Research Evolution

How the school is raising the bar in nursing science

Betsy Corwin
Associate Dean for Research
What do a physiologist, epidemiologist, anthropologist, pediatrician, and neuropsychologist have in common with nurses? All share a desire to improve patient care as researchers in the School of Nursing.

Interdisciplinary research is naturally part of our school's DNA. Betsy Corwin, a physiologist and family nurse practitioner, directs the Office of Nursing Research, where epidemiologist Bryan Williams and other faculty support the growing need for data design and analysis. Martha Rogers, a pediatrician, and Maureen Kelley, a nurse-midwife, work together on the Africa Health Workforce Project, for which they recently received a five-year renewal of funding. Lynn Sibley, a nurse-midwife and anthropologist, has added a nutrition component to the maternal and newborn health project in Ethiopia. Drenna Waldrop-Valverde, a neuropsychologist, leads the new Center for Cognition and Affect in Chronic Illness, one of several Centers of Excellence in Symptom Science Research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The School of Nursing is also fully engaged in preparing advanced practice nurses in research and education. Five students graduated from our doctoral program this year. A new training grant from NIH supports predoctoral and postdoctoral students as they develop new methods for managing chronic disease. Two nurses and a physician are immersed in new fellowships to improve health outcomes for U.S. veterans. Another new award from the Health Services and Research Administration supports training for advanced practice nurses and physicians in palliative care at Emory.

The Future of Nursing, the seminal report issued by the Institute of Medicine in 2010, states that nurses are vital to implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). To meet ACA objectives, The Future of Nursing recommends that nurses practice to the full extent of their training and lead collaborative efforts to conduct research and improve health systems. As the stories in this issue of Emory Nursing show, the School of Nursing is a leader on both fronts.

Sincerely,

Linda A. McCauley 79MN PhD RN FAAN FAAOHN
Dean and Professor

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Betsy Corwin PhD RN remembers the home visits with two new mothers clearly. One of the women had just had her second child, was newly divorced, and had a hole in her kitchen ceiling. Her first child, a 6-year-old girl, had autism. Despite her circumstances, “The mom was so happy to be a mother again,” says Corwin, associate dean for research at the School of Nursing.

The next day, she visited another woman who had a healthy, two-week-old baby boy, a lovely home, and a supportive family. Yet she was depressed.

“Neither of the women had a history of depression,” says Corwin, who collected data on new mothers while serving on the nursing faculty at Pennsylvania State University. “The one mother was just stunned that she was depressed, while the other mother had a positive outlook in the face of adversity. That started me thinking more about why.”
As a nurse scientist grounded in physiology, Corwin seeks to understand the biological factors behind postpartum depression. “It’s hard for care providers to make a difference when new mothers have an unsupportive partner or they are worried about finances. Those things are difficult to address. But if we can identify an underlying biological mechanism such as infection, tissue injury, or anxiety-caused stressors where we can intervene—that’s where we can really make a difference in treating this group of women.”

Corwin is poised to do that at the School of Nursing, both as the principal investigator of a major study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to examine the psychoneuroimmune contributors to postpartum depression and fatigue. The study is a continuation of her longstanding interest in maternal health, first as a physiologist using animal models to study hypertension in pregnant women and later as a clinician who became a family nurse practitioner mid-career while teaching at the University of New Mexico.

Her current research builds on her earlier studies of the biological contributors to postpartum fatigue, done in collaboration with Linda Pugh PhD RNC FAAN, then a Johns Hopkins nursing researcher. In this work, Corwin’s research team surveyed mothers for fatigue 48 hours after birth and then at one week, two weeks, and a month, each time collecting data on fatigue and samples of blood, saliva, and urine to measure immune markers and cortisol. A graduate student then suggested surveying depression at one month. The results from their survey were clear: 93% of women who reported they were fatigued at two weeks postpartum went on to develop symptoms of depression at one month. “That heightened our awareness about the underlying causes of postpartum depression,” Corwin says.

Today, she is in the midst of collecting data for her five-year NIH study. As an add-on to the study, researchers are looking at the relationship between inflammation, postpartum depression, and pain. “We’re exploring to see whether adequately treating women’s pain early on will reduce the likelihood of depression,” she says.

Corwin is part of a cadre of nurses and non-nurses who have joined the School of Nursing in recent years to expand interdisciplinary research in a dozen areas, including Alzheimer’s disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, evidence-based...
practice, sleep disorders, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and mental health.

The seeds for these areas of inquiry are rooted in the Office of Nursing Research, previously led by Ken Hepburn PhD. During his tenure as associate dean for research, the school garnered the largest research grant in its history, attracted top nursing scientists, launched evidence-based practice programs with hospital partners, and created opportunities for BSN students to conduct research related to service-learning.

Earlier this year, Corwin succeeded Hepburn after he stepped down to devote more time to studying family caregivers of patients with Alzheimer’s disease. Hepburn, who has a doctorate in literature, works with Corwin to ensure that new grant submissions are compelling enough to garner funding in an era of intense competition for research dollars.

“The mission of the Office of Nursing Research is to help faculty reach and expand their potential as researchers,” says Corwin. “Our goal is to make it easier for them to maximize the success of their research to make an impact on the health of citizens in Georgia, the country, and the world.”

During the past year, the number of people in the Office of Nursing Research has jumped from four to seven to strengthen and streamline the research process. Three faculty members—biostatistician and chemometrician Melinda Higgins and new research faculty members Bryan Williams, an epidemiologist, and Ying Guo, a biostatistician—form the new Methodology and Biostatistics Core to assist faculty and students with research design and data collection and analysis.

The core is definitely needed, notes Williams. “When you look at the productivity of the faculty in the NIH realm—the number of proposals they are generating—it’s impressive. When faculty members are awarded grants, they need support. It’s a natural evolution of the school to take this on.”

Five years ago, Higgins joined the Office of Nursing Research as a part-time statistician. Her role has evolved to include guiding students in the BSN honors program, which pairs students with faculty mentors in clinical and scientific research. Higgins also teaches undergraduate and master’s students how to evaluate the validity of scientific studies so they can determine how to improve their practice as nurses.

As the body of faculty research has grown, so has the need for conducting meta analyses to compare and contrast results from different studies.

“Nurses on the frontlines often don’t realize the power of the information they have in the aggregate,” says Higgins. “We want to go to the next level to answer larger questions by looking at the body of evidence in areas such as cancer, sleep, and heart failure.”

Williams also wants to capitalize more on the nursing school’s clinical partnerships in Atlanta and Georgia. “The school has created a research network of clinicians who work in the trenches in communities,” he says. “Our faculty and students provide care to migrant farmworkers in South Georgia. That gives us entry to collecting data that we otherwise couldn’t get as scientists. We can use that data to advance our body of knowledge.”

Expanding the Office of Nursing Research is part of Dean Linda McCauley’s commitment to growing research excellence and aligning the school more closely with the top U.S. schools of nursing research.

“The mission of our school—leadership, scholarship, and social responsibility—shows up in our research and trickles down into everything we do,” says Corwin. “It is the engine that drives us to succeed.”

Ying Guo, Bryan Williams, and Melinda Higgins lead the Methodology and Biostatistics Core to assist faculty and students with research design and data analysis.
A clinical nurse in a pediatrics unit, Christine Feeley PhD RN couldn’t help but notice the time and energy that mothers devoted to caring for their chronically ill children. Her observation raised compelling questions in her nursing practice. How does having a chronically ill child affect maternal caregivers’ ability to juggle multiple responsibilities? And how does their caregiver role affect their health, especially quality and duration of sleep?

To answer those questions, Feeley earned a doctorate in nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In her dissertation, she looked at sleep quality, stress, caregiver burden, and quality of life in mothers whose children have bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD).

“I found that maternal caregivers of young children with BPD were reporting about four to five hours of sleep a night and had elevated stress and caregiver burden levels,” says Feeley. “After I graduated with my PhD, I wanted to continue in this area, which brought me to Emory.”

This fall, Feeley is one of three nursing scholars benefitting from a $1.5 million training grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is one of 17 such grants awarded by NIH to nursing schools across the nation. During the next five years, the School of Nursing will train a total of 17 predoctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to improve outcomes for patients with chronic illness.

The need for such training is vital. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic disease causes seven out of every 10 U.S. deaths. “We want to prepare nurse scientists to engage with individuals, families, health care providers, and communities to design and test interventions that lead to better outcomes,” says Sandra Dunbar DSN RN FAAN FAHA, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Cardiovascular Nursing and grant codirector.

Emory nursing scholars will study chronic conditions by surveying the various markers of disease and examining the cost-effectiveness of interventions. A key goal is strengthening patient self-management to encourage healthy behaviors and adherence to complex regimens to control disease.

The NIH grant also serves as a nexus for bringing researchers together around a common interest. Scholars will interact with faculty from the School of Medicine, Rollins School of Public Health, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, and Emory College as well as the School of Nursing.

“We selected chronic disease as our training focus because of the depth of our faculty research in this area of study,” says Dunbar. “Intervention research represents an important area of growth for the school. We are building on what we have observed about different clinical problems by developing innovative ways to address them.”

The first scholars are now paired with their faculty mentors. Brittany Butts, a BSN to PhD student in her first year of doctoral study, is working with Dunbar to reduce inappropriate use of emergency rooms by patients with chronic illness. Nancy McCabe, a BSN to PhD student in her third doctoral year, is looking at self-management of behaviors in adults diagnosed with congenital heart disease as children, guided by Dunbar and Carolyn Reilly 94MN PhD RN FAHA. Feeley is furthering her BPD study in collaboration with Ann Rogers PhD RN FAAN.

In time, the new scholars will help elevate nursing science in ways that are meaningful to patients and their families. As Feeley notes, “By looking at sleep in maternal caregivers, especially measures of sleep that go beyond paper and pencil questionnaires, I hope to determine what is influencing their sleep the most so that we can develop and test ways they can maintain good health as they care for their children.”—Pam Auchmutey
Telling a person in heart failure that he or she needs to exercise might sound counterintuitive. But, as Becky Gary PhD RN FAHA FAAN has found, it is one of the best things for them.

An associate professor in the School of Nursing, Gary has been at the helm of several studies exploring the benefits of physical activity for people with heart failure. As one of the leading causes of cardiac disability, heart failure is on the rise, largely because of an aging population and advances in diagnostic tools for earlier detection and treatment. Coupled with an inactive lifestyle, heart failure often leads to muscle atrophy, loss of strength, and deconditioning.

“Heart failure patients already have a diminished aerobic capacity,” says Gary. “When they’re not active, they begin to lose strength and muscle mass, eventually leading to aggressive body-wasting.”

Gary’s interest in these patients began close to home. As a child, she watched various family members deal with the challenges of cardiovascular disease, with several developing heart failure. They often were sedentary, partly because of their disease, and challenged to do even the simplest of everyday tasks. That stuck with her, shaping her life’s work.

“Heart disease killed most of my aunts and uncles,” she says. “But for those it didn’t, it limited their quality of life so much that it was almost like not living at all.”

Gary’s family connection to heart failure, coupled with a lifelong interest in geriatrics, led her to pursue research to improve symptom severity and quality of life for patients with cardiovas-
cular disease, especially those who are older. “My work is the combination of two loves,” she says.

Traditionally, heart failure patients have been treated with a combination of medications and procedures, but as Gary found in a 2011 study funded by the Emory Heart and Vascular Center, physical activity also can be a powerful antidote. Gary and colleagues followed 24 heart failure patients at Emory Healthcare through a home-based exercise program that included aerobic and resistance training. While previous studies have evaluated heart failure patients through endurance testing on a treadmill, their trial is one of the first to use a physical function test to measure upper and lower body strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination.

These often are strong indicators of a patient’s ability to function in everyday settings.

After assessing their ability to do certain household tasks such as climbing stairs, unloading a clothes dryer, and reaching items on a shelf, Gary found that heart failure patients were dramatically underperforming in even the simplest tasks.

“Although the patients knew they were getting weaker, they were unaware of how bad the problem really was,” she says.

“They didn’t know how they compared with healthy individuals, so they were accepting their declining abilities as part of their medical condition. It wasn’t just that they felt sick. They also couldn’t do the things they needed or wanted to do. We wanted to show them that it didn’t have to be that way.”

Over the next 12 weeks, study participants performed a combined aerobic and resistance program five days a week. They recorded their physical activity through an exercise calendar, a heart rate monitor, and a pedometer. Gary and her team also visited patients at home.

“We went to visit the patients once a week so that we could talk to them about their progress,” says Gary. “The patients really responded to the visits, and it gave us a sense of the patient’s home environment. With a home-based program, patients tend to be more adherent. When they’re more adherent, they have more success, which in turn builds their confidence.”

After completing the exercise program, study participants performed the household tasks again, this time with more success.

“What we found was that being physically active improves many functions of heart failure patients,” says Gary. “Improving their physical abilities—their everyday activities—really can reduce symptom severity, stave off depression, and improve their overall quality of life.”

So what exactly does exercise do for a heart failure patient?

“Exercise changes a lot of the peripheral vascular and the musculoskeletal adaptations that occur with heart failure,” Gary explains. “Patients with heart failure start out with 50% less cardiac output, which means that their muscles are not receiving as much blood as they should be. Most of the heart failure disease severity markers have been shown over time to decrease with exercise. Our hope is to improve muscle function and delay disability for as long as possible.”

Gary also has studied depression in heart failure patients. Supported by an American Heart Association Beginning Grant-in-Aid award, she found that aerobic exercise combined with cognitive behavioral therapy may improve depressive symptoms in depressed heart failure patients, proving that exercise is key in persons with heart failure, both physically and mentally.

“The physical and the psychological go together,” says Gary. “This sense that they’ve lost the life they have always known can lead to depression, which can in turn cause more physical symptoms. It’s truly a downward spiral.”

She hopes that her findings will change both the way that heart failure patients look at themselves and how care providers look at heart failure patients.

“I tell patients that their care is not just about their heart. It’s about their muscles, lungs, brain, and other things they need to keep functioning,” says Gary. “As nurses, we’re advancing the tools we have to keep patients moving in their daily lives. Nurses are in the unique spot to give patients a different but realistic way to approach their abilities.”

Web Connection: MedPage Today cited an article written by Becky Gary for the March/April issue of the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing in which she explains the benefits of adopting a definition of frailty to evaluate older adults with cardiovascular disease. To read more, visit bit.ly/P9MEdi.
A few years ago, Emory built a pedestrian bridge to join its campus with that of the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), a university partner for more than 60 years. This year, those ties grew stronger with the launch of the National VA Quality Scholars Advanced Fellowship program at the Atlanta VAMC by Emory nursing and medical faculty.

Now one of eight programs nationwide, the program trains leaders who can develop new knowledge, or innovative applications of existing knowledge, to improve health care services for U.S. veterans.

When the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) decided to expand the fellowship program from six to eight sites, Bethany Robertson DNP CNM of the School of Nursing and Anne Tomolo MD MPH of the School of Medicine jumped at the chance to make Atlanta one of the new locations. Thanks to their efforts, the first cohort of fellows—two faculty members in nursing and one in medicine—began a two-year immersion into the world of quality improvement at VAMC this past summer.

Quality improvement, a key driver of health care today, encompasses effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and value of health care delivery processes and systems. "The more quality.
improvement leaders we can prepare,” says Robertson, “the more quickly we can fix some of the issues that plague our health care systems.” Both she and Tomolo believe that when it comes to creating those leaders, the fellowship program is out in front on two important counts—training focused on research and training across disciplines.

Fellows first learn how the multiple cogs in health delivery systems work, then acquire the research methodology to identify a problem (a high infection rate, for example). They learn to design solutions and evaluate them in practice with the same rigor as in a clinical trial for a new drug or treatment. Fellows also study implementation science, promoting the timely uptake of positive research findings in clinical and community settings and at the policy level. Timeliness is especially important, notes Carolyn Clevenger 02 MN DNP RN, clinical assistant professor of nursing and associate director of the fellowship program at the Atlanta VA M C. On average, research findings take 17 years to be implemented widely in clinical practice.

The VA Quality Scholars Advanced Fellowship program is one of a few that insist on training nurses and physicians side by side. The payoff is immediate, as fellows share their perspectives on their “homework” projects, seeing things neither one might have seen alone. Even more valuable, Robertson and Tomolo note, is building the capacity of physicians and nurses to work together to enhance health systems through quality improvement.

Most fellows in the program are well established in their careers. A nurse since 1991, Ingrid Duva 94 N 10PhD joined the Emory nursing faculty after completing her doctorate. She is a health systems researcher with a special interest in care coordination between nurses and other members of the health care team. Emory internist Michael Saenger MD, who has been in practice at Grady Memorial Hospital since 1996, has a special interest in improving chronic pain management. Corrine Abraham RN MN, a School of Nursing instructor who will receive her DNP in December, has been a nurse for 30 years.

“It’s amazing what the three of us learned in

The quality connection continued on page 10
the first weeks alone,” she says, “and my respect for the VA population and the VA health system continues to grow.”

Once fellows complete the program, they often make quality improvement a major focus of their professional lives. Tomolo is an excellent example. One of the first to complete the fellowship program in Cleveland in 2000, she now serves as the Atlanta VAMC’s chief of quality medicine. She also teaches and sees patients.

From the start, fellows at all eight sites share a global VA curriculum, delivered by interactive video and supplemented by national meetings. The local curriculum, developed by Robertson and Tomolo, takes advantage of resources at the Atlanta VAMC, Emory, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse School of Medicine, and WellStar Health System. Some projects involve all three fellows, beginning with an analysis of the discharge process at VAMC and identifying possible quality and safety improvements. Later in the year, the fellows will help evaluate Emory’s biannual Interprofessional Team Training Day, which brings nursing, medical, physician assistant, physical therapy, and medical imaging students together to learn team communication skills and how teamwork affects patient safety and quality of care.

Fellows may match part of the local curriculum with their interests. Some may sign up for the VA’s online analytics course to become certified in outcomes data management. Others may opt to learn how quality improvement is practiced in WellStar’s community hospital environment. All are mentored by Tomolo and Robertson, who also serves as WellStar’s chief learning officer. Fellows also will help teach the course in health care quality and patient safety in the MSN program.

That’s only the beginning. Next year, another cohort of three nursing and medicine fellows will enter the fellowship program at the Atlanta VAMC.

Teaching the essentials of maternal nutrition

The School of Nursing is expanding its efforts to ensure the survival of mothers and their newborns in Ethiopia, aided by a $4.5 million grant from the Micronutrient Initiative. The four-year project will help expectant and new mothers learn about the vitamins and minerals necessary for good health.

This new project builds on the success of the Maternal and Newborn Health in Ethiopia Partnership (MaNHEP), established by the School of Nursing in 2010 with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. MaNHEP provides a community-based model for improving maternal and newborn health (MNH) in rural areas. Today, six districts in the Amhara and Oromia regions are using the model to strengthen the provision of MNH services during the first 48 hours after birth, when mothers and newborns are most vulnerable. With the new grant, the School of Nursing will introduce the model to the Afar region with an added focus on improving maternal nutrition.

Lynn Sibley PhD RN FAAN FACNM, associate professor of nursing, and Abebe Gebremariam Gobzyayehu MPH, a faculty member at Ethiopia’s Jimma University, lead the project in collaboration with the Micronutrient Initiative. All work closely with the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health and the regional health bureau and district health offices in Afar to introduce the MNH model in communities and expand it nationwide. In doing so, they will improve the capacity of frontline health care workers, including volunteers and traditional birth attendants, in providing maternal and newborn services during pregnancy and around the time of birth. Ultimately, their efforts will increase demand for these services and promote healthy self-care behaviors, including essential maternal nutrition.—Jasmine G. Hoffman
Two careers, two paths in nursing education

The School of Nursing recently celebrated the careers of Jane Mashburn 78MN CNM FACNM and Joyce Murray EdD RN FAAN as they became faculty emeriti.

Mashburn, one of eight students in the first class of Emory’s nurse-midwifery program, guided the training of future nurse-midwives as clinical associate professor and coordinator of the nurse-midwifery and family nurse-midwifery programs. To date, more than 350 practitioners have graduated from these programs—the only such programs in Georgia. She also directed Emory’s MSN program and gained notoriety by transforming it into a nationally recognized graduate program. Under her leadership, the nurse-midwifery program was ranked 13th and the pediatric nurse practitioner program was ranked 11th by U.S. News & World Report.

Before joining the faculty in 1984, Mashburn practiced nurse-midwifery at Grady Memorial Hospital and the Birthing Center of Atlanta and was a private practice nurse at Emory Clinic. She is a fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives and a recipient of the Jean Thomas Award for Creativity in Teaching, presented by Emory’s Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Joyce Murray has more than 30 years of experience in nursing practice, education, and leadership in public health. She co-founded and led the Department of Nursing at Georgia Southern University. At Emory, she served as professor and associate dean for academic affairs, guided the National League for Nursing as president, and was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Murray is best known for her work in international nursing education and practice. She was chair of accreditation for BSN and MSN programs at the National University of Singapore and the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Over the past two decades, she secured more than $20 million in nursing training grants from federal agencies and private organizations.

In 2001, Murray was appointed director of the Carter Center’s Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative (EPHTI), a project to enhance and grow education for health professionals to help bring primary care services to millions of people in undeserved areas. As director of EPHTI, Murray—along with colleagues from the Carter Center and the School of Nursing—conducted curriculum workshops on more than 200 topics to sharpen the teaching skills of public health faculty from seven universities. More than 2,500 experts have been trained through Ethiopian universities and, in turn, more than 26,000 health care professionals have learned skills to serve Ethiopia’s rural population. Her work led to co-authoring the 2010 book Educating Health Professionals in Low-Resource Countries: A Global Approach with Elizabeth Downes 04MN/MPH RN FAANP and others.

EPHTI is now administered by Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health and Education, as the Carter Center intended when the program was established in the 1990s.—Pam Auchmuty

Honoring nursing faculty

Tribute gifts to the School of Nursing are an extraordinary way to honor faculty members who have shaped your professional life. With your gift, you are touching the life of an honoree while helping to ensure that new generations of Emory nurses will be there to improve health and healing. You may designate a gift to the Emeritus Faculty Scholarship Fund honoring Joyce Murray and/or Jane Mashburn for their longtime service to the School of Nursing. To learn more, please contact Betsy Oliver, senior associate director of development, at 404-727-5291 or etolive@emory.edu.
Freeman values listening to patients and students

Whether dealing with decisions about hormone replacement therapy, heart transplants, or end-of-life issues, Sarah Freeman PhD ARNP FAANP has learned to listen to her patients. “Once I hear my patients’ stories, everything starts to make perfect sense—even research findings that I didn’t anticipate,” says Freeman, the Betty Tigner Turner Clinical Professor of Nursing.

Students and colleagues have long admired Freeman for her listening, teaching, and research skills, for which she received the 2012 University Scholar/Teacher award, sponsored by the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry, during commencement. She is the second nursing faculty member to receive the honor. The first was Laura Kimble PhD RN FNP-C FAHA, selected in 2004 for establishing the emergency nurse practitioner program.

Freeman, who specializes in women’s health and chronic disease management, was instrumental in establishing national accreditation for advanced practice nursing programs. She is also a faculty fellow at the Emory Center for Ethics, reflecting her research interests in how to apply the outcomes of evidence-based medicine and ethical decision-making.

“Nursing is a practice discipline and a dynamic field,” says Freeman, who worked as a labor and delivery nurse for many years. “It doesn’t take long to lose validity with your students or to fall behind. A large part of teaching is role modeling what it means to be a practitioner.”

The most valuable lesson she imparts to students is a love of lifelong learning. “Developing a student’s inquisitive mind is one of the most important things a teacher has to do,” she says.

Torn between becoming a nurse or a teacher after high school, Freeman soon discovered she could do both. After spending 30 years as a family nurse practitioner, she can’t imagine giving up her clinical practice and continues to work one day a week at the Feminist Women’s Health Center in Atlanta.

The nurse practitioner movement is rooted in caring for vulnerable patients, including women who cannot find care anywhere else and helping them prevent unwanted pregnancies. “Nurse practitioners provide a way of filling in the gap,” Freeman says. “I like to say that everybody deserves the care of a nurse practitioner.”—Mary Loftus

Sarah Freeman received the University Scholar/Teacher award, among Emory’s highest faculty honors, during commencement this year.

Washington Insiders

Dennis Flores (left), Mary Steimer, Maya Jackson, and Dean Linda McCauley met with U.S. Representative John Lewis in Washington, D.C., last spring to brief the Georgia congressman on nursing issues. Notes Flores, “The main issues we advocated for were funding of Title VIII (to support Nursing Workforce Programs under the Public Health Service Act), the National Institute of Nursing Research, and nurse-managed health clinics.” Flores and Steimer are Woodruff Clinical Scholars at Emory, while Jackson is a graduate student at Georgia State University.
People respond to art in different ways. Some are moved to tears, while others feel a giggle bubbling up inside. Some are bored by the act of observing, while others relish the quiet contemplation. But for participants in Emory’s Museum Moments program, the hope is that art will help them remember.

Last spring, the Emory Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC) launched Museum Moments to spark the imagination, invite conversation, and form connections through art. Museum Moments is modeled after Meet Me at MoMA, offered at New York’s Museum of Modern Art. In both programs, trained educators guide individuals with Alzheimer’s or memory impairment through famous works of art, empowering them to share their thoughts in a social setting.

Brought to Atlanta by Emily Lu 12M, Museum Moments involves ADRC, the Michael C. Carlos Museum, and Emory’s schools of nursing and medicine.

“Through this engagement with art, participants and their care partners have the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas, share individual experiences, and access memories,” says Ken Hepburn PhD, professor of nursing and clinical core director of ADRC. “This program is the perfect example of how we care for our patients, not only in the clinical sense but also in doing our best to take care of them and their caregivers emotionally and socially.”

Museum Moments tours enable participants to connect with their caregivers in a casual and low-pressure environment.

“For people with memory loss, any experience that is engaging—and screens out the confusion caused by diminishing abilities to sort out the multiple stimuli of the surrounding world—by definition improves quality of life, at least for the moment,” says Hepburn, who was instrumental in starting the program. “Great paintings, great poems, great works of music share a common quality: they are intact and whole and have no extraneous or distracting parts, which can enhance the experience of a person who has a disease like Alzheimer’s.” —Kerry Ludlam

Museum Moments tours are free for small groups of patients and caregivers. To register, contact Julie Green, Carlos Museum, at 404-727-2363.
Top nursing honors: Five leaders elected as fellows

Four faculty members and one alumnus achieved the highest of professional accomplishments upon their election as fellows of three nursing organizations.

Two faculty members and an alumnus have been elected as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing. Among them is Associate Professor Rebecca Gary PhD RN FAAN FAHA, one of the first nurse researchers to use exercise interventions to study diastolic heart failure in women. Her pioneering cardiovascular research is helping improve quality of life for heart failure patients, the leading cause of hospitalizations among elders. In 2009, Gary was named a fellow of the American Heart Association.

Susan Shapiro PhD RN FAAN is assistant dean for strategic clinical initiatives in the School of Nursing and director of nursing research and evidence-based practice (EBP) at Emory Healthcare. A nationally recognized expert in EBP and emergency nursing, Shapiro incorporated EBP into two of the nation’s leading hospital systems—the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center and Emory Healthcare. Her articles have been published in the American Journal of Nursing, Journal of Nursing Administration, Western Journal of Nursing Research, and AAQHN Journal.

Donald “Chip” Bailey 89MN PhD RN FAAN, associate professor at Duke University’s School of Nursing, has pioneered research to better understand self-management strategies in patients with life-threatening illnesses such as prostate cancer, chronic hepatitis C, and end-stage liver disease. His research has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Nursing Research. Bailey serves as senior fellow in the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and core director of geriatric education at Duke.

Elizabeth Downes 04MN/MPH RN FAANP is now a fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Downes is a clinical assistant professor with more than 25 years of international nursing experience in more than a dozen countries, including Ethiopia, Mozambique, Fiji, Liberia, and Zimbabwe. She also provides clinical care to Atlanta’s refugee population and migrant farm families in rural Georgia. She continues to train nurses in developing countries. In 2011, Downes and Joyce Murray EdD RN FAAN, professor emeritus, were among the co-authors of Educating Health Professionals in Low-Resource Countries: A Global Approach.

Assistant Professor Carolyn Reilly 94MN PhD RN FAHA is a newly elected fellow of the American Heart Association. Through her research, Reilly seeks to improve clinical, functional, and economic outcomes to foster adherence to prescribed treatments and therapies among patients with cardiothoracic and vascular diseases. Reilly currently is a co-investigator on a National Institute of Nursing Research study to assess quality of life in heart patients with diabetes, led by Sandra Dunbar DSN RN FAAN FAHA, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Cardiovascular Nursing. In 2011, Reilly received the Martha N. Hill New Investigator Award from the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing for her study of “Outcomes from Symptom and Economic Evaluation of Fluid Restriction in Persons with Heart Failure.”
Gilead leaves behind a legacy in mental health nursing

Maggie Gilead 73MN 81PhD RN, ably and gently guided students through their mental health rotations, died of cancer at Emory University Hospital on July 16.

Gilead, 68, was known for her extensive work in mental health nursing practice and education and improving local and state mental health services. As a member of the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, she was part of the statewide effort to implement House Bill 100, which improved availability of services for mental health patients and restructured Georgia’s community mental health system. She also served on Governor Roy Barnes’ Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council and worked with sickle cell patients at today’s Emory University Hospital Midtown.

Calm and quiet-spoken, Gilead was an invaluable resource to nursing students, leading them on clinical rotations at Grady Memorial Hospital, the Georgia Mental Health Institute, and the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Katherine Yeager 84N 12PhD, research assistant professor at the School of Nursing, was among those students during the 1980s.

“One of my most vivid memories was my psychiatric nursing rotation with Maggie at Georgia Mental Health Institute,” says Yeager. “She taught me how to communicate with a group of patients who had major psychiatric issues with respect and care. She boosted our confidence and role modeled a professional and caring approach. She calmed our fears and usually threw in a little humor to help us get through the next adventure.”

In addition to teaching at the nursing school for nearly four decades, Gilead taught in Emory’s Department of African and African American Studies. Gilead, among the school’s first African American faculty members, wrote about Reynoldstown, one of Atlanta’s African American neighborhoods, in her Emory dissertation.

“Her interest in cultural diversity and the ongoing changes brought about by integration were useful as the School of Nursing developed programs of study to teach cultural concepts,” recalls nursing professor emeritus Rose Cannon 74MN 95PhD. “In 1984, Maggie was one of the authors of a scholarly article titled ‘A values clarification approach to cultural diversity,’ published in Nursing and Health Care. It laid out a new model for teaching cultural diversity to avoid stereotypical thinking.”

Gilead received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Ludie Andrews Award from the Georgia Nurses Association and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Community Service from Emory.

Born in Savannah, Gilead spent her formative years in New York City. She earned her BSN from Long Island University and her MSN and doctoral degree in liberal arts from Emory. She is survived by three daughters, a son, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.—Pam Auchmutey

Help support graduate students in mental health

Memorial gifts honoring Maggie Gilead may be made to the Rose Dilday Scholarship. This scholarship benefits graduate nursing students who demonstrate need and have elected to enter the field of gerontology or mental health. Gifts may be sent to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, 1520 Clifton Road N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30322. To learn more, please contact Betsy Oliver, senior associate director of development, at 404-727-5291 or etolive@emory.edu.
accolades

Faculty appointments

The School of Nursing began the academic year with 12 new faculty members who have expertise in areas such as mental health and trauma, pulmonary and critical care medicine, nurse leadership, care for preterm infants, home health care and hospice, and perinatal, pediatric, and environmental epidemiology and policy.

Angela Amar PhD PMHCNS BC FAAN, associate professor of nursing, is a nationally acclaimed expert on mental health responses to trauma, violence against women and adolescent females, and forensics nursing. She was part of the inaugural class of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars program and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Clinical Assistant Professor Hope Bussenius 93MN DNP FNP-BC is a family nurse practitioner who provides nursing care to vulnerable populations. She is co-founder of Eternal Hope in Haiti, an orphanage for medically fragile children. Since 1990, she has taught courses on health promotion and disease prevention related to malnutrition, parasitic infestation diseases, HIV/AIDS, and malaria at Brenau University, Emory, and Georgia State University.

Assistant Professor Charles Downs PhD RN ACNP-BC is an acute care nurse practitioner specializing in pulmonary and critical care medicine. His research focuses on understanding the cellular and molecular responses of the lung to injury. In 2011, he received the Patsy A. Perry Biological Nursing Research Award from the Western Institute of Nursing Research. Prior to joining Emory, he served as a postdoctoral fellow in the departments of Physiology and Pediatrics at Emory’s School of Medicine.

Professor Bonnie Jennings DNSc RN FAAN has enjoyed a distinguished career as an Army nurse that afforded her a wealth of experience as a clinician, educator, researcher, administrator, policy-maker, and leader. She is widely recognized as one of the nation’s top experts on nurse leadership, quality care, and patient safety. Among her military awards are the Distinguished Service Medal and the Army Nurse of the Year Award. In 2002, Jennings was the first in her field to serve as an American Academy of Nursing/American Nurses Foundation distinguished nurse scholar at the Institute of Medicine.

Emory nursing alumna Mary Lambert 81MN DNP RN returns to the nursing school as a clinical associate professor. She is a longtime public servant, having worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the U.S. Army. Lambert is a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and holds a DNP from Vanderbilt University. She has been active in the Nurses’ Alumni Association for many years.

Terri Marin 12PhD NNP-BBC is a research assistant professor in the School of Nursing. Marin, a neonatal nurse practitioner, is examining perfusion patterns in preterm infants. She has collaborated on research initiatives with leading investigators at Emory University Hospital Midtown and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. She recently received the Fabulous 40 Nursing Alumni Award from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Clinical Associate Professor Kathryn Moore DNP RN conducts research in the areas of volume resuscitation in trauma patients, hypothermia in
trauma, and measuring initial clinical competency and sustainment of clinical competencies in health care providers. She is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and served with the 10th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad. Prior to joining Emory, Moore was a clinical assistant professor at the University of Kentucky’s School of Nursing.

As an adult nurse practitioner, Lisa Muirhead DNP RN APRN-BC ANP has focused her career on implementing health promotion and disease prevention strategies for vulnerable populations. Her practice areas have centered on addressing issues related to hepatitis C and spinal cord injuries among U.S. veterans and the management and care of individuals living with chronic pain. Muirhead is a clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing.

Imelda Reyes 08MN DNP RN FNP-BC, clinical assistant professor, conducts research on identifying and managing overweight and obese children. She is a family nurse practitioner who has held clinical roles at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Emory Healthcare, and Sentara Healthcare. She served as a U.S. Navy officer from 2001 to 2006.

Research Associate Professor Bryan Williams PhD is a nationally recognized epidemiologist and psychometrician. His research focuses on perinatal, pediatric, and environmental epidemiology and policy. Williams is best known for his research that demonstrated a link between prematurity and lower academic achievement. Prior to joining the School of Nursing, Williams served on the faculty at the Rollins School of Public Health and Emory School of Medicine.

Phyllis Wright DNP APRN-BC joined the School of Nursing as a clinical associate professor. She is a geriatric nurse practitioner who specializes in home health care, skilled nursing, and hospice. Wright has more than 30 years of experience in nursing. She comes to Emory from PricewaterhouseCoopers’ health care practice, where she conducted national compliance audits, transformed post acute care practices, and served as the subject matter expert on geriatric nursing.

Katherine Yeager 84N 12PhD has been named a research assistant professor. As a clinician and nurse scientist, she develops nursing interventions for symptoms and self-management of advanced cancer. Her articles have been published in top journals including the Journal of Palliative Medicine, the Journal of Neuroscience Nursing, Epilepsy & Behavior, and Cancer Nursing.

Grant supports training in palliative care

Carolyn Clevenger 02MN DNP RN, an expert in geriatric nursing, leads a new project to strengthen team-based palliative care in partnership with Emory University Hospital and the Emory Palliative Care Center. The project is funded by a $1.5 million, three-year grant for Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention—Interprofessional Collaborative Practice, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant supports training for advanced practice nurses and physicians who will provide palliative care for nearly 7,000 patients during the next three years.
Seeking direction as a sophomore with an undeclared major, Kay Kittrell Chitty 65N 68MN took inspiration from an iconic figure at Emory and found a lifelong calling.

Acting on the recommendation of her adviser, Chitty met with Dean Ada Fort at the School of Nursing to explore the possibility of becoming a nurse.

“Dean Fort spent about an hour with me, and by the end of that time she had recruited me for the incoming nursing class. She was so persuasive, she made me excited to be a part of the class,” says Chitty. Determined to enroll for fall semester, she spent the summer in Atlanta taking the organic and inorganic chemistry classes she needed as prerequisites.

Chitty graduated from the School of Nursing in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, then returned for graduate school, earning a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing in 1968. Her experiences at Emory led to a successful career as a nursing educator. Now she and her husband Charles have made a $100,000 gift to endow the Kay Kittrell Chitty Scholars Sharing Knowledge Award. The gift will help cover travel costs to conferences for nursing students, enabling them to present their research and grow as nursing leaders.

Growing Nurse Leaders
Alumna’s gift enables students to present their research at conferences

Charles and Kay Chitty have made a gift to help cover travel costs to conferences for nursing students, enabling them to present their research and grow as nursing leaders.

Evidence-based nursing has become more and more important. If we see ourselves as preparing leaders for the nursing profession, students should have the opportunity to show that leadership before they finish their degrees. They need to have the experience of peer review, presenting their research, answering questions, and defending their science.”

A nurse and nursing educator for more than 40 years, Chitty directed the School of Nursing at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) from 1988 to 1993. Upon her retirement, Memorial Hospital established the Kay Kittrell Chitty Professorship in Nursing at UTC to honor her service as hospital board chair. Chitty is co-author of the bestselling textbook, Professional Nursing: Concepts and Challenges, now in its sixth edition. She currently serves on several health care-related and nonprofit boards in the Charleston, South Carolina, area.

Chitty is proud to call the nursing school her alma mater and wants her gift to help future generations of Emory nurses.

“We wanted to make sure that our gift actually meets a need,” says Chitty, who received the school’s Distinguished Nursing Achievement Award in 2010. “In the future, if this is not a priority, there is flexibility built into the agreement allowing the school to use this gift for a more pressing need.” — Maria Lameiras
The 99 baccalaureate students in the Class of 2012 achieved a School of Nursing first with 100% participation in its senior class gift campaign.

"Members of the class voted on what we wanted to support, and the majority chose need-based scholarships," says Jamie Tinker 12N, senior class president and chair of the class gift committee. "Many of us have received some sort of financial aid, and we felt it was important to give back and provide assistance for future students so they can have the same opportunities that we’ve had."

Many of the school’s BSN graduates were present when senior class officers presented a check for $4,400 to Dean Linda McCauley during Class Day, an annual tradition for Emory undergraduates prior to commencement. Nursing seniors received special congratulations from Emory President James Wagner for their accomplishment.

McCauley also welcomed the 2012 BSN graduates to her home to celebrate their historic class gift, made possible with support from students, faculty, staff, family, and friends. As McCauley told them, "I can’t think of a better way for our students to honor and support the next generation of nurses.”

Nursing seniors Jamie Tinker (left), Kara Nick, Khala Woodruff, and Jenna Delany present the $4,400 raised by their class for nursing scholarships to Dean Linda McCauley.

Senior class gift achieves a first to support nursing scholarships

Nursing campaign tops $27 million

Thank you for your many generous contributions to the School of Nursing through Campaign Emory. To date, the school has raised $27.1 million—135.7% of its $20 million goal. This extraordinary support has enabled the school to meet some, but not all, of its needs. Efforts continue to meet the increased need for scholarships, service-learning initiatives, faculty recruitment and development, and unrestricted giving.

There’s still time to make a gift to the School of Nursing before the campaign ends on December 31. To make a gift, use the insert included in this magazine or contact Amy Dorrill, associate dean of development and alumni relations, at 404-727-6264 or amy.dorrill@emory.edu.
2012 Alumni Awards

The Nurses’ Alumni Association (NAA) presented the following honors during Homecoming 2012. These annual awards recognize alumni and friends who advance the School of Nursing and the nursing profession.

Distinguished Nursing Achievement Award
Dr. Marcia Stanhope 71MN is the Good Samaritan Endowed Professor and Chair in Community Health at the University of Kentucky’s College of Nursing, where she also holds the title of University Public Scholar. She has served on the UK nursing faculty since 1981. This year, she retired as associate dean of nursing, one of many roles she has held in a career spanning nearly 50 years. Stanhope is regarded as a public health nursing icon and is the senior author of *Public Health Nursing: Population Centered Health in the Community*. Now in its eighth edition, it is one of the most widely used community health textbooks in the world. Stanhope has received a number of honors, including the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s President Award and the Creative Achievement Award from the Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association. She is also a 1988 fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Award of Honor
Rose Cannon 74MN 95PhD has more than 37 years of experience in maternal and newborn nursing practice and education. Now retired as clinical associate professor, she remains a tireless advocate for the school. She mentored students in the Shadow a Nurse program, which gives students hands-on clinical experience by working alongside nursing alumni. She has preserved the history of the school by collecting oral histories of retired nursing faculty and helped plan the nursing school’s centennial celebration in 2005. She has been a leader in the NAA, the Georgia Nurses Association, the International and Southeastern Lactation Consultant associations, and Sigma Theta Tau International.

Excellence in Nursing Service Award
Anita Rich 81N is deeply committed to serving vulnerable populations around the globe. She has embarked on numerous medical missions to some of the world’s most impoverished countries, including Nicaragua, Iraq, and Mongolia. She has transported patients from Honduras, Uganda, Kosovo, and Mongolia for Children’s Heart Project/Good Samaritan’s Purse, which brings children and their mothers to the United States for lifesaving heart surgeries.

In 2011, Rich formed Nurses Heart to Heart, a nonprofit dedicated to teaching advanced nursing skills in developing countries. During the past two years, her organization has taught proper CPR techniques to nearly 400 nurses and doctors in Mongolia. Rich has been a cardiac care nurse at Emory University Hospital and is now at Emory Johns Creek Hospital.

Recent Graduate Award
Rebecca Wheeler 06N 12PhD epitomizes the nursing school’s values of leadership, scholarship, and social responsibility. In 2004, she became Emory’s first and only president of the National Student Nurses’ Association, which represents more than 45,000 students. Currently, she is president-elect of the Georgia Nurses Association and served as secretary from 2007 to 2011. She is also president of the Emory chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Nationally, Wheeler has served on the National Advisory Committee of Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future, a grant initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson and Northwest Health foundations. She is a member of the Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics and the American Nurses Association, serving on the work group that recently updated guidelines for safe staffing. She also has taken part in global health initiatives in Kenya and Mexico.
Class News

1970s

Dr. Susan Glenn Caddell 75N 82D of Tavares, Fla., and her father, Dr. Eugene Glenn 53C 61D, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their dental practice last February. The first dentist in Tavares, Glenn formed the practice in 1962. As a teenager, Susan began helping as his chair-side assistant during school breaks. She wanted to be a nurse like her mother. However, her love of dentistry won out and after graduating from Emory’s dental school, she joined her father’s practice in 1983. The two worked together until his retirement in 1992. Caddell continues practicing today.

Dr. Dee Baldwin 78N was named associate dean and director of the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Prior to joining UNC, she was a faculty member and former associate director of graduate programs in the School of Nursing at Georgia State University, where she joined her father’s practice in 1983. The two worked together until his retirement in 1992. Baldwin is an expert in health promotion and women’s wellness. Her research addresses breast health in older African American women. She developed a model for encouraging low-income African American women to participate in screening for early detection of breast and cervical cancer.

1980s

Regina J. (Gina) Armistead 82N is assistant director of nursing at Woodlands Nursing and Rehab Center in Fayetteville, N.C.

Katherine H. Steele 83MN published her second book, Coping with Trauma-related Dissociation: Skills Training for Patients and Therapists, with co-authors Suzette Boon and Onno van der Hart. The book received the 2011 Pierre Janet Writing Award from the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation.

1990s

Penelope (Penny) Pritchett Burroughs 90N is the cardiovascular nurse navigator and the valve clinic coordinator at the Heart & Vascular Center of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. The valve clinic coordinator ensures that the multidisciplinary team of interventional cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, and imaging specialists functions smoothly. “My goal is to provide a highly personalized approach to compassionate, patient-centered care with leading-edge technology,” she writes. She adds that the scholarship she was awarded in nursing school has allowed her to make a positive difference in people’s lives.

Commander Denise Renee Elliott 90N of Newark, Del., was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal by the U.S. Navy Reserve. She recently was assigned to Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., as fitness report coordinator. Previously, she served as officer-in-charge of the Operational Health Unit at the Navy Operational Support Center in Wilmington, Del. During her career, Elliott has provided nursing care on various humanitarian missions to Colombia, El Salvador, Senegal, and most recently, Haiti. She served on board the USNS Comfort, working 12- to 15-hour shifts for 18 days straight, caring for Haitian patients.

Tracey A. Wilds 91N 00MN is a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pa.

Deborah Elaine Drummonds 92MN received tenure at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga. Drummonds joined the ABAC faculty in 2007 and serves as assistant professor in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Brenda J. Baker 94MN graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a PhD in nursing in December 2011.

2000s

Dr. Kristin Hardy Conrad 02MN was elected president of the Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She completed her DNP in 2011 at Old Dominion University. Kris and her husband Jim live in Blacksburg, Va., where she works as a Certified Nurse-Midwife at Carilion Clinic. She and her colleague Sherrie Doss are the...
Another Living Legend

The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) named Anne J. Davis 52N 55MN as a 2012 Living Legend at its October annual conference and meeting in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes her extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession.

Davis is professor emerita at the University of California, San Francisco, and Nagano College of Nursing in Japan. A pioneer in nursing ethics, she has consulted and lectured on issues such as informed consent and terminating treatment. She is an elected member of the Hastings Center of Bioscience and Ethics and has served on the International Human Rights Committee in Geneva as Commissioner of Health Professionals for Health and Human Rights. In 2011, Davis received the Order of the Rising Sun—the highest honor given to non-nationals by the Japanese government—for her contributions to human resources development in the nursing profession and the improvement of nursing education in Japan.

She is the second Emory nursing leader to be named a Living Legend. The first was Mary Woody, whom the AAN honored in 2007. Among other accomplishments, Woody served as director of nursing at Emory University Hospital and as interim dean at the School of Nursing, where she was a distinguished professor emerita until her death in 2010.

Emory | Nursing in the World

Betty Marie Steward 52N and her eldest son, James Scott Steward 77MBA, catch up on their summer reading at New Smyrna Beach in Florida. Where are you reading Emory Nursing? We’d love to know. Send your photos from near and far to elizabeth.powell@emory.edu.

Benson Wright 05N

First nurse-midwives employed by the Carilion Health System and the only CNMs practicing in a hospital in Southwest Virginia. They will be joined by a third CNM, providing women in the region with access to midwifery care at all times.

Barbara Nicole (Nikki) Davis 03MN is a national clinical trainer and education and instructional designer for OptumHealth/Collaborative Care in the Atlanta area.

MARRIED: Sarah Arnette Byrd 05N 06MN and Siler Charles Ransmeier on Nov. 12, 2011, at Claxton Farms in Weaverville, N.C. Sarah was a nurse practitioner for the pulmonary division of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. The couple now lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Benson C. Wright 05N was promoted to Magnet Program director at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. RUMC is a three-time Magnet-designated hospital. Wright will oversee the application for RUMC’s fourth Magnet designation.

Donte A. Flanagan 06N has partnered with three associates to open The Lawrence, a restaurant in Midtown Atlanta. A fine-dining restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere, The Lawrence offers a menu described as “new American, with classical French and Asian influences and techniques.”

Susan M. Reynolds 06N is an epilepsy nurse coordinator with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

Ashley Brook Turner 06MN works as a nurse practitioner at Atlanta’s Piedmont Heart Institute.

Mackenzie Lovvorn 07N received a 2012 Nurse Excellence Award from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for her care and compassion as a neonatal ICU nurse at Gwinnett Medical Center, where she works with medically fragile infants and their parents.

Samantha Marie Steiner 07N specializes in clinical risk management for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta in the Office of the General Counsel. After graduating from Emory, she earned a law degree and passed the bar. She writes that she loves her work, which is the perfect blend of nursing and law.
MARRIED: Shauna Mettee 09MN/MPH and Jeff Zarecki, on Jan. 14, 2012, in Colorado. Shauna is a CDC Preventive Medicine Fellow. They live in Atlanta with their two children.

Andrea Christine Maclin 11MN joined Athens Women’s Clinic as a nurse practitioner last summer. She is board-certified in adult and women’s health and a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health.

Dr. Angela Haynes 91MPH 08N 09MN was named dean of the School of Nursing at Shorter University in Rome, Ga., where she leads the newly accredited BSN program. Haynes is a co-founder and family nurse practitioner with Health Connection Inc., a community clinic in Jefferson, Ga. She served as a cardiac nurse at Emory University Hospital, executive director of the Georgia Partnership for Caring Foundation Inc., and communications director for the Northeast Georgia Health District.

Haynes travels regularly to Haiti, where in 1993 she cofounded Eternal Hope in Haiti, an orphanage for medically fragile children, with her mother, Twilla Haynes 80MN, and her sister, Hope Bussenius 93MN, clinical assistant professor of nursing at Emory. Twilla is a nursing professor at Shorter and a 2010 recipient of the Emory Medal, the university’s highest alumni honor.

2012 Unsung Heroines

The Emory Women’s Center honored four School of Nursing alumni as 2012 Unsung Heroines, whose work affects the life of other women. Ana Lynn Tesh 99N (left), Mary Cahill 92N, Pam Pomar 04N, and Susan Lomax 99N are the cornerstones of Nuestros Ninos/Our Kids Pediatrics, a thriving Cobb County, Georgia, health care practice founded by Cahill to serve the children of Latino immigrants. These families often find it difficult to receive pediatric care without private or government-sponsored health insurance. All four women came to the field of nursing as nontraditional students and taught themselves Spanish in order to better serve their patients. The nurses were honored as alumni, one of seven Unsung Heroine categories.
In Memory

**1940s**

Nonagene (Gene) Farrill Daniel 43N 48N of Lithonia, Ga., on April 15, 2012, at age 90. She played a part in the initiation of the BSN program in 1942 and was among the first nursing students to take college courses. Before graduating, she was selected for a pediatric rotation at Bellevue Hospital in NYC. After graduation, she joined the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps and cared for Marines who returned from the Pacific during WWII. After the war, she returned to Emory and joined the nursing faculty and served as clinical director at Emory University Hospital until 1952. She enjoyed teaching and would chaperone nursing school dances, along with her late husband, William T. Daniel Sr., who attended law school at Emory on the GI bill. They raised three sons in Lithonia, where Gene was active in the community. Survivors include their three sons, a brother, eight grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Evelyn (Evie) Smith Lohnes 43N of Sebring, Fla., on Oct. 2, 2011, at age 89. She was a missionary from 1951 to 1990 with Serving in Mission, an international Christian group, and last served in Nigeria. She was preceded in death by her husband Vincent Lohnes in 2007. Survivors include two daughters, a son, a sister, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Carolyn Kent Butt Grist 47N, a native of Winter Park, Fla., on April 15, 2011, in Charlotte, N.C., at age 87. She lived in a retirement community in Charlotte for five years. She enjoyed music, bridge, and travel, especially to New Smyrna Beach and a home in the North Carolina mountains called The Treehouse. She was preceded in death by two husbands and two children. Survivors include two children and two stepchildren.

**1950s**

Sara Nell Carroll 53N 55MN of Americus, Ga., on Dec. 21, 2002, at her residence at age 72. A native of Montgomery, Ala., she was a member of the Nursing Honor Society, Retired Educators Association, and National League of Nurses. She was director of the associate degree program at Georgia Southwestern State University, where she retired as professor of nursing.

Mary Ann Gould 56N of Lexington, S.C., on March 3, 2012, from complications after a short illness. She was 77. After graduating from Emory, she practiced nursing in northeast Alabama and South Carolina for nearly four decades. She and her family lived in several towns in South Carolina before settling in Lexington for the past 39 years. Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Robert J. (Jack) Gould, a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Jean B. Anderson Whitehead 56N on Jan. 20, 2012, at Mission Hospitals in Asheville, N.C., according to her son, Craig A. Whitehead.

Charlotte Stein Sachs 59N 61MN of Sandy Springs, Ga., on Jan. 26, 2012, at age 94. Born in Breslau, Germany, “Lotte” lost family in the Holocaust, including her sister Eva and favorite aunt Edith Stein, who was canonized by Pope Paul II in 1998. Lotte was welcomed back to her hometown in 2010 after 74 years.

Stein had a long career in nursing and education. She was on the nursing faculty at Saint Joseph’s in Atlanta and founded the Kennesaw State University nursing program. She served on the Georgia State Board of Nursing Examiners and was also active in the Jewish community, including at Temple Kehillat Chaim, the Breman Jewish Home Board, and the Council of Jewish Women. She was preceded in death by her husband, William H. Sachs, but was “fiercely independent to the end.” Survivors include two sons, a daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

**1960s**

Mary Alice Burgess Garboden Hise 60MN of Franklin, Ind., on Feb. 12, 2012, at age 88. She was a faculty member at Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in
Indianapolis and Indiana University Southeast and retired as an associate professor at Indiana University. Early in her career, she worked at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. She was active in her community and traveled as a volunteer to Indonesia, China, Mexico, and Hawaii. Survivors include a son, three brothers, a stepdaughter, and two grandchildren.


Dr. Malinda L. (Mindy) Murray 62N of West Chester, Pa., on Jan. 21, 2012, at age 71. After graduation, she worked as a staff nurse in adult oncology at Emory University Hospital and then moved to New York to work at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She received her master's and doctorate of education from Columbia University. She held many academic positions during her career, including instructor of clinical and medical/surgical nursing at Skidmore College, coordinator of the baccalaureate program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and chair of the Department of Nursing at West Chester University. Survivors include a sister and two nieces.

Geraldine Buie Skipper 65MN of Tuscaloosa, Ala., on July 5, 2012, at age 88. In 1985, she received the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award from the University of Alabama National Alumni Association. As a founding faculty member of the Capstone College of Nursing, she was presented the Janet S. Autrey Distinguished Nursing Leader Award in 2007. Survivors include a son and two grandchildren.

Adell Virginia (Ginny) Sisney Sharpless 67MN of Zanesville, Ohio, on Dec 26, 2011, at age 83. A native of Carl, Ky., she was a nursing instructor at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif., for many years. In 1992, she moved to Jasper, Texas, where she lived until moving to Ohio in 2008. Survivors include two sisters, two stepdaughters, four nephews, and two nieces.

1970s

Judith Oneida Hooks Dorsey 71MN of Raleigh, N.C., on June 3, 2012, at age 68. Survivors include her husband Ken, three children, a brother and sister, and five nieces. As she requested, her remains were donated to benefit medical research.

Gary R. Houston 77MN of Houston on Jan. 31, 2012, at age 62. Born in Dallas, Houston received his BSN from University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston before enrolling at Emory to earn his MSN. He worked for 25 years at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and was the first male nurse hired by the institution. He then spent several years working as a nurse legal consultant before becoming ill with liver cancer. Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Deborah Armstrong Houston.

1980s

Carlyle Driver Bailey 80N of Merritt Island, Fla., on June 17, 2012, at age 54. Born in Miami, she attended Furman University before coming to Emory. She loved working with infants as a neonatal intensive care nurse at Holmes Regional for the past 13 years. Survivors include her husband of 32 years, Dan, three daughters, her mother, and a sister.

Dr. Marjorie Guthrie Morgan 82MN of Myrtle Beach, S.C., on March 27, 2012, at age 81. She was a nurse-midwife, a nurse anthropologist, and earned her PhD in transcultural nursing in her 60s. She raised a family with her first husband, William D. Grimmer. After becoming a licensed RN in 1970, she worked for many years at Ocean View Memorial Hospital and Grand Strand Regional Medical Center as head nurse in the emergency department. She married her second husband, Tom Morgan, who passed away in 1978. She then earned her BSN at the University of South Carolina and her master's in nurse-midwifery at Emory. After working and teaching for a few years, she moved to Detroit to earn her PhD in 1994 from Wayne State University. Her dissertation was titled “Prenatal Care of African American Women in Selected USA Urban and Rural Cultural Contexts.” Morgan resettled in Myrtle Beach and made frequent volunteer trips to Benin and the Dominican Republic to provide specialist nursing support, sometimes taking grandchildren with her. Survivors include two sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, five grand-dogs, and two sisters.

1990s

Heidi Beth Cohn 95N of Atlanta on Aug. 10, 2011.

Sallie Jo Sedgwick 95N of Roswell, Ga., on Feb. 8, 2012, at age 47. She was an oncology nurse at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute. Survivors include her husband of 28 years, Scott, four children, and a brother.

Dr. Dorothy Lee Coverson 06PhD of Union City, Ga., on April 12, 2012, unexpectedly at her residence. She was 44. A native of Hamilton, Ga., she received her BSN from Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga., and her MSN from Troy State University in Phenix City, Ala. She earned her PhD in nursing and a certificate in women’s studies at Emory. Coverson then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiology at Emory’s School of Medicine. She joined Atlanta’s Morehouse School of Medicine, serving as assistant professor with the Cardiovascular Research Institute and in Community Health and Preventive Medicine. Coverson was a member of Chi Eta Psi nursing sorority and the NAACP. Survivors include six brothers and sisters, five nieces and nephews, and several grand nieces and nephews.

Honor Your Classmates

Tribute gifts are an extraordinary way to honor your classmates. You can designate a gift for any occasion—a birthday, anniversary, special achievement, or the passing of a loved one, colleague, or friend. To make a gift, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 404-727-6917.
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