About the Cover
Photos on the cover represent stories featured in this issue of WVU Nursing, including (top left, clockwise) WVU Tech Service-Learning Projects, Research Corner: Innovative Partnership Inspires Learning and Collaboration, Preceptors’ Invaluable Leadership Role, SNA Corner: Palliative Care Resolution, and (center) Home Telemonitoring.
Dean’s Message

The WVU School of Nursing began a new chapter in its history this year. Dr. Georgia Narsavage stepped down from her position as dean at the end of December. Fortunately, the School of Nursing continues to benefit from her broad knowledge and experience since she is staying on as professor and is the first director of interprofessional education for the Health Sciences Center.

The School of Nursing is now in the process of searching for its fifth permanent dean. A search firm will be working with the search committee to find the person who will lead the School into the future, as we celebrate the first 50-year graduates in 2014.

Thousands of nurses have graduated from WVU School of Nursing since its first graduating class in 1964, touching tens of thousands of West Virginians and people all over the country and the world. The mission of the School is to “lead in improving health in West Virginia and the broader society through excellence in student-centered educational programs, research, and scholarship, the compassionate practice of nursing, and service to the public and the profession.”

You will see examples of how we live our mission in this issue of WVU Nursing, which focuses on the service of students, faculty, and preceptors through their work in community and clinical settings throughout the state. One article features sophomore nursing students at WVU Tech and their service-learning projects that impact the health of West Virginians in various settings and across different age groups. Another features family nurse practitioner students, whose service hours at a free clinic benefit vulnerable populations who are uninsured. A third article focuses on the value of preceptors during senior leadership rotations and the benefits to students, patients, and the preceptors themselves.

We have much of which we can be proud of at the WVU School of Nursing. Our MSN program was recently ranked 21st in online graduate nursing programs by U.S. News & World Report and is ranked third in online nursing programs for veterans. We have expanded international opportunities for students and now have a collaborative relationship with a university in China. Our BSN and DNP curricula have been revised to reflect nursing and health care in the 21st century. Our research and scholarships have grown significantly in the past few years. And as always, our faculty and students remain committed to serving those most in need.

It’s a great time to be a Mountaineer and a great time for moving forward in the School of Nursing!

Elisabeth N. Shelton, RN, PhD
Interim Dean, West Virginia University School of Nursing
A recent WVU School of Nursing study indicates that a home telemonitoring system may help lung cancer patients manage their health, decrease hospital admissions, and remain at home.

When an elderly, lung cancer patient’s oxygen levels began to fall when he got out of bed, he became limited to only moving around in his bedroom. His wife became very concerned that even using the bathroom was too strenuous. An in-home telemonitor device collected his heart rate, blood pressure, and oxygen levels daily, and his shortness of breath was documented as getting worse.

He and his wife discussed what they could do and were coached by the study’s research nurses, Trisha Petitte and Michelle Ryan, who used the telemonitor information about his problems to help guide the discussion. Should they call the doctor or change his medications? Should they call the oxygen company to check the oxygen concentrator and tubing? His wife decided she would call the oxygen company first, and when the company checked the machine, they found a problem with the tubing and fixed it. The patient was then able to walk farther with the oxygen, and a trip to the Emergency Room was avoided.

“Most other uses of telemonitors involve the clinicians telling the patients how to change their medicines or other...
therapy – our study helped the patients make their own decisions,” said WVU School of Nursing researcher Georgia Narsavage, PhD, RN. “Then, once the monitor was removed, the patients had been helped to develop their own knowledge of how to contact their doctor or nurse or obtain other help, hopefully without the need to visit an emergency room.”

Fifty-seven patients between the ages of 45-90 who were hospitalized or treated in the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center with problems related to lung cancer, participated in the study. For two weeks, on a daily basis, an FDA approved, hospital-grade telemonitoring device collected patient data, including heart rate, body temperature, weight, blood pressure, and oxygen level, and asked the patient to respond “yes” or “no” to ten pre-programmed questions about difficulty breathing, fatigue, limited activities, difficulty taking meds, and increased pain. Results from the telemonitor were transmitted via satellite to the WVU School of Nursing research office for analysis. Clinical research nurses then called the patients to discuss the telemonitor information and allowed the patients to decide what to do about the information.

The study was implemented in 2011 by Dr. Narsavage, WVU School of Nursing professor, and co-principal investigator, Yea-Jyh Chen, PhD, RN. The project was funded by a National Cancer Institute grant of $366,000.

WVU School of Nursing researchers completed data collection of the telemonitoring study this spring, and they are continuing to analyze the data. “We did find that telemonitoring is feasible in rural West Virginia, but not all patients are located in areas where data transfer is supported,” Dr. Narsavage said.
Skilled nurse practitioners mentor MSN nursing students in the family nurse practitioner (FNP) track program and help them obtain relevant, real-life FNP experience at the WVU Charleston Division School of Nursing.

The two-year FNP program led by Associate Clinical Professor Jarena Kelly (BSN ’97, MSN ’01, DNP ’11), requires students to work 600 hours in a clinical setting with a qualified preceptor during the second year of the curriculum, concurrent with their rural health practicum courses.

“Our students are expected to apply their academic knowledge to a real-world, clinical setting while working with actual patients from various races, religions, genders, and belief systems,” Kelly said. “The majority of the hours are required to be in family health care across the life span – from birth to death, with between 40-60 hours in specific specialty care areas including pediatrics, obstetrics, and women’s health.”

Kelly and faculty member Teresa Ritchie (BSN ’99, MSN ’01, DNP ’11), who like Kelly, is an FNP, recognized that there was a shortage of both facilities where students could be placed to obtain their clinical hours and preceptors willing to volunteer to teach the students, especially those practicing in women’s health.” So we approached Patricia White, Executive Director of WV Health Right, a Charleston free clinic that provides quality primary and specialty care to uninsured, impoverished patients, and asked if we could collaborate with them,” said Kelly.

A partnership was born after White agreed that the clinic would provide the patients and staff support while Kelly and Ritchie precept the students. At WV Health Right, FNP students benefit from caring for a diverse and vulnerable population that is indicative of rural West Virginia, and are
also exposed to programs such as WISE Women, which offers screenings for heart disease and other services geared at preventing disease and improving community health.

While Kelly and Ritchie precept at WV Health Right, family nurse practitioners Vicki Dobbins (BSN ’91, MSN ’98, DNP ’12) and Donna Burton, volunteer as preceptors approximately 20 hours a week, while practicing full-time, at rural West Virginia health centers. The knowledge they share and the direction they give the students compliments the experience that the students gain in specialty care areas at WV Health Right.

“My responsibilities as a preceptor are to provide the students with a learning environment that will allow them to grow and develop their skills, and to provide them with guidance and support,” said Dobbins, who has precepted students from WVU Charleston Division School of Nursing and other universities collectively for 14 years. “I practice in a very rural setting, in the community in which I grew up,” Dobbins said. “So the students get to see the long-standing relationships that are built with patients and how caring for one patient may evolve into caring for a family and generations of family members. And they see how it is to practice and make the best of available resources.”

Such experiences are invaluable to the students and show how instrumental preceptors are to the FNP track. The preceptors are the cornerstone of the program, empowering students to become exceptional nurse practitioners who go out and serve in their communities.

Former student, Jocelyn Slone (BSN ’10, MSN ’12), who was precepted by Kelly, agrees. She valued her time working with Kelly in a clinical setting, and said it was the most beneficial part of the FNP program. “Jarena is not just my mentor now, she is also my friend,” Slone said. Even as an FNP working at WVU Physicians of Charleston in the Electrophysiology office, Slone said, “I still call on Jarena if I have questions. She continues to be a wonderful source of knowledge.”

The student-preceptor experience is equally rewarding for the teacher. “Being a preceptor has benefited me personally by the relationships that I have fostered,” Dobbins said. “I also have had the benefit of staying on my toes—keeping current and not becoming stagnant in my professional practice. It also gives me the pleasure of knowing that I am giving something back to my profession.”

“We at WVU are honored to work with what we believe are the best preceptors in the state,” Kelly said. “We truly appreciate their time, knowledge, and leadership they so freely give to work with our students. We could not run the FNP program without them.”

Kelly continues to seek out the services of additional dedicated preceptors and partnerships with health clinics to continue to enhance the FNP students’ learning experiences.
Developing and implementing service-learning projects play a crucial part in helping WVU Tech sophomore nursing students meet key learning objectives while addressing community health needs. These objectives include learning to assess a person’s values and attitudes about his or her health and how to initiate behavioral changes to help boost health throughout the lifespan.

For their service-learning projects, the students work in small groups to select a health issue identified by the national Healthy People 2020 project.

During the fall 2012 semester, one group of WVU Tech nursing students, working with senior citizens at the Marmet Health Center in Marmet, WV chose to focus their service-learning project on improving cognitive function in people with mild to moderate dementia. The students asked the nursing home residents to reminisce about their pasts by looking through pictures, telling stories, reading saved letters and cards, and listening to music. Then, the students worked with the residents to make memory albums containing pictures and memorabilia. “The residents would laugh when reminiscing over old pictures. They were very clear about things that happened long ago,” said WVU Tech nursing student Deanna Lucas.

As part of the project, the students developed an educational pamphlet about the memory albums so that the center can create similar albums for other residents. Deanna believes that the memory albums help residents exercise
their minds. “They will make a great tool for the center to use when the residents have a bad day,” Deanna said.

Another group of students chose to create scrapbooks with residents from the skilled care unit at Montgomery General Hospital. KyAnne Holman, a co-leader of the project said, “All the residents who received scrapbooks were going through different stages of dementia.”

“We made a difference and tried to create a way to slow the process of this syndrome,” said Mary Cunningham, another co-leader of this group. “Knowing that we got attached to these residents and wanted to do more for them reminds us why we want to become registered nurses.”

A third group of sophomores worked with elementary school students at New River Elementary in Oak Hill, WV for their service-learning project, which addressed the spread of illness among school-aged children during flu season.

In order to teach the children about the spread of germs, the group made a video that demonstrated how to correctly wash hands, and included a song the children could sing while practicing the hand washing method. Ashley Gill, one of the nursing students, said, “After re-examining their hands after they washed them a second time, the majority of the children proved that they had absorbed what we had taught them.” The nursing students also made posters and pamphlets for the children to take home that included key information about decreasing the spread of illness.

When asked how this project would help her in her nursing career, Ashley said, “I feel that it will help me communicate with future patients and help me teach them things that they’ll need to know to ensure better health.”
Preceptors’ Invaluable Leadership Role

Much like their vital role in the School of Nursing family nurse practitioner program (see pg. 6-7), preceptors are key to the advanced clinical rotation paired with the leadership course which students working toward their BSN in nursing are required to complete during their senior year.

The course, now titled “Leadership in Complex Systems,” consists of classwork plus 200 clinical hours working with an RN mentor in an acute-care clinical setting such as an emergency department or intensive care unit (ICU). This allows the student to gain practical experience with patients requiring complex nursing care.

Under the guidance of their preceptors, main campus students complete their hours at WVU Hospitals while WVU Tech seniors fulfill their clinical rotations at Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC), Thomas Memorial Hospital or other area hospitals.

“The nurses who volunteer as mentors are an invaluable part of the course,” said Becky Kromar, co-coordinator of the clinical rotation in Morgantown. “They devote their time and attention to our students. Through their efforts, the students are able to assimilate the information they have learned and provide total patient care.”

“Working one-on-one with their preceptors during the critical care/leadership clinical experience gives the students a realistic view of what it means to be a nurse,” said Evelyn Klocke, Ed.D., Chair, WVU Tech Department of Nursing.

Kevin Steurer, RN (BSN ’11) is grateful for what he learned from his preceptor when he was a WVU nursing student and said, “I wanted to give back to the school what I was given as a student.”

“As a preceptor, my responsibility is to allow the students to observe the everyday activities of a nurse on the unit. As their learning advances, I allow them to take care of their own patients.”

Steurer mentored Grace Sudduth (BSN ’13) in the PICU during the fall 2012 semester. She loved her leadership rotation experience in the PICU, applied for a position in the unit, and was recently hired to work there as an RN. “It made me feel very proud,” Steurer said, who encourages confidence in his students and finds it rewarding to help prepare them to become nurses.”

Like Sudduth, fellow graduate Grace Cline (BSN ’13) was recently hired to work as an RN in the PICU. Although Cline briefly worked under Steurer’s guidance during her clinical leadership rotation, her primary mentor was Tammy Crites, RN, CCRN.

Cline expressed her extreme gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside experienced nurses in a hospital setting while she was a student, “It was the best way to learn,” Cline said.
The best moment of precepting is seeing the “click” with a student -- the moment when the classroom knowledge accumulated over the years becomes real. It’s great to see the critical thinking develop and turn into clinical practice,” said Elena Detaranto (BSN ‘10), who believes that her role as a preceptor in Medical/Surgical ICU benefits her as well.

“I believe that precepting makes me a better nurse. The questions asked by students help maintain my knowledge base, and when I don’t know an answer, we research it together. I think it’s refreshing for a student to hear, “I’m not sure about that question. Let’s look it up!” In healthcare you’re always learning, seeing, and doing new things. I think it’s great to have a job in which I’m able to learn something daily.”

“My students come to me a little afraid of what to expect,” Sayre said. “I try to allay their fears and make sure they know I am right there with them. When they leave me they are more confident that they can do a good job. They are ready to take on the profession of an RN--- Real Nurse.”

When Trisha Huddleston Spell, RN (BSN ’01) became a ‘real nurse,’ she agreed to precept after being asked by her former WVU Tech instructor, Mindy Harris. Spell said she is appreciative to the individuals who took the time to precept her, and wanted to give back to her profession.

As a preceptor in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at CAMC, Spell said, “I usually have my students observe until they are comfortable with being in the NICU. It is not a place where you just rock babies; the babies are critically ill patients fighting for their lives. After my students get to a certain comfort level, then I introduce them to a more hands-on experience.”

According to Kromar and Klocke, the advanced clinical rotations would not be possible without the support of dedicated, professional RNs such as Sayre, Spell and others featured on this and the previous page.

To learn more about the preceptors featured in this issue of WVU Nursing, and other nurses who serve as mentors for the School, please visit http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu

According to Lindsay Hedrick (BSN ‘11) who precepts students in the Cardio-Thoracic Intensive Care Unit/Coronary Care Unit (CTU/CCU), the leadership experience strengthens students’ learning and critical thinking.

Additionally, Hedrick said, “Many students will apply for a position on the unit in which they had their leadership clinical rotation experience. This experience allows them a chance to become familiar with the unit surroundings and staff, which ultimately benefits the patients.”

“Being a preceptor has also been a beneficial experience for me. I feel that it assists me to stay current with my skills and hospital/departmental policies. With the health care profession, policies and equipment are always changing, so it is important to remain updated.

“Getting to learn from Lindsay’s vast amount of knowledge in critical care nursing and to observe how she advocates for her patients has been an invaluable learning experience for me,” said Rebecca Knoblock (BSN ‘13), who recently accepted a job offer to work in the operating room at Ruby Memorial Hospital. “She has been a great role model in demonstrating to me how important it is to know your patient’s history and keep updated on his or her condition.”

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The WVU School of Nursing’s Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program has placed among the best in the nation in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Online Education Program Rankings, 2013 edition.

The WVU School of Nursing offers a number of graduate programs including:

- RN to MSN
- MSN
- Post-MSN Certificate Programs:
  - Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
  - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
  - Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner
- DNP
- PhD

For information about these and our other academic programs visit [http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu](http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu)

On April 3, 2013, after her successful dissertation defense, PhD student Mariann Harding (above, left) accepts a spring bouquet from her Committee Chair Dr. Susan McCrone.

PhD student Vera Barton-Caro (above, center) with her committee after a successful defense of her dissertation on April 18, 2013. Pictured (L-R) Dr. Roger Carpenter, Dr. Alvita Nathaniel (Committee Chair), Vera Barton-Caro, Dr. Barbara Nunley, and Dr. Mary Jane Smith.
Benefits the WVU School of Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

About this Year's Challenge:
- The 2013 reunion classes participating in the challenge include: '68, '73, '78, '83, '93, '98, '03 & '08.
- The challenge runs from April 15, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
- The challenge goal is to collect at least $3,000 to add to the existing WVU School of Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship which was endowed at $25,000 last year.

Make Your “Class Reunions Scholarship Challenge” Gift & Support Nursing Education at WVU:
- Mail your check payable to WVU Foundation Inc., to: WVU School of Nursing Alumni Affairs PO Box 9640 Morgantown, WV 26506-9640
- or make your gift online at: http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/Alumni/Class-Reunions-Scholarship-Challenge or by scanning the QR code pictured at right.

Call for Third Party Comments

On November 13-15, 2013, the West Virginia University School of Nursing will host the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for an on-site re-accreditation visit for our Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. CCNE policy requires that institutions provide an opportunity for our community of interest to provide written input into the deliberation of the evaluation team.

Written and signed third-party comments will be accepted by CCNE until October 14, 2013. All comments should relate to the program’s compliance with accreditation standards. All comments must be directed to:
- Catherine Sneed
  Accreditation Coordinator
  Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
  1 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 530
  Washington, DC 20036
**PUBLICATIONS**


**PRESENTATIONS**


Buck, J. (2012, August). Nursing in Modern Times. Oral presentation at The Danish Society of Nursing History, the Danish Museum of Nursing History and Danish Nurses’ Organization Conference on the History of Nursing in Denmark.

Buck, J. (2012, June). Policy and Human Experience in Rural Complex Chronic Illness. Presentation at the 7th World Research Conference of the European Association for Palliative Care, Trondheim, Norway.

Buck, J. (2012, March). Palliative Care Needs in Rural Complex Chronic Illness: “Do I have to die so my daughter can have a life?” Oral presentation at The Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Conference, Denver, CO.


Constantine, L. & Mulich, B. (2012, April). Palliative Care in the ICU. Presentation at the WV North Central Regional Chapter of HPNA, Morgantown, WV.


Constantine, L. (2012, June). Caring for Stroke Patients at End of Life. Presentation at the American Medical Surgical Society Local Chapter, Morgantown, WV.


Mallow, J. (2012, February). Medical Visits and Uninsured Appalachian Adults. Poster presentation at the 26th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.


Mallow, J. (2012, February). Diabetes Group Medical Visits and Biophysical Outcomes of Care in Uninsured Appalachian Adults. Poster presentation at the 26th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.


McCrone, S., & Muto, L. (2012, March). The Effectiveness of a Nurse-Run Clinic for Women at Increased Risk for Breast Cancer on Anxiety, Depression, and Cancer Worry. Poster presentation at the International Society of Psychiatric Nursing 14th Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.


McCrone, S., & Leaberry, B. (2012, March). The Effectiveness of a Nurse-Led Telephone Program for Patients with Heart Failure On Quality Of Life, Anxiety, Depression, And 30-Day Hospital Readmission. Poster presentation at the International Society of Psychiatric Nursing 14th Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.


**Shelton, D.** & Bailey, C. (2012, March). Incarceration of the elderly in West Virginia. Poster presentation at the 18th Annual West Virginia Section of the American Association for Dental Research: WVU School of Dentistry Research Day, Morgantown, WV.


**Theeke, L. & Smith, M.J.** (2012, February). Story Sharing to Diminish Loneliness in Chronically Ill Older Adults. Poster presentation at the Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.


**Stephens, S.** (June, 2012). Issues in Cancer Survivorship. Podium presentation at WV State Health Educator Conference, Bridgeport, WV.


**Sparks, A.** (2012, March). Theoretical Model of Nurse Outcomes: Associations among Nurse Characteristics, Psychological Empowerment, Generation, Quality of Work, and RN Job Satisfaction. Poster presentation at the CCTS Spring Conference, Lexington, KY.
Known for its gorgeous landscape, majestic mountains, and wildlife, West Virginia has earned its slogan “Wild and Wonderful,” but there is blight in the Mountain State. West Virginia ranks among the bottom tier in the U.S. for health risk factors. Citizens suffer from poverty and limited access to health care, which leads to greater health problems including heart disease, obesity, cancer, pulmonary disease, and diabetes.

In an effort to provide the best healthcare to Appalachian residents, Interim Associate Dean for Research and PhD Education Dr. Joanne Duffy is facilitating a partnership between the WVU School of Nursing and Ruby Memorial Hospital, the flagship hospital of WVU Healthcare, to strengthen research capacity and productivity. Collaborative research between the WVU SoN and Ruby Memorial Hospital will improve health outcomes of this geographic region by focusing on pertinent public health problems. Interested nursing students and other health professionals will also be engaged in the research collaboration process.

To facilitate the partnership, clinical nurses will first participate in an educational program to develop competence in foundational research principles and develop a common language, which is essential for productive collaboration. WVU nursing scientists will join existing research teams to provide ongoing research knowledge and mentorship for clinicians at Ruby Memorial Hospital. Nursing-sensitive data that is relevant to both nursing scientists and clinical nurses will be available through a convenient database, and those who collaborate will have the opportunity to apply for funding and present at an annual event.

Routinely engaging clinical nurses, scientists, students, and other health professionals will make this project a truly collaborative endeavor that will promote more integrative research and enhance the quality of life of West Virginians. Dr. Duffy and Lya Stroupe, manager of nursing research and professional development at Ruby Memorial Hospital, are conducting this three-year study that will examine the outcomes of this new partnership and evaluate communication methods and collaboration between nurses at Ruby Memorial Hospital and nurses at WVU. They will measure practice changes and research productivity, attitudes, confidence, and use of evidence-based practice, and ensure that the research produced is applicable to both nurses in practice and nursing scientists.

Pictured (L-R): Dr. Joanne Duffy and Lya Stroupe
Palliative Care Resolution

The hard work of the Student Nurses Association (SNA) resolution team paid off. Their proposal was adopted by the NSNA House of Delegates at the April 2013 National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) convention in Charlotte, NC.

The resolution, entitled “In Support of Increasing Awareness of Hospice Care and Palliative Care to the Community,” was one that the team was both passionate about and felt was relevant to West Virginians. Under the guidance of faculty advisor Susan Pinto, the students worked for many months gathering pertinent research articles to guide the proposal for development according to strict guidelines established by the NSNA Resolution Board.

At the convention, the team presented their resolution to representatives from nursing schools from all over the country as well as to the NSNA resolution committee. The students, who are also active members of Sigma Theta Tau (STT) Alpha Rho Chapter, presented a discussion on their resolution at the annual Alpha Rho Chapter meeting and a School of Nursing total faculty meeting in Morgantown this year.

The team anticipates that this resolution will act as a catalyst, increasing communication amongst patients, families, and healthcare providers about end of life wishes. By raising awareness about hospice and palliative care, the SNA team hopes more people will request and utilize these types of services and be able to live out their final days free of pain in the comfort of their homes.

The STT Alpha Rho Chapter funded the SNA resolution team’s trip to Charlotte.

Interprofessional Marrow Donor Drive

by Amy Carlstrom, SNA President

At a health screening event in February, WVU Student Nurses’ Association members teamed up with WVU School of Pharmacy students to help recruit people to register with the National Marrow Donor Registry (marrow.org). The registry matches potential donors with patients who are in desperate need of a marrow transplant due to leukemia or other life-threatening diseases.

The nursing and pharmacy students provided information about marrow transplants to participants and explained the importance of becoming a donor. Each of the 25 individuals who registered to be potential donors were screened to ensure that they met the minimum health requirements. They also participated in a cheek swab, which will be used to help determine any future, possible matches.
West Virginia University School of Nursing alumna Patricia (Patty) Chambers Anido (BSN ’76) recently created the Anido Family Nursing Scholarship to provide support to our undergraduate nursing students and make a difference in their quality of life. She especially wants to help first generation Hispanic students.

The $50,000 scholarship gift will be split equally between a $25,000 endowment and a cash fund to provide immediate support to WVU nursing students. With the rising cost of college tuition, it is important to Patty to be able to help students right away.

“With this scholarship, we hope to make a difference in the lives of nursing students by helping to relieve some of the stress that comes with paying college tuition,” said Patty. She wants her scholars to graduate without the tremendous debt burden that so many take with them as they begin their nursing careers.

“Even though we no longer live in West Virginia, my husband Vince and I love the state and still feel a very close connection to the University,” Patty said.

Patty is a native of Charleston, WV, and Vince grew up in Morgantown. As often as they can, they return to West Virginia and the WVU campus from their home in California to visit family and friends.

After graduating from WVU in 1976 with her bachelor of science in nursing, Patty went on to receive her master’s degree in nursing in 1981 at the University of Kansas. In Kansas City, Missouri, she taught medical surgical nursing at Avila College in the BSN program and also worked in the medical and surgical intensive care units at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

The first Anido Family Nursing Scholarship will be awarded for the fall and spring semesters of the 2013-14 school year.

Patty’s gift is part of “A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia’s University,” the $750 million comprehensive campaign being conducted by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the University.
Dr. Betty Skaggs (BSN ’66) recently made a $25,000 gift to the School of Nursing to create the Skaggs Family Dean’s Special Projects Fund to support school activities or needs at the dean’s discretion. In today’s economy with limited resources from state funds, this unrestricted gift is especially important to the School. The Skaggs Family Dean’s Special Projects Fund will provide the ability to respond quickly to unforeseen opportunities. This flexible funding can be used to recruit excellent faculty, fund student initiatives, or equip and renovate classrooms.

After receiving her BSN from WVU, Skaggs began her nursing career at WVU Hospitals as a pediatric nurse. She later worked at Baylor University Medical Center and the University of Florida Health Sciences Center. While in Florida, she earned her master’s degree in nursing. Drawn to nursing education, she became a faculty member at the University of Texas (UT). She was assistant clinical professor teaching pediatric nursing, nursing jurisprudence, and computers in healthcare. Finally, as director of the UT School of Nursing Learning Center, she administered a clinical simulation lab, a computer lab, an audio visual library, and learning enhancement service. Dr. Skaggs provided support to both students and faculty, instructing them to utilize teaching and learning tools necessary for nursing in the 21st century. During her career at the School of Nursing, Skaggs earned her PhD in curriculum and instruction from the UT Austin College of Education.

Because Dr. Skaggs values civic engagement as well as education, she has served on numerous boards and participated in many community organizations in Austin, TX where she currently resides. She is a long-time member of the Texas Nursing Association, serving as state president from 1981 to 1984, and the American Nursing Association. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and a charter member of Epsilon Theta Chapter; she was chapter president from 2008 to 2010. Dr. Skaggs is also a life member of the WVU School of Nursing Alumni Association and serves as webmaster for Hill Country Mountaineers, the WVU alumni group in central Texas. In spite of her long tenure at UT, she is still a loyal Mountaineer.

This gift is a part of “A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia’s University,” the $750 million comprehensive campaign being conducted by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the University.
The WVU School of Nursing held a scholarship luncheon at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center to recognize scholarship donors and their scholars on Friday, April 12. With nearly 1,000 students enrolled in nursing courses, private support for our students is critical to their scholastic success. The School of Nursing has more than $150,000 in scholarship awards available annually for our students.
**Planned Giving**

**WVU has launched the largest campaign in its history.**

“A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia’s University” will ensure our ability to continue delivering the highest quality education to our students. Funding for the Health Sciences Center will support healthcare through research, education, and patient care.

You can secure the future of the School of Nursing at the same time you are planning for your own. Making a gift to the School during this campaign is easily done while completing your estate plans. There are many options to consider—a bequest in your will, an income producing gift to meet retirement needs, or a gift of life insurance or real estate will let others know how much you value your education and life’s work helping others. Whether your gift creates a scholarship for our undergraduates, a research fellowship for graduate students, library support so that faculty may purchase on line periodicals and books, or is for unrestricted use, your gift will make a difference.

The future for the School of Nursing is bright because of the generosity of our alumni and friends. Leave a legacy so that others who follow in your chosen profession have the opportunity for an excellent education in nursing at WVU.

For more information on planned giving, or if you have already completed a planned gift that you have not told us about, please contact Christine Meredith, Director of Development, at 304-293-3980 or cmeredith@hsc.wvu.edu to be a part of this historic campaign for West Virginia University.
A new tradition began this year when the School of Nursing paid tribute to its graduating veterans and military personnel by giving them red, white, and blue honor cords prior to the School’s May 18 graduation. Nursing faculty members who are veterans or active service members were also honored.

The idea to recognize the School’s service members was initiated by Faculty Practice Director, Clinical Assistant Professor, and Lt Col (Ret) Sandra Cotton (BSN ’84, DNP ’12) and Lt Col Sharon Webb (BSN ’82) after they observed East Tennessee State University honoring their veterans in a similar fashion. “We have so many men and women at WVU who serve, and wanted to show our appreciation for their invaluable work,” Cotton said.

The idea became a reality with the help of another SoN faculty member and veteran, Gina Maiocco, and the support of Interim Dean Betty Shelton, Health Sciences Center Chancellor Chris Colenda, and WVU President Jim Clements.

Given WVU’s commitment to being a military-friendly campus, the honor cords were made available to graduating veterans and military personnel University wide.

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2013 SoN Alumni Association Awards

Call for Nominations

Each year, the WVU School of Nursing Alumni Association recognizes alumni and friends who have contributed exceptional service and have been dedicated to the School and to the nursing profession.

The association is seeking nominations for the following awards:

- Honorary Alumnus Award
- Alumnus of the Year Award
- Distinguished Alumnus Award

The 2013 School of Nursing Alumni Association awards will be presented at the annual alumni celebration scheduled to be held on Friday, October 18 at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Nominations for the above awards must be received by September 6, 2013:

For additional information and to submit a nomination visit http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/Alumni/Alumni-Awards or scan the QR code.
Andrea Burdge Smith (BSN '70) continues to work as an attorney in the field of family law. She said, "I think it is healthy for me to continue to work as it keeps my mind active and alert." She has three grandchildren. The oldest, Courtney Shale, will be a freshman this Fall at Bowling Green State University. Her fourth grandchild is due in June as Melanie is having her first baby at the age of forty. "Never a dull moment!"

Carol Malfegeot Benninger (BSN '69) resigned from her position in recovery room at UHC in Clarksburg, WV in November 2012 after 23 years. She works an optional one to two days per month and plans to fully retire in October 2013. She and her husband enjoy golfing and traveling. They have four grandchildren and keep busy with their daughters and family who live in Morgantown.

Virginia “Ginger” Burke Karb (BSN ’70) retired in May, and her husband will retire in September. She is looking forward to longer visits to their cabin in the mountains and to more traveling.

Andrea Burdge Smith (BSN ’70) was thrilled to be awarded the 2012 Margaret S. Miles Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership, participation, and contributions toward achieving the goals of the society in pediatric nursing. She is Director of Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice at Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth, TX. She attended the alumni party in Austin, TX before the football game where WVU beat UT. “It was wonderful to get together with other WVU SoN alumni and celebrate," she said. (Pictured: Andrea (right) with Georgia Narsavage)

Mary Kathleen Kelly (BSN ’78) works in pediatrics primary care as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) and also as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) clinical faculty for Robert Morris University.

Bernadette Melnyk (BSN ’79) received the 2013 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Lifetime Achievement Award for her significant contributions to advancing the NP role and her specific commitment to promoting evidence-based practice, intervention research, and child and adolescent mental health. Dr. Melnyk is dean of the College of Nursing, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry in the College of Medicine, and university chief wellness officer at The Ohio State University.

Marsha Connor (BSN ’81) graduated from Samra University of Oriental Medicine in 1987. She has been actively licensed in both nursing and acupuncture and practicing family holistic medicine for 25 years in Los Angeles. "I love it," she said. "It has been so rewarding to be able to affect patients’ wellness levels by utilizing their own energy to assist in healing."

Karen Bowling (BSN ’83, MSN ’90) was appointed Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Health and Human resources by West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin effective July 1, 2013.

Aila Accad (MSN ’88) is an award winning international speaker, bestselling author, and well-being coach, and the newly elected President of the West Virginia Nurses Association.

Amy Brinkman DelSignore (BSN ’97) started a new job as a nursing instructor for Mineral County Technical Center’s LPN program and is also working one day a week as a school nurse.

April Stowers (BSN ’02) earned her MSN this May and transitioned into an FNP program. She will graduate in November 2014. She is still living in Florida and has been married for eleven years. She has a four-year-old son, Max, and a daughter, Morgan, (named after Morgantown) who will turn two in July.

John Taylor (BSN ’07) is currently enrolled in the DNP program at Chatham University and working as a clinical education specialist at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. He also works on a per diem basis at WVU Healthcare as a resource pool nurse. His article, “Using Low-Fidelity Simulation to Maintain Competency in Central Line Care,” which highlights his MSN capstone, was published in the spring 2012 issue of the Journal of the Association for Vascular Access.

Kristin Bible Mirenda (BSN ’08) is currently enrolled in the nurse anesthesia program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Brienne Rudy (BSN ’10) is working in a surgical step-down unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where she is conducting EBP research on bedside reporting.

Mark J Cummings (BSN ’10) worked as a charge nurse in a skilled care unit at Laurel Health System while completing his BSN. Three months after earning his BSN, he accepted a position as director of nursing at Wyngate Senior Living Community in Weirton, WV.

Tamarra Caul (BSN ’11) works at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit where she cared for the center’s 2000th heart transplant patient.

Mona Stecker (DNP ’11) is a special projects manager at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY, and a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. Her DNP project was published in the Canadian Journal of Neuroscience Nurses. She was chosen as co-author for clinical practice guideline “Care of the Patient with Seizures/Epilepsy.”
Jackie Riley, dear friend and faculty colleague, died on Monday, July 9, 2012 at her home in Morgantown. From 1976 when she was first appointed to the faculty in the WVU School of Nursing until 2002 when she retired, Jackie was recognized as an outstanding faculty member and administrator whose dedication to students, the School, the University, and nursing was legendary—not to mention her pride in all things West Virginian! Jackie’s selection for the “Most Loyal Faculty Mountaineer Award” by the WVU Student Foundation in 2001 was a most fitting capstone to her career at the School of Nursing.

Born in Elkins, West Virginia, Jackie earned a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Alderson-Broaddus College magna cum laude in 1963. Following service in the United States Army Nurse Corps, she completed a master’s degree in maternal-infant health nursing at the University of Florida in 1968 graduating cum laude. One of Jackie’s first teaching assignments at WVU was the instruction and supervision of sophomore and junior students who were assigned to care for pregnant families in the prenatal, birth, and postnatal periods. She often spoke glowingly of this community experience as having a multitude of positive outcomes for students and the participating families. Over the course of 26 years as a faculty member, Jackie taught many different courses, but maternal-infant health was always her favorite.

Students recognized Jackie’s enthusiasm for nursing and for fostering their learning. Student evaluations of her teaching and of her assistance to them in the role of assistant dean for student affairs never failed to acknowledge her dedication. The following comments from students are typical of those she received throughout her career:

- “She gave me insight and knowledge about nursing. She was there to help me in every way she could.”
- “She was the most cheerful, enthusiastic, helpful, and patient instructor that I had contact with.”
- “She was always willing to meet with me on her time, in order to help me.”
- “Communicates well with students; demonstrates an outstanding knowledge base in class as well as clinical; available to students in time of crisis, whether it’s nursing oriented or something else; has the ability to analyze students effectively; identifies weaknesses but also emphasizes a student’s strengths; delightful personality; fun to be around!”

Those of us who worked with Jackie on a day-to-day basis, as well as the multitude of folks throughout the state with whom she had contact in her extensive and varied service roles, also recognized and benefited from her many talents. She was an extremely smart and diligent collaborator who more than held up her end, whatever the assignment. Whether in her instrumental role in initiating the joint Glenville State College/WVU Baccalaureate Nursing Program or counseling beginning instructors in their professional development or staffing the School of Nursing display at the state fair, she could be counted on to represent nursing and the School extremely well.

Jackie’s nursing care and concern extended well beyond that of many faculty members. In addition to her faculty role, Jackie was mother to three children, Kathy, Sam, and Bert, and wife to Donald Riley. In his later years, Don suffered debilitating illness, and Jackie unstintingly gave him the care he needed. In the early years of their life in Morgantown, she gave that same unstinting care to her invalid mother-in-law and her severely handicapped sister-in-law, both of whom made their home with her family. During this time of inordinate demands on her, her positive demeanor and generous spirit never lessened.

When Jackie retired, fellow faculty member Barbara Kupchak wrote in The West Virginia Nurse: “She went beyond what was required for the job and represented herself, the WVU School of Nursing, and the nurses of West Virginia with dignity and grace.” This is, in fact, the perfect epitaph for our dear friend and colleague, Jacqueline Whitman Riley.
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Interim Dean
Elisabeth N. Shelton, RN, PhD

Assistant Dean for Student & Alumni Affairs
Misti M. Woldemikael, MBA

Editor
Michele Wengryn

Contributing Editor
Danielle Conaway (WVUHC)

Copy Editor
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Contributing Writers
Danielle Conaway
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Susan Pinto
Student Intern Rick Fox

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Photography
Robert E. Beverly (HSC Biomedical Communications)
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Seeking Class Representatives

The WVU School of Nursing Alumni Association is seeking class representatives and volunteers, especially from class reunion years:

Class representatives are needed to help send emails and postal mailings to former classmates about attending the 2013 Alumni Celebration, participating in the Class Reunions Scholarship Challenge, and announcing other alumni news and information.

The SoN Alumni Association is also looking for volunteers to help with organizing the 2013 Alumni Celebration.

To express your interest in becoming a Class Representative or volunteer, contact Alumni Coordinator Michele Wengryn at mmwengryn@hsc.wvu.edu or 304-293-1593.

Visit us on the Web at:
http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu
2013
WVU School of Nursing Alumni Celebration

Including:
Class Reunions

Friday, October 18
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Erickson Alumni Center
Morgantown, WV

Register by October 3, 2013!

$45 per person

The WVU homecoming football game, Texas Tech vs. WVU, will be played the following day, Saturday, October 19th.

For additional details, scan the QR code at right.