

VILLANOVA SPRING 2006 NURSING

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING



U.S.



Military Nurses



A Special Salute to **Leaders in Service**

Here's to Engineering's 100th and Children's Hospital's 150th!



THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING celebrated its 100th anniversary this academic year. During the past century, it has produced countless distinguished graduates who have made outstanding contributions to society. Originally called the School of Technology, it was the second degree-granting unit inaugurated at Villanova College (now University) and the fourth U.S. engineering program established at a Catholic college or university.

We also congratulate THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA, which has been a clinical agency partner

of the College of Nursing since 1969. In November 2005, the hospital marked the 150th anniversary of its founding. Not only is the internationally renowned pediatric hospital the site of many clinical rotations for Villanova nurses, but it employs many more. The College's alumni are clinical and managerial leaders throughout the organization. Children's Hospital, which has received Magnet™ recognition for nursing excellence, is the nation's first hospital exclusively for children and is the center for pioneering treatments in pediatric care.



Mark your calendar!

Fall 2006

August 19-22	New Student Orientation and registration
September 15-17	Parents' Weekend
September 17	Undergraduate information session for prospective high school students
October 21-22	Homecoming
October 29	Undergraduate information session for prospective high school students
November 15	29th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing

Update on Plans for the New Building

The feasibility study for the College of Nursing's new building was completed in December 2005. The program phase is now under way to match academic and programmatic needs with specific space allocations.

The architect is Jonathan M. Fishman, a principal of RCG Inc. The Baltimore firm has had successful experience in designing nursing education buildings, including at the University of Maryland and Virginia Commonwealth University. Fishman completed his graduate education in architecture at Yale University. At conferences of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, he has made presentations on nursing facility construction and renovation.

Selection of the architect for both the feasibility and program design was a competitive process that involved representatives from the College, as well as from Villanova University's administration and Board of Trustees.

VILLANOVA NURSING

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On the Cover:

The cover star of Villanova nurses features (clockwise, from left) three future leaders in military nursing and two who reached the top. The three new graduates of the College of Nursing are Regina Thorp '06 B.S.N. (Army ROTC), Kendall Natter '06 B.S.N. (NROTC) and Dhonifranz C. Blasa '06 B.S.N. (NROTC). Navy Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE is director of the Navy Nurse Corps and Navy medical inspector general. Army Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson (Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN served as chief of the Army Nurse Corps from 1979-1983.

In the star on page 2 are six of the Nursing alumni featured in the cover story. They are (clockwise from left) Army Col. Flora M. Sullivan (Ret.) '65 B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., CPHQ; Navy Capt. Joan M. Huber (Ret.) '73 B.S.N., M.S., R.N., CNAA, BC; Army Lt. Col. Thomas G. Winthrop '85 B.S.N., M.S.N., CNOR; Air Force Capt. Elizabeth A. Tobin Michael '97 B.S.N., R.N.; Navy Capt. Shauneen Murray Miranda '83 B.S.N., M.P.A., R.N.; and Navy Capt. Maryalice Morro '83 B.S.N., M.S.N., M.S.

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Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing:

Unfortunately, the history of civilization is also a history of conflict and its consequences. Wars punctuate each generational experience. The distinction between defense and aggression motivated by economic interests, and differences in political and religious ideologies, continue to prompt global debate. While acknowledging the ugliness of war, we also know that from earliest times, there were humanitarians who abhorred war, but who came forward to minister to the wounded and others affected by its destructiveness.

In the midst of strife, both trained and untrained *nurses* assumed care-giving roles. During the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale exemplified the importance of nursing when she and her nurses ministered to wounded British soldiers. In the United States, individuals of both genders nursed Union and Confederate troops during the bloody War Between the States. Although educationally prepared nurses served abroad with the U.S. military during World War I, they were recruited through the Red Cross and did not hold military rank. By World War II, nurses held rank as officers. During the Korean conflict and in Vietnam, military nurse officers served in the Army, Navy and Air Force, as they do today in the Middle East, a recognition that continues at the highest levels.


The majority of military nurses, in both peacetime and war, serve in hospitals and clinics where military personnel and their families receive primary and acute care. Some are graduates of ROTC units based at colleges and universities, while others choose to join the military following graduation and licensure as registered nurses. Some are career professionals, others serve for a brief period and still others become long-term members of Reserve units.

Among these dedicated military nurses are those who hold advanced degrees, are experts in a myriad of clinical specialties, and are faculty members or health-care administrators. A significant cadre of military nurse researchers has made an important impact on advancing clinical practice and scholarship. Of course, there are those who have experienced the tragedy of war and disasters first-hand. They have served in M.A.S.H. units or as members of rescue missions on board the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy, for example following the December 2004 tsunami. Our military nurses represent peace-loving women and men, committed to restoring and maintaining the health of those for whom they care.

Villanova University has a stellar group of alumni who are representative of all our colleges and disciplines. Villanovans have distinguished themselves as military leaders in many significant ways, including as admirals, generals and other line officers. The College of Nursing has proudly contributed to that large number of leaders.

Over the more than five decades of its formal existence, our College of Nursing has graduated hundreds of nurses who have served with distinction in the military. Among them are two who went on to become nursing chiefs. Army Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson (Ret.) '59 B.S.N. in 1979 became the first African-American woman general and chief of the Army Nurse Corps. Navy Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N. is currently the director of the Navy Nurse Corps as well as the Navy medical inspector general. We feature their stories, and many others, in this issue honoring Villanova nurses who have served in the military.

These alumni bring the qualities of a Villanova Nursing education to their military work and their mission of care, compassion and peace. They are individuals who humanize the American military establishment through their service to others. We salute them!

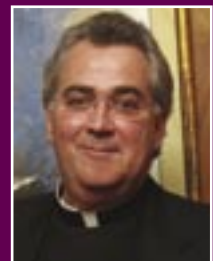


M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor

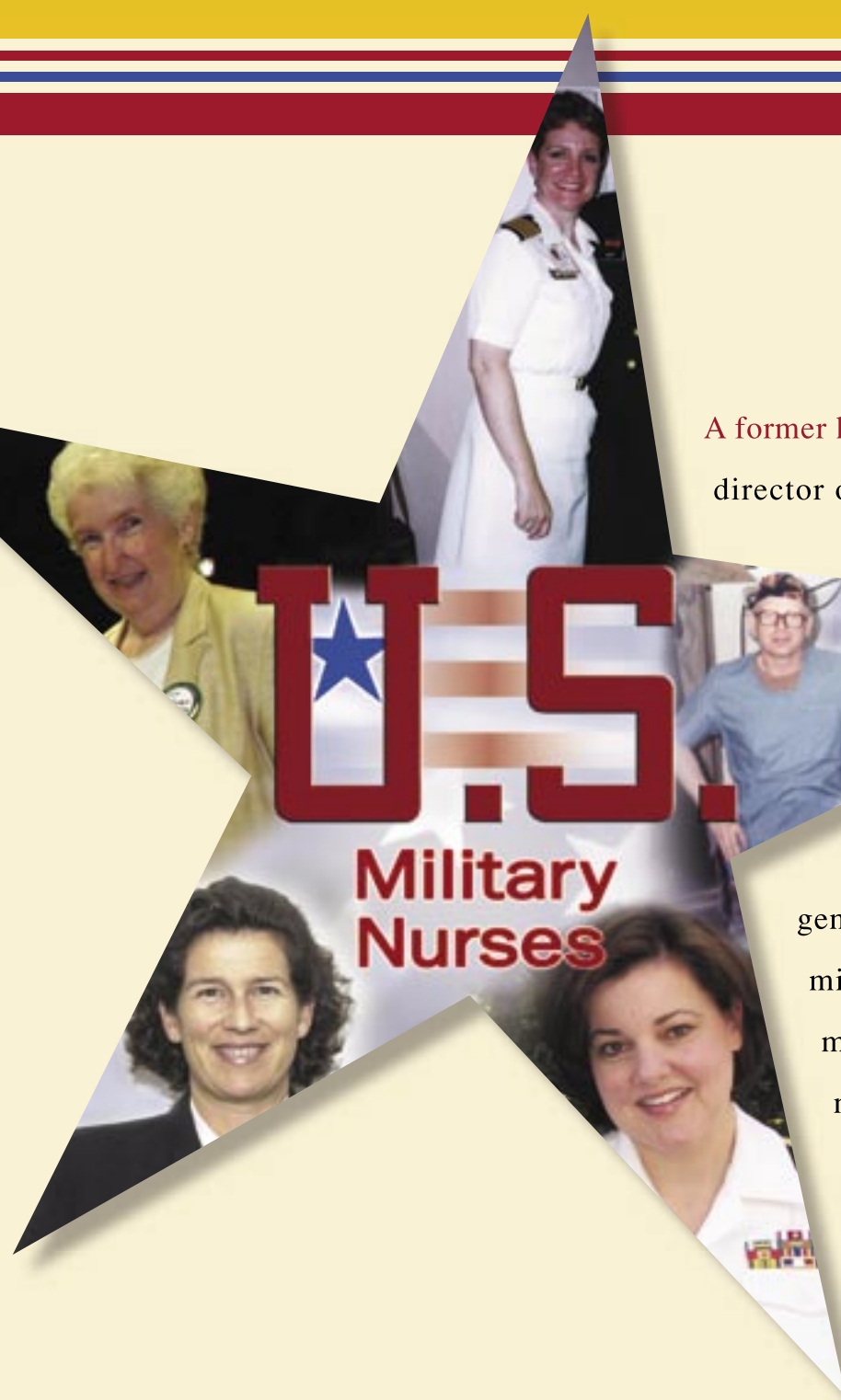
PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

The College of Nursing thanks the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, the 31st president of Villanova University (top), for his 18 years of support.

We congratulate his successor, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., '75 A&S (bottom), who took office on June 1 and will be inaugurated on September 8.



Paola Noguerras (both)



A former head of Army nursing ... the current
director of the Navy Nurse Corps ... two

Navy nurses who provided care to

U.S. presidents

... a retired

Army nurse who

won't ever forget Vietnam

... a periop consultant to the surgeon
general ... two classmates devoted to their
missions ... an Air Force Reservist deeply
moved by veterans. Each one is a Villanova
nurse. Each one is a military nurse. Each
one knows what it means to lead.

A Special Salute to

Their passion for patient care and leadership comes with

The Pace-setting General

With a star on her uniform, she made history. As she guided the Army Nurse Corps, Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson (Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN encouraged other Villanova nurses to step up to leadership.

By Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D.

“ I’m on my way. You can come along, but you will not hold me back.” Those words of Army Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson (Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN embody her career in military nursing. In 1979, she became the nation’s first female African-American to achieve the rank of general. Her early accomplishments as chief of the Army Nurse Corps opened doors for future Villanova nurses to establish their own leadership roles. In 1984, the College of Nursing awarded her a Medallion, recognizing her distinguished achievements, and in 1981 Villanova University awarded her an honorary doctorate. She is a former member of Villanova’s Board of Trustees.

After earning her diploma at Harlem Hospital School of Nursing, Johnson completed her B.S.N. degree at Villanova in 1959. Her 28-year career in the Army Nurse Corps had begun in 1955. For the first 12 years, she served in hospitals in the United States and abroad. Her international tours of duty included a post as a staff nurse in Japan and as assistant for nursing, Office of the Surgeon, 8th Army Command, and chief, Department of Nursing, U.S. Army Hospital, in Seoul, Korea.

Johnson earned a master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia University and her doctorate in educational administration from The Catholic University of America. She served from 1976 to 1978 as director of nursing at Walter Reed Army Institute for Nursing (WRAIN), a program that awarded students a B.S.N., conferred by the University of Maryland. Following state licensure, WRAIN graduates were commissioned as second lieutenants (later as first lieutenants) in the Army Reserve and served on active duty for three years.

During Johnson’s four years as the 16th chief of the Army Nurse Corps (1979-1983), the Corps issued Standards of Nursing Practice for all Army hospitals and created a hospital-based nursing alternative to summer Army ROTC camp.

Later on, Johnson became assistant dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing. At George Mason University, she headed the Center for Health Policy, College of Nursing and Health Science, and in 1996 was named professor emerita.

Her many military honors include the Legion of Merit. In 1984, Johnson was one of the 13 American women honored with an Outstanding Woman of Color Award. Later that year, she received the Candace Award from the National Coalition of Black Women and was selected as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

In the military and civilian sectors, Johnson pioneered a pathway for future Villanova nurses seeking a military career. Many students chose to follow her advice to “come along,” and as they did so, she encouraged them to follow their own unique roads to a distinguished military career. She recommended that young African-Americans “find some mentors—both black and white. We need to understand each other in order to live and work together.” The College’s Hazel Johnson Leadership Award, presented annually at Convocation, reflects the College’s high esteem for the path she forged.



Returning to her alma mater in 2003, Brig. Gen. Johnson (Ret.) attended the College’s 50th anniversary celebration. Her achievements have served as a model of success to minority nurses and many other Villanovans.

Leaders in Service

an unflagging commitment to serving their country.



A Dual Leader at the Highest Level

In directing the Navy Nurse Corps and as Navy medical inspector general, Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE inspires others through her strength of vision.

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.



“Swifter, higher, stronger” applies to more than Winter Olympians in Turin, Italy. The slogan is easily adapted by the Navy Nurse Corps, according to its leader, Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE. For her, the adjectives perfectly describe Navy nurses—a lean, highly educated and motivated group of more than 3,800 active duty and Reserve professionals. All have a bachelor's degree at the entry level, 918 have master's degrees and 24 are doctorally prepared—including herself.

Since July 2005, Bruzek-Kohler has had dual high-level roles as the Navy Nurse Corps' director and as the Navy medical inspector general—the first Villanova nurse to hold both positions. “Nothing is more exciting, and I am so proud to be the 21st director,” she noted. She joins a former Army Nurse Corps chief, Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson (Ret.) '59 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN (see page 3) not only in achieving the top position in her branch of service but in having been awarded a College of Nursing Medallion (see page 27).

This May, the Navy Nurse Corps celebrated 98 years of service since its founding in 1908. Speaking of her predecessors, Bruzek-Kohler indicated she has “such respect for their roles ... I am on the shoulders of many people who have done wonderful things for Navy nursing.” In her complementary roles, she advises the Navy's surgeon general; directs the policies of Navy nursing that affect all Navy Nurse Corps officers assigned in the United States and abroad, in operational, humanitarian and conventional settings; and ensures quality of care to beneficiaries. She also collaborates with the Navy's Dental Corps, Medical Corps and Medical Service Corps to detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse and to assure that the surgeon general's directives are followed.

“I wanted to be a nurse ever since I could walk and talk,” said the Camden, N.J., native. As a 15-year-old, after seeing a Navy Nurse Corps officer recruiting poster, she recalled, “I had no other goal from that moment on.” Remembering her late parents, she noted, “Everything I have done is because of them.”

As a junior at Villanova, she and her roommate, Alice Bova '74 B.S.N. (now a retired Navy Nurse Corps commander), began their journey to a Navy career through the Officer Candidate Hospital Corpsman Program. While Bruzek-Kohler did not work as a corpsman, she did graduate as a Navy nurse, along with an impressive group of 22 classmates.

In today's NROTC program, students pursuing the Nursing Option gain valuable military experience while in college so that upon graduation they understand life as an officer and a Navy nurse. “I'm very proud of the program and support it,” the rear admiral noted.

The Navy Nurse Corps leader views her career in three distinct phases. First came her development as a competent and confident clinical nurse, beginning at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., caring for patients across the lifespan on a cardiothoracic surgery ward. Next, while living overseas, she said, “I applied skills in scenarios you never imagine.” In Naples, Italy, where she ran a medical-surgical ward, she learned to adapt to health care in a foreign country. As director of nursing in Guam, she refined her understanding of cultures and grew further as a leader.

Moving into the third phase, executive medicine, Bruzek-Kohler became an executive officer of a family practice hospital in Pensacola, Fla., then a commanding officer (CO) in California, overseeing the transition to the newly constructed facility in Lemoore, on the naval air station an hour south of Fresno. Her planning for the new equipment and new building, combined with her enthusiasm and vision for high standards of care, made the move a success.

As she reflects on these career phases over her 30-plus years in the Navy Nurse Corps, Bruzek-Kohler sees how her strong clinical foundation supported her accomplishments as a CO. Her background includes experience in executive leadership, nursing services, quality assurance, managed care, government affairs, educational administration and human resource management. Each day she could appreciate how Navy nursing underscored her Villanova Nursing tradition “in the belief of service and care of others.”

The foundation she received at Villanova—“the finest nursing program,” as she termed it—helped guide her to her current leadership position today, Bruzek-Kohler believes. She sees the same success in other Villanova nurses and recalls how the Nursing faculty pushed students “to look beyond easy answers and be the best nurses we could be.” Challenged by the faculty, she in turn continues to challenge herself and her Navy nurses.

In a time of world conflict, terrorism, disasters, nursing shortages and skyrocketing health-care costs, Bruzek-Kohler embraces the future. She knows the Navy Nurse Corps is “full up and ready to go,” meaning these nurses are emotionally, physically and mentally prepared for anything they may be asked to do. This

“We give the finest care.”

—Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE

does not come easily. She encourages nurses to communicate well with their families and to strike the right balance between work and personal life. She knows that taking care of self and family leads to good patient care. There is always a better way to provide care for patients, she believes. She is moving the Corps toward a future of being a force with the right mix of skills for operational missions that require surgical and critical care specialists, and for humanitarian missions that may necessitate family practice, obstetric and pediatric nursing practitioners. Her goal reflects the surgeon general's—to make sure the Navy Nurse Corps can deploy to support the chief of Naval Operations and the commandant of the Marine Corps. It is something every Navy nurse understands.

“We give the finest care,” Bruzek-Kohler summed up. She views the military's advantage as strongly emphasizing leadership and opportunities in nursing and health care in general, especially at the executive level. Over the years, she has seen the opportunities diversify from clinical to other leadership and health-care management roles. “Navy nurses are in every facet of health care today,” she emphasized.

For any Navy nurse, there is always a very special aspect of service: the honor of caring for wounded sailors and Marines and their families. Bruzek-Kohler has based her career on it. “Navy nurses are right there,” she said, wherever the United States has people deployed in harm's way. These nurses are fulfilling their roles with Marines in Iraq, in forward resuscitative units, on Navy hospital ships aiding victims of disasters, and at home and overseas in more traditional settings.

These nurses reflect the Navy's core values: Honor,

Courage and Commitment, the alumna explained. She describes military nurses as “active members of the world,” as well as patriotic citizens. “They care about the country and are good neighbors,” she noted. They are flexible, adaptable and can feel at home anywhere.”

Bruzek-Kohler is a solid communicator and inspiring leader, which may be why Navy nurses say “We love Admiral B-K!” She shares with them her strength of vision, her unshakable foundation in what it means to be a Villanova nurse and a Navy nurse, and her foresight and positive influence in a complex world.

How does Bruzek-Kohler stay dedicated to service? Faith—plus an ability to pack a house in no time—have served her well in her Navy career. As for what will follow in the rest of her life, she affirmed, “The Lord will lead me on.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

At the National Naval Medical Center, Rear Adm. Bruzek-Kohler visited Marine Lance Corp. Matthew S. Schilling during his recovery from a hand injury sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Empowered by Opportunity

As an Army nurse, Col. Flora M. Sullivan (Ret.) '65 B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., CPHQ welcomed the chance to advance, to lead, to serve—in Vietnam or wherever needed.

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.



In 1966-67, Col. Sullivan worked in an evacuation hospital ICU in Vietnam, and bunked in the building shown behind her.

1961, she began college as a commuter, eventually from her family's new home in Glenolden, Pa., where she still resides today.

How did Sullivan make the leap from “day hop” to Army nurse during the Vietnam War era? She listened to Army and Navy recruiters on campus. She learned of the Army Student Nurse Program—a special effort to attract nurses for the military expansion. “It seemed to me that since the Army was a much larger

While a young woman growing up in the 1950s had far fewer career choices than today, this young woman knew she wanted to be a nurse. The Army Nurse Corps career of Col. Flora M. Sullivan (Ret.) '65 B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., CPHQ had its roots in high school as a nurse's aide. The Essington, Pa., native was determined that neither finances nor societal norms would hold her back from pursuing a college degree in a field she loved. She worked hard to save money for the \$350-a-semester tuition at her first choice, Villanova University. In

me as a PFC. Approximately six months before graduation, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps.”

Following basic training in Texas and a year serving in an ICU and recovery room, Sullivan was sent to Vietnam for a year. In November 1966, she reported to the surgical ICU of the 12th Evacuation Hospital at the 25th Infantry Division Base Camp in Cu Chi, near Saigon. She spent her final year of active duty at Womack Army Hospital, Fort Bragg, N.C., as a staff or head nurse in surgical specialties.

Sullivan is now retired, not only from the military but also from nursing. Forty years, however, have not dimmed the memory of her service in Vietnam. She recalled the “12th Evac” as a 400-bed facility with ERs and ORs, capable of many functions, including medicine, surgery and psychiatry. The hospital had no neurosurgeon, so patients with serious head injuries were flown by helicopter with a nurse escort to another facility “in country.” Patients with long bone fractures and some with burns were evacuated out of Vietnam, when their condition and fighting conditions allowed.

In Vietnam, she provided care to American and Vietnamese soldiers, as well as civilian and enemy casualties. She describes the “austere” conditions: “We had no running water, and the chance of wound infection was very high. Most of the patients were trauma victims with blast injuries, burns and shrapnel injuries.” While she generally worked 12-hour shifts, six days a week, her hours varied with the casualty counts. Even though working with experienced medics, she says, “The challenge of caring for a 19-year-old triple amputee who can't see you is incredibly difficult.”

“We had no running water, and the chance of wound infection was very high.”

—Col. Flora M. Sullivan (Ret.) '65 B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., CPHQ

service, the career opportunities would be more abundant. Money was a big factor in those days, too. Both services promised to pay the last two years of school in exchange for three years of service,” she explained.

Of about 37 Nursing seniors in 1965, five went into the Navy program. Sullivan was the sole Army nurse. As she described it, “The Army needed trained and willing staff. I was sworn in as a private first class (PFC) and was assigned to Villanova University as my duty station. Along with paying my tuition and expenses, the Army paid

She acknowledges the political atmosphere around this unpopular war, but noted that it was “by far overshadowed by the knowledge that these wounded people needed the best care that could possibly be provided.... There are statistics that reflect how many people survived their injuries because we were there.... I would not trade this experience for anything.” She recalled as well “the satisfaction I received when an injured soldier woke up in my ICU and was so pleased to see a woman taking care of him. The American soldiers were very good to me throughout my military career.”

After her wartime duty, Sullivan thought about pursuing credentials in research but instead transitioned into the Reserve. Over the next 28 years, she served as a staff nurse, training officer and chief nurse in Reserve medical units. She earned her M.B.A. in Health and Medical Services Administration from Widener University in 1987.

In her last assignment in the Reserve, while Sullivan could not be given the title of commander of the general hospital because of her branch of service, she served as “an acting commander.” She described it as “a daunting task, but very gratifying to know that my superiors had the confidence in me to allow me this opportunity. It’s great to see the strides that have been made by women in both military and civilian careers.”

Following her retirement from the Reserve in 1996, Sullivan practiced in hospitals around Philadelphia, including at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in Quality Management/Performance Improvement. She retired from that position in April 2005 and now looks forward to travel, learning a new language and other pursuits.

Sullivan credited Villanova for instilling in her a sense of professionalism, a quest for knowledge and a desire to be both efficient and compassionate. The military also was a great place to learn, she believes. When she reflects on military service, she thinks of opportunity: to work with highly qualified professionals, to have experiences one would normally not have, to advance in one’s career. “Military nurses go into all environments where the military and their



(Left) An older bed in the evacuation hospital and (right) a newer one, which could be raised.

families need them,” she observed. “The nursing care delivered is the highest quality and the most compassionate. I take nothing away from the civilian nurses. It is just that military nurses may be called upon at any time to relocate to an area of need as perceived by our national situation. This takes a special commitment that is unique to military service.” She added, “There was considerable emphasis on leadership in the military, and the authority to go along with the responsibility seemed to me to be better articulated. The word ‘empowerment’ was more meaningful in my military experience.”

For Sullivan, summarizing this lifelong experience is simple: “It is hard to imagine what life would have been like without having served.”



Perioperative Support Around the World

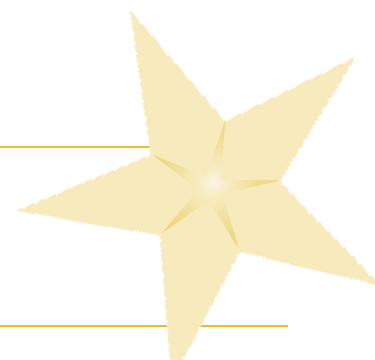
He followed a long and winding road to nursing, but Lt. Col. Thomas G. Winthrop '85 B.S.N., M.S.N., CNOR has become known for his critical knowledge and expertise at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

By Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP

Thanks to the Army Nurse Corps, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Winthrop '85 B.S.N., M.S.N., CNOR has seen the world and entered new realms, among them robotics. A self-proclaimed product of the Sixties hippie era, Winthrop already had attended four universities before Villanova, where he started out in sociology and psychology but soon became attracted to British literature and so switched his major. He returned to Villanova in 1973 to pursue his master’s degree in English,

which led to taking archaeology courses in Scotland at the University of St. Andrews.

After his marriage and the birth of their daughter Heather, Winthrop decided to return to Villanova again, this time as a Nursing major. Faculty member Julia Boland Paparella, B.S.N.Ed., M.S.Ed., M.S.L.S., R.N. suggested he look into the Army Nurse Corps (an associate professor emerita and a retired colonel, she had served in France during World War II and in 2004 was awarded



“You are put into positions of greater authority more quickly than in the civilian world...”

—Lt. Col. Thomas G. Winthrop '85 B.S.N., M.S.N., CNOR

France’s highest award, the Legion of Honor). With her support and encouragement, Winthrop went into the Army after graduating with his B.S.N. in 1985. He has been on active duty ever since.

When the Army asked this second lieutenant just beginning his career if he would consider practicing his skills and knowledge in the operating room, he agreed, and he continues to practice in the OR. His first posting was at the “big house”—the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. At Fort Belvoir in Virginia, he served as an OR clinical nurse until 1992, the same year he earned his M.S.N. from George Mason

University. He served as chief of the OR at Fort Monmouth, N.J., from 1993 to 1995. He was deployed with the 46th Combat Support Hospital in Somalia during the U.S. withdrawal in 1994, where he was the only nurse on the ground for the final



In Tuzla, Bosnia, in 1996, Lt. Col. Winthrop served as chief of the OR for the 212th M.A.S.H. unit.

month. Then, in Landstuhl, Germany, he spent three years as an OR clinical specialist, and from there deployed to Bosnia as part of the 212th M.A.S.H. unit. In 1996, he became chief of the OR for the unit.

Returning to Walter Reed, Winthrop became involved in innovative surgery techniques, including robotics, and was made chief of Central Materiel Service. Then it was back to Germany, where he was chief of perioperative services at the Heidelberg Army Hospital.

In 2005 Winthrop returned to Walter Reed, as chief of Central Materiel Service, Perioperative Section. This is the largest such department in the Department of Defense system, which provides support to 16 surgical services and 32 clinics. He serves on the Innovative Surgery Committee and has assisted in implementing robotic and endovascular surgery. A perioperative consultant to the surgeon general, he also consults for the Joint Readiness Clinical Advisory Board, Fort Detrick, Md., for fielding operating rooms.

Winthrop credits Villanova with preparing him for the responsibility and accountability that have come with his career. “The military offers a great opportunity to take charge and implement new ideas and programs, if you accept the challenges,” he said. “You are put into positions of greater authority more quickly than in the civilian world, and you have to be self-motivated. In this respect, Villanova prepared me to take the lead.”

He added, “military nursing is unique as you begin to understand the U.S. role in the world. When you deploy to a place such as Mogadishu, Somalia, you realize just how far the gap is between the West and the Third World. It is also a unique feeling to see how the field hospitals literally can be dumped off onto a mountain top in the dead of winter, such as in Tuzla, Bosnia, and within a day be operating with a capability that in many instances was superior to the local host health care. Military nursing is not for everyone, but a four-year stint may provide you with an experience that may be hard to match anywhere else.” The biggest challenge has come in balancing his military duties with his personal life. “Deployments are for a year now, and that’s in addition to all the training requirements,” he noted.

Winthrop’s work in innovative surgery greatly influenced him, for it pointed to where education and nursing programs need to focus: “blending technological, clinical and managerial aspects into the provision of care,” he believes. He plans to continue his military service since it has provided such a high level of professional and personal satisfaction, which, he stated, “I don’t think I would have had in the civilian world.”



Whether deployed to Bosnia (above), Somalia, Germany or Walter Reed, Lt. Col. Winthrop has found that Army nursing allows him to “take charge and implement new ideas.”

White House Calls for a Navy Nurse

After providing care to presidents and vice presidents and their wives, Capt. Joan M. Huber (Ret.) '73 B.S.N., M.S., R.N., CNAA, BC went on to serve as CO of a naval hospital in California.

By Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D.

From senior White House nurse in the late 1980s, to commanding officer (CO) of a military hospital in the late 1990s, to teaching nursing today, the journey of Navy Nurse Corps Capt. Joan M. Huber (Ret.) '73 B.S.N., M.S., R.N., CNAA, BC, began when she enlisted as a 19-year-old.

During the Vietnam War era, Huber was accepted into a program for Navy Nurse Corps candidates to fill a desperate wartime need. The Orange, Conn., native described her entry into Villanova University: "I was on active duty and sent to the University in a 'duty under instruction' status." She received her commission in 1972 and the following year her B.S.N. In 1999, Huber was awarded a College of Nursing Medallion.

While she knows her parents laid the foundation, "Villanova formed me as a person, a citizen and a professional," Huber emphasized. "I 'grew up' in the Navy. The Navy taught me about team work, commitment, courage, responsibility and honor. It dovetailed with the College's expectations for a professional who was responsible for people's care at their most vulnerable time."

Huber's distinguished Navy career included service as senior White House nurse (1986-1989). She was responsible for the health-care needs of presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, as well as their vice presidents, wives and the White House staff. This experience was "a real eye-opener," she noted, "because you are delivering health care in an unusual, high-security environment. In many ways, working in the White House is not any different. The president, vice president and their wives laugh, cry, suffer illness, get homesick and worry about their kids just as others do, while still carrying enormous responsibility in their jobs."

In 1998, Huber was the first female and the first nurse to become commanding officer (CO) of the Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where she served for two years. This facility in the Mojave Desert provides inpatient and outpatient health-care services for active duty personnel, their families and retirees on the base and in the community.

"The CO experience gave me perspectives on the larger health-care picture and what it takes to deliver health care to a given population," Huber said. "The value of nurses in the health-care delivery system cannot be overstated. It gave me a great appreciation for what a group of dedicated people can do when they put their minds to things, and it gave me great hope for the future of our country. The next generation is talented, motivated, committed and patriotic. I loved them!"



As commanding officer, Capt. Huber was on hand in 2000 when the naval hospital in Twentynine Palms, Calif., was rededicated in honor of HMCM (Hon.) Robert E. Bush (left), whose heroism in World War II earned him a Medal of Honor. He signed the photo for her.

Today, nursing students benefit from her rich experience in Navy nursing. As an assistant professor of nursing at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, N.H., Huber draws examples from her clinical experiences and applies them to her nursing theory and clinical courses.

What does she miss most about her Navy career? It's "the people that I worked with and their open-minded acceptance of others," Huber responded. "You never forget the people that you served; people whose path would never have crossed yours without the military experience. Everyone is a stranger at some point in time; everyone knows what it is like to be new. You accept each other, work with each other and learn to enjoy the variety, the differences, the amazing breadth and depth of people in our society."

Among military people, she added, "If you tell one person that another person needs help, they turn and do it. Even when you do not know the other person, you choose to help because you are both in the military. You know each other's values, priorities and experiences without knowing each other. Whether they need help with painting their house, childcare, transportation, moving furniture, searching for a lost toddler or after disasters like Hurricane Katrina, you just do it! They are your 'brothers and sisters in arms.' Being in the military is not a job you go to for 8, 10 or 12 hours a day. It is a life that you live. It's something you are immersed in 24 hours per day. We were each other's families at the holidays, support networks in times of need, advocates, mentors and most important of all, friends."

The one thing Joan Huber will not miss about Navy life is the frequent moving. "For 30 years I moved every 18 to 24 months," she recalled. "There are positive aspects though. Frequent moving makes you purge your belongings, clean your drawers and closets, and really think about who and what is important to you." Now that she has now lived (for the first time!) in the same place for five years, she noted that those closets and drawers are need of a major reorganization.



M is for Mission ... and Morro and Murray. Two classmates. Two captains. Two career paths. One steadfast commitment to Navy nursing.

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

WITH THE LAST NAMES OF Morro and Murray (now Miranda), they were destined to sit next to each other all through college. They were among several 1983 classmates who joined the military after graduation.

Capt. Maryalice Morro '83 B.S.N., M.S.N., M.S.

Innovating Anywhere, at Any Time



It was the promise of travel that hooked Morro as a College of Nursing senior when she took a Navy recruiter-sponsored trip to Pensacola, Fla., mostly, she admitted, to visit her brother Bob, who was in flight school there (Robert Morro now is Villanova University's executive director of Facilities Management). As the recruiters talked more about travel, she was intrigued, and so joined the Navy on a direct commission after graduation.

While Morro said she joined on a "whim," it has turned into a 22-year path to executive medicine. "One tour became another and another," she explained. "By the 10-year mark, they offered me graduate school with a four-year pay-back in service, so that was the decision point to go for 20 years. I have loved every minute of it and would do it all again."

Last year, she completed a Johnson & Johnson Wharton Fellowship for Nurse Executives. From February 2004 until this spring, she served as the senior nurse executive for Naval Hospital Yokosuka in Japan, a community hospital with five branch clinics throughout Japan, Korea and the island of Diego Garcia. She also was the director for patient services, overseeing all in-patient units and managed care departments.

On May 8, Morro reported to Naval Hospital Lemoore in California as the executive officer (XO, similar to a COO). It's a coveted spot: This year, she was one of three nurses selected for a Navy executive medicine position. Nurses compete for these jobs with physicians, administrators and dentists. At Lemoore, she is responsible for the daily operations of the naval hospital and its branch clinics.

Morro always wanted to be a nurse. Her clinical career has focused mainly on ambulatory care at all levels. In her clinical and leadership roles, she noted that she has "set up field hospitals in deserts, swamps and other interesting places, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on the hospital ship USNS Comfort, as well as participated in a humanitarian mission in the Baltic."

In other ways as well, Morro has broken outside of traditional nursing roles. In Spain, she was part of the Space Shuttle support team. She was an off-shore skipper for the United States Naval Academy's sail training squadron that sails the Atlantic. In Africa, she provided medical support to a Royal Air Force Training Unit climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. At the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., she earned a master's degree in national resource strategy. In Bethesda, Md., she was a special assistant to the National Naval Medical Center's commander for homeland security. On Capitol Hill, during an internship, she assisted with drafting legislation for health-care reform.

In each role, in each locale, Morro has remained passionate about what Navy Nurses do: "caring for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day in defense of freedom. Navy Nurses have two core responsibilities: direct patient care and training hospital corpsmen (technicians/medical assistants) who are the first responders and are on the front line of the battlefield. Their ability and bravery is unparalleled in any other health-care arena worldwide. It is our job to teach and develop them for this mission."

Morro has often dealt with limited resources. "We face the same recruitment, retention and staffing issues as our civilian counterparts do," she said. For example, in one overseas setting, there was an ongoing need to send nurses to Iraq and Afghanistan yet still maintain safe staffing levels in-house, despite a limited labor pool.



As chief nurse for Naval Hospital Yokosuka in Japan, Capt. Morro (left) spent time establishing and maintaining relationships with host-nation facilities in anticipation of times when her patients might need additional care. Here, on board the USS Essex, she promotes Lt. Lisa Braun to lieutenant commander.

Military nurses are able to “deliver nursing care anytime, anywhere and in any environment,” she noted. That unique service mission develops them into expert innovators, both in and outside of their profession. No matter what demands are made on her own skills, Morro is confident about her strong academic foundation in nursing from Villanova. “It instilled core values that are quite similar to those of the Navy...honor, courage and commitment,” she said. “Spiritually, the Catholic focus of my education prepared me for dealing with life, death and difficult ethical decisions and cases that occur constantly in a health-care profession, as well as in the military.”

In describing the Navy Nurse Corps, Morro says, “We tend to progress into leadership roles fairly quickly with each additional rank achieved. We are well represented, respected and have strong voice at the executive level, and we deliver world-class health care.”

Morro looks forward to a successful tour as an XO and would like to become a commanding officer. Without hesitation, she noted, “I am always ready, willing and able to serve in the more difficult areas (Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa) and would embrace another opportunity to be operationally assigned....that is truly what we are all about.”

Capt. Shauneen Murray Miranda '83 B.S.N., M.S.N., M.P.A., R.N.

On Alert for Mass Casualties

“To be associated with all the Navy nurses who have served throughout our history is an inspiration and a privilege. I think about this every day,” affirmed Miranda when asked why she chose Navy nursing. “The Navy Nurse Corps has a proud tradition of service to our country and I wanted to be a part of something very special.”

Miranda provides training and assessment on the readiness of Navy hospitals to respond to mass casualties, whether from a terrorist attack or natural disaster. In Washington, D.C., she is head of the DVATEX (Disaster Preparedness, Vulnerability Assessment, Training and Exercise) Program of the Navy Medicine Office of Homeland Security in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. “This is a great job,” she says, acknowledging that her role is developing as the Navy’s plans evolve. “It requires a lot of coordination with other services, agencies and departments of government.”

Miranda has benefited from a series of choices she made early on. When she chose nursing, she met her career goal of having vast options. She chose Villanova because, she said, “I wanted to go to a good, fun, prestigious and Catholic college” for a grounding in academics, community service and faith.

With a father who is a World War II veteran and sisters who served in the Army, Miranda was inspired to be part of the military as well. The Navy was her choice because of the locations of its bases, its uniforms and its promise of adventure.

She began her career in clinical practice where many other Villanovans have as well: at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. She then was assigned as the charge nurse for labor and delivery at Subic Bay Naval Hospital in the Philippines, where her staff provided care to military personnel and also members of the impoverished local

community, an experience she found rewarding. She met her future husband there. He remains on active duty. They have three children, ages 6, 8 and 13. Miranda appreciates the effort of the Navy to post a husband and wife together, around the world.

Subsequent assignments have been as a Navy medical recruiter in San Francisco and as a charge nurse for labor and delivery at Yokosuka Naval Hospital in Japan and at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. She described her collateral duty in Bethesda: “officer in charge of the Medical Evaluation and Treatment Unit” for the president and vice president and their families. She provided care to President Bill Clinton after his 1997 knee injury and surgery.

Miranda earned an M.P.A. degree at Troy State University in 1997 and a master’s degree in Health Care Management/Nursing Administration in 2000 at Marymount University.

After she and her family moved to Hawaii, Miranda served as director for community health at the Navy’s Pearl Harbor Medical Clinic. She instituted a series of firsts for Hawaii: a Navy Wellness Center, a wellness van for Navy Medicine, a Navy Single Parent Support Group and a ShipShape Program. The clinic earned the Navy Environmental Health Center’s Gold Star Award for Health Promotion Excellence two years in a row.

Selected to serve as one of six U.S. Department of Defense Smallpox Epidemiological Response Team leaders, Miranda led physicians, nurses and corpsmen who were ready to deploy within six hours’ notice in the event of a global smallpox outbreak.

“As a Navy nurse, I am a naval officer first, and a Navy nurse second,” Miranda emphasized. “A commission is not a license to be in charge; it’s a personal promise that the individual will execute and succeed in a given mission and develop those in our charge: Our duty is to lead. The U.S. military is one of those very few organizations that when a volunteer comes through the door, we say: What can they become? How can we help that individual achieve his or her highest potential? This is military nursing.” Miranda said her greatest reward is “achieving the assigned mission. The greatest professional satisfaction as an officer is developing your subordinates. This is my passion,” she affirmed.

There is uncertainty in almost any assignment, Miranda knows. “Military nurses are expected to provide both professional nursing and leadership at all levels of health care” and “can be deployed at a moment’s notice to overseas locations in direct support of our fighting forces,” she explained. “It takes a special person to sign up for this, and a lot of support to make such a commitment. What is unique about military nurses? Commitment.”

For Miranda, “Serving our country in the United States Navy is an honor and a privilege.” She would like to earn a doctorate and looks forward to continuing to serve, to the best of her ability, in whatever her assignment may be “and at the same time be a great mom.”



Capt. Miranda provided care in 1997 to President Bill Clinton after he injured his knee.



Proud to Care for America's Veterans

Compassion, camaraderie and clinical skills: Capt. Elizabeth A. Tobin Michael '97 B.S.N., R.N. loved what she learned on active duty with the Air Force Nurse Corps.

By Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, Ph.D., R.N., CRNP

Air Force Capt. Elizabeth A. Tobin Michael '97 B.S.N., R.N. grew up with a father who served in the Navy for 27 years and two older sisters who had both gone through NROTC, so she was comfortable with the idea of serving her country. She knew she wanted to become a nurse, but the United States Air Force Academy, where she had been accepted, did not have a nursing program. With her Air Force ROTC scholarship, "the choice was simple," she recalled. "I came to Villanova with its outstanding nursing reputation."

Villanova University's Air Force ROTC program and classes are held at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, and the driving wasn't easy. But, she said, "I made some really terrific friendships with people from both schools."

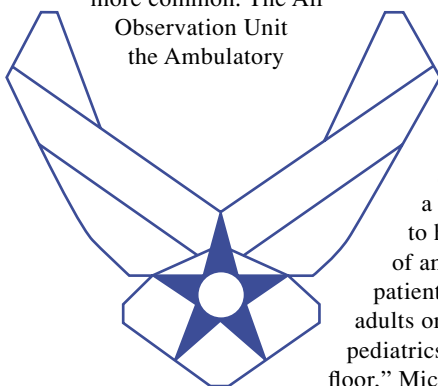
Following the birth of their first child, she and her husband were transferred to San Antonio, Texas. During two-and-a-half-years as a clinical nurse at Lackland Air Force Base, Michael worked primarily with medically complex adult patients at the Internal Medicine Clinic at Wilford Medical Center, the Air Force's largest hospital. The vast majority were military retirees and their spouses, which affected her deeply. "I cannot express how proud it made me feel to care for World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans. They are living history, and the mutual respect between hospital staff and patient in a military hospital is not found anywhere else. Love of country and one another creates a special bond," she discovered.



"Love of country and one another creates a special bond."

—Capt. Elizabeth A. Tobin Michael '97 B.S.N., R.N.

After graduation, Michael was stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where she worked at the medical center's Same Day Surgery/Ambulatory Procedure Unit. As the Air Force incorporated the concept of "observation patient stays" (a tentative admission of under 24 hours), she was able to participate because she had done her Villanova Nursing clinical rotations in civilian hospitals,



where the concept was more common. The Air Observation Unit the Ambulatory Force created an to run alongside Procedure Unit, with a shared nursing and medical staff. The new structure "allowed a new nurse like me to have a patient load of ambulatory surgical patients, medical-surgical adults or medical-surgical pediatrics, all on the same floor," Michael recalled.

In the summer of 2001, after the birth of their son, she planned to go on inactive status to care for their children full-time. September 11 changed that plan completely. The Air Force kept Michael on active duty for another year—a total of five.

"If I did not have a family, I would still be in," Michael noted. "Military nursing allowed me to be immersed in some special camaraderie while doing the job I love. It gave me access to top-notch health-care delivery in a variety of settings with extraordinary people. I had many opportunities for humanitarian work and chances for travel. I was given training courses and situations unique to the military nurse. I was able to hone my clinical skills, leadership skills and followership skills, all with one job. I loved it."

Now in Nashua, N.H., Michael practices per diem on an adult medical-surgical unit. Not surprisingly, nurses and hospital staff frequently commend her delivery of care, especially how she treats her patients with respect and compassion. "I take the comments as compliments," she said, "knowing that who I am as a nurse today is due to my Villanova education and having the opportunity now to care for the generations who gave so much before me."

As she provided care to military retirees at an Air Force base, Capt. Michael appreciated how they represented living history.

In Shipshape for Navy Nursing

Two senior NROTC midshipmen pay tribute to the teamwork, training and traditions that attracted them to Navy nursing and Villanova.

By Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D.



Dhonifranz C. Blasa:

A moral duty has family roots

"I cannot imagine life without physical readiness, the same style of clothing (going to work or going out), military haircuts, inspections, special breakfasts, shoe shining and ironing military creases and, of course, the Navy Exchange/Commissary stores! Being in the NROTC program at Villanova University is a great place to start a career as a nurse, and we need more nurses!"

"It is a hard reality that I will have to tell my family and loved ones at some point in time that I won't be home for a while...."

—Dhonifranz C. Blasa '06 B.S.N.



Dhonifranz C. Blasa '06 B.S.N. is pleased that his first tour of duty will take him back to Portsmouth, Va.

These are the words of Dhonifranz C. Blasa, a senior College of Nursing student and NROTC midshipman in the Nursing Option.

The Navy is a familiar world for Blasa, who comes from Lake Villa, Ill. His father is a retired chief petty officer. In high school, Blasa sought out volunteer experiences with elderly patients in the hospital where his mother was employed in medical billing. He also found Navy nursing appealing because of the strong influence of his grandmother, who reinforced a passion for caring for others. Blasa was particularly attracted to the Navy Nurse Corps because "Navy nurses are highly respected," he said. "There is teamwork up and down the chain of authority. There also are opportunities for leadership and clinical development and a strong sense of moral duty toward not only the patient but to the mission that affects the patient and his/her family."

During NROTC summer training, Blasa experienced the teamwork for which the Navy is so highly regarded. As a rising sophomore, he lived aboard an amphibious ship and also shadowed junior officers at a naval hospital.

He believes his biggest challenge will be "living each day knowing the reality of having to deploy at some time. It is a humbling experience that makes me value what I have in life now. It is a hard reality that I will have to tell my family and loved ones at some point in time that I won't be home for a while, as I have a duty to perform for my patients and my team *and* come home safe."

Pursuing a graduate nursing degree is among Blasa's future career goals, and he will be well-prepared. The College "has been rigorous in its clinical assignments, exams and papers, and it has offered me the opportunity to experience many facets of nursing, all the way from basic nursing care of a patient to applying research concepts and performing health promotion activities," Blasa noted. "It

all has tested and challenged my understanding in such a way to prepare me for the NCLEX nursing board exams."

NROTC, he added "has helped me establish my moral foundation, appreciate the history and culture of the Navy and develop my leadership skills, and has given me the internal tools necessary to further develop these tools once commissioned. I credit my development professionally and personally to the faculty and staff of the College and NROTC, along with other University faculty who have made important contributions to my educational experience at Villanova."

Kendall Natter:

True blue-and-gold heritage



Coming from a family with a strong Navy culture was also a factor in the career choice of Kendall Natter, a senior Nursing student and NROTC midshipman from Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

"I have been surrounded by the military my entire life," she stated. "My father was in the Navy for 41 years, so I grew up moving all over the world." Natter's father is Navy Adm. Robert J. Natter (Ret.), former commander in chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. "My older sister is a helicopter pilot and my younger sister is currently at the Naval Academy in Annapolis," she added. "My grandfather and seven of my uncles served in the Navy, and many of my cousins are on active duty. I think that if I had chosen any other service I would have been disowned!"

Natter's first cruise and introduction into the Navy Nurse Corps came during her NROTC summer experience on the USS Ashland, out of Little Creek, Va. Aboard this amphibious ship, she traveled to Camp Lejeune, N.C. While spending three weeks in Florida at the Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Natter had

“I look at this next chapter in my life as one in which I will continue to grow and mature.”

—Kendall Natter '06 B.S.N.

an exciting nursing opportunity during her OR rotation. “I was observing a surgical case involving nose reconstruction,” she recalled. “I have always loved surgery. The doctor was ecstatic that I was so enthusiastic about surgery and he allowed me to scrub into surgery and assist him in the operation. I also was able to start IVs and draw blood on the cruise. These are unique opportunities that ROTC students experience very early in their education.”

Natter also credits the NROTC for “helping me learn how to manage my time effectively so I am able to participate in all that I am involved in or responsible for, whether it is nursing, ROTC or my sorority, Alpha Chi Omega.”

Among her career goals, Natter hopes to complete graduate study and work as a nurse practitioner or a genetic counselor. “Villanova has prepared me quite well for my future career, both for nursing and my time in the military,” she believes. “Though I am nervous, as I suspect any college graduate would be, I feel that upon my graduation, I will be ready. I look at this next chapter in my life as one in which I will continue to grow and mature.”

Following graduation, Natter has been assigned to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, along with several classmates.

Meanwhile, Blasa will be reporting back to the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia, where he enjoyed his work during an NROTC summer cruise.



Sharon Roth-DeFurio

Along with several classmates, Kendall Natter '06 B.S.N. has been assigned to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego.

Natter and Blasa both agree that the opportunities for them in the Navy Nurse Corps are infinite. Their Nursing education—based on Augustinian foundations, outstanding clinical experiences, military education and exceptional summer training in Navy nursing—has prepared them for a career that will take them around the world. Natter stated, “I hope to develop a greater sense of self and leadership while in the military. I am excited to serve in the military and look forward to the adventures and opportunities it will bring.”

A Leader Among Cadets

With her platoon, patients or the water polo team, senior Regina Thorp displays the confidence born of bonding with Army ROTC life.

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

Army ROTC cadet Regina Thorp looks forward to her first assignment following her graduation in May. She will head for Alaska and the Bassett Army Community Hospital. This new 32-bed facility is located at Fort Wainwright, whose 900,000 or so acres, just outside of Fairbanks, are the gateway to the Arctic. Proud to be a senior at the College of Nursing, Thorp is poised to begin her career as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps. She sees the experience as a unique opportunity to develop professionally.

But there's an irony here for this Army cadet. Thorp not only comes

from a “Navy family,” but one based in Annapolis, Md., home of the United States Naval Academy, which also happens to be where two of her family members spend a lot of time. Her father is Navy Reserve Capt. Owen Thorp III, a submariner by training who is now the executive assistant to the Naval Academy's superintendent. Her younger brother, Andrew, is completing his “plebe” (first) year at the Naval Academy and plays defense for its storied lacrosse team. Their mother is Navy Reserve/Navy Nurse Corps Capt. Kathleen Thorp, who is the executive officer of the Operational

Health Support Unit at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

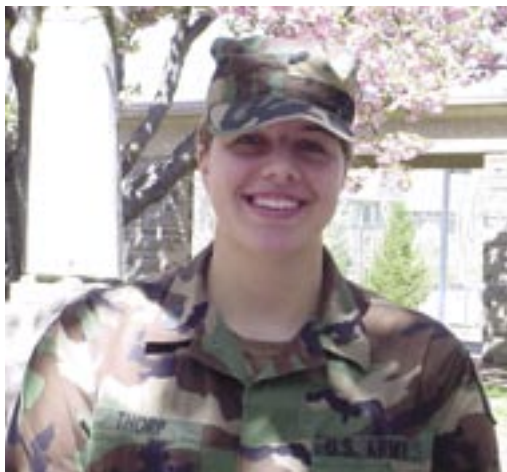
How then did Regina Thorp heed the call of the Army Nurse Corps? First, she replies, she “always knew” she wanted to be a nurse. She gained early inspiration from her mother's career, especially how she cared for former American POWs from Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm who came to Bethesda for treatment. Thorp says that her hometown also was an early influence on her career choices. After living in Annapolis, which has such a strong military presence, “You can't see your life without it,” she explained. When thinking about the military and Villanova University,

she looked into both the Army ROTC and NROTC programs, and decided the Army one was the better option for her.

Thorp appreciates the strength of the cadre and the bond with her fellow cadets (Villanova and Widener University participate together in the Pioneer Battalion). Her military education so far, she said, has been “a great experience.” It culminated in the Army ROTC’s Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) last summer, a 33-day course at Fort Lewis, Wash., for rising seniors.

At LDAC, the cadets rotate through various leadership positions and face an array of physical and task-oriented challenges in “less than ideal circumstances,” Thorp said. Whether heading a squad of 10 cadets or a platoon of 40, she learned to lead by example. LDAC, she affirmed, was her biggest challenge to date. “You push yourself farther than you thought you could ... there is a great sense of accomplishment,” she recalled.

The Army ROTC helped Thorp develop as a leader and as a nurse. She is grateful for the career advice she received from a fellow Villanovan, Army Capt. Nicole Candy '99 B.S.N., R.N., her former brigade nurse counselor. Thorp recognizes that Army nurses have a wide variety of experiences and she appreciates the culture of mentorship in the Army Nurse Corps.



Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

While hailing from Annapolis—and a Navy family—Regina Thorp '06 B.S.N. chose to pursue nursing through Army ROTC.

“It benefits you to learn from them,” she stated. She has already visited Army hospitals, including Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Thorp enthusiastically described her favorite nursing experience so far with the Army ROTC: the three-week Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP). At Fort Hood, Texas, she worked on a mother-baby unit with a preceptor and carried her own patient load at Darnall Army Community Hospital. NSTP may have had a bigger effect on her than she first realized. “When I was walking to the hospital one day, a friend noticed how excited I looked going to work,” she said.

In her few years as a nurse cadet, Thorp had the chance to do so much. She has seen the positive impact of Army nurses on their patients, as well as the positive impact of the Army on the nurses. She has traveled, had advanced hands-on nursing experiences and encountered a broad range of patients. She became a leader among her fellow cadets.

An accomplished young woman in other ways, as a member of Villanova’s water polo team Thorp transitioned from a freshman walk-on into a varsity player. She also managed to balance the demands of the Nursing curriculum with her other activities.

Army ROTC has added another layer on Thorp’s nursing education. It has refined both her nursing and interpersonal skills, and has boosted her confidence. “I can take charge,” she explained. The combination of her Villanova Nursing education and the Army ROTC has helped her learn to adapt and has developed her into “a stronger nurse and officer,” she said with confidence. Thorp has no doubts that



she’s ready for her four-year commitment in the service of her country, and she’s excited about putting her knowledge and skills to work as a nurse in the military. When she was commissioned in May, her father administered her oath.

As a future Army nurse, Thorp is driven to pursue her interests in women’s health. One day, she hopes to go to graduate school and become a family practice nurse practitioner. As she heads for Fort Wainwright, where the Army tests its soldiers and equipment in the Arctic environment, this leader affirms that “Any place is what you make it. It’s an awesome opportunity.”



“Celebrating 25 Years
of Scholarship”

Symposium Highlights Nursing Research

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

Rounding out its recognition of 25 years of graduate education, the College of Nursing on March 30 sponsored with Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International the annual Research Symposium. It took place in the Connelly Center.

The symposium's theme of “Celebrating 25 Years of Scholarship” provided a public forum to exchange research experiences, disseminate study findings and network with colleagues. Those taking part included faculty, alumni, and graduate and undergraduate students from the College, as well as nurses from the community.

The keynote address, “A Passion for Research and Research for a Passion,” was delivered by Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor of Nursing and director of the Center for Nursing Research (see box below). “Select a topic that resonates with you,” she advised the audience as she shared her own background in research. She emphasized the importance of mentors and collaborators, as well as maintaining a research focus balanced with a receptiveness to new ideas and connections.

Nursing alumni from both the undergraduate and graduate programs presented their research. Among the speakers were:

- Elizabeth Bruderle '90 M.S.N., D.N.Sc., R.N., clinical assistant professor of Nursing, and Marycarol McGovern '68 B.S.N., '86 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing, who discussed their experience developing and implementing simulated patient care scenarios for teaching and testing.
- Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS, associate professor of Nursing, presented her research findings on the impact of an externship program on new graduates transitioning to the R.N. role.
- Shelia Quinn Hartung '86 B.S.N., '93 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor at Bloomsburg University's department of nursing, shared her research on transitioning from acute care to home health care practice.

- Sharon Johnson '91 M.S.N., R.N., CNA, director, Home Health, The Home Care Network, Jefferson Health System, described an ongoing tele-health study in her home care network in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Poster sessions included these from alumni and faculty:

- Linda Carman Copel, Ph.D., APRN, BC, DAPA, associate professor of Nursing, on “Spiritual Distress: The Lived Experience of Women in

Abusive Relationships Who Sought Spiritual Guidance.”

- Lori W. Hallahan '05 M.S.N., R.N., C, on “Health Promotion in Young Adult Women.” She is a clinical nurse specialist in the Maternal/Infant Unit of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.
- Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N., adjunct clinical instructor of Nursing, on “Self-directed Learning for Adults: Cardiac Rhythm Interpretation.”



The Research Symposium offered insights for faculty, students, alumni and community nurses.

A Center for Nursing Research

The College of Nursing's research development activities are being organized under the Center for Nursing Research. The center has evolved from the Office of Nursing Research, led by Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, its director and a professor of Nursing. The center will serve as a locus of research activity for faculty and graduate students.

- Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 M.S.N., R.N., visiting clinical instructor of Nursing, on "An Integrative Review of a Tool to Measure Acculturation."
- Kimberly K. Trout, Ph.D., R.N., CNM, assistant professor of Nursing, on "Menstrual Cycle Effects on Insulin Sensitivity and Nutrient Intake in Women with Type 1 Diabetes."
- Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor of Nursing, and Maryanne V. Lieb '85 M.S.N., R.N., clinical assistant professor of Nursing, on "Beginning Concerns of BSNEExpress, Generic Nursing Undergraduate and Non-Nursing Students."

This research showcase, held each spring, brings together a diverse group of nursing and health-care professionals with the goal of improving patients' lives and health-care delivery. Nurses and Nursing students are encouraged to submit abstracts and participate through their attendance, presentations or posters.

In her presentation, Shelia Quinn Hartung '86 B.S.N., '93 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N. discussed transitioning from acute care to home health care practice. She is an assistant professor of nursing at Bloomsburg University.



Role Excellence Inspires Nurse Leaders

More than 1,100 nurse administrators and managers from around the country have completed the highly successful continuing education program known as Role Excellence, offered by the College of Nursing. For 23 years, this post-master's certificate in nursing administration has been enlightening, inspiring and transforming nurse managers and administrators.

Typically, the group will come from six states and a variety of public and private institutions. They learn about enriching and developing the complex strategies that are essential for today's health-care administrators. These vital subjects include finance and money management, labor and human relations, leadership, team building, politics, risk management and the changing health-care environment.

The certificate program has a total of 11 class days. During the Fall Semester, participants complete eight days of core courses offered once a month on a consecutive Friday and Saturday. The following spring, they select three days of electives.

Those who complete the certificate have said they experienced a revitalized enthusiasm for their roles. They have cultivated their No. 1 asset: the power of knowledge. With the broader, deeper knowledge they have gained, they have reinforced their value to their health-care institutions. For many, the most meaningful benefit has been the opportunity to network with other nurse administrators who share similar backgrounds, experiences and aspirations.

For the Fall Semester offerings, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce/certificate/excellence.htm. Or contact Louisa Zullo, Continuing Education program assistant, at (610) 519-4930 or by e-mail at louisa.zullo@villanova.edu.

"I found the Role Excellence Program to be a great educational opportunity as well as a wonderful way to network. It was the best management curriculum I have had."

"It has been a real pleasure to learn in such a collegial environment."

"I can't say enough about the program—it was an excellent and useful administrative tool."

"The program helped me to prepare for and pass the certification exam."

"Many of the skills could be incorporated immediately."

"I had the benefit of exposure to several groups, all of them stimulating, knowledgeable and talented."

Exercising Leadership

As an Army Reserve nurse adept with gas masks and medevacs, Dr. Sara J. Reeder, R.N. gained valuable case studies that she now deploys in teaching.

By Marcia Costello, Ph.D., R.D.



OUR ALUMNI are not the only ones to have served as military nurses. Several College of Nursing faculty members enlisted as well. Julia Boland Paparella, B.S.N.Ed., M.S.Ed., M.S.L.S., R.N., associate professor emerita of Nursing and a retired colonel, received France's highest award, the Legion of Honor, for her Army Nurse Corps service during World War II (see the Fall 2004 issue of Villanova Nursing). Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Doctoral Program, in 1995 completed her eight-year Reserve obligation in the Army Nurse Corps, where she rose from captain to major. Among other faculty members who served their country were Judith Errickson, M.S.N., R.N. and Jean F. DeBartolo, M.S.N., R.N. (see page 31), both of whom are now deceased.

Here, Dr. Sara J. Reeder, R.N., assistant professor, reflects on her military experience.

While she doesn't have to carry soldiers on stretchers across Lancaster Avenue or gear up for biological warfare before entering St. Mary Hall, Sara J. Reeder, Ph.D., R.N. does apply in her classroom the skills she learned in the Army Nurse Corps. Dr. Reeder, who spent 17 ½ years in the Army Reserve, resigned in 1997 with the rank of lieutenant colonel. She joined the College of Nursing as an assistant professor in 2002.

What inspired her to become a military nurse? "My decision to join the Army Reserve was based on my desire to serve my country and enhance my trauma clinical skills," Dr. Reeder stated. "I joined a combat support unit (M.A.S.H.), which often did training in the field. We would do mass casualty exercises and

support soldiers in combat training. The biggest challenge for me was participating in biological and chemical warfare exercises. The staff had to don gas masks and chemical suits to simulate a biological warfare event. Earning an emergency field badge was a physical and psychological challenge. We had to be able to carry a stretcher holding a soldier over obstacles while climbing hills and be able to use firearms and create triages for providing nursing care."



Two fellow Army Nurse Corps members joined Dr. Reeder (left) for a photo while she was in the Army Nurse Corps.

When asked to compare her civilian and military nursing experiences, Dr. Reeder responded, "I think military nurses have more autonomy than civilian nurses. There are fewer resources available to them. In addition, the required leadership skills are multifaceted. I had the responsibility to lead the team in all aspects of patient care. I was not only charged with leading health-care personnel, but I also had the responsibility for leading personnel in other military positions."

During her Reserve summer camp and weekend training, "I learned to manage a field hospital unit," Dr. Reeder recalled. "There are few resources available in the field. You have to be able to act very quickly and trust your instincts. Time is of the essence, and you make life-or-death decisions. During mass casualty exercises, I learned how to triage and direct large numbers of personnel to conserve the resources that would be required for combat."



A 1979 training exercise at Indiantown Gap, Pa., meant donning the right gear (Dr. Reeder is on the left).

(Above) Maj. Sara Jones (now Dr. Sara J. Reeder, R.N., assistant professor of Nursing) began her almost 18 years of service in the Army Reserve as a 1st lieutenant and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. She's attired in the dress uniform of the Army Nurse Corps.

“You have to be able to act very quickly and trust your instincts. Time is of the essence, and you make life-or-death decisions.”

—Sarah J. Reeder, Ph.D., R.N.

The leadership skills and clinical expertise that Dr. Reeder developed during her military career have significantly contributed to her work as a researcher and faculty member. “I use case studies to enable students to develop critical thinking skills,” she noted. “I also share my personal clinical experiences to develop students’ knowledge and skill in caring for patients with complex health-care problems.” As a result, her undergraduate and graduate students advance in developing their own multifaceted leadership skills—even when no gas mask is required.



During a 1980 combat exercise in Watertown, N.Y., Dr. Reeder helped medevac an injured patient to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

College’s Technology Leader Honored for 25 Years of Service

As a faculty member, Marita Frain ’69 B.S.N., Ed.M., R.N. has been the major force in driving the College of Nursing’s technology agenda and the many curricular initiatives that a focus on informatics has created. Frain, who is an assistant professor, was recognized at the College’s 17th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony on April 22 for her 25 years of service.

Frain is known for maintaining high standards of performance in both classroom and clinical settings. During the 1980s, she served as director of the Undergraduate Program. In all she does, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to Villanova’s mission and values and is a tireless advocate for improving the educational process and developing innovative ways for students to learn. Both the College and Villanova have benefited greatly from her vision and her ability to integrate cutting-edge technology with teaching/learning strategies.



Assistant Professor Marita Frain ’69 B.S.N., Ed.M. R.N. (center) is the College of Nursing’s “driving force” behind innovative teaching and learning strategies, noted M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor (left). The Rev. Edmund J. Dobbins, O.S.A., ’58 A&S, president of Villanova University, joined the dean on April 22 in honoring Frain.

Publications



Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, had her current pilot research on a culturally competent breast biopsy education program for African-American women profiled in the Fall 2005 *Minority Nurse*.

Dr. Bradley published the article “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Cancer Care and Survivorship” in the March 2006 *American Journal of Nursing*, 106 (3-Supplement, ANJ State of the Science on Cancer Survivorship), 22-23.

With co-authors A. Berry, C. Lang and R.E. Myers, Dr. Bradley published the article “Getting Ready: Developing an Educational Intervention to Prepare African American Women for Breast Biopsy” in *The ABNF Journal* (Association of Black Nursing Faculty), 17 (1), 15-19.

Dr. Bradley published the article “Addressing Cultural Differences in Ethnic and Racial Minority Groups: A Model to Address Disparities for Cancer Survivors” in *American Journal of Nursing*, 106 (3-Supplement, State of the Science on Nursing Approaches to Managing Late and Long-Term Sequelae of Cancer and Cancer Treatment), 22-23.

With co-authors K.M. Kash, C.W. Piccoli and R.E. Myers, Dr. Bradley published the article “Breast Biopsy Education: Preparing African American Women for Breast Biopsy” in *Cancer Control: Journal of the Moffitt Cancer Center*, November Supplement 2005 on Cancer, Culture and Literacy, 100-102.

With co-authors S.M. Underwood, M. Canales, B.D. Powe, K. Reifenshtein and J. Swinney, Dr. Bradley published the article “Expanding and Strengthening Research Focused on Breast Cancer in African American Women: Building upon What Is Known” in *JOCEPS: The Journal of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.*, 51 (1), 2-24.

Mary Ann Cantrell '89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., CS, associate professor, recently published a three-part series in the *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*, based on

her research. In the first part (September/October 2005), Dr. Cantrell and co-author **Anne Marie Brown, M.S.N., R.N.**, clinical instructor, shared their findings on “The Impact of a Nurse Externship Program on the Transition Process from Graduate to Registered Nurse.”

Theresa Capriotti '95 M.S.N., D.O., R.N., CRNP, clinical associate professor, in 2005 published the article “Changes in Inhaler Devices for Asthma and COPD” in *MEDSURG Nursing*, 14 (3), 185-194.

Dr. Capriotti in 2005 published the article “Any Science Behind the Hype of ‘Natural’ Dietary Supplements?” in the Continuing Education Series for 1.7 Contact Hours, *Dermatology Nursing*, 17 (5), 343-359.

Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Doctoral Program, in 2005 published a commentary on “Why Every Nurse Should be Concerned about Prematurity” in the July 2005 *American Journal of Nursing*, 105 (7), 60.

Dr. Sharts-Hopko was a co-author of *A National Study of Faculty Role Satisfaction 2003* (2005, National League for Nursing). This report, developed by the NLN’s Task Group on Recruitment and Retention for Nurse Educators, addresses nursing faculty satisfaction and productivity. The co-authors are N. DeBasio, D.B. Jensen, T.A. Kippenbrock, K.S. Montgomery, B. Siler and M.A. Rizzolo.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, in 2005 co-authored “Pregnancy in MS: A Roundtable Discussion,” with R.M. Herndon, M. Keating, D. Miller, N. Ward and J. Wollin in the *International Journal of MS Care*, 6 (4), 140-143.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, published the article “Inspired Teaching in an Environment of Inspiration: A Nursing Faculty Perspective” in *Academics: Reflections on Teaching and Learning at Villanova*, 2 (1), 32-37.

Awards and Leadership Achievements

At the National League for Nursing (NLN) Education Summit 2005, five faculty members from the College of Nursing shared their

educational expertise. The summit, which took place in Baltimore last September, took as its theme “Nursing Education: Navigating Toward New Horizons.” Those presenting at the summit were:

- **Elizabeth Bruderle '90 M.S.N., D.N.Sc., R.N.**, clinical assistant professor, presented on “Incoming Undergraduate Nursing Students’ Perceptions of Nurse Caring Behaviors.”
- **M. Frances Keen, D.N.Sc., R.N., C.**, assistant dean and director of the Undergraduate Program, facilitated a workshop with faculty from two other schools that are also designated NLN Centers of Excellence in Nursing Education. They focused on the collaborative philosophy in the learning environment and the process of pursuing the designation.
- **Maryanne V. Lieb '85 M.S.N., R.N.**, assistant professor, and Michelle DeSilets '04 B.S.N., R.N. presented on “Nursing Students Promoting Health in the Community: A Grassroots Approach.”
- **Patricia A. Mynagh, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor, presented on “Getting Faculty Up to Speed on Computerized Testing: The Process.”
- **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, professor and director of the Doctoral Program, took part in the Doctoral Instruction via Synchronous Web-mediated Video and Audio Enhanced Interactive Seminar.

Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor, was interviewed about breast cancer on the television program “Visions,” broadcast by ABC-TV (Channel 6) in Philadelphia on October 8, 2005. She discussed her educational publication, *Getting Connected: African-Americans Living Beyond Breast Cancer*.



Lynore Dutton DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N., BC, assistant professor and assistant dean for the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, was elected 2006 vice president of the Villanova Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Dr. DeSilets was appointed to the 10th National Magnet Conference of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Continuing Nursing Education Task Force.



M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, chairs the Quality Assurance and Ethics Committee of the board of the Mercy Health System, of which she is a trustee.

Dean Fitzpatrick also serves on the review committee for schools applying for status as a National League for Nursing's Center of Excellence in Nursing Education.

Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, and **Debbie Wimmer '83 M.S.N., PNP, R.N.,** assistant professor, visited Ethiopia in late March. They taught foundational nursing theory and nursing care to nurses from Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa. The week-long program was part of an initiative with Operation Smile to further educate and support nursing at the country's major teaching hospital.

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Doctoral Program, was the keynote speaker at Nursing 2000's North Central Scholarship Benefit, held in Lakeville, Ind., in September 2005. She spoke about "The Gift of Nursing."

Dr. Sharts-Hopko was re-elected treasurer of Sigma Theta Tau International during its 38th Biennial Convention, which took place in Indianapolis in November 2005. This is her second election to a board of directors.

In January, Dr. Sharts-Hopko gave a talk in Tokyo, Japan, at St. Luke's College of Nursing on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. Her talk was titled "East Meets West: 85 Years of Culture and Caring."

During her second trip to Japan this semester, Dr. Sharts-Hopko attended the chartering in March of the Tau Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. The new chapter, based at Yamaguchi University in Ube, was developed in part by Misae Ito '97 M.S.N., R.N., who is now on the faculty at Yamaguchi. During the celebratory events,

Dr. Sharts-Hopko gave an address on "Global Healthcare Trends: Nursing Priorities."

In Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Sharts-Hopko spoke on "Reaching the Hard to Reach: Perceptions of Providers and Women with Disabilities on Outreach Strategies" at the American University of Beirut School of Nursing's 100th Anniversary Conference, which took place last summer.

Dr. Sharts-Hopko received Villanova University's 2005-2006 Lawrence C. Gallen, O.S.A. Award for Faculty Service, conferred at Commencement in May 2005.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, in October 2005 received the Excellence in Nursing Research Award from the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. The award honored her dedication to her scholarly efforts on behalf of women with disabilities.

Kimberly K. Trout, Ph.D., R.N., CNM, assistant professor, was awarded a Veritas grant from Villanova University to support her study titled "Your Baby Prefers What You Eat: Helping Mothers Take Charge of Nutritional Health." Her project will involve a novel nutritional program for pregnant, low-income women at a Catholic Charities-supported prenatal clinic in Camden, N.J. Dr. Trout's goal is to educate the women about the importance of eating more fruits and vegetables because their prenatal food intake can later influence the solid food choices of their infants. Veritas, a faculty research program, supports scholarly research projects that reflect the values of Villanova's Catholic and Augustinian heritage.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, in fall 2005 was elected to the Cabinet on Nursing Practice and Professional Development of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. During the two-year term, she will address a variety of professional issues in nursing.

Dr. Weingarten has received a service learning grant to assist with the work she and her senior Health Promotion students do with an elementary school in Philadelphia.

Joyce S. Willens '83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.,C, assistant professor, has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Pain Management Nursing.

Nursing Expands Its Faculty

The College of Nursing, a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education, is expanding its faculty and desires qualified nurse educators for several full-time positions. The College seeks candidates for full-time employment with preparation and expertise in:

- adult health and illness;
- advanced practice/nurse practitioner;
- curriculum development, teaching strategies and clinical evaluation;
- health promotion, community health and epidemiology; and
- pediatric nursing.

For more information visit:
www.villanova.edu/nursing/facultystaff/opportunities.htm

Villanova University is a Catholic university sponsored by the Augustinian Order. An AA/EOE employer, Villanova seeks a diverse faculty committed to scholarship, service and teaching, who understand, respect and can contribute to the University's mission and values.

Two Pediatric Patient Simulators Join the Family



Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

Testing clinical scenarios on the two new pediatric patient simulators are Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the Learning Resource Center (right), and Karen Cash, B.S.N., R.N., lab assistant.

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) at the College of Nursing recently welcomed two new arrivals—SimBaby and VitalSim Nursing Kid. Both are sturdy, high-tech patient simulators that offer enhanced simulation experiences for both undergraduate and graduate students in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program.

SimBaby, Laerdal's sophisticated, portable new infant simulator, has realistic anatomy and clinical capabilities. Students can use it to practice procedures and a variety of scenarios, both emergency and routine, as part of their clinical lab experience.

With VitalSim Nursing Kid, modeled on a 6-year-old child, students can listen to normal and abnormal cardiac, lung and bowel sounds. They also can engage in scenario training.

The LRC also has purchased VitalSim Task Trainers to expand its alternative methods of teaching auscultation of critical sounds and blood pressure assessment.

"Patient simulators are great tools that can provide students with realistic experiences prior to their actual experiences in the clinical setting," says Colleen Meakim '84 M.S.N., R.N., director of the LRC. "SimBaby and VitalSim Nursing Kid provide us with options for students to learn to provide better care for their youngest patients in many situations," she adds.

Among other capabilities, SimBaby can mimic cyanosis; infant breathing patterns; and lung, heart and blood pressure sounds. Students also can practice resuscitation and intravenous or intraosseous infusions on SimBaby. They learn from their actions through its software, which allows for automatic debriefing with video feedback.

SimBaby and VitalSim Nursing Kid are the latest technology enhancements at the College. They join the LRC's family of advanced patient simulators, including SimMan and VitalSim Nursing Anne.

Princess Muna of Jordan Takes Tea with Students

To honor Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the College of Nursing held a tea on October 18, 2005, in Picotte Hall at Dundale on the West Campus. The princess, who is the British-born mother of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, came to the area to make a site visit to Chandler Hall in Newtown, Pa., and to learn about elder care. The College facilitated her visit.

The tea was hosted by M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. Dean Fitzpatrick had met Princess Muna previously in Jordan and is a colleague of Her Excellency Rowaida Al-Maaitah, Dr.P.H., R.N., Jordan's minister of Social Development. It was Dr. Al-Maaitah and Dean Fitzpatrick who in 1992 arranged for Jordanian students to enroll in the College's Graduate Nursing Program. The Jordanian students were among the first international students at the College.

Princess Muna has a longstanding interest in social, health and women's issues. Among other roles, she is the patron of nursing and midwifery in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the World Health Organization, and serves as president of the Jordanian Nursing Council.



Paola Nogueiras

Among the students invited to a tea in honor of Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein (fourth from right) were (l-r) freshman Colleen Avery; Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N.; senior Christine Martinenza; junior Devin Alfano; seniors Megan Davenport and Lena Congo; and Teresa Holman '05 M.S.N., R.N. Holman and Ross graduated in December 2005.

Students Led Effort to Charter a Chapter of Chi Eta Phi

As of April 1, the College of Nursing is the proud home of the Theta Delta Beta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., a national sorority of registered professional nurses and nursing students. Twelve students were initiated during the chartering ceremony on that day. Those attending included representatives of the College and of the national and local Chi Eta Phi, as well as family and friends.

Since 2002, a group of minority students at the College had been studying the chapter requirements, organizing fellow students and planning the ceremony and reception. The group was mentored by Patricia K. Bradley, Ph.D., R.N. and Sara J. Reeder, Ph.D., R.N., both of whom are assistant professors.

Chi Eta Phi was founded in 1932 at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., by African-American registered nurses (the hospital later became part of Howard University Hospital). Chi Eta Phi, which defines its mission as "Service for Humanity," enjoys a diverse membership of more than 8,000 nurses and nursing students, both male and female. Chi Eta Phi develops a corps of nursing leaders, encourages continuing education, continues recruitment for nursing and the health professions, stimulates networking among its members and develops working relationships with other professional groups. It has more than 90 graduate chapters and 50 undergraduate chapters across the country and in Liberia, West Africa.

At the reception, Dr. Bradley and Dr. Reeder introduced each inductee. The Villanovans offering remarks were M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, and senior Lena Congo, the new chapter's basileus (Congo was featured in the Fall 2005 *Villanova Nursing* as an intern at Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia). Speakers representing Chi Eta Phi were Lillian G. Stokes, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, supreme basileus (national president), and Constance H. Sumner, M.S.N., R.N., Northeast regional director. Sumner

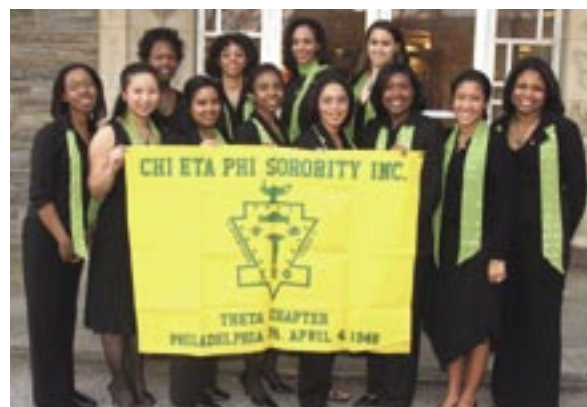
and Justine Culmer, B.A., R.N., who is basileus of the Theta Chapter, which is the parent chapter, are the founders of this chartering.

Noted Congo, "The desire to have a chapter came from our passion for nursing and commitment to community service. Chi Eta Phi is also an organization that seeks to advance the nursing profession, and for that we were eager to establish a chapter at Villanova."

Theta Delta Beta is the first of the Philadelphia Theta Chapter's undergraduate chapters to be based at a major university and is the second African-American sorority in Villanova history to charter a chapter. Theta member and fellow Villanova nurse Patricia Harris '92 B.S.N., '01 M.S.N., R.N. is the new chapter's advisor and sponsor.

The students look forward to Chi Eta Phi's future on campus. They have already completed service projects with inner-city schools to educate high school students about the nursing profession. They will continue their service to those in need through participation in the Great American Smokeout and the Sickle Cell Anemia Walk, and by mentoring inner-city children. They will be attending workshops designed for undergraduate members (Betas) at the Northeast regional and national professional conferences.

For more information about Chi Eta Phi, visit www.chietaPhi.com.



Members of the new Theta Delta Beta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi hold the banner of their parent chapter in Philadelphia. These Nursing students (and their offices in the new chapter) are (front row, from left) Tiffany Lawson (historian), Jennifer Louie (corresponding secretary), Marta Tikabu (financial secretary), Takira Johnson (treasurer), Megan Davenport (anti-basileus/vice president), Lena Congo (basileus/president), Sarah Homs (philacter), Lillie Manon (recording secretary) and (back row, from left) Dominique Davis (chaplain and dean of pledges), Karin Wilson, Elyse Braxton and Rachel Watkins (sergeant-at-arms and parliamentarian).



Lillian G. Stokes, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN (right), supreme basileus (national president) of Chi Eta Phi, congratulates and shares her wisdom with senior Lena Congo. Congo is the basileus (president) of the College's newly chartered Theta Delta Beta Chapter. In May, Villanova's Office of Student Development presented a Student Leadership Award to Congo and to senior Megan Davenport (anti-basileus/vice president) for their efforts in organizing the chapter.

Paola Nogueiras (both)

College Launches Subaru Honors and Ralston Center Awards



Lee Grodsky commends Lena Congo '06 B.S.N. on being named the inaugural Subaru Honors Scholar. Grodsky, who is regional marketing manager for Subaru's Mid-Atlantic Region, made the presentation at Convocation on May 20. M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, adds her congratulations.



Paola Nogueiras (both)

Also at Convocation, Duncan VanDusen presents the inaugural Ralston Center Award for Gerontology Nursing Excellence to Kimberly A. Pratt '05 M.S.N., R.N., as Dean Fitzpatrick applauds. VanDusen is secretary of the Ralston Center's Board of Managers.

Today, the nursing profession faces critical shortages, especially in its potential future leadership. The College of Nursing's students, as emerging leaders, bring to communities across the country and around the world their dedication, compassion and accomplishments, thereby underscoring the importance of nursing in America. Two new annual awards will support this effort. On May 20 at Convocation, the College of Nursing announced the Subaru Honors and The Ralston Center Award for Gerontology Nursing Excellence initiatives.

Subaru Honors

To further develop talented nursing students who have leadership potential, the College and Subaru of America Mid-Atlantic Region are pleased to announce Subaru Honors, aimed at supporting academic and professional growth at the leadership level.

The \$5,000 Subaru Honors scholarship will be presented to a Villanova Nursing senior. The scholarship encourages rapid and seamless transition from B.S.N. to graduate education at the College, as well as the further development of the senior's leadership potential. The student, to be selected by the College, will demonstrate leadership ability through academic, clinical and community involvement. The inaugural scholar, announced at Convocation, is Lena Congo '06 B.S.N. (see page 23). Lee Grodsky, regional marketing manager for Subaru's Mid-Atlantic Division, made the presentation.

"The Villanova University College of Nursing continues to advance leadership

development in nursing, and it is our privilege that Subaru Honors will help support this critical directive," says Grodsky. Subaru and the academic community have always shared a kindred spirit, and together with the College, Subaru Honors will help meet the needs of tomorrow's nursing leaders.

Ralston Center Award

The Ralston Center Award for Gerontology Nursing Excellence each year will recognize an outstanding College of Nursing graduate student who is specializing in geriatric nursing. This award of \$2,000 is in support of the Ralston Center tradition of optimal care for the elderly and encourages quality care for this population among leaders, educators and providers.

This year's Ralston Center Award recipient is Kimberly A. Pratt '05 M.S.N., R.N. of Narvon, Pa. A geriatric nurse practitioner, Pratt completed her preparation as an adult nurse practitioner with a geriatric subspecialty in December 2005. At Convocation, Duncan VanDusen, secretary of the Ralston Center's Board of Managers, presented the award to Pratt.

Ralston Center, led by its president, Francis R. Strawbridge, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to Philadelphia seniors. Its mission is to develop services that "address the medical, mental health and quality of life needs of older adults and to engage and assist in research and education in the care of the elderly."

For more information, visit www.subaruhonors.com and www.ralstoncenter.org.

Congratulations, Students!

At the alumni reception prior to the College of Nursing's 28th Annual Distinguished Lecture in Nursing, several students received awards in recognition of their accomplishments. The event took place on November 9, 2005, in the President's Lounge of the Connelly Center. Those honored were:

- Junior Megan C. Murphy
Undergraduate Nursing Senate Award
- Amy Moore '00
B.S.N., '05 M.S.N.
Nursing Alumni Society Graduate Award
- Senior Kristen L. Shaffer
Nursing Alumni Society Undergraduate Award

Celebrating the Link Between Japan and the College

Representatives of the College of Nursing and Japan's Aomori University of Health and Welfare participated in a ceremony on March 21. It celebrated the continuation of the collaborative agreement between the two nursing programs, which began in 2005.

A reception in honor of Sachie Shindo, Ph.D., R.N., R.M., who represented Aomori, was hosted by M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor at Villanova's College of Nursing.

Located in the scenic northern coast of Japan's main island, Aomori opened in 1999 with a Faculty of Health Sciences. It has departments of human sciences, nursing, physical therapy and social welfare.

In May 2005, Aomori began welcoming Villanova students and faculty to its nursing program. The Japanese university also

provided a site for an elective course in international nursing, which was offered again this May. (See the Spring 2005 *Villanova Nursing*.)

This fall, an Aomori faculty member in pediatric nursing will bring some of her students to Villanova to participate in clinical visits and classes.

This developing partnership in nursing education benefits both institutions' students and faculty, who learn more about each country's health-care system, nursing practices and culture. The two universities plan to explore opportunities for joint research projects and scholarly activities of mutual benefit.



Paola Nogueiras

Two nursing leaders affirm the agreement between their institutions. They are Sachie Shindo, Ph.D., R.N., R.M. (left), of Japan's Aomori University of Health and Welfare, and the College of Nursing's M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor.

National League for Nursing Honors IBC

Being the first health plan to support graduate education for nurses helped earn Independence Blue Cross (IBC) the National Award for Public Service from the National League for Nursing (NLN). The leading health insurer in southeastern Pennsylvania, IBC provides coverage to 3.5 million people.

"We are honored to be recognized by an organization that shares our commitment to addressing the nursing shortage," noted IBC's president, Joseph A. Frick, in accepting the award. The ceremony took place on October 1, 2005, at the NLN's 2005 Education Summit in Baltimore. The nursing shortage, Frick added, "has a significant impact on the health-care system's ability to provide quality care."

Through its Nurse Scholars Program, IBC has awarded \$1.74 million to more than 1,000 graduate students in nursing, including at the College of Nursing (see the Spring 2005 *Villanova Nursing*). The NLN award also pays tribute to IBC's internship program, in which Villanova Nursing students have participated, and to its Charitable Medical Care grants. IBC through these grants has dedicated more than \$4 million to 22 clinics over a three-year period to provide free or nominal fee care to the uninsured.

The College of Nursing nominated IBC for the award. Nursing schools at La Salle and Drexel universities added letters of support.



Scholar Affirms Value of Caring

Jaclyn Farwell, a junior at the College of Nursing, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship

by the Southeastern Pennsylvania

League for Nursing

at a dinner on April

19. In her essay,

she wrote that the most important thing she has learned in her education at the College is **"the importance of caring for the human spirit."** An NROTC

midshipman, Farwell will be commissioned as a naval officer in the Navy Nurse Corps upon her graduation next year.



Four Medallions Honor Excellence in Alumni

The College of Nursing on April 22 bestowed its highest award for distinguished achievement, the College of Nursing Medallion, on four alumni who are committed to service and leadership. At the 17th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards ceremony, co-sponsored by the College and its Nursing Alumni Society, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, presented medallions to the following alumni. The quotations featured are from their comments in accepting the medallions.

Raymond W. Kleposki '00 M.S.N., R.N., CRNP

Medallion for Clinical Excellence in Nursing Practice



“Nothing prepared me more in life than the two years I spent here [at the College of Nursing].”

At the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Kleposki is a pediatric nurse practitioner in orthopedics. A role model, he is recognized for his clinical expertise, compassion and energetic work.

In 1996, Kleposki graduated from West Chester University with a B.S.N. He began working at Children’s Hospital on various units from medical-surgical to intensive care to emergency. Building on his clinical experience, he came to Villanova University to earn his M.S.N. as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Children’s Hospital welcomed him in his new role, first in the anesthesia department and then in orthopedics.

Collaborating with orthopedic surgeons in an outpatient clinic, Kleposki conducts physical exams and patient histories; triages patient problems; and diagnoses and treats various pediatric orthopedic disorders, such as tumors, hip problems, spinal deformities and fractures.

It’s not just *what* Kleposki does, but *how* he does it. His clinical skills are excellent, and he explains things to patients and families

so they understand and can make decisions. He walks them through critical issues and is there to support them. As a clinical leader, he is patient and professional, respectful and highly regarded. Kleposki not only teaches patients and families but also new nurse practitioners. He is a preceptor for fellow Villanova nurses in the Nurse Practitioner Program and also works with other nursing and medical students, receiving praise from those who benefit from his knowledge.

Rosalinda Alfaro-LeFevre '75 B.S.N., '85 M.S.N., R.N.

Medallion for Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Education



“I was so inspired by the faculty. They’ve had such an impact on my life.”

Alfaro-LeFevre’s career reflects a spirited commitment to teaching. Born in Argentina, she came to the United States as a child. At the College of Nursing, she earned her B.S.N. degree and her M.S.N. in Nursing Education. Her years of clinical experience, combined with 10 years of field experience in publications, serve as the foundation for a desire to share knowledge with others. She has become a well-known presenter, consultant, mentor and author in nursing education.

In 1993 she founded Teaching Smart/Learning Easy. The company, based in Stuart,

Fla., provides consultation and seminars in teaching and mastering critical thinking and workplace skills, professional development and nursing process to organizations, hospitals and schools around the world.

Alfaro-LeFevre is the author and editor of several books, two of which have been translated into seven languages. Her critical thinking texts have received several honors. National and international organizations, as well as individual educators, managers and staff nurses, rely upon her expertise in nursing education. She has taken part in the annual Faculty Development Institute each year since its beginning in 2001; the institute is co-sponsored by the National League for Nursing and the College.

Despite her busy schedule, she has continued her critical care nursing practice in tandem with her educational and consulting roles. She is much respected and admired by those who have worked with her. Her energy and enthusiasm are infectious and boundless. Adept as a synergist, she brings various groups together and grows their potential beyond expectations. Her students cite her generosity, expertise and teaching abilities as contributing to their success. She is a mentor par excellence.

Veronica Hill-Milbourne '84 B.S.N., M.S., J.D., R.N.

Medallion for Distinguished Service to Nursing and the Community

“I thank God for continuing to use me every day. I am overjoyed by this award. The Villanova campus left a lasting impression.”



Hill-Milbourne is the chief community development officer for Philadelphia’s Inglis Foundation, which supports a system of services promoting the independence of adults with physical disabilities. She is responsible for developing community-based services and a continuum of care system for more than 10,000 people. She has committed herself to serving this population

and does so through developing a variety of innovative programs.

The 1984 Villanova Nursing graduate later attended St. Joseph's University for her master's degree in health education. At Temple University, she earned her law degree in 1994. After serving as vice president for risk management and quality improvement for the Visiting Nurses Association of Greater Philadelphia, the state's largest independent home health care organization, she effectively transferred her skills in nursing and administration into serving the community through her current role at Inglis, where she manages a staff of 30 people.

Hill-Milbourne doesn't give up. She responds to customer needs and encourages adults with physical disabilities to maximize their independence in the community and minimize their risk for poor health outcomes. Her numerous programs for them provide adult day and recreational services, an interdisciplinary team of health professionals to coordinate community care in support of those with severe disabilities, in-home attendant care to enable people to live independently in the community, and job training and employment assistance. She also developed a customer service unit to simplify access to Inglis' services and a comprehensive community database to help care providers find available resources.

She continues her work as a consumer advocate for this community, participates in statewide advisory groups, and advises legislators and other leaders on disability issues. In reaching out to create partnerships to benefit adults with disabilities, Hill-Milbourne seeks new ways to serve. She is a prominent nursing leader and tireless advocate in the community.

Navy Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE

Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Nursing



“The Navy has bonded with the College of Nursing for more than 50 years. . . . This award is a tribute to them [the midshipmen here]; they are our future. Navy nurses are in every platform, in war zones, on ships. I say thank you for them for this award.”

Rear Adm. Bruzek-Kohler is the Navy Nurse Corps' 21st director as well as the Navy medical inspector general—the first Villanova nurse to hold both positions. For the Navy Nurse Corps, she is responsible for more than 3,800 active duty and Reserve nurses at home and abroad in operational, humanitarian and conventional settings. As inspector general, she oversees the prevention of fraud and abuse.

After her graduation from the College in 1974, she was commissioned as an ensign. She moved from clinical roles in naval hospitals into health-care management and later executive medicine positions. As commanding officer (similar to a civilian CEO) of the Naval Hospital Lemoore in California, she oversaw

the transition to this newly constructed facility and set the vision to bring the finest quality care to her clients. She honed her academic leadership skills when she directed various academic support and training programs for the Navy. Most recently, she served as the assistant deputy chief for Medical Operations Support for the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C. The Navy has recognized her distinguished career with numerous personal decorations and service awards.

Bruzek-Kohler has added to her rich experience in executive leadership by advancing her education with a master's degree in education from Providence College, as well as an M.A. and a doctoral degree in education and human development from the George Washington University. She is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Emblematic of nursing leadership, Bruzek-Kohler is a proactive, strategic thinker who believes in the power of communication. As an engaged leader, she embraces change and is steering the Navy Nurse Corps to its future as a skill-specific, leaner force with the dual priorities of operational and humanitarian missions. (Read more about her on page 4).

Nominate a Nurse Leader for Membership in Alpha Nu

If you know nurse colleagues who are not already members of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International at the College of Nursing, consider nominating them for membership as Nurse Leaders. Nominees must practice nursing in their country, hold a minimum of a baccalaureate or the equivalent in any field and demonstrate excellence in nursing. You may also nominate yourself. Nominations should be submitted by August 30.

For more information and an application, visit www.nursingsociety.org/membership/nurse_leader.html. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Bruderle '90 M.S.N., D.N.Sc., R.N., clinical assistant professor of Nursing, at elizabeth.bruderle@villanova.edu or (610) 519-6853.

Telehealth Technology: A New Way of Serving Veterans

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

Many veterans have stories to share of their lives being saved by fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Now some of them will have another type of story to tell—one of lifesaving technology, right in their homes.

A select group of veterans at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center (PVAMC) is enrolled in the new Care Coordination and Home Telehealth Program, run by John P. Boudwin '94 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N., of Drexel Hill, Pa. As a care coordinator, Boudwin follows the high-risk congestive heart failure (CHF) patients while a colleague monitors the diabetic patients.

Boudwin has been at PVAMC for 16 years, starting as a medical staff nurse. He became manager of his unit and then worked for eight years as a case manager. When a telehealth program was mandated for VA facilities nationwide, Boudwin was part of the work group organized to get the program off the ground in Philadelphia. He thought it was an interesting new concept and so applied for the position last year.

In the interim, wanting to build on his management experience and expand his career options, Boudwin returned to Villanova for his M.S.N. in Health Care Administration. He

graduated in December 2005. He has been tying his independent study on “Monitoring High Risk Patients Using Telehealth Technology” to his work, with the goal of having a high impact on the lives of veterans.

Because the telehealth program was new, Boudwin wanted to learn more about what research and articles existed. This was the genesis of his independent study. As his data is compiled, the question he seeks to answer is “Can our program mirror the findings of the pilot study by the VA in Florida, and will it be a significant cost savings to the VA system?”

The results from Florida bode well for veterans in the Philadelphia area. Noted Boudwin, “While our program is too new to have concrete data, the VA pilot study in Florida has shown patients on telehealth had a 60 percent decrease in admissions, 60 percent decrease in bed days of care, 40 percent reduction in ER visits and a 59 percent reduction in medication costs.”

The PVAMC veterans are mostly males, though in recent years there have been more women. Many of the patients have chronic diseases leading to multiple medical visits, and thus high health-care costs for the VA.

“The purpose of telehealth,” Boudwin explained, “is to decrease admissions, unscheduled primary care provider visits, and emergency room visits of high risk CHF and diabetic patients. This is done by placing a home messaging device—the Bayer-Panasonic Viterion 100 TeleHealth Monitor—in a patient’s home. It prompts patients to send data that will show if their condition is worsening.” To guide patients, the compact monitor uses voice prompts, which can be customized.

Boudwin offered an example of how it works. “CHF patients are asked to weigh themselves on a digital scale we provide. Their weight is downloaded to the messaging device and is sent, along with their answers to disease-specific questions, to a Web site that can be accessed at PVAMC. High-risk data will alert in red. We then contact patients to assess them by phone and bring them in if needed to avoid an episode of exacerbation.”

Patients are selected for the telehealth program based on the frequency of their recent hospital visits, their drug therapy and costs to the hospital. They are trained on the

system. “Many of our patients are in their 80s and not that adept when it comes to modern technology, but they pick it up and are able to participate,” explained Boudwin.

The patient’s primary care provider directs the care. Boudwin and his colleague assist the provider with the telehealth oversight. Some patients transmit their data faithfully each day, some need gentle reminders, others eventually tire of using the technology and a few have stepped away from the program. Boudwin reported that telehealth has prevented several patients from having an acute episode of heart failure that would have required hospitalization. It has also identified some patients who needed to be admitted to the PVAMC.

“One of our patients had gained 5 pounds of fluid in three days,” Boudwin related. “We notified his provider, who had him come to the ER, where they found he was going into renal failure. His wife was very grateful and said that if he had not been on the telehealth program, she would not have noticed the weight gain. She felt our program ‘saved his life.’”

Boudwin predicted that, “If the savings are as anticipated, I see us adding other diseases to the program, such as hypertension and COPD.” He added, “The VA has been a forerunner in the medical field from its inception. Most VAs are affiliated with major universities and hospital systems, so it is no surprise that they would take on a project of this size, which uses the latest technology.”

A unique employer, “the VA offers many opportunities for nurses,” Boudwin said. “Through tuition reimbursement and scholarships funded by the VA, I was able to complete both my B.S.N. and M.S.N. at Villanova. The VA also has hospitals located throughout the United States, to which any VA employee can apply,” he said.

“The mission of the VA is to provide high-quality health care and social services to veterans while maintaining the highest level of professional and ethical standards,” Boudwin pointed out. “I think any veteran who seeks care in the VA system will find that mission statement to be true.” He enjoys his position at the PVAMC but eventually would like to have an even broader impact on veterans’ health by advancing into a management position.



At the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, John P. Boudwin '94 B.S.N., '05 M.S.N., R.N. (right) demonstrates how to use the monitor in the telehealth program he runs.

The Impact of Navy Nurses

After Katrina

The Fall 2005 issue of *Villanova Nursing* profiled the work Navy Ltjg. Erica Arnold '02 B.S.N., R.N. and Navy Ens. Christine Burns '04 B.S.N., R.N. Following Hurricane Katrina, these two alumnae were aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort in Pascagoula, Miss., and then New Orleans, where they were joined by a fellow Villanova Navy nurse, Ltjg. Courtney Crane '03 B.S.N., R.N. Here, Ltjg. Arnold and Ens. Burns share more details about their experience in the Navy Nurse Corps.



The USNS Comfort



Navy Ens. Christine Burns '04 B.S.N., R.N.

Life on a Floating Hospital

The USNS Comfort is capable of handling an array of patient needs, including medical-surgical, mother-baby, ICU, psychiatric, public health and surgery. In response to Hurricane Katrina, the hospital ship's personnel set up a casualty receiving area—similar to an emergency department—of 50 beds divided into medical and surgical bays.

"On the ship, nurses run the different areas and make sure everything gets done," Arnold noted. "In casualty receiving, there was a nurse in charge of the whole department and then we were divided into four teams with a nurse team leader for each team. Each team also had at least two other nurses and five to nine corpsmen to manage." The Comfort had a designated area for relief workers so they could have hot showers, meals and a bed while helping local residents.

The week they were in Pascagoula, the nurses provided care for patients with mostly primary-care needs, Arnold said. Patients came through casualty receiving starting early in the morning. Nights were quiet because of the local curfew. Burns observed that "Most patients came in for problems they had and did not have the resources or funds to be seen at any of the local health-care facilities. Patients ranged from health-care workers who were in town working on clean-up needing a tetanus shot, to a man fixing his hurricane-damaged roof and falling partially through, to people having cardiac chest pain, to children with sore throats, to psychiatric issues and to patients needing minor surgeries."

While the hospital ship's staff continued to treat primary-care patients, the Comfort served as more of a trauma center during the week it was in New Orleans. Nurses could expect to see a variety of injuries, such as those from a fall through a roof to those resulting from a car accident. In addition to providing nursing care, Burns reported that she was able to visit the Army Combat Support Hospital (CSH) Unit based in the Convention Center, where as many as 20,000 of Katrina's victims had been stranded. She noted, "I coordinated the trips between the personnel on the ship and the personnel from the CSH Unit, so each

branch of service was able to tour and see what the other does."

Door-to-Door, Beyond the Bedside

These nurses reported that they enjoyed their work and that the response from residents was positive. They also moved beyond the bedside to serve. Burns described going out into the community: "In Mississippi we went in town and worked with the Salvation Army sorting and distributing donations to those who came. We unloaded a huge semi full of donated items. We worked with a Marine liaison group out of North Carolina that would cook for anyone who wanted to come by. We would take the food across the parking lot to those who were waiting in line for FEMA and Red Cross assistance. We also went with FEMA to clean out schools and other public facilities and went door-to-door delivering ice and asking people what they needed."

Arnold summed up, "There is no way so many patients would have been seen in such a short period of time without the nursing staff. The impact was people having access to free health care. Many of these people hadn't seen a doctor in years, and we made health care available to them. A lot of them probably would have gone on for years without a check-up or tetanus shot, even though they were sifting through the debris of destroyed homes."



A home damaged by Hurricane Katrina

All photos courtesy Ens. Christine Burns '04 B.S.N., R.N.

On Her Way to Southeast Asia



Another Villanova nurse, Navy Ens. Anne-Marie McAlarnen '05 B.S.N., in late May shipped out aboard the USNS Mercy on a humanitarian mission to Southeast Asia. The planned stops are Banda Aceh in Indonesia, as well as East Timor, Bangladesh and several other places. "It will be a mixed deployment—both civilian volunteers from Project Hope and Operation Smile (perhaps a few other organizations, too) and the U.S. Navy," she wrote, excited about the mission. She added, "Not many people can say they will have had this type of nursing experience."

News from Our Graduates

1960s

Susan Chianese Slaninka '69 B.S.N., Ed.D., R.N. contributed to the new textbook *Faith Community Nursing*, by Dr. Janet Hickman (2005, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins). Dr. Slaninka authored two chapters: "Self Care" and "Chronic Disease." She is an adjunct faculty member at Villanova's College of Nursing.

1970s

Gloria J. McNeal '70 B.S.N., Ph.D., APRN, BC, APN, C, associate professor and assistant dean of student affairs at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Nursing in Newark, in December 2005 was named one of 10 "Divas and Dons of Nursing" by New Jersey's Institute of Nursing, commending her extraordinary impact on the profession and the community. Dr. McNeal has been nationally recognized as an educator, clinician and researcher. **Mary Duffin Naylor '71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN** was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. She is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Two 1971 classmates are employed at the Athens Regional Medical Center in Georgia. **Sherry Keller Schacke '71 B.S.N.** is the director of

family care and diabetes education there. She received an M.S.N. from the Medical College of Georgia and is a board certified by the American College of Healthcare Executives. Her son Christopher graduates with the Villanova College of Nursing's Class of 2006. **Valerie Ford '71 B.S.N.** is also employed by Athens Regional Medical Center (Pediatrics Department) and is a certified lactation nurse. **Louise Grosso Riley '72 B.S.N.** was promoted to assistant dean for distance education at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J. **Laura Hanlon '73 B.S.N.** guides patients as the Joint Replacement Center coordinator for Shore Health System in Easton, Md. **Donna Marino Gares '78 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., M.B.A., CNA, BC, CHE** is chief nursing officer at San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown, Texas. She has more than 25 years of health-care experience and has held various management positions in both academic and community hospital settings. **Deborah Cook-Altonji '79 B.S.N., '85 M.S.N.**, director of recruitment for Medisys in Wayne, Pa., welcomes **Alison Gilligan Abernethy '94 B.S.N.** to her team as a recruitment coordinator.

1980s

Donna Zimmaro Bliss '81 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, FGSA was promoted to full professor at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, where she is Professor in Long-Term Care of Elders and a Horace T. Morse-Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher. **Cecelia Gatson Grindel '82 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN** was selected as a 2005 Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. At Georgia State University's Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing, she is the associate director for undergraduate programs and a professor. Dr. Grindel also is a founding member of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses. **Catherine Alznauer Greenblum '83 B.S.N.** graduated as a family nurse practitioner in April 2005 and works with her husband, Dr. Jesse Greenblum, in his obstetrics and gynecology practice in Fernandina Beach, Fla. She will be publishing an article on stress incontinence in women in the October *Advance for Nurse Practitioners*. In February, she did a poster presentation at the Southern Nursing Research Conference in Memphis. **Dr. Helen Streubert Spezialer '83 M.S.N.** has been appointed to the Health Care Quality Panel of Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell's Office of Health Care Reform.

Orpha E. Gehman '85 M.S.N. for the last six years has been teaching English to nurses, physicians and other health-care workers in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, through the Eastern Mennonite Mission of Salunga, Pa. **Jennifer Lebert Nelson '89 B.S.N.** received her M.S.N. from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., as a family nurse practitioner. She has joined a large cardiology group in New Haven. Nelson presented her capstone project, "Caring for the Underserved: Careers in Community Care," during National Primary Care Week in 2004. It won the Most Collaborative Project Award from the National Medical Student Association. She and a colleague were the first nurse practitioner students to win the award.

1990s

Frances Anne Musto '90 M.S.N., Psy. D. in July 2005 received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. **Agnes M. Morrison '91 M.S.N., Ed.D., R.N.** completed her doctoral education at Nova Southeastern University. Her dissertation was titled "Development of an Intelligent Simulation Program for the Medical Surgical Nursing Curriculum at Thomas Jefferson University with a Plan for Implementation and Evaluation." Through her applied dissertation work, Dr. Morrison is becoming an expert in the use of high-fidelity simulation (such as the Laerdal SimMan simulator). She is a faculty member in the department of nursing, College of Health Professions, at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. **Judith M. Young '91 M.S.N., RNC** and her daughter, Amy McKeever, M.S.N., CRNP, authored "Continuity and Accountability for Patients with Hysterectomy: Operating Room to Home" in *Perspectives—Recovery Strategies from the OR to Home*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (Saxe Healthcare Communications). Young is a retired adjunct faculty member at Villanova's College of Nursing, where McKeever is currently an adjunct faculty member and a doctoral student. **Sheila Fitzpatrick Taney '92 B.S.N., '96 M.S.N.** works part-time for the Morrestown Visiting Nurses Association, which serves patients and families in New Jersey's Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties. **Nancy Stahl '92 M.S.N., R.N.** is an assistant professor of nursing at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Ga. **Susan Downey Graybill '93 M.S.N.** was elected to the Leadership Succession Committee of Sigma Theta Tau International at its Biennial

Convention in Indianapolis. She is a member of Villanova's Alpha Nu chapter and teaches nursing at Lancaster General College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Lancaster, Pa. **Stacy Grant Hohenleitner '93 M.S.N., R.N., CNA, NHA** has received a two-year appointment as an ANCC Magnet Status survey coordinator. She also is an adjunct clinical faculty member at Villanova's College of Nursing and does independent legal nurse consultation. In March, she published in *Nursing Spectrum* a log about her Nursing students' participation as mock victims in a Philadelphia disaster drill. **Berlin Maposa '98 B.S.N.** has been practicing in three primary hospitals in Botswana since her graduation. She has been promoted to principal nursing officer II (matron) at Kasane Primary Hospital. AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis rank high among Botswana's public health concerns. Located in the north near the borders with Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe, the town of Kasane is a gateway to big game reserves and

Victoria Falls. **Army Capt. Nicole Candy '99 B.S.N., R.N.** in February was deployed to Iraq for 12 months. She is with the 21st Combat Support Hospital of Fort Hood, Texas, and is the assistant head nurse in the Intermediate Care Ward and ICU. Capt. Candy also serves as an alumni ambassador to the Army Nurse Corps for Villanova's College of Nursing.

2000s

Janna Bullock '01 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N. is part of the medical team profiled on ABC-TV's "Miracle Workers," the Monday night reality TV show that follows two patients each week. They overcome "insurmountable odds with the help of an elite team of medical professionals," according to the show's Web site. Bullock, who is affiliated with Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, is a clinical nurse specialist and pediatric nurse practitioner. **Bridgette M. Carter '03 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N.** received a Minority Fellowship from the Substance Abuse

& Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing, Carter is researching "The Association of Depression and Substance Use to HIV Transmission Among African-American Adolescent Females in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Settings." **Navy Ltjg. Nancy Miller '03 B.S.N.** is a registered nurse in the ICU at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. In September, she will begin a two-year tour of duty at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, the largest U.S. military hospital on Japan's mainland. **Peter J. Keast '04 B.S.N., R.N.** looks forward to practicing nursing in England. He is a staff nurse, employed by South Manchester University Hospitals in the Regional Burns Centre at Wythenshawe Hospital. His work spans caring for critically ill burns patients, to the recovering burn patients at home, to community outreach programs. During his sophomore year at Villanova's College of Nursing, Keast took advantage of the opportunity to study nursing at the University of Manchester, and now lives in Salford, just north of Manchester. **Navy Ens. Katherine Kidde '05 B.S.N., R.N.** was commissioned as an ensign in August 2005 and started Officer Induction School (OIS) last September in Newport, R.I. After OIS, she reported to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where she is a medical-surgical staff nurse and has worked with Marines injured in Iraq.

As a Haitian boy swallows his worm medicine, . . .



. . . Anne Marie Greco '99 B.S.N., M.S.N., FNP stands by to help. She graduated from the University of Virginia in May 2005 as a family nurse practitioner and now is enrolled there in a post-master's program in geriatrics. In January, she went to Dos Palais, Haiti, with other volunteers from her church, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Glen Allen, Va., to dedicate a Catholic elementary school; the church pays tuition for all 600 of its students. Greco serves on the church's committee to assist with future projects for Haiti, including bringing clean water and health care to the village. The latter will be accomplished through the twice-monthly mobile clinics that she helped secure while volunteering in the area.

In Memoriam: Alumni

Rita McTamney McCreesh '59 B.S.N., of Havertown, Pa., on October 4, 2005.

Elizabeth A. Robertson '69 B.S.N., '76 M.A., on July 24, 2005.

Patricia Evans '84 M.S.N., of Downingtown, Pa., on October 2, 2005.

Patricia A. Ewing Kelly '83 B.S.N., of Drexel Hill, Pa., on December 15, 2005.

In Memoriam: Former Faculty

Jean F. DeBartolo, M.S.N., R.N., who served as a faculty member in the College of Nursing from 1968 to 1984, died on March 27 at the age of 87. Originally from Iowa, she was a graduate of Grinnell College, where she earned a B.S. in chemistry in 1941, and of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve). She served in the Navy Nurse Corps during World War II.



Jean F. DeBartolo, M.S.N., R.N.

DeBartolo was well-known among her students as a fine teacher of medical-surgical nursing, and for the hospitality she extended to her clinical groups, whom she invited to her home for dinner. She also befriended many young, new faculty who joined the College from outside the area. She and her late husband, Fred, loved to cheer the Villanova Wildcats on to victory.

Following her retirement to Green Valley, Ariz., in 1986, DeBartolo often contributed generously to the College and enjoyed following its growth academically through its publications and the contacts she maintained with faculty. She was ever supportive of the College. DeBartolo was an active volunteer in her community, especially concerning health-care issues.

A memorial fund has been established at Grinnell College.

Sister M. Margarella O'Neill, O.S.F., one of the two religious sisters who co-directed Villanova University's B.S.N. program when it was established in 1953, died on March 18 at the age of 85. After serving Villanova Nursing from 1951 to 1959, she remained a good friend of



Though ailing, Sister M. Margarella O'Neill, O.S.F., attended Nursing's 50th Anniversary Mass on April 26, 2003. It would be her final visit to the

College that she had helped to establish.

the College of Nursing and the University throughout her lifetime. From 1983 to 1989, she guided Neumann College as president, and for the nine years previous served as academic dean. Both Villanova and Neumann had awarded her honorary degrees.

At the Catholic

University of America, the Philadelphia native earned her B.S.N., her M.S.Ed. in Administration Nursing Education and her Ph.D. in sociology. She entered the Franciscan congregation in 1941 and was professed in 1944. Sister Margarella also served in the administration of her religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated on March 23 at Assisi House in Aston, Pa., where Sister Margarella had been director of clinical education and director of mission effectiveness for several years following her presidency.

Greetings from the Alumni President

Dear Fellow Alumni:

This year, 2006, is very special for the Nursing Alumni Society as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. My thanks go out to all of the former and current officers and board members who have volunteered their time and efforts in making this group—your group—vibrant, contributory and successful.

We measure our success, in part, by the level of support we provide to the College of Nursing and to Villanova University. I am happy to report to you, our members, that we have funded annual monetary awards to deserving graduate and undergraduate students who embody the College and University ideals and standards. We continue to support traditional College activities and recently began representing the membership by providing insight and information to prospective students and their families at recruiting events.

The Nursing Alumni Society launched the e-mentoring program that paired Nursing students with alumni for informational and networking purposes. Now part of Villanova's e-mentoring system, this is yet another success story about how you help the next generation of nursing.

Do you know that our Nursing Alumni Society boasts the largest percentage of dues-paying members among Villanova's alumni groups? Our membership reflects a varied and professionally successful group of individuals of whom the College is proud. Without you, we would not be able to provide the assistance that we have over the past 20 years. Thank you for that support. I urge you to take a few minutes and visit our Web pages at www.villanova.edu/nursing/alumni. Please drop us a note to let us know what you are doing, to suggest other ways to help the College and to forward the link to fellow alumni who are not on our membership list.

If you haven't already joined the Nursing Alumni Society, consider becoming a member. It is a great way to reconnect with the College and meet new people, and it doesn't require a lot of your time! Please let me know if you are interested or e-mail me directly at HannanMM@aol.com.

I would be remiss if I did not publicly recognize the special contributions of one special person. Since 1986, Rose O'Driscoll '64 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., assistant dean for Administration and assistant professor of Nursing, has been the College's liaison to the Nursing Alumni Society. Without her enthusiasm, creativity and devotion, we clearly would not have been able to provide this level of support to your College of Nursing. Thanks, Rose! We look forward to working with you for another 20 years!

My best wishes to all,

Margaret M. Hannan '84 B.S.N., M.S., R.N.
President, Nursing Alumni Society

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 **January 8, 2007**.

I wish to be nominated for:

- President
- 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 Avenue
Villanova University
Villanova, PA 19085-1690

To update your alumni profile, please call the Villanova University Alumni Association at 1-800-VILLANOVA or e-mail alumni@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 College of Nursing e-mail newsletters.

Here is my news for class notes: _____

Opening a Gateway for R.N.s

Registered nurses can gain customized career mobility via the new B.S.N./M.S.N. Gateway Program.

By Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 B.S.N., '91 M.S.N., R.N.

Imagine an R.N. to M.S.N. program that offers nurses flexibility, convenience, career advancement *and* a tuition discount. Students in the College of Nursing's B.S.N./M.S.N. Gateway Program for Registered Nurses enjoy all of that. Launched in January, the program is designed for R.N.s whose original nursing preparation was a diploma or associate degree and who have a career goal that includes a master's-level education.

The Gateway Program's innovative curriculum and distinguished faculty help these R.N.s open doors and achieve their professional goals. The benefits are many, including:

- It provides individualized learning programs that customize the B.S.N./M.S.N. experience. A student may only need to take 24 credits at Villanova University for the B.S.N. degree.
- It offers flexible scheduling.
- Most courses are for R.N.s only, giving them the opportunity to network with faculty and fellow R.N. students.
- There is a 30 percent tuition reduction for R.N.s who are employed full-time during the B.S.N. part of the program.
- R.N.s can jump-start their M.S.N. study through elective options.

The student-friendly, two-phase process begins with admission to the B.S.N program. In applying, interested R.N.s declare their goal to complete both the B.S.N. and M.S.N. degrees. When they receive provisional admission status in the College's Graduate Program, they may take up to 12 credits from a range of 12 graduate-level courses while meeting the requirements for the B.S.N. Some students may wish to pursue only a B.S.N. when they apply.

The second phase begins when a student is within 18 credits of completion of the B.S.N. requirements. The student then applies for full admission to the M.S.N. program. The student will work closely with the Gateway Program coordinator and the Graduate Program director to transition into the M.S.N. program.

For more information, call Joyce S. Willens '83 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N.,C, assistant professor of Nursing and program coordinator, at (610) 519-6832 or visit villanova.edu/nursing/programs.



Tuition is discounted 30 percent for R.N.s who work full-time during the B.S.N. phase of the Gateway Program.

Earn your **PH.D. IN NURSING** at Villanova

Experience the College of Nursing's **convenient distance learning, personalized approach** and **supportive environment**—all designed to meet your learning needs.

Villanova University's Ph.D. in Nursing Program prepares teacher-scholars to change the face of nursing.

- Transform your career.
- Continue working while learning.
 - Collaborate with experts.
- Discover professional opportunities.
- Research ideas that redefine nursing education.

Application deadline for 2007 is January 15.

Learn more at www.nursing.villanova.edu/programs/graduate/phd

High Honor for Four High Achievers

“I never cease to marvel each year at the accomplishments of the alumni and the diversity of alumni. There are so many different ways they impact society. I commend all for representing Villanova with such class and distinction.”

—The Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, speaking at the 17th Annual College of Nursing Alumni Mass and Awards Ceremony. He has been part of all 17 of these celebrations during his 18 years as president of Villanova University. Villanova's Board of Trustees honored Father Dobbin with the title of president emeritus, as of June 1.

accomplishments



impact

For their distinguished achievement, the College of Nursing awarded medallions to four alumni at its 17th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards ceremony on April 17. With those honored are M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor (left), and the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58 A&S, president of Villanova University (right). The medallion recipients are (from left) Rosalinda Alfaro-LeFevre '75 B.S.N., '85 M.S.N., R.N.; Navy Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler '74 B.S.N., M.A., Ed.D., R.N., FACHE; Veronica Hill-Milbourne '84 B.S.N., M.S., J.D., R.N.; and Raymond W. Kleposki '00 M.S.N., R.N., CRNP (see page 26 for the article).

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