influence of the family system on chronically ill patients and their illness.

Given her propensity to rise to the top, Gilliss has some well-informed and unique perspectives on leadership. She characterizes herself as a “servant leader,” one who leads by serving others. “I think a lot of people are not successful as leaders because they are imposing an agenda, as opposed to developing the group they are leading,” she says. “A good leader guides people toward a strong match of capability with opportunity.”

According to Gilliss, she “cut her teeth” in leadership at UCSF with people she characterizes as some of the greatest minds in the field. “Not only did I earn my degree there, but I had the opportunity to take on some small, entry-level leadership responsibilities that ultimately led me to head Family Health Care.”

Her son, Brian Gilliss, who was born at Moffitt Hospital, is now a fourth-year chief resident in anesthesiology. And his daughter is a legacy at the child care center across the street. “Yes, the generations continue at UCSF!” Gilliss says.

She is stepping down from the deanship at Duke later this year, having hired 75 percent of the faculty and more than tripled the size of the student body. “It’s time for another to lead,” she says. Her next move? “I would like to share the lessons I have learned about leadership in academic settings.”