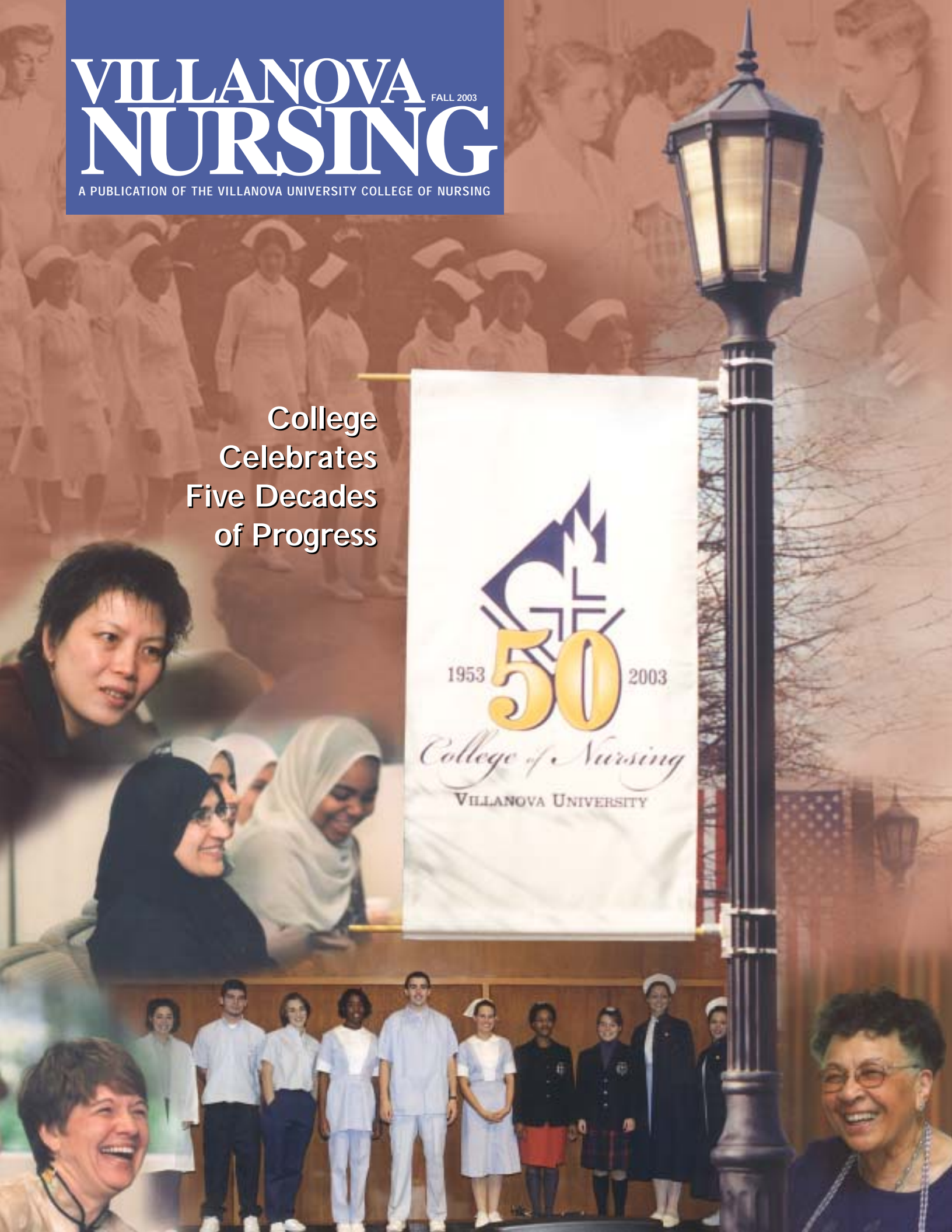


VILLANOVA NURSING

FALL 2003

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING

College
Celebrates
Five Decades
of Progress



Mark your calendar!

For more information on these upcoming events, call (610) 519-4900.

Fall 2003

- October 24-26 Homecoming Weekend at Villanova University
- October 26 Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International induction brunch
- November 2 Undergraduate Open House program for prospective students
- November 4 Nursing Alumni Reception and 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing. The speaker is L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, D.N.Sc., R.N., dean and professor, The University of Memphis Loewenberg School of Nursing (see box).

Spring 2004

- March 23 Graduate Open House for prospective students
- March 28 Nursing Alumni Society Graduation Tea
College of Nursing Candidates' Brunch
- April 15 Alpha Nu Research Day
- April 17 College of Nursing Annual Mass and Awards Ceremony
- May 15 College of Nursing Convocation
- May 16 Villanova University Commencement

An Invitation to the Final Major Event of the College's 50th Anniversary Year

You are cordially invited to the 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing, co-sponsored by the College of Nursing and Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

The guest speaker is L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, D.N.Sc., R.N., dean and professor, The University of Memphis Loewenberg School of Nursing.

She will address "Restructuring Nursing Out of Nursing Service."

Tuesday November 4, 2003

7:30 p.m.

Villanova Room, Connelly Center

Join faculty and fellow alumni for a reception preceding the lectureship in the President's Lounge, Connelly Center, at 6 p.m.

This event is supported by a grant from the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies.

For more information, call (610) 519-4900.



On November 4, L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, D.N.Sc., R.N. will be the guest speaker for the Distinguished Lecture in Nursing.

VILLANOVA NURSING

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Gives Students an Edge Back Cover

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Individual cakes at the 50th Anniversary gala on April 26 featured the logo, done in icing.

Cover Photos:

Scenes from the College's history and from this year's anniversary events are grouped around a celebratory banner on campus. Among those depicted are (left of the banner) Bing Bing Qi '94 M.S.N.; two Nursing students from Oman; (bottom row, from left) Susan Chianese Slaminka '69 B.S.N.; Nursing students modeling historical uniforms; and Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown (USA ANC, Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN.

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Vital Signs at the School



At the 50th Anniversary Mass celebrated at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on April 26, Dean Fitzpatrick welcomes Sister M. Margarella O'Neill, O.S.F., one of the College of Nursing's two founding co-directors.

Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing:

With this new academic year, a new phase in our development as a college of nursing also commences. This year will see the inauguration of our Ph.D. program. Moving ahead and making progress is the mantra of our College. To move forward to new goals is energizing, despite the very real effort and sometimes tedious tasks that are required to advance our agenda for nursing education at Villanova University. Your interest, encouragement and support help to propel us.

Along with many of our faculty, I have had the opportunity to serve Villanova long enough to be able to reflect clearly on where we have been, where we are now, and where the College must go if we are to maintain a leadership position among schools of nursing. Charting the course and implementing our strategic plan both imply change. Our longterm experience at Villanova facilitates our identification and documentation of those essentials that should not change, as well as those things that must change if we are to continue to thrive. Most certainly, our challenge will be to create nursing education for the future—a future influenced by technology, a fragmented health-care system, a demand for more nursing research, and political and economic exigencies—while remaining committed to the preservation of our Catholic Augustinian values, our emphasis on the individual learner and our service ideal.

The extraordinary 50th Anniversary gift of a \$4 million endowment from the Connelly Foundation to the College will be significant in helping us meet the challenge in many important ways. We are extremely grateful for the confidence that the Connelly Foundation and the Connelly family have demonstrated in us through this endowment.

The rest is up to us.

As alumni and friends, you play an important role in our continued progress. Your financial contributions will be increasingly important, but your ongoing interest and active involvement in the College and its students are essential as well. It is my privilege to have served as dean for these 25 years. I can assure you that there is always more to do, and as we continue to move ahead, I thank you for your support. Ours is a future full of possibilities!

Sincerely,

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

Doctoral Program to Address Acute National Shortage of Faculty

A doctoral program in Nursing has been announced by M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing. The new Ph.D. program is designed to prepare nurses as teacher-scholars for academic careers in higher education. It will address a national need for nurse educators, who are increasingly in short supply. The proposal for the Doctoral Program in Nursing was reviewed and approved by the Villanova University Board of Trustees in April 2002 and reaffirmed this past April.

Doctoral education in nursing builds upon baccalaureate and master's preparation through emphasis on research and theory development. Villanova's new Ph.D. program is distinguished by its special focus on the application of nursing knowledge and scholarly inquiry that address

professional and practice concerns as they relate to the pedagogical process.

The Ph.D. program in nursing seeks to educate graduates who will be:

- well-prepared to teach diverse populations of students in a variety of educational and clinical settings using state-of-the-art technology,
- equipped to provide leadership as the architects of curricula and masters of evaluation,
- active contributors to the advancement and development of research and
- active participants in the various roles of faculty members within an academic institution.

By inaugurating this program, Villanova will contribute to the essential supply of nursing faculty for the future.

The program will combine innovative and traditional modalities and will offer distance learning opportunities in the Fall and

Spring semesters, as well as on-site experience during Summer sessions. The length of the program (designed as 51 credits) will vary depending on a candidate's previous education, currency of graduate education and individual needs. Students will be admitted during the Spring Semester 2004 and will begin courses next June.

Although the nursing shortage has received considerable press, the shortage of nursing faculty is even more acute, as documented by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing and other nursing

First Class Begins 14-Month BSNEExpress Program

The College of Nursing's BSNEExpress program enables students with a bachelor's degree in another discipline—and who have fulfilled prerequisites and met admission requirements—to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 14 months. BSNEExpress students may earn their degree with full tuition support through an innovative partnership with the Jefferson Health System, based in Radnor, Pa.

In May, the program's first class of 26 men and women, ranging from 23 to 43 years of age, began their coursework. They come from a variety of backgrounds, with degrees in physical education, chemistry, biology, criminal justice, psychology, computer science, Spanish and English, among others. Many students have commented positively on the quality of the faculty and the support that faculty members offer to them. They also remark on the College's array of learning resources.

This first class recognizes the community spirit at Villanova. Student Katy Franklin says, "Villanova professors draw on (our) life experiences and nurture the unique strengths of each individual. The support and encouragement I receive from my fellow students make the challenging curriculum more manageable. I am proud

to be in the first class of the BSNEExpress. I look forward to continuing Villanova's 50-year tradition of compassionate care in a clinical setting."

BSNEExpress students take the same courses and participate in the same number of clinical hours as do traditional, four-year Nursing students, but do so in a compressed timeframe. The BSNEExpress program begins in May of each year and ends in August of the following year. Students must be able to devote considerable time to their studies, due to the program's intense, concentrated nature. "The students are working hard and yet are very excited about this new program. They are receiving a high-caliber education in a program that maximizes their prior degrees and prepares them to enter the workforce quickly as competent professionals," says Maryanne V. Lieb '85 M.S.N., R.N., coordinator of BSNEExpress.

Because the cost of additional education may inhibit qualified students from pursuing nursing as a career and because of the critical shortage of nurses, Jefferson Health System offers tuition awards for students in the BSNEExpress program. In exchange, the students must agree to work at any one of Jefferson's many premier



Assistant Professor Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. confers with BSNEExpress student Elijah Yakpasuo, who is from Liberia.

hospitals and care delivery sites for 24 months after graduation. The members of the Jefferson Health System include Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Frankford Hospitals, Magee Rehabilitation, Main Line Health and Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Inc.

For more information about BSNEExpress, call Lieb at (610) 519-6596, e-mail her at maryanne.lieb@villanova.edu or visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/bsn/bsn_express.

Members in Nursing

education accrediting bodies. Nearly two-thirds of the existing professoriate in nursing will be eligible to retire within the next eight to 10 years, but only 40 percent of newly graduated nurses with doctoral degrees seek careers in academia. By inaugurating this program, Villanova will contribute to the essential supply of nursing faculty for the future as the College of Nursing takes its next developmental step.

The College will seek highly qualified nurse applicants who are committed to academic careers. With a 20-year track record in graduate education and 50-year history of quality undergraduate education in nursing, the College is well-positioned to move in this direction.

For further information about the doctoral program, call (610) 519-4900 or visit www.nursing.villanova.edu.



A Tribute to the College's Staff *Whether we think about the day-to-day operations of the College of Nursing or the huge undertaking of the 50th Anniversary year-long celebration, the College would not be where it is today without the efforts of its staff. We are thankful for and honor the contributions of these talented individuals who are a valuable part of the College family. They are (from left) Ann M. Barrow '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.; Sharon Roth-DeFulvio; Thomas Galia; Marie Paolucci; Geri Hansen; Mary Murphy; Susan Leighton; Louisa Zullo; Bernadette Rau; Carol Rae; Denise Meikle; Barbara Nolan; Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N.; Mimi Snyder; and Brooke Eastwood.*

Welcome, Class of 2007!

It's been a banner year. This fall, the College of Nursing welcomed 82 incoming freshmen from 14 states, from Maine and the East Coast to way out West—California, Oregon, Washington and even Hawaii.

The College not only exceeded its target of 80 new students, but doubled the number of applicants received the previous year. Among these outstanding freshmen are a Presidential Scholar, three Villanova Scholars and five Navy ROTC full scholarship recipients. This exceptional Class of 2007 will continue the College's 50-year tradition of excellence.



Continuing Education Offers Clinical Research Course

Last spring, 30 individuals interested in working in the pharmaceutical research arena participated in a new College of Nursing Continuing Education course, "Introduction to Clinical Research." Offered on five consecutive Saturdays in March and April, the course was developed and taught by two nurses employed in pharmaceutical research. Robin Wells, M.S.N., R.N. is a senior clinical research associate for Cephalon, Inc. in West Chester, Pa., and Jo Dole, Ph.D., R.N. is a development project coordinator for AstraZeneca in Delaware.

The course provides an introduction to the world of pharmaceutical research, as well as an opportunity to explore the multiple responsibilities of clinical research coordinators (CRAs), and clinical research coordinators (CRCs). Its goals are to identify the multiple roles and responsibilities

of those involved in managing clinical trials and to explore regulations and controls that influence pharmaceutical research.

The diverse group of students in the course included R.N.s, clinical specialists, medical technologists, a medical social worker, a clinical scientist, research associates, information scientists, quality management coordinators and registered dietitians. More than two-thirds of them had already had experience in clinical research.

Participants enjoyed the detailed presentations, group activities, exposure to current employment opportunities, the experiences of the presenters, and the many sample protocols and forms.

For information about the course, call contact Louisa Zullo, program assistant, at (610) 519-4930, e-mail her at louisa.zullo@villanova.edu or visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/cont_ed.

“An Odyssey of Uninterrupted Progress”

The College of Nursing’s yearlong celebration of its 50th Anniversary culminated with a weekend of festivities and tributes on April 25-27. The spirited events reflected the theme of the anniversary—“A Heritage of Distinction: Transforming Hearts and Minds.” The special events began with a two-day conference that drew Villanova nurses from around the country and the world. Many stayed on Saturday evening for the Anniversary Mass and Awards Ceremony, followed by the black-tie gala with its very special announcement of the Connelly Foundation’s \$4-million endowment for the College of Nursing. On Sunday, the Alpha Nu brunch concluded the festivities.

Throughout the celebration, the steadfast mission of the College—and the talents and achievements of its alumni—were acknowledged in many ways. In “Celebrating Fifty Years,” a multimedia presentation

on Saturday, guests could see scenes depicting life in the College since its founding in 1953.

Each anniversary event attracted participants with varied backgrounds and areas of expertise. Together, these individuals represent a unique quilt of people, emblematic of the College’s 50-year history and those who have shaped it. This historic occasion also foretells the extraordinary future to come.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, has described the College’s first five decades as “an odyssey of uninterrupted progress.” As the College develops its new doctoral program, creates additional opportunities for international study for students and expands its programs at all educational levels, it remains committed to its values and embraces its future in shaping nursing, health-care delivery and our social fabric.

Conference Highlights Achievements of Villanova Nurses

A two-day conference by Villanovans, and for Villanovans, launched the 50th Anniversary weekend. On April 25-26, alumni and friends of the College of Nursing gathered at the Villanova Conference Center for “Advancing Nursing Scholarship, Education and Leadership: 50 Years of Achievement.” The conference showcased alumni successes in

research, clinical practice, management, nursing education, and military and public service. A consistent theme heard throughout the sessions was the solid preparation in knowledge, skill and service that each graduate received within the ethical framework of Villanova University. During their distinguished careers, these alumni have drawn upon their Villanova Nursing education and its values to guide them.

In her opening address on Friday, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, spoke on “The Odyssey and Vision: a Dean’s Perspective.” The Connelly Endowed Dean and professor

of Nursing drew upon her 25 years of experience in guiding the College.

In the keynote address, Rosalie Ghilardi Mirenda ’59 B.S.N., D.N.Sc., R.N., president of Neumann College in Aston, Pa., illuminated the mission of Catholic nursing education. The Nursing alumna cited Villanova as an exemplar of this mission, for it is “where my professional journey began,” she noted. “Catholic Augustinian higher education at its best blends the active and contemplative styles of life,” she observed. “The Augustinian synthesis between mind and heart and the reciprocity between love and knowledge are distinctive features of Catholic Augustinian educational institutions, and, indeed, most challenging for all responsible for achieving the mission. As administrators, faculty, graduates and learners in this environment,



At the College of Nursing 50th Anniversary Conference, Dr. Rosalie Ghilardi Mirenda ’59 B.S.N., president of Neumann College, delivers to fellow Villanovans her keynote address on “The Unique Mission of Catholic Nursing Education.”



(From left) M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, visits with two conference participants: moderator Kathleen M. O'Leary '79 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. and presenter James C. McCann '72 B.S.N., D.N.Sc., R.N., CANP.

we are all responsible for achieving the mission.” (The College has published her address in a commemorative booklet.)

Mary Duffin Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in her address provided insight into the impact of research on nursing practice.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday, more than 20 alumni of the undergraduate and graduate Nursing programs presented multiple concurrent sessions, which were moderated by more than a dozen other Nursing alumni. These Villanova nurses, who have gone on to distinguish themselves professionally, came back to share information about their lives and contributions.

In the Friday sessions, alumni presented their research findings, along with their views on trends in health care for the United States in general and for specific populations such as oncology patients, the elderly and the underserved. The presenters offered engaging discussions on how nurses are shaping policy, health service and public service.

At a reception Friday evening at Dundale on the

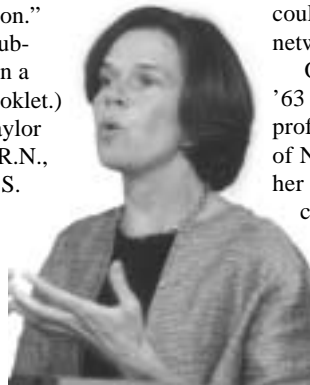
West Campus, conference participants could visit with fellow alumni as well as network professionally.

On Saturday, Gloria Ferraro Donnelly '63 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, dean and professor at Drexel University's College of Nursing and Health Professions, shared her “kaleidoscopic view” of nursing education. Subsequent sessions addressed information technology, distance learning, the College's worldwide influence and the future contributions to be made by alumni.

In viewing the poster exhibit on display, participants learned about the research of Villanova Nursing faculty members.

Concluding the conference was a distinguished panel whose members contemplated the life of the College and coalesced the viewpoints expressed by Villanova nurses throughout the weekend. The panel was titled “Fifty Years of Distinction: Gateway to the Future.” Those taking part were Vernice Ferguson, M.A., R.N., FAAN, FRCN; Lucille Joel, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN; and Margaret McClure, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN. (Villanova awarded Ferguson and Joel honorary degrees in 1988 and 1989 respectively.) The moderator was Nan Hechenberger '56 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. The panelists were united in their predictions of even brighter days ahead.

Those who attended the conference were overwhelmingly positive in their evaluation of the program and the chance to renew acquaintances and meet colleagues practicing in diverse settings or teaching.



Mary Duffin Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN offers her thoughts on “Research Impacting Practice” during her conference address.



Gloria Ferraro Donnelly '63 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN reflects on “Nursing Education Through the Looking Glass: A Kaleidoscopic View” to open the Saturday conference sessions.



Conference presenter Helen Bodkin Connors '64 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN discusses “Information Technology: Today and Tomorrow.”

A Special Thank-You from the 50th Anniversary Co-chairpersons

To all who contributed to making our 50th Anniversary celebration a huge success, we offer a special thank-you! Our appreciation extends to each of you, and especially to M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing; the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International; the Nursing Alumni Society; the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy; the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, University president and his staff; John R. Johannes, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs at Villanova, and his staff; and many other campus departments and offices. Without their support, the celebrations would have been much more modest.

Most importantly, we would like to extend our sincere and deep appreciation to the many alumni who worked tirelessly on committees, to the honorary committee members, and to the alumni who contributed memorabilia and attended many of the events. Without your efforts, our celebrations would not have been as successful. To our faculty and staff, we also salute your invaluable efforts. To quote the dean, “The entire series of events far exceeded my expectations.” We hope you enjoy the re-cap of events in this magazine.

It was a very busy anniversary year—lots of work, lots of fun, but best of all, a renewal of alumni relationships. Thank you!

Rose Woytowich O'Driscoll, '64 B.S.N.

Nicole Blanche Guerin, '88 B.S.N.

Ceremony Celebrates College's History and Honors a Top Nursing Scholar

At the St. Thomas of Villanova Church, the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, University president, and more than 20 other priests concelebrated the Anniversary Mass on Saturday, April 26. The College's faculty, staff, students and alumni participated in the liturgy, as did Campus Ministry and its pastoral musicians. Sister M. Margarella O'Neill, O.S.F., one of the two founding co-directors of the Division of Nursing (which became the College of Nursing) was on hand and was recognized for her pioneering role.

Father Dobbin in his homily drew attention to the College's anniversary theme. Transforming hearts and minds is at the core of the College of Nursing, he said. Father Dobbin described the College's alumni as skilled professionals and caring individuals who are recognized as such around the world.

The College commissioned a unique 50th Anniversary Medallion, which was presented during the awards ceremony to Donna Zimmario Bliss '81 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, FGSA. "Nursing is a caring profession but it is also an intellectual pursuit—Donna exemplifies both," noted M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing. Dr. Bliss is recognized nationally and internationally for her teaching, clinical expertise, scholarly publications and well-funded research.

Following her graduation from Villanova, Bliss worked in critical care

at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and earned two advanced degrees from Penn: her master's degree (as a critical care clinical nurse specialist) and her Ph.D. (in 1992). She then became a faculty member at the University of Minnesota, where she is the Professor in Long-Term Care of Elders and a Horace T. Morse-Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher. Her research there at the Center for Nursing Research on Elders explores the relationship between physiologic function and nutrition and their enhancement of quality of life in the elderly. Bliss is also the associate editor of *Nursing Research*.

Bliss has received numerous grants, written countless articles, presented her work around the country and served on many committees and boards. She shares her expertise with students and colleagues by teaching and mentoring. Her contributions to the profession and its body of knowledge are recognized frequently, as evidenced by her selection for membership in the American Academy of Nursing.

Also at the awards ceremony, Elise



Dean Fitzpatrick (left) and the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, University president (right), congratulate Donna Zimmario Bliss '81 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, FGSA, who was awarded the College of Nursing 50th Anniversary Medallion. Dr. Bliss is joined by her husband, Thomas Bliss, and their sons, Matthew (third from left) and John.

Robinson Pizzi, M.S.N., R.N., CRNP, assistant professor of Nursing, was recognized for her 25 years of service. Dean Fitzpatrick described Pizzi as "an exemplar for her students and peers...an excellent teacher and clinician." Pizzi's expertise in gerontology, as expressed through her teaching and service, was cited as greatly influencing the care of older adults.

A Letter to Those Who Could Not Join Us for the Celebrations

Dear Fellow Alumni:

There is so much to share when telling the story of the College of Nursing's 50th Anniversary celebration. In the Villanova tradition, there was plenty of time to catch up with good friends and good food. During the cocktail reception after the opening day of the conference, we enjoyed the evening breeze and classical guitar music on the veranda at Dundale, the University's Victorian mansion on the West Campus. At conference breaks and brunch at the Villanova Conference Center, we mingled while marveling at the desserts and the beautiful woodland setting.

During several events, we admired our tools of the trade displayed behind glass...yes, there were exhibit cases with all of the College's memorabilia, such as the first tuition bills that were only hundreds—and not thousands—of dollars. There were glass syringes, old filmstrips and the original meeting minutes from when the College was founded. We delighted in the tributes to those who shaped the College's history, including the oil painting

in memory of Sister M. Alma Lawler, C.R.S.M., who was one of the two founding co-directors. There was also an enormous timeline showing all of our significant events over the last 50 years.

In the multimedia presentation, "Celebrating Fifty Years," we smiled as we glimpsed fellow Villanova nurses. It was fun to see students modeling the old uniforms (remember that cap?) and freshman Orientation attire (oh, those beanies!). The Wildcat mascot was as energetic as ever, presenting a cake and leading the band in "Happy Birthday" for the Nursing students who gathered in Fall 2002 to kick off the anniversary season. Graduate students had their own cake and celebration during their Graduate Scholars' Day in April.

Throughout the past year, our 50th Anniversary banners have been hard to miss. They were festively displayed on St. Mary Hall and fluttered along Ryan's Way for all to see. The College's mission and spirit were also reflected in our commemorative calendar—a collection of photos, people and events that captured what we are all about.

Gala Evening Culminates in the Announcement of Connelly Foundation's Endowment for Nursing

One of the most notable events of the College of Nursing's 50th Anniversary weekend came during Saturday evening's gala, on April 26, when the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, University president, announced the Connelly Foundation's \$4 million endowment of the College's initiatives. The 450 guests gathered in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center were enthusiastic in their response to the news, for the endowment represents a significant investment in the College's future initiatives and marks the College's founding.

This latest gift to the University from the Connelly Foundation has resulted in the establishment of an endowed deanship in the College of Nursing. Dean M. Louise



Cmdr. Steven J. Wyrsh (NC, USN) '86 B.S.N., M.H.A., R.N., FAHM, FACHE and Capt. Joan Huber (NC, USN, Ret.) '73 B.S.N., M.S., R.N., CNA, BC enjoy the gala. Both were conference speakers representing the Navy Nurse Corps.

Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, dean of the College since 1978 and professor of Nursing, has become the first Connelly Endowed Dean. This portion of the endowment provides the resources needed to enhance program development, support professional development of students and faculty, and greatly assist in keeping the College's programs responsive to the ever-changing and challenging needs of the health-care system and the profession.

A second portion of the endowment will be allocated to enhance technology and laboratory resources for teaching and learning in the College.

A third portion expands the Connelly-Delouvrier International Scholars Program to support Nursing students, both for international study experiences and multicultural experiences in the United States.

At the gala, Emily C. Riley, the Connelly Foundation's executive vice president and a former Villanova trustee, offered remarks on behalf of her sister, Josephine C. Mandeville (the Foundation's president and CEO), the Foundation's officers and its board. Riley summarized the Foundation's evaluation of the College's graduates, indicating that they are well-educated and highly regarded. The Connelly Foundation was established in 1955 by the late John F. and Josephine C. Connelly. (Riley and Mandeville are their daughters.)



Father Dobbin presents a crystal commemorative piece as a token of gratitude to Emily C. Riley of the Connelly Foundation.

As a token of the University's gratitude, Father Dobbin presented the Connelly Foundation with a crystal plaque, highlighting the vision that the Foundation has shown in its support of the College. He noted that the 50th Anniversary celebration and the endowment reflect the leadership of the College, as well as the enormous impact of the College on the University. Father Dobbin said he anticipated a "wholesome and rich future" for the College, and he recognized the remarkable contributions of Dean Fitzpatrick over the past 25 years.

The dean presented to the Connelly

The pride we felt throughout the conference as we shared accomplishments and goals for the future continued on into Mass—another moving occasion. We heard soaring music and wonderful tributes that evening at the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. Afterward, a bagpiper led the 450 guests to the Connelly Center for the gala dinner. There, we caught up with more friends during the cocktail hour and enjoyed this wonderful party. At the reception, students were garbed in nursing attire from those five decades. Their starched uniforms, caps and long skirts elicited many fond memories and smiles.

It is evident that others see us as a premier college of nursing. In the displays at the gala, there were so many congratulatory letters—from deans, politicians, military and civilian leaders and many others—that we couldn't read them all. Dinner was fantastic, as was the setting. The Villanova Room was transformed, with the 50th Anniversary gold decorations reflecting the sparkling white lights. The icing on the cake—literally—was the

50th Anniversary logo decorating our individual desserts—almost too beautiful to eat!

We all remember the vitality we discover at every Villanova event, and that same energy has infused each celebration during the College's yearlong anniversary. The enthusiasm of Villanova nurses across the generations was inspirational. As we reconnected with classmates, we rejoiced in what makes the College of Nursing so special—dedicated people with diverse talents. We know you were with us in spirit!

Cordially,

Ann M. Barrow '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N. Coordinator of College Relations

Foundation a display copy of the 50th Anniversary College of Nursing Medallion. It symbolizes how much the College appreciates the Foundation's understanding of the needs and goals of nursing education, as well as of the vital role nurses play in society. The dean described how the Connelly Foundation's endowment supporting Nursing reflects the values shared by the Foundation, the University and the College, ultimately leading to positive influences on patient care.

The College also honored its enduring partnerships with clinical agencies, several of which have been associated with the College since its founding. Each agency received a crystal flame etched with the 50th Anniversary logo. The College similarly recognized the Order of St. Augustine, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, professional organizations, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for their support and longstanding relationship with Villanova Nursing.

Guests at the gala viewed congratulatory letters, historical displays and an oil painting commissioned in memory of the College's other founding co-director, Sister M. Alma Lawler, C.R.S.M. The portrait of Sister Alma, painted by the Rev. Richard Cannuli, O.S.A., was funded by alumni donations and given to the College by the Nursing Alumni Society. Father Cannuli is director and curator of the Villanova Art Gallery in the Connelly Center and professor of studio art.

"Nursing: the Heart of the Matter," was the theme chosen the Very Rev. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., '71 A&S, D. Min., for his remarks at the gala. Father Reilly is Prior Provincial of the Eastern Province (St. Thomas of Villanova) of the Order of St. Augustine and a member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees. He observed that the College of Nursing's graduates desire to lead with the heart and the head. It was the theme that had resonated in Father Dobbin's homily earlier that evening.

You Support our Future!

Your Annual Fund contributions make a difference! Sincere thanks for your ongoing support of our endeavors. You help ensure a bright future for the College of Nursing.

Alumna Who Led Army Nurse Corps Addresses Alpha Nu Brunch

A brunch on Sunday April 27, sponsored by the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, concluded the weekend-long 50th Anniversary celebration. The guest speaker was a Villanova Nursing alumna who served as chief of the Army Nurse Corps from 1979 to 1983. In her talk, "A Heritage of Distinction: One Nurse's Journey," Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown (USA ANC, Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN imparted the wisdom she gained during many years of professional service in the military and later in nursing education. Villanova awarded the alumna an honorary doctorate in 1981. She is a former member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees.

During the brunch, Lois Buchanan Wilmer '86 B.S.N. (left) converses with her former teacher, Col. Julia Boland Paparella (USA ANC, Ret.), associate professor emerita of Nursing (right), as Betty Ann Curran '57 B.S.N., a member of the first graduating class, looks on.

At the brunch, Col. Julia Boland Paparella (USA ANC, Ret.), associate professor emerita of Nursing, was honored for her military service and her influence on the development of the College of Nursing.

As the many generations of Villanova nurses headed back home after the weekend's festivities, they could reflect on how the anniversary theme of "A Heritage of Distinction: Transforming Hearts and Minds" might continue to prove inspirational in the future as well.



Several members of the Nursing undergraduate Class of 1966 reunite at the brunch with a former faculty member. (Front row, l-r): Elizabeth Kelly Keech '66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, and Annette Paczkowski Day '66 B.S.N. (Back row, l-r): Judith Klimek '66 B.S.N.; former faculty member Cass Oblaczynski M.S.N., R.N.; Patricia Grady Schneider '66 B.S.N.; and Barbara Park Drake '66 B.S.N.

In the center is the featured speaker at the brunch, Brig. Gen. Hazel W. Johnson-Brown (USA ANC, Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, former chief of the Army Nurse Corps. With her are (l to r) Dr. Linda Copel, associate professor of Nursing and Alpha Nu president; Rose Woytowich O'Driscoll '64 B.S.N., the College's assistant dean for administration and the 50th Anniversary co-chairperson; Army Lt. Col. Michael McDonald; Col. Julia Boland Paparella (USA ANC, Ret.), associate professor emerita of Nursing who was honored for her service to the Army Nurse Corps and to the College; Patricia Harris '92 B.S.N., '01 M.S.N., brunch chairperson; and Dr. Nancy Sharts-Hopko, professor of Nursing and Alpha Nu treasurer.



Research Project Focuses on Exercise and African-American Women

There are many barriers to regular exercise. Some may be internal (among them, lack of interest or perceived value) and others are external (such as the weather, the cost or neighborhood safety). A new research project by two College of Nursing faculty members will examine the exercise barriers experienced by two clinical populations of African-American women: those with cardiovascular disease and those with breast cancer. For their multi-phased study, Sara Reeder, Ph.D., R.N. and Mary Pickett, Ph.D., R.N. chose these two populations because epidemiological evidence reveals that African-American women have the poorest outcomes following cardiovascular events and breast cancer diagnosis.

Clinical data are sparse about these two high-risk groups since prior studies have not successfully recruited substantial numbers of African-Americans.

Heart disease death rates are more than 40 percent higher for African-Americans than for Caucasians. The death rate for all cancer is 30 percent higher for African-Americans than for Caucasians. African-American women have a

higher death rate from breast cancer despite having a mammography screening rate that is nearly the same as that of Caucasian women.

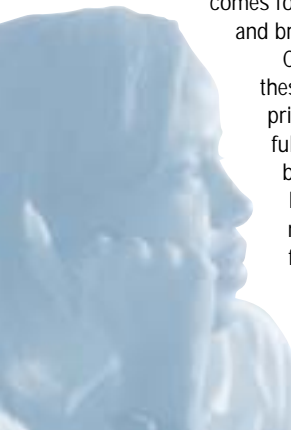
Overall, numerous studies have shown the benefits of exercise in reducing heart disease and breast cancer. The American Cancer Society Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity, the American Heart Association and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services all recommend that adults adopt a physically active lifestyle. The groups agree that adults "should engage in at least moderate activity for 30 minutes or more on five or more days of the week." Furthermore, "45 minutes or more of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity on five or more days of the week may enhance reductions in the risk of breast and colon cancer and heart disease."

The two faculty members bring a unique set of research skills and experiences to support their project's success (see page 12). Dr. Reeder, an assistant professor, has a strong and sustained background in the care of patients with cardiovascular disease and has conducted studies examining the outcome of women who have had myocardial infarction. Dr. Pickett, an associate professor



who has focused her research on oncology nursing, has six years of collaborative experience as part of a multi-institutional study that explored how a self-paced walking exercise program could be beneficial in women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Testing the effects of an exercise intervention is a challenge in light of the fact that most Americans live sedentary lifestyles and may resist increasing their level of physical activity. Prior research reveals that approximately half of those who attempt to incorporate an exercise program revert to their previous activity levels within three to six months.



Dr. Manfredi Retires

Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., R.N., former assistant dean and director of the graduate program in Nursing, retired in June. Over the past eight years, she has guided the graduate program to become the internationally known resource that it is today.

On May 20, a reception was held in Dr. Manfredi's honor in the President's Lounge of the Connelly Center. At the College of Nursing Convocation on May 17, Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, awarded the College's Medallion to Dr. Manfredi for her outstanding service.

At the College of Nursing Convocation in May, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, awarded the College's Medallion to Dr. Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., R.N. (right), who retired in June.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Manfredi practiced in staff development and nursing administration at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Elizabeth, N.J. After earning her doctoral degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, she taught nursing administration in the graduate program at the University of Rhode Island School of Nursing.

In 1985, Dr. Manfredi joined Villanova's Nursing faculty. She taught nursing administration for many years before becoming the driving force behind the graduate program. Under her leadership, it expanded from two to seven concentrations and has seen steady growth in its enrollment. Prior to her retirement, Dr. Manfredi had been assisting with preparing for Villanova's new doctoral program in Nursing. She is known for her skills in grant writing and management, her generosity as a mentor and teacher, and her quiet volunteer work with those less fortunate.

New Appointments

In 2002-2003, the College of Nursing welcomed an assistant dean, three faculty members, a member of the professional staff and a coordinator of the BSNE^{Express} program.

■ **Marguerite Stuhler Schlag '68 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N.** in July became assistant dean and director of the graduate program in Nursing. She comes from the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J., where was the assistant vice president for professional practice, education and research. Dr. Schlag succeeds Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., R.N., who retired in June (see page 11).



Dr. Schlag oversees the expansion and further development of the M.S.N. program and is implementing the College's recently approved Ph.D. program to prepare nursing faculty. "I am delighted to be returning to Villanova," she noted. "I am looking forward to working with the faculty and administration to continue our long tradition of preparing excellent clinical nurses and initiating the doctoral program to ensure nursing faculty for the future."

She earned her M.S.N. at Case Western Reserve University and her Ed.D. at Rutgers University. During her career, she has focused on nursing education. She taught at Villanova's College of Nursing (1970 to 1973) and held a faculty appointment at Rutgers.

Dr. Schlag served as a member of Villanova's Board of Trustees (January 2000-June 2003) and was the honorary chairperson of the College of

Nursing's 50th Anniversary celebration. The College in 1998 awarded her the Medallion for Leadership in Nursing Practice and Health Care Delivery.

■ **Mary Pickett, Ph.D., R.N.** in August was appointed a full-time associate professor after serving as a visiting associate professor since 2001.

Dr. Pickett teaches community health and oncology nursing. Her clinical, teaching and research focus has been in oncology nursing. She has investigated quality of life issues related to breast cancer and prostate cancer patients, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and palliative care. Widely published, she has conducted many funded research studies and has been a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Rhode Island and Thomas Jefferson University.



She received her B.S.N. from Salve Regina University, her M.S.N. from St. Louis University and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

■ **Sara Reeder, Ph.D., R.N.** in August 2002 joined the College as a full-time assistant professor. For the past two years, Dr. Reeder has been



teaching part-time in the graduate program, including an Internet-based nursing research course and "Advanced Pathophysiology" and "Nursing Care of Adults."

She also teaches a sophomore health assessment course.

Dr. Reeder received her B.S.N. from Howard University and her M.S.N. and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

Her clinical background in critical care nursing includes 20 years of service in the U.S. Army

Reserve Nurse Corps, where she achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. She served on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and Tuskegee University.

Her research is focused on cardiovascular nursing. In Pitt's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, she investigated predictors of myocardial reinfarction in women. She published several articles related to cardiovascular health.

■ Assistant Professor **Elizabeth "Beth Ann" Reedy Ph.D., R.N.**, who joined the faculty in August 2002, recently was awarded her doctorate in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania.

As a doctoral student, she received federal funding to study the care of premature infants in the United States between 1900 and 1950. The results of her research were published in *Nursing History Review*. She also received several honors, including the Student Research Award from the Association for the History of Nursing and Penn's University Fellowship Award.



She received her M.S.N. from the University of Pennsylvania and her B.S.N. from Gwynedd-Mercy College. Her clinical practice specialty is pediatric critical care. She now applies that expertise in teaching clinical and theory courses in parent-child nursing to undergraduates. Dr. Reedy has also taught at Thomas Jefferson University.

■ **Ann M. Barrow '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.** joined the College in September 2002 as coordinator of college relations. She is responsible for planning and implementing marketing strategies, exploring partnership opportunities, participating in recruitment efforts, offering editorial and Web support, and assisting with continuing education program planning and alumni affairs.

Publications

Theresa Capriotti '95 M.S.N., CRNP, DO, clinical assistant professor, "Stricter Cholesterol Guidelines Broaden Indications for the Statin Drugs," *MedSurg Nursing*, 12 (1), 51-57.

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., CS, DAPA, associate professor, chapters on "Psychosocial Concerns of the Individual and Family," "Homeostasis, Stress and Adaptation," and "Health Promotion and Education" in *Brunner and Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (10th ed.), co-edited by **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor, and **Brenda G. Bare, R.N.** (2003, Lippincott).

Elizabeth Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, "Urban Seventh Graders and Smoking: A Health Risk Behavior Assessment," *Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing*, 25, 217-229.

Janice Hinkle, Ph.D., R.N., CNRN, assistant professor, "Pharmacology Update: Neuroprotection for Ischemic Stroke" (with L. Bowman), *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, 35 (2).

Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, "Oncology Emergency: Spinal Cord Compression"

(with J. A. Flounders), *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 30, (1), E17-23.

Mary Pickett, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, "Adherence to Moderate-Intensity Exercise during Breast Cancer Therapy" (with V. Mock, M.E. Ropka, L. Cameron, M. Coleman and L. Podewils), *Cancer Practice*, 10 (6), 284-292.

Elise R. Pizzi, M.S.N., R.N., CRNP and **Gale Robinson-Smith, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professors, "Maximizing Stroke Recovery Using Patient Self-care Self-efficacy," *Rehabilitation Nursing*, 28 (2), 48-51.

Elizabeth "Beth Ann" Reedy, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, "From Weakling to Fighter: Changing the Image of Premature Infants," *Nursing History Review*, 11, 109-128.

Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor, "Assessing Rigor in Qualitative Research," *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 13 (4), 84-86.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor, "Reproductive Decision Making in Women with Multiple Sclerosis," *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, 34 (3), 145-157. Also co-edited *Brunner and Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (10th ed.), (2003, Lippincott).

Awards and Leadership Achievements

Theresa Capriotti '95 M.S.N., CRNP, DO, clinical assistant professor, in April received Villanova's Student Government Association Teacher of the Year Award for Nursing, based on student votes. In 2002 she received Villanova's prestigious Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., R.N., CS, DAPA, associate professor, presented a research session on "The Lived Experience of Partner Abuse in Physically Disabled Women" at the APNA 16th Annual Conference of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing: Integrating Practice, Research, and Education, held in Dallas, Texas, in October 2002.

Lynore DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N., BC, assistant dean and director of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care, was named co-editor of the Administrative Angles column of *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.

Barrow comes from Lippincott Williams & Wilkins where she was publisher of a major nursing Web site. She was also involved in new business strategies and market research. Barrow's previous publishing experience includes developing educational materials for multiple media for the nursing, physician and allied health markets.



Her clinical practice specialty is adult critical care nursing. The Nursing alumna was also a critical care lecturer and an adjunct clinical faculty member at Thomas Jefferson University.

■ **Maryanne Valentine Lieb '85 M.S.N., R.N.**, assistant professor, is the new coordinator of the B.S.N. *Express* program. This accelerated 14-month program gives college graduates a way to complete their nursing courses and clinical practice. "The B.S.N. *Express* program provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals to achieve their dream of becoming a nurse, and does so with the highest degree of integrity. To be part of that is wonderful for me," says Lieb.

Experienced in teaching adult learners, Lieb formerly was professor of nursing at Delaware County Community College in Media, Pa., and has also taught nursing at The Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing. She earned her undergraduate degree at Neumann College. In 2000, Villanova's College of Nursing honored her with its Medallion for Service.



Belle Erickson, Ph.D., R.N. and **Marycarol McGovern, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professors, in May 2003 received honorable mentions for Villanova's Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, celebrates 25 years as dean of the College of Nursing. She came to the College in 1978 after serving as an associate professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. At the College of Nursing's 50th Anniversary gala, the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58, University president, recognized her years of leadership and service to the College. Faculty and staff honored her at the May 2003 Convocation, where a citation was read and she was presented with a commemorative pendant. Dr. John R. Johannes, vice president for Academic Affairs, also recognized the dean's leadership at the ceremony. Dr. Fitzpatrick is the first to hold the endowed deanship made possible by the Connelly Foundation's recently announced endowment of the College (see page 9).

Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the Learning Resource Center, presented

In Memoriam

Joan T. Large '54 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., associate professor emerita of Nursing and former director of the College's graduate program, died of organ failure in Darby, Pa., on September 16. She was 75 years old.

A Philadelphia native, Dr. Large was a graduate of the Hahnemann School of Nursing who completed her B.S.N. at Villanova. She received her master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University. Early in her career, she taught pediatric nursing at Villanova and in 1966 was instrumental in establishing the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Dr. Large went on to teach nursing at Temple University and later taught in the graduate nursing program at Rutgers University-Newark. She returned to Villanova and became the first director of the College's graduate program when the M.S.N. program was inaugurated in 1980. She held that position until her retirement in 1988. Villanova honored her by granting her emerita status.

Throughout her career, Dr. Large was active in professional organizations, especially the Pennsylvania Nurses Association and the Committee for the History of Nursing Museum at Pennsylvania Hospital. She will be remembered for her commitment to the nursing profession and her loyalty to Villanova.

She is survived by her sister, Jeanette Large.

Contributions in Dr. Large's memory may be made to Villanova University College of Nursing, Villanova, PA 19085 or the Museum of Nursing History, 761 Sproul Rd., No. 299, Springfield, PA 19064.



Rosemary Schiller-Okolowski, M.S.N., R.N., longtime faculty member in the College of Nursing, died of pneumonia on April 22 in Springfield, Pa. She was 58 years old.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she received her B.S.N. in 1968 and her M.S.N. in 1970 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She was appointed to Villanova's Nursing faculty in 1970 and was a valued colleague. The assistant professor taught maternal child health and research methodology to countless students. An expert clinician and educator, she was recognized for her ability to make complex topics easily understood.



Family, friends and colleagues attended a May 19 memorial service in Corr Chapel at Villanova. Schiller-Okolowski was remembered for her devotion to her students; her sharp analytical mind; her tremendous sense of humor; and her love of the beach, baseball and books. Repeatedly, fellow faculty members recalled her as

"the smartest person I know."

Her husband, Dr. John A. Okolowski, died in 2000. She is survived by her brother, Vincent Visoskas, and two daughters, Amy and Nell.

Memorial donations will be used to purchase nursing books for Falvey Memorial Library, and may be sent to the Rosemary Schiller-Okolowski Memorial Fund, c/o of Villanova University Office of Development, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19085.

"Development of a Skills Lab Evaluation Instrument" (with C. Sando, L. Rockstraw and S. Wahl) at the Fifth National Conference on Nursing Skill Laboratories, held in San Antonio, Texas, in June 2003.

Mary Pickett, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, presented "Depressive Symptoms in Men Following Radical Prostatectomy," (with R. McCorkle, J. Robinson and E. Giarelli) at the 15th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, held at Yale University in March. In May, she became president-elect of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Gale Robinson-Smith, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, was awarded tenure last spring. An outstanding educator in psychiatric nursing, she became a faculty member in 1997.

Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor, in January was appointed as a consultant to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Advisory Committee on Obstetric and Gynecologic Devices. She served as a regular member from 2000 to 2003. She is the editor of the *American Journal of Nursing Maternal Child Nursing Book of the Year, 2003*.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, who in May was promoted to professor and who also serves as director of Nursing Research, presented "Knowledge About Bone Mineral Density Test Results: Necessary But Not Sufficient" (with V. Zimmerman) at the 2002 State of the Science Congress, held in Washington, D.C., in September 2002. She is president of the Eastern Nursing Research Conference and was honored with the *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing Award for Writing Excellence* for 2002.

Bette Wildgust, R.N., CRNA, adjunct assistant professor, was elected as CRNA educator representative (through 2009) for the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

Joyce Willens '83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, presented "Pain and Pain Management" at the American Interventional Radiology Nurses Association meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in March. She also was one of 15 pain management experts invited from across the nation to participate in the National Pain Management and Oncology Nurse Care Clinical Advisory Meeting in Las Vegas in July, sponsored by Endo Pharmaceuticals.

Graduate Student Studies Hope and Coping in Cancer Patients

"...to inspire hope is the nurse's specific task...the goal of nursing is to help the patient reach out for a plenitude of being that is always possible, in spite of biological limitations against which medicine is helpless."

—Sister M. Vaillot, 1970

Barbara Felder '00 B.S.N., R.N., OCN has dedicated her 14-year nursing career to the care of cancer patients. She practiced in home health settings and later became a staff nurse in the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Treatment Center's Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic, where she practices today.

Not one to slow down in terms of her education and exploration of issues in oncology nursing, after earning her B.S.N. at Villanova, Felder continued right into the College's Adult Nurse Practitioner master's degree program.

While in her current position in outpatient oncology, Felder published "Multiple Myeloma and Its Treatment" in the November 2002 *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*. Her case study illustrated the complexities of care for these patients. By the time her article was published, Felder had already completed the yearlong research project she conducted as her independent study in the Nursing master's degree program. Two faculty members guided Felder's work: Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, now professor, and Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor.

Motivated by an interest in truth-telling and whether it affects hope in patients, Felder set about to investigate the theoretical underpinnings. She conducted her study, "Hope and Coping in Patients with Cancer Diagnoses," at an outpatient cancer treatment center. The 183 participants (male and female) had varied cancer diagnoses and were at different points along the disease trajectory, from newly diagnosed to end stage; 71 percent had advanced disease. Felder began her research with a concept analysis of hope and then developed her own definition. She then found a theoretical framework and tools that used the same framework she did. To study coping, Felder also obtained a definition, tool and theoretical framework.

Participants in her study completed two evaluation tools, the Herth Hope Scale and the Jalowiec Coping Scale. Felder's findings indicated that levels of hope were consistently high across all diagnoses and the disease trajectory. She sees many implications for nursing. "Nurses have a responsibility to foster

and maintain hope. To paraphrase Jean Watson (a noted nursing theorist), care is always possible, even when cure is not." The alumna's study outlines characteristics of hope, hope fostering and hope hindering behaviors of nurses, and suggests hope assessment tools to assist nurses in patient care.

Her research already has had an impact on the Philadelphia-area oncology care community. Felder presented her work at the College of Nursing's Graduate Scholars' Day in April, and at the Oncology Nursing Research Symposium and the Symptom Management Rounds at the outpatient center where she works. She looks forward to reaching more colleagues and is currently preparing a manuscript for publication.

Felder is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and Phi Kappa Phi. In April, she was recognized for her achievements with the Nursing Alumni Society Graduate Scholarship.

She hopes more nurses will become involved in research and contribute to the advancement of nursing knowledge. She says she felt a "tremendous sense of accomplishment" once her research was completed. After she receives her M.S.N. in December, Felder plans on remaining in direct patient care, concentrating on the area she finds most satisfying: palliative care. "End of life issues are very important. Many patients can benefit from palliative care—it brings quality of life to those who have incurable diseases. I believe it should begin at the time of diagnosis," she says. The alumna intends to use her research findings in practice. Nurses, she suggests, "can reframe unrealistic hope into something more constructive. There is no situation that's hopeless; there's always something we can do."

To learn more about Felder's research findings, contact her at barbara.felder@villanova.edu.



The study undertaken by Barbara Felder '00 B.S.N., R.N., OCN already has had an impact in oncology care in the Philadelphia area. She encourages other nurses to become involved in research.

"Many patients can benefit from palliative care...I believe it should begin at the time of diagnosis."

—Barbara Felder '00 B.S.N., R.N., OCN

In a Peruvian Village, Seniors Provide Health Assessments and Wellness Programs

For the fifth year in a row, a group of College of Nursing seniors opted to experience their "Community Health/Health Promotion" clinical rotation in an impoverished rural community in Peru. As part of a Spring Break mission trip, 11 Nursing students, three Nursing faculty members and five Campus Ministry students traveled to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas. The Campus Ministry students helped rebuild the home of an elderly woman. The one-week trip was arranged with the assistance of Campus Ministry and the Rev. Richard Appicci, O.S.A., director of the Augustinian Mission Office.

The College of Nursing sponsored its faculty, the students raised funds to cover their costs and members of the Villanova community also generously helped support the College's efforts. This year's donations enabled the group to bring a supply of prenatal vitamins with iron. They also brought equipment such as blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes, and continued their efforts on educating parish workers in taking blood pressures.

During the weeks before leaving for Peru, Nursing students planned their health education presentations on diabetes, maternal nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, heart health and hygiene. By having their materials translated into Spanish, the students could assure that their efforts in Peru would be ongoing

after they returned home. Their presentations were well-received by the local nurses as well as by the parish health workers who serve their communities as health-care resources.

As word spread of the Nursing students' daily afternoon presentations, attendance soared from 22 the first day to more than 80 by the end of the week. Parents brought their children for impromptu exams while elderly residents sought advice on arthritis and other health problems.

Nursing students spent mornings on home visits, encountering poverty, another culture and the gratitude of the people. Guiding the students were assistant professors Elizabeth Keech '66 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.; Karen McKenna '70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N.; and Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., R.N., PNP. Wimmer joined the trip this year to complete general pediatric assessments so that health needs of children could be met on future trips.

Two highlights of the trip were the high regard the people had for nurses, and their respect for the students. While the students found it challenging to adapt their knowledge and skills to nursing and health promotion in a Third World community, they took great satisfaction in being able to provide much-needed care to those who rarely have access to health care.



In Chulucanas, Peru, Katie Brennan talks with community members about healthy diets. As a Nursing senior last spring, she chose to do a clinical rotation in an impoverished area.

Assistant Professor Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., R.N., PNP completes an impromptu physical assessment on a Peruvian child.

Nursing Students Make an Impact on Health in Honduras

In June, seven students from the College of Nursing traveled to Honduras for a week as part of the clinical requirement for their “Community Health/Health Promotion” course. Arrangements were made through the assistance of Campus Ministry with the Rev. Dennis O’Donnell to stay at Amigos de Jesus, a Catholic orphanage.

In preparation for the trip, the students worked with two Nursing assistant professors—Elise R. Pizzi, M.S.N., R.N., CRNP and Karen McKenna ’70 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N.—to gather data about health problems.

Once the students had identified the region’s major health problems, they developed educational presentations to be given in Spanish. They focused on hypertension management; breast-feeding, breast self-examinations and breast health; sexual development and feminine hygiene; and maternal and general nutrition. The students and their educational sessions—delivered at local schools and at the health clinic in Macualiza—were well-received.

Another goal of the trip was to assess the community’s pediatric needs, especially the health of the boys at Amigos de Jesus and other nearby orphanages. Assistant Professor Debbie Wimmer ’83 M.S.N., R.N., PNP joined the other faculty members to assist with this project.

Based on the students’ successful health presentations, they were encouraged to provide other sessions, and they quickly did so. For the boys at Amigos de Jesus, the students gave presentations on male sexual development and personal hygiene. And for the *padrinos* (the couples who supervise the boys) and other workers at the orphanage, the students demonstrated first aid, seizure management and the Heimlich maneuver.



Jade Grof ’03 B.S.N. assesses the heart sounds of a girl at the La Flecha orphanage during the Nursing students’ trip to Honduras.

Faculty and students met with the nurse in charge of the clinic in Macualiza, and through her generosity all of the boys at Amigos de Jesus were immunized against measles, rubella and tetanus.

The students and faculty also did physical assessments on 26 boys at Amigos de Jesus and 34 girls at La Flecha, a local girls’ orphanage. This provided not only valuable assessment experience for the students but also a rare opportunity for the children to have their medical needs assessed and documented.

During the week, students soon redefined their understanding of the terms “hot” and “humid.” Because the orphanage’s water system had failed before their arrival, they lived with extremely limited access to clean water for most of the trip. One by one, they addressed and eventually surmounted each challenge. The students learned a great deal, both as nurses and as people, and community members received invaluable health information and services. Nursing faculty members are exploring the possibility of returning to Honduras.



At the clinic in Macualiza, Honduras, Sonnie Kekulah ’03 B.S.N. (left) and Andrea Piscitello ’03 B.S.N. document the height and weight of a resident of the Amigos de Jesus orphanage. Next, they will administer his first childhood immunizations.

Couple Honors College’s 50th Anniversary by Establishing the Petro Award

The College of Nursing is proud to announce its latest award for baccalaureate students, the Petro Award, made possible by the generous donation of Joseph Petro and Dr. Helen Yura Petro. The couple established the Joseph and Helen Yura Petro Nursing Theory Award this year “to honor the College of Nursing during its 50th Anniversary and to acknowledge its role in enhancing professional nursing education and practice.”

The Petro Award emphasizes the centrality of

theory and theory development to the practice of nursing. It will be presented to the baccalaureate Nursing student who best exemplifies the utilization of nursing theory in the practice of professional nursing.

The award was established in part in memory of Dr. Mary Blackburn Walsh for her nearly 40 years’ work in the development of the Nursing Process and Nursing’s Human Need Theory. Dr. Yura Petro, an internationally respected nurse scholar to whom Villanova awarded an honorary doctorate in 1984, is a pioneer in this field. Her seminal work with Dr. Walsh on the development of the Nursing Process greatly influenced the profession.



As a senior this spring, Julia C. Gannon (center) became the first recipient of the Joseph and Helen Yura Petro Nursing Theory Award, presented at the College of Nursing Convocation. With her are M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of Nursing, and John R. Johannes, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs at Villanova.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Francis X.N. McGuire, O.S.A., '32 A&S, D.D.
Founder of the College of Nursing

The Rev. Francis X.N. McGuire, O.S.A., '32 A&S, D.D., who as the 24th president (1944-1954) of Villanova founded the College of Nursing, died on May 9 at St. Joseph Villa in Chestnut Hill, Pa. He had been residing there during the renovation of St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on campus. Father McGuire was 93 years old.



Beloved by the faculty, staff, administration and alumni of the College, Father McGuire was a familiar figure at the College of Nursing Mass each spring. He was an honored guest at the College's 50th Anniversary Student Celebration in October 2002. It was the last public event he was able to attend. Father McGuire was "a raconteur, telling stories of his life, and the many famous people he'd met," recalled M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D.,

R.N., FAAN, the Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing.

Father McGuire was born in the Bronx, New York. In 1927 he entered the Augustinian novitiate in New Hamburg, N.Y., and professed his solemn vows in 1931. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Villanova, he was sent to Rome to continue his studies and was ordained a priest there on July 21, 1935.

In 1939, he received his doctorate in divinity from the Gregorian University and returned home to begin his career at Villanova, as prefect of studies. In 1941, he became vice president, and three years later was appointed president.

During his decade as president, Father McGuire oversaw the transformation of the campus from college to comprehensive university. Just 34 years old when he was

named Villanova's youngest president, he undertook initiatives that dramatically transformed both the physical campus and the institution's visibility. Chief among these were the establishment of the College of Nursing and the Villanova School of Law in 1953. Father McGuire was known for his vision and the development of new programs, his ability to raise outside funds, and his wisdom and congeniality. He brought much favorable attention to Villanova.

He continued serving at a number of Augustinian institutions, and in 1996 returned to St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery. In good weather, he often sat on the lawn outside, where he spoke with students and watched the University's continuing growth.

Following a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Father McGuire was interred at the Augustinian cemetery on campus.

Scholarship and Award Recipients Honored at an Afternoon Tea

The College of Nursing held an afternoon tea for its 2003 undergraduate and graduate scholarship recipients and invited guests. Those honored on April 15 at the Villanova Conference Center were:

Kimberly Baron '03 B.S.N.
Mary Alice Holland Scholarship

Jessica Cerami
Class of 2004
Nursing Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship

Annette Fahy
Class of 2004
The Robert and Frances Capone Alumni Award

Barbara E. Felder '00 B.S.N., R.N.
Nursing Alumni Society Graduate Scholarship
(see page 14)

Andrea Rowley '03 B.S.N., R.N.
Jannetti Publications MedSurg Nursing Scholarship

Kathleen Schwartz
Class of 2006
Julia B. Paparella Scholarship

Kelly L. Smith
Class of 2005
Undergraduate Nursing Senate Award

Convocation Awards Presented at St. Thomas of Villanova Church

On May 17, the College of Nursing held its annual Convocation for B.S.N. and M.S.N. candidates in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. The following awards were presented:

College of Nursing Medallion for Distinguished Academic Achievement

Janelle B. Facchino
B.S.N. candidate

JoAnn A. Flounders
M.S.N. candidate

H. Elaine McCauly Award for Clinical Excellence

Dorianne Stellato
B.S.N. candidate

Villanova Alumni Association Award
Bridgette M. Carter
B.S.N. candidate

Spirit of Nursing Award
Cynthia O. Tigalekou
B.S.N. candidate

The Joseph and Helen Yura Petro Nursing Theory Award

Julia C. Gannon
B.S.N. candidate

Founders' Award
Amy M. Gardner
B.S.N. candidate

News from Our Graduates

1950s

Constance Morris Badger '58 B.S.N. retired as a nurse practitioner in the School District of Philadelphia.

1960s

Mary Greipp '60 B.S.N., professor and chair of the Rutgers University Department of Nursing, received the 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, honoring her outstanding teaching and research maintained throughout her career. She received her M.S.N. degree from Penn and her doctoral degree from Rutgers.

1970s

Gloria J. McNeal '70 B.S.N., Ph.D., APRN, BC has been named assistant dean of student affairs and associate professor with tenure at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Nursing. In addition to her administrative duties, she serves as the lead faculty member for the master's degree program acute/critical care advanced practice nursing track. Dr. McNeal is the author of the *AACN Guide to Acute Care Procedures in the Home* and the recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding work. **Mary Duffin Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, recently received the school's first annual Claire M. Fagin Distinguished Research Award, recognizing her research in transitional care for older adults. During a May program at the school honoring her contributions to the profession, she presented a session on her work, "Transitions in Health: Building Bridges Through Science." **Jo Ann A. Flounders '75 B.S.N., '02 M.S.N., CRNP, OCN, CHPN**, a recent graduate of the College's Adult Nurse Practitioner program, is a nurse practitioner at Consultants in Medical Oncology and Hematology in Drexel Hill, Pa. While a graduate student, she received the College of Nursing Medallion for Distinguished Academic Achievement. Her independent study, a series of self-study modules and competencies, was titled "Self-Study Program and Clinician Competency Tool for Assessment and Management of Oncologic Emergencies." These individual modules are being published online in the *Oncology Nursing Forum*.

1980s

Susan Dehaven Garruto '81 B.S.N. is working as an independent registered nurse first assistant in Louisville, Ky. **Janice L. Reilley '85 B.S.N., Ed.D.**, assistant professor of nursing at Widener University School of Nursing, received her doctoral degree at Widener's graduation ceremonies in May. She earned her M.S.N. degree in 1988 and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi.

1990s

Capt. Brittany R. Speers (USA ANC) '93 B.S.N. is in Iraq with the Army's 28th Combat Support Hospital, 20 miles south of Baghdad, taking care of war wounded from both sides. She is stationed out of Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C. **Jennifer O'Rourke Tiffen '95 B.S.N., R.N., M.S., APN** is an NCLEX content associate for the National Council for the State Boards of Nursing in Chicago. She recruits nurses and nurse educators to assist in the development of the nursing licensure exam. **Julianna L. Olson '96 B.S.N.** was selected to receive the State Award for Excellence (representing Wisconsin) by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners at its national convention in Anaheim, Calif. Lt. **Kim Shaughnessy Lavelle (NC, USN), '97 B.S.N.** has been on active duty in the Navy Nurse Corps for six years, spending the first two and a half years as a critical care nurse at Naval Medical Center in San Diego, then the next three and a half years assigned to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, in Camp Lejeune, N.C., where she worked as a labor and delivery nurse and later as the business manager of the obstetrics department. She recently started in the Nurse Midwifery program at Georgetown University. **Li-Ling Lin '97 M.S.N., R.N., Ph.D.** graduated in May from the doctoral program of the School of Nursing, University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation was titled "Juggling Between Maternal and Student Role: Multiple Role Adaptation Among Women Who Are Re-entering School in Taiwan." She also published "Psychosocial Factors Related to Nausea, Vomiting, and Fatigue in Early Pregnancy" in *The Journal of Nursing Scholarship*. **Kathleen M. Boyden '98 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.** graduated last spring from the University of Virginia with her doctorate in nursing. Her dissertation was titled "Impact of Personality Characteristics on Pain and Functional Status in Fibromyalgia." Her overall focus is the treatment of chronic pain using complementary and alternative therapies. **René Pieja-Grim '98 M.S.N.** achieved national certification in case management from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is a case manager at Reading (Pa.) Hospital and Medical Center. **Kawkab Dout Shishani '99 M.S.N., Ph.D.**, of Amman, Jordan, recently received her doctoral degree in women's health from the University of Pittsburgh and is now teaching in Jordan. She received an \$11,500 grant from the World Bank in 2003 in recognition of her commitment to improving the lives of Jordanian women and children. She also received a \$2,400 student award in gerontological nursing, the Szeming Sze Award from the L.I.S.Z. Foundation, in recognition of academic excellence and ongoing work in gerontology. She presented at the 27th annual meeting of Transcultural Nursing Society, the Eastern Nursing Research

Portrait of our Alumni

In preparation for the 50th Anniversary season, the College of Nursing commissioned a study of its alumni. Here are some of the highlights from the respondents:

- At least 47 percent have earned a master's degree and 6 percent have earned a doctoral degree.
- 88 percent are currently employed, most of them in nursing, either full-time or part-time. The majority

(42 percent) are employed in a hospital-based clinical practice, with 20 percent in a non-hospital clinical practice setting and 12 percent in nursing education.

- Many have served as a board officer, presented at conferences, received research grants, or authored book chapters or professional articles.

It is clear that we continue to have a proud heritage of distinction.

Society and the fourth annual Sigma Theta Tau International scientific meeting. **Lori Musolf Neri '99 M.S.N., R.N., CRNP**, is coordinator/practitioner for The Center for Cardiac Risk Prevention at The Heart Care Group, P.C. in Allentown, Pa. Neri co-authored, with **Susan Talbot '01 M.S.N., R.N., CRNP**, the article "Use of Ezetimibe in a Cardiac Risk Prevention" (in press) for *The American Journal for*

Nurse Practitioners. The co-authors outlined the findings of their research with hyperlipidemic patients and effective pharmacotherapy.

2000s

Ensign Tiffany Ann Dodson '00 B.S.N., commissioned into the Navy Nurse Corps on June 30, is stationed at Naval Hospital Pensacola in Pensacola, Fla.

In Memoriam

Sister Joseph Ellen Doran, O.S.F., '55 B.S.N. died in June at Assisi House in Aston, Pa. She was 81 years old. She served as a nursing supervisor for 18 years at St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia. She was also a practical nursing instructor and started a nursing ministry.

Joan Martin Doyle '56 B.S.N. died on September 21, 2002, in Norristown, Pa. She served in the Navy Nurse Corps during the Korean conflict.

Drucilla-Marie Edmonds Gleaves '58 B.S.N., of the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia, died in September 2002. She was a retired nursing educator and administrator from the Medical College of Pennsylvania nursing school in Philadelphia.

Dr. Barbara Lowery '66 B.S.N., of Villanova, Pa., died in October 2002. She was associate provost and Independence Professor of Nursing Education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. An internationally known and highly respected nurse researcher, Dr. Lowery was also a longtime supporter of Villanova's College of Nursing and a charter member of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. She was a 1985 recipient of the College of Nursing's Alumni Medallion.



Jean Callahan '77 B.S.N. died on May 12, 2002, in Norwalk, Conn.

Dr. Jean Arrell Brown '86 M.S.N. died on April 7 in Westtown, Pa. She was most recently a faculty member at Immaculata University.

Jennifer Robinson '94 B.S.N., died on May 18, 2002, in Newark, N.J.

Sandra Alves '00 M.S.N., of King of Prussia, Pa., died in September. She was a nurse anesthetist at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, Pa.

Eileen S. Lupton '03 B.S.N., of Lake Forest, Ill., died when a porch collapsed on June 29 in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. A Memorial Mass celebrated at Villanova on July 2 was attended by faculty, staff and friends.

Lupton, 22 years old, was looking forward to her career in pediatric nursing. She was described by one of her Nursing professors, Dr. Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., as "the kind of nurse you'd want taking care of your family member." Lupton's admission essay for Villanova reflected her view of her chosen profession. She wrote that "God gave us two arms. One for helping ourselves and the other for helping our neighbor... I feel I am able to benefit mankind to the best of my ability as a nurse." A memorial fund has been established in her name to support students who seek to become nurses. Contributions may be made to the Eileen Shea Lupton Memorial Scholarship Fund, Lake Forest Bank and Trust, P.O. Box 5010, Lake Forest, IL 60045.





Serving on board the USNS Comfort are (from left) Cmdr. Maryalice Morro '83 B.S.N., Ltjg. Colleen Mahon '00 B.S.N. and Ensign Rebecca Carmichael '01 B.S.N. They were pictured during refueling operations in the Persian Gulf in late March, shortly after Operation Iraqi Freedom began. In April, the College received a joint statement from these three Navy nurses: "On the occasion of Villanova's College of Nursing's 50th Anniversary celebration, we alumni serving on board the USNS Comfort find ourselves in the midst of turmoil and tragedy and have relied on the skills and knowledge learned from Villanova's outstanding College of Nursing. Our education and experience thus far have prepared us well to meet the many challenges we face; to adapt, respond, create, teach and care. We collectively agree that in this time of strife, we are proud to care for the men and women fighting to bring freedom to the Iraqi people."

Become Involved in Nursing's Future

The College's 50th Anniversary has spurred an even greater interest among alumni in becoming involved in the College of Nursing. If you are looking to help future Villanova nurses, consider the following opportunities. You may also complete an online form (www.nursing.villanova.edu/alumni) to let us know of your interest in volunteering.

Opportunities to assist prospective undergraduates:

- meet with or call prospective candidates in your region to answer their questions (November through April);
- contact accepted students in your region to offer your congratulations (February through April);

- host social get-togethers at your home for candidates in your region (April through August);
- share your expertise by giving a 15-minute talk about your specialty to high school students who are exploring the profession. (For more on this Spring Semester program, called Discover Nursing, visit www.nursing.villanova.edu/Announcements/DiscoverNursing.htm).

If you are interested in assisting prospective undergraduates, contact Mary Murphy at (610) 519-7651 or by e-mail at mary.murphy@villanova.edu.

Greetings from the Nursing Alumni Society

Dear Fellow Graduates:

The Nursing Alumni Society had a wonderfully busy and successful year. We have 181 active (dues-paying) members and welcomed 101 B.S.N. and 36 M.S.N. graduates. With your support, we continue to award annual undergraduate and graduate scholarships, sponsor the tea for Nursing degree candidates, and contribute to the College of Nursing Mass and Awards Ceremony. We are always looking for meaningful ways to participate in student life, and this year we will begin attending the "Welcome Back" picnic for new and returning students.

The highlight of the academic year was the 50th Anniversary celebrations. There was something for everyone—students, alumni and friends of the College of Nursing. If you attended any of these events, I am sure you enjoyed them. Those who weathered the torrential downpours of Alumni Reunion Weekend in June were delighted with the multimedia retrospective of the College's history by decades. The Nursing Alumni Society's anniversary gift to the College was an oil portrait of Sister M. Alma Lawler, C.R.S.M., one of the two founding co-directors of the College.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Marguerite Stuhler Schlag '68 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N., the new assistant dean and director of the graduate program. We also extend congratulations and warm thanks to M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN on the occasion of her 25th anniversary as dean. She has tirelessly led the College through its evolution, developing it into one of the premier Catholic schools of nursing.

This new year brings a few changes to our alumni board. Many thanks to Kathryn Ralph Brooks '78 B.S.N., '84 M.S.N. for a job well done. We welcome Patty Snyder '84 B.S.N. to the board. Please think about participating in the ballot process. We will be looking for a treasurer and a board member to join us next spring. You may contact a board member through our Web site (www.nursing.villanova.edu/alumni) or complete the self-nomination form below. Use the same form to sign up for an e-mail newsletter being developed—another way to keep up with the College.

If you have not visited our Web pages, take a moment to do so. Be sure to check the e-mentoring area. This program has enabled Nursing alumni to identify their areas of expertise and sign up for mentoring via the Web.

Please mark your calendars for this year's events: the 26th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing (November 4), the Nursing Alumni Society Graduation Tea (March 28, 2004), and the College of Nursing Alumni Mass and Awards Ceremony (April 17, 2004). We enjoy seeing you and appreciate your participation. If you have any questions or ideas, or would like to volunteer your time and energy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joanne F. Gurney '71 B.S.N., '88 M.S.N.
President, Nursing Alumni Society

Opportunities to assist prospective graduate students:

If you're an M.S.N. graduate of the College, consider coming to campus for a Graduate Studies Open House in October or next March to speak with prospective M.S.N. students. Contact Geri Hansen at (610) 519-4934 or by e-mail at geri.hansen@villanova.edu for more information.

Share Your Thoughts...

If you are interested in sharing with prospective students your reflections about Villanova and the College of Nursing, please visit the Nursing Alumni Society Web site (www.nursing.villanova.edu/alumni) and complete the testimonial form.

Call for Nominations to the Nursing Alumni Society — and Send Us Your News!

To nominate yourself for the following positions in the Nursing Alumni Society, please complete this form and mail for receipt by December 15, 2003.

I wish to be nominated for:

- Treasurer
- Board member

Use this form as well to send us your news for the next *Villanova Nursing* magazine and to receive future College of Nursing e-mail newsletters.

Mail this form to:

Nursing Alumni Society
College of Nursing
800 Lancaster Ave.
Villanova University
Villanova PA 19085-1690

To update your alumni profile, please call the Villanova Alumni Association at 1-800-VILLANOVA or e-mail alum@villanova.edu.

Please print

Name: _____

Home address: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home telephone: _____

Employer: _____

Position/title: _____

Work address: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work telephone: _____

Villanova University degree/s and year/s: _____

E-mail address: _____

Yes, please send me future College of Nursing e-mail newsletters.

Here is my news for class notes: _____

Cross-training in Nursing and Sports Gives Students an Edge



Sophomore Jenna Viani excels at offense for the Villanova Wildcats. While at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, the Poughkeepsie, N.Y., student was inducted into the National Honor Society.



On basketball courts, softball fields and indoor/outdoor tracks, three College of Nursing students are putting their talents into play. As they strive for athletic achievement, they're learning to engage in teamwork, develop personal and team goals, and stay committed and dedicated. The lessons they learn in athletics also are proving useful in their study of nursing.

Sophomore Jenna Viani had the wonderful experience of being part of one of the biggest upsets in the history of women's basketball: the Wildcats' win over the University of Connecticut on March 11. Villanova's 52-48 defeat of the Huskies ended UConn's 70-game winning streak, earning the Wildcats the Big East title and advancing them to the NCAA tournament. This game "was most definitely the most exciting experience of my basketball life," Viani acknowledges. "Being an athlete takes a lot of determination," she realizes, but it also helps her develop into "being a

good teammate." She adds, "These qualities I will take into my career as a nurse."

The women's softball team travels around the country—a very demanding schedule. Sophomore Kristen Strait, third baseman for the Wildcats, says playing softball is "helping me out considerably with my study of nursing. I have learned how to work with all different kinds of people, how to accept and work with people who have different opinions and views." Strait credits her mother, who is a nurse, as being influential in her own career choice.

Likewise, senior Paul Moser tracks his interest in nursing to his mother's career. Last spring, Moser was a member of Villanova's NCAA National Championship distance medley relay team. "It is very difficult to balance nursing and track as I advance in my

nursing career studies," he says. "I am lucky to have a great support team, which consists of my profes-



Hailing from Oregon, Kristen Strait transferred to Villanova after her freshman year in college. The sophomore travels all over the country with the women's softball team.



MARY DIBIASE BLANCH

Paul Moser, a senior from New York State, is a top 400/800-meter runner in the Big East.

sors, my coach and my mother, who's a nurse." Moser's most memorable moment on the team occurred as a freshman. After he completed his first event, Marcus O'Sullivan, Villanova's track and field head coach and a three-time Olympian, came over and commended him.

As the College's student-athletes become experts in managing time, juggling schedules and developing team-building skills, they find those skills can cross over from the field, court or track to the hospital, clinic or wellness center.

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