



Summer  
2012  
Volume 8, No. 2

# Duke Nursing

magazine

## What Does Your DNA Say About You?

# DNA

A New Tool  
for Primary Care



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2012  
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**DukeNursing Magazine** is published by the Duke Nursing Alumni Association. Issues are available online at [nursealum.duke.edu](http://nursealum.duke.edu). Your comments, ideas, and letters to the editor are welcome. Please contact us at: *DukeNursing Magazine*, 512 S. Mangum St., Suite 400, Durham, NC 27701-3973, [amelia.howle@duke.edu](mailto:amelia.howle@duke.edu)

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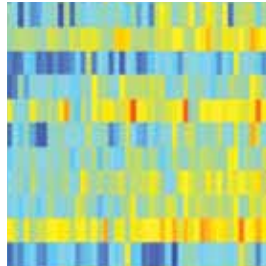
**Editor**  
Marty Fisher

**Contributing Writers**  
Bernadette Gillis, Whitney L.J. Howell, Marilyn M. Lombardi, Jim Rogalski

**Graphic Designer**  
David Pickel, Addison-Design.com

**Photography**  
Jared Lazarus, Megan Moor, Les Todd  
Duke University Photography  
Elisabeth Fall, Kevin Seifert, Jim Wallace, Matthew Wright

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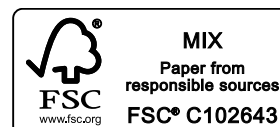
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A Community Committed to Innovation and Excellence

In this issue, our story on genetics and personalized medicine provides a glimpse of activity in support of our strategic priorities, particularly in innovation and curriculum updating. In this case, we are exploring how to bring genomics into our educational programs, nursing research, and the clinical practice of our faculty and students.

Just a few years ago, a course in nursing and genomics would have been unheard of. This spring, we piloted an interdisciplinary elective course, co-taught by Jennifer Dungan of our faculty and Sara Katsanis of the Duke Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy. The course provided students with a solid understanding of genetics and genomics and the skills for using that knowledge in the delivery of clinical care. Students elected to receive a review of their own genomes using the commercial product 23andMe.

Genomics research now being conducted by our own Drs. Mike Scott and Allison Vorderstrasse will add to the body of knowledge about personalized medicine and how it can be applied in the clinical setting. Both are interested in how genomic information may change patients' behavior to help minimize health risks. This innovative work is becoming commonplace at Duke University School of Nursing, as evidenced by the \$3.1 million research portfolio we received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during the 2011 NIH fiscal year.

As I reviewed the contents of this issue of our magazine, I was struck by

the volume of news included on the achievements of our alumni, faculty, and students. The engagement of our alumni is notable and meaningful to me. It suggests what many of you have reported to me—that you are impressed by the work of our faculty, staff, and students and proud to be an alumna/us of our School of Nursing. Alumni bring wisdom and perspective to our community. We have benefited from generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and examples of alumni gifts are included in this issue. The accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, staff, and students represent our commitment to the tradition of excellence and innovation that has been a hallmark of Duke for so many years.

Taken in total, I think you will find that this issue supports the notion that we have prepared distinguished leaders for many years—and we continue to innovate to maintain that leading edge. I hope you will enjoy walking through the pages of this issue.

Catherine Lynch Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Nursing  
Vice Chancellor for Nursing Affairs

## New Faculty Appointments

**Diane L. Kelly, DrPH, MBA, RN**, has been appointed as lead faculty member of the Population Care Coordinator Certificate Program, a new educational partnership between Duke University School of Nursing and Horizon Health Innovations, a Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey company. Kelly earned a bachelor of science in nursing degree from West Virginia University School of Nursing, a master of business administration from the University of Utah, and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her doctoral studies focused on health policy and administration with a minor in leadership, while her research focused on organizational performance in public health settings.

Kelly's textbook, *Applying Quality Management in Healthcare: A Systems Approach*, now in its third edition, is used in doctor of nursing practice and master of health administration programs throughout the country.

The Population Care Coordinator Program is an online collaborative training program, supplemented with three intensive sessions at the School of

Nursing. A residency component serves as the capstone experience, integrating coursework with skills learned, to give students real-world understanding and experience in the role of a Population Care Coordinator.

**Shari Rushton, MSN'03, MS, RN, CCM**, has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Population Care Coordinator Certificate Program. She earned a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Iowa, a master of biomedical science in physiology degree from the Mayo Graduate School of Biomedical Science, and a master of science in nursing degree from Duke University School of Nursing.

Rushton has several years of clinical experience in critical care. She also has care coordination experience as a patient resource manager covering medical, surgical, pediatric, and critical care patients.

In addition, she has provided case management for patients referred for admission to various levels of rehabilitation services. Her research experience includes bench work in



Diane L. Kelly

Shari Rushton

signal transduction and a clinical heart failure project while she was a trainee in the Clinical Environmental Science Program, a joint program of the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, the University of North Carolina, and Duke University. Her honors also include receiving a critical care nursing fellowship from Mayo Medical Center in 1996 and being inducted to *Sigma Theta Tau* International in 1993.

Look for these new faculty coming this summer and fall:

Marilyn Hockenberry, PhD, RN-CS, PNP-BC, FAAN, currently a nurse scientist and director of the pediatric nurse practitioner program at the Texas Children's Cancer Center and consulting professor at Duke University School of Nursing.

Wei Pan, PhD, currently associate professor of quantitative research methodology at the University of Cincinnati School of Education.

## Merwin Appointed Executive Vice Dean

Elizabeth "Beth" Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN, has accepted the position of executive vice dean of Duke University School of Nursing effective July 1, 2012. As the first executive vice dean, she will lead the academic and research enterprises. Currently, she is the Madge M. Jones Professor of Nursing and associate dean for research at the University of Virginia (UVA) School of Nursing. She is a member of the Healthcare Systems and Value Research study section of the Agency

for Healthcare Research and Quality.

"Dr. Merwin is an accomplished nursing and health services researcher whose work has focused on improving care for underserved and rural populations," said Dean Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, RN, FAAN. "She is nationally recognized for innovative academic initiatives and has built a distinguished career, both in academia and in health



care delivery systems."

Merwin was elected to the American Academy of Nursing in 1994 and in 2008 received the Distinguished Professor Award from the School of Nursing at the University of Virginia. She holds a PhD in Health Services Organization and Research, a master of science in nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a bachelor of science in nursing from Radford College.

## DNP Students Help 1,007 People Sign Advance Directives

“Are the people who are most important to you aware of your end of life wishes?” That question was asked repeatedly this spring from 47 students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, whose goal was to inspire at least 1,000 people to sign advance directives—also known as living wills.

“We all basically worked within our own circles of influence—patients, family, friends—to educate them about why this is important, and help them complete the necessary forms,” says **Katherine Pereira, MSN’02, DNP’12**, a Duke University School of Nursing assistant professor and coordinator of the school’s Family Nurse Practitioner program.

The students asked people to think about whether they would want measures such as CPR or a breathing machine if they were gravely ill and dying, and to imagine their family making decisions on their behalf. Advance directives help to ease that burden, they explained.

The assignment was part of the DNP program’s Health Systems Transformation class, and centered around the Fifth Annual National Health Care Decision Day on April 16. The students worked on the assignment from late January to the end of April and surpassed their goal by helping 1,007 people sign advance directives.

Students used various methods to achieve the goal, but one of the most important products of the assignment, Pereira says, was educating students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to “plant the seed for the next generation of nurses to care about this issue. Young people don’t necessarily think about these things.”



Medical students Matthew W. Hollar (left) and Nazaneen Homaifar, T’06, (far right) collaborate with Victoria S. Kaprielian, MD, HS’85-’88, a professor in Duke’s Department of Community and Family Medicine; and ABSN Student Katie Smith during a small group simulation.

## Nursing and Medicine Come Together to Learn Teamwork

Medicine is moving rapidly toward a team-based approach, where physicians, nurses, and other providers collaborate closely to manage chronic disease and prevent illness among populations of patients.

To help future doctors and nurses understand each other’s roles on the health care team and explore ways to promote optimal patient care and safety, 175 students and faculty from Duke University’s schools of nursing and medicine convened in March.

Faculty facilitated a discussion of roles and responsibilities as outlined in the national TeamSTEPPS initiative. TeamSTEPPS training is an evidence-based teamwork system developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services aimed at improving patient outcomes by encouraging the development of communication and teamwork skills among health care professionals.

During 15 small group simulations in the Center for Nursing Discovery (CND) at the School of Nursing, students took turns filling the roles of patients, nurses,



Medical Student Harold J. Boutte and ABSN Student Marissa A. Moncayo team up to learn more about how professionals from their respective fields can work together effectively, and physicians.

CND Director Margie Molloy, MSN, RN, CNE, said an important goal was for each student to gain an appreciation for the roles of nurses, physicians, and other health care professionals, and to explore ways to communicate more efficiently and support each other in a patient care situation.

“This is a very exciting undertaking for us here at the School of Nursing,” Molloy said. “Collaborating on the TeamSTEPPS training will provide a win-win learning experience for all the students who participate.”

## Nevidjon Receives 2012 ANA Honorary Award

**Brenda Nevidjon, BSN'72, MSN, RN, FAAN**, a clinical professor at Duke University School of Nursing, has been selected by the American Nurses Association (ANA) board of directors to receive the 2012 ANA Honorary Recognition Award for her distinguished service to the nursing profession. She received the award during the ANA House of Delegates June 15-16 at National Harbor, Md.

“Over her 12 years as a faculty member, Brenda has prepared 70 nurses for key positions in nursing and health care leadership, many of whom are now in key leadership roles,” said **Dean Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, RN, FAAN**.

“Brenda, herself, has taken on significant leadership roles over her career—as chief operating officer

of Duke University Hospital, president of the Oncology Nursing Society, and chair of the school's Faculty Governance Association. Her leadership contributions are well known,” Gilliss said.

Nevidjon is a trustee of the Association of Community Cancer Centers, a member of the Institute of Medicine's National Cancer Policy Forum Board, and past president of the Oncology Nursing Society. She will begin a two-year term as president-elect of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care this July.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a member of the American Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the *Sigma Theta Tau* International *Beta Epsilon* Chapter, and



the Council for Graduate Education for Administration in Nursing, among others.

Nevidjon has written four books, 20 book chapters, and numerous journal articles and editorials on leadership and oncology nursing. She was a fellow

in the inaugural class of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program and completed the Johnson and Johnson/Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives.

At Duke University School of Nursing, Nevidjon currently is the faculty coordinator of the Health Care Systems Instructional Area in the MSN program and lead faculty member for the nursing and health care leadership specialty.

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## Trustees Approve New Building Architect



A substantial addition to the facilities of Duke University School of Nursing is on the horizon!

In December, the Duke University Board of Trustees approved hiring the architectural firm, Ayers/Saint/Gross, to design a 40,000-45,000 square foot addition adjacent to the Christine Siegler Pearson Building. The new building will house space for classrooms, information technology services, financial aid administration, expanded simulation and other laboratories, as well as administrative and research offices.

The new building will join the existing Clipp Building and Pearson Building to form a mini-campus for nursing students and faculty.

## Brookfield to Speak at Radical Transformation Conference

Stephen Brookfield, PhD, an award-winning scholar in education, will speak at the third annual conference on Pursuing Radical Transformation in Nursing Education hosted by Duke University School of Nursing. The focus for this year is "Preparing Faculty for the Challenge," and Brookfield will engage in dialogue with conference

participants about what it means to be a skillful teacher and how individual faculty members and groups can transform educational environments.

Brookfield is the author of 15 books on adult learning, teaching, critical

thinking, discussion methods, and critical theory, including five that have won the Cyril O. Houle World Award for Literature in Adult Education.

For more information and to register, please contact Cheryl Belcher at [cheryl.belcher@duke.edu](mailto:cheryl.belcher@duke.edu) or 919-684-9289.

### November 2-3, 2012



Faculty members enjoy Family and Friends Day. From left: Brigit M. Carter, PhD, MSN, RN, CCRN, assistant professor; Eugenia Gil, ABSN student; Melissa B. Aselage, PhD, RN-BC, FNP-BC, assistant professor; and Terry D. Ward, PhD, MSN, RN, assistant professor

## Family and Friends Day

Students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program introduced their friends and family to nursing education during the second annual Family and Friends Day in March. More than 325 people toured the patient simulation lab, viewed student poster presentations on global and community health experiences, and saw a class lecture demonstration.



The day included kid-friendly activities and games. Meg Carman, MSN'98, DNP'10, looks on as a potential future nurse works on his "operating" skills.



Assistant professor Shelly S. Eisbach, PhD, RN, (center) enjoys the day's festivities with her mother, Patricia Eisbach (left), and Dean Catherine L. Gilliss.

## Nursing Research Management Team Expanded to Support Medicine

The role of Duke University School of Nursing's Research Management Team has been expanded to provide research support for Duke University School of Medicine.

The Research Management Team conducts activities usually performed by research assistants, data technicians, data managers, programmers, research analysts and clinical research coordinators.

The School of Medicine has been searching for an enhanced structure to support its research teams "and believes our Research Management Team model sets the standard in research support excellence," said School of Nursing Dean **Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, RN, FAAN**.

The School of Nursing's team began as part of a grant for what was the Trajectories on Research in Aging Center. Under the leadership of **Diane Holditch-Davis, BSN'73, PhD, RN, FAAN** in her role as associate dean of research affairs,



Members of the School of Nursing Research Management team include: back row: Justin Levens, Teresa Baker, Shelly Epps, Jeff Hawley; front row: Denise Snyder, Carolyn Whiting, John Boling, Mindy Kash, Hal Beresford, and Nancy Hassell

the service evolved over time and was shaped into its current model by Denise Snyder and her staff.

The Research Management Team will be adding staff to meet the School of Medicine's needs.

Duke University recognized the Research Management Team with a 2010 Teamwork Award for its work to improve the research mission at Duke.

## Stanley is Nursing Alumni Association President

**Joan M. Stanley, BSN'71, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP**, has been named the 2012-2014 president of the Duke Nursing Alumni Association.

She is the senior director of educational policy at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and a recent recipient of the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties. Stanley was cited for her decades-long dedication to nurse practitioner education, research, and care.

Stanley has been with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing since 1994, serving on task forces dedicated to advancing nursing education at the bachelor, master's, and doctoral level. She also has been an adult nurse practitioner on faculty at the University of Maryland Hospital since 1981.

A Fellow of both the American Academy of Nursing and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, she has received national recognition for her leadership in improving care for the elderly. Stanley has served as editor or editorial consultant on a number of professional nursing journals and is currently a member of the Clinical Nurse Leader Association Board of Directors. She is a past recipient of the Duke University School of Nursing Volunteer Service Award.



Joan M. Stanley

## Clinical Excellence Celebrated in New Ceremony

For the first time, Duke University School of Nursing held a Commitment to Excellence Ceremony for students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program.

The newly developed annual ceremony is intended to foster a sense of community and establish a transitional experience to support nursing students as they begin their clinical rotations.

"Clinical excellence is not learned in a day, a week, or a month," said **Wilma Córdova, ABSN'12**, who delivered the student address. "It is a personal and professional commitment that is developed with experience over time. I believe it is achievable by all of us who have a passion to serve, to care, and to make a difference in others' lives."

**Michael V. Relf, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, AACRN, FAAN**, associate professor and assistant dean for undergraduate education, delivered the welcome and introductions and closing remarks; **Dean Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, RN, FAAN**, delivered greetings; **Donald E. "Chip" Bailey Jr., PhD, RN**, associate professor and a founding faculty member of the ABSN program, introduced the student speaker.



# PhD and DNP Students named Jonas Scholars

Four School of Nursing doctoral students have been named Jonas Scholars by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence.

PhD students **D. Dennis Flores, MSN, ACRN**, and **Courtney Caiola, MSN, MPH, RN**, have been selected to receive grants from the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program, which aims to increase the number of doctorally prepared faculty available to teach in nursing schools nationwide.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree students **Kathryn “Ginger” Ward-Presson, MSN, NEA, BC, RN**, and **Karin Carlson, MSN, PMHNP-BC, RN**, have been awarded scholarships from the Jonas Nursing Scholars Program for Veterans Health, which seeks to improve the health of veterans.

Each scholar will receive \$10,000 for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years.

Ward-Presson is associate director for patient care services and chief nurse executive at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her career of nearly 40 years has included active duty as a member of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps and serving in a variety of roles at VA medical centers across the country. Her research interest focuses on the impact of the clinical nurse leader role on nurse sensitive outcomes in medical surgical patient care units in VA health care facilities.

Carlson is a psychiatric mental health



Courtney Caiola

D. Dennis Flores

Kathryn “Ginger”  
Ward-Presson



nurse practitioner. She is a member of the Mental Health Field Advisory Committee, a subgroup of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Nursing Clinical Practice Program and an adjunct faculty member at Northern Illinois University School of Nursing. Her current doctoral project is focused on the implementation and evaluation of a brief stress reduction program for veterans.

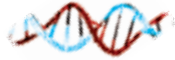
Flores is nationally certified in HIV/AIDS nursing and has participated in HIV/AIDS nursing care in the U.S. and other countries, including Haiti, Jamaica, and South Africa. He is a national spokesman for the GREATER Than AIDS Campaign and has worked with several religious organizations to address HIV-related stigmas and discrimination within faith communities. His main area of research focuses on risk reduction interventions for young men who have sex with men.

Caiola currently works as an obstetric clinical instructor. She has 14 years of nursing practice experience in various

clinical settings and also spent three years as a medical missionary in Uganda. She is interested in HIV/AIDS and maternal/child health research, specifically, describing the intersection of the social determinants of health for HIV-infected mothers living in poverty and identifying individual and community strengths to respond to their described vulnerability.

The Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholars at Duke is made possible by a grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence funded by the Jonas Family Fund. ♦

# Genomics:



## A New Tool for Primary Care

### Nurses lead effort to evaluate, educate, and implement

**SITTING IN A GENETIC COUNSELING** session at Duke Primary Care's Pickett Road Clinic, Sharon Graffagnino received news she never thought she'd hear. She was at high risk for diabetes. It was news that caught her completely by surprise.

"It was really shocking for me to get such strong and bad genetic information," said Graffagnino, 51. "I always thought my numbers would be normal and in the middle."

Graffagnino was familiar with diabetes and its serious health effects. Her brother weighs 400 pounds and takes insulin four times a day; her sister teeters on the border of full-blown diabetes; and her father battled against it until he passed away. But, as someone who always tried to eat well and

exercise, she thought she was protected.

She learned she had a strong genetic risk for developing diabetes when she chose to participate in Effects of Type 2 Diabetes Genetic Risk Information on Health Behaviors and Outcome study through the Duke University School of Nursing. The result: Graffagnino now pays more attention to her food choices.

"I definitely hear the little voice in the back of my head if I'm overdoing it with sweets or starches or not getting enough exercise," she said. "I'm totally aware and take it seriously. That doesn't mean I always do really well, but I'm trying."

This study, which tests whether identifying and relaying genetic risk factors can positively change health behaviors, is part of a larger push within the Duke University Health System (DUHS) toward personalized medicine. This emerging health care model fuses a patient's genetic and genomic information

by Whitney L.J. Howell



**W**e wanted to see if personal genomic information is likely to benefit patients through motivation of lifestyle behavioral change.”

MICHAEL SCOTT

with family history to provide tailored care. Nursing faculty are leading an interdisciplinary team focused on initiating a paradigm shift in patient care.

#### Personalized Medicine and Nurses

Nurses have a longstanding reputation as being effective in identifying and managing illness and treatment-related symptoms. Knowledge of genetic factors that put some patients at higher risk for intense symptom experiences is rapidly developing. Nurse researchers are working on studies

that help build this knowledge.

“If nurses are aware of genetic markers that make adults or children more or less susceptible to symptom distress, they are better prepared to make decisions and recommendations that will greatly benefit the patient,” said associate professor Sharron Docherty, PhD, CPNP-AC/PC, RN. “Understanding individual patients’ genetic risk for key symptomatology, such as cognitive dysfunction or fatigue, will allow them to more efficiently and accurately assess patients and intervene during treatment.”

It's also critical to study the use of personalized genetic information to increase knowledge about the impact of whole genome sequencing results on patients and families.

"The role of nurses is to help broker information to the patient and help families understand the difficult concepts that come with this information," she said. "Nurses today and in the future must be able to understand whole genome sequencing, risk levels, and be able to help families interpret results."



Sharron Docherty consults with a family in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

### Researching the Impact of Genetic Knowledge

Interest in how personalized medicine can touch clinical care sparked at Duke in 2010 with the creation of the Duke Center for Personalized Medicine. This group, led by genomics clinical director Geoffrey Ginsburg, MD, PhD, fuses resources and expertise from a broad array of players, including the Institute for Genome Sciences & Policy (IGSP), the schools of medicine and nursing, the Sanford School of Public Policy, and the Fuqua School of Business. Through these partnerships, faculty and students are searching for the best ways to bring personalized medicine to all aspects of health care.

The Center for Personalized Medicine (CPM) is also pursuing a policy agenda that will consider reimbursement, legal, and ethical issues related to genomic testing when assessing potential

research projects, said assistant professor Allison Vorderstrasse, DNSc, APRN, CNE.

While these multidisciplinary investigations are complex and must be deftly designed, nurses are, in many ways, the keystones in these projects.

"Clinically, nurses tend to take a personalized, holistic approach with patients without even realizing it. They're all well trained to provide a lot of patient interaction and education," said Vorderstrasse, who serves on several personalized medicine working groups. "It's a goal, through CPM's educational, clinical and research initiatives, to ensure that nurses, as providers, are up-to-date on health care advances and that they can translate what it all means to patients."

But there's not much existing evidence to validate the proposed benefits of the individualized approach to health care. This flimsy body of research is why studies, such as the previously mentioned diabetes study, are critical, said assistant professor Michael Scott, DNP, FNP-BC. This work provides valuable information about how genetic factors can be used clinically.

"With this study, we wanted to explore the value of genetic testing as it pertains to the predisposition to chronic diseases, in this case Type 2 diabetes, and how feasible it is to do this type of testing in a primary care clinic," said Scott, who provided risk counseling to study participants. "We wanted to see if personal genomic information is likely to benefit patients through motivation of lifestyle behavioral change."

Scott's colleagues from the IGSP recruited participants from the Pickett Road Clinic and Pickens Family Medicine who had no reported history of diabetes and had never been genetically tested. Overall, 317 participants completed the full study.

To gather genetic material, researchers scraped the inside of each participant's cheek with a tongue blade, and a genetic testing company analyzed samples for certain genes associated with a risk for Type 2 diabetes. Investigators also collected information about other factors influencing diabetes risk, such as family history, blood sugar, body mass index, age, and ethnicity. All participants had the opportunity to meet with Scott for risk counseling, and those who were randomly selected for testing received counseling rooted in their individual genetic results.

**I**t's a goal, through CPM's educational, clinical and research initiatives, to ensure nurses, as providers, are up-to-date on health care advances and that they can translate what it all means to patients."

ALLISON VORDERSTRASSE



Based on study results, 26 percent of participants were pre-diabetic with blood sugar levels between 100 and 125; 68 percent were either overweight or obese; and 57 percent had a family history of diabetes. In addition, 92 percent returned for counseling sessions. Preliminary analysis is ongoing, but early results have shown both groups—those who were genetically tested and those who weren't—made minimal improvement in overall health status, especially with weight loss.

"We're thinking just the possibility of sitting down with me to talk about risk in the way a clinician doesn't have time to do may have made an impact. Weight loss in both groups doesn't mean genetic testing isn't necessary," Scott said. "These are just the early results, but whether the participant was genetically tested, it's clear simple involvement with a health care professional gets people motivated."

The Center for Personalized Medicine has other ongoing medicine studies, as well. Vorderstrasse, who sits on the center's leadership team charged with creating criteria that will determine which future studies win funding, is also a co-principal investigator on a pilot study. This study is currently recruiting patients and is led by co-principal investigators Ruth Wolever, PhD, of Duke Integrative Medicine and Alex Cho, MD. It is designed to determine whether genomic risk assessment can be effectively added to standard risk assessments for heart disease. The goal, she said, is to develop risk assessment tools and behavioral support interventions (health coaching) for implementation in primary care.

### Educating Nurses to Play Their Role

Determining the efficacy of discussing genetic results with

individual patients could drastically change the health care delivery model, and all providers must be ready to implement such a strategy. This spring, the School of Nursing introduced an interdisciplinary pilot elective class focused on genomic fundamentals and how they apply to personalized medicine.

Having a solid understanding of how genomics can impact patients' response to treatments and medications could greatly enhance the quality of care, said assistant professor Jennifer Dungan, PhD, RN.

"If nurses truly understand how genomics impacts health risk at the forefront and know how to evaluate it, they can be much better at approaching these topics with patients," said Dungan, who co-teaches the course with Sara Katsanis, MS, an associate in research in the Duke IGSP. "Rather than being reactive to patients, they can proactively reach out and determine if this information is important to patients, what it all means, and what to focus on."

During the first seven weeks of the seven-student class, the curriculum focused on fundamental genomic principles, such as human genetic variation, bioinformatics, ethical and social issues, and the principles of genomic testing. But it's the second half of the semester where students saw how genomic test results can directly impact health care.

In addition to hearing clinical and research experts discuss these topics, students had the option, but weren't required, to complete a free, anonymous 23andMe genetic testing panel. After receiving the results, they used skills they mastered during earlier weeks to evaluate their own genetic risk through the

Web site of the direct-to-consumer company that analyzed the tests. Students who didn't submit samples used data from mock patients.

This activity gave students the opportunity to experience what it would be like to learn about genetic risk from the patient's perspective. They discussed how to convey genetic results and how to put them into proper context. It's the knowledge of how and where to find additional information in existing literature, however, that is one of the class's most valuable lessons.

"I think getting the resources is one of the biggest take aways from the class. It's having the knowledge of where to turn," said Ann Miller, an accelerated BSN student in Dungan's class. "A lot of physicians and nurses don't know about this stuff. Being the only person or one of a few that know and understand is a huge asset."

Tailoring health services to the individual patient is the next phase of medical care, she said, and a nursing workforce well-educated in genetics and genomics will be better prepared to advocate for their patients' needs.

This type of class also introduces nurses and nursing students to more scientific aspects of health care, said Sarah Timberlake, an accelerated BSN student who has a microbiology and biomedical research background. The more exposure nursing students have to genetics and genomics in the classroom, she said, the greater opportunities they will have to influence how this knowledge is integrated into personalizing health care.

Educational efforts aren't solely focusing on students, however. According to Dungan, the School of Nursing is investigating ways to provide genetics and genomics education for practicing nurses, physical therapists, and other health professionals through short courses, workshops, or continuing education modules. The Center for Personalized Medicine leadership group is also discussing a similar educational model for physicians, including online modules and webinars.

### Next Steps in Personalized Medicine

Although much has been done over the past two years, work still remains before personalized medicine can be effectively implemented across the Duke University Health System. In



Sara Katsanis and Jennifer Dungan teach a new interdisciplinary course on genomic fundamentals and personalized medicine.

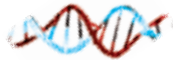
the coming year, Vorderstrasse said, working groups intend to establish an official agenda and priorities. The long-term goal is to develop partnerships both within and outside of Duke.

In addition, there are extensive curricular revisions underway that will thread genetic and genomic information through bachelor's, master's, and doctoral tracks in nursing, Dungan said. Weaving instruction through all programs would eliminate the need for an elective class and would turn nursing graduates into some of the most knowledgeable and effective providers in their communities, she said.

Nursing faculty and students view these efforts as necessary in order to provide the highest quality care possible, and support for the personalized medicine model continues to grow throughout the health system. But, most importantly, patients are beginning to grasp the importance of having health care providers who understand how genetics and genomics can directly impact individual health outcomes.

"When you look at American culture, having a doctor or nurse who can explain genetic risk is extremely important. We see so many people innocently unaware of the lifestyle choice they're actually making as they pull up for fast food, for example," Graffagnino said. "Most people don't know that their genetics are a big part of how your health will play out over the years. They don't understand how medically tied in everything is." ♦

# ‘Spit Camp’ offers faculty, students valuable research lessons



It’s often thought of as unhygienic, rude, or even disgusting, but spitting actually has its benefits, especially for researchers. That was the idea behind the “Spit Camp” held at the School of Nursing in June.

During the seminar, Jennifer Jewell, technical education specialist for Salimetrics, gave faculty and students an overview of how to integrate salivary measures into scientific studies. She covered a wide range of saliva-related topics, including the

says she attended her first spit camp while a faculty member at UNC-Chapel Hill, and found it to be helpful.

“You can get many of the same biochemical markers from saliva as blood,” Holditch-Davis says. “There are advantages for both the researcher and the patient. It’s less expensive and less invasive, and you don’t even have to have a person who is cooperative.”

Sharron L. Docherty, PhD, CPNP-AC/PC, RN, knows this firsthand. She didn’t participate in Duke’s spit camp, but she has used saliva samples in two NIH-funded studies and touts the advantages of the research method, particularly when working with small children.

Docherty, an associate professor, has studied the impact of life-sustaining treatment on the quality of life of children with life-threatening illnesses and their parents. She says children get a kick out of giving saliva samples with a stick attached to a cotton pad that turns blue after they hold it in their mouths like a lollipop.

In her research, she collected samples to measure the hormone cortisol and determine physiologic stress levels. Such biomarkers can give researchers like Docherty a better understanding of how medical treatments affect patients, not just on a psycho-social level, but



Clinical instructor Jacqueline Vaughn, BSN, RN, explains the importance of collecting saliva to test for biomarkers and DNA to students, from left, Jacob Schonau-Taylor, Rebecca Rohal, Ebonitta Boykin, and Kimberly Davis in the Clinical Training Lab.

basic biology of oral fluids, what can be learned from saliva, and how to collect samples.

Diane Holditch-Davis, BSN’73, PhD, RN, FAAN, the Marcus E. Hobbs Distinguished Professor of Nursing, hosted the event, which was one of several spit camps offered by the company Salimetrics at universities across the country. She

also from a biological standpoint.

“No matter how effective a treatment is in extending quantity of life, it’s also important to look at whether the treatment is improving quality of life as well,” she explains. “Studying across biopsychosocial levels gives us a more complete picture.” ◆



KEVIN SEBERT

#### Distinguished Alumna Award

## Gayle Bridges Harris,

BSN'72, MPH, RN

As a Duke nursing student, **Gayle Bridges Harris, BSN'72, MPH, RN**, says it was her public health rotation at the Durham County Health Department that resonated with her most. And she hasn't looked back since.

Before nursing school, the Durham native thought of the health department only as the place she received her childhood immunizations, but after working with people from her own community, she saw the health department in a much more meaningful way.

"I liked the idea of addressing the public's needs and helping people have a

better quality of life," Harris says.

After graduation, she went straight to work at the health department and has spent the past 40 years there, working her way up from a public health nurse I to her current position as health director. Throughout the years, Harris says her focus has remained constant: to help underserved populations and address health disparities.

"We have a tremendous amount of resources in Durham, but we have health disparities that exist for people of color," she says.

To help eliminate the gaps, Harris

has led several partnerships between the health department and Duke. Most recently, Harris has worked closely with **Robert Califf, T'73, MD'78, HS'78, '80-'83**, the **Donald F. Fortin, MD**, Professor of Cardiology at Duke, on the Durham Diabetes Coalition. The five-year program seeks to improve health outcomes for Durham County residents with type 2 diabetes.

"Duke is a major employer in the community, and we both want to see improved health outcomes. I think in an environment of shrinking resources, it only makes sense to partner with Duke," she says.

Harris feels honored to be recognized by the School of Nursing for her professional accomplishments and service to the community but attributes her success to the Durham community itself, which she says included a "village" of neighbors and supporters who helped raise her.

"You can't imagine what it is to grow up in a community and then be able to pay it back and forward," she says.

*by Bernadette Gillis*

To make a nomination please send an e-mail to [amelia.howle@duke.edu](mailto:amelia.howle@duke.edu) or call 919-385-3150 and note the person's name, name of the award, and a statement about why you believe they are qualified.



Distinguished Alumna Award

# Judy G. Ozbolt,

BSN'67, PhD, RN, FAAN

Judy G. Ozbolt, BSN'67, PhD, RN, FAAN, is now a renowned leader in her profession, but her first experience in the then-emerging field of informatics in the early 1970s proved a bit challenging for the novice researcher.

During graduate school at the University of Michigan, a professor encouraged Ozbolt to research how computers could be used to formulate nursing diagnoses and assured her she could teach herself computer programming. But once immersed in her research, Ozbolt discovered the work would be more complicated than she imagined. Among her many challenges: the university's mainframe computer couldn't compile all at once the 6,000 lines of code—an amount of data that today's smartphones can easily process—she initially tried in input.

“Later I learned that (the professor) had done a study on the effects of positive reinforcement,” Ozbolt says with a laugh. “He never said anything discouraging to anyone.”

Despite her initial difficulties, Ozbolt knew she'd found her calling. Her



curiosity of how nurses and patients use information has driven her to spend the majority of her career finding ways to use informatics to support nursing practice and improve quality of care.

Her broad research interests have implications for many—from nurses seeking to document patient data to researchers looking to manage their data to students and educators engaging in distance learning.

Ozbolt's significant achievements include organizing several Nursing Terminology Summit Conferences, which ultimately contributed to the adoption of standards for nursing information.

Retired from her positions as professor and specialty director for nursing informatics at the University

of Maryland School of Nursing since 2009, Ozbolt remains active in professional associations and consulting. She currently leads a project for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is focused on consumer e-health, which Ozbolt says is particularly important as the health care industry continues to change.

“There has been a movement toward patient-centered care, and patients are using so many applications to monitor their own health,” she says. “It's important for us as clinicians to be able to listen to and interact with patients who are in control of their health practices.”



Honorary Alumnus

## Harvey J. Cohen,

MD, HS'65-'67, '69-'71

In recent years, many academic medical centers have begun to recognize the importance of collaborations between physicians and nurses. But **Harvey J. Cohen, MD, HS'65-'67, '69-'71**, says Duke has been on the forefront in this area for quite a while.

Cohen has dedicated a great portion of his career to advancing the work of Duke University School of Nursing due to his background in oncology, an area in which he says teamwork between physicians and nurses seemed inherently natural.

“At Duke, we’ve shown nurses and

physicians can be effective partners in research, education, and patient care,” he says. “Our collaborations have helped the School of Nursing and School of Medicine programs as well.”

The Walter Kempner Professor of Medicine and director of the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Cohen has a long history of advising the School of Nursing on research issues on aging.

Since the early 1990s, he has mentored junior nursing faculty members in their research and career development, particularly in aging center activities.

He has been influential in securing key recruitments, stepping in to serve on the school’s Faculty Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee when there weren’t enough nursing faculty members to serve. He also collaborated with the school on its first National Institute of Nursing Research-awarded faculty research training grant.

Faculty member Virginia Stone, PhD, RN, FAAN, laid the groundwork in the late 1960s for the School of Nursing’s nationally ranked gerontology nursing program, and since then, Duke nurses have continually worked across disciplines to improve the care of older adults. Cohen credits the work of Stone and other School of Nursing researchers with influencing the national accolades and recognition the Duke Division of Geriatrics has received over the years.

“Even before the School of Nursing program was ranked—mainly because it had not yet accumulated a critical mass of nurses working in this area—the gerontological nurses who were at Duke were important contributors to the School of Medicine’s high ranking.”

For complete bios of all awardees please visit [nursealum.duke.edu](http://nursealum.duke.edu) and click on Alumni Awards.

**Distinguished Contributions  
to Nursing Science**

# Sally Heller Rankin,

MSN'78, PhD, RN, FAAN

Sally Heller Rankin, MSN'78, PhD, RN, FAAN, first traveled to Africa in 2001 to support her husband's work, but to her surprise, the trip had a profound effect on her own career focus.

After learning of the plight of the nearly one million people living with AIDS in Malawi, located in southeast Africa, Rankin felt compelled to shift her research interests from diabetes and heart disease to HIV/AIDS. "The trip totally changed my research and the way I thought of the world," she says.

Rankin, currently associate dean for international programs and global health at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), has since made 12 trips to Africa. In 2006, she received a research grant from the NIH to study HIV prevention and AIDS care in Malawi. In particular, she looked at the impact of Christian and Muslim religious organizations on HIV prevention.

Though not an intervention study, Rankin and her team's research, which involved interviewing religious leaders,



had a lasting impact. Many leaders who were involved in the study are now educating themselves and their communities about HIV and working to dispel myths and change ideas about women and infidelity.

"Religious leaders have the power to change the epidemic," says Rankin, who also serves as director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center on Nursing

Research and Education at UCSF. "We found when the leaders had more knowledge and removed the stigma, people engaged in less risky behaviors."

Rankin currently leads USAID- and Fulbright-funded research projects focused on mentoring and training nurses and other health care professionals in Malawi. She and her UCSF colleagues are working with her husband, the Reverend William W. Rankin II, T'63, PhD'77, G'79, and his organization, Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA), on a "train-the-trainer" program aimed at increasing Malawi's nursing workforce.

Training nurses in areas such as HIV care and triage is vital to the country's health care system, Rankin says. "Nurses are the backbone of the health care system in Malawi."



**Lifetime Achievement Award**

# Mary Pauline "Polly" Johnson,

MSN'80, RN, FAAN

Her first attempt at earning a graduate school education didn't work out the way Mary Pauline "Polly" Johnson, MSN'80, RN, FAAN, had envisioned. But that ultimately turned out to be a good thing.

After earning a bachelor of science degree (BSN) and

spending a year teaching at the American School of Tangier in Morocco, Johnson went on to get a master's degree. However, she quickly became disappointed with rigid nursing courses that didn't allow for questioning and exploration and decided to leave the program. Her decision was solidified when her advisor characterized Johnson's problem as, "You think too much."

"Of course, I found that an odd statement in academia," Johnson says, "and vowed that I would only return to graduate school when I found a program that encouraged students to think."

So, motivated by a curious nature and desire to make a difference, Johnson sought her own path in health care. She later found a place at Duke with other "thinking students" and eventually became an influential leader and advocate for nursing regulation and policies that facilitate the delivery of safe, effective patient care.

Johnson retired from nursing in 2008 and is currently president and CEO of the Foundation for Nursing Excellence, an organization that seeks to improve health outcomes of North Carolina residents through policies and practices that enhance the practice of nursing. In this role, she oversees initiatives focused on increasing the number of nurses with BSN degrees in North Carolina, developing a statewide evidence-based transition-to-practice model, and creating a just and fair health care culture statewide.

She also has held academic appointments at UNC-Chapel Hill and worked as a pediatric nurse clinician, a job Johnson says she enjoyed because it allowed her to help chronically ill children live to their fullest potential.

She says her current state-level activities have allowed her to focus on "improving systems, whether they be regulatory, practice or educational in nature, that would positively affect the lives of those we serve. I have always been focused on making things better, whether for an individual or society."

# Save the Date for Reunion 2013, April 12-13



Alumni shared old photos of their time in nursing school.



The BSN Class of 1977 donned their "Hanes Honeys" t-shirts and cheered in celebration of their 35th reunion during the Welcome Reception.

## 2012 Reunion Recap

More than 180 alumni, friends, and family gathered on campus for Nursing Reunion Weekend April 20-21, 2012.

Dean Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, RN, FAAN, and Kathy E.V. Gallagher, BSN'75, the 2011-2012 Nursing Alumni Association president, presented School of Nursing Awards to Gayle Bridges Harris, BSN'72, MPH, RN; Judy G. Ozbolt, BSN'67, PhD, RN, FAAN; Sally Heller Rankin, MSN'78, PhD, RN, FAAN; Mary Pauline "Polly" Johnson, MSN'80, RN, FAAN; and Harvey J. Cohen, MD, HS'65-'67, '69-'71.

Other weekend highlights included the 2012 Distinguished

Contributions to Nursing Science Address presented by Rankin, a faculty/alumni panel discussion on the spirit of innovation, and a discussion on families and aging led by Linda L. Davis, PhD, RN, ANP, FAAN, the Ann Henshaw Gardiner Distinguished Professor of Nursing, and senior fellow in the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.



Members of the BSN Class of 1967 gather in the Mary T. Champagne Courtyard for their reunion photo.



Former Dean Ruby L. Wilson, EdD'69, RN, FAAN, shares a story with alumni and guests.

# Pearson Honored at Building Dedication

Christine Siegler Pearson, BSN'84, and her family were on campus in April for a dedication ceremony to officially name the School of Nursing's classroom and administration building in her honor. Pearson and her husband Michael Pearson, MBA, E'81, recently gave \$15 million, the largest gift in the school's history.

President Richard H. Brodhead, PhD; Chancellor for Health Affairs Victor J. Dzau, MD; and Dean Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, DNSc, FAAN, spoke at the event, expressing thanks to the Pearson family. Pearson received a gift of a historic copper downspout from Duke University's Few Quad. The 150-year-old, German-made downspout is one of several that were replaced with replicas when Few Quad was renovated in 2008.

"It is my privilege to honor your extraordinary commitment and transformational support with this priceless piece of Duke's past," said Dean Gilliss in presenting the gift.

Dean Catherine Gilliss, President Richard Brodhead, Michael Pearson, Christine Siegler Pearson, and Chancellor Victor Dzau

Beverly Siegler; former dean of the School of Nursing Ruby Wilson, EdD'69, RN, FAAN; Michael Pearson; and Christine Siegler Pearson



Parker, Trevor, Andrew, and Michael Pearson, Christine Siegler Pearson, and Morgan Pearson



"It is my privilege to honor your extraordinary commitment and transformational support..."

DEAN CATHERINE GILLISS



## 1940s

**Dorothy Ray Salerno, N'40**, is living in the Alders Gate Retirement Home in Charlotte. She's made many friends there, and enjoys reading and taking walks. While at Duke, she joined the 65th General Hospital and spent a year at Fort Bragg and two years in England. Upon her return, she went to Columbia University and earned a degree in public health nursing. Her husband Paul died six years ago.

**Ernestine Rose Chambers, N'43**, has volunteered for 60 years at Franklin Square Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. In addition to volunteering, she enjoys gardening and bowling. She shares a farm in North Baltimore County with her daughters and their families.

**Jessie W. McCoy, BSN'43**, says she enjoys being alive at age 91. She likes to read, sew quilts, and volunteer at her church. She lives in Decatur, Ga.



**Anne B.D. Powell, BSN'44**, has been retired from Wesley Long Hospital in Greensboro, N.C., since 1983. She now enjoys visiting members of her church with her husband, the **Rev. John James Powell, D'42**, as he makes pastoral calls. She also enjoys vegetable gardening, reading, and doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She and her husband live in Mill Spring, N.C.

**Mary P. Willcox, BSN'45**, is now 88 and is caring for her 96-year-old husband, Roy. She says both of them are doing well.

She is active at Bethany United Methodist Church in Houston, where they live.



**Sarah Welsh Buie, N'47**, celebrated her 90th birthday on April 4, surrounded by all of her family and many friends. She has lived at The Fairfax retirement community in Fort Belvoir, Va., for 21 years. Her husband, **Col. James C. Buie, T'53**, passed away in 1999. She enjoys surfing the Internet, playing bridge, and spending time with friends and family.

**Joanne Bouton Dunwoody, N'47**, says that "when you get to be 87 you tend to slow down a bit." She's having fun taking gospel and choir music classes, and spending time with her five children, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She lives in King City, Calif.

**Martha Bishop Garrick, BSN'47**, of Jacksonville, N.C., spends part of her time attending weekly Lions Club meetings and has become a master gardener. In addition to gardening, she also enjoys reading, sewing, and participating in church activities. She and her husband **Grier, T'48**, have four children: Susan is retired; Kathy is a retired teacher; Bettie is a preacher in Manns Harbor, N.C.; and Grier III lives in Rockport, Texas.

**Mary Moore Martin, N'47**, will turn 86 this July. She and her husband Edmund live in an assisted living center in Sarasota, Fla. She enjoys exercise classes, sewing, cooking, having dinner

parties, and spending time with their five children and 11 grand grandchildren.

**Miriam Atkinson Donovan, BSN'49**, and her husband, **John, T'50**, are now living in a retirement community in Silver Springs, Md., where they enjoy the many activities offered including, lectures, gymnastics, and college-level courses. She and John have been married 62 years. They have two sons, two grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

**Mary Bland House, BSN'49**, and her daughter own and operate Jems from Jennie, Ltd., a jewelry store specializing in old and new jewelry, silver, and a line of gifts. She lives in Portsmouth, Va.

## 1950s

**Edith Boone Toussaint, BSNEd'51**, volunteers at the reception desk and is involved with study groups at her church. She worked 27 years in nursing and earned a master's degree while teaching in the community college system of North Carolina. She enjoys reading and writing and has written poetry and stories in writing classes. She has two children, David and Edith, and a granddaughter, Morgan. She lives in Raleigh.

**Nora Mahaffey Martin, N'52**, retired 15 years ago and is living in Harrisburg, N.C., and staying active. She leads a Bible study at her church, helps people who are less fortunate than her, and assists her nieces and nephews with their children. She recently obtained a computer and is enjoying it very much. She also recently visited Alaska and has traveled to other places around the U.S.

**Kathryn McCullough Montgomery, N'52**, of Jasper, Ga., enjoys water aerobics, swimming, reading, doing church activities, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

**Rachel McCaskill Rogan, N'52**, has been retired since 2002. Her husband passed away in 2007, and she enjoys spending time with her seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She lives in Greeleyville, S.C.

**Mary E. Snyder, N'53**, and her husband Grady are living in a Methodist retirement community in Asheville, N.C. She volunteers at a medical clinic and as a tour guide at the Billy Graham Training Center. The couple has three children.

**Anne Barnes McKelvey, N'54**, retired her nursing license in March 2012 and is "morphing" into a social worker, working with several agencies that deal with homelessness and affordable housing. She also tutors elementary school students and works with missions and outreach teams through her church. She has traveled on five mission trips to Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she was involved with a health clinic, a children's program, and church building. McKelvey works as a volunteer at Charlotte Community Health Clinic. She enjoys taking exercise classes, walking, and spending time with family. She was widowed in 1998 and lives in Charlotte. Her son Sam is a physical therapist and her daughters, Katie and Patty, are nurses—Katie in hospice and home care and Patty in oncology. Her seven grandchildren range in age from 9 to 23.

**Frances Dixon Jones, N'55**, has been retired since 1997 and now is taking care of her husband **William O. Jones, T'54**. The

couple recently moved into a condominium and is in the process of selling their house. They have five children and 11 grandchildren and live in Cary, N.C.

**Jean Munro Bedell, BSN'56**, travels each year from August to October to India as a medical missionary, working with daughters of prostitutes and conducting conflict management workshops for police, religious leaders, prisoners, prostitutes, illiterate women, and high school students. She also is involved with Rotary International, focusing on polio eradication, water and sanitation, hospice, and Alzheimer's disease. Rotary International honored her in 2007-2008 with its Service Above Self Award, which is given annually to 120 people worldwide. Bedell is a medical assessor with Project CURE, assessing third-world countries' needs for medical equipment. She serves on the boards of directors for two organizations, Circle of Care and Family Hospice. When not volunteering, Bedell enjoys singing with two choral groups and playing bridge. She and her husband **Richard Bedell, T'53, MD'57**, live in Lafayette, Colo., and have four children and 10 grandchildren.

**Judith H. Lefkowitz, BSN'56**, is retired from nursing but still stays active at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville. She supports her husband, **Lewis B. Lefkowitz Jr., MD, HS'56-'57**, an emeritus professor of preventive medicine, with his retirement duties of interviewing medical school applicants and mentoring students. She also volunteers with a sewing group that makes wheelchair and walker bags for hospital patients. She also takes piano lessons,

gardens, and enjoys entertaining friends. The couple has three children, three grandchildren, and lives in Nashville.

**Ann Teague Nandrea, BSN'56**, is serving a one-year term as president of the Appalachian South Region of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She and her husband Larry have a farm in Franklin, N.C., where they produce mostly hay for horses. She volunteers at a local community care clinic and is a member of the volunteer reserve medical corps.

**Sybilene Blinson Dalton, BSN'57**, currently lives in a retirement community in San Antonio, Texas. She enjoys reading, completing jigsaw puzzles, and watching sports, especially Duke basketball. She has three children. Diane Warren lives in San Antonio and has her own business. Bob Dalton lives in Marietta, Ga. John Dalton lives in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Margaret S. Parish, BSN'57**, and her husband William celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last June. In April they moved "down the street" in Charlotte to a retirement home. She is very active in her church and related organizations such as Urban Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, and more. The couple has three children and five grandchildren.

**Joan Worrall Seifred, N'57**, is a member of a local garden club in Moneta, Va. that raises money for local charities. In 2011, she achieved the 500-hour volunteer milestone in the Master Gardener Program. She also is an avid reader and enjoys knitting and making jewelry. She has three adult children.



**Nancy Gallienne Yost, BSN'57**, is enjoying retirement with travel, church activities, reading, and swimming. She likes to take at least one trip a year to a new place or country. She has two daughters, Karen and Susan, and a granddaughter. She lives in Asheville, N.C.

**Sarah Whiteside Flanagan, BSN'58**, says she and her husband Jack are doing well despite Jack being confined to a wheelchair and hospital bed for two years. They both go to the pool three times a week for Jack's physical therapy, and Sarah also does yoga twice a week, as well as being involved in various church organizations. They live in Lakeland, Fla.

**Roberta Wilson Jenkins, BSN'58**, recently retired from the board of directors of a federally qualified community health center. She enjoys volunteering with a local non-profit that provides a food pantry and advocacy services. She lives in Brandywine, Md.

**Ann Cannon Rollins, BSN'58**, retired, volunteers with a hospice, a respiratory rehabilitation center, and the Shepard's Center in Greensboro, N.C., where she lives. She enjoys doing ancestry searches and keeping in touch with Duke University School of Nursing classmates. Her husband **Hal Rollins Jr., BS'57 (medicine), MD'58**, is retired from ophthalmology. They have three children and five grandchildren.

**Maryella R. Vause, BSN'59**, is a health, wellness, and fitness coordinator and health and wellness writer for a local newspaper in Blanco, Texas. She has five children and 12 grandchildren.

**Sarah Colglazier Young, BSN'59**, has moved to Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Md. She belongs to several groups including The Women's Guild of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She enjoys seeing friends from Duke who live in the Washington, D.C., area.

## 1960s

**Peggy Borchardt Bollenbach, BSN'60**, and her husband William are retired farmers. Their farm consisted of 40 cows, 40 calves, and a dozen chickens. Now they enjoy traveling, gardening, and spending time their blended family of 10 children and 19 grandchildren. They live in Alderson, W.Va.



**Deanna B. Little, BSN'60**, is staying active volunteering at her church and local organizations, and traveling by RV in the U.S. and Canada. She and her husband **Tom, T'60**, also enjoy traveling overseas. They are pictured with four of their eight grandchildren. They live in Ponta Gorda, Fla.





**Joan Brown Rhodes, BSN'57, MSN'60**, retired in 2010 after a 34-year career at the University of Colorado School of Nursing, where she held various positions, including director of student services, and working in the professional development department. She met her husband, Winston L. Rhodes, in 1964 when she took a staff nursing position on board the medical ship *SS Hope*, which docked for a year in Guinea, West Africa. They married in 1967 and have three children and several grandchildren. They live in Littleton, Colo.

**Elaine S. Welsh, BSN'60**, is living in a retirement community in Hendersonville, N.C. with her husband Norman. She is active in the Philanthropic Educational Organization that gives scholarships to girls and women entering or advancing their education in the education field. When she lived in Fearington Village in Pittsboro, N.C., several years ago, she helped to establish the health care facility there. She has a son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

**Catharine Ross Bell, BSN'61**, a breast cancer survivor, is active with a breast cancer coalition, mentoring newly diagnosed women and presenting outreach programs. In her free time she enjoys knitting, doing yard work, exercising, cooking, and traveling. She and her husband Jim live in Lewes, Del., and have two children and four grandchildren.

**Betty Shore Shackelford, BSN'61**, continues to teach part time at Forsythe Technical Community College and working *pro re nata* (PRN) at Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes. She likes working in her garden and spending time with her family, including four children—Clare, Barbara, **Brian, MD'89**, and **William, MD'85**. She and her husband **John F. Flanagan, MD'53**, live in King, N.C.

**Bonnie Buff, N'62**, has retired from nursing and ended her consulting business. “It’s amazing to me that I graduated 50 years ago!” she says. She still lives in Raleigh, as do two of her three children. The third is in California. She enjoys her bridge group and doing water aerobics. She also is “waging a constant war against the herd of deer who love to ‘Eat at Bonnies.’”

**Patricia Drewry Sanger, BSN'62**, is founder and executive director of the non-profit Arts-Kids, Inc., a 13-year-old youth development program offered in Park City, Utah schools and on an Indian reservation. She also maintains a small, private psychotherapy practice in her home. She has three adult children and several grandchildren and lives in Park City.

**Louise Nigh Trygstad, BSN'62**, retired as a professor at the University of San Francisco 12 years ago but continues to volunteer with her research partner. This summer, they both will be keynote speakers at the 22nd Congress of the Japan Academy of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. Their research initially focused on schizophrenia but has

broadened to include behavioral management of voices in other diagnoses, especially post-traumatic stress disorder and sexual trauma. Trygstad recently returned from a 35-day trip to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. She and her husband of 40 years, Bruce, live in Sonoma, Calif., and have a condo in San Francisco, that offers the “best of city and country living.” They enjoy spending time with friends and participating in movie, book, and investment clubs. They also spend a lot of time with their grandchildren.

**Gretchen Capehart DeCou, BSN'67**, retired from nursing in 2011. She lives in Moorestown, N.J., the town where she grew up, and spends a lot of time with her 104-year-old father. She and her husband Richard have three grown sons and a new black Labrador puppy who keeps them active.

**Nancy E. Dayton, BSN'67**, is enjoying retirement after a 33-year academic career. She was honored with a service and leadership award from the Union University chapter of Sigma Theta Tau in Jackson, Tenn. She twice was selected to Who’s Who in American Teachers. She now stays busy with her four grandchildren, is active in her church, and enjoys playing bridge, knitting, and reading. She lives in Knoxville, Tenn.



**Susan S. Ferguson, N'67**, and her husband **Henry, L'68**, moved to Mystic, Conn. in 2010 to be near their daughter Heather and her family who live on Fishers Island. Susan is involved with the Fishers Island Health Project, which insures there is a doctor on the island year round. The Fergusons like all outdoor activities and recently traveled to New Zealand, Alaska, Bonaire, Ireland, and Costa Rica.

**Kristen Wolfe Goff, BSN'67**, retired in April from The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley as the visitor services coordinator of 160 volunteers. Her past nursing career included public health nursing, teaching, and school nursing. She and her husband **David Goff, G'67**, have three children and three grandchildren and live in Winchester, Va.



**Bonnie Butt McLean, BSN'67**, has run an acupuncture practice for 28 years, the past 16 of which have been in her hometown of Pensacola, Fla. She practices acupuncture and Chinese medicine. She has two sons, both of whom are pilots in the U.S. Marine Corps., and five grandchildren.



**Linda Smith Beckett, BSN'69**, poses inside Cameron Indoor Stadium with her husband **Tom, E'69**, and their grandson Will last May, right after Will received an award from the Duke University Talent Identification (TIP) Program. TIP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving academically gifted and talented youth. The Becketts live in Apex, N.C.

**Carole Frey LeBar, BSN'63, MSN'69**, is still working part time as a psychotherapist. She also volunteers at an animal shelter and with the Obama re-election campaign. She recently helped to bring a blind Ethiopian man to the U.S. and helped find an ophthalmologist to perform *pro bono* surgery. The surgery was successful and the man's vision is now 20/20. She and her husband John have four children and two grandchildren and live in Durham.



**Kristina Meservey, BSN'69**, in photo at right, and her "spousal equivalent" Ross MacLean, left, are shown playing Santa and Mrs. Clause at their church last December. Pictured with them is their pastor, Sally Norris. Meservey says she became disabled after chemotherapy treatment for cancer in 2009, but is still living an active life. She exercises in the

water 2 to 5 times a week, and is involved with breastfeeding education and school-based health special interest groups with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. She also is active in other civic and political organizations. She has three children, Marie, Eric, and **Katherine, T'07, F'11**, and two granddaughters, and lives in Eastham, Mass.

## 1970s

**Jane Stallard Barnett, BSN'72**, works full time as a nurse consultant for the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, Colo. She also is a health coach, working primarily with teens. When not working, she enjoys skiing, hiking, and visiting her 93-year-old mother in Massachusetts. Her three sons are in college. John is studying computer science at Colorado State University and has plans to spend the summer in China. Steven and Thomas, both 19, attend community college.

**Barbara Eshelman Bergersen, BSN'72**, has been working in nursing for most of the past 40 years. For the last 15-years she has been a staff nurse in the mother/baby unit at Sacred Heart of Riverbend Hospital in Eugene, Oreg. She and her husband Paul have three sons, ages 26, 24, and 21, and live in Eugene.



**Connie Stevenson Gottwald, BSN'72**, is retired from nursing and now is fascinated with the people and cultures of the former

## Keep in Touch with Your Duke Nursing Family!

Send your personal and professional news—photographs are strongly encouraged—to DukeNursing Magazine, 512 S. Mangum Street, Suite 400, Durham, N.C., 27701-3973. Or, email your news to [amelia.howle@duke.edu](mailto:amelia.howle@duke.edu).

We love to publish your photographs; note that electronic images need to be at least 300 dpi for printing.

Soviet countries. She began taking Russian language classes in 1995 and continues today. She has been to Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine many times with a church group and with Christian Children's Fund. This May she will go to Russia for the ninth time. At home in Richmond, Va., she teaches English as a second language to Russian-speaking senior citizens at a Jewish independent living facility. She and her husband William have four children and a fourth grandchild on the way.

**Katharine A. Gracely-Kilgore, BSN'72**, of Doswell, Va., currently works as a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) in a private practice in Richmond, Va. She has been a PNP since 1978, working in Maryland, Chicago, and Albany, N.Y., before moving back to Richmond. Over the years she has been a preceptor for graduate nurse practitioner students while working at Virginia Commonwealth University Student Health Services. She also wrote a chapter for a pharmacology textbook. When not visiting her children, she enjoys gardening, taking Pilates classes, and reading. She and her husband Dennis have been married for 32 years and renewed their vows five years ago. Their two sons are both in school. James is in his last year at Savannah College of Art and Design and Alex is in his second year at the Royal Veterinary College in London.



**Diane Smith Pogmore, BSN'72**, has worked for the past 18 years as a Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse at The Medical Center of Aurora, Colorado. She assesses and treats acute and chronic wounds of all types in both the acute care hospital and a small hospital-based outpatient clinic. She and her husband **George R. Pogmore Jr., T'72**, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year. They live in Greenwood Village, Colo.

**Jane Ehrensall Rohrbaugh, BSN'72**, has spent the past 23 years working as a pediatric nurse practitioner for a children's clinic in St. Louis, Mo. She currently is working three days a week. She also is a preceptor for master's level PNP students. She and her husband, James R. Rohrbaugh, MD, have two children and one grandchild and live in St. Louis.



**Christine Reiss Cattle, BSN'73**, sent this photo taken at the Class of '73 Hanes House Reunion at

# Physical Exam Class Helps Student Diagnose Own Cancer

On June 9, 28-year-old **Meera Patel, MSN'09**, walked down the aisle to celebrate the promise of life-long love.

Along with the spirited toasts and dancing that will follow, the day likely included a more contemplative celebration by many who give thanks that Patel has remained cancer-free for the past three years.

"Of all the cancers to have, thyroid cancer certainly is not the worse," Patel said matter-of-factly.

But that doesn't suggest that her journey was painless or easy. Like most cancer sufferers who undergo intense treatment, Patel experienced severe side effects like the temporary loss of hair, weakness, and being ill.

What's curious about Patel's case is that she discovered her cancer accidentally while practicing physical exam skills on herself when she was a family nurse practitioner student at Duke University School of Nursing.

## A Valuable Class

In what turned out to be a prescient day in her physical exam class in 2007, Patel learned the finer points of palpating, or examining by touch, the thyroid glands of her classmates. In late 2008 during an OBGYN clinical rotation, she realized she hadn't practiced examining a thyroid gland in over a year, so decided to practice on herself.

"That's when I felt the nodule," she said. "I assumed it was benign because I felt fine. I waited about a month to go to student health."

It was good that she didn't wait longer.

The physician at Duke Student Health ordered an ultrasound and referred Patel for a biopsy, which was inconclusive.

Patel consulted **Katherine Pereira, MSN'02, DNP'12**, an assistant professor in Duke's Family Nurse Practitioner Program who also maintains an active clinical endocrinology practice.

"Kathy said that since the biopsy was inconclusive I should have exploratory surgery to make sure," Patel said. "She was great at helping to get it scheduled." Patel had taken a class with Pereira before and was scheduled to do an endocrinology rotation with her that January.

Instead of going home to Jacksonville, Fla., for Christmas, Patel remained at Duke for surgery. The cancer was so advanced she required a complete thyroidectomy and had nearly 20 lymph nodes removed where the disease had spread.

"Clearly the cancer had spread and had been going on for awhile," Patel said. "I'm certainly grateful that I was taught how to palpate a thyroid gland and recognize an abnormal one."

Pereira said that the longer thyroid cancer goes undiagnosed or unde-

tected, the more likely that it will spread to the surrounding lymph nodes and neck structures, be harder to treat, and become more aggressive. "So the fact that it was discovered early was certainly good for her," Pereira said.

For the next eight weeks Patel underwent high-dose radioactive iodine treatment during which she was driven to maintain her full schedule of school and clinical obligations.

"I was tired all the time, my face was swollen, and my hair was falling out," Patel said. "But Kathy was very supportive. If I was too tired we'd reschedule my clinics."

"The iodine treatment made her pretty sick," Pereira said. "I was amazed with her determination and professionalism through it all. She functioned at a very high level in clinic. All of the patients loved her."

Patel is now on a life-long regimen of synthetic thyroid hormone. She's a family nurse practitioner at the Jacksonville Heart Center in Jacksonville, Fla., and sees her endocrinologist every three months.

"I can't emphasize enough how Kathy was such a big part of this process. She always emphasized that everything was going to be OK. For my mom, it really helped knowing that Kathy was my instructor and my nurse practitioner provider. She felt there were people looking after me."

Patel's husband Vatsal Suthar is a dental student at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Patel will move to

Charleston after the wedding. She also wants to return to school within the next couple of years to earn a doctor of nursing practice degree.

Pereira said she has no doubts that Patel will continue to be highly successful.

"Meera is a very intelligent, bright woman," Pereira said. "She was one of the most delightful students I've taught—one of our school's bright shiny pennies as far as doing well and taking off with her degree. I wish her nothing but happiness."

— JIM ROGALSKI



"I'm certainly grateful that I was taught how to palpate a thyroid gland and recognize an abnormal one."

**MEERA PATEL**

Wrightsville Beach last October. Thirty-five members—many of whom haven't seen each other in 38 years—gathered for the spirited weekend.

**Sally Austen Tom, T'73, BSN'75**, of Silver Spring, Md., is currently a faculty member in the midwifery program of Frontier Nursing University and teaches three online professional role courses. She also travels to Hyden, located in the mountains of eastern Kentucky and the birthplace of nurse-midwifery in the United States, several times a year to teach clinical assessment skills. She serves as a commissioner and coordinator of site visitors for the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education, the accrediting agency for midwifery education programs. She also spends one day a week working as a dog trainer and in 2010, received national certification as a Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed.

**Kim S. Hug, BSN'77**, is now working for The Joint Commission as a home care supervisor. The commission accredits and certifies more than 19,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Hug is enjoying the nationwide travel that is involved with her new job and hopes to visit with some Duke classmates along the way. She and her husband Richard have two children, **Kevin, MD'12**, and **Kelley**, a Stanford graduate who is working in San Francisco as a field engineer for a construction company.



**Susan P. O'Dell, BSN'77**, is in her 28th year as a nurse practitioner for Kaiser Permanente. She cares for mothers and newborns and specializes in lactation counseling. Her husband **Christopher, T'77**, is a private-practice attorney. They have two daughters, **Erin and Kelley, DNP'12**, and live in Golden, Colo. She and Kelley are pictured at a home Duke men's basketball game during the recent season.

**Joan Cassetta Shields, BSN'77**, of Colorado Springs, Colo., works as the managing director of the Colorado campus of the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), which ranks among the world's top 10 providers of executive education. She recently became a board-certified coach and head designer on the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program. CCL and UNC have partnered on this initiative. Shields enjoys skiing, cooking, and hiking with her husband and their two golden retrievers. Her daughter **Jessica Harris**, a head start teacher in Shelby, N.C., is expecting a child with her husband **Jeremy** in September. Her son **Zach Gurvis** lives in Denver and works as an admissions counselor.

**Judith A. Thorpe, BSN'77**, has worked for the past year and a half as the associate chief nursing officer at Hallmark Health System's Melrose-Wakefield Hospital in Melrose, Mass. In this role, she is responsible for operations and informatics. In June, she plans to take a medical mission trip to the Dominican

Republic with a group of 40. She traveled there two years ago and with her group treated more than 1,000 patients in four days. When not working, Thorpe tutors a friend's daughter, who is a survivor of childhood leukemia, in college math. She also enjoys exercising, knitting, playing bridge, reading, and spending summer vacations in Ocean City, N.J., with her family. She lives in Dedham, Mass.



**Karen Margolis Frank, BSN'79**, left in photo, and **Molly Morris Joffe, BSN'79**, recently got together for a mini reunion some 30 years after graduating from Duke. Karen lives and works in Boulder, Colo. She and her husband **Mark** have two children, **Heather and Christopher**. Molly lives and works in Marin County, Calif. She and her husband have three children, **Margaux, T'06**, **Natalie**, and **Gabrielle**.

**Gretchen A. Geist, BSN'79**, earned a master of science in nursing degree in December 2011 from Edgewood College School of Graduate and Professional Studies in Madison, Wis. She is a nurse educator at the Rock River Free Clinic in Jefferson, Wis., providing direct patient care and working with a group of registered nurses to expand care coordination and health education services. She and her husband **Brad Myers**, a family physician, have two adult children, and live in Jefferson.

**Sheryl Johnson Gmoser, T'78, BSN'79**, hasn't worked in nursing for several years but

is keeping active with home remodeling projects, serving on the board of the ladies golf league, and most recently, ballroom dancing with her husband **Dean**, a pediatrician. They have two grown sons, **David and Greg**, and live in Sugar Land, Texas.

## 1980s

**Mary Kay Grady, BSN'82, MD**, is a senior anesthesiologist at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. Her husband of 14 years, **George**, is a urologist at the hospital. They have twins, **Grace and Liam**, and live in Annandale, Va.

**Susan R. McLean Whitehurst, MSN'87**, is project manager for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Partnership for Patients Campaign (PPF). She is a senior consultant for patient safety and speaker for The Joint Commission's accountability measures. She serves 50 hospitals in the PPF campaign. She has two adult daughters and lives in Rocky Mount, N.C.

## 2000s

**Tanya Henley Lam, MSN'00**, and her husband **Gordon Ka Wing Lam, MD'01, HS'01-'04**, welcomed a son, **Luke Henley Juhn Ho Lam**, on Oct. 14, 2011. Luke joins 4-year-old old brother, **Grant**. The family lives in Davidson, N.C.

**Kelly Thompson-Brazill, MSN'02**, a nurse practitioner in cardiothoracic surgery at WakeMed Health and Hospitals in Raleigh, has been appointed to the North Carolina Nurses' Association Commission on Education. She and her husband **Martin Brazill** live in Raleigh.

**Katherine 'Katie' Hornack, ABSN'06**, has moved to Chicago and is working in the neurology intensive care unit at Rush University Medical Center. She lives a block away from her sister and is close to her family in Cleveland. She is applying to graduate schools in Chicago and Cleveland to become an acute care nurse practitioner.



**Andrea Plested, ABSN'06**, moved back to Colorado in 2011 after spending nearly five years working on the trauma/transplant/general surgery step-down unit at Duke University Hospital. She spent last summer working as a registered nurse at an overnight YMCA camp in the Rockies, and now is working as an inpatient cardiac rehab RN in Granby, Colorado.

**Sara Stafford, ABSN'06**, and her husband **Benjamin 'Luke' Stafford, ABSN'06**, are expecting their first child in June. The couple has moved to Meredith, N.H., where Luke is a full-time certified registered nurse anesthetist at Lakes Region General Hospital, and Sara is working part time as a registered nurse at a private boarding school. They are remodeling a 200-year-old farmhouse and enjoying the natural beauty of New Hampshire.

**Kate Ireland, MSN'07**, is involved with Haiti Providence University, a new university in Haiti, which opened in 2012 and is in the process of starting a nursing program. She is currently assisting with curriculum development and collecting textbooks for the library

and supplies for the nursing lab. Ireland also recently passed the certification in critical care nursing exam. She is a nurse manager of a 12-bed medical intensive care unit at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where she oversees 50 staff nurses. She and her husband, a survivor of the 2010 Haitian earthquake, had their first son Liam in January 2011. They also have two adopted daughters, Kayla, 12, and Danielle, 9. The family lives in Rochester, N.Y.



**Laura S. Wilbourn, ABSN'07**, is working in labor and delivery and postpartum nursing in South Korea, where her husband Samuel is stationed in the U.S. Army. For the past three years she has worked at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital. In May, she and her family were planning to move to Monterey, Calif., for Samuel's next deployment. She said a move to Beijing, China is likely in the future. The Wilbourns have three young daughters.



**Katie L. Sligh, ABSN'07**, was to be married on May 19 to Chris Moore. She is a level one trauma nurse in the emergency department of Orlando Regional Medical Center in Orlando, Fla., where she lives.

**April Schultz, ABSN'07**, is an intake coordinator for the UNC Rehabilitation Center, where she previously served as a staff nurse and assistant nurse manager. She served on the UNC-Chapel Hill Magnet Operations Committee, helping UNC Hospital achieve its first Magnet designation. She also presented a poster at the 2011 Magnet Conference on staff education that focused on ventricular assist device patients in rehab. She lives in Chapel Hill.



**Anthony 'Tony' Amato, ABSN'08**, currently is attending the nurse anesthesia program at Virginia Commonwealth University. He and his wife Robin will celebrate their second wedding anniversary this year. Amato enjoys photographing engagements and weddings for his Duke friends. The couple lives in Richmond, Va.

**Darcy Anne King, ABSN'08**, lives in Seattle, where she works as a high-risk obstetrics nurse. She also is studying at the University of Washington to become a certified nurse midwife.

**Margo Astor Moore, MSN'08**, recently moved from Arlington, Va., to start a new position as a nurse practitioner in the breast surgical oncology program at Duke.



**Elizabeth M. Driscoll, ABSN'06, MSN'09**, her husband David, and their children moved to Anchorage, Alaska, in 2008, where David took a new job as director for the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies at the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA). Elizabeth was able to complete her Duke MSN degree with clinical work in Anchorage. Since 2009, she has been working at a nurse practitioner-owned clinic in Anchorage. This year, she also began coordinating the first-year family nurse practitioner students at UAA in which she arranges clinical placements, guest lectures, and more. This summer she'll also begin working at the student health center at UAA.



**Erin Boyd Hobgood, ABSN'09**, and her husband Taylor welcomed twins Colby and Nora last October. Erin is a clinical nurse in Duke Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. The family lives in Cary, N.C.

**Melissa Peters, ABSN'07, MSN'11**, is a certified registered nurse anesthetist at UNC Hospitals. She said she will "proudly wear my Blue Devil scrub hat to work every game day." Last summer she took a long road trip to visit several national parks. She covered 9,000 miles and visited 27 states.

**Sue White Massenburg Starr, N'35, BSN'40**, died March 23, 2011. She was 99. She was the wife of the late Rev. Homer P. Starr.

**Iris Melton Whitaker, BSN'43**, of Fuquay-Varina, formerly of Chapel Hill, died January 22, 2011. She was 90. Whitaker was a nurse at Lennox Baker Children's Hospital in Durham for many years. She is survived by three daughters, a son, and their spouses; seven grandchildren; one great grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

**Bernice Cobb Jones, BSN'44**, of Winston-Salem, N.C., died April 30, 2012. She was 90. She worked as head nurse of the Department of Urology at Duke University Hospital. After marrying Joseph F. Jones and moving to Winston-Salem, she became a mother and homemaker. She enjoyed cooking and collected hundreds of cookbooks and recipes. She also volunteered to prepare meals at the Samaritan Soup Kitchen. Jones is survived by her husband of 59 years, a daughter and son, and two grandsons.

**Barbara Peterson Lohrstorfer, N'47**, of Battle Creek, Mich., died January 6, 2012. She was 87. She was a nurse at Bixby Hospital in Adrian, Mich., when she met her future husband, John E. Lohrstorfer, a Michigan state trooper. They moved around Michigan, and Barbara worked at several different hospitals. She was a member of a skydiving club and made her first jump at age 75. She is survived by her husband and eight children.

**Helen Jones Majette, N'47**, of Southern Pines, N.C., died Feb. 16, 2012. She was 86. Her nursing career over the years included serving as assistant director of nursing at the N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, assistant professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing, and assistant professor at the UNC-Wilmington School of Nursing. She is survived by a sister-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

**Virgie Ray Bingham, N'48**, of Greensboro, N.C., died May 7, 2012. She was 85. During her career she worked as a registered nurse and nursing instructor at Cone and Wesley Long hospitals, and Guilford Technical Community

College. The annual family vacation to Myrtle Beach was something she enjoyed for over 50 years. In her later years, she discovered woodcarving. Bingham was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, **Alvin L. Bingham Jr., E'49**. She is survived by a daughter and two sons, five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

**Enid Troxler Dula, N'48**, died Jan. 12, 2012, at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was 85. She began her nursing career in the medical department of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. She did private duty nursing for 35 years. She also was a former member of the N.C. State Nurses Association. She enjoyed volunteering with Forsyth Hospital and Meals on Wheels. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles H. Dula Sr., and her sister. She is survived by a son, a grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

**Ellen Goforth Montero, BSN'48**, died on January 20, 2012. She was 87. She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, **Enrique Montero, MD, HS'44-'47**. While at Duke she won the Bagby Award in pediatrics as the best senior nurse. She taught nursing at the Medical College of Georgia until her family moved to Griffin, Ga. in 1953, where she was a homemaker, and both nurse and office administrator in her husband's medical practice. They both retired in 1986. Survivors include a son and daughter, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Nancy Lee Wright King, N'53**, of Shelby, N.C., died December 7, 2010. She was 80. She is survived by four daughters and their respective husbands, three brothers, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Elizabeth Whitley Hofferbert, N'58, BSN'60**, died April 1, 2012, under hospice care in Huntersville, N.C. She was 74. She had a long and varied nursing career. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, William, two sons, and two daughters.

**Sylvia Singletary Suitt, BSN'83**, of Fayetteville, N.C., died February 19, 2012. She was 50. Suitt is survived by her husband Michael, her father Allan Singletary Sr., a sister, and three brothers.

# Dreams take Flight

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## Graduation 2012

Record Number of Degrees Awarded

The School of Nursing awarded degrees to its largest class ever, with 174 students “crossing the stage” during the May 13 hooding and recognition ceremony. The school awarded three PhD in nursing degrees, 83 accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (ABSN) degrees, 59 master of science in nursing degrees, seven post-master’s certificates, 31 doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degrees, and one health informatics certificate.

**Dean Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN’71, DNSc, RN, FAAN**, delivered welcoming remarks, and Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, chief executive officer of the National League for Nursing, delivered the commencement address. Nursing Alumni Association President **Kathy E.V. Gallagher, BSN’75**, and Chancellor for Health Affairs Victor J. Dzau, MD, also spoke during the ceremony, and DNP graduate **George L. Baxter III, DNP’12, ARNP, CEN, RN**, offered encouraging words to his fellow graduates during the student address.

“Be that one nurse who is fierce when it comes to advocating for the health of your patients, your health systems, your communities, your nations, and your world,” he said. “It is your world. As a nurse, you are trusted and admired. It is up to you to lead this world to healthier living. You have a big responsibility, but you can stare it down, look it in the eye, and say, ‘I got this,’ because you do.”

Two students received special recognition at the ceremony as recipients of the Ruby L. Wilson Excellence in Clinical Practice Award. The award is given each fall and spring to the graduating ABSN student who most clearly demonstrates outstand-



ing skills in patient assessment, communications, nursing care interventions, and professionalism. **Ginille J. Lazaro, ABSN’11**, received the fall 2011 award, and **Allison Booth Stubberud, T’09, ABSN’12**, received the spring 2012 award.