois Greyson Tomy '64 B.S.N., her sister Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 B.S.N. and classmate Joan Flood Swetz '61 B.S.N. on a tour of Driscoll Hall in April 2010. The Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 Scholarship for Nursing has been endowed through the generosity of family and friends.

Greetings from the Nursing Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The Villanova University Nursing Alumni Association (NAA) has been busy this past year. I am pleased to share with you our achievements in a variety of areas related to our new mission.

- The NAA Board received the Villanova University Alumni Association's 2010 Leadership Award for our work developing our strategic plan.
- During Alumni Reunion Weekend last June, we offered all Nursing alumni a Continuing Education course, "Emotional Intelligence—More Important Than IQ to Success," by Patricia Haynor, Ph.D., R.N., NHA, associate professor.
- Board representatives ran or walked in support of the "Dream for Eileen" scholarship run during Villanova's Homecoming Weekend in October 2010.
- We initiated two meet-and-greet events at local hospitals to reconnect with alumni.

- We are in the process of restructuring the NAA's board and recruiting new members. As we move along with that process, you will see them listed on our Web site (www.villanova.edu/nursing/alumni).

Going forward, we are planning the next Alumni Reunion Weekend educational offering, orienting our new board members and, just as importantly, getting their input on future events as we continue to work closely with Dean Fitzpatrick and the College of Nursing.

You are a critical piece of the future of the NAA. Your participation allows us to provide support to the College of Nursing as well as to implement new initiatives in the coming academic year. Please visit www.villanova.edu/nursing/alumni to begin or continue your membership through your dues. We also need your updated contact information (see instructions in the box on page 27), even if you believe that we already have it. One of our

goals this year is to develop a robust and active membership.

With your help, we will continue to provide financial awards to graduate and undergraduate students, complete our \$50,000 pledge for the NAA office in Driscoll Hall and support events such as the College's Annual Distinguished Lectureship and its Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony.

On behalf of the board, our sincere thanks for your support. We would love to hear from you! Please feel free to contact any of the board members listed on the Web site and follow the links there to fan us on Facebook (Villanova University Nursing Alumni Association). Please let us know your thoughts; we are always interested in feedback, ideas and suggestions!



Joanne F. Gurney '71 B.S.N., '88 M.S.N.
President, Nursing Alumni Association

The Voice of Kenya's Forgotten

"I have been given so much and wanted the opportunity to give back to those who do not have so much," explains Sarah Skog '07 B.S.N., R.N. of her desire to serve Africa's underserved. After three years of clinical practice in the emergency department of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, she connected with New Zealand-based International Volunteer Headquarters to volunteer in Kenya for four months. She returned home to West Chester, Pa., in July 2010 as a different person.

"Africa has changed my life," says Skog. "Kenya is filled with amazing people who struggle every day to get by and still find happiness. Laughter, singing, dancing, family, poverty, sickness, corruption, crime. To live with all these things is strength," she wrote in her blog. While she marveled at this strength, she exhibited it as well as a fierce advocate for the health needs of these East Africans.

Skog was not new to volunteering. While an undergraduate at Villanova's College of Nursing, she completed service



The orphaned boys in Kibera had little health care, so Sarah Skog '07 B.S.N., R.N. performed assessments and provided first aid, here for a hand laceration.

trips and incorporated multicultural care into her clinical experience. As a senior, for example, she promoted health on the Western Shoshone reservation in Elko, Nev.

Conditions in Kenya—where life expectancy is 56 years—were beyond her imagination. The site of Skog's initial work was Kitengela Medical Center, 45 minutes south of Nairobi. She provided basic nursing care and assigned herself 25 patients. The 44-bed hospital has four wards (female, male, pediatric and maternity), plus a very basic trauma room with a stretcher and epinephrine, and an operating theatre. Most of the patients had malaria, dehydration or gastritis. Having no assessment data or substantive documentation, Skog decided to perform full assessments on each of her patients and record her findings. The nursing staff eventually adopted her documentation methods, as well as the admission form she developed for a full health history and complete physical assessment.

Skog then spent two months in Saikeri (Maasailand), southwest of Nairobi. She worked with a nurse who was the only health-care professional in the community of 7,000 Maasai. These semi-nomadic people move their livestock according to the season and operate within a communal land management system. "The clinic was a basic one with no charting system to record patient information and provide some continuity of care," recalls Skog. As a start, she implemented a simple system. She also taught health promotion and struggled to have an impact on preventing overtreatment with antibiotics.

The challenges continued at Skog's third assignment, an orphanage for "street children" in Kibera, Africa's largest slum, where one-fifth of Nairobian live. She describes the Joseph Kang'ethe Rehabilitation Center as "extremely basic" housing for between 75 and 90 boys, only a few of whom are sponsored to attend school. She noted that none of the children had ever had any health assessment. A volunteer medical student helped Skog organize a clinic day so that she could complete physical exams while the medical student did HIV testing and counseling. Skog developed record forms for each of the 50 boys, age 10-16, who came to the camp and its related education sessions about life goals, development and addiction. Malnutrition was widespread. The two volunteers provided basic care for conditions such as ringworm and diarrhea, as well as supplied multivitamins and antibiotics.

"I spent a lot of time and energy during my last month in Kenya advocating for these children," recalls Skog. "Armed with my medical reports of the children, I met with government officials, pleading for proper nutrition and health care. I might as well have been talking to myself," Skog reflects. "I did what I could for them while I was there, bringing them food and medication. Their health did improve significantly, but then I had to go home, and sustainability must have been the biggest challenge. I had initiated daily group therapy sessions for the boys with a local volunteer psychologist before I left, as a last attempt in sustainability."

The boys remain in her memory, as do the disturbing scenes, such as inhalant abuse, that she encountered as she cared

Don't Miss Out on News and Updates from the College of Nursing

The College of Nursing is moving more and more to electronic communications. Without your e-mail address, we cannot provide you with important information about your alma mater. The College uses the Villanova University alumni database, so your update will go to that office.

It's quick and easy by any of these methods:

- Call 1-800-VILLANOVA (1-800-845-5266).
- Send an e-mail to alumni@villanova.edu.
- Or simply update your information in your Nova Network profile online at www.villanova.edu/advance/alumni/vuonline.htm. We look forward to staying in touch with you!

for children on the street. "There were 30 to 40 children in the area, all of them with soot-covered, ripped clothing, no shoes and either a bottle of glue or a rag soaked in gasoline hanging from their bottom lip. The children ranged from age 8 to 20," she recalls. "I passed out vitamins and worm medicine, mended abrasions and lacerations. We bought them food, and they ate like it was their first meal in weeks," she

said. "I will never view the world the same way I did when I left America."

Currently, Skog shares her nursing knowledge and skill with patients at Beth Israel and Chester County Hospital in her hometown, where she works per diem. She is considering the future: "I have to figure out how my skill set would be best utilized to serve the Third World population that I have grown to care so much about."



During her four months as a volunteer, Skog spent half of that time providing basic medical care to the Maasai tribe of southern Kenya, where almost no health care is available. Here, women gather for a talk on maternal health.

Motivated by Mission in Colorado

As a family nurse practitioner (FNP), Amy Gardner Quinones '03 B.S.N., M.S.N., FNP-BC stands on the front line in caring for the most fragile of the underserved and underinsured of Denver, Colo. A smart, unassuming and focused young woman, she is an anchor for colleagues and patients alike. Amidst the swirling controversies of health-care insurance and the intensity of overwhelming social and public health concerns, she offers them a steady presence in a difficult economic environment.

"I think and talk about Villanova all the time," Quinones says as she describes how her four years at Villanova and the College of Nursing are woven into the fabric of her nursing career.

From Barrington, R.I., she arrived at Villanova in 1999 as a Presidential Scholar. Quinones values the "constant mentoring" she received from Dean Louise Fitzpatrick. In addition to excelling in her classes, Quinones served others on mission trips and built homes with Habitat for Humanity. Those experiences, plus the influence of the College's mission, led her to volunteer for a year after graduation. At a birth center on the Texas-Mexico border, she cared in a holistic manner for pregnant women and new mothers, reflecting the College's approach to nursing that involves not only assessing physical condition but mind and spirit as well. "Villanova formed me that way," Quinones explains. Her experience as a new nurse at the birth center presented challenges but strengthened her resolve to serve vulnerable populations.

Following that year of service, she spent a year as a medical-surgical staff nurse at a Texas hospital and gained additional clinical experience. During this time, she met her future husband, Luis Quinones. She knew she wanted to pursue graduate school and was attracted to advanced practice nursing. After the couple moved to Denver, where they were married, Quinones enrolled at the University of Colorado, the birthplace of the nurse practitioner movement. She earned her FNP master's degree in 2008.

Quinones' practice is based at Denver Health, which serves 25 percent of all

"These are the people who are the reason I am a nurse."

—Amy Gardner Quinones '03
B.S.N., M.S.N., FNP-BC

Denver residents, including one out of every three children. Described as Colorado's primary "safety net" institution, Denver Health provides billions of dollars' worth of care for the uninsured. She sees patients at the Adult Urgent Care Clinic (AUCC), one of the first U.S. clinics to hire nurse practitioners. Many of these adults are homeless, and most are underinsured or uninsured. The uninsured group has grown "dramatically in the last year and a half," Quinones observes.

As she spends time with patients and treats their urgent problems, which can range from a sore throat to a diabetic emergency, she knows their conditions often are complicated by the failing

social or economic structure, or by critical issues like domestic violence and substance abuse. "These patients have issues we can't always fix," Quinones notes, describing times when it may be difficult for even AUCC's talented team of professionals to remain positive. Her view is elegant in its simplicity: "These are the people who are the reason I became a nurse."

Adds the FNP, "I have no trouble staying motivated." Quinones points back to her days at the College of Nursing with its commitment to human service and its view of nursing as a healing ministry. Her perspective remains steady by viewing her role through what she calls her "faith-based service lens." It is an integral part of her nursing practice, and she is grateful for it. "I can't imagine any better preparation for a career that's not just a paycheck but something you truly love," she believes. Quinones advises new graduates "Be confident that Villanova has done a great job."



At Denver Health's Adult Urgent Care Clinic, Amy Gardner Quinones '03 B.S.N., M.S.N., FNP-BC focuses on her patients through her "faith-based service lens."

Walking Tall in Ghana



In Ghana, while offering postoperative nursing care to 11-year old Bethelham, Cassie Finnegan '08 B.S.N., R.N. found herself inspired by the young Ethiopian girl. She also gained knowledge of the challenges and resilience in underdeveloped countries.

After only a short time in her new job as a staff nurse at New York City's Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), Cassie Finnegan '08 B.S.N., R.N. heard from a colleague about an upcoming mission trip to West Africa. For a young nurse like Finnegan, who understands the life-altering disability that can come with orthopedic disorders, the chance to spend two weeks in Ghana helping the underserved was "the opportunity of a lifetime," she recalls.

As a Nursing undergraduate at Villanova, Finnegan had enjoyed her pediatric rotation and was excited about the prospect of working with children abroad. Inspired by the opportunity to provide orthopedic and spine care to patients on another continent, she and her colleague signed up as volunteers.

Their service trip, which took place in

May 2010, was sponsored by FOCOS (The Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine). This nonprofit organization serving developing nations was founded in 1998 by HSS spine surgeon Oheneba Boachie-Adjei, M.D., who was born in Ghana.

Finnegan flew to Accra, Ghana's capitol, with other volunteer nurses, physicians and physical therapists. They arrived ready to help the children of Ghana "walk tall," to paraphrase the FOCOS mission.

Based at Accra's government-run Korle Bu Hospital, Finnegan cared for pediatric patients in both the pre- and postoperative areas. In the surgical area, she saw children undergoing spine surgery for conditions such as kyphosis, scoliosis and spinal tuberculosis. "It was challenging to acclimate myself, as it was

extremely different from the hospitals where I had worked in the United States," she notes. "I found myself thankful to have the supplies and resources we so often take for granted at home." Finnegan was impressed with the resilience of the pediatric patients. "They were able to overcome things I could never dream of, without complaining at all," she says.

A close bond formed between Finnegan's group and 11-year-old Bethelham, an Ethiopian girl who required a second surgery on her spine. "Most children would be scared and nervous, shy and quiet. She quickly became part of our team and would come on morning rounds with us. By the end of our time there, she was convinced she wanted to go to nursing school when she got older. It was really sweet."

Being part of that volunteer group brought Finnegan renewed perspective on the power of initiative and health-care professionals. "It made me so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of something so much bigger and greater than myself," she says. "It reaffirmed why I wanted to become a nurse all along." Finnegan notes the influence of the other members of the team who had been on this same trip multiple times: "To be with a group of people from all over the world who joined together to make such a huge difference in these children's lives was really inspiring."

Finnegan's experience in Ghana refined her clinical practice. "The trip gave me a greater understanding of spine surgery and the preoperative and postoperative care that these patients require," she recalls. "In New York, I work with surgical patients and definitely noticed a difference in my practice at home after the trip. It gave me more confidence in my own nursing skills as well."

Her future plans include graduate school and becoming more involved in public health. While others may have motivated her, Finnegan is now the exemplar. "As a nurse," she has found, "there are a lot of opportunities to travel, learn and help different organizations that provide much-needed assistance to less fortunate people all over the world."

Nursing Alumni Notes

1950s

Dr. Rosalie Mirenda '59 B.S.N., president of Neumann University in Aston, Pa., was one of four visionary individuals honored in November 2010 by the Catholic Leadership Institute with an Award for Outstanding Catholic Leadership. She was recognized for being an exemplar in the family, workplace, community and Church.

1960s

Tara Siegal Cortes '67 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN in June 2010 was appointed by the New York University College of Nursing as executive director of the college's Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing. Now in its 14th year, the institute has become a global resource for best practices in nursing care of older adults. Dr. Cortes holds the Mathy D. Mezey Chair as a professor in geriatric nursing.

1970s

Mary D. Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN received the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) 2010 Policy Luminary Award, established in 2009 to recognize outstanding nursing leaders for their contributions to public policy. As the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and the director of NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Dr. Naylor has created a distinguished research program in transitional care. Her program has led to the findings that have provided the evidence for quality care for individuals and families in health-care transitions, and that have greatly influenced health-care policy. She is a member of Villanova University's Board of Trustees and the College of Nursing's Board of Consultants.

Rear Adm. (Ret.) Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N. retired from the U.S. Navy in August 2010. In her distinguished career, she served as the 21st director of the Navy Nurse Corps (2005-2009) and was most recently commander, Naval Medical

Center San Diego and Navy Medicine West. She is co-author of the recently published *Clinical Leadership: The 21st Century Model for Navy Nursing*. She is a member of the Villanova College of Nursing's Board of Consultants and its former chairperson.

Sheila Glennon Kempf '74 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. earned her Ph.D. in human services with a specialty in health-care administration from Capella University in

January, defending her dissertation "Caring Leadership Attributes of R.N. CEOs and the Relationship to Patient Satisfaction and Quality." She is senior vice president, Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer at Bristol (Conn.) Hospital.

Eileen Thomas '79 B.S.N., M.S., R.N. in spring 2010 graduated with an M.S. in Nursing Education from New York University. She is the clinical educator for the Emergency Department at Danbury (Conn.)



Knocking out Pediatric Cancer

That's the goal of the Gloves for Love Pediatric Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit organization started in 2009 by Bryn Mawr, Pa. resident Lauren Saltzburg '09 B.S.N., R.N. As an undergraduate at Villanova's College of Nursing, her pediatric rotation was on the oncology unit of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)—her subsequent employer. The impact of that rotation stayed with her and led her to raise money to help children with cancer. She is shown presenting an award in July 2010 to the two men who won the Gloves for Love Baggio (bean bag toss) tournament, which raised \$8,000 for CHOP's Cancer Center. Saltzburg credits her Nursing education at Villanova for developing within her the needed perspective to create Gloves for Love. "I was taught exceptional time management and leadership skills while at Villanova.... The emphasis was always to look at the big picture and to assess each situation from 'outside the box,'" she says. Learn more at www.glovesforlove.org.

Hospital, and also an American Heart Association regional faculty member for both pediatric and adult advanced life support.

1980s

Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin '80 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP contributed a chapter about her experiences as a pediatric nurse practitioner caring for children with hemophilia in *The Gift of Experience*, by L. Gray and C. Chamberlain (2010, Camden Writers, 69-75).

Catherine Alznauer Greenblum '83 B.S.N., Ph.D., FNP-BC earned a Ph.D. in Nursing Sciences with a minor in public health from the University of Florida in 2010. She is a nurse practitioner with Jesse Greenblum, M.D., obstetrics and gynecology, in Fernandina Beach, Fla.

1990s

Gina Ulichny Friel '90 B.S.N., in spring 2010 was elected to a two-year term as president of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP).

Tresa E. Zielinski '90 B.S.N., R.N., M.S., PCCNP, APN-NP is advance practice nurse manager in outpatient cardiology at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Kelly Ann Zazyczny '94 B.S.N., R.N. earned specialty certification in pediatric nursing in July 2010. She is patient care manager for the pediatrics/IV team at Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital. She is also earning her M.S.N. in Nursing Education at Villanova.

Jacquelyn Schaefer Foley '96 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. in December 2010 earned her master's degree from Georgetown University as a family nurse practitioner. She is a part-time clinical instructor for its baccalaureate nursing program.

Denise Fessler '97 M.S.N., R.N. in January 2010 was promoted to vice president, Clinical Management Services, of Capital BlueCross of Harrisburg. She is responsible for the leadership, oversight and development of clinical manage-

ment programs and services, including quality management, utilization management, medical claims review, process improvement and clinical training, and staff development. She also oversees the company's Better Health Works Program, which includes case management, disease management, maternity management and health education.

2000s

Catherine "Kate" Loeper McDonald '00 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., a Presidential Scholar while an undergraduate at Villanova's College of Nursing, in May 2010 successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, "Community Violence Exposure and Positive Youth Development in Urban Youth," at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She was awarded a fellowship titled "NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow, Research on Vulnerable Women, Children, and Families," at Penn's Center for Health Equity Research.

Palaka Patel '03 B.S., '05 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. in May 2010 received a *Nursing Spectrum* 2010 Nursing Excellence Award. She is a senior nurse educator at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia. Patel was recognized for transforming the R.N. residency program to include hands-on learning and mentoring, which significantly lowered the turnover rate.

Brianne Donahoe McGree '05 B.S.N., M.S.N., APRN-BC received her master's degree from Simmons College in 2010. She is a lymphoma/myeloma nurse practitioner at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Anne Vitale '08 Ph.D., R.N., APRN, BC is co-founder, project facilitator and research consultant for the newly launched Center for Reiki Research (www.center-forreikiresearch.org). This free, Web-based site, sponsored by The International Center for Reiki Training, was developed to determine and disseminate research evidence on the current status of Reiki inves-



Sandra Myers Gomberg '85 B.S.N., '90 M.S.N., R.N. in June 2010 was named president and chief executive officer of Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, the flagship hospital of the Temple University Health System and the primary academic teaching site for Temple's School of Medicine. She has responsibility for the hospital's strategic direction, operational effectiveness and financial health. During her 15 months as interim CEO of the 746-bed hospital, she demonstrated leadership strengths, especially during the hospital's execution of its Continuing Operations Plan, which assured uninterrupted quality clinical services throughout labor negotiations that produced successful long-term contracts. Gomberg serves on the Villanova College of Nursing's Board of Consultants.

tigations from the published peer-reviewed professional literature. This continually updated site, unprecedented in the field of complementary and alternative medicine, is useful for researchers interested in designing rigorous Reiki investigations as well as valuable for Reiki practitioners. Vitale is a visiting assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University.

Nancy Wise '09 M.S.N., R.N. presented a poster, "The Creative Use of Case Studies and Algorithms in the Clinical



Do You Have News to Share?

Stay in touch—tell us about your latest job, award and other news. Contact Ann Barrow McKenzie by phone at (610) 519-6814 or by e-mail at ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu.

Setting,” in June 2010 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., at the 2010 Drexel Nursing Education Institute. She is on the nursing faculty at the Harrisburg Area Community College’s Lancaster campus.

Susan Birkhoff ’10 M.S.N., R.N. has co-authored an article with **Carol Donner ’79 B.S.N., M.H.A., R.N.-BC**, a nursing education specialist at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), “Enhancing Pediatric Clinical Competency with High-fidelity Simulation,” in the *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 41(9), 418-423. Birkhoff earned her M.S.N. in Nursing Education in December 2010 from Villanova’s College of Nursing. She is a clinical staff nurse at CHOP.

In Memoriam: Alumni

Kay Fox ’97 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., age 61, of Spring City, Pa. died in December 2010 in Philadelphia after a long battle with cancer. She practiced as an R.N. for more than 30 years at the Phoenixville Hospital and for more than 28 years was a clinical instructor. Since 2006, she had taught nursing at Southside Regional Medical Center’s School of Nursing regional site at the hospital.

Editor’s note: Our apologies to Eileen Caviston Ryan ’77 B.S.N., whose name was incorrectly listed in a caption on page 28 in the Spring/Summer 2010 issue.



In-flight Insight

Lt. Elyse Braxton (USN, NC) ’06 B.S.N., who is stationed with the Marines in the 3rd Medical Battalion in Asia, participated in a field exercise in a CH-46 helicopter in August 2010. The exercise gave sailors and Marines experience in on- and offloading patients, in addition to a light demonstration of performing the ABC assessments in air. “Flying does change assessments. For one, you can’t hear anything, including pulses,” Braxton notes. To communicate, she says, “I wrote on my hand, ‘The ETT has been dislodged, what do you do?’” Because many Medevac flights are at night, she impressed upon her military students to use their hands to assess chest movement since they would not be able to see clearly. She also has given instruction on topics such as aviation physiology and patient transport techniques.



The V Team

Taking time out for some school spirit in New Haven, Conn., are Villanova nurses (from left) Eileen Condon ’08 B.S.N., R.N.; Jennifer Archer Papa ’87 B.S.N., R.N.; and Jaimie Bango ’10 B.S.N., R.N. All three care for the tiniest patients at Yale–New Haven Hospital’s Newborn Special Care Unit.

Fast Track to Excellence

A Villanova nursing education is invaluable,” says **Bridgette Carter Brawner '03 B.S.N., Ph.D., APRN** as she speaks about how her fast-track career began at the College of Nursing. Not yet 30 years old and with a résumé that would bring pride to someone twice her age, Dr. Brawner is the first Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing. She is developing her research, building a publication record and adjusting to the role of nurse educator by serving as guest lecturer and teaching graduate-level courses. Upon completion of the fellowship, she will transition into a faculty appointment.

With her numerous publications and presentations, Dr. Brawner is becoming renowned for her work related to HIV/AIDS, especially in the adolescent female population. Her research builds upon findings from her dissertation, “Depression and HIV Risk Related Sexual Behaviors Among African American Adolescent Females.” Based on her research and knowledge of the literature, she is designing interventions to help young women with mental health histories reduce their risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STI).

At Penn, she earned both an M.S. in Psychiatric Mental Health Advance Practice Nursing and her doctorate. As a Nursing undergraduate at Villanova, neither this clinical specialty nor her research topics were among her goals. “My dream was to be a neonatal intensive care nurse, and that’s exactly what I did after I graduated,” she says.

What she experienced as a NICU staff nurse at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia was life-changing. Working with adolescent mothers, she was moved by the challenges they faced, among them depression and other psychiatric conditions. In high school and at Villanova, she had served as a mentor, especially for girls. “Where is the disconnect between the infor-



“Being proactive in seeking mentors and networking with your peers are excellent ways to accomplish what you want to do.”

—Bridgette Carter Brawner '03 B.S.N., Ph.D., APRN

mation and resources young women need, and what brings them to their situation in the NICU?” Such questions prompted her interest in the psychology of sexual behavior among adolescent females, and mental health in general.

During her master’s program, she interned in the Comprehensive Student Assistance Program at South Philadelphia High School. Her case load included many young women dealing with depression, anxiety and borderline personality disorder. “Anecdotally, they were disclosing more risk behaviors than adolescents who did not have mental health histories,” Dr. Brawner notes. She began to ask what she could do to help. Seeking answers through doctoral study provided an important career path.

As a doctoral student, she remained an active member of the Sharon Baptist Church, where she met Will Brawner, who was helping out at a booth at a church event. With similar interests in HIV, they got to know each other better by participating on projects through Philadelphia’s Office of HIV Planning, where he worked at the time. When she shared with him her doctoral goals, he had told her, “You’ll never be Dr. Carter.” Her retort was cut short by his continuing, “You’ll be Dr. Brawner!” And marry they did. Their son, William Ashbourne Brawner Jr., is a year old.

Will Brawner became the founder and executive director of the Haven Youth Center, Inc., in Southwest Philadelphia, an area with one of the city’s highest HIV rates. Dr. Brawner serves as the center’s program coordinator. This center for youth infected with and affected by HIV also houses a Girls Club, which offers mentoring and relationship and career guidance, along with free, confidential HIV and STI testing.

Having obtained a Ph.D. and postdoc fellowship at a young age, Dr. Brawner observes: “Youth... we can be our own worst enemy.

If we say we’re too young, we limit ourselves. In being wise, we need to be aware of our limitations

and surround ourselves with people who have the resources and skills that we’re trying to obtain. Being proactive in seeking mentors and networking with your peers are excellent ways to accomplish what you want to do.”

Dr. Brawner credits Nursing faculty mentors, as well as her involvement in Villanova’s chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania and on the national board of the National Student Nurses’ Association, for having fostered her leadership skills, networks and friendships that have grown through the years. “Value the education and opportunity that exists on the undergraduate and graduate levels,” she advises, “because a Villanova education shapes who you are.”

Prepare for the Many Opportunities in Academic Nursing

Since 2004, every summer the College of Nursing has welcomed a passionate class of doctoral students seeking new knowledge. Each group has developed into a supportive cohort in partnership with faculty. As a result, there is a unique group of nurse educators in this country—those who are Villanova-prepared teacher-scholars.

The College's Ph.D. Program in Nursing prepares its graduates for careers in academic nursing, meeting the worldwide critical need for nurse educators. This program is distinguished by its special focus on the application of nursing knowledge and scholarly inquiry that address the professional and practice concerns related to teaching-learning processes in clinical and classroom settings.

Students join us from around the country and the globe to study and collaborate with experts and to share their ideas and scholarly interests. As nurses with Ph.D.s from Villanova, they will transform and advance nursing education.

Visit us at: www.villanova.edu/nursing

E-mail your questions to: nursing.graduate@villanova.edu



Do you, or does someone you know, want to be a Villanova nurse? Find out more about all of our programs by following the links at: www.villanova.edu/nursing/programs or by contacting these individuals:

Traditional Bachelor's Degree Program

angela.heinbach@villanova.edu

(610) 519-4900

B.S.N./M.S.N. Gateway Program for R.N.s

angela.heinbach@villanova.edu

(610) 519-4900

**Accelerated B.S.N. Program for
Second Degree Students**

(adults with a bachelor's degree in another discipline)

susan.leighton@villanova.edu

(610) 519-7137

Master's and Post-master's Certificate Programs

denise.meikle@villanova.edu

(610) 519-4934

Continuing Education Program

louisa.zullo@villanova.edu

(610) 519-4390

For details on upcoming information sessions, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing or call (610) 519-4900.