


# VILLANOVA NURSING

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SUMMER  
2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING



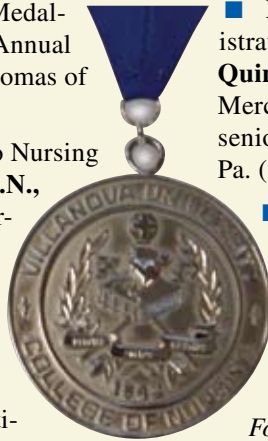
**The Opportunity Ahead:**  
Perspectives on  
Health Care Reform

## Alumnae Honored with Medallions

Four alumnae received the College of Nursing Medallion, our highest award, on April 17 at the 21st Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church.

■ Medallion for Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Education: **Mary Ellen Smith Glasgow '87 M.S.N.**, associate professor and associate dean for Undergraduate Programs, M.S.N. Programs and Continuing Nursing Education, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Drexel University, Philadelphia

■ Medallion for Excellence in Clinical Practice: **Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin '80 B.S.N.**, nurse practitioner, Hematology Department, Minneapolis Children's Hospitals and Clinics (see page 26)



■ Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Administration of Nursing and Health Care Services: **Carol J. Quinn '70 B.S.N.**, president and chief executive officer, Mercy Home and Community Health Services, and senior vice president, Mercy Health System, Springfield, Pa. (see page 4)

■ Medallion for Distinguished Service to the College and Nursing Alumni: **Florence Benas Smoczynski '62 B.S.N.**, assistant professor, College of Health and Human Services, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

*For more information about the Medallion recipients, follow the link at [www.villanova.edu/nursing](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing) .*

### *Mark your calendar!*

<b>May 15</b>	College of Nursing Convocation/ Baccalaureate Mass
<b>May 16</b>	Commencement
<b>June 12</b>	Reunion Weekend Chat with the Dean and alumni continuing education event
	Continuing Education: NLN Preparation Course for Certification as a Nurse Educator (CNE) Exam

**Reminder: Pennsylvania has now joined New Jersey, Delaware and other states with mandatory continuing education contact hours for relicensure. See your state board's Web site for specific requirements.**

*For the full Continuing Education calendar, visit [www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce/calendar.htm](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce/calendar.htm) .*

## VILLANOVA NURSING

Vol. 29 No. 1 Spring 2010

### Features

The Opportunity Ahead .....	<b>3</b>
Care in a Catastrophe .....	<b>10</b>
Supporting the Next Generation of Villanova Nurses .....	<b>23</b>
Two Scholarship Funds Established .....	<b>Inside Back Cover</b>

### Departments

Perspectives.....	<b>1</b>
College Highlights.....	<b>13</b>
Faculty Focus.....	<b>19</b>
Alumni Focus .....	<b>26</b>

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Dear Alumni and Friends  
of the College of Nursing:



**W**ith a very successful 10-year reaccreditation visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education behind us, the College of Nursing sets its sights on the future direction of its programs within the framework of trends in health-care delivery and Villanova's Strategic Plan, *Igniting the Heart. Inspiring the Mind. Illuminating the Spirit.*

Although hotly debated in Congress, some matter of health-care reform will occur either through legislation or incrementally as societal trends stimulate change. The question is how we operationally define our terms. Health-care reform can mean changes in the financing of health care, in access to health care or to changes in the physical environment where health care is delivered. It can mean changes in the modes of delivering care, in the primary providers of care to individuals and communities, or transformation of all the facets mentioned above.

For the nursing profession, the steady growth and evolution of advanced practice in both primary care and tertiary settings is obvious. Development of new models of care, such as that described by our alumna Mary Naylor '71 B.S.N. in our cover story, provides examples of the opportunities for nursing leadership in delivering health care that accommodates the fluctuations in the amount of support required by our ever-growing aging population. Also in this issue of *Villanova Nursing*, Carol Quinn '70 B.S.N. and Sharon Johnson '91 M.S.N. comment on the role of home care as a vital alternative to institutional settings. Tom Linhares '89 M.S.N., a hospital administrator, predicts the

**“The trends in health-care delivery that confront all of us have important implications for the nursing curriculum of the future and for faculty preparation.”**

transitioning of hospitals to a more community-oriented locus of care, from which services are disseminated to people in the community and in their homes.

The trends in health-care delivery that confront all of us have important implications for the nursing curriculum of the future and for faculty preparation. Consideration of the demographics of the population that will be served, and the settings in which care will be provided, charts the direction for curriculum and the emphasis it must reflect. More attention to community-based care and opportuni-

ties for nursing students to engage in interdisciplinary education, as well as emphasis on the needs of our aging population in the United States, will guide curriculum reform and ultimately influence the future of health care.

Our College is well-positioned to address the future through its curriculum and through activities that will emerge from its new Center for Global and Public Health. Change is inevitable, and we are prepared to respond while ensuring the quality, soundness and mission of service that have always been distinguishing hallmarks of a Villanova nursing education.

Sincerely,

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN  
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor



# The Opportunity Ahead

*As the emphasis shifts to wellness, nurses more than ever need the leadership and skills to empower patients. In a post-reform world, how will their roles change? Will there be enough primary care providers?*

An estimated 47 to 50 million Americans lack health insurance coverage, and millions more are underinsured. This winter, as the U.S. Congress continued to debate health-care reform bills and costs, we contacted several College of Nursing alumni and faculty experts to hear what they have to say about the impact reform will have for patients, nurses and health-care delivery.

In the lengthy congressional debates, many of which focus on insurance coverage, one thing can get lost: the human element. “We need to move from sick care to health care,” says Thomas J. Linhares ’89 M.S.N., R.N., vice president, Hospital Operations, for the 652-bed Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, which serves a socioeconomically and ethnically diverse population.

Reform will encourage health-care providers and organizations to keep patients healthier. While fully supporting this goal, Linhares understands what this means: the changes coming may impact a hospital’s bottom line. “If we are successful, there will be a decrease in the need for inpatient beds,” he says. He views reform as an opportunity both to ask hard questions (“What services are we providing? How can we improve efficiency?”) and to be creative with solutions. Since hospitals cannot solely or directly control patient management in the community, he looks to the large number of medical groups in the

area. “We can better develop relationships with physician groups to lower readmission rates—help patients keep appointments, take their medications—and concentrate on community clinical health,” he suggests.

Linhares notes the importance of

integrating hospital teams with clinics, corporations and wellness programs; educating nurses more in the social needs of patients (such as community services availability, housing that fits their needs or resources to adapt a home); and boosting



*In Manhattan, Thomas J. Linhares ’89 M.S.N., R.N., vice president, Hospital Operations, for Lenox Hill Hospital, is forging new alliances and opportunities for nurses and health care to succeed in a post-reform era.*

the number of home care nurses. He also is working to expand Lenox Hill's inpatient case management program to follow high-risk patients in the community and thus have a positive impact both on their home environment and on when they return to the acute care setting.

In furthering Lenox Hill's community connections in all of its markets, Linhares foresees great potential in corporate health, which he defines as a "huge manager of how people are taken care of." He wants to tighten the relationship between hospitals and corporations with a focus on prevention and health. Bloomingdale's flagship store is one of the hospital's neighbors on the Upper East Side. "We have relationships with Bloomingdale's and Bloomberg," Linhares says. He cites the department store as an example of how a hospital staff can go to the patients instead of the other way around. For instance, a hospital can customize wellness programs for a store's employees, have a diabetic educator on-site, refer employees to its medical groups as needed and have its emergency department staff train the store's employees in using automated defibrillators. Along the way, the hospital is better managing patients while growing a pool of customers for its services.

### Health in the home

In the Philadelphia area, Carol Quinn '70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. likewise sees health

*"Empowering patients and care-givers toward self-care and independence will lead to greater quality of care."*

—Carol Quinn '70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N.

care moving into the community and home. As chief executive officer of Mercy Home Health and Mercy LIFE (Living Independently for Elders), which serves the entire five-county area, she looks strategically at future needs. "I anticipate an exponential growth in the need for community-based health-care services as industry policies continue to shift," she notes. "Baby Boomers are aging, and there is an overwhelming desire for individuals to receive health-care services at home. The home health-care industry will have to be prepared to deliver more comprehensive care for chronic illnesses." The Mercy LIFE program is already addressing the needs of this population. The program operates two day centers in North and South Philadelphia that provide a variety of services related to health and social needs, promote independence at home and help elders avoid nursing home placement.

In Southeastern Pennsylvania, Sharon E. Johnson '91 M.S.N., R.N.C., NE-BC is director of Home Health and Hospice for The Home Care Network of Jefferson



*Carol Quinn '70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., chief executive officer of Mercy Home Health and Mercy LIFE, is keenly aware of how individuals want to receive health-care services at home in the Philadelphia area.*

Health System, based in Wayne, Pa. She, too, is well aware of the predicted growth in home care, especially to serve a largely elderly population with multiple chronic conditions requiring closer monitoring for safety. "We will see more telehealth monitoring as an essential part of home care," Johnson points out. Telehealth enlists computer technology to help assess patients and relay health information to providers.

Remote monitoring technology is

## Researcher Advances Patient Safety

The 1999 release of *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System* spurred hospitals to improve patient safety by reforming how they operate. This seminal report, issued by the Institute of Medicine, estimated that at least 44,000 and up to 98,000 people were dying in hospitals each year from preventable medical errors. Those extrapolated numbers meant medical errors were killing more people than motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer or AIDS, the report indicated. Beyond the tragic human toll, the total cost of these errors nationally was estimated as high as \$29 billion per year.

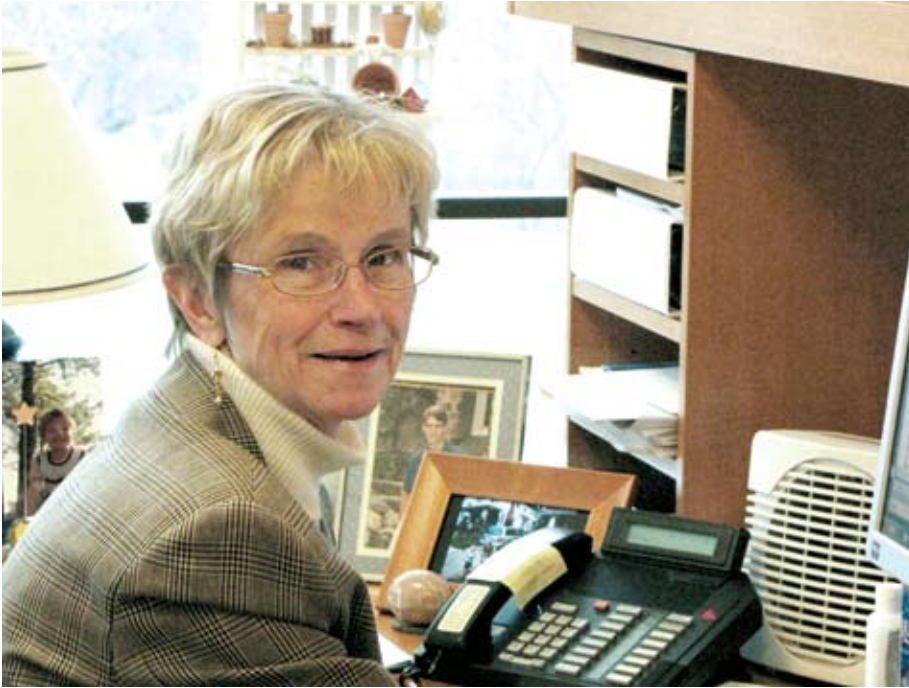
In the wake of mistakes such as mixed-up prescriptions or amputating the wrong leg, creating a culture of safety became a critical issue in hospitals and other health-care settings. During the past decade, they have improved their procedures in such areas as injury prevention, patient identification and medication safety.

Eleven years after *To Err Is Human*, with health-care reform aiming for quality health-care coverage, the emphasis on patient outcomes and a culture of safety is front and center in the national reform debate. In fact, Medicare

and Medicaid payments quite likely will become tied to patient outcomes.

"The understanding of how to assess the quality of care and the effectiveness of patient safety measures is of utmost importance for nurses, now more than ever," says Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, Ph.D., R.N., M.B.A., NEA-BC, assistant professor in the College of Nursing. Her research advances the safety agenda. For example, she is currently conducting a pilot study "to assess the relationship between the characteristics of nurses, such as national certification, education and experience, on adverse patient outcomes such as falls, pressure ulcers and catheter-associated infection," she notes. Dr. Gray-Siracusa's extensive experience includes having served as a head nurse, director of nursing, senior director of nursing, administrative supervisor and vice president for patient care services (see page 16 for a story on her teaching in Oman).

Dr. Gray-Siracusa designed the College's graduate-level nursing course Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, which was first offered in fall 2009. It provides students with a comprehensive understanding of patient safety and its relationship



*“Nurses need to be informed and think about the whole continuum of care, so there is less fragmentation.”*

—Sharon E. Johnson '91 M.S.N., R.N.C., NE-BC

*With her lengthy experience in home health care, Sharon E. Johnson '91 M.S.N., R.N.C., NE-BC, based in Wayne, Pa., sees the central role that nurses play. However, she notes, “people should plan for their lifelong health needs.”*

the physical.” She points to not only NPs’ advanced assessment skills but their patient advocacy: “They are creative in their ability to solve issues and work with families.”

From the first NP graduates at the University of Colorado in 1965, practicing NPs now number 135,000 across the country, according to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). Each year, almost 8,000 more graduate to provide services “similar to those of a physician,” the AANP Web site explains, adding “They have a unique approach and stress both care and cure.”

extensively utilized by Mercy Home Health as well. “With the decrease in home care reimbursements and the subsequent pay-for-performance methodology, remote monitoring of patients will be critical in order to allow timely responses to changes in patients’ health status,” Quinn explains. “Increasingly, nurse practitioners (NPs)

will be involved in chronic illness care,” she notes. “The need for nurses with a high level of clinical competency and assessment acumen will increase significantly.”

Johnson, like Quinn, appreciates how NPs will become even more vital. “They bring new insights,” Johnson says. “They walk into a situation and see well beyond

### **Primary care takes on primary importance**

In the post-reform era, as the demand for care rises, will there be a shortage of primary care providers? That’s one concern of Donna Torrisi '72 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP, who is the network executive director of the Philadelphia-based Family Practice

to quality improvement concepts and department management. The course emphasizes leadership characteristics essential to creating and sustaining a culture of safety within a health-care organization.

“This course is required for all graduate Nursing students in the Healthcare Administration track,” Dr. Gray-Siracusa explains. “It is strongly recommended as an elective for all others, including Nursing Education, Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Anesthesia students.” The course also attracts students from the Villanova School of Business. In the course, students learn how the elements of quality management and risk management, as well as data management and general management skills including process mapping, root cause analysis and benchmarking, are integrated to produce an effective and efficient system to monitor and improve care. “Nurses, no matter where they practice, should understand the methods used to assess the quality and safety of their practice,” she affirms. “Nursing is one of the most influential professions in the delivery of health care.”



*Books on patient safety surround Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, Ph.D., R.N. M.B.A., NEA-BC, assistant professor in the College of Nursing. Among the tomes are Just Culture: Balancing Safety and Accountability, Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century and To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System.*

and Counseling Network (FPCN). Its three health centers are designed and operated by one part of the solution: experienced, certified family nurse practitioners (FNPs) who promote long-term health. FPCN's Web site ([www.fpcn.us](http://www.fpcn.us)) states that "We are a network of Primary Care Providers and Mental Health Professionals who believe that health care is a right ... not a privilege." Acknowledging that most health insurance is designed for the "fortunate, healthy person," FPCN has chosen instead to focus on those who often are poor, elderly and without medical insurance and who face cultural/language barriers, according to the network's Web site.

Torrisi, an FNP herself, is a nationally recognized leader in the development of nurse-managed health care. She views this potential shortage as an opportunity—and an obligation in primary care—to increase services, office hours and even sites. For example, FPCN one day hopes to expand into upstate Pennsylvania. Yet her desire to serve more patients is tinged with two realities: Fewer physicians have been entering primary care (90 percent of medical school graduates choose more well-paying specialties) and it's often a challenge to find an NP to hire.

(See page 7 to learn more about the College's new FNP program.)

"If primary care is not addressed, we are making a mistake," Torrisi warns. "Everybody needs health care, not just the underserved." FNPs spend quality time with patients, often "twice as long as a physician" usually does, she emphasizes. As an example, she cites the value of the time spent by an FPCN patient educator in her office—a diabetic specialist—who inspires patients and works closely with them to change behaviors and improve blood glucose levels. The positive results have been "phenomenal," Torrisi affirms. She is proud that the strong advocacy skills of her FNPs have enabled them to help struggling patients obtain funding for diagnostic tests such as MRIs and biopsies. She calls FPCN's centers a "lifeline" to the 13,000 patients a year who use their services.

### Changes for the profession

The need for hospital-based R.N.s will remain persistent, Linhares believes, because hospitalized patients will be sicker and the elderly population requiring bedside nurses continues to grow. But the Lenox Hill VP also foresees more opportunity out in the community as care shifts

away from the bedside and moves into other settings, including public and private clinics. No matter where nurses are practicing, "they have to be primarily educators and advocates for the patients," he believes. Nurses will find additional roles opening in community services, home care, case management and corporations.

Linhares anticipates a larger demand for graduate-level education programs in nursing, such as preparation for NPs. "Nurses understand how to keep patients healthy," he asserts.

FPCN's Torrisi agrees that the job market will be good for NPs. Johnson, too, understands the growing demand for R.N.s at every level, especially as the population ages. "There is a need in all settings, including home health care, for critical thinking skills and for seeing the big picture," Johnson notes. Nurses, she affirms, are the most crucial people at the patient level.

The knowledge mix that Quinn describes for nurses has to include one factor especially critical in the reform debate: the cost of care. "Nurses will need to be well-educated in chronic care, home-based care, palliative care and psychosocial intervention, as well as be knowledgeable about the economics of care delivery," she notes. "If nurses are equipped with financial skills and recognize that first-class quality care drives financial outcomes, it will ultimately increase the sustainability of health-care provider services."

Quality care stems from a transformation in the patient role, Quinn emphasizes, and that transformation begins with nurses. "Health-care coaching skills are going to become a greater asset as health-care reform presents an opportunity to expand the patient's role as a partner in the health-care delivery process," she explains. "Empowering patients and caregivers toward self-care and independence will lead to greater quality of care. This will require nurses to possess the skill set necessary to assume leadership roles in health-care delivery and function as an equal, independent practitioner on the health-care team."

### Hopes for the future

Whether in New York City or Philadelphia, the suburbs or a rural setting, the profession of nursing will have even more potential for showing Americans the way to a healthier life. At Mercy, Quinn focuses on how R.N.s have already taken a front-rank position in reform. "Nurses will assume a greater



*Donna Torrisi '72 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP (left), network executive director of the Philadelphia-based Family Practice and Counseling Network (FPCN), envisions a future that attracts more advanced practice nurses and physicians to primary care. Here, she attends a press conference for the 2007 grand opening of a third FPCN site, the Health Annex, on Woodland Avenue. With her is Lorraine Thomas, office manager and outreach coordinator.*



## College Launches Family Nurse Practitioner Option

For more than 30 years, nurse practitioners (NPs) have met the needs of patients in a variety of settings, providing holistic, patient-centered care. They often practice in areas of health-care shortage and in more marginal communities, where access to care has been difficult. Today, we are still facing a crisis of health-care delivery in our communities. The number of people without health insurance is growing rapidly. The cost of health care and health insurance is rising while the number of physicians going into primary care continues to decline.

In fall 2009, the College of Nursing received approval from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing for its Graduate Nursing Program's new Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) option. The board approved the establishment of both an M.S.N. degree and post-master's certificate option. In January, the first students enrolled in the FNP option.

Why add the FNP option to the College's three existing NP specialties—Adult, Pediatric and Geriatric? The timing is ideal. The FNP program was developed to help meet the need for increasing numbers of nurse practitioners who can care for patients across the lifespan.

"Family nurse practitioners are the most versatile NP population, as they can meet the health-care needs of a wide range of patients in a variety of practice settings," explains Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC, assistant professor, coordinator of the NP programs and an FNP. "Our students have been asking for this option so they have flexibility in employment options, including sites such



*A family nurse practitioner, Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC, assistant professor in the College of Nursing and coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner programs, advises on technique for examining the lymph nodes of a young adult.*

as nurse-managed health centers, retail clinics and emergency department and urgent care centers."

Geraldine Fried '09 M.S.N., R.N., now enrolled in the FNP program, agrees. "I have noted the many job opportunities available that request these added credentials. Upon graduation, I will have many more options open to me. I can broaden my scope of practice and take care of patients throughout a larger part of their life...children, parents and often grandparents. Caring for multigenerational families will be rewarding," says Fried, who is from Berwyn, Pa.

Villanova's FNP option is 47 credits with 730 clinical hours for the M.S.N. degree. The FNP post-master's certificate has varying credits—up to 36—depending on a student's education background. FNP students will benefit not only from the partnership with faculty who bring their current clinical experiences and mentorship into the classroom but also from the curriculum's integration of procedures, such as suture workshops. The FNP option is structured so that

NPs with a population focus in an area other than family can complete the FNP requirements, usually within one year.

Students who complete the FNP program at the College will be eligible to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center FNP examination and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners FNP examination.

For more information, visit the Graduate Nursing Program FNP pages at [www.villanova.edu/nursing/programs/graduate/masters/concentrations/family](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/programs/graduate/masters/concentrations/family).

### From Birth to Death: The Value of FNPs

In many disadvantaged communities, family nurse practitioners (FNPs) are providing affordable health-care services to individuals and families through nurse-managed health centers. In the Philadelphia region's nurse-managed health centers, a 2004 study showed that NPs saw their patients almost twice as often as other providers, their patients were hospitalized 30 percent less and used the emergency room 15 percent less often than patients of other health-care providers, according to the National Nurse Centers Consortium 2004 Annual Report.

The FNP option, which focuses on care for patients from birth to death, is the most versatile preparation for NPs, reports the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in its *Nurse Practitioner Facts* (2008).

Across the nation, there are more than 1,000 retail

health clinics based in shops and pharmacies. In these clinics, NPs provide affordable access to care for patients with many minor health problems. These clinics also offer routine immunizations, school and employer physical examinations and treatments for minor medical illnesses for patients with and without health insurance. As the health-care crisis of uninsured and underinsured grows, advanced practice nurses continue to fill the gaps. In an analysis of data from the eight operators who together run three-fourths of the nation's retail health clinics, a 2008 Rand Corporation study showed that these clinics attract patients who hadn't been using the health system and that the clinics handled more than 1.3 million visits from 2000 to 2007. The study was published in the September/October 2008 issue of the *Journal of Health Affairs*.

leadership role in the development and delivery of cost-effective, patient-centered, comprehensive quality care,” she states.

Johnson, at Jefferson’s Home Care Network, echoes Quinn’s assessment. “We need strong nursing leaders who advocate for the profession, saying ‘This is what

R.N.s need in their environment to provide quality care,’” she points out. “Nurses need to be informed and think about the whole continuum of care, so there is less fragmentation.” For all patients, especially those recovering or dealing with chronic conditions, “home is where people should

be—they do better with loved ones—but wherever care is delivered, there must be a focus on safety.”

Torrisi envisions a future where primary care becomes a more appealing choice for advanced practice nurses and physicians alike, and an environment where there is

## Nurse-Driven Model Benefits Chronically Ill Elders

*The research guided by Dr. Naylor ’71 B.S.N., helps these chronically ill patients manage their difficult transitions across health-care settings—and cuts the costs.*

If you want to see health-care reform in action, look no further than Mary Naylor ’71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN. This distinguished researcher is passionate about improving the delivery of health care for chronically ill elders and their families, and saving money at the same time. Believing in the need for a “fundamental redesign” of the health-care system, for 20 years, Dr. Naylor has been deliberate and tenacious in investigating and putting into practice solutions for what others would consider an insurmountable problem. She has developed an efficient, simple, common-sense approach to addressing the complex needs of older adults coping with complex chronic conditions, especially their continuity of care during and after hospital stays.

At the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Dr. Naylor leads a multidisciplinary research program designed to improve the quality of care, decrease unnecessary hospitalizations and reduce health-care costs for vulnerable, community-based elders. The success of her team is embodied in its Transitional Care Model (TCM). With support of several foundations, her team has built bridges with a major health insurer (Aetna) and a health-care organization (Kaiser Permanente) to study TCM in the “real world.” Aetna Corporation views TCM as a “high value proposition” due to the high levels of quality and satisfaction achieved, along with cost reductions by avoiding readmission. At three Kaiser Permanente sites in Northern California, alternative nurse staffing models using TCM are being examined. TCM has been adopted by the University of Pennsylvania Health System, which includes Blue Cross reimbursement for TCM services.

Dr. Naylor is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and director of Penn Nursing’s NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health, a research center studying chronically ill adults, especially frail elders. The College of Nursing alumna is a member of the College’s Board of Consultants



*In her two decades of research, Mary Naylor ’71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN has shown how advanced practice nurses can improve the continuity of care for high-risk elders.*

and Villanova University’s Board of Trustees. She serves as chair of Long-Term Quality Alliance, a newly created national multidisciplinary group to ensure high-quality care in a variety of long-term care settings. She also serves as national program director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-sponsored Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative to generate, disseminate and translate research that demonstrates nursing’s contribution to the quality of patient care.

Why focus on elders? The number of chronically ill people is growing “vastly,” Dr. Naylor points out, especially among the elderly. The U.S. health-care system often forces these vulnerable elders and their family caregivers to navigate, or flounder, in an intricate and imperfect system. The system is fraught with gaps in care, inconsistent management and poor communication. Other pitfalls include an inability to bridge transitions for the patient, such as when moving from hospital to home. These elders typi-

cally have multiple medical conditions often complicated by poor health behaviors, language barriers and an inability to care for themselves. They and their families may not understand or remember what they were taught during hospital stays. Combine all of these factors with the lack of support, and they add up to a perfect storm—one in which these elders “churn” through the health-care system with repeated readmissions, increased rates of medical errors and a parallel increase in costs—financial and human.

In the ideal world, caring for elders with multiple chronic conditions would be coordinated and readmission avoided. That’s where transitional care comes in—starting as soon as possible after the patient is admitted. Dr. Naylor’s studies have shown that this model saves \$5,000 a year for each Medicare patient. The researcher defines transitional care as “a range of time-limited services and environments that complement primary care and are designed to ensure health-care continuity and avoid preventable poor outcomes among

less “pressure” and more support to allow for relaxed patient interactions. FPCN’s executive director also hopes to see more centralized health education at the point of delivery. Just as physicians undergo a medical residency, NPs could train for their specialty during a primary care residency,

she suggests. They would be mentored and their training subsidized. “This would help with the recruitment and retention of NPs,” Torrisi points out.

As the nation calls for meaningful health-care reform yet struggles to enact it, Linhares hopes that hospitals and the

health-care system in general see this period as a proving ground for improving their efficiency. “Success necessitates this change in monitoring the utilization of resources,” he believes. “It’s a golden opportunity for nurses to take the lead in making things better. A nurse can do anything.”

at risk populations as they move from one level of care to another, among multiple providers and across settings.”

While a multidisciplinary model, TCM is nurse-driven and is holistic in its approach. TCM nurses use evidence-based protocols for their interventions and are there for patients as needed, including accompanying them on doctor’s visits and seeing them regularly in their homes. At the core of this successful model is the advanced practice nurse who works with both patient and caregiver. The nurse is on hand from admission through post-discharge time at home, interpreting the language and processes of the health-care system, interacting with providers and advocating for the patient.

Three completed randomized clinical trials, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, have shown how TCM has reduced readmission rates. In one reported study, the TCM group’s readmission rate was half that of the control group (28 percent compared with 56 percent) at six months, which also saved costs. Additionally, the patients had improved health outcomes, quality of life and satisfaction.

Dr. Naylor, who keeps moving forward in her research, is now studying TCM in a population of elders with cognitive impairments. As she explores strategic partnerships, she seeks a continued flow of data, broader adoption of TCM and policy changes to aid health care. She sees the impact on nurses and nursing education in a new environment where there will be much more attention paid to chronic illness and chronic care.

“We need to align our system to meet the changing needs of the people we serve,” Dr. Naylor advises. “Nurses are in a prime position to design and deliver these innovations,” she says energetically. “How do we change the way we prepare R.N.s? We need to teach them about chronic care, how to work as part of teams, how to deliver care that spans time and systems, how to look at just-in-time quality data and adjust performance, and how to do root cause analyses. Nurses need to continue to question, and ask ‘How does my intervention today position the patient to have a long-term positive outcome?’”

Last November, Dr. Naylor shared her compelling case for TCM as the College’s 31st Annual Distinguished Lecturer in Nursing. She has also shared her knowledge with the U.S. Congress through her expert testimony; with other professionals through her scholarly work; and with the larger public through media such as NPR, the *Wall Street Journal* and

the *Washington Post*. The Medicare Transitional Care Act, recently introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, is modeled on her team’s work.

To view Dr. Naylor’s presentation on “*The Transitional Care Model: A Path to Improve the Care of Older Adults and Family Caregivers*,” follow the links from [www.villanova.edu/nursing](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing). This was the 31st Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing lecture, presented on November 16, 2009, and co-sponsored by the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. For more information about TCM and a video featuring Dr. Naylor, visit [www.transitionalcare.info](http://www.transitionalcare.info). For her April 2009 statement to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance’s Roundtable on Delivery System Reform, visit [finance.senate.gov/hearings/testimony/2009test/042109mntest.pdf](http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/testimony/2009test/042109mntest.pdf).



*The Transitional Care Model (TCM), according to the team’s Web site ([www.transitionalcare.info](http://www.transitionalcare.info)), “provides comprehensive in-hospital planning and home follow-up for chronically ill high-risk older adults hospitalized for common medical and surgical conditions.”*

# Care in a Catastrophe

*In the midst of chaos following Haiti's earthquake, an alumna quickly put her new NP skills to use.*

**W**hen you land in a Third World country to assist with nursing care, you might expect to be surprised here and there. You don't expect a surprise of 7.0 magnitude. That is what happened to Debbie Abraham '95 M.S.N., R.N., five hours after landing in Haiti on January 12 for what she thought would be another routine service trip to Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti (HAS). For more than seven years, she had been volunteering once or twice a year in this rural hospital in Deschappelles, about 40 miles northwest of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

A former critical care nurse and nurse educator in the Philadelphia region, Abraham resides in Havertown, Pa., with her husband and their two children, who are in college and high school. She earned her M.S.N. degree in 1995 at the College and returned to complete her Adult Nurse Practitioner (NP) post-master's certificate, which she had just received in December 2009. She had been readying for this service trip before studying for her NP certification exam and seeking a new NP position. It was to be a two-week stay, involving teaching and patient care, her first time as an advanced practice nurse. She did not know she would be delivering care and utilizing her fresh skills in the midst of the worst humanitarian crisis in recent memory in the poorest country of the Western Hemisphere. The earthquake affected an estimated 3 million people, and the dead number in the hundreds of thousands.

When Abraham arrived in Port-au-Prince that Tuesday, she traveled by car to the house of a friend, Zulta, a midwife, in Tabarre, 10 minutes outside the capital, for a two-day visit. They were standing in the kitchen talking about dinner. "I recall hearing a very loud boom, like an explosion, and then literally shaking," she says. "As

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE ABRAHAM



*Debbie Abraham '95 M.S.N., R.N. assists an orthopedic patient on a previous service trip to Haiti.*

the amplitude got worse, we got the kids and ran out."

Unsure of what was happening, Abraham stood outside with Zulta, Zulta's husband and their two small children. People were running, screaming, looking to the sky and singing, praying or chanting. "It was chaotic," she says. Miraculously, the family's house did not collapse.

Abraham realized she was far from her own family and that essential services were wiped out. "The total isolation for me was pretty incredible," she relates. On the car radio, they got confirmation from French radio that it was a significant earthquake.

At the request of another friend, Zulta and Abraham set out the following morning to deliver a few supplies to Delmar, a neighboring section of Port-au-Prince that had been completely razed in the earth-

quake. They brought gauze, sterile gloves, suture material, Betadine, ampicillin, ibuprofen, Benadryl and some food.

"The first injury we saw was a partially amputated foot...then a spinal cord injury and a skull fracture," notes Abraham. Not being equipped for the more serious cases, they began treating abrasions and other wounds, soon reprioritizing how to treat certain injuries. They improvised with their quickly diminishing supplies, for instance, using the paper from the empty gauze packages to wipe a wound. After two hours, they returned to Zulta's home. As Abraham reflects on that experience, she notes, "In 30 years of nursing I never felt so helpless."

Two days later, Abraham viewed firsthand the situation in Port-au-Prince as they sought Zulta's relatives. "It was absolutely unbelievable to see the destruction of the

buildings, people staking out areas to sleep, and thousands and thousands in the road, walking,” she recalls vividly, along with the odor from the countless dead bodies lying covered in the street. She adds, “Nothing in my life prepared me for what I saw.”

Later that day, Abraham made the long journey to HAS as scheduled. Recent funding cuts had meant the hospital’s beds had been reduced almost by half, to only 85 beds, and about 500 injured were being brought in. Over the next two days, Abraham relied on her NP knowledge and skills to triage patients. While the hospital had more resources than most in the devastated country, she still had to be judicious in ordering X-rays and other tests. She would admit patients and write their orders, or prescribe needed medications and discharge them. She estimates 90 percent of the cases were orthopedic or trauma, especially among those who had arrived from Port-au-Prince.

Essentially, she notes, this was her “first day on the job” as an NP. While she felt confident in her assessment skills, she was still unsure about some of her decisions since she was unfamiliar with the hospital’s paperwork and protocols. She did have physicians to call on for consultation. In

assessing one woman, she thought she had a collapsed lung, a situation that can quickly become dire. The staff disagreed. Abraham stuck to her assessment, and her conclusion was confirmed by a chest X-ray; the patient was treated appropriately.

In 2002, Abraham had learned of an opportunity to teach CPR to staff at HAS, which serves 300,000 impoverished people. Within days of her first visit there, she knew she would return. On her service trips, she staffs education programs on nursing and health issues, as well as assists with patient care in the hospital and its more remote clinics. She is self-taught in Kreyol, Haiti’s native language, but also uses a translator when teaching.

Discussing how nursing knowledge and education translate into various situations, Abraham notes about her Villanova Nursing background, “I certainly felt prepared, as I had been given the appropriate information to use. I used my physical assessment course, no doubt about it!” She acknowledges that setting priorities and assessing patients is part of all nursing.

In her second week in Haiti following the earthquake, Abraham delivered care and medications on the HAS wards

to about 150 people a day, though she suspects she lost count. She recalls the difficulty of having people pull on the hem of her scrub pants for help as she stepped around them on the floor to get to someone else. “I went back to them,” she adds. She is moved by the Haitian people. “We can’t fathom their daily life. Despite the horrible living conditions and ineffective leadership in Haiti, to see the grace, dignity and resolve with which they live their lives is overwhelming. Everyone had someone in their family who was dead.”

With her two weeks of volunteering completed, she drove to the Dominican Republic for her flight home.

Abraham has great respect for the endeavors of HAS and is acutely aware of the hospital’s need for funding. This is why she tells her story 36 hours after her return to the United States, even before getting much rest. “I felt conflicted about leaving,” she admits. Determined to return to HAS and Haiti, Abraham says firmly, “It is my privilege to be able to work there, and it will continue. This will not stop me.”

*To learn more about Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti and its critical needs, visit [www.hashaiti.org](http://www.hashaiti.org).*

## Undaunted by the Disaster

In some of the world’s harshest places, Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., has shared her critical care nursing skills, volunteering with Operation Smile to provide care to children in Thailand, the Philippines, Honduras, China, Russia, Morocco and Brazil. Following the Haitian earthquake, she felt compelled to take part in another Operation Smile mission.

Dr. Ott, associate professor in the College of Nursing, in late February joined about a dozen other health-care professionals, including nurses, orthopedic surgeons and nurse anesthetists, for a 10-day mission in Fond Parisien, just outside Port-au-Prince. Here, the “walking wounded”—people of all ages with recent amputations—are the new norm.

Moving outside of Operation Smile’s usual surgeries to repair pediatric facial deformities, the team handled at least 60 adult and pediatric orthopedic cases. Among them were amputation revisions (removing more of an affected limb due to tissue death or infection), rod placement to stabilize bones and removal of external fixation devices in bones that had healed.

The team’s two operating rooms in tents

were sterile environments. However, the triage and post-operative recovery areas, with dirt floors and 130-degree temperatures, were a different story. An invasive, persistent layer of dust settled over the sterile packaging and equipment. Yet the nurses managed to provide high-quality care, with zero infections at pin sites.

“It was amazing work,” notes Dr. Ott. “We were dirty and tired but felt we were doing something important.” She was “very taken” by the positive attitude of the Haitians: “I didn’t expect that. They were anticipating a better time in the near future.”



*Dr. Barbara Ott cares for a young Haitian woman who has just had surgery on her leg.*

# Overflowing Compassion in Haiti

Comparing Port-au-Prince to war-time Dresden, Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., CRNP described the devastated Haitian capital as if it had been bombed. "It was the most intense sensory experience I have ever had...the sights, the smells, the sounds," recalls the assistant clinical professor in the College of Nursing.

On Valentine's Day weekend, Wimmer departed Philadelphia to volunteer for 10 days at Hospice St. Joseph in Port-au-Prince. A ministry of the Diocese of Norwich, Conn., the hospice serves the Christ Roi community. Wimmer, who is a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP), went there as part of a group of nurses, PNPs, physicians and volunteers sponsored by Medicines for Humanity, which has a long association with the hospice.

Global health challenges are hardly new to Wimmer, who has traveled with Operation Smile to China, Ethiopia, Cambodia and other sites around the world. She also leads Nursing seniors during global health and multicultural experiences on the Western Shoshone reservation in Elko, Nev., and in the bateyes of the Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbor on the island of Hispaniola.

Wimmer became connected to the Haitian relief effort through fellow alumna and PNP Geri O'Hare '85 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., CRNP, who also accompanies the Villanova group to the Dominican Republic. At Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, O'Hare is the Caribbean program director for Global Health initiatives. She spent a year of service in Haiti, is vice chair of Hospice St. Joseph's Board of Directors and speaks the native Kreyol.

The January 12 earthquake had collapsed the hospice building, so Wimmer, O'Hare and their colleagues slept in tents and worked in a small, makeshift clinic.

The PNPs, O'Hare notes, offered primary care, "treating acute illness and traumas, infections and dehydration, severe malnutrition, caring for moms and newborns, and treating and preventing parasites." She recalls, "It was and is the stripped-down essence of nursing and medicine...the science and art of compassion pressed down and overflowing...it was intense."

Reflecting on her experience, Wimmer says, "You take it one patient at a time



*Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., CRNP (left) painstakingly rehydrates a listless 8-month-old. Weaned too soon, the infant was severely malnourished and dehydrated, which can be deadly. After several days of care, the child became slightly more energetic.*

and do what you can." Many children had rashes and bug bites from living outside, and almost all had a cough related to respiratory infections and malnutrition. Everyone generally got one meal a day of rice and beans.

The supplies Wimmer brought along included a baby scale and measuring board to assist with identifying malnourished children. Comparing the situation to what she had seen in Ethiopia, in charting weight-for-height Wimmer found that many children were severely malnourished. The volunteers used an oral electrolyte solution to rehydrate children who had been weaned too early from breast milk. The PNPs created a makeshift ICU—a chair on the sidewalk—for Wimmer's first patient, an infant, several months old, dying of dehydration and malnutrition,

until she could be admitted to a hospital. One 2-year-old was so anorexic and lethargic that she did not know what to do with a peanut butter cracker that Wimmer offered to her. The toddler's mother saved it for later.

Many patients had psychosomatic complaints such as stomach aches, insomnia and headaches. Wimmer counseled them about normal reactions to "an enormous trauma." She recalls, "They were stunned." The PNPs also traveled into the surrounding area to look for psychological support resources from other volunteer groups.

As difficult as her Haitian experience was, Wimmer says she was energized by doing something positive in the face of such suffering. Of being a nurse, she notes, "It's great to have a gift, to be able to help."

## Couple Serve Together in Haiti

Barbara Blanchard Murtaugh '74 B.S.N., of Naples, Fla., is a nurse anesthetist. She and her husband Bill, a plastic surgeon, were so moved by the plight of the Haitian earthquake victims that they quickly volunteered for a mission trip with Naples-based Hope for Haiti. They aided victims in a hospital in Les Cayes in the southern part of the country. Their experience was part of a story captured by their local NBC affiliate, Channel 2. View the video at: [www.nbc-2.com/global/](http://www.nbc-2.com/global/).

## A Model Outreach in Peru

The lessons and care provided by Villanova nurses are having a greater impact as lay volunteers use their methods to improve health.

For the past 11 years, the College of Nursing has provided a clinical experience in Chulucanas, Peru—site of an Augustinian mission—for a group of seniors enrolled in Community Health and Health Promotion. Here in the Andes, they gain international understanding by practicing home health care and health education, and by teaching in a community coping with significant economic and medical needs. In the Diocese of Chulucanas, most of the half-million people are farmers struggling to support their families on small plots.

Karen McKenna '70 B.S.N., '83 M.S.N., R.N., clinical assistant professor, is seeing more and more impact from the health promotion efforts of Villanova Nursing faculty and students. Two years ago, she was impressed by how members of this Peruvian community, many with diabetes and hypertension, were integrating physical fitness routines into their daily lives after Villanova Nursing students offered repeat presentations on the health benefits. This past year, she was thrilled to see that local residents were volunteering to be community health educators, modeling the presentations, topics and methods they had learned from the Nursing students and faculty members over the eight prior years.

This valuable teaching does not end when the Villanovans depart for Philadelphia. The students and faculty members, including Elise Pizzi, M.S.N., CRNP, assistant professor, also play a key role in the training of *promotores de salud* (health promoters). These female and male lay volunteers are keenly interested in the health needs of their community. Some have had a little nursing training; others are learning by experience. They work through the local parishes under the direction of the Rev. Daniel Turley, O.S.A., Bishop of the Diocese of Chulucanas.

In the diocese's isolated mountain villages, there are many challenges to providing health care due to economic insecurities, shortage of medical supplies and geographic obstacles. Health promoters visit



*A picture is worth a thousand words—and represents more than a decade of effort. In Chulucanas, local health promoters who learned their education strategies from the Villanova nurses are teaching their fellow villagers about health issues.*

homes in distant regions of their communities to provide basic care, offer diabetic and other health screening programs in local parish centers, and give health education classes on such topics as decreasing the risk of communicable disease. Recently the *promotores de salud* provided health awareness programs on preventing malaria.

Some of the medical supplies used by the *promotores de salud* are donated by the Villanova community. Many of their health education materials have been developed in Spanish by the Villanova Nursing students.

This spring, McKenna and Pizzi returned to Peru with eight seniors to continue the work that they began 11 years ago. The foundations of their contributions to these communities now carry on in the important work of the lay volunteers.



*Elise Pizzi, M.S.N., CRNP, assistant professor (left), and Karen McKenna '70 B.S.N., '83 M.S.N., R.N., clinical assistant professor, are among the College's faculty members who guide students during their health promotion clinical experience in Peru.*

# An Internship at ICN Beckoned

## ...and a public health nursing career bloomed

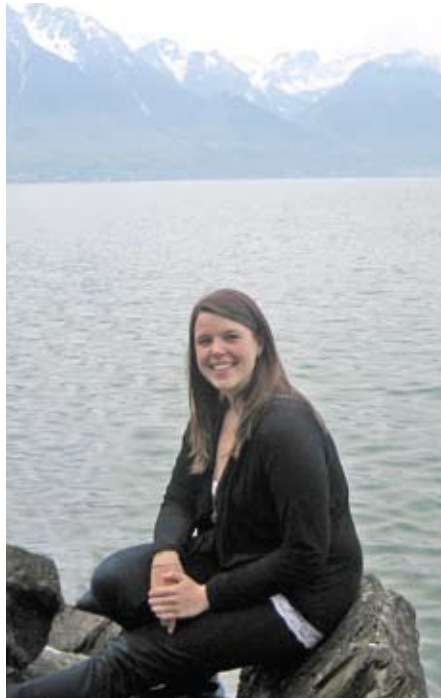
**M**any nursing students seek the traditional senior summer externship experience to help prepare for their final undergraduate year. Last year, Kelly Ryan, then a junior at the College of Nursing, was looking for something a little more adventurous when she met with M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. Ryan had already spent a summer session abroad studying public health issues through a program administered by Boston University. Dean Fitzpatrick recommended that Ryan contact David Benton, CEO of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in Geneva, Switzerland. She did just that, and landed an eight-week internship in the Spring 2009 Semester that not only brought her important assignments but drew her toward considering a new direction in nursing.

ICN was founded in 1899 as a federation of national nurses' associations (NNAs) representing nurses in more than 128 countries. Its mission is to represent nursing in international venues and contribute to the development of health-care policy throughout the world.

At a College of Nursing faculty meeting, Ryan shared her experiences working in this Swiss city renowned for its international organizations:

*While I interned at the ICN, I had multiple tasks and projects. The ICN World Health Assembly took place in May, and to prepare for this Assembly I was in charge of writing briefings on the different topics to be discussed, as well as making recommendations on how nurses can act. These briefings were given to the nursing delegates so that they could quickly read over the important bits of information, as well as note the recommendations given by the ICN and how to deal with these different issues in their own countries.*

*I was also involved in a project dealing with nursing legislation and regulation, in which I was in charge of collecting, documenting and analyzing data from 106 states and countries. I transferred all of the information into a searchable database,*



*During her eight-week internship last spring in Geneva, Switzerland, Kelly Ryan, now a senior, visited the Château de Chillon.*

**“I was also involved in a project dealing with nursing legislation and regulation, in which I was in charge of collecting, documenting and analyzing data from 106 states and countries.”**

—Kelly Ryan, Class of 2010

*wrote reports on the findings and noted areas of concern and where improvement was necessary in certain regions or countries. I also updated all of the ICN's contacts, which involved making phone calls to a variety of countries, including Uganda, Guatemala, Israel and Brunei.*

*The last assignment I had was for the CEO and was to write a critical analysis*

*on the final report from the World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health (titled Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity Through Action on the Social Determinants of Health) and my own opinions on the role nurses should play and the action they should take in this matter.*

While Ryan did get to see quite a bit of the beautiful city of Geneva, she was most excited about her work responsibilities:

*Each day I was exposed to more information on countries worldwide and the conditions their nurses face each day. I learned so much about regulation and legislation, an area of nursing I never gave much thought to before my time at the ICN. Social determinants of health was an area in which I spent a lot of time researching and thinking about, another topic I didn't know a lot about before this experience.*

*I really got the public health experience I was searching for, as well as an unbelievable nursing experience. It was a completely different type of nursing, but an area that I have a newfound interest in. This experience has broadened my horizons so much and opened my eyes to other aspects of nursing that I can now consider as a possible future career.*

This culmination of Ryan's international experience was her opportunity to join the rest of the Villanova Nursing delegation at the ICN's 24th Quadrennial Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, last summer. Ryan not only was representing the College but also ICN as an intern:

*It was really amazing to have the conference in Africa because it brought so much diversity to the conference and made it much easier for African nurses to attend. Their input to the conference was strongly felt and really added to the experience. Walking into the conference, I thought we were each so different, but leaving the conference I realized that all of our cultural differences put aside, we were all connected through nursing and had an understanding of each other and what we do. It was a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I am so thankful to have experienced.*

COURTESY KELLY RYAN



## Students and Faculty Gather with International Colleagues in South Africa

Last summer, six undergraduates from the College of Nursing had a special opportunity to learn about the complexities of global health issues by attending the International Council of Nurses' 24th Quadrennial Congress, "Leading Change: Building Healthier Nations," held in Durban, South Africa, June 27-July 4.

Leading the Villanova Nursing delegation were M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor; Rose O'Driscoll '64 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., assistant dean for Administration; and Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor. The students were rising seniors Latrina Bailey, Elizabeth Rath and Kelly Ryan; rising junior Angela Shannon; and rising sophomores Hillary Dutton and Lauren Robinson.

The Congress promotes the dissemination of scholarly information and innovative practices to further a better understanding of critical health issues. Among them are ethics/human rights, clinical care and patient safety, pandemics/disasters, informatics, leadership and workplace issues.

In sharing their global partnership expertise, Dean Fitzpatrick and Dr. McDermott-Levy co-presented with Majid al-Maqbali '01 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N. a symposium on "Advancing Nursing Education in Oman: A 15-Year Collaboration." The symposium focused on the College's relationship with the Omani Ministry of Health to develop Oman's professional nursing workforce. Al-Maqbali, chief nursing officer of the Sultanate of Oman, serves as director of Nursing and Midwifery Affairs in the Ministry of Health.

For the students, the Congress offered many unique opportunities. Asked to describe her international experience, Bailey remarked, "I was able to sit in on different panel discussions that focused on health-care disparities in different parts of the country. Each of these panels helped me to understand the need for outreach programs where countries assisted each other in meeting the needs of their communities. One panel was specifically

for the students at the conference. We discussed ways to network and become more involved in health care outside of the United States. This related to the title of the conference, because I learned that I am an important factor in providing the change that health care worldwide needs. It starts with one person taking on the responsibility and following through actions."

Noted Dutton, "One highly influential presentation was a panel on the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, particularly in South Africa. They went into great detail about how HIV can be prevented and the stigma reduced, but they were also realistic about how they needed help with a global initiative and solidarity with their cause, to make these changes happen. I was reminded that we need to be concerned with the health of other nations, not just our own, because the health of one nation impacts the health of all nations; and as nurses, we are in a prime position to lobby for and effect the changes needed to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. It truly was a profound presentation."

At the sessions, the Villanovans could

network with other student nurses from throughout the world. What significant differences and similarities in nursing education did they observe? "I noticed that many students do not have the evidence-based education that I am receiving," Robinson said. "Also, I feel incredibly blessed to have a foundation in the liberal arts from Villanova... I would have missed out had I only taken science-based courses."

In reflecting on the conference, Shannon observed that "This international experience has definitely changed my view of global health care. There are still many areas where the rest of the world is lacking in advancing health-care technology, and I feel that it is my responsibility, along with all other students and R.N.s, to spread news about health-care changes and advances. It all needs to start with our own country first. If we can't fix the health-care problems in this country, then we can't try to fix others. Health care is a cooperative effort and it will take the collaboration of many disciplines and professionals to find a solution to the worldwide health-care crisis."



Among the students in the Villanova delegation to the ICN Congress, held last summer in Durban, South Africa, were (from left) Elizabeth Rath, Kelly Ryan and Hillary Dutton.

## Graduate Student Serves at a Mission in India

In preparing for her Winter Break trip to Puttur, India, Robin Herb, B.S.N., R.N. in late December packed her stethoscope and a blood pressure cuff. But it was her intrinsic sense of cultural acceptance that served her as well as her nursing tools. “Life transforming” is how the College of Nursing M.S.N. student describes her two weeks at the Good Shepherd Mission on India’s southeast peninsula. As she triaged patients, handed blankets to grateful members of a leper colony and helped build a new HIV/AIDS center, she could see the impact on this agricultural community.

A wife and mother from Reading, Pa., Herb is a nurse in a cardiology practice. Because of her interest in mission work, friends connected her with the Calvary United Methodist Church in Mohnton, Pa., which organized the trip.

One reason she came to Villanova University to earn her Adult Nurse Practitioner (NP) graduate degree, Herb says, was the overall sense of acceptance she felt on campus. “I took that with me,” she says,



*Soon to be an adult nurse practitioner, Robin Herb, B.S.N., R.N. conducts a physical assessment on an elderly woman in India.*

along with knowledge gained from a recent lecture for NPs on cultural sensitivity. Herb says the advice offered by Elise Pizzi, M.S.N., CRNP, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, improved her comfort

level in India while interacting with a community dealing with serious health and poverty issues. “I was not going to try to change hundreds of years of culture,” Herb explains. She appreciated the balance the people achieved between their Hindu and Indian traditions. “It reminded me of what the College does. No matter what someone’s background is, we accept them,” she offers.

As one of three nurses in the group, Herb was in constant motion. At the 12-bed mission hospital, she triaged patients and visited with those who calmly sat on the lobby floor, waiting a long time to be seen. Though strangers, women would watch

over one another’s infants. “No baby was crying,” Herb remembers.

At the mission’s orphanage, where 50 girls sleep on the floor and store their belongings in tiny footlockers, Herb

## Course in Oman Continues College’s Partnership

During her third teaching visit to the Sultanate of Oman, Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, Ph.D., R.N., M.B.A., NEA-BC, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, presented a well-received three-day educational workshop on Teaching Evidence-Based Practice. There were 52 participants at the workshop, which was offered at the Institute for Health Sciences Auditorium in Muscat in November 2009. Among them were faculty members with varying levels of experience from the country’s training institutes in nursing and allied health. The course was another successful collaboration stemming from the 15-year relationship between the College of Nursing and Oman’s Ministry of Health.

The lectures, supported by group work facilitated by Dr. Gray-Siracusa and several assistants, enabled participants to gain an understanding of evidence-based practice and to construct appropriate questions. They learned how to search for evidence and critique existing evidence for applicability and quality. The program also promoted the skills needed to incorporate

this approach both into the curriculum and beyond into the practice setting. The health-care professionals also enjoyed networking and exchanging ideas as they met expert faculty from their own regions.

“Many remarked that the workshop was beneficial and described how they would be bringing the information back to their colleagues and peers in the institutes,” notes Dr. Gray-Siracusa.



*At the workshop, an Omani group presents its proposed method of teaching evidence-based practice in the nurse-midwife curriculum. Dr. Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, Ph.D., R.N., M.B.A., NEA-BC, assistant professor of Nursing (left), led the three-day course, which also had breakout sessions on other nursing specialties.*

gathered with the children. She made and laid bricks for the mission's HIV/AIDS center on the outskirts of town and joined in its dedication, celebrated with music, prayer and colorful decorations.

In three remote villages, the church volunteers triaged patients for a team of five traveling Indian physicians. One day there were 800 patients waiting in line, but each one was seen. "There were all types of physical complaints," notes Herb, especially musculoskeletal problems related to a life of hard labor in the rice paddies and peanut fields. Many patients had walked for miles. With the language barrier and lack of resources, Herb was especially grateful for her NP physical assessment skills and the ability to listen, via a translator, as patients described in Telugu their medical history.

"I had not a clue what life was like for them," recalls the graduate student about the Puttur residents who now have a hold on her heart. "They are the most gracious, appreciative people, and they have nothing," Herb says. After meeting the people with leprosy, who are considered to be in the lowest caste, she recalls, "They were so thankful for a two-dollar blanket." What was her key lesson from the people of India? She sums up: "They have it right. They take care of each other."

## SNAP Chapter Earns Two Top Awards

Tireless effort and strategic planning paid off for the College of Nursing's chapter of the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) as it once again was named the "Most Outstanding Chapter in Pennsylvania" at last fall's state SNAP convention. In addition, the chapter's *SNAPSHOTS* was named "Most Outstanding Newsletter." The convention took place on November 19, 2009, in Lancaster, Pa. Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, associate professor of Nursing and the chapter's advisor, accompanied the 33-student delegation.

The College continues its record—unbroken since 1983—of having at least one Villanovan on SNAP's Board of Directors. This year, four Villanovans ran and two were re-elected—senior Ellen Stoner as secretary/treasurer and junior Michael Martinoli as legislative coordinator. SNAP'S House of Delegates passed a resolution submitted by the chapter on how nursing students serve as role models for the health promotion they teach. Awards for excellence went to Stoner and juniors Meghan Barowski, Caitlin Krenek and Lindsey Waters.

At the convention, students heard keynote speakers, learned test-taking skills, met recruiters and discovered opportunities

for externships and post-graduation jobs. They also experienced the legislative and organizational leadership processes through a "student Congress." Villanova's delegation included freshmen through seniors, students from the traditional and adult second-degree accelerated programs, and international students.



Members of the College's SNAP delegation celebrate their "Most Outstanding Chapter in Pennsylvania" and "Most Outstanding Newsletter" honors.

## Reaccreditation Commission Visits the College

The College of Nursing in early February hosted a site visit by representatives of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The visit, part of the 10-year reaccreditation process, was highly successful and involved students, alumni, administrators and faculty from throughout Villanova University, as well as community members and trustees. The visitors' report will be forwarded to the Commission's board for official action at its fall meeting.

## Villanova and AUB Strengthen Nursing Relationship

Villanova University and its College of Nursing and the School of Nursing of American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon signed a collaborative agreement in March. It formalizes their relationship to work together on mutually beneficial projects in nursing education involving students and faculty.

Signing for Villanova were the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., University president, and Dr. M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. Signing for AUB were its president, Dr. Peter Dorman, and dean of Nursing, Dr. Huda Abu Saad Hijer.

In their past collaborations, Villanova's College of Nursing and AUB's Nursing school—the first in the Middle East—developed education conferences for nurses. Dr. Fitzpatrick served on AUB's Centennial International Advisory Board and gave the keynote address at its Centennial Conference in July 2005, which was co-sponsored by the College of Nursing.

## Congratulations on 25 Years of Service

The College of Nursing celebrates the 25 years of service of **Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.** She began teaching in 1984 as an instructor and became an assistant professor the following year. Dr. Costello has embraced distance learning strategies and service learning and instituted the Healthy Lifestyles course. As the nutrition expert



PAOLA NOGHERAS

for the College and campus, she advises Nursing scholars-athletes and serves as a liaison on student nutritional issues with Villanova University's Health Center and Athletics Department. She was honored at the College's 21st Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony on April 17.

## Refresh Your R.N. Skills by Taking a Certificate Course

Years ago, Carolyn Fitzgerald '80 B.S.N., R.N. and Barb Hubsher '80 B.S.N., R.N. had interesting careers working on busy medical/surgical units. Both practiced for about eight years, then resigned their positions after the birth of their children and stayed home to raise their families.

Fast-forward to today. Now that their children are grown, these two R.N.s would like to return to the workforce. They are aware of nurses trying to return to practice who have been interviewing for months to no avail because of their lack of recent experience.

Other nurses as well are being called upon to stretch in new directions. Christy Foster Sfida '95 B.S.N., R.N. worked for the School Board of Philadelphia for eight years, then left to raise her two sons. Now with the boys in elementary school, she was hired last August as a certified school nurse at Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. Because of the increased acuity and needs of this population, she was looking to sharpen her medical/surgical skills.

Last fall, all three women found the ideal solution. Along with 33 other area nurses, they attended the R.N. Refresher



*Among the returning nurses who found the R.N. Refresher Certificate Course to be valuable are Carolyn Fitzgerald '80 B.S.N., R.N. (left) and Barb Hubsher '80 B.S.N., R.N.*

Certificate Course offered through the College of Nursing's Continuing Education (CE) in Nursing and Health Care Program. The refresher content includes a Medical/Surgical Update and Review (pathophysiology, diagnostic testing and treatment options for common diseases by system), Geriatric Physical Assessment and a Skills Update and Review (central lines, Foley

catheters, chest tubes, tracheostomy tubes and wound care). In addition to College faculty and staff, area experts teach the classes. The program has been very well received and is being offered again this spring.

As Sfida summed up, "The College of Nursing's R.N. Refresher course increased my comfort level tremendously. I was able to brush up on my techniques and assessment skills in the new clinical simulation labs. It was such a pleasure to gain hands-on experience without the pressure of being at work."

Visit [www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce) for specific information on the Refresher Certificate as well as other CE offerings.

## Be a Fan! Be a Follower!

As the College of Nursing continues to seek ways to engage and update alumni, parents, students, prospective students, faculty and friends, we have expanded into the realm of social networking. That increases the ways we continue to bring to all College news, information about our impact on the community and other happenings. These efforts complement the College's Web site and other initiatives. Be sure to visit:

- the College's new blog ([villanova-nursing.blogspot.com](http://villanova-nursing.blogspot.com))
- a blog for our Continuing Education (CE) in Nursing and Health Care Program ([villovanursingce.blogspot.com](http://villovanursingce.blogspot.com)) and
- Facebook pages for the Villanova University Nursing Alumni Association, the Villanova University College of Nursing and Villanova Nursing Continuing Education (CE).

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



*Cardiac assessment skills, practiced here on a patient simulator, are one feature of the College of Nursing's R.N. Refresher Certificate Course.*

## The Bond Between Health and Hope

**With an NIH grant, Dr. Cantrell '89 M.S.N. furthers her research on psychosocial interventions for female childhood cancer survivors.**

**H**ow effective would a nurse-delivered, Web-based intervention be in enhancing hopefulness among early female survivors of childhood cancer? Supported by a three-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA), Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS will explore that question. The grant, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, a division of NIH, furthers the associate professor's passion for researching childhood cancer issues; she has been studying these issues for 12 years.

Dr. Cantrell's project, "A Hope Intervention to Influence Quality of Life Among Female Survivors of Childhood Cancer," will be based on the experiences of subjects six months to five years off treatment. Her project also will assess the long-term effects of the intervention.

Her research began with her dissertation, which examined the relationships among gender, stage of



*For 12 years, childhood cancer has been the research focus of Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS, associate professor in the College of Nursing.*

adolescence, hopefulness and self-esteem among adolescents with cancer who were in active treatment. She extended this research to examine these relationships between adolescents with cancer and a

cohort group of healthy adolescents. In this study, she discovered that for females, both healthy and ill, self-esteem and hopefulness had a significant relationship.

Dr. Cantrell notes that she developed the AREA study because "the emerging population of childhood cancer survivors has created the need for evidence-based interventions to promote effective psychosocial functioning and to enhance their health-related quality of life (HRQOL) as they experience survivorship." HRQOL has been identified as an important measurable outcome of the cancer experience among childhood cancer survivors. Female survivors are at high risk for negative psychosocial functioning, such as poor HRQOL. Among pediatric oncology patients, hope is a powerful coping mechanism and a determinant of HRQOL. Among adolescent female oncology patients, hope and self-esteem have a strong, positive relationship in which hope supports their ability to cope with the experience of cancer.

## Faculty Educate the Educators at NLN Summit

**T**he College of Nursing enjoyed a strong presence at the National League for Nursing's (NLN) Education Summit 2009, held last September in Philadelphia. Through honors, appointments and the sharing of expertise, the College again demonstrated the strength of its faculty as educators and why it is an NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education.

**Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF**, associate professor, was inducted as a Fellow in NLN's Academy of Nursing Education for her excellence as an educator and her extended service as a role model. Dr. Weingarten is among the third class of 21 Fellows representing 20 schools of nursing in the United States. She joins this select group after a competitive process

that reviews an applicant's innovative teaching strategies, academic leadership and collaborative partnerships, among other criteria. Also at the Summit, she presented a paper on "Academic Achievement: Strategies for Success" and a poster on "The Reincarnation of Cherry Ames."

**Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Doctoral Program, has been elected to the newly reorganized NLN Certification Commission for a full, two-year term. She previously served through an appointment. The Commission sets policy related to the NLN's Certified Nurse Educator process. Also at the Summit, Dr. Sharts-Hopko presented "Becoming a Researcher in Nursing Education: A Special Session for Doctoral Students."

*(continued on page 20)*



*In Philadelphia last fall, Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, was inducted as a Fellow of the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education.*

(continued from page 19)

Nine other faculty members and a doctoral student also presented at the Summit:

■ **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS**, associate professor, presented a paper on "The Importance of Debriefing in Simulation."

■ **Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.**, assistant professor; **Suzanne Tracey Zamerowski, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor; and **Barbara Quintiliano, M.S.** presented a poster on "Nursing Faculty and Research: A Collaborative Approach to Population Assessment Projects."

■ **Marita Frain '69 B.S.N., Ed.M., R.N.**, assistant professor, gave a workshop on "Creation and Use of Electronic Documentation Tools in A.D.N. and B.S.N. Programs: Two HITS Projects."

■ **Catherine Todd Magel, Ed.D., R.N., BC**, assistant professor, presented a paper on "Facilitating the Role Transition from Clinical Practice to Academic Education."

■ **Bette Mariani '82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, presented a paper on "Development of a Nursing Research Instrument."

■ **Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., '08 Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, presented a paper on "Studying in America: The Lived Experience of International Nursing Students."

■ **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the College's Center for Nursing Research, presented a poster on "Improving Nursing Care for People with Disability."

■ **Bette Wildgust '97 M.S.N., M.S., CRNA**, adjunct assistant professor, and **Jodi Szlachta, M.S.N., CRNA**, adjunct clinical instructor, presented a poster on "A Peer Learning Model in High-Fidelity Simulation."

■ **Karen Grafenstine May, M.S.N., R.N.**, a doctoral student, presented a poster on "Students with Disabilities: A Reflection of Nursing."

## Faculty and Staff Transitions

The College of Nursing is pleased to announce the appointment in March of **Kimberly Connolly, M.P.H., R.N.**, director of the Center for Global and Public Health and clinical assistant professor. This new center will serve as the locus for all global and public health activities in the College. Connolly earned a B.A. in political science from Dickinson College, a B.S.N. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and a master's in public health from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins. She served in the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa, and participated in global and public health project development with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China, Ethiopia, Liberia, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Theresa Hoffman-Lare** in February assumed the position of assistant to the dean. She formerly worked in the College of Nursing and more recently in Villanova University's Office of Financial Assistance. She succeeds Carol Rae, who served in the Dean's Office for 18 years and retired in February.

**Elise Pizzi, M.S.N., CRNP**, assistant professor, is retiring at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. She arrived at the College in January 1978 and ever since has been a role model for undergraduate and graduate Nursing students. She has served the College with distinction and taught hundreds of students. A certified gerontological nurse practitioner, when not involved in teaching, she gives generously of her free time to the Unity Clinic in South Philadelphia. At the clinic, she cares for patients and facilitates operations, one of the many ways she embodies the mission of the College.

Also retiring at the end of the academic year is **Maureen Sullivan, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor. A certified rehabilitation nurse, Dr. Sullivan has served the College for more than 30 years. She

has taught the Leadership course for many years and shared with countless undergraduates her passion for neurologic and rehabilitation care. Students learn from her the challenges confronted by people with disabilities and appreciate her approachable nature and sense of humor, as do her colleagues. Dr. Sullivan also has shared her talents and compassion through her volunteer work at a Philadelphia clinic for the underserved. The College is grateful for her dedication to the profession, our students and nursing education.



PAOLA NOGUEIRAS

## Faculty Publications

**Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN-BC**, assistant professor, edited the *Family Nurse Practitioner Review and Resource Manual* (2009, American Nurses Credentialing Center).

**Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS**, associate professor, co-authored with **Christine Matula '09 B.S.N., R.N.** "The Meaning of Comfort for Pediatric Oncology Patients" in *Oncology Nursing Forum* 36 (6), November 2009, 303-309.

**Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP**, associate professor:

■ co-authored "Clustering of Internet Risk Behaviors in a Middle School Student Population" in *Journal of School Health* 79 (11), 547-553.

■ co-authored "Caregivers of Victimized Children: Differences Between Biological Parents and Foster Caregivers" in *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing*, 47 (6), 2;

■ co-authored "Girls in Foster Care: A Vulnerable and High-Risk Group" in *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 34 (3), 172-178; and

■ published "Child Exploitation on the Internet: A Nurse's Role in Minimizing the Risks" in *Nursing Spectrum*; online CEU course at: [ce.nurse.com/CE318-60/Child-Exploitation-on-the-Internet-A-Nurses-Role-in-Minimizing-the-Risks](http://ce.nurse.com/CE318-60/Child-Exploitation-on-the-Internet-A-Nurses-Role-in-Minimizing-the-Risks).

**Marilyn Fetter, Ph.D., R.N., CS**, assistant professor, authored:



PAOLA NOGUEIRAS

■ “Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Information Technology Competence—Agency Perspectives” in *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 25 (1), 42-9;

■ “Computers, Informatics and Health Literacy. A Language of Precision” in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 30 (02), 133-134;

■ “Computers, Informatics and Health Literacy. A New Paradigm for Quality and Safety in Nursing” in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 30 (03), 200-201;

■ “Graduating Nurses’ Self-evaluation of Informatics and Technologies Competencies” in *Journal of Nursing Education*, 48 (2), 86-90; and

■ “Strategies to Improve Baccalaureate Nursing Information Technology Outcomes” in *Journal of Nursing Education*, 48 (2), 78-85.

**Ruth McDermott-Levy ’96 M.S.N., ’08 Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, published:

■ “Acculturation: A Concept Analysis for Immigrant Health” in *Holistic Nursing Practice*, 23 (4), 1-7 and

■ “Education: Nurses’ Tool for Advocacy in Environmental Health” in *Pennsylvania Nurse*, 64 (2), 10-13.

**Margaret “Peggy” Lyons ’87 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNI**, program coordinator of the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, published “Open Access Is Almost Here: Navigating Through Copyright, Fair Use and the TEACH Act” in the *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 41 (2), 57-64.

**Ann Barrow McKenzie ’86 B.S.N., ’91 M.S.N., R.N.**, coordinator of College Relations, published “What About Social Networking?” in *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 40 (10), 1-2.

**Barbara B. Ott, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, co-authored Chapter 55, “Management of Clients with Structural Cardiac Disorders” in *Medical-Surgical Nursing: Clinical Management for Positive Outcomes*, J. Black and J. Hawks, eds., 8th edition (2009, Saunders Elsevier), 1385-1409.

**Gale Robinson-Smith, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, co-authored with **Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, and **Colleen Meakim**

**’84 M.S.N., R.N.**, director of the College’s Learning Resource Center, the online article “Evaluating the Use of Standardized Patients in Undergraduate Psychiatric Nursing Experiences” in *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, (5), November 2009.

**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the College’s Center for Nursing Research: ■ co-authored with **Lisa Wetzel-Effinger ’08 M.S.N.** “Pregnancy in Women with SCI” in *Top Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation*, 15 (1), 29-42; ■ co-authored with B.G. Bare, J. Hinkle and K. Cheever the 12th edition of *Brunner & Suddarth’s Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (2010, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins); and ■ published Chapter 3, “Issues Affecting Health Care of African American Women with Disabilities” in *African American Women and Health* (2009, Nova Science Publishers).

**Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Doctoral Program in Nursing: ■ wrote Chapter 6, “The U.S. Health Care System,” (135-160), published in *The Official Guide for Foreign-Educated Nurses—What You Need to Know About Nursing and Health Care in the United States*, B.L. Nichols and C.R. Davis, eds. (2009, Springer); and ■ published “Low-vision and Blindness Among Midlife and Older Adults: A Review of the Nursing Research Literature” in *Holistic Nursing Practice*, 23 (2), 94-100.

## Faculty Leadership and Achievements

**Angelina A. Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education, in August 2009 presented a paper, “Incivility in Nursing Education: Student and Faculty Perceptions,” at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

**Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., APN, BC**, assistant professor, presented at the following meetings:

■ “Advanced Physical Assessment Update: Six-hour Workshop,” Jefferson Health System in Radnor, Pa., in March 2009;

■ “Role Transition: A Course to Fill in the Gaps” at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, in Portland, Ore., in April 2009; and

■ “Hands-on Minor Procedures Skills Workshop” and “Arthrocentesis and Joint Injection” at the American College of Nurse Practitioners conference in Albuquerque, N.M., in October 2009.

**Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS**, associate professor, presented a paper, “Saving the ‘My Space’ Generation—Why Age Matters,” at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses and Children’s Oncology Group Nursing Discipline Conference, held in Dallas, Texas, in March 2009.

**Lynore DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N., BC**, assistant dean and director of the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, presented a poster on “Evaluation Models for CNE” and a concurrent session on “Writing Behavioral Objectives” at the 36th National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development—Transforming Curricula and Lifelong Learning for Quality and Safety, offered by Mayo Continuing Nursing Education in October 2009 in Rochester, Minn.

Also at the Mayo conference, **Margaret “Peggy” Lyons ’87 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNI**, program coordinator, Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, presented a concurrent session on “Author or Nurse? You Can Be Both: Tips from a Novice Author.”

**Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, presented: ■ a paper on “Risky Behaviors on the Internet: Preteen Students’ Online Conduct” and had a paper accepted for a poster presentation on “Victimized Girls Who Are Now in Foster Care: A Vulnerable and High Risk Group” at the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society 40th Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis in November 2009;

■ a paper on “Child Internet Sexual Victimization: Offender Profiles and Comparison Groups” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology: Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy, held in Philadelphia in November 2009; and

■ at a symposium on “Children and Adolescent Internet Behaviors and Victimization” at The International Association of Forensic Nurses 17th Annual Scientific Assembly: Celebrating the Nurse in Forensic Nursing, held in Atlanta in October 2009.

Dr. Dowdell in January was elected to the editorial review panel of the *Journal of Forensic Nursing*.

**M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, has been elected as a Registered Nurse Trustee to the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools International Board of Trustees. She began her four-year term in January.

**Patricia Haynor, Ph.D., R.N., NHA**, associate professor and coordinator of the B.S.N./M.S.N. Gateway Program for Registered Nurses, has been awarded the Golden Dolphin Pin, the highest honor of the Santa Madrona School of Nursing’s Master’s Program in Nursing Administration. Santa Madrona is affiliated with the University of Barcelona in Spain. The administration and faculty nominated Dr. Haynor in recognition of her “commitment and involvement in developing the master’s program and her nursing leadership.” The pin, presented in absentia, was awarded in October 2009 on the occasion of the program’s 20th anniversary. In December 2009, Dr. Haynor was invited to serve a two-year term on the Community Advisory Board of the Ninth Street Internal Medicine’s Foundation for Research and Education in Primary Care, located in Philadelphia, to advise on its diabetes initiatives.

**Elizabeth Keech ’66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, co-presented with Dr. Jordan Ermilio of Villanova University’s College of Engineering on “Sustainable Water Solutions for a Rural Community in Nicaragua: An

Interdisciplinary Intervention with Nursing and Engineering Students” at the annual Pediatric Global Health Symposium of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, held in November 2009. Dr. Keech also co-presented, with **Ruth McDermott-Levy ’96 M.S.N., ’08 Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor, on “Nursing Faculty Development Program as a Strategy to Effect Change in Public Health” at the 137th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, held in Philadelphia in November 2009.

**Bette Mariani ’82 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**, clinical assistant professor, was accepted as a Nurse Scholar in the Sigma Theta Tau International’s Nurse Faculty Mentor Leadership Development Program. Her project focus is simulation.

**Joanna McGrath M.S.N., R.N.**, adjunct clinical assistant professor, presented a poster on “Breastfeeding Education in a Small Urban Prenatal Clinic” at the Sigma Theta Tau International 40th Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis in November 2009. She also served as Alpha Nu Chapter delegate, along with **Angelina A. Arcamone ’82 B.S.N., ’86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CCE**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education.

**Barbara B. Ott, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, presented “Implementing the American Society for Bioethics Standards for Ethics Consultation” to the Main Line Health Institutional Ethics Committee at Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital in September 2009. At the Critical Care Conference of Main Line Health Hospitals, Dr. Ott was the keynote speaker, and at Lankenau (Pa.) Hospital in April 2009, she presented “Changing Moral Distress to Moral Courage.”

**Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Ph.D., R.N., NP-C**, has been appointed to a four-year term on the Winslow Township (N.J.) Board of Health.

**Elise Pizzi, M.S.N., CRNP**, assistant professor, was interviewed on August 27, 2009, by Philadelphia television station NBC 10 for its evening news at 5:30 p.m. as part of a presentation on H1N1 flu.

**Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the

Doctoral Program in Nursing, presented interactive sessions on:

■ “Broadening Global Membership on the Sigma Theta Tau International Board of Directors” at the Sigma Theta Tau International 40th Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis in November 2009; and

■ “Taking Control of Your Career” at the Sigma Theta Tau International Leadership Summit, held in Philadelphia in March 2009. At the summit, she co-presented on “Leadership Skills for the 21st Century Nurse.”

**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the College’s Center for Nursing Research, presented a paper on “Interactions of People with Disabilities with Nursing Staff During Hospitalization” at the 137th meeting of the American Public Health Association, held in Philadelphia in November 2009. The paper was co-authored with **Patricia Haynor, Ph.D., R.N., NHA**, associate professor, and **Colleen Avery ’09 B.S.N.** Dr. Smeltzer also presented papers on “Obstetric/Prenatal Care for Women with Disabilities” and “Gynecologic Care for Women with Disabilities” at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing Conference, held in Anchorage, Alaska, in February 2009.

**Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF**, associate professor, was selected as 2010 chair of the Editorial Board of *The Pennsylvania Nurse*. In August 2009, Dr. Weingarten volunteered with the Chaplains’ Wounded Warrior Ministry, aiding injured and ill American and coalition troops airlifted from Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

**Suzanne Tracey Zamerowski, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, in December 2009 was selected by the Genomic Healthcare Branch of the National Human Genome Research Institute (part of the National Institutes of Health) as a genetics nurse education expert and as an invited member of the *Consultation Directory: Genetics/Genomics Education Exemplar Resources*.



## Breakfast Celebrates Scholarships

**D**onors, scholarship recipients and their families enjoyed the College of Nursing's annual Scholarship Breakfast, held on September 26, 2009, in Driscoll Hall, during Villanova University's Parents' Weekend. The College is grateful to its special friends whose generosity makes possible the education of these Nursing students.

The Robert and Frances Capone Scholarship  
**Danielle Sammartino** | *Class of 2010*  
Philadelphia

The Jill Laura Creedon Scholarship for Nursing  
**Elizabeth A. Witte** | *Class of 2011*  
San Jose, Calif.

The Frances Farrell D'Ambrisi Endowed Nursing Scholarship  
**Adriane Weigand** | *Class of 2011*  
Allentown, Pa.

The Eastwood Family Nursing Scholarship  
**Sarah Sheerin** | *Class of 2013*  
Lancaster, Pa.  
and **Deanna DelGaiso** | *Class of 2012*  
Philadelphia

The Linda A. and James W. Eastwood '68 Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship  
**Caitlin B. Rhoades** | *Class of 2012*  
Glassboro, N.J.

The Memorial Endowment Fund of Margaret S. and Jeremiah J. Enright  
**Alicia Dragon** | *Class of 2010*  
Flemington, N.J.

**Lauren Mahoney** | *Class of 2010*  
Holbrook, Mass.

The Daniel M. and Christine A. Finnegan Endowed Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Eileen S. Lupton '03  
**Erica A. Della Polla** | *Class of 2010*  
Drexel Hill, Pa.

The Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 Scholarship for Nursing  
**Alyssa Canino** | *Class of 2011*  
Rockville, Md.

Mary Alice Holland Memorial Scholarship  
**Latrina Bailey** | *Class of 2010*  
Bear, Del.

Jannetti MedSurg Scholarship of the Nursing Economics Foundation  
**Hannah Eldredge** | *Class of 2010*  
Media, Pa.

The Kreider Family Endowed University Scholarship  
**Keba K. Raymond** | *Class of 2010*  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Eileen S. Lupton '03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship for Nursing  
**Rebecca L. Fisher** | *Class of 2010*  
New Oxford, Pa.

The Mary V. O'Donnell Endowed University Scholarship  
**Serena Hong** | *Class of 2010*  
Oakland Gardens, N.Y.

The Col. Julia B. Paparella and Dr. Benedict A. Paparella Endowed Scholarship for Nursing  
**Kevin Nusspickel** | *Class of 2011*  
Aston, Pa.

The Daniel D. Peschio Jr. Memorial Endowed University Scholarship  
**Clarissa Gabriel** | *Class of 2010*  
Lakeland, Fla.

The Alexis Rosenberg Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
**Heewon A. Cho** | *Class of 2011*  
Seoul, Korea

**Lauren E. Fowler** | *Class of 2012*  
Barre, Vt.

**Carolyn J. Schultz** | *Class of 2011*  
Allentown, Pa.

The Mother Teresa Endowed Nursing Scholarship Established by Peter and Colleen Schleider in Memory of Richard and Ellen Wright  
**Lauren A. Robinson** | *Class of 2012*  
West Chester, Pa.

The Margaret Mary Starzynski Memorial Fund Scholarship  
**Andrew E. Masiello** | *Class of 2012*  
Staten Island, N.Y.



The College's fall 2009 scholarship awardees included (front row, from left) Andrew Masiello, Lauren Mahoney, Alicia Dragon, Lauren Robinson and Latrina Bailey; (back row, from left) Adriane Weigand, Serena Hong, Rebecca Fisher, Carolyn Schultz, Elizabeth Witte, Erica Della Polla, Lauren Fowler, Caitlin Rhoades, Sarah Sheerin and Clarissa Gabriel.

## Why Give to the College of Nursing?

The College of Nursing has been blessed with alumni, family and friends who give to the College in support of its strategic plans in nursing education. We are so grateful for all of their gifts. Here we note some of the many reasons why benefactors have so generously given to the College.

### ...To Surprise a Loved One

The conference room in Driscoll Hall's Administrative Suite was named in honor of Donna DiPalma Cassidy '79 B.S.N. through the generosity of her husband, Joseph Cassidy '79 VSB. His surprise gift was unveiled during Villanova University's May 2009 Commencement Weekend.



*Donna DiPalma Cassidy '79 B.S.N. and her husband, Joseph Cassidy '79 VSB, in the doorway of the Driscoll Hall conference room he named in her honor*

### ...To Pay Tribute to a Friend

Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 B.S.N., of Miami, Fla., may not fully have known the impact she has on others until two friends, Dr. and Mrs. Terence Gerace of Washington, D.C., decided to honor her recent birthday. Last fall, the Geraces surprised Hoffman by establishing a scholarship in her honor at the College of Nursing. The Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 Scholarship for Nursing will be awarded to a junior or senior with demonstrated financial need and an interest in public health and underserved populations—areas of special interest to Hoffman. The first recipient is Alyssa Canino, Class of 2011, from Rockville, Md.

Hoffman's sister is Lois Greyson Tomy '64 B.S.N.

### ...To Honor a Mother

While living in Hong Kong, Lisa Smith Freer '91 B.S.N. and her husband, Brad, reached across the Pacific Ocean to donate the lobby Crucifix in Driscoll Hall. Their gift honors her mother, Elsa Piva Smith of Pasadena, Calif., also a nurse and an inspirational and supportive parent. Their gift is the first work of art that visitors see as they enter the building. The Freers now reside in La Cañada Flintridge, Calif.



*Dean Fitzpatrick with Brad Freer and Lisa Smith Freer '91 B.S.N. The couple donated the lobby Crucifix in Driscoll Hall.*

### ...To Fund the Future

Theresa Wilson Mruz '67 B.S.N. and her husband, Michael Mruz '67 A&S, recently funded The Theresa Wilson and Michael J. Mruz Scholarship in Nursing, which will provide tuition assistance to a full-time junior or senior with demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship's initial award will be in the Fall 2010 Semester.



## ...To Continue a Dream

The Kathleen B. and Charles R. Walgreen III Foundation, based in Homewood, Ill., has made a commitment to name the Eileen Shea Lupton Memorial Chapel and Meditation Room and the Walgreen Family Stained Glass Window, both in Driscoll Hall. Lupton died in 2003 in a tragic accident in Chicago, only weeks after her graduation from the College of Nursing and just before she would have started her first professional position as a pediatric nurse. The Walgreen gift is the largest donation to date to the Building Enhancement Fund, which supports future teaching and technology in the College of Nursing.



*A chapel in Driscoll Hall is being named in memory of Eileen Shea Lupton '03 B.S.N.*

On the evening of October 24, 2009—the same day as the sixth annual “Dream for Eileen” 5k Run/Walk on Homecoming Weekend—Eileen’s parents, Therese and Patrick of Lake Forest, Ill., attended the first Mass in the chapel. The Mass was celebrated by their son, the Rev. Brendan Lupton. Patrick Lupton is an inaugural member of the College’s Board of Consultors.

## Planned Giving Benefits Donors and the College

Villanova University has a planned giving program from which the College of Nursing can benefit. Through planned giving, you can maximize your giving intentions, while accommodating plans to provide for yourself and your heirs. While charitable contributions may be important to reaching financial and tax goals, our first priority is to make sure gifts fulfill your aspirations to support the College and its strategic priorities. Examples of planned gifts include:

- Bequests
- Charitable gift annuities
- Charitable lead trusts
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Gifts of personal property
- Life insurance
- Retirement plans

*For more information about planned giving, visit [villanova.aboutgiving.net/pp/plan-your-gifts-greatest-impact/208](http://villanova.aboutgiving.net/pp/plan-your-gifts-greatest-impact/208) or contact Sue Stein, College of Nursing development officer, at [sue.stein@villanova.edu](mailto:sue.stein@villanova.edu) or (610) 519-7980.*

## Eighty Brave Rain to Dream for Eileen

Intermittent showers and wind were not enough to keep 80 runners and walkers away from Driscoll Hall on October 24, 2009, the Saturday of Villanova University’s Homecoming Weekend. They gathered for the sixth annual “Dream for Eileen” 5k Run/Walk. In addition to the registrants, dozens more arrived to facilitate the race and cheer for those following the course around campus.

Proceeds benefit the Eileen S. Lupton '03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship for Nursing. The alumna was a talented Nursing student as well as a runner, as her father, Patrick Lupton, pointed out while addressing the pre-race crowd. Her family created the Eileen Shea Lupton Memorial Foundation to provide nursing scholarships so that their daughter’s dream of enhancing compassionate health care could be fulfilled. A run similar to the Villanova one takes place in Chicago each year.

The event was co-sponsored by the Villanova Chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP). Alumni, students, faculty and staff from the College of Nursing and elsewhere on campus turned out to support the cause. Prizes were given to the top three male and female runners, with the winning time of 20:10.

*For more information about the Eileen S. Lupton '03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship for Nursing, contact Sue Stein, College of Nursing development officer, at [sue.stein@villanova.edu](mailto:sue.stein@villanova.edu) or (610) 519-7980.*



*Recalling the talents of his daughter as a Nursing student and a runner, Patrick Lupton encourages participants in the “Dream for Eileen” 5K Run/Walk last fall on campus. The event is held in memory of Eileen Shea Lupton '03 B.S.N., who died in a Chicago accident shortly after her graduation.*

## A PNP Reaches Out for Global Hemophilia Care

**H**emophilia is generally an inherited disorder of varying severity among males. One in 5,000 boys is born with the disorder, according to the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH). In the United States, there are treatment protocols and dedicated centers, as well as medications, patient/family education and support programs, and medical and nursing experts. This is not necessarily so worldwide. Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin '80 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP is helping to change that by volunteering for WFH.

A pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP), Gorlin lives in Minneapolis with her husband and three daughters. She practices part-time at the Hemophilia and Thrombosis Program at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. While practicing at Boston Children's Hospital, she became the first PNP in the city's first comprehensive hemophilia program, the Boston Hemophilia Center. She helped to develop this joint program between her hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, which is a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

### When Blood Won't Clot

If you cut yourself, you take it for granted that your blood will clot at the wound site and that you will stop bleeding and heal. As soon as you suffer that injury, a complex chemical cascade of events occurs in your body, involving several plasma proteins (clotting factors) that work in conjunction with platelets. But for people with hemophilia, these clots cannot occur normally because they are missing one or more clotting factors. Their prolonged or even internal bleeding often requires injections of clotting factor to halt the bleeding.

Gorlin has been an active volunteer during her two decades with WFH. The organization matches emerging and established treatment centers through its twinning partnerships, which further two-way learning, according to the WFH Web

site. As U.S. representative for several years, Gorlin traveled to Spain, Greece, Canada and Italy. She and her husband, Jed, a hematologist, have also done hemophilia and hematology outreach in Armenia and Peru.

"The outreach has been varied," says Gorlin. "In Armenia, we held education sessions at the hospitals for nurses and parents. We held a clinic in a northern remote area and visited patients' homes to assess and teach them about home infusion of clotting factor. It is very rewarding because we help them to be independent. My husband helped establish the country's first blood bank in Yerevan. Our center won the World Federation award for the work there."

The couple's trip to Peru involved the entire family. "In Peru we spoke (through translators) to staff in a hospital," notes Gorlin. "We consulted on patients and brought all our daughters on hospital rounds, which was an eye-opening experience."

Gorlin is energetic and hopeful about the future for her practice and for moving the compass needle around the world on comprehensive care for people with hemophilia. "I think when you go into nursing you can't realize how many doors are open to you and how many you can open," she notes, "Nursing is an amazing, creative career and I am so proud to be part of it!"

To read more about Jocelyn Gorlin's work with WFH, visit [www.wfhusa.org/hemophilia-aid/twinning-partnership.asp](http://www.wfhusa.org/hemophilia-aid/twinning-partnership.asp).



In Armenia, Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin '80 B.S.N., M.S.N., CRNP (left, in white shirt) shows a family how to give an infusion of factor concentrate to their son, who has hemophilia.



In Peru, the Gorlins consulted with hospital staff to help hemophilia patients, including this infant boy being held by his mother.

## Going the Chilling Distance for a Friend

Swimming the 21-mile English Channel, considered the “Mt. Everest” for swimmers, was not even a remote consideration for three former Wildcat swimmers. But then one of their former teammates—Lauren Schulman '06 B.S.—was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS).

When the three Villanovans—Kiersten Rosenberg '06 B.S.N., Tori DeLollo '05 B.A. and Trista Felty '06 B.S., who room together in Philadelphia—learned of Schulman's news in 2007, they formulated a plan. These accomplished swimmers decided to swim the English Channel in a relay to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and in support of their friend.

In fall 2008, while pursuing full-time careers, the three began their intensive training for crossing the Channel. “It was difficult at times with all of our schedules being so hectic, but it is exciting at the same time,” noted Rosenberg. She is a staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. In the mornings, she trained with Penn Charter's Master Swim Team, and one month prior to the Channel swim, she trained daily with the Villanova Master's Swim Team, in addition to other strength and conditioning work.

“We're excited,” said Rosenberg before they left for England for their June 29, 2009, swim. “I've never done anything like this, but the reason we want to do it is for Lauren. She's been amazing, and this is a really good way we can make a contribution to the fight against MS.”

The three swimmers maintained a blog ([mswim.wordpress.com/the-swim-across-the-channel](http://mswim.wordpress.com/the-swim-across-the-channel)). In it, they reported, “To participate in an official English Channel swim relay, there are specific criteria that have to be met: a thorough physical examination must be passed, wet suits are not allowed, and the swimmers cannot touch the charter boat during the swim. Each swimmer must take a turn swimming for one hour straight until the crossing is complete and once they reach land the swimmer must finish on dry land or touch steep cliffs on the French coast. While the English Channel is considered



*Kiersten Rosenberg '06 B.S.N. (left), Tori DeLollo '05 B.A. (second from left) and Trista Felty '06 B.S. (right) celebrated with Laura Schulman '06 B.S. their accomplishment for a good cause. During their swim across the English Channel, Schulman waved orange pompons to alert her friends when they had only 10 minutes to go to complete their hour's relay. In that chilly water, “It felt like 30,” DeLollo wrote in their blog.*

by many to be the ultimate long distance challenge, it isn't just the distance that is the challenge but, more, the variable conditions that are likely to be encountered.”

The Villanovans knew that in late June in this heavily traveled sea lane, they might face 25-to-30 mph wind forces, waves higher than 6.5 feet and cold water (54 to 60 degrees F.). In addition, they were advised to be aware of the huge swells that cause seasickness on board the charter boat.

The three determined women began their swim in darkness and thick fog at 3 a.m. off the coast of Dover. Despite their shivering, the rough waters and their jellyfish stings, they successfully reached France, finishing their relay in 11 hours. The former Wildcats became the first women's team in 2009 to complete the Channel swim without the aid of wet suits.

They stated in their blog “I still can't believe we did it, it was amazing, and the water was incredibly cold.”

Looking back on their accomplishment, Rosenberg notes “I feel that swimming the Channel has inspired those around me to challenge themselves in their everyday lives as well as exponentially spreading awareness for this disease and its effect on those diagnosed. My friend Lauren has inspired me with her courage and commitment since the day she was diagnosed, and that has encouraged me to become a better nurse in my daily practice as well as continuing my education.”

In addition to rallying support for their friend, Rosenberg and her two teammates raised more than \$12,000 in Schulman's honor for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

## Alumni Reconnect at Two Area Hospitals

Reflecting its new strategic plan, the College of Nursing and the Nursing Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA), hosted alumni meet-and-greet events at two area hospitals this fall where there are large numbers of our alumni. On November 16, 2009, College and VUAA representatives enjoyed reconnecting with Villanova nurses at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and two days later welcomed Nursing alumni to a reception at Bryn Mawr Hospital.



Villanova nurses gathering at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) reception included (from left) graduate student DeKeshia Howard; Rose O'Driscoll '64 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., the College's assistant dean for Administration; Barbara Dion '87 M.S.N.; Regina Flynn-Roth '87 M.S.N.; Sally Poliwoda '87 B.S.N.; Carol Donner '79 B.S.N.; Eileen Santoro Ryan '77 B.S.N.; and Gary R. Olsen '74 A&S, '80 G.S., associate vice president for Alumni Relations at Villanova.



Christine Mercanti '09 B.S.N., R.N. enjoys her new position at Bryn Mawr Hospital.



(From left) Amy Layman '05 M.P.A., senior associate director of the Villanova University Alumni Association, speaks with Claire Baldwin '86 M.S.N., R.N., vice president for patient services at Bryn Mawr Hospital; Patricia Shane Snyder '84 B.S.N., R.N.; and Assistant Dean O'Driscoll.



Nursing seniors benefited from the career advice offered by Villanova Nurses at CHOP. Front row (from left) are Jill Piccini Manuola '03 B.S.N., '08 M.S.N., R.N.; Elizabeth McCullough; Clarissa Gabriel; Ginny Gethers; and Maureen Kringas (back row, from left) Meredith Johnson; Erica Della Polla; Theresa DiMaggio '84 B.S.N., R.N.; Patricia McDonald Clifford '77 B.S.N., R.N.; and Elizabeth DiDomenico.

## A Year in Honduras with the **Friends of Jesus**



*Classmates Caitlin Ward '09 B.S.N., R.N. (left) and Nicole Rosini '09 B.S.N., R.N. enjoy their new career practicing on the same unit (3C) at Bryn Mawr Hospital.*



*Teresa O'Connor Sabatini '86 B.S.N., R.N. (left) talks with Kelly Ann Walsh Zazyczny '94 B.S.N., R.N. at the Bryn Mawr Hospital meet-and-greet.*



Last summer, Regina DeCristofaro '07 B.S.N., R.N. (pictured above at her graduation from Villanova University) began a new chapter in her nursing career. She resigned from a medical-surgical nursing position at Duke University Hospital to volunteer for a year at an orphanage in Central America. Amigos de Jesús (“Friends of Jesus,” [www.amigosdejesus.org](http://www.amigosdejesus.org)) is just outside the town of Macuelizo in western Honduras, about 10 miles east of the Guatemalan border. This community cares for boys whose families are unable to, or who seek protection for their children. DeCristofaro heard about this opportunity as a student at the College of Nursing. She committed to volunteer in Honduras from this past September through November 2010.

Last August, DeCristofaro spent six weeks in an immersion program in Xela, Guatemala, to refresh her Spanish language skills. In mid-September, she moved to Amigos de Jesús, known locally as the *hogar*. More than 50 boys from the nearby area live full-time at the *hogar*, and Amigos also provides care to girls and boys from the surrounding countryside who attend its school.

DeCristofaro is one of two R.N.s who share care for the children. Her primary nursing efforts, mostly pediatric, include

helping the boys manage the flu and prevent the spread of infection, in combination with case management for all of the resident boys. Many require specialist care in combination with their weekly visits to the local doctor. The active boys need day-to-day attention for medications and routine injuries.

Social work and outreach account for a growing piece of her time. She has begun visiting with the families who had to give up their children to the *hogar* because they could not care for them, or to protect them from the crime occurring in the countryside.

The ongoing political upheaval in Honduras has not affected the program directly. Personal security is a concern, DeCristofaro notes, but the community is far enough away from major cities, where the protests are taking place. The Amigos de Jesús community is planning to break ground for a girls’ dormitory.

DeCristofaro writes “I know that without my experiences at Villanova’s College of Nursing, a year in Honduras would never have crossed my mind. I am really truly happy here. It’s not to say it is not tough, but I cannot imagine my life right now without the boys at this *hogar*. They are incredible. When things get tough, I just start thinking their names in my head, and I smile again.”

## Nursing Alumni Notes

## 1950s

**Dr. Rosalie Miranda '59 B.S.N.** was honored with a new building named for her and her husband, Tony, on the campus of Neumann University in Aston, Pa. The Miranda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development opened on October 17, 2009. Dr. Miranda has served as Neumann's president for 13 years.

## 1960s

**Tara Siegal Cortes '67 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN** was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing during its annual meeting, held in Atlanta in November 2009.

## 1970s

**Gloria J. McNeal '70 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN** is the founding dean of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing at the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles.

**Susan W. Salmond '73 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., CNE, CTN** in June 2009 was appointed dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, which has campuses in Newark and Stratford. Dr. Salmond has served as interim dean since January 2007.

**Rosalinda Alfaro-LeFevre '75 B.S.N., '85 M.S.N.** edited the seventh edition of her book, *Applying Nursing Process: A Tool for Critical Thinking* (January 2009, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins). Among the contributing authors are alumni and current/former faculty of the College of Nursing.

**Mary McElroy '77 B.S.N., R.N., M.S.** in November 2009 was named chief nursing officer of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville.

## 1980s

**Patricia Cullen '82 M.S.N.** in 2009 was named professor emerita at Gwynedd-Mercy College in Gwynedd Valley, Pa., following 25 years as associate professor

of nursing. Prior to her retirement, she served as director of Gwynedd-Mercy's B.S.N. program.

**Susan Engle DiLella '84 B.S.N.** is a staff nurse at The Birth Center in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

**Lyn Kanter Steinberg '84 B.S.N.** earned her forensic license in nursing and is working as a sexual assault nurse examiner for the Camden (N.J.) County Prosecutor's Office.

**Lt. Col. Constance L. Smith '86 B.S.N., R.N.C, B.A., M.B.A./M.A.O.M.** has been in the Air Force Nurse Corps for eight years. She serves as chief nurse executive in Albuquerque, N.M. In 2008 she received a Mentorship of the Year Award. She recently returned from a deployment outside Iraq as the chief nurse, deputy group commander and contingency aeromedical staging facility commander. During her tour of duty, she received numerous awards and decorations.

**Steven Wyrsh '86 B.S.N.** is vice president, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, at Hallmark Health, a two-hospital, multiple outpatient clinic system in Boston's northern suburbs.

**Donna Gentile O'Donnell '87 M.S.N., Ph.D.** is CEO and chairwoman of Target-biotics in Philadelphia. In December 2009, she was appointed to the advisory board of the Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law in Philadelphia.

**Rear Adm. Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler, USN, NC, '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE,** received a Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA) St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal in June 2009.

The medal, the highest honor bestowed by the VUAA, is awarded to alumni who best symbolize the spirit and legacy of St. Thomas—individuals who have achieved a level of distinction within their chosen fields or professions and who have brought extraordinary benefit to the University and to their communities. Adm. Bruzek-Kohler is commander of Navy Medicine West and commander of Naval Medical Center San Diego.



PAOLA NOGUEIRAS

## 1990s

**Kathleen Sheikh '90 B.S.N.** has been appointed assistant professor of nursing at the College of Health Sciences at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa.

**Tresa E. Zielinski '90 B.S.N., R.N., M.S., PCCNP, APN-NP** in spring 2009 was elected to the executive board of the

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

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

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

- Call 1-800-VILLANOVA (1-800-845-5266).
- Send an e-mail to [alumni@villanova.edu](mailto:alumni@villanova.edu).
- Or simply update your information in your Nova Network profile online at [www.villanova.edu/advance/alumni/vuonline.htm](http://www.villanova.edu/advance/alumni/vuonline.htm).

We look forward to staying in touch with you!





## Do You Have News to Share?

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

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) as communications chair. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner for the Kidney Transplant Team at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

**Tracy Dzierzowski '92 B.S.N., R.N.** in September 2009 became the nurse manager for Labor and Delivery and the Maternity Center at Kennedy University Hospital in Washington Township, N.J. Her new role includes both administrative and operational responsibility for these units. She also will participate in planning and implementing strategic initiatives for these areas and serve on all committees for Women's & Children's Services.

**Rebecca Allegretto '99 B.S.N., R.N., M.B.A.** recently produced a surgical education video that was named a finalist in the 2009 FREDDIE Awards for international health and medical media. She is clinical coordinator for the UCLA Center for Esophageal Disorders.

**Misae Ito '99 M.S.N., Ph.D., NMW** in spring 2009 earned her doctoral degree from Yamaguchi University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan after defending her dissertation on "Perceptions

About Medical Decision Making Among Japanese Patients, Their Families, Nurses and Physicians." She is a professor in the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health and Welfare, at Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare in Okayama, Japan.

**Faiza al-Jabry '99 B.S.N., '03 M.S.N.** received a two-year Fulbright scholarship as she pursues her four-year doctoral study in instructional technology at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She is on leave from her position in the Sultanate of Oman as section head of Continuing Education for Administration and Finance, Office of Director General for Education and Training, in the Ministry of Health.

**Meg Lang '99 M.S.N., R.N.-C, CCM, CPHRM** has been named to the 2009-2010 Editorial Review Board for *Case in Point*, the official publication of the Case Management Society of America.

## 2000s

**Maj. Susan J. Evitts, USAF, NC, '00 M.S.N., CPNP**, is the Pediatric Services flight commander for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. In fall 2009, after a competitive process, she became the Air Force Surgeon General's pediatric nurse practitioner consultant.

**Teresa Nielson Connolly '06 B.S.N.** is focusing in neuroscience nursing in a Boston College master's/Ph.D. program.

**Susan M. Holmes '06 B.S.N., R.N.** was named the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital "STAR Employee" for June 2009 by the Operating Room, Division of Perioperative Nursing. The award recognizes her service excellence at the Philadelphia hospital, where her nursing specialty is otorhinolaryngology and head/neck surgeries.

## College Hosts Indonesian Nurses

**M**uhammad Subu '03 M.S.N. (front row, left) was among 46 Indonesian nurses whom the College of Nursing hosted on October 27, 2009. He is the international nursing curriculum development consultant for PT Millenium Muda Mandiri in Jakarta. The group was visiting the United States on a trip arranged through the Indonesian Embassy and the Association of Indonesian Nurses Education Centers in Jakarta. The association has an annual study visit to education and service institutions in developed countries. The guests enjoyed an overview of the College's history and programs and tours of the state-of-the-art Driscoll Hall with its clinical simulation labs, Villanova University's library and later the Unity Clinic, where College faculty members work with underserved populations in South Philadelphia.



## Greetings from the Nursing Alumni President

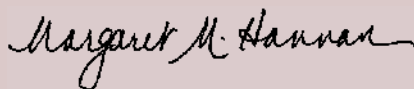
Dear Fellow Alumni,

The New Year brings with it changes to our Villanova University Nursing Alumni Association. In addition to our new name, the board, officers and College of Nursing liaisons collaborated with Gary R. Olsen '74 A&S, '80 G.S., associate vice president for Villanova's Alumni Relations, to examine and redefine our strategic mission to better align our association with the College of Nursing and the University. Our new mission statement, a collaborative effort with Dean Fitzpatrick, is: *The Nursing Alumni Association promotes lifelong relationships with alumni and students, supports nursing excellence and contributes professional resources to the College and its stakeholders.*

What does that mean? It means that you will hear more from your Nursing Alumni Association about how we can assist you and provide opportunities of interest.

Please visit our Web site at [www.villanova.edu/nursing/alumni](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/alumni), fan our Facebook page (Villanova University Nursing Alumni Association) and e-mail us at [villanova.nursing.alumni@villanova.edu](mailto:villanova.nursing.alumni@villanova.edu). We would love to hear from you!

With kind regards,



Margaret M. Hannan '84 B.S.N.,  
M.S., R.N.  
President, Nursing Alumni Association  
[hannanmm@aol.com](mailto:hannanmm@aol.com)

**Lt. j.g. Lindsay McQuade, USN, NC, '07 B.S.N.**, a pediatric critical care nurse in the Navy Nurse Corps, in August 2009 took an optional deployment for additional experience in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and is now working in an ICU. She developed an interest in orthopedic surgery and hopes to attend medical school in 2012. McQuade works with **Lt. j.g. Sarah Zieminski, USN, NC, '06 B.S.N.**, who cares for trauma patients. A *Toronto Sun* article on November 26, 2009, mentioned McQuade in reporting on a multinational hospital near an airstrip in Kandahar, where she and colleagues were helping young patients wounded by IED blasts, fragments and guns.

### In Memoriam: Alumni

**Beatrice A. Chase '54 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.** died on January 3, 2009. See facing page.

**Patricia "Pat" Leska Carraway '65 B.S.N.** of Savannah, Ga., died August 10, 2009, after a lengthy illness. Classmates

remember how she always said they must "bubble." In recent years, her volunteer service included Ronald McDonald House Charities and United Way of Savannah. The latter is where memorial donations may be made (428 Bull St., Savannah, GA 31401).

**Anneclaire Walsh Kasper '74 B.S.N.**, of West Windsor and Bradley Beach, N.J., died suddenly on October 1, 2009. For the past 18 years, she had been the school nurse for West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South. She was an active member of the Mercer County School Nurse Association. Donations may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 96280, Washington, D.C. 20077 or the Greater New Jersey Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, 400 Morris Avenue, Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834.

**Mary Jane "MJ" Coppa Skurka '85 B.S.N.**, of Drexel Hill, Pa., died on September 19, 2009.

**Carina "Cari" Ballato Rogerson '09 M.S.N.**, died on October 17, 2009. See facing page.

### Ready to "Rock, Paper, Scissors"

**Lt. Elyse Braxton, USN, NC '06 B.S.N.**, engages kindergarteners during story time at Kagei Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan, part of her volunteer service with a community relations project. She also played with the children and taught them the classic American game "rock, paper, scissors." In a subsequent visit, she celebrated Christmas with the children. Stationed with the Marines in the 3d Medical Battalion, Braxton is the officer in charge of the S3 Training area, which trains 400 sailors and Marines for mission readiness. Unlike its sister Marine Expeditionary Forces in the United States, the battalion is forward deployed all the time, covering Asia, its largest area of operations.



"They shared with us what they do for New Year's—various games including kite-flying outside," wrote Lt. Elyse Braxton, USN, NC '06 B.S.N., about volunteering with kindergarteners in Japan.

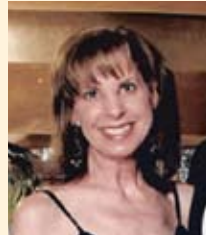
# Two Scholarship Funds Established

## Remembering a Chestnut Hill Staff Nurse

**Carina “Cari” Ballato Rogerson '09 M.S.N., R.N.**

**May 14, 1956 – October 17, 2009**

Carina “Cari” Ballato Rogerson '09 M.S.N., R.N., of Gwynedd Valley, Pa., had proudly completed the requirements for her M.S.N. graduation at the College of Nursing shortly before her death last October. Recently, she was inducted posthumously into the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, nursing's honor society. Her family noted how much she enjoyed the Nursing program and the people associated with it. Rogerson was a staff nurse in cardiac rehabilitation at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia. In her memory, her



husband, Craig A. Rogerson, and their three children established The Carina Joy Rogerson Endowed Memorial Graduate Nursing Scholarship. The scholarship fund also includes recent memorial gifts.

Memorial donations may be sent to the College of Nursing, Office of the Dean, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19085.

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## Generous Alumna Continues to Educate Nurses

**Beatrice A. Chase '54 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.**

**May 16, 1923 – January 3, 2009**

As a registered nurse with a hospital diploma, in the early 1950s Beatrice A. Chase '54 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. came to the College of Nursing seeking her undergraduate degree. After graduating, she worked for decades at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) in New York City. She earned her doctorate at Columbia University, where she met M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, who was on Columbia's nursing faculty before coming to Villanova's College of Nursing, where she is the Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor.



Dr. Chase was a “fighter,” according to a friend and MSK colleague, Carol Reed Ash, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN. As the director of Nursing at MSK, Dr. Chase lobbied for nursing staff development and orientation opportunities, as well as tuition remission programs to assist R.N.s in their con-

tinuing education. She developed an in-service education department and mentored new R.N.s and other MSK nurses by encouraging their professional growth and involvement in nursing education and administrative opportunities. Dr. Ash recalls that her friend's vision for nurses was broad and open-minded; Dr. Chase was “an administrator at heart,” she noted.

In later years, Dr. Chase worked at Duke University in Durham, N.C. She retired to the Charlotte area, where she passed away last year at age 85.

True to her legacy of advocating nursing education, Dr. Chase continues to support fellow nurses through a bequest in her will that created The Beatrice A. Chase Scholarship Fund for the College of Nursing. The fund will provide undergraduate and graduate scholarships. The first recipient will be named in fall 2010.

For more information about The Beatrice A. Chase Scholarship Fund, contact Sue Stein, College of Nursing development officer, at [sue.stein@villanova.edu](mailto:sue.stein@villanova.edu) or (610) 519-7980.

## Discover the Versatility of Being a Family Nurse Practitioner

In January, the College of Nursing began to offer a new option, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), to meet the growing need for nurse practitioners who can care for patients across the lifespan. FNP's have flexibility in employment options, including at sites such as nurse-managed health centers, retail clinics, emergency departments and urgent care centers.

In the FNP option, students may complete either the M.S.N. or a post-master's certificate.

*Questions? Please contact*  
Dr. Elizabeth Blunt  
(610) 519-4928  
[elizabeth.blunt@villanova.edu](mailto:elizabeth.blunt@villanova.edu)



Learn more about all of the College's programs by following the links at [www.villanova.edu/nursing/programs](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/programs) or by e-mailing or calling these individuals:

**Traditional Bachelor's Degree Program**

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(610) 519-4900

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

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**Accelerated B.S.N. Program for  
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(610) 519-7137

**Master's and Post-master's Certificate Programs**

[denise.meikle@villanova.edu](mailto:denise.meikle@villanova.edu)  
(610) 519-4934

**Ph.D. Program**

[christine.gadonas@villanova.edu](mailto:christine.gadonas@villanova.edu)  
(610) 519-4914

**Continuing Education Program**

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