EXPANDING THE REACH...OF NURSING

Duke Nursing

Putting Bass Connections Funds to Work Nurses Become Advocates for Change
"The new wing of the Pearson Building was built with our students in mind. They have access to some of the best learning technology available today, as well as much-needed study space. When I enter the building in the morning, I see students collaborating in meeting rooms, quietly studying, and others sitting by our new fireplace."

– Dean Catherine Gilliss

Photos and story of the dedication are on page 05.

04 New faculty appointments
06 Relf named global health leader
School named Hartford Center of Excellence
Golf tourney raises $65K
07 Mancuso delivers Powell Lecture
Amabile gives Carter keynote
Friends and Family Day
08 DUSON re-accredited for 10 years
School receives $100K in RWJF scholarship awards
New gift officer joins Nursing Development
Medical and nursing schools unite for education
09 School hosts US-SINO Conference
10 2 named to distinguished professorships
New distance-based master’s programs
11 Reunion 2014
28 2014 Alumni Association Awards
34 Class notes
38 Alder, ABSN’13, is youngest ABSN graduate
44 Obituaries
Improving the health and well-being of people, their families, and their communities requires knowledge, skill, and access to opportunities where you can make a difference. In this issue of Duke Nursing magazine, we examine how our faculty members and students are moving beyond traditional settings to create greater access and better understandings of how to influence human health and improve the social systems in which we establish our health-influencing lifestyles. Their exciting projects are also bringing them into contact with experts and students from other disciplines.

Bass Connections is a university-wide initiative launched by a $50 million gift from Anne and Robert Bass that provides students of all levels with greater exposure to inquiry across the disciplines, partnership with unlikely fellow thinkers, sustained mentorship in teams, and the chance to experience the intersections of the academy and the broader world. Problem-focused, the initiative brings together project teams to study the complex challenges of our world today. You will read about three innovative Bass Connections projects by members of our faculty.

Advocacy has long been seen as a responsibility of the nurse, but all advocacy does not take place in the clinical setting. In a new class, our DNP students are learning how to advocate through writing editorials and op-eds for newspapers, magazines, and blogs. Nurses comprise the largest sector of the health care workforce and have a unique and generally patient-centric perspective to share. Many Duke DNP students are already health system leaders with firsthand experiences in how we support or fail our patients through federal, state, or institutional policies. You will learn more about how we are helping students to find their advocacy voices.

By the time this issue of Duke Magazine reaches you, I will have stepped down as dean and joined the school’s faculty as a professor. I will be on leave for one year. Dr. Marion Broome has been named as the school’s next dean. Having served as a successful dean at Indiana University for ten years, she is a fitting choice, and I know you will join me in welcoming her to Duke.

Serving as the school’s dean would have been pleasure enough, but having been an alumna of this special place made the experience even richer for me. I have worked with our faculty and staff to resurrect our history, build programs of which we can all be proud, and create a platform from which we can continue to build. This has been but one chapter in our long and distinguished history. I was particularly moved to open the new 48,000-square-foot addition of the Pearson Building in April, complete with the Duke stone fireplace and the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans grand piano. You would have been proud to join the assembled in singing the Duke Alma Mater, led by our own Nightingales!

I leave the deanship with tremendous pride for our community, and I am grateful to all of you who supported our work during the last decade.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN’71, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Nursing
Vice Chancellor for Nursing Affairs
New Faculty Appointments

Mary Lou Affronti, MSN’86, MHSc’09, DNP’13, RN, ANP is a clinical associate in the School of Nursing and also holds a clinical associate appointment with the School of Medicine Department of Surgery, Division of Neurosurgery. She has been a part of the Duke oncology clinical and research community for nearly three decades and was instrumental in developing the oncology curriculum for nurse practitioner students. In 2005 she was honored by the Friends of Nursing at Duke with the Evelyn Morgan Award for Excellence in Oncology Nursing. She is a senior investigator and adult nurse practitioner in the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke Cancer Institute, where she is a co-principal or principal investigator on four Phase II clinical trials. She earned both her DNP and MSN at Duke as well as a master of science in clinical research. Her DNP capstone on adherence to antiemetic guidelines in patients with malignant glioma, which received the Outstanding Capstone Doctoral Project Award in 2013, has just been published in Supportive Care in Cancer.

Elaine Kauschinger, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing and a board-certified family nurse practitioner. Her clinical experience includes family practice, emergency departments, prenatal case management, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, student health centers, retail health, and occupational health. Before coming to Duke, she was lead faculty member in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and assistant professor of clinical nursing in the primary care program at the University of Miami. She has taught at every level of academic nursing. From 1986 to 1996, she lived and worked in Mexico City, where she served the expatriate and local community, provided health care and education services in association with the U.S. Embassy and other embassies, multinational corporations, schools, and hospitals, and collaborated with the World Health Organization and Mexican government on projects addressing the needs of rural populations. Most recently, she was a forensic hospitalist providing acute, urgent, and chronic health care to an adolescent and adult population with severe chronic psychiatric disorders in a 238-bed hospital setting. She received the Nurse of the Year Award from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care/Metro Miami Dade Chapter. More recently, she was Governance Committee chair for the Beta Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Kauschinger is also active in the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) and for the past two years has been a co-recipient of the NONPF Honor Roll Award for excellence of program and faculty. She holds a PhD in interdisciplinary graduate studies from the University of Miami, an MSN from Pace University/New York Medical College, and a BS in psychology from Manhattan College. She also has earned diplomas from the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexican studies and advanced studies in Spanish language.

Sophia Smith, PhD, MSW, is a professor in the School of Nursing. Prior to joining the school, she was member of the faculty and a research scientist in the Cancer Care Research Program and Center of Learning Health Care at the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI). Her program of research focuses on innovative mobile health (mhealth) and psychosocial care solutions to improve health outcomes for cancer survivors. She is credited with helping define the longitudinal quality of life and patient experience of survivors of adult non-Hodgkin lymphoma with a particular focus on post-traumatic stress disorder, the impact of cancer, and implementation of evidence-based supportive care services. As a member of the DCRI, she has contributed to a research ecosystem that conducts patient-centered clinical trials, analyses, and policy studies and coordinates diverse datasets, leverages novel information technology for patient reporting of symptoms and other concerns, informs future studies, and facilitates patient education and patient-provider communication. She holds PD and MSW degrees from the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. Her clinical background includes social work internships with the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center in pediatric hematology/oncology and Hospice of Alamance County. She also earned an undergraduate degree in business administration with an information systems concentration at State University of New York at Albany and was a senior manager at IBM before becoming a nurse oncologist.
New Wing of Pearson Building Dedicated

Duke University leadership and friends joined faculty, staff, and students of the School of Nursing for a dedication ceremony for the new 45,000-square-foot wing of the Pearson Building during Reunion Weekend on April 10.

The hallmark of the ground floor of the new wing is a fully functioning Duke stone fireplace in the Atrium, which has been expanded. Built using the iconic stone quarried from nearby Hillsborough, the fireplace is surrounded by comfortable plush seating. The Atrium also now houses a grand piano, a gift of the family of Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans. Other features of the ground floor include a high-tech classroom, group study rooms, a reading room, and study areas.

“The new wing of the Pearson Building was built with our students in mind,” said Dean Catherine Gilliss. “They have access to some of the best learning technology available today, as well as much needed study space. When I enter the building in the morning, I see students collaborating in meeting rooms, quietly studying, and others sitting by our new fireplace.”

The second floor is dedicated to the Center for Nursing Discovery, where students can hone their patient care skills, including an obstetrics lab and three simulated operating rooms. The new wing also includes audio and video recording studios and an audiovisual technology suite as well as new offices for research, a Center of Excellence in Adaptive Leadership for Cognitive/Affective Symptom Science, and a new dean’s suite.

Gifts from several donors helped to support the new wing. Speakers at the dedication ceremony were Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead, PhD; Chancellor for Health Affairs Victor Dzau, MD; Dean Catherine Gilliss; Susan M. Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN, ACNS-BC, FAAN, chair of the Faculty Governance Association; and Christine Madubueze, BSN’14.
Relf Succeeds Powell as Global Health Leader

Michael Relf, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, AACRN, FAAN, has been named associate dean for global and community health affairs. He succeeds Dorothy Powell, Ed, RN, FAAN, who will step down in June after a 30-year career in nursing education, community health, and international development.

Relf, who has served as assistant dean for undergraduate education since 2008, has extensive international health care leadership experience. He was a visiting scholar at Queen’s University in Belfast, Ireland, and the University of Zululand, South Africa. He is widely recognized for his work in global HIV and AIDS care. From 2006-2009, he was co-investigator on a President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)-funded project to expand nursing’s capacity to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. He led the development of the Essential Nursing Competencies related to HIV/AIDS that has been used to revise the pre-licensure nursing curricula in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, those competencies were adapted to the context of HIV/AIDS nursing practice in Canada and Thailand. Prior to joining the School of Nursing, he was chair of the Department of Nursing at Georgetown University.

Joining Relf in the school’s Office of Global and Community Health Initiatives will be Jane Blood-Siegfried, DNSc, RN, CPNP, in a new role as director for Global Educational Partnerships. Having grown up in West Africa, she is working to build relationships with governments and universities in Liberia, Tanzania, Ghana, and Botswana.

Hartford Center Designation Honors Excellence in Gerontological Nursing

The School of Nursing has been named a National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence, recognizing its longtime dedication to education, research, and service in the field of nursing for the aging.

The designation provides access to national leaders in aging and gerontological nursing fields to strengthen academic programs through individualized guidance and additional educational resources. Ruth Anderson, PhD, RN, FAAN, the Virginia Stone Professor of Nursing, said the school was honored for its leadership in advancing gerontological science, facilitating the adoption of best practices, fostering leadership, designing and shaping policy, and educating nurses who provide quality care to older adults.

“On behalf of the researchers, faculty, and staff who dedicate their careers to older adults as well as to their caregivers, we are honored that the National Hartford Center recognizes our contributions to the field,” said Anderson, who is also a senior fellow in the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and director of the ADAPT Center for Cognitive/Affective Symptom Science.

Golf Tournament Raises $65,000

Christy Bell, left, Dean Catherine Gilliss, and Fran Mauney, BSN, MEd, associate dean for development and alumni affairs, celebrate raising $65,000 in the first-ever golf tournament to benefit the School of Nursing. The April tournament, held at St. James Plantation in Southport, N.C., was hosted and organized by Bell, chair of the Nursing Board of Advisors. It included 35 golfers, including two teams from the School of Nursing.
Mancuso Speaks on the Impact of Nurses on Global Health

Leslie Mancuso, PhD, RN, FAAN, gave an impassioned talk on the impact nurses can have on community health at the Dorothy L. Powell Seventh Annual Global Health Lecture and Symposium in January. Mancuso, the CEO and president of Jhpiego, a global nonprofit affiliate of Johns Hopkins University dedicated to saving the lives of women and families, indicated that 87 percent of health care is provided by nurses and nurse-midwives, many of whom work in low-resource settings. Mancuso’s talk can be watched online at nursing.duke.edu. Type Leslie Mancuso in the search box.

Amabile Delivers Carter Keynote

Teresa Amabile, PhD, the Edsel Bryant Ford Professor and director of research at Harvard Business School, delivered the 2014 Harriet Cook Carter keynote address at the School of Nursing in February. Amabile is the author of The Progress Principle: Using Small Wins to Ignite Joy, Engagement, and Creativity at Work. The annual Harriet Cook Carter Lecture is co-sponsored by the School of Nursing’s Beta Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Duke University Health System Clinical Education and Professional Development. Amabile’s talk can be watched online at nursing.duke.edu. Type Teresa Amabile in the search box.

Friends and Family Day

A total of 76 students and 174 of their friends and family members attended Friends and Family Day in February. It was an opportunity for students to introduce their loved ones to the faculty, facilities, and educational experiences of the School of Nursing.
School of Nursing Earns 10-Year Reaccreditation

The ABSN, MSN, and DNP programs have been reaccredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, following a rigorous evaluation. All three programs received the maximum reaccreditation time period of 10 years.

“The reaccreditation endorses the school’s academic excellence and reflects our dedication to quality and innovative nursing education,” said Beth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN, the Ann Hinshaw Gardner Professor of Nursing and executive vice dean. “The work involved in earning the accreditation was a school-wide effort that involved the dedicated efforts of faculty and staff working together.”

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of public health.

School of Nursing Receives RWJF Scholarship Award

The School of Nursing will receive $100,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to support the New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. Ten entering ABSN students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds will receive scholarship awards during the 2014-2015 academic year. The School has received a total of $870,000 from the program, which has provided support to 87 students since the 2008-2009 academic year.

New Gift Officer Joins Development and Alumni Relations

Diana Staples has recently joined the Duke University School of Nursing Development and Alumni Relations team as a senior major gifts officer. She replaces Sallie Ellinwood, who retired at the end of February.

Staples previously served as senior director of development for Richmond CenterStage Foundation, the fundraising arm of the performing arts complex located in Richmond, Va.

From 1997 to 2007, Staples held the post of associate dean for external affairs at the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and prior to that was a member of the development team at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina.

Staples attended the University of Rochester, where she also served in several development roles at the university and the University of Rochester Medical Center, working in alumni relations for the School of Medicine and Dentistry and in development for Strong Memorial Hospital.

Medical and Nursing Schools Join Forces to Advance Education

For the first time, Duke University’s schools of medicine and nursing have formally joined together to promote excellence in the education of health professionals. The Duke Academy for Health Professions Education and Academic Development (Duke AHEAD) was launched in April and is designed to develop an inter-professional community of educators. Duke AHEAD also includes the Duke Physician Assistant Program and the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, which are part of the School of Medicine. Its goals are to create an enterprise-wide community of health professions scholars, foster innovation in health professions education, support outstanding teachers, provide faculty development programs, and facilitate quality education research. Duke AHEAD is under the direction of Diana McNeill, MD’82, HS’87-’89.
The World Comes to Duke for U.S.-SINO Conference

More than 30 presentations by faculty from 15 U.S. and Chinese universities were presented during the second annual U.S.-SINO Conference hosted by the School of Nursing in March. The three-day in-depth conference on health care issues focused on advancing nursing research and education and strengthening the exchange of ideas among health care leaders from around the world.

“Our global society requires collaboration between researchers and educators in order to reduce health disparities, manage chronic illnesses, and prepare the nurse leaders of tomorrow in innovative ways that promote a globally engaged nursing community,” said Dean Catherine Gilliss. “Ultimately, this cooperation promotes better care for patients, families, and communities. It is an honor for Duke University School of Nursing to serve as the host for a conference that attracts some of the best minds in nursing research and education who are dedicated to improving health care for all members of society.”

The keynote speakers at the conference were Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean and Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing, and professor of psychology, epidemiology, and occupational therapy at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing; Pamela R. Jeffries, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, professor and associate dean for academic affairs at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing; and Hu Yan, PhD, RN, dean and professor at Fudan University School of Nursing in China.

Sponsors

Fudan University School of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, New York University College of Nursing, Peking Union Medical College, Shanghai Jiao Tong University College of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, the School of Nursing at the University of California San Francisco, Penn State University College of Nursing, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing
Wu and Oermann Named to Distinguished Professorships

Bei Wu, PhD, and Marilyn Oermann, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN have been named the Pauline Gratz Professor of Nursing and the Thelma M. Ingles Professor of Nursing, respectively.

Wu is professor and director for international research at the School of Nursing and a member of the Duke Global Health Institute. She is also a senior fellow at the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. Wu received MS and PhD degrees in gerontology from the University of Massachusetts. She is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She is an internationally known expert on China’s long-term care policy and system development and has worked closely with several schools of public health and schools of nursing in China on educational and research initiatives. Some of these include conducting joint research projects, providing lectures, making presentations, and organizing professional conferences/training workshops. Wu has led many National Institutes of Health (NIH)- and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded projects on aging and health related issues, including long-term care, dementia, caregiving, oral health, and health services utilization. She is also the methods core director for the School of Nursing’s NIH-funded center on Adaptive Leadership in Symptom Science.

Oermann is director of evaluation and educational research at the School of Nursing. Her scholarship focuses on nursing education, with an emphasis on both teaching and evaluation in nursing. With funding from the National League for Nursing and Laerdal Medical, she recently completed a multisite study on the effects of monthly practice on nursing students’ CPR psychomotor skill performance. She is currently completing a feasibility study on the use of simulation for high-stakes testing. She is the author or co-author of 15 books, including several national award winners, and a wide variety of other publications. She is the editor of the Journal of Nursing Care Quality, Nurse Educator, and Nurse Author & Editor. She holds a PhD and an MSNEd from the University of Pittsburgh and has received Distinguished Alumna Awards from both its School of Nursing and School of Education. She also received a Distinguished Alumna Award from Pennsylvania State University School of Nursing, where she earned a BSN. She is a Fellow of the National League of Nursing Academy of Nursing Education and the American Academy of Nursing.

Three NP Majors Launch Distance-Based Option

The Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner degree programs will launch a distance-based study option in Fall 2014.

The classes will be delivered online through engaging platforms, recorded lectures, group discussions, and other innovative online activities.

“This is an excellent opportunity for nurses who wish to further their education with a Duke MSN and make a meaningful impact as a nurse practitioner,” said Michael Zychowicz, director of the MSN degree program. “Our distance-based format combines the talented Duke nursing faculty with engaging state-of-the-art learning activities within a distance-based format that is easily accessible and fits within a working nurse’s busy schedule.”

Since 1994, the School of Nursing has offered classes and degree programs through an online or distance-based format. With the addition of the three new majors, there are a total of nine distance-based majors or specialties.
Alumni who graduated in years ending in 4 and 9, along with the Half Century Club (classes from 1933-1963) returned to Duke for Reunion Weekend in April. The weekend kicked off with a special dedication ceremony for the 45,000 square foot addition to the Christine Siegler Pearson Building. Other events during the weekend included the Nursing Alumni Association Awards Ceremony; the Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Science Address by Marilyn Hockenberry, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, FAAN, the Bessie Baker Professor of Nursing; My Journey to Nursing, a program featuring students; and a Nursing Symposium featuring Constance Johnson, PhD, RN; Allison Vorderstrasse, DNSc, APRN, CNE; and Sharron Docherty, PhD, PNP-BC, FAAN.

Save the Date!
Reunion 2015
April 17-18
As Marion Broome prepares to assume the role of dean at the School of Nursing, it is appropriate to examine the legacy of her predecessor—Catherine Gilliss, who has spent 10 years in the position and taken the school to new heights.

Gilliss’ time as dean saw the creation of a nursing PhD, the doubling of the school’s enrollment and the construction of a new building, with the school’s national ranking rising all the while. Broome appears an admirable successor, but Gilliss is certainly a tough act to follow.

Gilliss arrived on campus in 2004, making the move from Yale University to Duke at the same time as President Richard Brodhead. At the time, the School of Nursing had 33 full-time faculty members and 440 students. Ten years, two new degree programs and millions of dollars in grants later, these numbers have increased to 80 and 800, respectively. Enrollment has grown across each of the school’s seven degree and certificate programs, perhaps a sign that the school’s success has left no one behind.

The school has experienced growth in terms of not just manpower, but location. When Gilliss took the role of dean, the School of Nursing was spread through facilities across campus—ranging from Ninth Street to the basement of the Baker House in Duke South Campus. Gilliss oversaw the opening of the Christine Siegler Pearson Building in 2006, uniting the school under one roof and allowing members of the nursing community to collaborate in
a way they had never done before. In the words of Dr. Victor Dzau, chancellor for health affairs and president and CEO of Duke University Health System, it marked a “renaissance” for Duke Nursing. A recent addition to the building has pushed this spirit of collaboration and innovation even further.

Under Gilliss, the school also saw an increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health, moving from 30th among the nation’s nursing schools in 2007 to 10th at present. The school’s overall rankings have skyrocketed as well—going from 29th in the U.S. News and World Report’s graduate nursing school rankings in 2004 to 7th currently. Although these rankings are not perfect, they certainly provide insight into the type of advancement that the school has achieved during Gilliss’ tenure.

When Broome assumes the role of dean this summer, she will also become the first associate vice president of academic affairs for nursing at Duke University Health System—a new position created to strengthen the relationship between the School of Nursing and DUHS. Hopefully this will allow Broome to build on Gilliss’s formidable success.

In the words of James Tulsky, MD, chair of the search committee for the dean position, “[Gilliss] leaves big shoes to fill.” We agree.
Marion E. Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN, a nationally renowned leader in nursing, has been named dean of the School of Nursing. She will also become associate vice president of academic affairs for nursing at Duke University Health System (DUHS).

Currently, Broome is dean of Indiana University School of Nursing. She will join Duke on August 1.

“Marion Broome is one of the foremost leaders in nursing in this country,” said Victor J. Dzau, MD, chancellor for health affairs and president and CEO of the Duke University Health System. “We are delighted she will be joining the School of Nursing and the health system at a time of exciting challenges in health care education, research, and care delivery, and the need for better integration of these missions.”

“Dr. Broome brings valuable experience in managing a complex system and aligning nursing academics with care delivery, having served as the dean of a highly regarded nursing school as well as associate vice president for academic affairs at Indiana University Health System,” Dzau said. “Her skills as a proven leader are exactly the qualities we sought in bringing her to Duke.”

Broome has served as dean of the Indiana University School of Nursing since 2004. Regarded as a national leader in pediatric nursing, she has received research funding from the American Cancer Society, the National Institutes of Health, and private foundations.

“Nursing is becoming ever more important in the changing landscape of contemporary health care, and Duke’s School of Nursing has assumed a leadership role in this development,” said Richard H. Brodhead, president, Duke University. “Marion Broome is wonderfully well equipped to continue the school’s upward trajectory, and we are delighted to welcome her to Duke.”

Broome’s primary area of research is in pain interventions for children, but she has also honed expertise in research ethics related to the informed consent of children in research, research misconduct in clinical trials, and ethical dilemmas in publishing.

Broome has published more than 90 journal papers. She also has published five books and 15 chapters in books and consumer publications and is currently editor-in-chief of Nursing Outlook, the official journal of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) and the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science.

“Duke University School of Nursing is a prestigious school with a rich tradition of strong leadership in research and education,” Broome said. “It is very clear that the faculty and staff are dedicated and passionate about what they do, and that directly translates to their students and colleagues in practice. I am honored to join the Duke University health team as dean, and am excited about the possibilities for preparing the next generation of nurse leaders.”

Broome succeeds Dean Catherine Gilliss, who announced in September she would not seek another term as dean after serving 10 years in the post. Under Gilliss’s leadership, the School of Nursing has become a leading academic nursing and research institution, ranked 7th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. It is also No. 11 among nursing schools receiving NIH funding.

The school has also more than doubled the size of its student enrollment and faculty in the past decade and now offers doctoral programs and masters
Meet the New Dean

Marion Broome, currently dean at Indiana University School of Nursing, will become dean of Duke University School of Nursing and associate vice president of academic affairs for nursing in Duke University Health System on August 1.

James Tulsky, MD, professor of medicine and nursing, chief of Duke Palliative Care and chair of the search committee to name Gilliss’s replacement, said Broome quickly rose to the top of the list of candidates as a leader who could continue the trajectory of success at the school.

“She is an out-of-the-box thinker who has a strong reputation for collaboration and relationship building,” Tulsky said. “She has a tremendous sense of what it means to be a leader, and that makes her uniquely qualified to advance the tremendous progress that has been the story of the School of Nursing in the past decade.”

Broome earned her nursing degree from the Medical College of Georgia, a master’s degree in family health nursing from the University of South Carolina, and her doctorate in child and family development from the University of Georgia. A Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, Broome was selected as the Outstanding Alumnus for Georgia Health Sciences University-Nursing, Augusta, Georgia, and given the National League of Nursing Award for Outstanding Leadership in Nursing Education.

In addition to Broome’s appointment at the school of nursing, Dzau announced that Mary Ann Fuchs, MSN’90, DNP’10, RN, FAAN, vice president of patient care and system chief nurse executive for DUHS, has been named associate dean of clinical affairs in the school of nursing.

The appointments are structured to enhance the partnership and alignment between the health system and the school of nursing.

The New Dean
How does a nursing professor with a PhD in family and child development start a collaboration with a neuroscientist? For Leigh Ann Simmons, PhD, MFT, it all began in yoga class.

Simmons, an associate professor of nursing, had just received review comments on her application for a federal research grant. She wanted to investigate whether levels of a particular amino acid (branched chain amino acids, or BCAAs) are elevated in women who experience postpartum depression. BCAAs are abundant in high-protein diets, and they have been associated with obesity, insulin resistance, and depression. So Simmons thought, maybe BCAAs could be used as a biomarker to identify women at risk for postpartum depression. Then health care professionals could intervene before depression develops, perhaps with a special diet.

The grant-application reviewers loved Simmons’ idea. But they wanted to see some preliminary data in pregnant animals before they’d consider funding her proposed human study. Previous studies had linked these amino acids to depressive behavior in rats, but only in males.

The thought of conducting an animal study herself was new to Simmons. She had never even worked with mice before.

With all this on her mind, Simmons went to yoga class as usual. Her friend and colleague, Staci Bilbo, PhD, an assistant professor of

by Angela Spivey

illustration by Harry Campbell
psychology and neuroscience, happened to be in class too. Afterward, Simmons asked her if she had ever manipulated diet in her mouse studies. It turns out she had. That conversation led to a collaboration.

While the connection came via yoga class, the funding to conduct the research is courtesy of Bass Connections, a university-wide initiative that aims to engage faculty and students in teams working to tackle complex issues, and to expose students to inquiry across disciplines. Bass Connections was launched in 2013 with a $50 million gift from Anne and Robert Bass. Just as Simmons’ project crosses the lines between nursing and neuroscience, other Duke University School of Nursing researchers are leading Bass Connections projects that span the globe, from Asia to Africa, as well as Duke’s campus, from computer science to economics.

**MASK ON MOM**

It’s fitting that Simmons connected with Bilbo during yoga class; Simmons has long focused on helping women live healthy lives and is an integrative health coach and yoga teacher herself. While Bilbo is primarily interested in how diet and other events during pregnancy affect the health and behavior of offspring, Simmons is interested in the mothers. “You know when you’re on a plane, and the pilot will say, ‘If we have to drop the oxygen masks, make sure you put on your mask before you take care of your child?’ My research has always been about mask-on-mom,” Simmons says. “When we help mom, then we’re de facto helping the kids.”

The team is examining levels of BCAAs and incidence of depression in females who have just given birth—both mice and humans. Though BCAAs are important for building muscle, they are found at higher levels in the average Western diet (what Simmons calls “the McDonald's diet”). In addition, BCAAs are naturally produced at higher levels during pregnancy, as the mom’s body builds a baby. “If you’re eating a diet that actually enhances branched chain amino acids, and then you’re pregnant, and that is also increasing their production, maybe some women reach a threshold that pushes them over the edge, contributing to postpartum depression,” Simmons says.

Students working on the project are gaining experience in both animal research and human behavioral research. For instance, one PhD nursing student is administering a questionnaire that the human moms take right after giving birth, regarding their diets and their behavior. An ABSN student is measuring maternal care and other behavior of mice that are fed diets with different levels of fat and branched-chain amino acids. The students are also getting experience in metabolomics, which uses advanced technology such as mass spectrometers to analyze the presence of metabolites in blood and other tissues, as a way of understanding how diet and other factors affect the body. The students will be able to compare metabolomics results, including signatures left behind by BCAAs, in blood samples from both mice and women, and find out how they correlate with behavior.
Simmons herself is spending time learning to conduct animal research in Bilbo’s lab, such as behavioral tests and laboratory assays. “I want to be able to talk with authority about all aspects of the research. I can’t do that unless I’ve done it myself,” Simmons says. “I also like it because in that aspect, the students are teaching me.”

PREPARING FOR THE GLOBAL DEMENTIA PANDEMIC

Baomu. Loosely defined, the word means caregiver. While the term is unfamiliar in the United States, it’s commonplace to many families in China caring for an aging family member with dementia. The word denotes the informal system in which largely untrained rural people in need of work travel to more affluent, urban areas of the country to live with and care for people with dementia, much like an au pair might live full time with a family to care for a child.

Dementia has been called the next global pandemic; it’s estimated that worldwide the number of people with dementia will triple by 2050, according to Alzheimer’s Disease International. Bei Wu, PhD, professor and director of international research at Duke University School of Nursing, is documenting how people across the globe care for their family members with the disease. Wu has long conducted research on aging in China, where her 101-year-old grandmother still resides. One of her latest projects, funded by Bass Connections...
to begin in July 2014, will document how caregiving for people with dementia gets accomplished in China and Sri Lanka, and it will reveal opportunities and needs for training programs.

In the United States, families affected by dementia are likely to get help from a trained home health aide or a certified nursing assistant. But just because the United States has a more formal system of caregiver training doesn’t mean that the West has the issue all figured out, Wu says. “Our goal is to find out how we can facilitate collaboration between the two developing regions, as well as share our experiences and learn from theirs,” she says.

Collaborator Kirsten Corazzini, PhD, an associate professor of nursing, points out that both the baomu system and the Western system have their drawbacks. “There are big issues around what happens when a caregiver is residing with the family 24-7, including human resource issues such as developing skills, and ensuring caregiver and care recipient quality of life,” Corazzini says. On the other hand, studies have pointed out that the United States suffers from the opposite problem—lack of consistency in an ever-changing cast of caregivers. No one country has the complete answer, and that’s why it’s important to conduct qualitative interviews before forming any hypotheses, Wu says.

Improving care for people with dementia is a challenge that must be tackled systematically and globally, says Eleanor McConnell, PhD, MSN, GCNS, BC, an associate professor of nursing. “Moving forward, if we are a global society, it’s really not acceptable for affluent countries to import people to solve their workforce problems,” she says. “We need to think about, how do we collectively develop a work force? And, how do we pay for this?”

To that end, the project involves faculty and students from not only nursing, but also computer science and economics.

**IMPROVING ANESTHESIA CARE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

If you’re an experienced health care professional in a developing country where your skills are desperately needed, do you take time away from serving patients to get the validation of a college degree? Or do you stay on the job and watch people with less experience move ahead of you in the ranks?

Nurse anesthetists in Ghana, Africa, won’t have to make that choice if Brett Morgan, DNP, CRNA, assistant professor of nursing, has his way. As part of his long-term interest in improving anesthesia care in developing countries, Morgan is adapting a traditional curriculum for nurse anesthetists into a distance learning program. “The goal is that these nurse anesthetists can stay working in their communities while reaching the objectives that are necessary to get their baccalaureate degree,” Morgan says.

In the United States, there is about one anesthesia provider for every 4,000 people. In some developing countries, the ratio is as low as one in a million. “Surgeons are giving their own anesthesia,
Soon Duke faculty and students will begin working with students and faculty in Ghana. Bret Morgan is working with Duke University faculty in global health and computer science to develop a distance-based curriculum for nurse anesthetists in Ghana.

“Surgeons are giving their own anesthesia, or finding laypeople to do it, or else there simply is no access to surgical care...”

BRETT MORGAN

or finding laypeople to do it, or else there simply is no access to surgical care because there is no one to administer anesthesia,” Morgan says.

Nurse anesthetists in Ghana have traditionally been trained in a hospital-based diploma program and are considered of a lower rank than general nurses. To increase the number of providers and the quality of care, Morgan had previously helped establish a baccalaureate degree program for nurse anesthetists at Ghana’s University for Development Studies. Now he’s adding this executive-education-style distance program. “The current system in Ghana isn’t perpetuating the profession of nurse anesthetist very well,” Morgan says. “We hope this distance-learning program will be another part of the solution.”

Morgan is collaborating with faculty in the Duke Global Health Institute and the Department of Computer Science. The first step is designing a tablet-based platform to be used to teach the bulk of the courses. Later, Duke faculty, students in the nursing master’s program, and medical residents and fellows in the anesthesia residency program will travel to Ghana to implement the tablet platform, train faculty and students there, and conduct a survey of health care systems and communities.
Every nurse knows that during the course of a career, and sometimes in the course of a single day, nursing professionals wear a hundred hats: caregiver, administrator, technician, troubleshooter, liaison, sounding board, and countless others.

Nancy Short, DrPH, MBA’91, BSN’76, thinks it’s past time to add another one: health policy advocate.

In a course bearing the innocuous name “Transforming the Nation’s Health,” Short teaches students in Duke University School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program how to do just that.

“Nursing is the largest workforce in all the health care professions,” says Short, an associate professor at the School of Nursing. “We have the most direct contact with patients. We have a unique perspective. But we have recognized for decades that our voice tends not to be heard. Some of that is our own acculturation; for a long time we tended to take a back seat. But we’re making an effort, as a profession, to change that.”

Health care policies established at the local, state, and national levels touch everything that nurses do: the scope and delivery of care, billing and insurance, patient safety, workplace conditions, nutrition and wellness programs, record-keeping and accountability, drug guidelines, Medicare and Medicaid participation, and so on. The list is endless.

Given how important those policies are to nurses and their patients, it behooves nursing professionals to weigh in on them, Short says. The course, a DNP requirement, helps students learn how to sort out, evaluate, and analyze the overwhelming amount of information about those issues—and how to play a role in shaping them.

“In their bachelor’s degree training, and then a little more in their master’s programs, nurses get some general information on how our health system works, how patients access the system, how bills get paid, and so on,” says Short. “But what nurses generally don’t get is a real education in how to interface with that system, how to get their voices heard by those who make the policies. Our goal is that, as these DNP students graduate and become leaders in the field, they have a broad understanding of the health care system and, more importantly, that they know how to have an impact in that system.”

OUT OF THE BOX

Short, who has been a member of the Duke faculty since 2003, knows how to do that first-hand. As a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow from 2004 to 2007, she spent 13 months working on
Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C, as a legislative health aide to Sen. Bill Frist, then the Senate Majority Leader. In that position, she saw how national health policies are made, how they evolve, and how various stakeholders play a role in creating them.

The course, which Short created in 2009 and now co-teaches along with Leigh Ann Simmons, PhD, MFT, builds on that experience. Among the assignments she requires are several role-playing exercises, including one in which students adopt the role of legislative staffers preparing an issue analysis paper for an elected official and another in which each student must present an argument to a mock panel of policy makers. Students also write op-ed articles advocating specific policy measures, many of which wind up in actual newspapers and other media outlets, and write and produce advocacy videos, which Short posts on YouTube.

All of this is very new territory for most of the students, who run the gamut from nurses just embarking on their careers to seasoned professionals with long and successful stints in administration, education, and other arenas.

“It’s the most challenging course I’ve taken,” says Kay Lytle, MSN, RN, BC, director of Maestro Care Perioperative, ED, and OB at Duke Health Technology Solutions. “Some of the other courses I’ve had—in leadership, finance, informatics—teach you a lot, but they build on things I did in the master’s program. They’re familiar and comfortable. This one, for most of us, takes you completely out of that, into a world of policy, advocacy, and activism. It’s a stretch. You have to step out of your comfort zone.”

Perhaps paradoxically in a class intended to teach students how to be advocates, the first assignment Short has them do—playing the role of staff writing an issue analysis paper for a legislator—is in how not to be advocates.

“It’s important to understand the difference between analysis and advocacy, Short says, and in this exercise students must research their chosen issue, drop their own biases and assumptions, weigh the various sides dispassionately, and try to come to recommendations that can be substantiated and defended.

“It’s hard to do,” says Short. “It’s a very different way of writing, certainly for nurses, who, if they’ve been in nursing for very long at all, are accustomed to writing nurse notes and using medical terminology, and now suddenly they have to write with great clarity for a person who is not a health care professional—and do it in abbreviated fashion, because policy makers generally stop reading after about the first two pages. So it’s a big challenge.”

THE HOT SEAT

The most nerve-wracking part of the course may be the advocacy conversation project, in which each student faces a panel of four legislative officials and makes the strongest case he or she can for a particular policy position (Short says she dropped the original word “presentations” in favor of the softer “conversations” in an effort to help students relax). The panelists are free to ask questions, to interrupt, to challenge or contradict, even to become bored and start texting or checking their cell phones—because all of those things happen in real life.

Short says she has one hard and fast rule she tries to convey to students facing the panel: “You can never get angry. Never. Ever. Even if the issue is nearer and dearer to you than anything else and a panelist dismisses it and says, ‘That’s the most stupid idea I ever heard in my life,’ you cannot get angry. Because the moment you show anger or impatience, you’ve lost.”

Mock or not—and for one group, it is not; every year Simmons takes a cohort of students to Washington, D.C., to present their arguments to real legislative panels—facing the panel is stressful. Dr. Short videotapes all the on-campus presentations and critiques them afterward with the students: Did they make good eye contact? Did they play with their hair? How well did they handle unexpected questions? Panelists with legislative experience provide true-to-life reactions to the “conversations.”
Advocacy videos made by DNP students in the "Transforming the Nation's Health" class are available on Dr. Nancy Short's YouTube channel: youtube.com/user/profshort1

Numerous op-eds written by students in the class have been published in media outlets throughout the nation, and beyond. Here's a small sample:


“Everyone was intimidated,” says Mary Lou Affronti, MSN'86, MHSc'09, DNP'13, RN, ANP, a faculty member at Duke’s Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center and the School of Nursing, and a clinical associate in the Department of Surgery and School of Nursing. “Everyone was nervous. I did very well, but Nancy pointed out one thing I said and told me, ‘Right there, you could have totally lost them.’ The wrong word or phrase or body language can make all the difference. It’s hard. But she pushed us through it, and we learned so much.”

“Everyone was intimidated,” says Mary Lou Affronti, MSN'86, MHSc'09, DNP'13, RN, ANP, a faculty member at Duke’s Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center and the School of Nursing, and a clinical associate in the Department of Surgery and School of Nursing. “Everyone was nervous. I did very well, but Nancy pointed out one thing I said and told me, ‘Right there, you could have totally lost them.’ The wrong word or phrase or body language can make all the difference. It’s hard. But she pushed us through it, and we learned so much.”

"This [course], for most of us, takes you completely... into a world of policy, advocacy, and activism. It’s a stretch. You have to step out of your comfort zone.”

KAY LYTLE

We teach them about news cycles, about what sorts of issues the media look for, about how best to get their message out there.”

Students have written op-eds on a vast range of local, state, national, and international issues. They have called for universal HIV/AIDS testing, a ban on tobacco in the military, insurance coverage for medically necessary breast pumps, allowing gay men to donate blood, and countless other causes.

“We tend to be very technical in the way we speak and write,” says Affronti, who wrote about the need for more nurse autonomy in North Carolina. “Nurses are used to writing in data. Learning to write in clear prose that engages non-medical readers is a very different thing.”
Publication is not a class requirement, but Jarmul, Keith, and Short help many of the students refine their op-eds and find appropriate publications for them. Students have published op-eds in dozens of newspapers and other outlets, large and small, throughout the United States and as far away as Taiwan, as well as in online publications such as the Huffington Post. Some continue to write and publish op-eds after graduating from the course.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION
For their final major assignment, students turn to technology. Each one produces a short video advocating a position on a health care issue. For many students, Short says, the hurdle is getting past the impulse to simply teach.

“There’s a powerful tendency to think that if you just put information out there in a gentle way, people will form the opinion the student wants them to form,” she says. “But it doesn’t work like that. When you’re advocating, you’re teaching, but you’re teaching with a slant. You’re taking a position and asking people to do something: to call their legislators, to change their behavior in some way, to push for change. A lot of students struggle with that.”

Lytle used her op-ed and video to convey how patients can use information technology to play more active roles in their health care.

“So mine called for patients to take charge of their own health care,” she says. “But how to do you that and not sound preachy? I have to convey my position, but I don’t want to sound condescending. There’s a pretty delicate balance you have to strike.”

Short posts the student videos on her own YouTube channel, where they are viewable by anyone. Some of the videos have found lives beyond that site; videos by students have been picked up for use by organizations including the Carolinas Blood Bank, various city governments, and the Durham County Public Health Department.

CARING AND CURING
Short has heard the old saw about how “Doctors cure, and nurses care.” She doesn’t think much of it.

“That’s baloney,” she says. “Curing and caring, we’re all doing both. You will never hear me minimize what physicians do, or suggest that they’re not as caring as we are. But nurses do tend to spend more time at the bedside—at least, hopefully we do, because that’s what nursing is meant to do. Nursing education is different than medical education, and our view of the patient is different. We get into a lot of details that don’t otherwise get dealt with. We have an important perspective, and our stories need to be heard.”

That’s what the advocacy course is all about. It’s not easy, and it sometimes puts students who already have long and successful careers into the uncomfortable position of once again being novices. But the students tend to rise to the occasion, and they appreciate the paces Short puts them through: she won the School of Nursing’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2010 and was named Outstanding DNP Faculty member in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

“The course is hard, sometimes grueling, but when you come out the other side you’ve learned a lot of things you can apply to make a difference in the real world,” says Affronti. “We’re a very diverse group. Our class included young and old, people from clinical practice, people from administration, people with a lot of experience, people without much experience. But we all learned to have a voice.”
During this year’s reunion weekend, the Duke University School of Nursing Alumni Association honored six individuals who have made significant contributions to the school and the nursing community.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LES TODD
More than 30 years of nursing clinical and executive management experience has allowed Mary Ann Fuchs to make a significant mark on patient care and nursing at Duke, primarily through developing and implementing a nursing professional practice infrastructure for the Duke University Health System (DUHS). Currently, she is vice president of patient care and system chief nurse executive for DUHS. She is a member of the corporate executive team and a clinical associate in Duke University School of Nursing.

With oversight of nearly 5,800 nurses system-wide, her focus is on patient- and family-centered care, professional practice, nursing governance, nursing workforce planning, and program development to enhance the retention and recruitment of nurses. She also leads the DUHS Friends of Nursing Program, a philanthropic program established to recognize nursing professional excellence.

A Johnson & Johnson-sponsored Wharton School of Management Fellow in nursing management and a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow, she was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2012.

Her involvement with professional societies has included serving as the president, president-elect, and secretary of the North Carolina Triangle Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Fuchs earned a BSN degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton (now Binghamton University). She earned an MSN degree from Duke in 1990 and a post-master’s certificate in nursing education in 2008. She was among the first graduates of the DNP degree program at Duke.
Rose Madden-Baer is senior vice president of clinical operations strategy and development for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY). In this role, she is responsible for the overall development of new care models and strategic operational improvement initiatives and clinical programming for the health care system. Previously, she led the behavioral health and assessment programs.

While enrolled in Duke University School of Nursing’s the DNP degree program, Madden-Baer conducted research that showed it is possible to develop and implement a program to effectively relieve depressive symptoms in the homebound elderly in a financially sustainable way. Her DNP capstone project, titled “Implementation and Evaluation of a Depression Care Model for the Homebound Elderly,” was a pilot project that was the impetus for and the beginning of the VNSNY Behavioral Health Program.

She designed the first-of-its-kind program to connect home health nurses, doctors, and other mental health professionals in new ways to actively address depression and other psychiatric disorders in homebound elderly individuals. The program, which began in New York City, has helped to dramatically improve quality of life for many patients and has now been replicated by other home health agencies in six states.

In addition to a DNP from Duke, Madden-Baer has a master’s degree in health services administration from St. Joseph’s College of Maine and an MSN degree from Hunter College in New York City.
Marilyn Hockenberry, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, FAAN

Marilyn Hockenberry is the Bessie Baker Professor of Nursing at Duke University School of Nursing. An internationally known expert in pediatric oncology whose work focuses on the symptoms associated with childhood cancer treatments, she has significantly contributed to the development of new knowledge in pediatric oncology; her substantial body of work has markedly improved care for children with cancer.

She joined the School of Nursing in 2012 as a professor of nursing and holds a secondary appointment as a professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics. She has served as a chair in the Duke University Medical Center Institutional Review Board. Previously, she was a professor of pediatrics in the hematology/oncology division at Baylor College of Medicine.

For more than two decades, Hockenberry has conducted studies to explore the most frequent and severe symptoms experienced by children during cancer treatment, and she is well recognized as the leading expert on fatigue in children with cancer.

Her honors include receiving the Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award and the Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing Writing Award at the 35th national conference of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses in 2011. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Hockenberry earned a BSN degree from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio; an MSN degree from Texas Woman’s University in Houston; and pediatric nurse practitioner certification through Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia. She earned a PhD in nursing with distinction from the Medical College of Georgia.
Barbara Turner is the Elizabeth P. Hanes Professor of Nursing at Duke University School of Nursing. From 1993 to 2005, she served as the associate dean for research, during which time she established the Nursing Research Center at Duke. Prior to that, she was on active duty with the U.S. Army until retiring in 1993 with the rank of colonel.

Turner has made significant contributions to knowledge about the care of newborns. Her current clinical and research interests are in the respiratory management of extremely low birth weight infants. The majority of her research funding comes from the NIH and the Department of Defense. She has also received multiple grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

She has served on federal review panels for research and education, including the Advanced Nurse Education Review Panel for the Bureau of Health Professionals in the Department of Health and Human Services’ Division of Nursing.

During her military career, she earned several honors, including receiving the Order of Military Medical Merit from the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. Other honors and awards include being named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and receiving the Duke University School of Nursing Distinguished Service Award.

Turner earned graduate degrees in hospital administration and perinatal nursing from Webster College and the University of Colorado before earning a PhD in physiologic nursing from the University of California, San Francisco.
James Tulsky is chief of Duke Palliative Care, professor of medicine, and professor in nursing at Duke University. He is also a senior fellow with the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and a center investigator for the School of Nursing’s Center of Excellence in Symptom Science Center on Cognitive/Affective Symptoms.

With a longstanding interest in clinician-patient communication and quality of life at the end of life, Tulsky focuses his research on the evaluation and enhancement of communication between oncologists and patients with advanced cancer. His research interests also include identification of clinical, psychosocial, and spiritual trajectories of patients at the end of life; development of self-management interventions for patients with life-limiting illness; and evaluating the role of palliative care in congestive heart failure.

Tulsky has gained national recognition for his work on end-of-life care. Honors and awards include the 2002 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest national award given by the White House Office of Science and Technology for early investigators. He is a Fellow of both the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

He attended Cornell University as an undergraduate, earned an MD at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, and completed internal medicine training at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Tulsky continued at UCSF as chief medical resident and subsequently as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.
CATHY BENN, BSN’84

Cathy Benn is the program therapist for the Homeless Youth Initiative for Alternative House, a transitional housing program located in Dunn Loring, Va. The program provides case management, therapy, life skills, and support for homeless youth aged 18 to 22 who are struggling to finish high school or hoping to attend community college.

After raising three children and working many years as a nurse, Benn decided to pursue a new career as a counselor, enrolling at Loyola University in Maryland in 2007. She joined Alternative House soon after earning a master of science degree in pastoral counseling in 2011.

Since then, Benn has worked with homeless teenagers in Northern Virginia, an area comprising some of the country’s wealthiest communities but where affordable housing is scarce. She provides initial assessments, individual counseling, and crisis intervention, eventually helping the teens find stable housing in apartments, group homes, or the private homes of host families. She also spends a significant amount of time triaging the teens’ health care, in the hopes of saving them from insurmountable debt from emergency room visits for routine health issues.

Prior to her work with Alternative House, Benn spent many years in hospital and clinic settings treating children and adolescents, including children with end stages of cancer. After earning her BSN degree from Duke, she worked at Children’s Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for a year before returning to Durham to work at Duke University Hospital. In 1987, she relocated to Northern Virginia.
1940s

Anne Bennett Powell, N’44, worked at Wesley Long Hospital in Greensboro from 1949-1983. She now enjoys stamp collecting, reading, doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and getting news from friends and family. She lives in Mill Spring, N.C.

Alice R. Black, N’45, enjoys making hooked throw rugs at her home in Lewiston, Pa., where she lives with her husband Don. Her son and his family live nearby, and her daughter lives in Harrisburg, Pa., and works with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. She has two grandsons and one great-grandson.

Mary Willcox Phillips, BSN’45, retired in 1987 from Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas. She and her husband Roy, a retired banker, live in Houston. Her older daughter Becky is a retired lawyer, banker, lives in Houston. Her older son and his family live near, and her daughter lives in Harrisburg, Pa., and works with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. She has two grandsons and one great-grandson.

Martha Bishop Garrick, BSN’47, participates in a Master Gardener program offered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Her husband, Grier Garrick Jr., T’48, who owned Garrick Office Supplies, is retired after 50 years. She has three daughters and a son.

Quincy A. Hodge, BSN’47, is retired from nursing and enjoys reading, walking, and light gardening at her home in Atlanta, Ga. Her son Jim and his wife Wanda own a small business and have a son, Alex, in college. Her daughter Nancy is retired.

Jean Bundy Scott, N’47, plays bridge, paints portraits, and tries “to keep a positive outlook on life in general” at her home in Blacksburg, Va. Her husband, Frank A. Scott, T’48, G’49, passed away in 2007. She has two daughters and a son, as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Audrey H. Vaughan, BSN’47, and her husband John live a quiet life and, she says, “keep the doctors busy” in Roanoke, Va. They have three sons and a daughter, as well as 12 grandchildren.

Rachel Quinn Wallis, N’48, of Newport News, Va., lives in a retirement home and enjoys helping those less fortunate. Since her husband’s death and her retirement in 1984, she has made three or four medical mission trips to other countries. She had five children, three of whom are still living, and now has 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Each year her gift to each of them is a child sponsorship to a school in Haiti.

Myra Bland House, N’49, has owned a jewelry store since 1982 called Jems from Jenny. Her daughter Bettye manages the shop. Her son owns his own memorabilia shop. She lives in Portsmouth, Va.

Jean Elizabeth Underwood, BSN’49, is retired after working as a registered nurse at Doctors’ Hospital in Coral Gables, Fla. She lives in South Miami, Fla., and is a member and secretary of the Retired Nurses Association at Baptist Hospital. She has a daughter living in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Her husband, Russell Spaldon Underwood, MD’51, is deceased.

1950s

Ethel R. Lee, BSN’50, serves as a volunteer at Northeast Hospice in Jacksonville, Fla., as well as doing volunteer work at her church, a local center for the homeless, and Meals on Wheels. She has three grown children—Stephen Lee, Bill Lee, and Brenda Dufford—and lost a daughter, Ellen Newton, to breast cancer in 2012.

Margaret M. Mead, BSN’50, and her husband, James B. Mead, are both retired in Roanoke, Va. Two daughters, Mary Otis Mead and Anna Mead Maris, and son, Joseph Henry Murray Mead, all live in Virginia as well. Their daughter Margaret Garland Mead passed away in June 2012.

Robina N. Bagwell Kerr, N’52, stays busy with her ministry, quilting, and housework. She lives in Clarkston, Mich.

Kathryn Montgomery, N’52, stays busy entertaining her four grandchildren in Jasper, Ga. One daughter, Kathy, is a homemaker, and another, Christie, is a teacher, while her son Peter is in insurance sales.

Margaret “Peggy” Taylor, N’53, retired from nursing in 2005 and now volunteers with various organizations, including the hospital where she was supervisor for more than 25 years. She’s an instructor in the hospital’s aquatics program and active in her church and garden club. She says she recently purchased a “red hot Buick—just what an 80-year-old, gray-headed woman needs!” She and her husband Jim, T’51, have four children and five grandchildren and live in Tarboro, N.C.
Anne McKelvey, N’54, teaches diabetes classes at Charlotte Community Health Clinic and has become a “professional volunteer” for several nonprofit agencies, working on issues of homelessness and affordable housing. She has four children and seven grandchildren and lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Dorothy “Dotty” Caudle, N’54, WC’56, says she’s living a full and active life. She enjoys exercise, gardening, and traveling. Last year she and her oldest granddaughter took a cruise to Ephesus, Athens, Istanbul, and Rome. She has three sons and six grandchildren and lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Nancy McKelvey Lusk, BSN’54, BSN Ed’55, of Los Angeles, Calif., is working in health cabinet ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and is program director for a class of adults there. She recently won an award from Queens Care Health and Faith Partnership for commitment to health ministry. She has three grown children and three granddaughters.

Carol Skipper, N’54, is retired and enjoying time with her family, including 15 grandchildren. She and her husband Joseph, also retired, live in Tampa, Fla.

Shirley Grier Helmke, BSN’57, retired in 1996 and then served for six years as the parish nurse at Auburn Presbyterian Church in Auburn, Ala. In that position, she was the first parish nurse in east Alabama, which encouraged the local hospital to begin a parish nurse program for the area it serves. She and her husband Henry have four adult children, all of whom graduated from Auburn University, where Henry served as a faculty member and department head. The couple has seven grandchildren ages 9-24 years.

Joan Worrall Seifred, N’57, retired, lives in Moneta, Va., where she enjoys reading, knitting, bird-watching, and making jewelry and other crafts. A Master Gardener with 500 volunteer hours, she is a member of a garden club and for the past two years has served as second vice president of the club. She is also active in her church. Seifred has three adult children who live nearby.

Margaret Schreiner, BSN’57, retired from hospice nursing in 2002 and then helped the nurse at her Presbyterian church for a year. She now volunteers with Loaves and Fishes Urban Ministries, which serves the homeless, and is on the Health Care Advisory Committee at the retirement community where she lives in Charlotte, N.C. William, her husband of 52 years, is a full-time volunteer. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Patricia Masius, N’58, is retired and busy volunteering at her church and in her community. She has two children and two grandchildren and lives in Concord, N.C.

Ellen Paul Stanford, BSN’58, has been retired since 1992. She lives in Winchester, Va., in the Shenandoah Valley and is now very involved in Bible studies and church activities. “I have discovered a talent for flower arranging, which I use with great delight in our church,” she writes. She has three sons and seven grandchildren.

Rebecca Froneberger, BSN’59, retired from hospice in 2009 and as a second career is serving on several boards and committees, mainly health care related. She and her husband Keith have four sons and five grandchildren and live in Tryon, N.C.

Ellen Wells, N’59, is a volunteer driver for Senior Wheels, which provides transportation for the elderly to medical appointments. She also is active with her family’s genealogical research. She has three children and five grandchildren and lives in Greensboro, N.C.

1960s

Lola Lee Anderson Hunt, BSN’60, is active in local hospital fund-raising activities near her home in Spencerville, Md. She has four daughters, Amy, Susan, Jennie, and Betsy Hunt, HS’99, who is an attending at the pediatric intensive care unit at Johns Hopkins and director of the simulation center there. She has six grandchildren.

Gladys Shorrock Lewis, BSN’60, worked for five years as a part-time hospice nurse. She now devotes a lot of time to the Garden Club of Virginia, which raises more than $500,000 a year to restore historic gardens in the state. She lives in Leesburg, Va., and has two sons, three grandsons, and one granddaughter, ranging in age from 9 to 13 years old. Her great-niece starts nursing school this fall.

Sandra M. Walsh, BSN’60, of Miami, Fla., began working part time as a research consultant at South Miami Hospital/Baptist Health South Florida after her husband’s death in 2011. She has
also worked as an adjunct faculty member for the University of San Diego. She and a former PhD student, Cheryl Bergman, have presented at multiple conferences. Outside of work, she is a violist in a string quartet, plays with the Alhambra Community Orchestra, and exhibits her watercolors (pictured) with the Miami Watercolor Society and Glynn Art Association in St. Simons Island, Ga. She is also president of Classical Virtuosi of Miami (CVM), a nonprofit organization established by her late husband Thomas Moore. Samples of her watercolors can be viewed on the CVM Web site, classicalvirtuosi.org. She has three children and four grandchildren.

Judyth Rollins Beazley, BSN'62, is retired from her career as a school nurse and public health nurse. She serves as a substitute teacher at a child development center and served as a board member for Columbia Council for Internationals from 2010-2013. She and her husband Charlie live in West Columbia, S.C., and recently celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary. They have five sons, three granddaughters, and six grandsons.

Barbara Dimmick Yowell, BSN'62, retired two years ago after 50 years as a registered nurse. She and her husband, Robert K. Yowell, MD'61, HS'64-69, were looking forward to a Duke Travel trip to Normandy, France, in May 2014. They have three children: Charles Warren Yowell, T'92, MD'00, HS'00-'06, a urologist; Sally Yowell Barbour, T'90, director of the Duke Oncology Pharmacy; and Robert Burgess Yowell II, T'88, who works in sports marketing. They have eight grandchildren.

Suzanne Carlson Keim, BSN'61, has been retired for almost 10 years. “While I loved my job, I love the freedom of being retired,” she writes. She volunteers at a local hospital, where she makes rounds, asks patients about their care, spends time talking with them, and prays with them if they want. She and her husband Bob have been married for 52 years. They have three grown children and five grandchildren, two of whom are attending college.

Cherie Cude Hall, BSN'61, is retired and living in Conway, S.C. She enjoys traveling to visit family.

Barbara Nero, BSN'61, is living full time in an RV and doing a lot of reading. Her current home is in Pumpkin Park Campground in Hammond, La. She has three children and five grandchildren.

Sharon Norwood Ambrose, BSN'63, is retired from her position as vice president and chief operating officer of St. Mary’s Medical Center in Huntington, W. Va. She divides her time between Huntington and Emerald Isle, N.C., where she volunteers one day a week for the free health clinic in Morehead City, N.C. She took a medical trip to Honduras in July 2013 with Marshall University Medical School faculty and medical students. Her husband Ken is retired as a professor and chair of sociology from Marshall University. Their two sons, Kenneth Scott and Paul Wesley, are both deceased. The couple has two granddaughters.

Diane M. Billings, BSN'64, was inducted as an honorary member and fellow of the National League for Nursing’s Academy of Nursing Education. She is a chancellor’s professor emeritus at Indiana University School of Nursing.

Carol L. Crane Gaffney, BSN’64, has been happily retired for 11 years. She continues to serve as a trustee on the board of her local hospital in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., serving on the quality safety committee. She also serves as a board member of the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative to improve health and education services for women and children in the area. She has two grown daughters, four grown step-daughters, and two grandchildren.

Jenifer Gummey Gajdalo, BSN'64, is retired from nursing. She serves as president of the board of directors of Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour, Inc., a nonprofit that provides non-health care support for islanders who choose to age in place. She and her husband Steve live in Hilton Head and have four married adult children. They are expecting their 10th grandchild.

Judith E. Harlow, BSN’64, of Salem, S.C., plays on two United States Tennis Association teams. She received a coach’s award during the 2013 Keowee Key Adult Tennis Classic. She also sings in her church choir and regularly works in the church’s thrift store and the Habitat for Humanity store. She serves on her local tennis committee and periodically assists with a health coaching program through Clemson University. Her husband, Stephen Huben, chose Harlow’s wedding portrait as the cover of his 10th novel, A Soldier and a Countess.

Marilyn Howe Rhodes, BSN’64, of Claremont, Calif., retired in 2007 from her role as an oncology resource nurse at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center. Family, friends, and acquaintances frequently call her with questions about cancer treatment centers, therapies, pain management, and bone marrow transplantation. “It helps me to stay current doing research for others,” she writes. She has five children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.
Eliza Kennedy Kendall, BSN'66, serves on the boards of animal rescue groups in North Carolina and Arizona. She and her husband, Malcolm Eugene Kendall, T'62, MD'67, HS'72, also support local symphonies, free clinics, and other nonprofits. They divide their time between Hendersonville, N.C., and Scottsdale, Ariz. Their son Eric is a paramedic firefighter in Kansas, and their daughter Kris recently earned her CRNA and MSN from UNC Charlotte.

Sandra S. Averitt, BSN'67, says she is “basically retired,” and that her husband Richard, T'67, will retire this year. She serves on the board of St. Petersburg Free Clinic in St. Petersburg, Fla., as well as on the Medical Advisory Committee of that organization. She also serves on the board of the Foundation of International Missions and travels each year to Honduras. The couple has three children and seven grandchildren, and lives in St. Petersburg.

Patricia Ketcham, BSN'68, and lives in St. Petersburg. She and her husband have three children and seven grandchildren, who range in age from 2 to 17 years. She has four children.

Betsy Grier Yarborough, BSN'68, lives in Statesville, N.C., where she volunteers on a local hospital board, serves as board chair for Hospice of Iredell County, and is on the board of the Foundation for the Carolinas. She retired in 2010 after teaching in the North Carolina community college system associate degree nursing (ADN) programs. She and her husband Mike have been happily married for 23 years. Between them, they have eight grandchildren living in California, Texas, and North Carolina, ages 9 months to 18 years.

Christina Moye Johns, BSN'69, of Bloomington, Ind., continues to work as a regional nursing consultant in long-term care. Outside of work she enjoys keeping up with her 11 grandchildren, who range in age from 2 to 17 years old. She has four children.

Lucy Hendrick Kernodle, BSN'69, is entering her 24th year as lead school nurse for the Alamance-Burlington School System. She works with 24 school nurses who serve 36 school sites. Her husband, Harold B. Kernodle Jr., MD'69, has been practicing orthopaedics in Burlington, N.C. for 38 years. Their older daughter Carey K. Anders, MD, HS'02-’08, is an assistant professor of medical oncology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Their younger daughter Katherine K. Bannon lives in Arlington, Va., and is a sales executive in Bethesda, Md.

Kristina Meservey, BSN'69, of Eastham, Mass., is medically retired due to a military service-connected disability. A member of Eastham Democratic Town Committee, she has served as a volunteer for the political campaigns of Congressman Bill Keating, Senator Elizabeth Warren, President Barack Obama, and Senator Ed Markey. She was elected a platform delegate to the Massachusetts State Democratic Convention in 2013, and her current passion is advocating for reproductive health care access and sexual assault resolution for all service members. Meservey enjoys blogging and attending National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner conferences. She also enjoys spending time with her partner, James MacLean, and their blended family, which includes stepson Gavin, a computer hardware technician; daughter Marie Louise, head of government affairs for the Maryland Department of Health; son Eric, a licensed acupuncturist; and daughter Katherine, T’07, MEM’11, an MBA student at New York University’s Stern School of Business.

Ann Roome Bavier, BSN’70, has been named dean of the University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing. In her new role, which begins Aug. 1, Bavier will oversee a program made up of about 12,000 students on campus and online combined. She also will oversee the merger of UT Arlington’s Department of Kinesiology into the College of Nursing during the 2014-2015 academic year. Bavier served as dean at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing for four years. She also previously served as dean of nursing at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

Susan Glover, BSN’70, retired, volunteers as a smoking cessation teacher and editor of a community newsletter. She is secretary of the Duke University School of Nursing Advisory Board and serves as a STEPHEN minister for her church. She lives in Annapolis, Md.
Mary Williams Cappleman, BSN’71, of Charlotte, retired from school health in Mecklenburg County, N.C., after 20 years. She is now a guardian ad litem for the Mecklenburg County courts system. She has three children and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, exercising, reading, traveling, and gardening.

Carolyn “Lyn” Ames Steuart, BSN’72, returned to maternal child health last year when she joined Durham Connects, an organization that provides three-week postpartum home visits for all new mothers who live in Durham County and deliver at Duke University or Duke Regional Hospitals. She is also developing her photography business (lynsteuartphotography.com) and has created slide shows to enhance the waiting-room experience in medical offices. Her daughter Elise manages a barn and school enrichment program in Chapel Hill, N.C. Her son Steuart and his wife Sarah; Connor is a banker in New York and lives in London with this wife Sarah; Connor is a banker at JPMorgan in New York; and Addie, T’09, a medical student, also lives in New York.

Catherine Semenoff, BSN’74, is working part time in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Albany Medical Center in Albany, N.Y. Her husband David practices neurosurgery in Albany. They have three children and three grandchildren and live in Slingerlands, N.Y.

Robin L. Wilson, BSN’74, works as a registered nurse at the Duke Pediatric Echo Lab and was awarded a Friends of Nursing scholarship in the fall of 2013. She and her husband Tom live in Durham and have two sons and two grandsons.

Connie B. Bishop, BSN’75, DNP’12, was named Health Systems Nurse of the Year by the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA). She was one of three nurses recognized with Nurse of the Year Awards by the NCNA in October 2013. She currently is director of quality improvement/risk management for Piedmont Health Services, Inc., in Carrboro, N.C.

Nancy Anderson Moore, BSN’77, has been working as a nurse at an elementary school for 14 years and plans to retire in a few years. Her husband Rick, T’77, was recently made a juvenile judge. They live in Charlottesville, Va. Their older daughter completed a master’s degree in natural resources, and their younger daughter completed an accelerated nursing program with plans to live and work in Richmond.

Lynn E. Scallion, BSN’78, MSN’79, MSN’98, received the Excellence in Medical Oncology Award from the Oncology Nursing Society in 2013.

Elizabeth Kelley, BSN’79, GNC’97, is a clinical nurse specialist for cardiovascular, thoracic, and vascular surgery at Rex Healthcare in Raleigh, N.C. Her daughter Charlotte, 20, is a junior at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Her son Whit, 25, lives in Raleigh and is applying to various physician assistant programs.

1980s

Ellen Minden, BSN’80, completed 30 years as an Air Force Reservist, retiring on Jan. 1, 2014, with the rank of colonel. She works as a compliance officer in the East Florida Division of the Hospital Corporation of America, responsible for oversight of regulatory compliance for 13 hospitals, five open imaging centers, a centralized lab, and a long-term care hospital. She and her husband Steve, a captain with American Airlines, live in Delray Beach, Fla.

Tina Alster, BSN’81, MD’86, has been selected by the Women’s Dermatologic Society to receive the Legacy Award for 2014, honoring lifetime achievement in the specialty of dermatology. Alster was chosen based on her groundbreaking contributions to dermatology and laser surgery, including involvement in dermatologic academia, clinical research, and medical practice innovation. She served on the Duke Medicine Board of Visitors and has established Duke scholarship endowments for women pursuing careers in medicine.

Catherine Emmett, BSN’81, is a professional development facilitator at an advanced clinical practice for Suncoast Hospice in Clearwater, Fla. She holds a PhD in aging studies from the University of Florida-Tampa. Her dissertation was on the advance care planning experience of individuals with mild cognitive impairment. She and her husband David have two children in college and live in Sarasota, Fla.

Myreda Erickson O’Brien, BSN’81, is working as a neonatal nurse practitioner at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. She is considering returning to school for a DNP degree. In 2010, she moved back to her hometown of Annapolis, Md. after living in
An ABSN Graduate at 19

Mallory Adler is working at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

The word accelerated must be coded in Mallory Adler’s, ABSN'13 genes. As a kindergartner she had her act so together she skipped first grade. She graduated high school just six days after turning 17.

Her bachelor’s degree was earned in three years while she was still 19.

Now, at age 21, Adler holds the distinction of being the youngest-ever graduate of Duke University School of Nursing’s acclaimed Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) Program, a curriculum whose students have included former business owners, lawyers, and even a grandparent or two.

It’s not that she tries to be first at everything. Adler always has had sky-high expectations for herself and the drive and confidence to see them through.

“Growing up, I’d get really upset if I ever got a B on a paper,” she says. “And I always had to get perfect attendance. When I played sports, I pushed myself to be better.”

Adler’s nursing school advisor, Assistant Professor Anne L. Derouin, DNP, CPNP, says it was apparent on Adler’s first day on campus that there was something special about her.

“As soon as she stood up to introduce herself at orientation and explain why she was coming into nursing, you could tell that she had a real sparkle,” Derouin says. “I was excited that I was going to be her advisor. She handles herself with great maturity, poise, and gracefulness.”

Nursing was a calling Adler felt after initially working toward a business degree in sports marketing. She grew up in Kentucky, but was curious about North Carolina and attended Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs. During her second year there she took a biology course and everything changed.

“I fell in love with it,” Adler says, “which is weird because I hated science growing up. I then started thinking about the medical field.”

A friend of her mother’s was studying for a master’s degree in nursing and encouraged Adler to take a look at nursing. Once she did, Adler says the proverbial light bulb went on. When she researched ABSN programs, she says Duke was the clear choice.

“The whole Duke atmosphere is so cool,” she says. “People here have the same common goal of wanting to get to the next level and be as good as we can be.”

If Adler felt a little anxiety entering Duke because she was so young, it didn’t show, Derouin says. “I talked to her about focusing on what her gifts are and what brought her to nursing. It wasn’t long before she was a role model to the other students.”

Derouin says Adler was among the most composed students during sessions in the patient simulation lab and would coach fellow students when things got difficult. During her clinical rotations, Derouin says Adler displayed professionalism that was well ahead of the curve.

Adler is now working as a registered nurse in the pediatric bone marrow unit at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. Her future is wide open, and she eventually wants to pursue an advanced degree, possibly as a nurse practitioner.

“I want to use my first couple of years to figure out what area of pediatrics I want to specialize in,” Adler says. “I’m really thankful for the people and experience I had at Duke.”

Derouin says she’s confident that Adler “is on her way to becoming a nursing superstar. She can do anything she sets her mind to. She’s a lovely person who instills hope in people, and what could be better than that?”

– BY JIM ROGALSKI

Elizabeth Bohannon, BSN’84, works as vice president and associate general counsel for Williams-Sonoma, Inc., in San Francisco. She and her husband Lawrence, a transplant physician at California Pacific Medical Foundation, live in San Rafael, Calif. Their daughter Mackenzie is a senior at Dartmouth College, and daughter Maddie is a sophomore at Pepperdine University.

Deborah E. Wilson, BSN’84, is working part time at the Gloucester-Matthews Free Clinic in Gloucester, Va., which serves mainly the working poor and uninsured. She also represents the clinic at the Williamsburg Community Health Care Foundation Chronic Care Collaborative. Her husband Don also works part time at the free clinic. They have a son, Lane, 25, who is engaged.

1990s

Lisa Archer, MSN’91, is a clinical nurse specialist for William J. Fulkerson, MD, in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Duke. In May 2014, she celebrated 30 years as a nurse at Duke. She is also a clinical associate professor at Duke University School of Nursing. Archer lives in Durham.

Tina Kennedy, MSN’93, is working as a family nurse practitioner at Goshen Medical Center in Beulaville, N.C. She has taken up competitive running, starting with 5-kilometer races but has moved up to mostly half marathons. She and her husband Randall have been to all 50 states and hiked down into the Grand Canyon last summer. The couple has two adult children and lives in Beulaville.

Patricia W. Bornick, MSN’95, is coordinator of the Fetal Care Center at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Fla. She and her husband Bruce have been married for 29 years. They have two adult children and live in Tampa.

Bernadina T. Hussein, MSN’96, is a clinical research manager at the Florida Cancer Research Institute, where she manages phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials in a group practice of medical oncologists specializing in breast and ovarian cancers. She served for four years as a board member of the Broward County chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. She has also been involved in many fundraising activities, including raising money for Haiti earthquake victims and a hepatitis vaccination project for school children in the Philippines. She has three children, one of whom is in the midst of a pediatric residency. Another is a medical student, and the third is an undergraduate. Hussein lives in Coral Springs, Fla.

Janice D. Daniel, MSN’99, currently works at Novant Health Kernersville Family Practice in Kernersville, N.C. Previously, she worked in various specialties, including pediatrics, college health, urgent care, and family health. In 2008, she opened her own family practice office, Stokesdale Family Care, PC. Although she had to close the office in 2012, she writes, “I don’t consider it a failure by any means.” The majority of her patients have since followed her to Novant Health.

2000s

Elizabeth Hall Carver, MSN’02, recently celebrated her 15th year at Duke, where she is a clinical associate, teaching nursing students in postpartum care, newborn assessment, and care of postoperative orthopaedic patients. She is also working toward a DNP degree at Gardner-Webb University. She and her husband Jon have an 11-year-old daughter, Hallie, and a 9-year-old son, Brooks.

Megan Parpart Williams, MSN’02, is working at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing as a clinical assistant professor. She enrolled in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education EdD Program in Curriculum and Instruction in 2011. In October 2013, she began a term as president of the North Carolina Nurses Association. She and her husband Durward, daughter Logan, and son Chase live in Chapel Hill.

Cynthia Rose Herndon, MSN’04, is a public health nurse administrator at Robeson County Health Department in Lumberton, N.C., and is working on a PhD at East Carolina University School of Nursing. She recently completed lactation education training at Forsyth Hospital. She enjoys gardening and spending time with her 15-year-old son and her daughter, who is expecting her first child. Herndon lives in Parkton, N.C.

Erika Young, BSN’04, works as an input nurse practitioner at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and as a part-time lecturer at California State University, Los Angeles. She married Jared Herr, a cardiology fellow at Cedars-Sinai, in August 2012. They live in Santa Monica, Calif.

Lisa Thomas Chaplin, MSN’03, PMC’07, of Richmond, Va., is an assistant professor at Georgetown University School
of Nursing and Health Studies, where she teaches research methods and evidence-based practice courses in the Distance Education Graduate Nursing Program. She earned a DNP degree from the University of Virginia in 2011. She volunteers one day per week at a faith-based clinic and is implementing a nurse-practitioner-led heart failure clinic there. She and her husband Kevin accompanied the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Delegation on their official visit to Asia to call on service members, veterans, and dignitaries. They also visited Germany and France.

Josette Drakeford Simpson, MSN’05, of Mitchellville, Md., works at a community hospital as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She recently became an entrepreneur in a field unrelated to nurse anesthesia. She remarried last year and has one child.

Laurie Aguirre, MSN’06, is a family nurse practitioner for the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador. She runs a foundation for the poor that serves more than 21,000 people per month with food, clothing, and medical care. She and her husband Oscar have two young sons.

Molly Zganjar Brickler, MSN’08, of East Troy, Wis., currently works as nurse practitioner at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin on the oncology and bone marrow transplant unit, where she focuses on patients with leukemia. She is a member of the Children’s Oncology Group and looks forward to becoming more active in childhood cancer research. She has been married to her husband Keven for five years. They have two children, Adele and Crosby.

Tina Cardenas Castelein, BSN’08, is on track to graduate from the MSN program at San Francisco State University in May 2014. Her husband Jep works at a software company, and their daughter Claire, 2, is preparing to enter preschool.

Megan Erin Flaherty Harvey, BSN’08, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Covenant Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Lubbock, Texas. She has a primary care certification and received a post-master’s certificate to obtain an acute care certification starting in January 2014. She and her husband Houston have been married for three years. “We have a miniature Australian shepherd named Guinness that is our only baby for now,” she writes.

Aviva Okun Emmons, BSN’09, became a certified perianesthesia nurse in 2012 and a clinical nurse III in 2013. She currently works as a registered nurse in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Duke University Hospital. She resides in Hillsborough, N.C., with her husband, Laney Emmons, who is also an RN at Duke. They celebrated their second wedding anniversary in September 2013.

Anthony Amato, BSN’09, received a 2013 Sheridan National Allied Health Scholarship for Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists. Awarded by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the $5,000 scholarships recognize student registered nurse anesthetists enrolled in nationally accredited anesthesiology programs. Amato is working on a doctoral project that seeks to identify how anesthesia information management systems can positively impact patient safety.

Pamela Spivey, MSN’08, was named 2013-2014 president-elect of the National Association of Neonatal Nursing (NANN) and will serve as president for two years beginning in 2014. She previously worked on policy statements and guidelines for NANN and served as chair of the education provider committee before joining the board of directors at the organization. She currently is a neonatal clinical nurse specialist at Texas Children’s Newborn Center.

Claire Kimball Richards, BSN’09, works part time as a nurse at Bailey Boushay House, a long-term care facility, and as a research nurse on a study of goals-of-care intervention for advanced heart failure patients at the University of Washington (UW). In fall 2013, she started a doctoral program at the UW School of Nursing, studying end-of-life decision-making, culture, and health care disparity. Her younger brother passed away suddenly from heart failure early in 2013 at the age of 24. On Sept. 1, 2013, Richards married her husband Ryan, and the couple lives in Seattle, Wash.

Sherry Daughety Smith, PMC’09, is working in a busy medical oncology office. She also rounds at the hospital and helps with consults, admissions, and discharges. Her daughter is a registered nurse at Duke Raleigh on the surgical unit. Her son is a French teacher at Page High School in Greensboro. Her husband is a minister.

Laura Cox, MSN’10, works at Crystalrun Healthcare in Middletown, N.Y. Her husband, Jacob Cox, G’10, is in the U.S. Army and was recently deployed in Kuwait. The couple lives in Fort Montgomery, N.Y.

Charly Harris, MSN’10, is working as a family nurse practitioner in a pediatric clinic. She and her husband have a daughter and live in South Boston, Va.

2010s

2010s
Hocutt, MSN’14, Goes from Fighting for His Life to Helping Save Others’

Ben Hocutt gives new meaning to the term “triple Dukie.”

By the time he finishes clinical rotations in August, he’ll have only one Duke degree under his belt. But one could argue that the former pediatrics patient, current Duke nurse, and soon-to-be MSN degree program graduate has earned an interesting, if not unique, spot among Duke’s most loyal learners and supporters.

Hocutt has spent the majority of his 10 years at Duke working as a critical care nurse and says he couldn’t imagine doing anything else, anywhere else. Even though his first encounter with Duke wasn’t under the best circumstances, his time as a patient at Duke Children’s Hospital and Health Center certainly played a role in steering him toward the career of his dreams.

Back in 1996, at age 12, the Rocky Mount, N.C., native was diagnosed with a rare, soft tissue cancer called leiomyosarcoma. For months, Hocutt had experienced strange symptoms that involved vomiting in the middle of the night while feeling completely normal during the day.

After his pediatrician was unable to pinpoint what was wrong, Hocutt’s mother, a nurse, insisted her son be referred to Duke. Once there, tests revealed a large tumor that had engulfed Hocutt’s gall bladder, liver, pancreas, and stomach. A biopsy further showed that the tumor was malignant.

Even before anyone told him the news, it didn’t take long for young Hocutt to figure out his condition was quite serious. Being left alone in the hospital room with his younger brother while his parents and doctors talked in another room was a telltale sign. Later, hearing the words “tumor” and “cancer” was almost impossible for the middle-schooler to process.

“Two of my grandparents had died of cancer,” Hocutt says. “I had never known anyone to survive it.”

Soft tissue cancers like leiomyosarcoma are often resistant to chemotherapy, and in Hocutt’s case, undergoing radiation could possibly lead to paralysis, so surgery was the only option for him. Fortunately, surgeons were able to successfully remove the tumor during a 10-hour operation.

Although it was a difficult time, Hocutt’s memories of that time center less on his recovery and more on how it impacted his family. “It was a big upheaval in our family life,” he says. “It affected my mom, my dad, and my younger brother spent the entire summer being shuffled around.”

Hocutt says he no longer remembers most of their names, but he also will never forget how his doctors and nurses made him feel. He not only left Duke University Hospital healed, but his time as a patient also reaffirmed his love of science and medicine. A self-described “biology nerd,” Hocutt says he always knew a career in health care would be in his future. Only, at the time, he was convinced he’d be a doctor, specifically a surgeon like the one who removed his tumor. Or perhaps an anesthesiologist.

It wasn’t until many years later that his mother suggested nursing to him. Once he enrolled in a nursing program at a Central Carolina Community College in Sanford after high school, he was forever hooked on nursing. By the time he got his first job in critical care, he knew he’d truly found his calling.
“I like the interaction I get to have with patients when they’re at their most critical state,” Hocutt explains. “It takes a lot of skill and specialized knowledge to be a critical care nurse. Not everyone can do it, but I can’t imagine being in any other part of the hospital.”

Hocutt also holds a BSN degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. But in recent years, his desire to work at his fullest potential as a nurse led him to pursue an MSN degree from Duke University School of Nursing’s Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program.

His advanced degree will certainly help him be a better nurse, but Hocutt also recognizes that his time at Duke Children’s nearly 20 years ago gave him a few lessons that no nursing school can teach.

“It definitely has given me perspective,” he says. For example, he says he knows what it’s like to first wake up on a ventilator right after surgery. “I remember having that feeling of waking up and not knowing where you are and not being able to see your family. That perspective helps when talking to the patient and helping them calm down.”

Such perspective also came in handy for Hocutt when he volunteered a few years ago as a camp counselor at Camp Kaleidoscope, a residential camp for children treated at Duke Children’s. A Camp Kaleidoscope alum himself, Hocutt was able ease the fears of a group of boy campers who were nervous about swimming without shirts.

“I took my shirt off, and showed them that my stomach is riddled with scars. They thought it was great having a counselor who could identify with them.”

– BERNADETTE GILLIS

* Lester G. Manalo, BSN’10, completed the family nurse practitioner MSN degree program at Yale University in May 2014. He and his wife Angela welcomed their first child, Philip, last February. They currently live in the Washington, D.C., area.

* Sarah Simons, BSN’10, is at Vanderbilt University getting a master’s degree in acute care nursing with an intensivist specialty. Prior to this, she worked three years as a cardiac ICU nurse at UNC Hospitals. She lives in Nashville.

* Fowler Richards Smith, BSN’10, recently started a new position as a pre-transplant coordinator with the Abdominal Organ Transplant Program at Wake Forest Baptist Health, after working in the emergency department there for two years. After receiving her trauma nursing core course (TNCC) certification and becoming a code blue nurse coordinator, she now plans to work toward becoming a certified clinical transplant coordinator. Smith lives in Winston-Salem, N.C.

* Preston Taylor, MSN’10, is a practicing CRNA with Austin Anesthesiology Group in Austin, Texas. She enjoys any outdoor exercise and completed her first marathon last year. She recently got married.

* Lauren Chilton Wiseman, MSN’10, is working for a regional health information exchange as a clinical project manager in Normal, Ill. She achieved American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) certification in 2012 and recently ran for and won a position on the Greater Chicago chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) board. Her son Michael is a freshman at Illinois State University. Her daughter Katie graduated from Eureka College in 2012.

* Rebecca Bogenrief, BSN’11, is a certified clinical transplant nurse working on a transplant floor at UT Southwestern St. Paul Hospital in Dallas, Texas. She takes care of kidney and liver transplant patients before and after transplantation. She has a second job at a pediatric dental surgery center, where she takes care of children recovering from anesthesia.

* Alyse Strahm, DNP’11, works as a neonatal nurse practitioner at Sparrow Health System in Lansing, Mich., and Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw, Mich. She is co-author of the article, “Optimizing Protein Intake in Premature Infants: A Neonatal Quality Improvement Project,” which was published in *Advances in Neonatal Care* in December 2013. She has two grandchildren, Lola and Jacob.

* Marie Clarke Madden, BSN’12, is moving back to North Carolina from Florida to work at the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit at Duke. She enjoys spending time
Kathryn J. Trotter, PMC’98, DNP’12, of Hillsborough, N.C., is teaching nurse practitioner students at Duke University School of Nursing while maintaining an active clinical practice at the Duke Breast Program. Trotter started the first breast cancer survivorship program at the Duke Cancer Center, which is still operating five years later. She is also a national consultant for the Centering Healthcare Institute. Trotter and her partner and two dogs enjoy going on bicycle tours and helping at charity events such as le Tour de Femme cycling event, which raises awareness and funds to support patients with breast cancer.

Elizabeth Van Dyke, MSN’12, works as a registered nurse II in the oncology unit at Duke University Hospital. She is studying to become a certified oncology nurse. She lives in Durham, N.C.

Christina Mills Harrelson, GNP’12, ANP’13, recently completed adult nurse practitioner courses at Duke and had plans to take boards in the fall. She works at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center as a gerontological nurse practitioner. She writes, “I have a wonderful husband of 17 years and two boys—11 and 9. They are always busy and keep us running.” The family lives in Fuquay Varina, N.C.

Brenna Weston, MSN’13, is working at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, N.C., as a family nurse practitioner in the East Carolina Heart Institute’s Transition Heart Failure Clinic. She and her husband Kenneth live in Winterville, N.C.

Dorothy Ray Salerno, N’40, of Charlotte, N.C., died November 20, 2013, at Carolinas Medical Center. She was 94. Salerno served as a nurse in the U.S. Army in the 65th General Hospital Unit in England during World War II. After the war, she obtained a degree in public health nursing from Columbia University. During her 56 years of marriage to Paul G. Salerno, they lived in Glenview and Rockford, Ill. After his death in 2005, she relocated to Charlotte.

Edith Kaiser Winter, BSN’45, of Atlanta, Ga., died December 26, 2013. She was 89. Her nursing career included working as a nurse at Atlanta Medical Center.

Sarah Welsh Buie, N’47, died October 18, 2013, in her home in Fort Belvoir, Va. She was 91. Her career included serving as an early member of the Nursing Cadet Corps during World War II and working several years in the accounting office at American University. She also worked at Inova Fairfax Hospital, first as a founding staff member of the alcohol treatment unit and later in the neonatology unit.

Jane Wright Carroll, N’49, of Wenatchee, Wash., died February 21, 2013. She was 85. Carroll’s nursing career spanned 30 years. She retired in 1987 as a public health nurse in Bremerton, Wash., where she lived from 1964 until 1999.

Frances Daniel Moncure, N’49, BSN’49, died December 31, 2013, in Houston, Texas. She was 86. After earning a PhD in clinical psychology from Kent State University in 1972, Moncure moved to Houston and spent the rest of her career as a professor at the University of Texas School of Nursing, retiring in 1991. She also was a member of her church’s AIDS care team, providing skilled nursing and emotional support to AIDS patients in her community.

Eugenie “Geni” Jacoby Dunnells, BSN’59, of Washington, D.C., and Annapolis, Md., died on December 7, 2013, of Parkinson’s disease.

She was 76. Dunnells was active in Montgomery County and State of Maryland Democratic politics throughout her life. Her work included serving as director of legislation to then-speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates and then-Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland. She was executive director of the Maryland Health Management Organizations, taught at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore, and ended her career as a health policy consultant.

Nina Parker Sebastian, BSN’63, of Arlington, Va., died December 5, 2013, from a stroke. She was 72. Her nursing career included serving in the U.S. Army at a veterans’ hospital outside of Philadelphia, Pa., and as a pharmaceutical representative in the Northern Virginia area for Eli Lilly. She also volunteered in urban clinic and mission settings at home and abroad.

Elizabeth Ellen Zagorski, BSN’82, of Solon, Ohio, died December 27, 2013, after a 20-year battle with breast cancer. She was 53.

Nancy Nolan Kincaid, a former Duke University School of Nursing faculty member and Columbus, Ohio, resident, died August 15, 2013, after a battle with brain cancer. She was 73. After teaching nursing at Duke, she took a break from work to raise her family. She then worked as a guidance counselor for nurses at the College of Nursing at Ohio State University. Over the years, she also volunteered at Riverside Hospital and served on the Riverside Oncology Service Board.

Paula Dawn Meyer, an MSN student at Duke University School of Nursing, died April 22, 2014. She was 46. Meyer, who lived in Sherwood, Ore., was one of the founders and owners of Infinity Property Management, Inc. As a nurse, she traveled to Zanzibar, Africa, in 2009 to provide medical services in local hospitals and villages. She returned to Africa in 2013, providing medical assistance in hospitals and orphanages in Dar es Salaam. Meyer was scheduled to graduate from Duke in August 2014.
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Congratulations, Class of 2014!

More than 275 students received nursing degrees in May, including 79 in the ABSN program, 139 in the MSN program, 57 in the DNP program, and two in the PhD program. Opening remarks were given by Victor J. Dzau, MD, chancellor for health affairs and president and CEO of Duke University Health System. Dean Catherine Gilliss, who will step down in June after a decade as dean, was the graduation speaker. “I am proud to preside over the ceremony honoring the work of these students,” she said. “After May 10, the American health care system will be a better place for the 277 Duke graduates who will be leading in service delivery, research, and the education of the next generation of nurses.”

Student marshals for the ceremony were Daniel Lacambacal for the BSN degree program, Kristi Reynolds for the MSN degree program, and Katherine Evans for the DNP degree program.

Brigit Carter, PhD, RN, CCRN, congratulates new graduates Akua Peprah and Mercy Birago.

The 2014 graduation ceremony was held at the Durham Performing Arts Center.