

**PITT**

# *Nurse*

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF NURSING MAGAZINE  
FALL 2010

**FROM MIGRANT  
WORKER TO PhD:**  
ALUMNUS AND  
RETIRED PROFESSOR  
LUEVONUE LINCOLN  
KNOWS THE VALUE  
OF EDUCATION



**WHAT DISTINGUISHES A PITT EDUCATION**

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH: A LEADER IN NURSING EDUCATION AND SCIENCE



ABOUT THE COVER: Alumnus and retired professor Luevonue Lincoln achieved success beyond anything she could have imagined as a child on the migrant worker's circuit. She and her husband, Eugene, both earned doctoral degrees and taught at Pitt while raising three sons who also all earned Pitt degrees. Lincoln remains actively involved at the School of Nursing and is an inspiration to young nursing students.

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## IT'S ALL THERE

Check out the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Alumni Society Web site for the latest alumni news. Visit [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) and click on the alumni society icon at the bottom of the page. From upcoming events and meetings to event highlights and more, it's all there!



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On March 23, President Barack Obama signed into law legislation reforming the U.S. health care system.

Combined, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Reconciliation Act of 2010 dedicate more than \$900 billion in new federal funding over the next decade to provide as many as 32 million uninsured people with access to affordable health insurance.

As health care reform expands coverage to 32 million Americans and new patients enter the health care system, many more nurses will be needed to meet the demands of our nation's diverse patient population. To help meet this need, the bill aims to expand and reinforce the nation's health care workforce by making key investments to train nurses and other health professionals. Specifically, the bill invests in scholarship, loan repayment, and training grant programs to recruit and train many more primary care, nursing, public health, and other professionals.

The School of Nursing has responded to the increased demand for more and better trained nurses by expanding its Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Offered in addition to Pitt–Johnstown's long-standing RN to MSN program, the BSN program is a satellite program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education through the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing.

Research continues to support the value of nursing education in health care delivery and patient outcomes. In May, the Tri-Council for Nursing issued a consensus statement calling for

all registered nurses to advance their education in the interest of improving quality and safety across health care settings. The Tri-Council organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Nurses Association, American Organization of Nurse Executives, and National League for Nursing, assert that a more highly educated nursing workforce is critical to meeting the nation's nursing needs and delivering effective patient care. "More nurses with baccalaureate and higher degrees are needed in all settings," they state. "Current health care reform initiatives call for a nursing workforce that integrates evidence-based clinical knowledge and research with effective communications and leadership skills. These competencies require increased education at all levels. Without a more educated nursing workforce, the nation's health will be further at risk." There is a link to the full policy statement on our Web site.

Clearly this is a call to strengthen and improve nursing education at all levels. But it is important to note that all nursing education is not equal.

In a recently published Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching report on nursing education, *Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation*, Patricia Benner and her colleagues state that "profound changes in nursing practice call for equally profound changes in the education of nurses." The authors found that many of today's new nurses are "under-educated" to meet practice demands across settings and voice their strong support for high-quality baccalaureate degree programs as the appropriate pathway for registered nurses entering the profession.

In April, Benner, a noted nursing educator and senior author of the Carnegie Foundation report, presented a summary of her findings and recommendations at a continuing education seminar



sponsored by the School of Nursing. You can find more information on our Web site.

While the report's recommendation is controversial, the number of registered nurses seeking advanced training is likely to rise. There is legislation pending in 18 states that would order nurses who hold only associate's degrees to return to school for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree within 10 years of graduating from their associate's program.

This will, in turn, require more health care faculty. To lighten the educational burden for nursing faculty, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 amended the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program to extend loan repayment. The program offers nursing faculty members substantial economic assistance to repay a portion of qualifying educational loans in exchange for service as full-time faculty members at eligible schools of nursing.

Legislation supporting nursing education also was included in the American

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Health care providers need access to high-quality educational programs in order to stay abreast of the latest technologies and evidence to ensure that patients receive the highest quality care.

Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The school has received several ARRA funding grants to support faculty loans, scholarships for disadvantaged students, and advanced nursing training as well as support for research projects.

Educational grants also come to the school from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program, Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation, Helene Fuld Health Trust, U.S. Department of Education, Health Resources and Services Administration, and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The school now has three institutional training grants (T32s) from the National Institute of Nursing Research, which is part of NIH. The grants are in the areas of technology, genetics, and cancer survivorship. We offer the only T32 in oncology and are beginning to recruit graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to help fill the needs in cancer nursing. There is more information about the training grants on page 27 and on our Web site.

The health care reform bill also has identified expanded roles for advanced practice nurses. In addition, with a looming shortage of primary care doctors, nurse practitioners are

increasingly being called upon to practice to the full extent of their education. The school is responding to this need in the workforce with efforts to bring nurses into advanced practice specialties earlier in their careers.

Expanding roles for advanced practice nurses means the demand for advanced nursing education will continue to increase. However, today's students, who are juggling work and home life, increasingly want the flexibility to continue their nursing education without coming to campus.

To address this need, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing now offers the post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (MSN to DNP) completion program online in addition to the current on-site program. The MSN to DNP completion program will continue to be offered on site along with postbaccalaureate (BSN to DNP and BSN to PhD) options.

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) master's program also is offered online as well as on site. CNL is an advanced specialty master's degree program for nurses who do not wish to leave the bedside but would still like to take on an expanded role within their organizations.

These online options were developed to meet the needs of students who cannot easily get to campus for a traditional course and who need to balance home, work, and school.

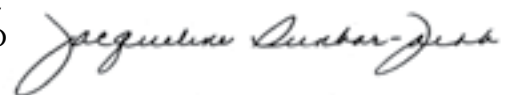
A primary goal of nursing education is to prepare nurses to work collaboratively as members of interprofessional health care teams on behalf of patients. In this issue, we look at the importance of quality nursing education from baccalaureate to master's to doctoral (PhD and DNP) preparation through continuing education programs designed to advance the clinical, scientific, academic, and administrative skills of

practicing nurses, keeping them current with advances in nursing knowledge, technology, and research throughout their careers.

The School of Nursing has built its reputation on the development of a curriculum that anticipates and responds to the complex and ever-changing health care environment. Nursing education is not equal, and our distinguished alumni are proof that a Pitt nursing degree not only prepares graduates but sets them apart. The individuals profiled in this issue exemplify what distinguishes the Pitt nursing education.

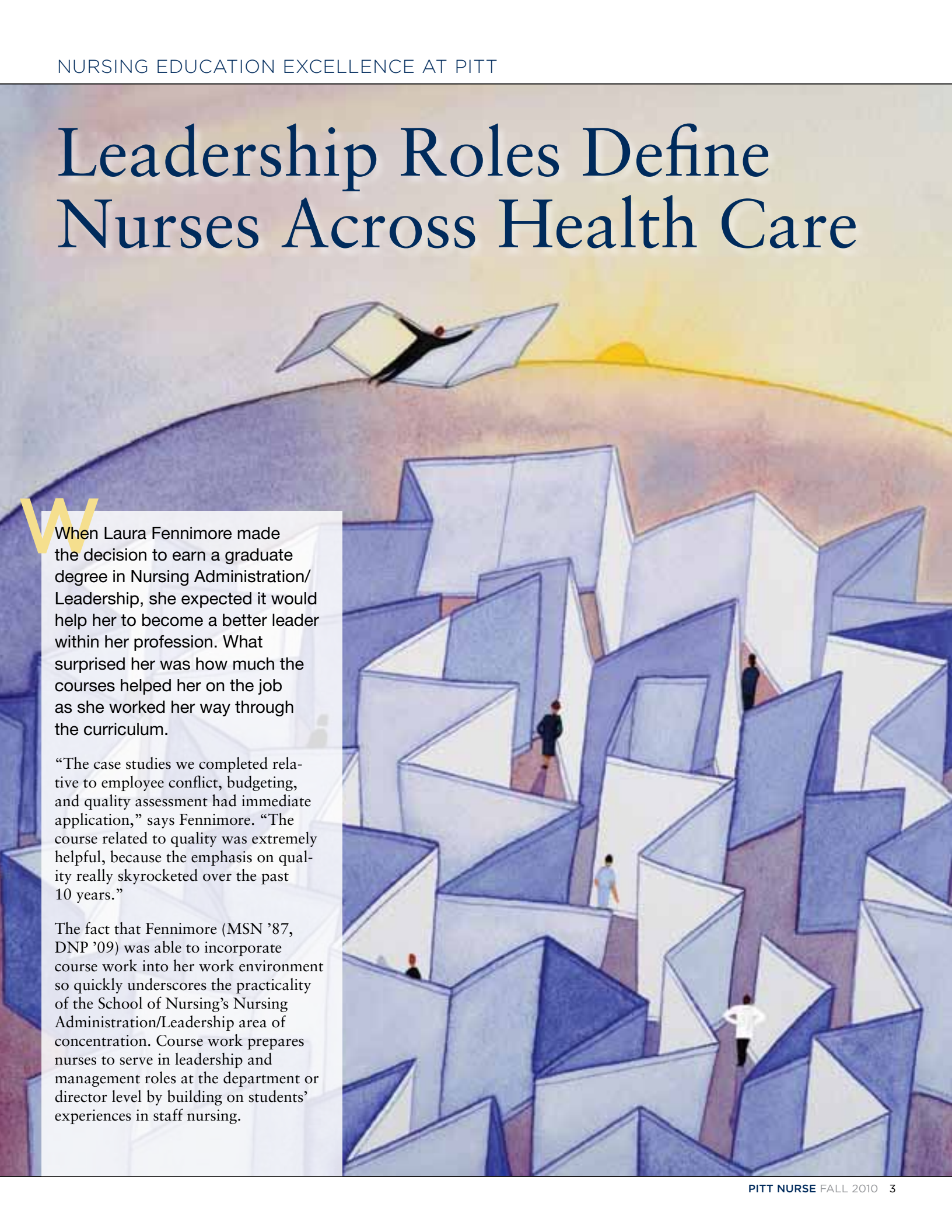
Our cover story is a shining example of the value of education. Luevonue Lincoln and her husband, Eugene, began their lives as migrant workers. Because their families appreciated the value of education, they both went on to earn doctoral degrees. Their story is about not only their academic journey but also their legacy for future generations.

The health care environment continues to change at a rapid pace. Health care providers need access to high-quality educational programs in order to stay abreast of the latest technologies and evidence to ensure that patients receive the highest quality care. And while the impact of health care reform remains unclear, and probably will remain so until the majority of provisions are enacted in 2014, we do know that nursing and nursing education will play key roles. The school is responding to these challenges by continuing to develop new programs and collaborations that provide the highest quality education for our students and the most qualified graduates for clinical practice.



Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN  
Dean, University of Pittsburgh  
School of Nursing

# Leadership Roles Define Nurses Across Health Care



**W**hen Laura Fennimore made the decision to earn a graduate degree in Nursing Administration/Leadership, she expected it would help her to become a better leader within her profession. What surprised her was how much the courses helped her on the job as she worked her way through the curriculum.

“The case studies we completed relative to employee conflict, budgeting, and quality assessment had immediate application,” says Fennimore. “The course related to quality was extremely helpful, because the emphasis on quality really skyrocketed over the past 10 years.”

The fact that Fennimore (MSN '87, DNP '09) was able to incorporate course work into her work environment so quickly underscores the practicality of the School of Nursing's Nursing Administration/Leadership area of concentration. Course work prepares nurses to serve in leadership and management roles at the department or director level by building on students' experiences in staff nursing.





From that knowledge base, courses develop the conceptual, interpersonal, and technical skills that allow graduates to excel in health care management and administration.

## Tools of the Trade

The health care industry is changing rapidly, evolving toward an increasingly complex model. The administration/leadership concentration focuses on the tools that help nurse leaders to successfully navigate that environment through core courses in research for evidence-based practice, nursing outcomes, use of technology, leadership development, and organizational theory. Students also become fluent in economics, health policy, and management of resources.

Courses may be offered jointly with the University's School of Medicine, Graduate School of Public Health, and Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. Clinical residencies are uniquely designed thanks to the School of Nursing's access to one of the nation's premier and most comprehensive health care systems.

Denise Petras (DNP '09), director of organizational development and nursing education and research at UPMC Presbyterian, previously served as a CNO for five years. Prior to that role, she spent a number of years in education roles, including in projects at UPMC Shadyside that involved coordinating international study tours for nurses from abroad.

During her CNO tenure, she had lunch with Gail Wolf, a friend and professional colleague who also just happened to be the coordinator of the Nursing Administration/Leadership area of concentration in the School of Nursing's Department of Acute/Tertiary Care. Pitt was just adding the DNP program to its highly ranked master's program at the time. Within a few months she enrolled.

"I always knew I wanted a doctorate. I wanted a terminal nursing degree that supported my work and interests in the practice setting." Like Fennimore, she found her course work was ideal for her job setting. "It was very tangible, very real world, very applicable," she says.

Wolf also told Fennimore about the administration/leadership track over a life-changing lunch. At the time, Fennimore was working as the director of education for the Oncology Nursing Society. She spoke to Wolf while helping to plan a leadership development program.

"I was trying to convince her to be a speaker," recalls Fennimore. Instead, "she convinced me to go back to school." It didn't take much arm-twisting on Wolf's part. "This was the degree for me," says Fennimore. "It really

spoke to who I was as an advanced practice nurse and what my interests were." During her residency program, Fennimore became acquainted with opportunities for advanced practice roles outside of traditional settings.

Fennimore currently works for UPMC Health Plan as the director of clinical programs as well as Medicaid, the Special Needs Plan, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provide health insurance to the otherwise uninsured.

Fennimore is proud of being able to use her clinical and leadership expertise to help people to access care for chronic health problems or to receive screening that identifies issues early. "I do feel that I was well prepared for this particular position, in part because of the curriculum's emphasis on health promotion, systems theory, and health policy," she says, adding that she uses that knowledge every day.

## Toward an Error-free Health Care System

In her role on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, MSN Administration graduate Joan (Plassio) Garzarelli (BSN '76, MSN '85) is among the key people responsible for recommending policies and procedures that help to reduce medical errors and create a culture of patient safety at hospitals, nursing homes, birthing centers, and other health care facilities throughout the commonwealth—not bad for someone who never really intended to become a nurse in the first place.

Academically gifted and musically inclined, Garzarelli earned a full scholarship to the School of Nursing while she was in high school. "I chose Pitt because I wanted the college experience and wanted to be able to explore my other interests," she explains. "I wasn't one of those people who always wanted to be a nurse my whole life."

But after earning her BSN, Garzarelli went to work for a community hospital, where she quickly moved into leadership roles: house supervisor, assistant director of nursing, and chief nursing officer.

"I found myself in leadership roles for which I felt I needed a little more preparation," Garzarelli says. "I got shoved into management probably before I was ready. Fortunately, I liked it." The focus on critical thinking and problem solving at Pitt has carried Garzarelli through several incarnations of her career. An organizational theory course taught by former Dean Marguerite Schaefer "really helped me to break down a process, to look at why a problem occurred. Is it in the process itself? Is it the external environment? Using Schaefer's model is always in my mind as I do my work."



## Research and Evidence-based Practice

Debra Thompson remembers the days when most nurses had diplomas instead of bachelor's degrees and the word "doctor" brought to mind a physician.

That was the world she entered when she started as a staff nurse at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. But then she became intrigued with the idea of impacting the lives of more than one patient at a time, which led to her pursuit of a bachelor's degree at the School of Nursing. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Thompson (BSN '77, MSN '81) never lost her desire to pursue additional knowledge and acquire new skill sets. A longtime administrator for nonprofits and community hospitals, she later moved into a corporate role that sought to improve patient outcomes by applying industrial models to health care.

Thompson earned her master's degree in nursing administration in 1981, and is now completing her PhD. She plans to one day teach nurses and conduct research to determine how nurses can use their skills, including leadership, to improve patient safety and outcomes, which is her passion and the subject of her dissertation. Her dissertation, which is funded by the National Institutes of Nursing Research along with several other sources, is titled Multi-level Study of Nurse Leaders, Safety Climate and Care Outcomes.

"Given where we are in health care reform, that health care is increasingly complex, it's imperative that we have educated nurse leaders not only in the board room, but also on the front lines," she says. "If I think about what makes me happy at work, it's a leader who sees me as a unique person, who enables me to make a contribution, and who recognizes my unique interests and expertise in delivering care to patients."

For her part, Petras also found the curriculum's problem-solving strategies to be helpful. "Much of our course work looked at the complexity of systems. We looked at the bigger picture of health care," she says. Additionally, she learned how to use evidence to justify decisions.

"I was intrigued by the focus of using evidence-based practice and applying it to your work. I needed solutions and strategies, very practical theories I could use in my current role."



**"I needed solutions and strategies, very practical theories that I could use in my current role."**

*Denise Petras (far left) shown with Gail Wolfe, and Laura Fennimore*

## Information and Analysis

Additional areas under the nurse specialty role major include the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) and informatics concentrations. The Nursing Informatics area of concentration prepares nurses to focus on the structure and process of information as it supports practice. A combination of cognitive, computer, information, and nursing science, informatics includes the development, analysis, and evaluation of systems to support and enhance patient care.

Graduates find jobs in such fields as project management, information systems specialties, consulting, product development, and software training. For example, Nancy Gorsha (MSN '08) works with the Interoperability Group at UPMC to improve quality of care via the integration of electronic clinical data from disparate systems at UPMC hospitals, clinics, and physician practices. Since graduation, Gorsha has enjoyed serving as a preceptor for other University of Pittsburgh informatics students.

## Expanding Leadership Through the CNL

The CNL area of concentration prepares nurses to practice in leadership roles across the continuum of care. During the most recent certification exam period, Pitt's CNL graduates enjoyed a 100 percent pass rate.

Graduates of this generalist master's program can work in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) health care system has endorsed the CNL role, mandating that at least CNLs serve in every VA facility by 2015. To help to accommodate this

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# Across Every Setting, Nurse Practitioners Gain Critical Ground



When a patient with HIV first walks into the Positive Health Clinic of Allegheny General Hospital, the first thing Stuart Fisk tells them is: “We focus on people, not the virus.”

Fisk (MSN '07), an adult nurse practitioner who serves as the clinical director, says that the difference in a facility that is largely staffed by nurses, social workers, and support staff is that “We do holistic care.”

Working with HIV-positive patients in the 1980s, when Fisk first started, usually meant providing end-of-life care. But with advancements in treatment, he has been fortunate enough to see people live longer, fuller lives. That trend also has changed his job duties; now, management of the complex disease includes treating illnesses that tend to occur as people age. It also means logistical and emotional help for both the patients and their partners and helping people to move forward with their lives instead of easing out of them.

Helping people who are infected with HIV has been Fisk’s life calling, but it wasn’t until he moved to Pittsburgh that he began to think he could do it better with a nurse practitioner’s certification. After all, he already had a master’s degree and plenty of experience behind him.

However, when he began working with the nurse practitioner who founded the clinic, Fisk thought that certification would aid him in his efforts to help build the clinic’s services and continue its mission after the founder’s

retirement. So with a 5-year-old daughter and a full-time job, he attended the School of Nursing’s nurse practitioner master’s program, graduating in 2007.

“The program was really important in making that shift from being a nurse to being a nurse practitioner,” Fisk says. “It’s a profound shift where you go from working in a dependent role to a much more independent role, having to correctly diagnose and treat disorders rather than suggesting to a physician what you think is going on.”

The University of Pittsburgh program prepares nurse practitioners to serve as primary care providers. In that role, they identify health risks, promote wellness, diagnose and manage illnesses, prescribe medications and other treatments, and mobilize resources for patients.

Certification pass rates are 100 percent for the adult, pediatric, family, acute care, and psychiatric primary care nurse practitioner master’s programs; other areas of concentration include neonatal, a recent addition.

Beth Heuer (BSN '88, MSN '02), a pediatric nurse practitioner at the Children’s Institute—a freestanding pediatric rehabilitation hospital in Pittsburgh—was motivated to pursue her degree after spending a dozen years as a pediatric hematology-oncology bone marrow transplant nurse.

Though she loved her work, she wanted more from her career. After watching some of the nurse

practitioners on her team, Heuer realized she had found the next step.

Almost immediately after enrolling at the School of Nursing, she won a position as a graduate student assistant. “It really gets you in among the faculty, learning the role of the instructor who is also a clinician,” she says.

A stint at a residential behavioral health center showed her how versatile the nurse practitioner’s degree can be. In that role, she did everything from emergency triage care to removing popcorn kernels from children’s ears. Later, she moved to the Children’s Institute to coordinate its Pediatric Cardiac Recovery Program, where she conducts long-term developmental follow-up care for children with complex congenital heart disease.

At the Children’s Institute, where she has worked for four years, she also coordinates care for children with chronic amplified musculoskeletal pain. And she loves her new role: “I’m now the person who goes in and does the history and physical, writes orders, and leads the child’s health care team.”

Pitt’s nurse practitioners also conduct research and provide leadership to mobilize community and managed care resources. In Fisk’s case, that includes serving as the primary investigator on the clinic’s federal grant, which is its primary funding source. Heuer has lectured for the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and has served as a preceptor for Pitt students.





Abigail Mohrbacher (MSN '10), who graduated from the family nurse practitioner master's program in 2010, decided to become a nurse practitioner after spending seven years working on a cardiopulmonary floor. She believed that the degree would provide the opportunity to develop longer-term relationships with patients that would keep them well.

"I thought if I went into family practice, I could get on the prevention side of things, and not as many people would end up on the cardiopulmonary floor," she says.

Moreover, by seeing an entire family, she believes she can offer a holistic approach that will increase the chances for successful treatment compliance.

"You're not just looking at the mom or the dad or the kids," she says. "You are looking at the whole family and developing a relationship with them over a lifetime. They come to trust you and value your opinion; you have a deeper relationship."

Though she just graduated, Mohrbacher's clinical experience includes crosscultural work in Haiti, where she cared for earthquake victims, and mission trips to Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Mohrbacher chose the School of Nursing's program because she was impressed with the level of expertise that faculty and guest lecturers offered.

"Pitt students are held in high regard, so I knew I would have that behind me," she says.

Other nurse practitioner areas of concentration at the School of Nursing include acute care, neonatal, and psychiatric primary care.

The Acute Care Nurse Practitioner area of concentration prepares students to care for adults with common episodic and chronic health problems across the continuum. Subspecialties include cardiopulmonary; critical care; oncology; trauma and emergency preparedness; and directed study, which is self-designed.

Students in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner area of concentration learn to manage the care of high-risk infants, their families, and children up to age 2. In collaboration with neonatologists and other pediatric clinicians, graduates assume leadership roles in a variety of clinical settings, including intensive care nurseries, newborn nurseries, and high-risk follow-up clinics.

In addition to full- and part-time study in Pittsburgh, the neonatal area of concentration also offers selected core courses via satellite to Pitt's regional campuses in Bradford and Johnstown.

The Psychiatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner area of concentration prepares graduates to manage the care of adult psychiatric clients as the principal provider in a variety of settings. Job responsibilities after graduation include

"I feel privileged to have been able to work with the patients and work in a clinic where nurses are really respected and call a lot of the shots."

*Stuart Fisk*

assessment, diagnosis, management, and promotion of mental health.

Across all areas of concentration, nurse practitioners are becoming widely recognized as crucial to the mission of health care delivery in an era of cost cutting and reform. With a focus on prevention and wellness and a professional tradition of treating the patient and not just the disease, nursing has gained significant ground in multiple settings.

For Fisk, that's as it should be. "It's been exhausting, but it's been very rewarding. I feel privileged to have been able to work with the patients and work in a clinic where nurses are really respected and call a lot of the shots," he says. "It's been a pretty remarkable 25 years, no question about it. I would be happy if they found a cure for AIDS. I'd have a big party, and I'd go work in a well baby clinic. But barring a cure, this is probably what I'll do until I retire."

# Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs Create Expertise Across the Spectrum



**The CNS program teaches students to serve as clinicians, educators, consultants, and managers in behavioral health settings.**

In 1980, when Gerene Bauldoff first earned her nursing diploma at Pittsburgh's Western Pennsylvania Hospital, "I could have never realized that in 13 years after graduation, I would be working in lung transplantation. It didn't exist," she explains

Yet Bauldoff (MSN '93, PhD '01) went on to work as a lung transplant coordinator after earning her degree from the Clinical Nurse Specialist program at the University of Pittsburgh, which prepared her later to become the pulmonary rehabilitation coordinator for a national trial. The study coordinator was another Pitt nursing graduate, Betsy George (MSN '83, PhD '99), an advanced practice nurse at UPMC Presbyterian.

"I think nursing is more challenging than most people coming into the major recognize. You're learning an entirely new world," says Bauldoff, now an associate professor of clinical

nursing at the Ohio State University. "Nursing is not just technical psychomotor skills that undergraduates tend to focus on. It's not just starting an IV. Nursing truly is knowledge work."

The Adult Medical/Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist (AMS CNS) master's program, from which Bauldoff graduated, prepares nurses to be clinical experts in a specialized area of nursing practice.

Graduates use their training and expertise to improve both patient outcomes as well as programs of care through systemwide changes. Students learn to coordinate the care of patients with complex illnesses, serving as their advocates and facilitating the use of evidence based practice. Although not all AMS CNS graduates choose to take a certification exam—a decision that often hinges on employment or state certification requirements—those who do take these exams enjoyed a



100 percent first-attempt pass rate for the past five years.

CNS graduates also learn to conduct and implement research and mentor new nurses, something Bauldoff has taken to heart in her current role as an academic.

“I did miss my patients, because I had always had direct patient contact. But I found in moving to education that my focus and passion had shifted to my students,” she says.

Part of that passion lies in helping students to realize their potential in a profession that is both more challenging and more versatile than they probably realize.

“I encourage them to think beyond their current view. Nursing is not just hospital based, nursing is not just home

care based, and nursing is not just patient based. Nursing opens doors to take you in almost any direction you want to go,” Bauldoff says.

AMS CNS graduates work in a wide variety of positions. Those functioning under the CNS title do so either in a specialty unit-based position, or in following and developing standards of nursing care for a specialty population of patients across a healthcare system, like Denise Verosky (MSN '06). Director of palliative care at UPMC Mercy in Pittsburgh, Verosky also serves as a director on the board of the national Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses.

Other graduates have used this advanced practice clinical preparation to function in leadership positions as a unit director or case manager, like Patricia Horoho (MSN '92). A 1992 graduate of Pitt's CNS master's program, Horoho was the first woman and first nurse to serve as commander of Walter Reed Health Care System. After receiving a rare two-rank promotion from colonel to major general, she was appointed chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and commander of the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma Washington. Horoho was later promoted to the position of U.S. Army deputy surgeon general and continues to serve as chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Horoho was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate in 2007.

Still others perform as clinical nursing experts in such roles as quality improvement, nurse education, or in research support positions, like Kathy Lindell, who graduated from the CNS master's program in 1987 and went on to earn her PhD in 2007. Lindell served as chair of the American Thoracic Society Nursing Assembly in addition to her clinical work at Pitt's Dorothy P. and Richard P. Simmons Center for Interstitial Lung Disease.

Psychiatric mental health CNS graduates also work in a variety of settings. Frances Campbell (MSN '83) is program director of the Center for Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Services (CPCDS), a program she helped to design and implement at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in 1987. The CPCDS program was one of the first nationwide to address the dual diagnosis issue. Campbell also works with adults and couples at Isaly Counseling Associates, Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pa. Campbell has had a broad base of experiences ranging from direct inpatient and outpatient treatment to training, clinical writing, and program design. She presents nationally on the topic of dual diagnosis and has coauthored two texts on the subject.

Linda Rose Frank (MSN '83), PhD, another psychiatric mental health CNS graduate, is an assistant professor and director of the communicable disease and behavioral health Master of Public Health program in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. An internationally noted HIV/AIDS educator, consultant, and researcher, Frank also serves as principal investigator and executive director of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (PA/MA AETC), which she has directed since 1988. PA/MA AETC is part of a nationwide network of AIDS Education and Training Centers established by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Frank was honored with a University of Pittsburgh 2010 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award.

Dawn DeCicco (MSN '06) echoes Bauldoff's sentiments about the versatility of a nursing degree. A 2006

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**“Nursing is not just hospital based, nursing is not just home care based, and nursing is not just patient based. Nursing opens doors to take you in almost any direction you want to go.”**

*Gerene Bauldoff*





## Demand is Running High for Nurse Anesthesia Grads

If you are able to schedule your surgery in a timely way in Western Pennsylvania, chances are you have Brent Dunworth to thank.

Dunworth (BSN '96, MSN '99), a graduate of University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing's Nurse Anesthesia program, exemplifies how nursing leaders are carrying the profession to the forefront of health care reform through a combination of innovation, concern for patient care, and an ability to strike a balance among many conflicting demands.

Nurses enjoy the most direct access to patients of any health care provider, and

armed with an increasingly complex education focused on research, outcomes, and clinical best practices, they have emerged as an important voice in the balance between the bedside and the bottom line.

The Nurse Anesthesia curriculum prepares registered nurses to administer a full range of anesthetics to a wide variety of patients across the life span. Through integrated classroom and clinical instruction, students develop the knowledge and skill sets that are crucial to safe and effective practice.

Students rotate through a wide variety of clinical sites in Western Pennsylvania to ensure a broad range of experiences.

**“There’s always been a greater demand for nurse anesthetists than there is a supply.”**

*Brent Dunworth*

Specialty rotations include cardiothoracic, neurosurgical, dental, organ transplantation, pediatrics, obstetrics, neonatal, burns, and electroconvulsive therapy.

The pass rates for Pitt anesthesia graduates have remained consistently strong. In 2009–10, the program enjoyed a 97.2 percent first-time pass rate and a 100 percent overall pass rate. Historically, Pitt anesthesia graduates have passed the national certification examination at a rate that is 5–10 percent higher than the national rate.

This exemplary preparation helps Dunworth to ensure that qualified nurse anesthetists are available throughout the region. As the senior director for nurse anesthetists for UPMC, he oversees approximately 400 nurse anesthetists across 12 locations, the largest cohort of its type in the world.

During his career, Dunworth has witnessed the collision of two contradictory trends: a national shortage of anesthesia providers that has persisted for about 10 years coupled with a simultaneous growth in surgical services, both within the operating room and in outside facilities such as cardiovascular labs and gastrointestinal suites.

“The first hurdle we achieved recently is dealing with the long-term supply and demand imbalance. There’s always been a greater demand for nurse anesthetists than there is a supply,” he says.

To help to alleviate the problem, the School of Nursing agreed to expand its





**“Getting your initial nursing degree is a first step. But there’s so much knowledge. Once you get out and start practicing, inevitably you find a niche that you still love.”**

*Kelly Wiltse Nicely*

anesthesia master’s program to graduate two classes per year, and in return, UPMC agreed to supply some faculty members to the school.

But merely increasing the number of staff members was not the only solution, because surgery has a natural ebb and flow to its volume. One facility might have ample staff members for one day, while another has too few. The answer was a program spearheaded by Dunworth that gives nurse anesthetists the flexibility to move among the system’s facilities. The staff can control where they choose to go; some might prefer a site for geographic reasons, while others might prefer to work with a particular anesthesia or in a particular type of practice, such as pediatrics.

“We try to strike a balance between what the needs are for the hospital and the employees,” Dunworth says. “There was some reluctance in the beginning, but in the end, we were really able to offer a professional experience to the employee that he or she may have been looking for.”

In the last quarter that the program was analyzed, the staff members provided more than 7,500 hours of service outside their home hospitals—which was the equivalent of adding 16 full-time employees. Meanwhile, the system’s attrition rate fell to below 3 percent—a clear indicator of staff satisfaction with the program.

“Our challenge is really to be able to do things in a more cost-effective way,” says Dunworth. “So if we can be more

economical in the way we staff our departments, we’re contributing both nationally and locally.”

His current project involves standardization of equipment and anesthesia work stations across the health system as a means of improving efficiency and patient safety.

“We put everything on the table and say, ‘What do we need as an organization in terms of patient care coverage? And what do employees need to feel valued and comfortable in their location?’ ” he says. “We’ve been creative.”

Kelly Wiltse Nicely (MSN ’05), who earned her degree through the Nurse Anesthesia master’s program in 2005, first thought of working in the field while she was a member of a cardiothoracic surgical intensive care unit. Though she found her work to be challenging, she knew she would not spend her entire career at the bedside in an ICU.

Exposure to hard sciences and pharmacology led her to consider working with anesthesia. And after shadowing a nurse anesthetist, she knew that was the path she would pursue.

Initially attracted by the high ranking of Pitt’s anesthesia master’s program, Wiltse Nicely also liked the program’s breadth of scope. “Not only were they a top 10 program, but they set it up in such a way that you had a number of experiences,” she says. “A lot of places, when you go for your clinical location, you’re primarily located at one hospital.

Pitt gave you the opportunity to go to a number of facilities.”

Wiltse Nicely was able to complete some clinical work at a site that worked in partnership with Pitt. She also had the opportunity to pick and choose the sites that would be part of her permanent practice.

Today, Wiltse Nicely is a certified registered nurse anesthetist practicing at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. In September, she will join the University of Pennsylvania faculty. She credits her continuing nursing education with helping her to achieve her current position.

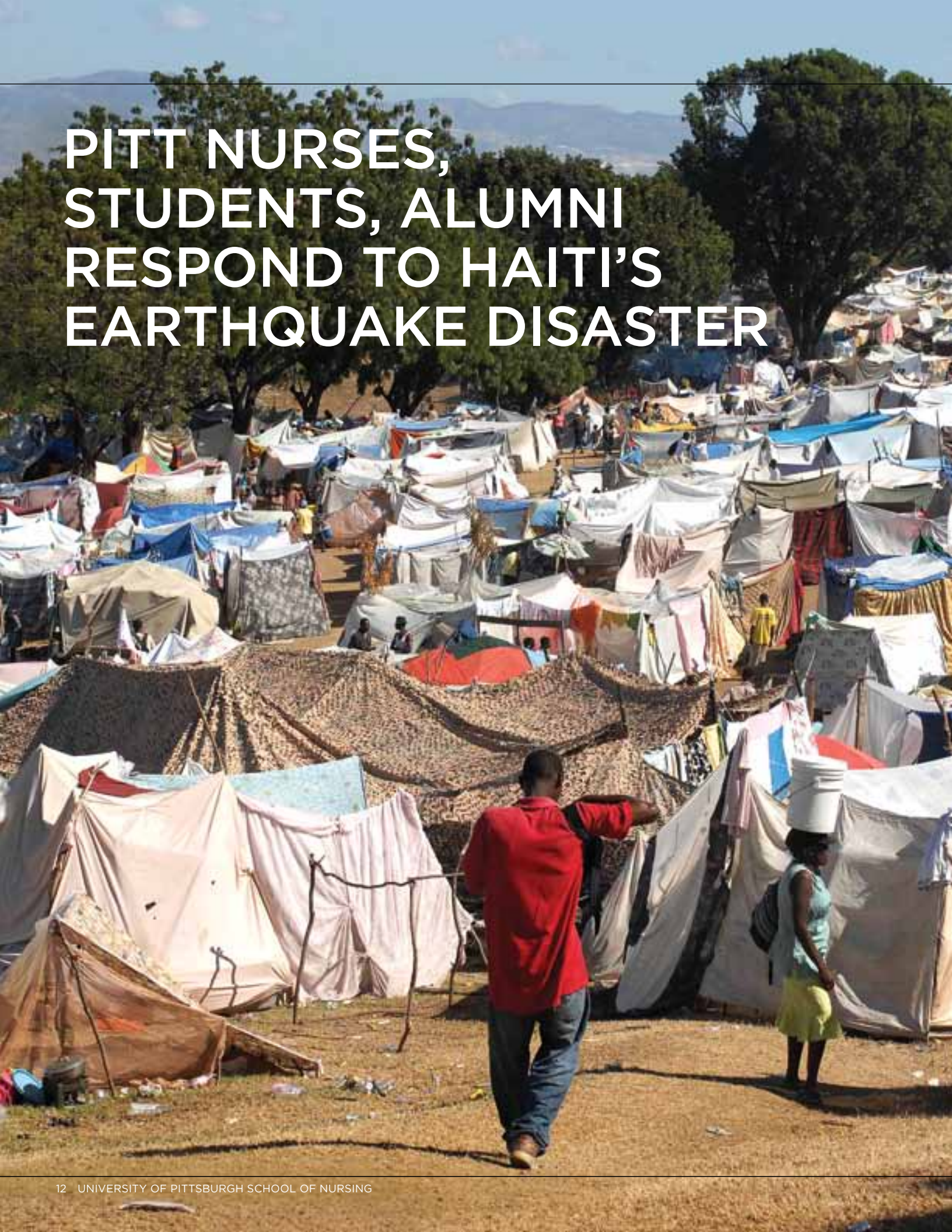
“I wanted to put a toe in the water first,” before pursuing a PhD, she says. The master’s program “was about the profession. It wasn’t just about the clinical practice. They have a number of minor programs that you can complete,” and she finished hers in research, which helped steer her toward her doctorate.

Wiltse Nicely believes that many nurses will find that continuing their education beyond an undergraduate degree will help them to discover their full potential.

“Getting your initial nursing degree is a first step. But there’s so much knowledge. Once you get out and start practicing, inevitably you find a niche that you still love,” she says. “It’s just better care for the patient—not necessarily pursuing a higher degree, because that’s not for everyone, but having the extra knowledge to take it one step further.”



# PITT NURSES, STUDENTS, ALUMNI RESPOND TO HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE DISASTER







Every morning that Michael Beach spent in Haiti, he reported to duty in a medical tent at the top of a hill on what had been, prior to January's devastating earthquake, a posh country club in Port-au-Prince.

Below him lay a refugee camp of roughly 30,000–40,000 people. (By the time he left, it had ballooned to 50,000.) And no matter what was wrong with them—the earthquake had caused a lot of damage, both to their bodies and to the surrounding landscape—they found a way to climb that hill, where medical attention waited.

Beach (MSN '01, '02; DNP '09) BSN, an assistant professor who heads the trauma and emergency preparedness subspecialty in the School of Nursing's Acute Care Nurse Practitioner area of concentration, also serves as a member of the Pennsylvania-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). As part of an attachment to the American Red Cross, Beach had previously deployed to the lower Mississippi region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. But Haiti's earthquake was the first disaster for which his unit responded outside the United States.

Beach is certified as an acute care nurse practitioner and licensed as a pediatric nurse practitioner. He has taught disaster preparedness and response for several years, keeping sharp as a member of DMAT while also pursuing his doctorate and writing a book on disaster preparedness. While in Haiti, he put his training to use triaging people with everything from possible pneumonia to serious injuries.

"These are wounds that within the United States would have gone to surgery, without a doubt," says Beach. "There were lots and lots of babies with dehydration."

In fact, three infants were born in the week or so that he was there. The team revived a baby who was seizing and were able to use a military Humvee to transport the child



"Everyone we met was so happy to see us, so polite, and so grateful for anything we gave them—a Tylenol, some water, or just our time."

*Kimberly Anderson*

to a volunteer surgical facility after a Port-au-Prince hospital was unable to care for the child.

"It was a happy ending, but in a disaster, it could have been a bad ending also," he says.

Beach is one of several nurses affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh who stepped away from their everyday lives as faculty, students, or clinicians to lend their expertise in an often desperate situation.

Kimberly Anderson (BSN '07), a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in the School of Nursing as well as a certificate in public health preparedness and disaster response at the Graduate School of Public Health, also deployed to Haiti as part of DMAT. A single mother of three, Anderson continues to work full time as an assistant director of a surgical-trauma intensive care unit (ICU) at UPMC Presbyterian.

She previously had traveled with DMAT to respond to hurricanes and to stand by in case there was an emergency situation during a political event. But like Beach, Anderson experienced international disaster response for the first time in Haiti.

"When you're deployed in the States, no matter how bad things are, you know you can get supplies down the road," she says.



**“That’s the whole reason why we do medicine to begin with. It just seems like the right thing to do, an important thing to do, especially when you have the skills like we have in health care.”**

*Alex Boal*

Alex Boal, a nurse anesthetist who graduated from Pitt in 2008, spent his vacation working with Project Hope, a volunteer organization that stationed medical personnel aboard the U.S.S. Comfort, the Navy’s floating hospital, which was docked in Haiti during the disaster.

Boal lived on board the ship under armed guard but found the work otherwise to be similar to the trauma work he had done in the United States.

was so much to be done and so little help to do it,” she says.

She recalls the heartbreaking story of a baby who was stricken with pneumonia and dying from dehydration and malnutrition. Wilson sent them to the hospital, shepherded by a medic. But after a 90-minute journey, they were turned away.

The medic convinced the head of the pediatric hospital to admit the baby, but as soon as the medic left, the mother and child were evicted. Two days later, Wilson saw the mother and her now lethargic baby in the community, instructed them to return to the hospital where she was working, and personally saw to the child’s care. They started him on an IV and fed him some mush before Wilson buttonholed a Canadian pediatrician who was on duty at the same hospital and asked for help with the child’s pneumonia.

But in Haiti, limitations on the airfield meant that it could take two weeks to get supplies through the international supply chain.

“You learn to adapt—really fast!” she says. “Everyone we met was so happy to see us, so polite, and so grateful for anything we gave them—a Tylenol, some water, or just our time.”

Anderson’s DMAT experiences have given her the opportunity to work with people from different teams based across the country, a quality she considers invaluable.

“Black, White, East, West, ICU, or step-down unit—we are all working for the same benefit,” she says. “We all want a good outcome for the patients.”

“Even in the hospital there are different cultures,” she adds. “Every unit has its own way of doing things. But we can improve patient outcomes by improving our communication skills and working together.”

He hopes to join Project HOPE for future missions.

“It was worth it, without a doubt,” he says. “That’s the whole reason why we do medicine to begin with. It just seems like the right thing to do, an important thing to do, especially when you have the skills like we have in health care.”

Karen Wilson agrees. Wilson, who earned her MSN at Pitt in 2000, is a family nurse practitioner at an urgent care center near Newburn, N.C. Having been to Haiti twice before the earthquake, she returned about a month after the disaster as part of the North Carolina Baptist Men’s medical mission rescue team.

While there, she divided her time between the community hospital and a makeshift clinic that had been set up in the still-standing foyer of a collapsed church.

“The need was so great. Frankly, it was kind of like spitting in the ocean. There

“She said, ‘Send him home; he’s going to die.’ ” recalls Wilson.

Despite the conditions, she stayed in Haiti through the beginning of March and plans to return.

“When you go, you totally empty yourself out,” she explains. “When you’re totally empty, so you can give to these people who have nothing, it makes you feel like you’re doing something very worthwhile. It makes you feel close to God.”

For Donna Martsolf, the earthquake represented a very personal triumph amid the tragedy.

A 1991 graduate of the School of Nursing’s PhD program, Martsolf has been a regular visitor to the country, where she lived as a Fulbright scholar in 2003 while helping to start a nursing school at the Episcopal University of Haiti. She serves on both the school’s governing board and a similar board for the country’s Holy Cross Hospital.





Mike Beach believes his experiences in Haiti have enhanced his ability to teach disaster response skills to his students.



But before they left, Martsolf received word at the embassy about the fate of the nursing school she had worked so hard to start: Not only was it intact, but the student nurses were hard at work, seeing 500 patients a day.

Many of those students had grown up without running water or electricity; when she arrived at the school, which had opened five years ago, Martsolf's hope was to transform them into internationally qualified nurses.

there and it's dusty and dirty, and there are 10 people who are waiting in line to be treated and another 10 being treated."

However, he points out that nurses who work in emergency situations do tend to thrive under pressure or they would switch specialties.

"Those of us who work in the ER and respond to disaster, we're adrenaline junkies. We crave that kind of response," he says. "When you're actually in it—and you're smelling the diesel fumes and the dust that you know is contaminated with feces, and you're treating people on the ground with limited equipment, and there's no such thing as lab tests or anything else down there, and you spend eight days sleeping on a cot under mosquito netting—the romance fades."

The day of the earthquake, she had just arrived at the airport in Port-au-Prince and was standing outside when the earthquake struck.

"My husband noticed that the windows in the airport were sucked in and came back out again," she says.

Not knowing what else to do, they and their driver made their way a few miles up a hill from the airport toward their hotel. Finding it intact, they met up with about 14 other Americans and tried to figure out their next move.

In the days that followed, Martsolf—who chairs the Family and Mental Health Division at the Kent State University College of Nursing—helped to treat earthquake victims as best she could, enduring aftershocks and pavement slick with blood.

Finally, they went to the U.S. embassy, where they were eventually evacuated by the U.S. Air Force after agreeing to abandon their luggage.

The disaster proved that "they are empowered young adults," says Martsolf. "If I don't get to do anything else with my nursing career ever, the fact that I was able to get that school up and running with my colleagues was well worth it."

Beach believes that his experiences in Haiti and with other deployments have enhanced his ability to teach disaster response skills to his students.

"It's one thing to be able to talk about the incident command system, or how you do triage, or how you treat in that austere environment," he says. "But it's another thing to be able to describe circumstances where you are just sitting

He recalls the day that the team received orders to return to the United States. He packed up his gear, and the team met for one last time.

"I took one of the Cuban cigars that I bought and I wandered down to the landing zone area and just sat back overlooking the refugee camp," Beach says. "I just started thinking about the interpreters and the patients. It was really hard, knowing that I wasn't going to be able to be there for them. That was pretty rough."



# Student Responds to Haitian Orphans Who Came to Pittsburgh

When a group of more than 50 orphaned children left homeless by the earthquake in Haiti were flown to Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh nursing student Teresa Hagan was among the volunteers who coordinated efforts to give them medical care the minute they arrived.



Hagan, a second-degree accelerated student at the School of Nursing, had been to Haiti previously with a medical mission group. So when a Pitt community relations employee approached her about helping the orphans, she jumped at the chance.

The children had been living in an orphanage run by two sisters from Pittsburgh who appealed for help from their hometown when their facility was destroyed by January's quake. Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell intervened, and the children were brought to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

The hospital needed help from people who already had state and criminal clearances to work with the children. Figuring that some nursing students probably fit the bill, Hagan began sending out e-mails asking for volunteers for one- or two-hour shifts.

"Within hours, there were more than 100 people who responded and said, 'Yes, anytime, we will take the 2 a.m. shift; we'll take any shift,'" says Hagan.

The volunteers performed basic triage on the children. Hagan, who speaks French and some Haitian Creole, spent time in a "comfort room" the hospital had assembled where children had blankets, food, toys, and mats.

"It was pretty incredible. I think everyone was in a state of shock—most of the kids, the caregivers, and the volunteers," she says. "It was mentally and spiritually very difficult. As nurses, we know how to interact with someone one on one, but it was exhausting to do."

As a second-degree accelerated student, Hagan can take anywhere from 18 to 20 credits a term. She was inspired to study nursing after traveling to Madagascar when she was still pursuing her original degree in anthropology. "That's where I was really exposed to issues involving global health disparity," she says.

Though she initially took a corporate job as a business analyst, she began talking with nurse practitioners and family friends who were nurses and

thought: "This is what I need—to care for the whole human person."

She sees nursing as an extension of the education she received in anthropology.

"Really, anthropology is the study of man," she says, "and nursing is the study of the human body. So you're thinking about the body not just physically but spiritually and psychologically. You have to think about the whole person who is sitting in that bed. A nurse has to be assessing things at all times and responding to them appropriately."

Currently, Hagan is thinking about oncology and pediatrics as possible practice areas, though she may continue her education to pursue a doctorate and a career in research.

"I never thought about nurses leading research," she says. "But now I'm coming to see that in the past 10 or 15 years, nurses have really started having an impact on their own practice. I want to be a part of that and leading that."



# Making a Difference: The Hoffman Family

Scholarship and research support are vital for all students—especially those who pursue careers in the health sciences. Thanks to two faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh, students in the School of Nursing and School of Dental Medicine have the opportunity to pursue their academic dreams with less financial burden.

Most faculty members recognize the significance of scholarships and funding to support research projects, but what makes Leslie Hoffman, PhD, FAAN and R. Donald Hoffman, DMD, PhD, unique is that philanthropy, for them, is a family thing. These two extraordinary health care leaders are brother and sister. Leslie and Don Hoffman grew up in Bedford County, 100 miles east of Pittsburgh. They watched as their father, a veterinarian, and their uncle, a native of nearby Adams County, established trusts to make a difference in their hometowns.

“Our father created a trust through the Pittsburgh Foundation to help Bedford and Fulton County high school graduates from farm families attend a college or a trade school. He valued all types of education,” says Leslie Hoffman.

“Our uncle set up a \$7.2 million trust in Adams County to support many things, from historical to cultural to health care,” Don Hoffman explains. Impressed by the impact of these gifts, the Hoffman siblings decided to help students at the schools where they’ve taught for many years.

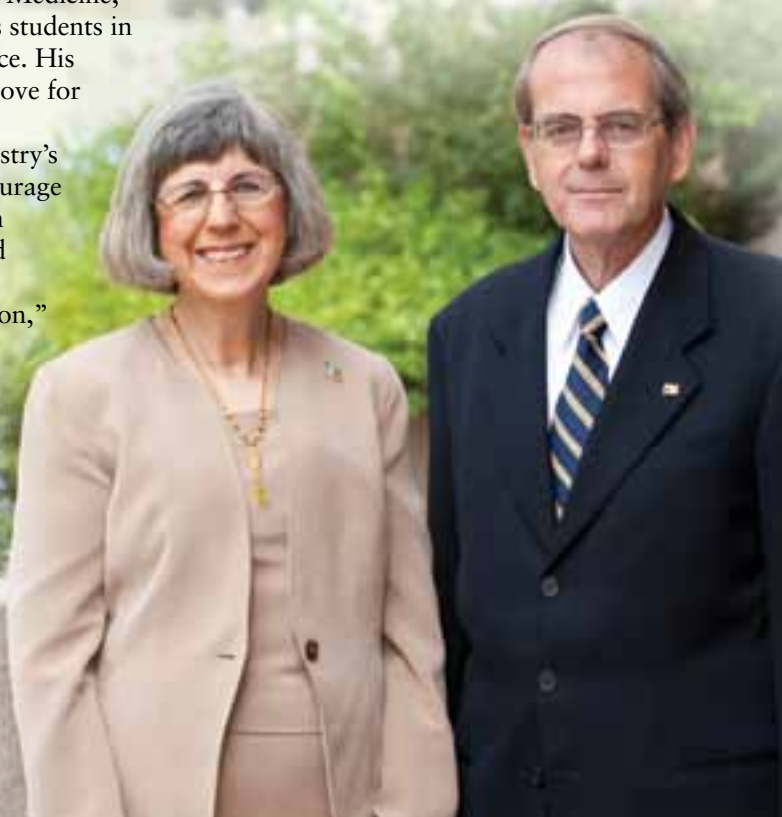
Leslie Hoffman, a professor in the School of Nursing’s Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, teaches doctoral and undergraduate courses and mentors students with research interests in

critical care, pulmonary nursing, and nursing administration. On the occasion of her 60th birthday, former and current students along with colleagues honored her commitment to the School of Nursing by creating a research scholarship in her name—the Leslie A. Hoffman Endowed Acute Care Nursing Research Fund. “This was such a nice way for them to perpetuate funding for the pulmonary specialty—something that’s near and dear to my heart,” she says. “We have many wonderful scholarships at the School of Nursing, but this is the first that is research based, and that’s something I am really proud of.” She also is a contributor to this fund which supports PhD student and nursing alumni research.

As associate dean for education and curriculum and associate professor at the School of Dental Medicine, Don Hoffman educates students in restorative dental science. His scholarship blends his love for his hometown with the respect he has for dentistry’s future. “I want to encourage young men and women originally from Bedford County to come to Pitt for their dental education,” he says. “And, in doing so, I want to encourage them to take what they’ve learned here and return to Bedford County to offer quality dentistry to that community.”

Both Leslie and Don Hoffman are proud to assist students through their scholarships. “The research award in the School of Nursing may be modest in terms of how large National Institutes of Health funding can be,” Leslie Hoffman explains, “but having this support can provide pilot data for a project funded on a larger scale.”

“Pitt has an excellent quality of education for students,” Don Hoffman says, “and through this scholarship, I can contribute to their futures.” The generosity of this brother and sister enables students at the School of Nursing and School of Dental Medicine to have the financial support necessary to achieve their academic goals today and make a difference as health care professionals tomorrow.



# From Migrant Worker to Professor: A Role Model of Perseverance

When Luevonue Lincoln was a young girl, she spent her summers traveling the East Coast as a migrant worker with her parents and four sisters, picking beans, strawberries, and potatoes to help the family make ends meet.

“We did that from about the time I was 9 until went to college,” recalls Lincoln, who went on to earn a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing in 1982. “And then I didn’t have to go again, thank God. That was hard work.”



The above photo of Luevonue Lincoln and four of her sisters was taken in 1949 at a work camp outside Rockfield Springs, N.Y. (Pictured from left to right: Luevonue, Estella, Sallie, Harma, and Florence Mims.) The gentleman in the back row is “Reverend Rice,” a Methodist minister who came from Richfield Springs each week to teach Sunday school and conduct church services. Rice also brought books and games for the children. Photo at right: Luevonue and Eugene Lincoln





Lincoln (PhD '82, MSN '78) was fortunate in that her parents valued education enough that they did not take their daughters out of school to work in the fields; of the five girls, three attended college, and two of Lincoln's sisters have master's degrees.

"The one thing I would say about my dad: When it was time to go to school, we went to school," says Lincoln. "We didn't work. That was a blessing for us."

It was on the migrant worker circuit that she met her husband, Eugene, whom she has known since the sixth grade. Married for 53 years, they both achieved success beyond anything they could have imagined as children.

Lincoln was raised in Belle Glade, Fla., where she attended the same small school from kindergarten through 12th grade. She credits her teachers, who

well understood the plight of migrant workers, with helping her to work toward her dream of becoming a nurse. Her principal helped her to access funding available to educate nursing students if they agreed to repay each year of tuition with a year of service caring for tuberculosis patients at one of the state's regional hospitals.

It was while she was completing her service obligation that Lincoln met an older doctor who, impressed with her skill, encouraged her to attend graduate school. He wrote her a reference letter and helped her to find tuition assistance, and she, Eugene, and their young son packed their belongings into a single U-Haul trailer and headed off to Indiana, where Lincoln earned a master's degree in nursing education and Eugene earned a master's and a doctorate in education. The couple spent a few years teaching at Kentucky State University before moving to the

University of Pittsburgh, where Lincoln earned a Master of Nursing degree in 1978.

While Eugene taught, Lincoln worked as a nurse at what is now UPMC Montefiore, then later at what is now UPMC Mercy. She took the night shift so she could be home when their three sons came home from school.

One of her husband's colleagues suggested that she interview for a teaching position at the School of Nursing. Lincoln got the job, then applied to the PhD program, believing that the advanced training would help her with her new career in academia.

"It was really a wonderful experience for me. I loved seeing the kids grow and become nurses," she says. "I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be pursuing a doctorate. I thought if I got a bachelor's, I would be set for life, because we didn't have too much."

Eugene went on to law school, and despite their financial struggles, Lincoln was able to get grants and loans to carry her through her dissertation. She credits determination and faith with carrying her through the program. She graduated with her PhD at the same time that her oldest son, Darryl, earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

"Once I start something, I have to finish it," she says. "I can't just leave it. My dad used to always say, 'You work hard, and you achieve whatever you try.'"

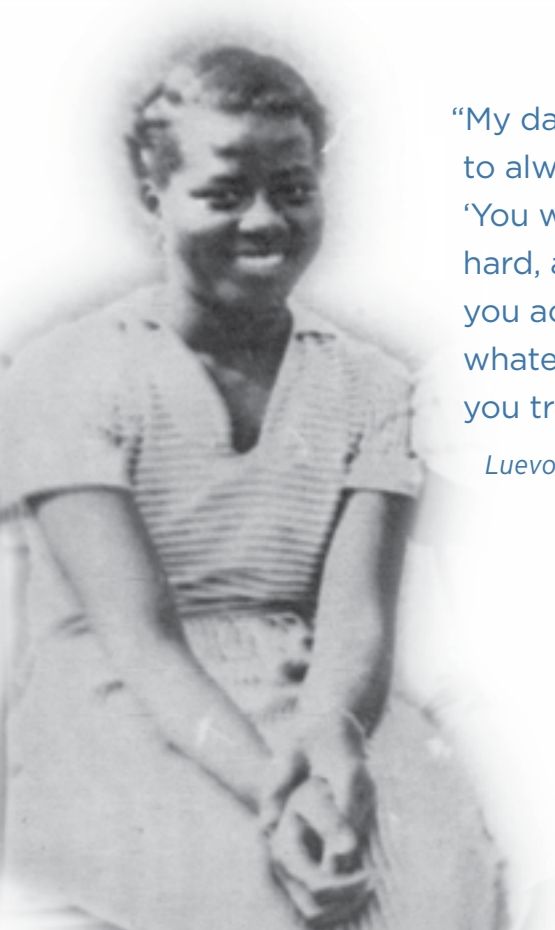
She went on to teach pediatrics and geriatrics as an assistant professor at the School of Nursing, then returned to clinical practice at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System before retiring. All three of her sons—Darryl (ENGR '82), Brian (A&S '90, SIS '02G), and Randal (ENGR '92)—went to Pitt, and Eugene, a practicing attorney, remains on the faculty of Pitt's School of Education.

Though retired, Lincoln remains involved in the Nursing Alumni Society Executive Board, and is a charter member of the African American Nursing Alumni Scholarship Committee. She also has been part of the school's mentorship program and faithfully attends the School of Nursing's traditional pinning ceremony each year serving as an inspiration to young nurses.

"They can see that it's possible for them to get to the doctorate level," she explains. "It means a lot to students to have role models."

"My dad used to always say, 'You work hard, and you achieve whatever you try.'"

*Luevonue Lincoln*





# Continuing Nursing Education



The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing's Department of Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) provides a variety of on campus and online educational activities tailored to promote lifelong learning for professional nurses focusing in the areas of advanced practice, education, leadership, and re-entry into practice. A calendar of scheduled educational activities is available on the School of Nursing Web site, [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu). Click on the link for continuing education. For specific information or questions, call 412-624-3156, or e-mail [conted@pitt.edu](mailto:conted@pitt.edu).

## ON-SITE PROGRAMS

### 2010–11 PHARMACOLOGY UPDATE SERIES

The School of Nursing will launch a monthly pharmacology series providing the latest pharmacology updates along with corresponding clinical practice implications. Fall sessions will be held Saturdays, October 2, November 6, and December 4, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing (Victoria Building).

Three (3) contact hours will be awarded for each session completed. Initial topics to be covered include diabetes, asthma, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. Specific information regarding the series and registration is available on the School of Nursing Web site, [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu).

## ONLINE PROGRAMS

### **NEW!** ELITE: INTRODUCTION TO NURSING INFORMATICS FOR NURSE EDUCATORS

The Emerging Learning and Integrated Technologies (ELITE) Faculty Development Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing enhances the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing faculty in the application of five thematic areas of nursing education: simulated learning, informatics, telehealth, distance education, and learning technologies.

Nurse educators must prepare graduates who can perform effectively in today's rapidly expanding informatics-intensive health care environment. Incorporating informatics content into the undergraduate curriculum remains a challenge for many nursing programs. Designed specifically for nurse educators, this course examines strategies for incorporating informatics concepts into nursing curricula. In addition to basic informatics learning exercises, this course also provides strategies for incorporating informatics content in electronic health records, computerized provider order entry, clinical decision support, and HIPPA. Each module contains resources to help faculty implement these strategies in their programs. Four self-paced CNE modules are available. A maximum of two and a half (2.5) contact hours may be earned by learners who successfully complete this CNE activity. Specific information regarding this activity and registration is available on the School of Nursing Web site.

### THE CLINICAL PRECEPTORSHIP—A BRIDGE BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing realizes that preceptors are a valuable resource to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Preceptors are knowledgeable, experienced nurses who are willing to guide students and add strength to the program. To assist nurses who are acting as preceptors the School of Nursing has developed five (5) self-paced learning activities/modules to enhance a preceptor's skills and enrich their experience. A maximum of five (5) contact hours may be earned by learners who successfully complete all modules.

Topics include:

- Clinical Teaching Skills
- Supervision of Students
- Communication and Conflict Resolution
- Managing the Clinical Environment
- Evaluating the Student

Specific information regarding this activity and registration is available on the School of Nursing Web site.

For more information about any of these continuing nursing education programs, go to [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) and click on the link for Continuing Education.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing nursing education accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC), provider number 206-3-E-06.

# ALUMNI NEWS + NOTES

## 1950s

**Rachel Poole** (BSN '47, MLIT '52), PhD, was the keynote speaker at the School of Nursing's spring graduation ceremony on May 1, 2010, at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

## 1960s

**Judith Strellec Charlson** (BSN '66) and **Ann Lyness** (BSN '66), PhD, had their artwork featured in the third edition of *Nursing, the Finest Art: An Illustrated History* by M. Patricia Donahue, PhD, FAAN.

## 1970s

**Susan A. Albrecht** (BSN '75, MN '78), PhD, FAAN, was invited to the White House in July to discuss health care reform with President Barack Obama. Albrecht, associate professor and associate dean of external relations at the School of Nursing, currently serves as president of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.

**Vicki Lucas** (BSN '77, MNEd '79), PhD, a leader in women's and children's health, is president of Vicki Lucas, LLC. She applies her expertise as a clinician and her knowledge in finance and business to provide a host of services to clients, including strategic planning, process improvement, market research, and facility planning.

**Pearl Friedman Moore** (BSN '68, MN '74), retired chief executive officer of the Oncology Nursing Society, has been selected to serve a two-year term on the Pitt Alumni Association's Alumni Leadership Council, beginning May 2010 and ending June 2012.

**Marilyn Oermann** (MNEd '75), PhD, FAAN, professor and chair of the adult and geriatric health division at the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, recently published a new book with coauthor Judith Hays, PhD. The second edition of *Writing for Publication in Nursing* is Oermann's 19th book and is for beginning and experienced nurse authors who wish to write for publication and for graduate students who are required to write research reports, clinical articles, systematic reviews, and other types of articles. Oermann has authored more than 170 journal articles, chapters, and editorials and is the editor in chief of the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*.

**Lauren M. Saul** (BSN '73), MSN, a cardiovascular clinical nurse specialist at UPMC Shadyside, received the Mary Ann Scully Nursing Award at the American Heart Association 2010 Heart Ball in February. The award is named after the late Mary Ann Scully, who worked for 35 years in cardiac nursing at the former Presbyterian University Hospital in Oakland and was very active in the American Heart Association.

**Terri Weaver** (BSN '73), PhD, FAAN has been appointed dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, effective August 16, 2010. Weaver, recognized for her sleep disorders research, had previously been the Ellen and Robert Kapito Professor in Nursing Science and chair of biobehavioral and health sciences at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

**Holly A. Williams** (BSN '76), PhD, captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and anthropologist/nurse epidemiologist in the International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch of the Centers for Disease



Holly A. Williams

Control and Prevention, was deployed to Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake as the branch chief for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Incident Response Coordination Team (IRCT). She and fellow IRCT members spent 32 days monitoring public health issues for 11 HHS medical and mortuary teams.

## 1980s

**Gail Burcin DeLucia** (BSN '82) is unit director, cardiac procedures, at UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh.

**Linda R. Frank** (MSN '83), PhD, associate professor in the University's Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, received a 2010 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition for her contributions to increasing general knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS. An advocate for human rights, she has testified before Congress and has been funded at major levels by federal and state agencies. Frank serves as principal investigator and project director of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center, headquartered at Pitt.

**Sarah A. Kain** (BSN '77, MSN '87) is a case manager at Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Kain has been honored as a Beckwith fellow, and her

thesis abstract, "Rocking Protocol and Cough Technique," was published in the *American Review of Respiratory Diseases*.

**Yolanda Lang** (MSN '84), DrPH, has been nominated to serve as an on-site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Lang is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing's Department of Acute/Tertiary Care.

**Joyce Alisesky Ott** (MSN '84), DNP, assistant clinical professor



at the Duquesne University School of Nursing, earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in the first cohort of graduates from the Robert Morris University School of Nursing and Health Sciences in May 2010.

**Amy Barry Smith** (BSN '86), vice president, care management, at Forum Health in Youngstown, Ohio, is coauthor of three books on health care management and performance improvement. Her article "Case Management and Care of the Patient with Acute Pancreatitis" was published in the spring 2010 issue of *Collaborative Case Management*. Smith is American Nurses Credentialing Center certified as an adult health clinical nurse specialist and a nurse executive and is American Case Management Association board certified in hospital case management. She earned a master's degree from Gannon University and is currently in the DNP program at Duquesne University.

## 1990s

**Bryan Blanchard** (BSN '97) is a cardiovascular surgery nurse practitioner at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa.



He earned an MSN at Drexel University and is acute care certified.

**Helen K. Burns** (MN '81, PhD '93), FAAN, associate dean for clinical education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, has been promoted to professor.

**Brent A. Dunworth** (BSN '96, MSN '99) has been promoted to senior director for nurse anesthetists at UPP Anesthesiology in Pittsburgh.

**Justin Engleka** (BSN '95), hospice and palliative manager for Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, participated in Think Tank on Aging in America, a panel discussion hosted by Home Instead Senior Care, an international home care franchise organization. Panelists were leaders in the field of aging and topics discussed included navigating the financial and legal process for acquiring benefits for consumers and end-of-life issues.

**Tracy Glenn Floyd** (BSN '91) is a clinical nurse at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Patricia D. Horoho** (MSN '92) has been promoted to U.S. Army deputy surgeon general and also serves as chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Horoho was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate in 2007.

**Diane Johnson** (BSN '97) is project coordinator at Health Care for the Homeless in Pittsburgh. As a team leader/supervisor for a multidisciplinary team working with the homeless, she and her fellow team members were honored with the APA Achievement Award and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Exemplary Program Award. She has been a trainer/consultant in

dialectical behavioral therapy since 1998 and is coauthor of an article, "The Allegheny Initiative for Mental Health Integration for the Homeless: Integrating Heterogeneous Health Services for Homeless Persons," published in the *American Journal of Public Health* in 2007.

**Donna Martsof** (PhD '91), professor of nursing at Kent State University, established a nursing school in Haiti in 2004 and was in Port-au-Prince during the January 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti.

**Teena M. McGuinness** (PhD '98), FAAN, professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, is the Youth in Mind section editor for the *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services*.

**John M. O'Donnell** (MSN '91), DrPH, director and instructor in Pitt School of Nursing's Nurse Anesthesia Program, is the 2010 Cameos of Caring® Nurse Educator awardee from the University of Pittsburgh. He will be formally honored at the 12th annual Cameos of Caring Awards Gala on Saturday, November 6, in the Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

**Helen Seidel** (BSN '90), MSN, a nurse educator in the education department of Altoona Regional Health System, has been appointed to serve on the Continuing Education Reviewer Unit of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

## 2000S

**Erin August** (BSN '03), ventricular assist device (VAD) outreach coordinator at the Seton Medical Center in Austin, Texas, is lecturing on advanced heart failure, VADs, and heart transplants at

Texas A&M University and the University of Texas. She is opening the adult ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) program at Seton Medical Center and will be its first coordinator.

**Patricia A. Bailey** (BSN '05) is a certified registered ophthalmology nurse at Ophthalmic Associates in Johnstown, Pa. She also is a certified surgical technologist.

**Pei-Ying Chuang** (PhD '08) has accepted a research fellow position at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Intramural Research Program as a research fellow in the Brain Injury Unit. This is a newly formed group actively collaborating in the joint NIH-USU Center for Neurosciences and Regenerative Medicine studying traumatic brain injury in civilians and military personnel.

**Laura Fennimore** (MSN '87, DNP '09) is the director of clinical operations at UPMC Health Plan in Pittsburgh. Her professional affiliations include the Oncology Nursing Society, where she serves as treasurer of its Board of Directors.

**Kathy Oare Lindell** (BSN '82, MSN '87, PhD '07) has been named chair of the newly formed Patient and Family Education Committee of the American Thoracic Society, a 15,000-member professional organization.

**Robert Lorah** (BSN '00, MSN '04) was named 2010 Clinical Instructor of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Lorah competed with entrants from Pennsylvania's 13 nurse anesthesia programs.

**Lisa Kinsella Militello** (BSN '99, MSN '01), MPH, is a PNP project manager at Loyola

University Chicago, where she also is a PhD student.

**Courtney Zedreck Proie** (BSN '05) earned an MSN degree at Robert Morris University in May 2010.

**Melanie B. Shatzer** (BSN '91, MSN '97, DNP '09) is director of academic service partnerships at UPMC.

**Penny S. Shaw** (BSN '05) is a research nurse for infectious diseases (MTN clinical trials) in Pittsburgh and has earned clinical research coordinator certification.

**Jamie Thompson** (BSN '05) is a registered nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of California, San Francisco, Benioff Children's Hospital.

**Kelly Wier** (BSN '05) has worked as a heart transplant coordinator at Tampa General Hospital and currently is pursuing a master's degree in nurse anesthesia at the University of South Florida.

**Kristine Keefer Wolff** (BSN '93, MSN '00), clinical director of professional support services and the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program at UPMC Presbyterian, was featured in the "Life Member Spotlight" of the June 2010 issue of the Pitt Alumni Association's online newsletter, *Inside the Hall*. Wolff currently is a doctoral student in Pitt's DNP program.

## 2010S

**Ted Gavel** (MSN '10) was named 2010 Student of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Gavel competed with entrants from Pennsylvania's 13 nurse anesthesia programs.

## In Memoriam



### University, School Lose Valued Friend

The passing of University of Pittsburgh alumnus William J. Cully, a 1949 graduate of Pitt's School of Arts & Sciences, on June 5, 2010, saddened many within the Pitt community. His extraordinary and ongoing commitment to his beloved alma mater spanned decades and was marked with dedicated service and widespread philanthropy.

A World War II veteran and president of United Plate Glass

Company, Inc. in Butler, Pa., Cully was involved with the Pitt Alumni Association and contributed to the renovation of Alumni Hall. He was a longtime supporter of Pitt athletics through Team Pittsburgh

as well as of the Pitt band. His connection to the School of Nursing was due to a strong commitment to helping his friend, J. Roger Glunt, fundraise on behalf of the Nancy Glunt Hoffman Memorial Fund. Cully donated the glass awards presented to the winning foursomes in the annual golf outing to benefit this effort. He also shared his business expertise through service on the School of Nursing's Volunteer Advisory Committee for the University's capital campaign. In 2008, Cully was named an honorary alumnus of the School of Nursing, and most recently, he was honored by the Pitt Alumni Association with its 2010 Bill Baierl Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Preceded in death by his wife, Nancy, Cully leaves behind a brother, two sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. Donations may be made in his memory to the University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing, Nancy Glunt Hoffman Memorial Fund, 218 Victoria Building, 3500 Victoria Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Checks may be made payable to University of Pittsburgh.

**Shirley M. Baum**  
(BAS '80)  
July 14, 2010

**Marjorie Pierre Bryzana**  
(BUN '55)  
June 28, 2010

**Mark R. DeCarolis**  
(BSN '08)  
July 26, 2010

**Michael E. Doyle**  
(MSN '08)  
August 2, 2009

**Shirley Herwick Gutermuth**  
(BSNEd '56)  
December 19, 2009

**Gloria Sorrentino Hope**  
(MA '63) PhD  
January 7, 2010

**Elizabeth L. Lawton**  
(BSN '44)

**Doris J. Urquhart Mikell**  
(BSN '57, MSN '81)  
March 26, 2010

**Veronica M. Oravec**  
(BSN '60)  
November 12, 2009

**Samson T. Paguia**  
(BSN '96)  
May 31, 2010

**Jane Bossert Schwab**  
(BSN '60)  
July 29, 2009

**Constance A. Settlemyer**  
(BSN '66, MSN '70), PhD  
February 12, 2010

**Catherine Turek Shaffer**  
(BSN '60)  
May 18, 2006

**Lois Lee South**  
(MNEd '63), PhD  
December 11, 2009

**Ursula J. Wohleber**  
(BSNEd '49)  
December 14, 2009

## Nursing Alumni Society Executive Committee Going Global!

With the help of technology, the Nursing Alumni Society Executive Committee is pleased to invite alumni from all parts of the world to get involved!

Alumni can "attend" three or four virtual meetings annually and assist with the Nursing Alumni Society's goals of maintaining connections with nearly 12,000 alumni and building relationships with current students, the school's future alumni.

Because 2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, a call is out to all nursing alumni to join with us and become part of the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee. It's only four years away and there's much to do!

We want to hear from you! Please contact Joan Nock at jno100@pitt.edu or 412-624-2404. You are part of our history. Your help is needed to continue the work of the Nursing Alumni Society and to make our 75th Anniversary a celebration that will pay tribute to the extraordinary legacy of Pitt nursing.





## School of Nursing Hosts Alumni at Petersen Events Center

Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob welcomed alumni guests to the courtside suite at the Petersen Events Center on February 2, when the Pitt women's basketball team took on Syracuse University. It was a fun-filled evening that included a visit from Head Coach Agnus Berenato, who provided pregame highlights and game strategy.



At center court for the game ball presentation are (left to right): Roc, the Pitt Panther; Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob; Shirley Powe Smith (BSN '59), MNEd, PhD; and Smith's husband, Robert Preston Smith, A&S, DEN.

## Pitt Nursing Alumni among 2010 Class of American Academy of Nursing Fellows



Congratulations to the following Pitt School of Nursing alumni who are part of the American Academy of Nursing's fellows Class of 2010 and who will be inducted in Washington, D.C. on November 13.

**Gerene Bauldoff** (MSN '93, PhD '01), Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing, Ohio State University College of Nursing

**Annette DeVito-Dabbs** (PhD '03), Associate Professor and Interim Vice Chair, Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

**Linda Frank** (MSN '83), PhD, ACRN, Associate Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

**Janet Grady** (MSN '89) DrPH, Vice President for Academic Affairs (Interim), University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

**Debra Wujcik** (BSN '77, MSN '82) PhD, Associate Professor of Nursing, Director of Clinical Trials at Meharry, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

The Class of 2010—116 strong—is the largest class to be inducted since 2002.

## Upcoming Events

### Homecoming Weekend 2010

October 28–31, 2010

Visit [www.alumni.pitt.edu](http://www.alumni.pitt.edu) for complete information.

### School of Nursing 50 Year + Luncheon (by invitation only)

(Classes of 1945, 1950, 1955, and 1960)

Friday, October 29, 2010

Noon

Victoria Building, First-floor Lobby

### Alumni Program and Homecoming Tea

Friday, October 29, 2010

2 p.m.

Victoria Building, First-floor Lobby

(See page 26 for complete details.)

### Cameos of Caring® Awards Gala

Saturday, November 6, 2010

David L. Lawrence Convention Center,

Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

### School of Nursing 75th Anniversary Celebration (1939–2014)

January–December 2014

We will be celebrating throughout 2014 with a variety of activities. Please consider joining the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee in celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2014. Contact Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Joan Nock at 412-624-2404 or [jno100@pitt.edu](mailto:jno100@pitt.edu).

# Homecoming 2010

As part of the University of Pittsburgh's 2010 Homecoming Weekend, all School of Nursing alumni are cordially invited to the

## Alumni Program and Homecoming Tea

on  
Friday, October 29, 2010,  
beginning  
at 2 p.m.

in the  
Victoria Building, First-floor Lobby.

**Registration Fee: \$15/person**  
**RSVP by Friday, October 22, 2010**

Alumni from classes ending in 0 and 5 will be recognized as milestone reunion groups.

2010 Distinguished and Honorary Alumni will be honored.

Park at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum or the O'Hara Parking Garage. (Shuttle service will be available.)

The registration form is available online at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) or below.

For complete University Homecoming 2010 details, visit [www.alumni.pitt.edu](http://www.alumni.pitt.edu).

With questions, contact Joan Nock at 412-624-2404, toll-free at 1-866-217-1124, or by e-mail at [jno100@pitt.edu](mailto:jno100@pitt.edu).

### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class year: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests @ \$15 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I also would like to make a donation to the Class Gift Program\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I can't attend but would like to make a donation to the Class Gift Program\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Alumni marking reunions in 2010 are invited to make donations in any amount to the School of Nursing's Class Gift Program in honor of their milestone celebrations. Indicate your class year on your check's memo line when directing a gift to the University of Pittsburgh for this program and include with your Alumni Program and Homecoming Tea registration.\**

Make checks payable to University of Pittsburgh and mail by October 22, 2010, to:

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing  
Joan Nock  
218 Victoria Building  
3500 Victoria Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
Phone: 412-624-2404, E-mail: [jno100@pitt.edu](mailto:jno100@pitt.edu)

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Nursing

## 50 Year+ Luncheon

*(by invitation only)*

*Alumni marking reunions of 50 or more years in 2010 will be Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob's special guests*

*at the*

*second annual*

**50 Year + Luncheon\***

*at noon on*

**Friday, October 29, 2010,**

*in the*

*Victoria Building, First-floor Lobby,  
3500 Victoria Street, Oakland.*

\*This complimentary luncheon will honor nursing alumni who graduated in 1945, 1950, 1955, and 1960.

**RSVP by October 22, 2010,  
to Joan Nock at 412-624-2404  
or [jno100@pitt.edu](mailto:jno100@pitt.edu).**





## Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships Available in Cancer, Technology, and Genetics

### New Grant for Interdisciplinary Training of Nurse Scientists in Cancer Survivorship Research

Catherine M. Bender (MSN '79, PhD '94), FAAN, associate professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems recently was awarded an Institutional Training Program grant (T32) in cancer survivorship from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The goal of this training grant, Interdisciplinary Training of Nurse Scientists in Cancer Survivorship Research (5T32NR011972-02), is to prepare nurse scientists to lead independent programs of theory-based research in cancer survivorship that:

- evaluate physical, psychological and social responses to cancer and cancer therapy over time, including the biologic basis for these responses, precipitating/enhancing factors and effects of these responses and
- develop interventions that prevent and manage negative responses to cancer and cancer treatment, which ultimately will improve quality of life.

This grant will support both predoctoral and postdoctoral nurse trainees in cancer survivorship research, providing full tuition, an annual stipend, and research support.

### Institutional Training Grants in Technology and Genetics

Technology-supported Interventions to Improve Outcomes in Critical and Chronic Care (TR32 NR008856) is led by Judith Erlen (BSN '66) MSN, PhD, FAAN, professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, PhD doctoral program coordinator, and associate director in the Center for Research in Chronic Disorders.

Targeted Research and Academic Training of Nurses in Genomics (TR32 TR009759) is led by Yvette Conley (PhD '99, MS '93), associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development.

One of NINR's premiere training grants for early-career scientists, the T32 Program enables institutions with schools of nursing to make NIH National Research Service Awards to individuals for predoctoral and postdoctoral research training.

Pitt is the only school of nursing in the country that has a T32 in oncology and the only school to have three T32s.

Visit our Web site for more information about any of these training grants, or contact the Department of Student Services at [sao50@pitt.edu](mailto:sao50@pitt.edu) or 1-888-747-0794.

## Degrees Offered at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

The school offers four degree programs.

- **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)**
    - Second-degree accelerated students
    - RN Options (RN to BSN) with early admission to Master of Science in nursing
  - **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Nurse Practitioner**
    - Acute Care
    - Adult
    - Family
    - Neonatal
    - Pediatric
    - Psychiatric Primary Care
  - **Clinical Nurse Specialist**
    - Medical-Surgical
    - Psychiatric Mental Health
  - **Nurse Anesthesia**
  - **Advanced Specialty Role**
    - Nursing Administration
    - Clinical Nurse Leader, online or on campus
    - Nursing Informatics
  - **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)**
    - All of the above majors and areas of concentration except the Clinical Nurse Leader and Informatics are offered at both the master's and DNP levels.
    - The post-master's DNP (MSN to DNP) completion program and the Clinical Nurse Leader area of concentration are offered online and on campus.
    - The MSN to DNP completion program also is offered on campus, along with the postbaccalaureate (BSN to DNP and BSN to PhD) options.
  - **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)**
- Minors and certificates are also available.
- **Minors**
    - Students in the Master of Science in nursing programs may elect to obtain a minor in an advanced specialty role by taking 12 credits of prescribed course work.
  - **Post-Master's Certificate Programs**
    - Certificate options are available in the following areas for students who wish to add another specialty to their original master's degree:
      - Health Care Genetics
      - Nursing Education
      - Neonatal Practitioner
      - Nursing Informatics
      - School Nurse

## Faculty Grants and Awards



Susan Albrecht

**Susan Albrecht** (BSN '75, MN '78), PhD, FAAN, associate professor and associate dean for external relations, received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant for her project, Nurse Faculty Loan Program, from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

**Michael Beach** (MSN '01, '02; DNP '09), assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, published a book, *Disaster Preparedness and Management*. Beach also received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program to expand the capacity of accelerated baccalaureate programs.



Michael Beach

**Catherine M. Bender** (MN '79, PhD '94), FAAN, associate professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, was recently awarded a T32 grant for "Interdisciplinary Training of Nurse Scientists in Cancer Survivorship Research" by the National Institute of Nursing Research, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



Catherine M. Bender

**Lora Burke** (PhD '97), BSN, MPH, FAAN, professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, began a two-year term as chair of the American Heart Association Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism (NPAM) on June 30, 2010. The NPAM Council has a multidisciplinary membership that is focused on research and practice pertaining to nutrition, exercise and physical activity, metabolism, lipidology, and behavioral science. Burke also has been appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Clinical and Integrative Diabetes and Obesity study section of NIH.



Lora Burke

**Helen K. Burns** (MN '81, PhD '93), FAAN, professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems and associate dean for clinical education, was recently voted to the Excelsa Health Board of Trustees, a group of community leaders who serve without compensation and contribute their time and expertise to govern Excelsa Health, a community asset. Burns also was appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) Act Review Committee, which was established by Act 89 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1986 and reauthorized by Act 3 of 2009. The primary mission of PHC4 is the collection and dissemination of information on the cost and quality of health care in Pennsylvania.



Helen K. Burns

**Marilyn Davies** (BSN '70, MN '77), PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, received a Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence grant for her Innovation in Education proposal, "Developing a Video Resource to Enhance the Learning of Essential Nursing Competencies for Genetics and Genomics." Davies also received a grant from Sigma Theta Tau International for "A Computer-based Assessment That Generates a Risk Profile for Childhood Obesity" and a Central Research Development Fund grant for her project, Providing Health Information to Caregivers from Low-income Households Who Have Preschoolers at Risk for Obesity.



Marilyn Davies

**Heidi S. Donovan**, MS, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received the Community Service Award from the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association District 6 at its general membership meeting in Pittsburgh. Donovan was selected in recognition of her service in leading nursing students to assess and improve the health of people residing in Oakland. Donovan also received a Community Partners Award from Community Human Services Corporation.



Heidi S. Donovan

**Willa Doswell**, MA, PhD, FAAN, associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, received a grant from the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Community-Based Participatory Research Program for her proposal, "A Parish Nurse Intervention Model: The Wilkensburg Community Initiative to Reduce Behavioral Health Disparities in Women."



Willa Doswell

**Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob**, BSN, MSN, PhD, FAAN, professor and dean of the School of Nursing, was recognized as an inaugural inductee into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. In addition, Dunbar-Jacob received funding from CTSI to support a nurse practitioner practice-based research network.



Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob

**Janet Grady** (MSN '89), BA, DrPH, associate professor and interim vice president for academic affairs at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, received a grant from the Lee Initiatives Health and Wellness Endowment, a Johnstown, Pa., community foundation, to implement a program titled Caregiver Education, Training, and Advocacy. The grant will support the purchase of equipment for the nursing lab at the Johnstown campus as well as provide resources in support of local community members caring for elderly family



Janet Grady





Margaret S. Hannan

in their homes. Grady also received the 2010 Outstanding Contribution to Telehealth Nursing Award from the American Telemedicine Association's Telehealth Nursing Special Interest Group during its conference.

**Margaret S. Hannan** (MSN '01, PhD '07), assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, received a grant from the International Transplant Nurses Society for her project, Adolescent Female Liver Transplant Patients' Perspectives of Reproductive Health Communication.



Mary Beth Happ

**Mary Beth Happ**, BS, MSN, PhD, FAAN, professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received the 2010 Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) John A. Hartford Geriatric Nursing Practice Research Award. The award was presented at the ENRS 22nd Annual Scientific Sessions on March 25, 2010. Happ also received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative for "SPEACS-2: Improving Patient Communication and Quality Outcomes in the ICU." The copincipal investigator is Amber Barnato, MD, MPH, MS, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In addition, Happ received a grant from the Greenwall Foundation Kornfeld Program in Bioethics and Patient Care for a companion study, Patient Participation in Treatment Decisions Before and After a Program to Facilitate Patient Communication in the ICU.



Rosemary Hoffmann

**Rosemary Hoffmann** (BSN '77, MSN '83), PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received funding through the Dick Thornburgh Academic Support Grant program. Hoffmann wrote a proposal to use the Dick Thornburgh Papers in her course Leadership, Health Care Policy, and Finance and submitted a small grant for faculty to incorporate the Dick Thornburgh Papers in health policy courses.



Marilyn Hravnak

**Marilyn Hravnak** (MSN '83, PhD '00), BSN, FAAN, professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, was selected to be a member of the national task force developing the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Competencies. Headed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in collaboration with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Competencies will complement the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist competencies already developed.

**Julius Kitutu**, MEd, MEd, PhD, MSc, assistant dean for student services, received an ARRA grant for "Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students" from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and an HRSA grant for "Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship."

**Ann M. Mitchell**, PhD, FAAN, associate professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, received a Fulbright lecturing/research award in Oman for the 2010-11 academic year. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is the government's flagship international exchange program. The core Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 faculty and professionals abroad each year to lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

**Michael W. Neft**, BSN, MSN, DNP, assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, was selected to serve as the chair of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' Professional Practice Committee, effective September 1, 2010. Neft also was named 2010 Didactic Instructor of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Neft competed with entrants from Pennsylvania's 13 nurse anesthesia programs.

**John M. O'Donnell** (MSN '91), DrPH, associate professor and director of and instructor in the nurse anesthesia program in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, has been named a 2010 Cameos of Caring Nurse Educator awardee by the School of Nursing. O'Donnell will be honored at the 12th Annual Cameos of Caring Awards Gala on Saturday, November 6, 2010. O'Donnell also received an HRSA grant for a nurse anesthetist traineeship program.

**Elizabeth Schlenk**, BSN, MA, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, was awarded an RO1 grant from NIH for her project, Promoting Physical Activity in Older Adults with Comorbidities.

**Gail Wolf**, BSN, MSN, PhD, FAAN, professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received a Nursing Excellence in Teaching and Technology Award for her project, The Virtual Hospital: A Simulation for Healthy Decision Making. Her innovative idea was in the design of a method for students to experience real-life problems facing health care leaders as well as providing an opportunity for students to experiment with solutions without performance risk and explore multiple solutions to highly complex issues.



John M. O'Donnell



Elizabeth Schlenk



Gail Wolf

## Transitions



Richard Henker

**Marnie Burkett** (BSN '90), MSN, joined the Department of Health Promotion and Development as a part-time instructor.

**Heidi S. Donovan**, MS, PhD, was promoted to associate professor (with tenure) in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care.

**Janet Grady** (MSN '89), BA, DrPH, was appointed interim vice president for academic affairs at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

**Lois Harder**, PhD, joined the Department of Health and Community Systems as an assistant professor.

**Richard Henker** (MSN '02), PhD, FAAN, was promoted to professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care.

**Julius Kitutu**, MEd, MEd, PhD, MSc, was promoted to assistant dean for student services.



Julius Kitutu

**Lisa Kreashko** (BSN '83, MSN '06) joined the Department of Health Promotion and Development as an instructor.

**Jean Ruiz**, MA, CCRN, CNE, joined the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care as a part-time instructor.

**Paula Sherwood**, BSN, MSN, PhD, was promoted to associate professor (with tenure) in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care.

**Katya Stoycheva**, MSN, MBA, joined the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, as a part-time instructor.

**Susan Wesmiller** (BSN '77, MSN '83, PhD '10) joined the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care as an assistant professor.

**David Williams**, MSN, joined the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care as a part-time instructor.



Paula Sherwood

## Student Awards and Honors

**Mandy Bell** (BSN '05), graduate student in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, received a grant from Sigma Theta Tau International for her project, Genomics of Endoglin Pathway in Preeclampsia.

**Grace Campbell** (BSN '94), MSW, John A. Hartford Foundation Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity doctoral student in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received a grant from the NIH for her project, Post-stroke Cognition as a Fall Predictor during Inpatient Rehabilitation.

**JiYeon Choi** (PhD '08), MN, postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received a grant from the Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation for her project, Caregivers of Persons on Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation: Mind-Body Interaction Model.

**Joseph Dailey** (BSN '06, MSN '10), anesthesia student, received a scholarship to attend the 2010 Assembly of School Faculty of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in San Antonio, Texas. Dailey was one of 20 Student Anesthetist Scholarship winners selected from 108 nurse anesthesia programs in the United States.

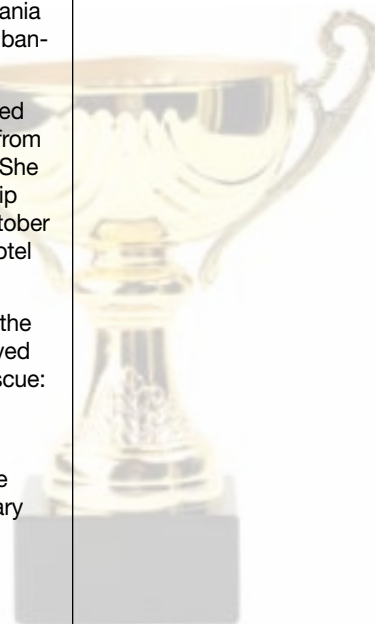
**Andrea Rogers Fischl**, T32 postdoctoral student in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, received a Dartmouth Fellowship to the 2010 Summer Health Policy Institute.

**Kathleen Hopkins**, T32 graduate student in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, will receive the 2010 Pauline Thompson Clinical Nursing Research Award at the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association annual awards banquet on October 28, 2010.

**Julie Muckle**, anesthesia student, received the 2010 Advanced Degree Scholarship from the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania. She will be honored with four other scholarship recipients at the 21st Annual Gala on October 22, 2010, at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center in Camp Hill, Pa.

**Lora Ott** (MSN '95), graduate student in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received an F31 grant from NIH for "Failure to Rescue: Patient Instability in the Radiology Department."

**Jill Radtke** (BSN '05, MSN '10), graduate student in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, received an F31 grant from NIH for "Breast-feeding the Late Preterm Infant: A Grounded Theory Study."



Correction: On pages 18–20 in the last issue, grants received by Catherine Bender, Pei-Ying Chuang, Yvette Conley, Willa Doswell, and Margaret Rosenzweig should have been identified as coming from the Oncology Nursing Society Foundation.



## National Presentations

**Amanda Botscheller** (BSN '10) and students **Brittany C. Cook** and **Feng Guo** are coauthors of an abstract titled "Perceived Barriers of Diabetes Management among a Sample of Predominantly African American Adolescent Females with Diabetes," which they presented at the Cleveland Clinic's sixth annual Nursing Research Conference on May 6, 2010. Their copresenter was School of Nursing faculty member **Denise Charron-Prochownik**, PhD, CRNP, FAAN. Botscheller also is coauthor of a journal article titled, "Impact of Preconception Counseling for Teens with Type 1 Diabetes (READY-Girls) on Patient-Provider Interaction, Resource Utilization, and Cost" which was published in the April issue of *Diabetes Care*. Coauthors include School of Nursing faculty members **Charron-Prochownik**; **Margaret Hannan**, PhD, MSN; and **Susan Sereika**, PhD.

**Brenda Cassidy** (MSN '86, '97), graduate student in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, presented her poster, "HPV Vaccine: A Clinical Protocol to Implement an Evidence-based Education and Reminder Strategy with Parents of Pre-teen Girls," at Sigma Theta Tau International's 21st International Nursing Research Congress July 12–16, 2010 in Orlando, Fla. Her copresenter was School of Nursing faculty member **Elizabeth Schlenk**, PhD.

**Margaret Hari** (BSN '08), graduate student in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, gave a podium presentation of her project, Incidence and Reasons for Readmissions Post Pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD); Blueprint for Patient Education, at the Oncology Nursing Society 35th Annual Congress in San Diego, Calif., May 13–16, 2010. Her copresenter was School of Nursing faculty member **Margaret Rosenzweig** (MSN '86, PhD '01), BSN.

Sophomore **Christina Jolley** presented her abstract "Effects of Physical Conditions in Individuals with Schizophrenia," at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science 2010 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research in Washington, D.C.

## CNL Summit Presentations

Four Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) students and alumni presented their microsystem projects at the January CNL Summit in San Diego, Calif.

**Bonnie Colaianne** (MSN '09) presented "Prevention of Post-op Pneumonia Utilizing Pre-operative Oral Care."

**Vivian Petticord** (MSN '09) presented "Implementation of Bedside Hand-off in a Labor and Delivery Unit Utilizing a Standardized Tool."

**Janet Shade** (BSN '02, MSN '09) presented "Electronic Triage: Transforming an Emergency Department Process."

**Judith A. Tinelli** (BSN '06, MSN '09) presented "Emotional Comfort: Patient Healing Is Both Physical and Emotional."

## NCUR Presentations

Three nursing students presented their faculty-mentored research abstracts at the 2010 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) April 15–17 at the University of Montana.

Senior nursing and University Honors College student **Ellen Kantor** presented "Haptoglobin Genotype and Functional Outcome after Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage." Her mentor was **Sheila A. Alexander** (BSN '89, PhD '04), assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care.

Freshman **Shifa Rishi** presented "The Effect of Yoga on Blood Pressure among Sedentary Adults: A Pilot Study." Her mentor was **Kyeongra Yang**, PhD, MPH, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems.

**Chantiel Umberger** (BSN '09) presented "Predictors of Sexuality Concerns among Ovarian Cancer Survivors." Her mentor was **Heidi S. Donovan**, MS, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care.

The conference draws undergraduate researchers from all over the country and provides students with an invaluable opportunity to present their faculty-mentored work to a national audience. Kantor, Rishi, and Umberger's presentations were selected from more than 2,600 submissions.



## PANA Awards

Please join us in congratulating the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing nurse anesthesia program's 2010 Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) state award winners. Our nominees were selected in competition with entrants from the 12 other programs in Pennsylvania.

**Michael Neft**, MHA, DNP, (left) assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, was selected as Didactic Instructor of the Year.

**Theodore Gavel** (MSN '10), BSN, was selected as Student of the Year.

**Robert Lorah** (BSN '00, MSN '04) (right) was selected as Clinical Instructor of the Year.

## Pitt Schools of the Health Sciences Team Places First in National Competition

A University of Pittsburgh schools of the health sciences team placed first in the CLARION 2010 National Interprofessional Team Case Competition, held at the University of Minnesota on April 9 and 10, 2010.

The competition involves teams of up to four students from at least two health professions. The groups are presented with a hypothetical case scenario that highlights unsafe, less-than-optimal care. They then analyze the situation and propose system changes to prevent the same outcome from occurring again. A panel of judges representing several health professions evaluates each team's presentation based on standards of practice.

The University of Pittsburgh team was one of nine participating in this year's competition. Pitt's team included representatives from the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medicine. Members of the winning team from the School of Nursing were **Maria E. Falcone**, a fourth-year student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, and **Debra Newmeyer Thompson** (BSN '77, MSN '81).

Team members from other schools of the health sciences were **Garrett G. Eggers**, PharmD, first-year student in the combined pharmacy practice management residency, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration



At the CLARION 2010 National Interprofessional Team Case Competition are (left to right) Garrett G. Eggers, Sean A. Tackett, Maria E. Falcone, and Debra J. Thompson

program, School of Pharmacy, and **Sean A. Tackett**, fourth-year student in the Doctor of Medicine program at the School of Medicine.

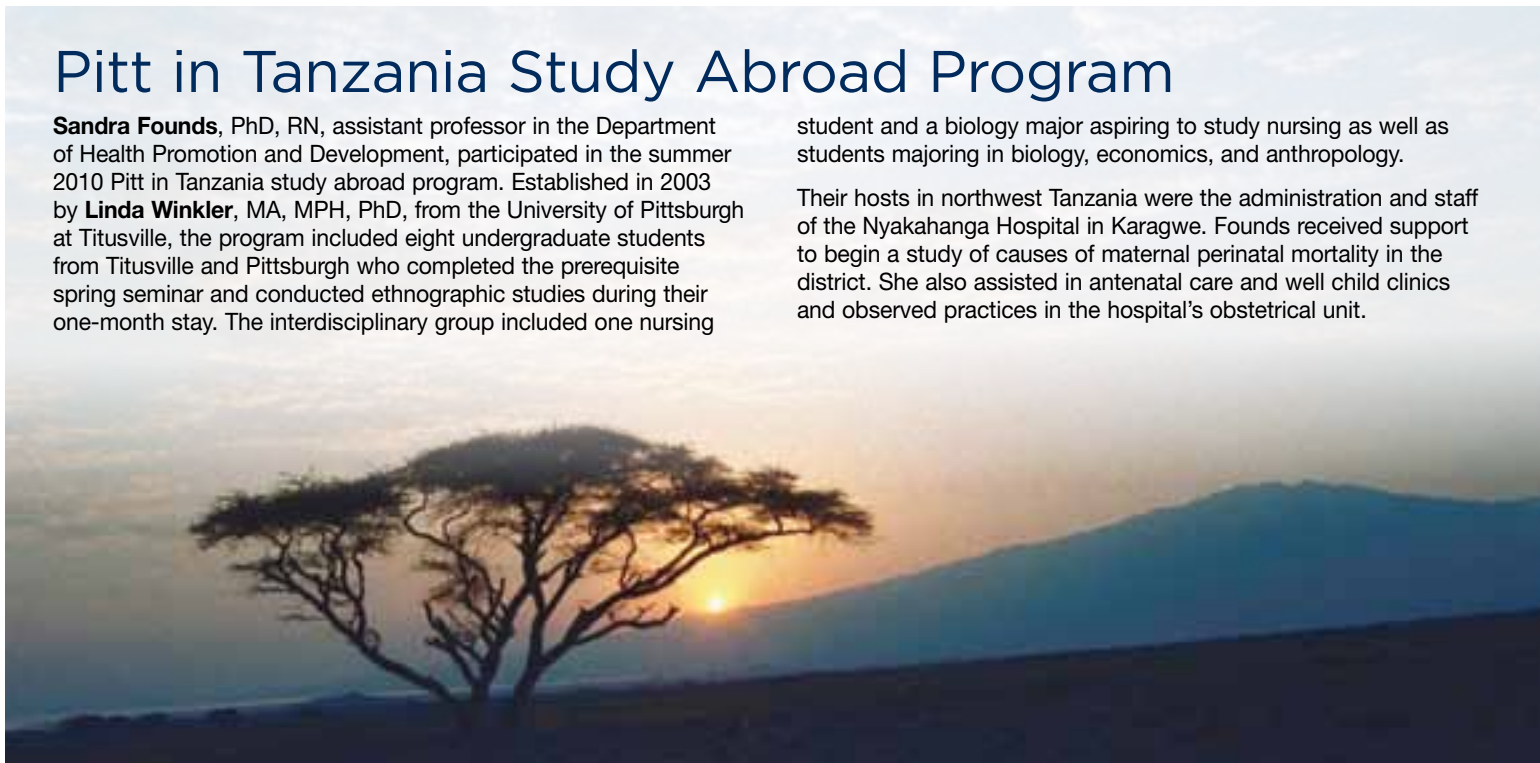
Events such as the CLARION competition reinforce the message that collaboration across all health professions and hospital administration is essential to achieve the best possible patient outcomes and safety.

## Pitt in Tanzania Study Abroad Program

**Sandra Founds**, PhD, RN, assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, participated in the summer 2010 Pitt in Tanzania study abroad program. Established in 2003 by **Linda Winkler**, MA, MPH, PhD, from the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, the program included eight undergraduate students from Titusville and Pittsburgh who completed the prerequisite spring seminar and conducted ethnographic studies during their one-month stay. The interdisciplinary group included one nursing

student and a biology major aspiring to study nursing as well as students majoring in biology, economics, and anthropology.

Their hosts in northwest Tanzania were the administration and staff of the Nyakahanga Hospital in Karagwe. Founds received support to begin a study of causes of maternal perinatal mortality in the district. She also assisted in antenatal care and well child clinics and observed practices in the hospital's obstetrical unit.





# Lantern Night

The School of Nursing was well represented at the University of Pittsburgh's 90th annual Lantern Night ceremony.

Nursing alumnus **Loren Pulliam** (MSN '92), right, gave the keynote address to an audience of more than 400 people at Heinz Memorial Chapel on Sunday, August 29, 2010.

Throughout her 24-year professional nursing career, Pulliam has served clients in a variety of settings, ranging from adolescent chemical dependency, critical care, inpatient, outpatient and office settings. She is founder and president of LJP Enterprises, Inc., which provides anesthesia services, educational-based training, and mentoring. Pulliam has served as a medical missionary in Durban, South Africa; a counselor for Christian Woman Ministries; and an outreach missionary for Reconciliation Ministries in Johannesburg, South Africa. She also dedicates time to mentor and serve as a preceptor for undergraduate and graduate students. Pulliam has served as an adjunct faculty member at the School of Nursing and a sponsor of the minority nursing society, Chi Eta Phi, and was recognized by the Pitt Alumni Association with its 2004 Volunteer award.

One of the University's oldest traditions, Lantern Night has welcomed freshman women to Pitt since the early 1900s. During the annual Lantern Night ceremony, freshman women are presented with replicas of the lanterns used at the time of the University's founding in 1787. Pitt alumni "flame bearers," including alumni mothers and grandmothers of incoming students, pass the "light of learning" to a new generation. This year's flame bearers included seven School of Nursing alumni.

The 2010 Lantern Night chair was **Juliana Shayne** (BSN '73), and current nursing student **Chanel Turlington** gave remarks as president of the National Pan-Hellenic Association.

Following the ceremony, the freshman students carried the lit lanterns, illuminating the walkway as they processed to the Cathedral of Learning for a reception.



Keynote speaker Loren Pulliam



# Leadership

*continued from page 5*

demand and expand access to the program, the School of Nursing is offering CNL courses online as well as on campus.

CNL graduates include Bonnie Colaianne (MSN '09), whose microsystem project is creating changes in preoperative patient care to improve infection control. Her tooth-brushing protocol is meant to eliminate postoperative pneumonia in thoracic patients. This simple procedure has shown positive results in lowering costs and reducing complications.

Judith Tinelli (BSN '06, MSN '09), another CNL graduate, is working on the rehabilitation team throughout the UPMC Health System to standardize care. "The CNL program is the best of all worlds," she says. "Classes focused on evidence based practice, healthcare outcomes and promotion, leadership, and informatics. We also learned how to incorporate this information to practical applications at the bedside." Tinelli applied what she had learned to increase patient satisfaction on her own rehab unit.

Tinelli serves as treasurer for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses and has worked on a number of collaborative inter-disciplinary committees at UPMC. A practicing nurse for 28 years, Tinelli credits the professors and course work in the CNL master's program at the School of Nursing for giving her the foundation of nursing leadership that has helped her succeed in her career. "The course work, guest speakers, and professors are at the forefront of the nursing profession today—CNOs, CEOs, and CNLs who are practicing examples of nursing leadership."

"The future of nursing is bright," she says. "Nursing is at the forefront of health care reform translating vision into reality."

# Clinical Nurse Specialist

*continued from page 9*

graduate of the Psychiatric and Mental Health CNS program, DeCicco initially approached her undergraduate education with the intention of studying psychology.

A conversation with her mother, Elizabeth (Betty) (Burke) DeCicco (BSN '72, MSN '10) a psychiatric nurse practitioner, changed her mind. "We talked about how I could still get what I wanted with a nursing degree and would have better opportunities to move up in my career," she says.

In 2001, DeCicco went to work at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC), where she began on a unit that mainly served adolescent patients. She was promoted first to the unit's assistant nurse manager then manager before she entered the School of Nursing to earn her master's degree and become a CNS with a specialization in child and adolescent mental health.

"I'm the type of person who has to have my hand in a lot of different pots," she explains. "In looking at the curriculum and the roles of the CNS, it gave me the opportunity to do a variety of things with my career—clinical, administrative, research, and education."

DeCicco also was pleased with the amount of clinical time she was able to spend in the field. After graduation, she was promoted to clinical care coordinator for inpatient services, and she also has done outpatient therapy with children, adolescents, and some young adults.

The Psychiatric Mental Health CNS master's program, which enjoys a 100 percent pass rate, teaches students to serve as clinicians, educators, consultants, and managers in behavioral health settings. DeCicco actually has served in each of these roles, as managers at WPIC often continue their clinical work. She now teaches some clinical components of the Pitt program and is excited to bring new students in for their psychiatric nursing rotations so they can learn more about the field to which she has dedicated her career.

"They're usually petrified their first night," she says, but adds, "I've always had the same response at the end: They always say, 'I like it so much more than I thought I would.'"

Even if students on the rotation do not intend to pursue a psychiatric specialty, DeCicco emphasizes the takeaways from the rotation and how they apply to all aspects of nursing, particularly the crucial communication and listening skills.

She believes that the CNS program is ideally suited for psychiatric work because nurses are able to treat a patient more holistically, a concept that has gained significant ground in the behavioral health field.

"There's this connection we're finally getting, that we don't look at physical and mental health separately," she says. "The advanced practice nurse is the perfect person to treat that."





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Join the many alumni, students, and friends of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing who are showing off Pitt nurse pride each time they wear this lovely bracelet, created exclusively for the Nursing Alumni Society. Made of sterling silver beads and blue and khaki Swarovski crystals, each piece is handcrafted and strung on 49-strand stainless steel nylon-coated wire. Available in 7-inch, 7½-inch, and 8-inch lengths, the bracelets can be ordered in two styles. One style features more crystals, while the other features more sterling silver beads. The bracelet comes with a nursing cap charm, and customers may choose between a lobster claw or toggle clasp. Bracelets sell for \$50 each.

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Can you identify the year and the faces?



If so, contact Joan Nock at 412-624-2404 or [jno100@pitt.edu](mailto:jno100@pitt.edu). We will publish your answer in the next issue of *Pitt Nurse*.

Want to share your memories with fellow alumni? Just send us your favorite photo of yesteryear, and we'll run it in an upcoming issue. Submit your pictures to: Joan Nock, University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing, 218 Victoria Building, 3500 Victoria Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. All pictures will be returned.



### Remember When? Photo from Winter 2010 Issue

**Colleen Heeney Burkhardt** (BSN '49), **Margaret Jenkins Buzza** (BSN '49), and **Norma Reichelderfer Wood** (BSN '49) identified the individuals in the photo in the last issue as fellow Class of 1949 classmates!

First row (left to right): Phyllis Bergent O'Block, Jean (Libby) Schilpp McAdams, Lillian Darin Roberts, Margery Pitzer Maser, Wood

Back row (left to right): Margaret J. Kustaborder, Dorothy Mae Gailani, Kathryn May Conway, Mary James Hicks, Margaret Osborne Van Dyke, Margaret O. Brophy



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## What's Happening?

Please share information about your career achievements, advanced education, publications, presentations, honors received, and appointments. We'll include your news in the Alumni News & Notes section as space allows. Indicate names, dates, and locations. Photos are welcome! Please print clearly.

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