UK College of Nursing 50th Anniversary: TWO VISIONARY LEADERS
Take a Look Back.
Without a doubt, it is an exciting year in the University of Kentucky College of Nursing as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. In reflection, one might ponder how the time went by so fast. In reality, when exciting work is happening in nursing education, research, and practice there never is enough time!

The College of Nursing’s founders laid a strong foundation for the work that has unfolded over the last 50 years. This foundation will continue to serve us well in the years to come as the College of Nursing strives to be one of the nation’s top nursing programs through excellence in nursing education, research, practice, and service in an ever-changing health care environment.

The College’s Strategic Plan for 2009-2014 sets the stage for our work. Our goals include:

1. Attract, retain, and graduate outstanding and diverse students while engaging them in nationally prominent nursing education programs.
2. Attain national and international prominence in practice, scholarship, and research.
3. Develop the human and physical resources of the College to achieve the institution’s top 20 goals.
4. Support an environment that promotes diversity of thought, culture, gender, and ethnicity.
5. Enhance the health and quality of life of Kentuckians.

I hope that this inaugural issue of Opportunities captures the richness of our work over the past year and also provides wonderful memories. We know that times change but the College of Nursing’s mission has not. Whether you are an alumnus, current student, faculty or staff member, or a colleague within UK HealthCare, congratulations on all of your accomplishments and your ongoing commitment to excellence. I look forward to seeing you at one of our 50th anniversary celebration events (see page 34).

Jane Kirschling, DNS, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
COPD and Strength of Smoke-free Laws
Ellen Hahn (principal investigator) and Ellen Hahn; funded by the Flight Attendant Medical Research Foundation, 7/1/10-6/30/13, $324,000
The goal of this study is to determine the impact of strength and extent of coverage of smoke-free laws on hospitalization and mortality for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Kentucky. The long-term objective is to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke by enacting comprehensive smoke-free legislation in areas disproportionately affected by high smoking rates and relatively weak tobacco control laws. Since April 2004, 14 Kentucky communities have enacted smoke-free workplace laws with few or no exemptions, covering 30 percent of the state’s total population. There are no known studies of the effects of enactment of smoke-free laws on COPD hospitalizations or mortality. A time series design will be used to analyze hospital discharges and mortality from COPD pre and post-enactment of smoke-free laws using data from the Kentucky Hospital Association over a nine-and-one-half year period (July 2003 through December 2012). The impact of strength and extent of coverage of the law on the monthly adjusted COPD discharge and mortality rates for each county will be evaluated.

An Intervention for Promoting Smoke-free Policy in Rural Kentucky
Ellen Hahn (principal investigator) and Anna Kostygina (co-principal investigator); funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health, 7/1/09-6/30/11, $276,884
The purpose of this study is to examine the effectiveness and reach of low-cost media campaigns and branding used in smoke-free campaigns in rural communities. While the intervention tested in the parent grant involves building demand through the development of low-cost media campaigns and branding strategies, the specific aims of this study are to: (1) Test the effects of direct mail and branding messaging framing in rural communities on perceived seriousness of secondhand smoke exposure, views toward smoke-free laws, and potential to prompt reinforcement of smoking policy by parents; (2) Develop a protocol to engage local community leaders, social norms and self-efficacy to get involved in smoke-free campaigns; and (2) Evaluate reach and effectiveness of direct mail campaigns in rural communities on recall, recognition, frequency of exposure, level of understanding of the message, views toward smoke-free laws, and prompt to take action, including an analysis of how reach and effectiveness vary among demographic subsets within communities.

Chronic Inflammation of Oral and Cervico-vaginal Mucosa
Kristin Ashford (principal investigator), Jeffery Ferguson (Medicine), David Dawson (Dentistry) and M. John Novak (Dentistry); funded by the National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health under a sub-award of the Center for the Biologic Basis of Oral/Systemic Disease, Jefferson E. Euseo (Dentistry, principal investigator), 7/1/09-7/31/14, $603,513
Premenstrual (less than 37 weeks gestation) and low birthweight (less than 2,500 gm) decreases continue to increase in the United States resulting in substantial economic and societal costs. Adverse pregnancy outcomes occur disproportionately in ethnic and racial minority populations and historically underserved populations, particularly from rural regions of the nation. However, a substantial proportion of the general overall increase in incidence of preterm birth and low birthweight including severe preterm birth (less than 32 weeks) and very low birthweight (less than 1,500 gm), cannot be explained by classical risk factors for these negative birth outcomes. Thus, a broader view of the potential interrelationships leading to adverse pregnancy outcomes, including biologic markers or processes, could provide some predictive value allowing earlier intervention to reduce this burden in the population. This investigation will test the hypothesis that women who deliver preterm will have higher levels of prenatal inflammatory markers in whole saliva, serum, and cervico-vaginal fluid, measured early in pregnancy, compared to women who deliver term. The specific aims of this study are: (1) To compare and contrast the expression of trimester-specific preterm inflammatory markers in whole saliva, serum and cervico-vaginal fluid, measured early in pregnancy; (2) Evaluate if there are differences in the expression of trimester-specific preterm inflammatory markers between women who do and do not experience preterm birth; and (3) Determine if trimester-specific preterm inflammatory markers are linked with psychosocial and biobehavioral variables that pose a significant risk for preterm birth (e.g., self-reported levels of prenatal depressive symptoms, anxiety, stress, urine cotinine, and self-reported prenatal sound-handling practices).

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs—GIFTS
Kristin Ashford (program evaluator); funded by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 7/1/09-6/30/10, $22,922
Kentucky ranks second highest in the nation in prevalence of women who smoke during pregnancy (26.3 percent). Complications including low birth weight, preterm birth, and Stillborn Infant Death Syndrome are associated with smoking and secondhand smoke exposure. The purpose of this study is to examine the effectiveness and reach of culturally sensitive interventions in motivating smokers in a rural southern community to participate in tobacco dependence treatment. Personal testimonials were developed from focus groups with 21 smokers/former smokers for use in interventions. Themes included access to tobacco cessation programs, quitting with support of family, faith, quitting for health, freedom of individual choice, and pride of place. Interventions included printed materials, earned print media and a quit made by local artisans representing the community. Cooperative Extension agents used a brief lay-delivered tobacco dependence treatment intervention and choose from a menu of intervention options. These pilot findings will guide future studies to improve rural health outcomes by testing the impacts of the interventions to promote tobacco dependence treatment on enrollment, attendance, nicotine dependence and quit outcomes.

Efficacy of a Culturally Appropriate Outreach Intervention for Smoking Cessation in a Rural Community
Karen Butler (principal investigator) and Ellen Hahn; funded by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, 7/1/10-12/31/10, $18,850
Tobacco use remains the single most preventable cause of death in the United States. Little is known about the most effective population-based strategies to reach rural smokers. This study examines fidelity, acceptability, practicality, effectiveness and reach of culturally sensitive interventions in motivating smokers in a rural southern community to participate in tobacco dependence treatment. Personal testimonials were developed from focus groups with 21 smokers/former smokers for use in interventions. Themes included access to tobacco cessation programs, quitting with support of family, faith, quitting for health, freedom of individual choice, and pride of place. Interventions included printed materials, earned print media and a quit made by local artisans representing the community. Cooperative Extension agents used a brief lay-delivered tobacco dependence treatment intervention and choose from a menu of intervention options. These pilot findings will guide future studies to improve rural health outcomes by testing the impacts of the interventions to promote tobacco dependence treatment on enrollment, attendance, nicotine dependence and quit outcomes.

Strategies for Safety of Older Adult Farmers
Debra Moser (principal investigator), Terry Lennie, Misook Chung, Mary Kay Rayens, Baretta Casey (Public Health), Allison Bailey and Allison Connell (Medicine), Maria Boosalis (Health Sciences), Nancy Schoenberg (Medicine); funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health, 7/22/10-7/31/14, $1,913,322
The purpose of this study is to test the effects of a behavioral cardiovascular risk-reduction intervention on health outcomes of male inmates in four Kentucky state-run prisons. The intervention is a 12-week cardiovascular health education/behavior change and aerobic physical training program delivered by certified health educators, cardiovascular risk-reduction trainers, and other trained professionals from the community. Moser and her team will test hypotheses to determine if there is a significant decline in mortality risk score and...
improvement in modifiable risk factors, HgA1c for diabetics, and lipid profile. The data generated in this study will provide the basis for a proposal for state-wide testing and implementation of the intervention at all of the 13 state-run prisons in order to sustain the program.

HeartHealth in Rural Kentucky

Debra Moser (subproject principal investigator), Terry Lennie, Gia Mudd, M. John Novak (Dentistry), Subproject of Rural Health Outreach Special Initiatives, M. John Novak (principal investigator); funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, 9/1/09-8/31/10, $377,442

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States and in Kentucky where it is responsible for 35 percent of all deaths. In 2005, cardiovascular disease accounted for 15 percent of all Kentucky hospitalizations, and Kentucky inmates hospitalization costs for cardiovascular disease-related diagnoses totalled over $2.2 billion. The goal of this project is to test the effects of a culturally appropriate, individualized, self-management intervention to decrease cardiovascular disease risk factors and the incidence of cardiovascular disease, and to prevent the progression of existing cardiovascular disease to increase the quality and years of healthy life of 1,000 people residing in rural Appalachian Kentucky. This program involves adoption of basic health care practices that should be used for life including eating behaviors, activity, adherence to prescribed medications, and self-management strategies to improve health outcomes. Individuals in the targeted communities who are at risk for acute cardiac events by virtue of having one or more cardiovascular disease risk factors or who have existing cardiovascular disease will be invited to participate.

Community-based Education Model for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction in Rural Appalachian Kentucky

Debra Moser, Terry Lennie, Gia Mudd, M. John Novak (Dentistry), Allison Bailey (Medicine), and Baretta Casey (Public Health); funded by the University of Kentucky Commonwealth Collaborate, $10,000

Kentuckians residing in rural Appalachia have an extremely high rate of cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular disease risk factors. The purpose of this initiative is to extend the HeartHealth Project, a one-on-one cardiovascular disease risk-factor management education and support program that is culturally appropriate for rural Appalachia. It focuses on promotion of individual and cultural strengths for risk reduction and elimination of barriers to risk reduction. The education component targets self-management of cardiovascular disease risk factors using state-of-the-art educational strategies to promote behavior change. Currently, the program is delivered on an individual basis to people with one or more cardiovascular disease risk factors and who live in Perry, Breathitt or surrounding counties. For the Commonwealth Collaborative initiatives, the program will be expanded to be conducted with groups in these same areas. The group approach is more cost effective and has a larger reach.

Supporting Transition to Practice in Rural Kentucky

Jane Kirschling, Karen Hill (Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Ky.), Carla Bauman (Madison County, Ky. Health Department), Rosalie Mainous (University of Louisville School of Nursing), Cecilia Page (UK HealthCare), Suzanne Prevost (UK College of Nursing), Kim Dees (Kentucky Hospital Association), and Charlotte Reason (Kentucky Board of Nursing); Funded by the RJW Executive Nurse Fellows Alumni Association, $10,000

The purpose of this project is to design and pilot a residency program for registered nurses in rural parts of Kentucky. The residency program focuses on new nurses in rural hospitals with less than 150 beds.

SIMPROF: The ultimate Faculty Simulation Experience

Suzanne Prevost (co-investigator), Elizabeth Weimer (principal investigator, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing); funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, $1,607,844

This project uses a combination of human patient simulation and web-based simulation experiences, including Second Life, to increase faculty competency in the use of simulation for nursing education.

Bridging the Gap to Quality Care: The ISAT (Informatics, Simulation, and Telehealth) Initiative for Nursing Faculty

Elizabeth Weimer (principal investigator, Vanderbilt University) and Suzanne Prevost (co-principal investigator, UK College of Nursing), funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, $1,367,082

The purpose of this project is to prepare nursing faculty to incorporate informatics, simulation and telehealth technologies into nursing curricula.
2009

Demetrius Abshire, PhD, RN
Abshire is a two-semester degree graduate of the UK College of Nursing, earning his BSN and MSN, and is currently enrolled in the BSN-PhD Option. He is a Certified Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist, is teaching in the undergraduate program and is supporting simulation in health professions education. As an undergraduate student, Abshire was a research intern for five summers.

Paula Roberta Kral, MSN, RN
Kral is a lecturer in the undergraduate program and is a graduate of our master’s program, where she specialized in adult nursing. She also is involved in the development and evaluation of nursing skills laboratory content for sophomore-level curriculum.

Ana Maria Quelopata, DNP, RN
Quelopata, an assistant professor, teaches obstetric nursing in the undergraduate program. Before coming to UK, she was on faculty at the Universidad de Tarapaca in Arica, Chile, where she was director of the midwifery school. Quelopata earned her DNS from the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico. Her research interests are predictors of prenatal care initiation and violence against women in the prenatal period.

Elizabeth Salt, PhD, RN, ARNP
Salt is a three-time graduate of the UK College of Nursing (BSN, MSN, and PhD). She is an advanced registered nurse practitioner in the UK Rheumatology Clinic and teaches pharmacology in our undergraduate program. Salt’s research focuses on quality patient-health care provider communication and medication adherence in adults with rheumatoid arthritis.

Melissa Alashire, DNP, RN, FNP-BC
Alashire is a graduate of our master’s and DNP programs and is an assistant clinical professor in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Before coming to UK, she worked as a nurse practitioner in private practice. She practices half-time in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at UK.

Rebecca Dekker, PhD, ARNP, ACNS-BC, RN
Assistant professor Rebecca Dekker, a graduate of our PhD Program, teaches pharmacology in the undergraduate program. She also completed our MSN program and is an adult health clinical nurse specialist. Dekker worked at A.B. Chandler Hospital prior to entering the PhD program. Dekker’s research focuses on depression in heart failure inpatients using a brief intervention delivered by the bedside nurse.

Mary Margaret Harrison, MSN, RN
Harrison has an MSN from UK, specializing in parent/child nursing. She is a clinical instructor in the undergraduate program, providing student supervision on the pediatrics clinical units.

Peggy El-Mallah, RN, ARNP
El-Mallah is an assistant professor and coordinator of the Psychiatric/Mental Health Track in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate program. She is a graduate of our MSN Program, specializing in adult psychiatric/mental health; she is also a graduate of our PhD program and completed a post-doctorate fellowship with a focus on evaluation research in mental health services. Before her teaching appointment at UK, she was an assistant professor with the University of Louisville School of Nursing.

Jan Odom-Forren, RN, PhD, CPAN, FAN
Odom-Forren, an assistant professor, teaches our undergraduate research/evidence-based practice course. She is a graduate of our PhD Program. Odom-Forren has extensive clinical experience in post-anesthesia care and has presented and consulted widely on this topic both nationally and internationally. She has served as the co-editor of the Journal of Peri-Anesthesia Nursing since 2001. Odom-Forren co-edited Peri-Anesthesia Nursing: A Critical Care Approach (2nd ed) which received a 2009 American Journal of Peri-Anesthesia Nursing Book of the Year Award. Her research interest is postoperative symptom management.

2010

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Whitney Kurtz-Ogilvie, MFA
Kurtz-Ogilvie is a lecturer in the DNP and PhD programs. As a writing specialist in the College and at UK Healthcare, she focuses on nurturing and mentoring graduate students and health care staff in scholarly writing and presentations. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Writing from the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago.

Celeste Phillips-Salimi, PhD, RN, CPON
Assistant professor Colson-Phillips-Salimi is a PhD graduate of Indiana University School of Nursing and a pediatric clinical nurse specialist. Before coming to UK, she worked in the stem cell transplant unit at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Phillips-Salimi teaches pediatric nursing in the undergraduate program. Her research focuses on communication and communication among adolescents/young adults with cancer and health care providers and its effect on cancer survivorship.

Leslie Scott, PhD, ARNP, CDE
Scott is an assistant professor and coordinator of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Track in the DNP Program. She is a graduate of both our MSN and PhD programs, specializing in primary care of pediatric patients. Scott is well known in the College from her years of teaching in the College’s undergraduate program and from her work at UK HealthCare.

Ruth “Topsy” Staten
Staten, associate professor, retired from the UK College of Nursing in May 2010 after 30 years of service. During her tenure she made substantial contributions to the College, University and greater community as a psychiatric nurse, educator, researcher, and clinician. She has gone back to her profession through long-standing leadership and service to the Kentucky Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nurses (Deltu Chapter), and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Staten was proactive in improving the mental health of all students campus-wide through her clinical work with University Health Service and through involvement with Stepping Up—Stepping Out, Alcohol Prevention Program, CAUSE, and as co-chair of the President’s Campus-Community Coalition on Reduction of High Risk Drinking among College Students. She was a board member for the Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy/Fayette County and served for many years on the Mayor’s Alliance on Substance Abuse.

Her work in preventing substance abuse on campus, particularly high risk drinking, was done in partnership with University Health Service, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Testing Center, the Athletics Department, and many other entities at the University.

University of Kentucky College of Nursing
The seeds for a new kind of nursing school may have been planted in a Kentucky cornfield but today, 50 years later, UK’s College of Nursing has grown considerably in size, scope and influence. Today, the College is a nationally recognized leader in virtually every aspect of the field—advanced practice, scholarship, research, education and leadership. Join us for a look back at the innovative nursing program founded in 1960 through the eyes of those who were there at the start, Marcia Dake, EdD, RN, the College’s first dean, and Robert Straus, PhD, founder of the UK Department of Behavioral Science and one of the planners for the original UK Medical Center.
1970s

1971 Challenging recruitment period ends with six of 25 faculty members holding doctorates.

Dean Marion McKenna appointed dean.

Size of classes growing: First decade: CoN freshman class was 85; by 1972: 250.

1975 New structure begins across from UK Hospital on Rose Street.

Renewed efforts to attract non-traditional students and those from rural communities to CoN. Renewed focus on RN-to-BSN efforts.

1971-1972 Planning stages for new building. CoN in Medical Center; outgrown and moved into nearby Center Motel in 1966.

1979 New building dedicated. “Dream shared by many,” says Dean emeritus Dake at an alumni event.

1980s

April 1980: CoN establishes Delta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Fall 1980: 10 percent of CoN students are part-time.

Robert Straus & Marcia Dake

Take a look back...

Robert Straus:

Starting a baccalaureate in nursing was a real first for Kentucky, a real bit of adventure and innovation. I came onboard in the summer of 1955 at the invitation of William R. Willard, MD (founding dean of the UK College of Medicine) who was charged with starting the medical school by the governor at the time, Happy Chandler. The concept was expanded to a whole medical center that would include medicine, nursing, dentistry and, of course, pharmacy which was already there.

I had the job of doing the initial interview for potential candidates for nursing. The pool of qualified candidates for dean was very small—nurses with doctorates were rare and very much in demand. I went to New York to talk to Marcia Dake.

I drove from western New York to Lexington, Ky., with a U-Haul trailer behind my Pontiac to become the seventh medical center staff member. Our offices were in the farm house and we did our business for a year or year-and-a-half on the stairway.

Marcia Dake:

I was fresh out of a doctoral program in nursing education at Teachers College of Columbia. Two days after I had returned from delivering my dissertation to the health powers in Albany, N.Y. I was told “you have an appointment”—and it was Dr. Straus.

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We were going to open a hospital and we needed to have graduates ready to work there two years from now thank you please. I think I had the courage of... I was a tremendously able person. If I sound like a hero worshipper, you’re right.

Everybody in the state was wondering what that new young dean was doing. I remember vividly, not long after I came to Kentucky, I had an interview with a local newspaper. There was a hospital school of nursing in the community and I said after the interview, oh dear, tomorrow’s headline is going to be “New Dean Says Hospital School Must Go.”... by side. You don’t believe in hospital schools, you are going to help make it die. I thought, no, no, no, please, no.

One of our main philosophical goals was to create a medical center with a hospital building that would meet the specific needs of Kentucky. We looked at everything—how we’d design the building. We did a study of response to illness in Kentucky, for example, and discovered that when someone came to the hospital, the whole family would come to stay.

I remember the architects for our building, who really did do a noble job, but someone somewhere along the line got the idea that a medical center was mostly for men and... respect to the restrooms. We picked up on that at some point and the architects had to go back and make some adjustments.

RS: Dean Dake had a big job. She was developing faculty, defining the program and selecting students—and she only had two years to do it.

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By 1987, College has 17 faculty members with doctorates, nine members working on theirs.

January 1987 four new classes of students arrive, so more join in spring.

By 1987, College faculty approves PhD program. Hope Center Clinic opens.

1990s

1990s

1992 First PhD graduates. Undergraduate enrollment is 4,500.

1990s

Addition of nurse case manager and pediatric nurse practitioner to master’s program.

1990s

Nursing Center opens.


Friends of the College of Nursing

What others are saying...

James W. Holinger, Jr., MD, PhD

Chancellor-emeritus, Washington Chair in the Health Sciences, College of Public Health

As I reflect on the fifty-year history of the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, I am struck by the quality of the students attending and graduating from its various programs. As chancellor of the Medical Center (1994-2003), I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with undergraduate nursing students. For me the key event each semester was the Pinning Ceremony for the new graduates. As a medical student and young physician working with nurses I quickly came to understand the pride with which they wore the pin of their school or program. To be sure, I was always more than a bit envious of the symbolism contained in those pins. As a consequence, as chancellor, attending the Pinning Ceremony each semester was a priority. While watching the pride on the faces of each new graduate, as well as the pride on the faces of their family and friends, it was obvious to me and all attending that, once again, the faculty of the College of Nursing was sending out a well-trained, dedicated group of nurses, prepared to provide outstanding care to patients. A highlight of my time as chancellor was being presented with a College of Nursing pin, an honor not given nor received lightly! Like all its graduates, I treasure my pin.

Kimbrel R. Subbakonyi, PhD

Provost, University of Kentucky

The University of Kentucky has a mandate to be counted among the Top 20 public research universities in the country in order to better serve the Commonwealth. The College of Nursing has enthusiastically embraced the University’s challenge and has made great progress in serving the needs of the Commonwealth. It has doubled the number of BSN nursing students while maintaining admission standards and student success. The College has added more doctoral-prepared faculty and increased research output. And, College faculty members have taken the lead in improving health outcomes for Kentuckians through advocacy for smoking cessation, for example.

Carolyn Williams, PhD, RN, FAAN

Professor and Dean Emerita, UK College of Nursing

Over the years, I had a very good team—both the faculty and administrative team. And I feel like, if anything, they deserve more credit about the positive things that happened than I do. You’re sort of the director of the orchestra so to speak. You’ve got all the orchestras and you lead with that. You try to choose and interact within the environment in such a way that you can help everybody be successful.

Remembering when...

Patricia Calino, PhD, RN

Faith community nurse and nurse educator

Editorial Board Member of the Rehabilitation Nursing Journal and the Kentucky Nurse

Nancy Dickenson Hazard, MSN, RN, FAAN

ISC 1974

Nicole Agency

Marcia Hughes-Rease, MSN, MSOD, ACC, RN

ISC 1972

Hershey, Pa.

Grechen LaGrone, PhD, RN

Professor Emerita

PhD 1975

Carol Biker, MSN, RN

MSSN 1974

Associate Professor, UK College of Nursing

Sherry Warden, PhD, RN

PhD 1995

Associate Professor, UK College of Nursing

Elizabeth Weiner, PhD, RN, BC, FACMI, FAAN

PhD 1978

ISC 1975

Senior Associate Dean for Informatics

Centennial Independence Foundation

Professor of Nursing

Professor of Biomedical Informatics

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, Tenn.

Gary Wix, EdD, MSN, RN, C

EdD 1980

MSN 1975

Associate Provost and Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Gateway Community and Technical College

Edgewood, Ky.

K. Jane Younger, MSN, RN

Assistant Professor

Younger Consulting

Louisville, Ky.
Remembering when...

Over the past 50 years, the University of Kentucky College of Nursing has produced more than 5,000 outstanding BSN and advanced degree nursing professionals. Here, students from earlier years, and the faculty members who taught them, remember their own experiences at UK.

**Sherry Warden:** I was in high school and one of my teachers told me about UK and the College of Nursing and showed me a picture of the uniforms and the cap. I looked at the cap and thought, ‘Wow, that’s strange-looking. It looked like a mortar board with four corners and the front one was bent over and the back corner was sort of pinned down. The four corners moor the baccalaureate degree. It was set on a circle that moor for continuous education.

**Nancy Dickenson Hazard:** What drove me to consider the BSN program was the wisdom of my parents. I knew I wanted to become a nurse and they were adamant about collegiate education... I felt the promise of attending a relatively new school and being at a medical center where I would have all sorts of experiences not otherwise available in a community school.

**Patricia Calico:** Attending a diploma program to become a registered nurse was the only option for nursing education in Kentucky at that time. Then, during my senior year in high school my family and I read a newspaper article about the new BSN program at the University of Kentucky. The opportunity to participate in an innovative nursing education program was an adventure that I wanted to experience. My father was a big UK sports fan and was excited for his daughter to attend the University.

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**Sherry Warden:** I was in high school and one of my teachers told me about UK and the College of Nursing and showed me a picture of the uniforms and the cap. I looked at the cap and thought, ‘Wow, that’s strange-looking. It looked like a mortar board with four corners and the front one was bent over and the back corner was sort of pinned down. The four corners moor the baccalaureate degree. It was set on a circle that moor for continuous education.

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**Quilt Wise:** The nursing administration and faculty were held in great respect by the students. I can remember specific faculty who I particularly held up as excellent role models and helped me develop into the nursing educator and administrator I am today.

**Warden:** I remember we had, I think they were called circle electric beds—in a big circle with a stretcher in the middle. They were for people with burns or needed to be turned but couldn’t be moved very much. We actually got on them ourselves to see what the experience felt like to patients.

**Carol Riker:** I was a teaching assistant from ’71 through ’73. I did two years as a TA in public health, and then went and got my master’s and then came back on the faculty in ’74. We were in a building that used to be an old motel. It was on stilts and if you came early enough you could park under it, if you can imagine. Recalling the opening of the new nursing building in 1979, it was really nice to be in a bigger space with more classrooms and have the labs to work in. The building was designed with a lot of interaction space for students but then gradually space became so valuable they made offices out of that.

**Gretchen LaCadena:** The motel years had its share of group humor. Who could ever forget the time that one of our faculty members returned from a trip to New Orleans, minus a lost suitcase full of shrimp in dry ice? That bag was eventually found (days later) by the airlines and delivered to the College, leaving a smell of dead shrimp in the halls for weeks to come. Then there was the time a graduate student left a goat in a faculty member’s office, where it proceeded to eat her drapes. The student thought she needed the goat for her farm, but it was hard explaining that to the NIMH site visitor who was there that day...

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As the national conversation about health care emphasizes preventive care, nurse scientists in the UK College of Nursing are already providing a wealth of new research that will shape health care of the future.

The idea of nurses as researchers may surprise those outside the health care community. Nursing is still largely perceived as a supportive, care-based profession. Yet in the last 30 years, nursing research has rapidly evolved, and the findings of nurse scientists are filling critical gaps to improve health outcomes.

Men generally enter nursing at an older age, often as a second career. For women, nursing education has followed the trajectory of the growing family—staff nursing while their children are small and advanced degrees later in their career, particularly doctoral degrees with a research focus. Researchers in other health care fields start their research careers in their late 20s and early 30s, whereas nurse scientists’ careers often begin in their mid-to-late 40s.

“As a discipline we are trying to get nurses to come back earlier for their advanced degrees and PhDs, and to take nurse faculty and nurse scientist positions much earlier,” said Jane Kirschling, dean and president-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Over the course of their career, “the research footprint they will leave will be much firmer.”

Nationwide, the practice-oriented Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is replacing master’s programs, and nurses committed to careers as nurse scientists are earning a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD).

With the first DNP program in the country and one of the first PhD programs in the region, the UK College of Nursing is uniquely positioned to produce the next generation of advanced practice nurses and nurse scientists.
“Nursing tends to be a very holistic profession because nurses take care of the whole patient rather than just the kidney of the patient,” said Nancy Schoenberg, a medical anthropologist in the UK Department of Behavioral Science and mentor to College of Nursing Assistant Professor Jenna Hatcher (see next page).

“The majority of medical research focuses on medical intervention. A patient has a problem and that problem is corrected with an intervention like surgery or a new drug. But that’s just scratching the surface of the problem. When you think about it, 90 percent of a patient’s care is self-managed, particularly if the patient has a chronic disease,” said Terry Lennin, associate dean for PhD studies. “They see a health care provider two to three times a year for 15 minutes. Most of the time they are at home trying to manage themselves. Improving self-management is where nurse researchers and clinicians are positioned to have a powerful impact on outcomes.”

As clinicians with a considerable amount of patient interaction, nurses have long been aware of disconnects in patient care. It does not help to give an illiterate patient a pamphlet on how to stop smoking. Oh, as assistant professor and nurse practitioner Elizabeth Salt discovered, it is not beneficial to prescribe medications if patients are not willing to take them (see page 20).

“Nurses have started demonstrating that these things need to be attended to,” said Lennin. “Nurses have raised the consciousness of thinking that there are other factors besides the disease process. It’s a holistic approach.”

It’s an approach that is unique to most of the health care professions. “Our research questions potentially have more breadth to them,” explained Kirschling. “When the nurse comes to the question, it is more informed by the complexity of the continuum of care and the management of an illness than ‘How do I deal with this today in the ICU?’”

The complexity of the issue naturally leads nurse scientists to take both an interdisciplinary and multifaceted methodological approach to research. The nurse researchers highlighted in this article all developed relationships with mentors from other disciplines who continue to inform their research today at faculty members. In addition, their survey research or field studies are first grounded in qualitative, personal interviews or focus groups.

Doctoral students in the College of Nursing are also encouraged to get a jump on their research careers with a manuscript option dissertation. Rather than one large dissertation, PhD candidates can choose to write three or more complete, publication-ready research articles that are packaged into a dissertation with an introduction and conclusion. It’s a wonderful model to move students’ programs of research forward and to make them competitive in the job market,” said Lynn Hall, associate dean for research and scholarship. In addition, the College has developed a range of support services, under the leadership of Hall and Dean Emestina Carolyn Williams, to support faculty research. In 2009, nursing faculty received $2.5 million in research funding and collaborated on another $8.5 million with researchers from other UK colleges and other institutions.

“I think we are getting the word out that nurses do research, we are interested in improving outcomes for patients, and that our studies have the potential to lead to findings that will improve health outcomes,” said Hall.

The accompanying stories of UK nurse scientists demonstrate their commitment to improving the lives of Kentuckians while at the same time build the national research reputation of the College.

“We could focus our resources on only conducting research that federal funding agencies want us to conduct and achieve that Top 20 research goal. We can do that and tell the people of Kentucky,” said UK President Lee Todd, Jr. “The College of Nursing continues to conduct the right type of research—the kind of research that is positively changing the lives of our fellow Kentuckians. The College’s passion for improving patient care is driving its research success.”

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After graduation in 2007, Ashford was the first College of Nursing faculty member to receive a prestigious BIRCWH (Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health) grant that provided pilot data for an ongoing five-year multi-site study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

“What’s innovative about this project is we look at several different inflammatory markers in several different types of fluids,” explained Ashford. Inflammation is known to be a factor in research as a nurse could fill a gap.”

“Salt was awarded mentored grants from the American College of Rheumatology/Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals—one to develop a scale to measure quality patient-health care provider communication from the patient’s perspective and another to empirically evaluate a process of decision making used by patients with rheumatoid arthritis as they decide to take medications for this disease and to determine if medication adherence impacts disease activity. Over the next three years, she will conduct the latter project.

“We’re collecting all of those variables at the same time, and we do have gaps and the research is very fragmented. We need to take a more holistic approach to this multi-faceted problem because preterm birth is not a single gene disorder. It’s not caused by one thing.”

As a high-risk obstetrical case manager, nurse practitioner Kristin Ashford quickly noticed that she was seeing a lot of familiar faces year after year. These mothers had conditions like early-ruptured membranes and spontaneous preterm labor in pregnancy after delivery.

“Preterm birth is really an epidemic and it’s one of those few conditions in our developed country that is not improving,” explained Kristin Ashford, now an assistant professor in the UK College of Nursing. “When you look at global health, North America ranks fifth out of six inhabited continents in the rate of preterm birth. Only Africa suffers from a higher preterm birth rate.”

“We have worse preterm birth rates than other third-world countries.”

“There are a number of known factors that impact preterm birth: smoking, low socio-economic status, depression. But how these and other factors fit together in a ‘preterm birth puzzle’ is still a mystery.

“When researchers looked at preterm birth in the past, they just looked at one piece of the pregnancy,” explained Ashford. “There are a lot of gaps and the research is very fragmented. We need to take a more holistic approach to this multi-faceted problem because preterm birth is not a single gene disorder. It’s not caused by one thing.”

Ashford’s search for answers led her to pursue a PhD in Nursing. In her dissertation, she collected hair samples from mothers and infants shortly after birth to investigate why preterm birth is still a mystery.

“People who are preterm smokers are currently not being identified,” said Ashford. “We need to come up with a more predictive model of preterm birth and identify the woman at risk earlier in pregnancy,” said Ashford.

Ashford hopes that through her research, preterm birth in this country will decline, and nurses and other health care professionals will see fewer familiar faces experiencing weeks or even months in inpatient obstetrical units.

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Meeting the Commonwealth’s need for BSN prepared nurses

The class of 2010—preparing BSN prepared nurses for the Commonwealth.

WRITTEN BY: Sue Fay
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: Richie Wireman
Three years, hundreds of hours and a lifetime of experiences later, Celeste Cross and 78 other passionate, dedicated UK undergraduate nursing students received their nursing pins—and the distinction of being among the first graduates in what will become, by year’s end, the largest graduating BSN class in UK history.

The College of Nursing began doubling annual enrollment in the fall of 2007, from 80 traditional first-year students each year to 160. Enrollment of second degree students and those in the RN to BSN program also increased. “This graduating class represents the first group to finish the newly expanded program,” says Dean Jane Kirschling of the May 2010 graduating class. A second cohort, admitted in the spring of 2007, will graduate this December.

The inspiration behind the expansion came straight from the top: “Anyone who has heard President Todd speak about the University and its role in Kentucky knows how we feel. No matter how many national rankings we earn or how much national attention our students and faculty receive, if we haven’t made a difference in the life of Kentucky and Kentuckians, we haven’t succeeded.”

The growing nationwide need for nurses has been well-documented. While analysts for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics project that more than 81,000 new RN positions will be created through 2018, renowned nurse economist Peter Buerhaus predicts a significant shortfall of BSNs starting in 2018 that could grow to as many as 260,000 by 2025. In the Commonwealth, the challenge is already compounded by the difficulties in reaching a diverse population with higher than average rates of illness and disease and the difficulty of making care available in Kentucky’s beautiful but often rural countryside. “The need is definitely there,” says Kirschling, “and we’re growing to meet it.”

The College has always played a national leadership role in the field of nursing, especially in scholarship and advanced practice.

The nation’s first DNP program was piloted at UK. The nursing faculty is nationally ranked for scholarship and participation in high-profile research on everything from cardiovascular and tobacco treatment interventions to wellness programs to best practices in case delivery. And that’s good news for the Commonwealth. Kentucky is consistently among the country’s top 10 states for long-term, cardiovascular disease, obesity and other illnesses and diseases, many of them lifestyle-related. Much of the research being led by College faculty members has a direct tie to these very health issues. As many as 30 undergraduates each semester assist faculty in leading-edge research and some students even earn publishing credits and the opportunity to participate in national conferences. Last year, the College’s pioneering Undergraduate Research Internship Program was recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) with its prestigious Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award.

“What sets our undergraduate program apart are the experiences these students have here at UK,” says Kirschling. The dean lists a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to BSN students, including a Nursing Skills Lab Internship program, inaugurated last year, and the Nurse Scholars program. Those opportunities not only offer post-to-post nursing but a chance to partake in nursing scholarship and skill building as nurse leaders. Summer programs offer clinical practice opportunities at UK’s nationally ranked A. B. Chandler Hospital as well as a statewide network of health and community care facilities. The College even collaborates with nursing services to offer a BSN residency program through UK HealthCare to help BSN graduates, regardless of where they did their undergraduate work, transition to the real-world of nursing practice. Says Kirschling, “A BSN student at the University of Kentucky will have had a professional experience that is beyond the norm.”

The caliber of the program shows. The national average for first-time NCLEX pass rates is 81 percent. At the UK College of Nursing, it’s 97 percent—and has been for the past nine years.

Still, an expansion of this magnitude did require some adjustments. In addition to eight new full-time faculty members, a two additional academic advisor and more part-time, master’s-level clinical instructors, the expansion required significant renovations to the existing building. A new $3.2 million construction project is underway. Adjusting for larger numbers inside the classroom was another challenge. “We were the guinea pig class,” laughs Cross who graduated as president of the May 2010 senior class, and also received the Central Baptist Leadership Award in May 2010. “It worked out great, though. They asked for our feedback and opinions and they were very good listeners. In some of the larger lectures, for example, students now use “clickers” that allow them to electronically respond to questions in a projected classroom. A professor can immediately evaluate overall knowledge level on a concept—and so can the individual student. A high fidelity simulation lab allows students to practice skills on life-sized “patients” that can be programmed for a variety of presenting symptoms and conditions. “This generation is very comfortable with technology and new ways of doing things,” says Burkhart. “Students have had ideas for expanding our study groups and other valuable input that we put into practice. Another plus in preparing for expansion was the relationship between the College and nationally ranked UK HealthCare. UK’s hospitals give us a valuable edge and not just in clinical experiences,” says Burkhart. “Their practitioners sit on our committees and we sit on theirs as well. It keeps us all on the forefront of the latest advances in care and instruction.”

Assistant professor Karen Butler, who received her DNP from UK in 2006, is a course coordinator in the undergraduate program.

Butler talks about the focus of that first critical year in nursing school and how the UK curriculum is structured to make the most of it. “This is a focus on health promotion across the lifespan and the science behind the nursing process,” says Butler. “Many students come in thinking they should be going straight into an emergency department,” she says. “But by focusing on health promotion and showing them what normal development looks like at all ages and stages, they’ll know what isn’t normal when they see it later on.”

For many, it’s an eye-opener. BSN graduate Cross was one of them. “I didn’t see that then but I do now,” she says. “Everything you do in nursing school is a building block and that first year really did lay the foundation for everything that followed.”

Junior year is “welcome to hospital life,” says faculty member Jennifer Cowley, a lecturer and clinical instructor in the University of Kentucky’s nationally ranked medical-surgical course. This is the year students get a real-world taste of 12-hour hospital shifts and the pace of clinical practice. “You can lecture all day long but there’s nothing like being there, on the floor, to get a true feel for what it’s like to be a nurse and see firsthand the importance of on-the-job critical thinking,” Cowley, who recently received one of the first-ever UK Provost Lecturer awards, coordinates a talented team of clinical instructors who oversee the students in their rotations. And while the Kentucky Board of Nursing mandates a 10- to 1:1 student to nurse ratio, the College is committed to keeping it 8:1 for clinical instruction. “One is a
The Perfect Blend
of Practice, Research, Education & Policy

AUDREY DARVILLE

Kentucky has a complicated relationship with tobacco, admits Associate Professor Audrey Darville. The Commonwealth is one of the nation’s leading tobacco-producing states. It’s also a national leader in tobacco-related illness and disease. Darville, a certified tobacco treatment specialist at UK HealthCare, believes you can change behavior, without stigmatizing it, through evidence-based interventions that can help motivate even long-time users to quit. Darville’s expertise on tobacco treatment practice and strategy has not only earned her awards and accolades but has helped her build a nursing career that blends her interests in practice, research, education and even government policy.

A family nurse practitioner since 1998, Darville has been the lead health care provider for the Hope Clinic and Pharmacy in central Kentucky since its inception in 2006. The clinic serves a six-city area and offers free services to uninsured individuals with chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Nearly half of the patients she sees also have tobacco dependency issues. She’s also involved in teaching, research and the groundbreaking work of the College’s Tobacco Policy Research Program. “Nursing has not only allowed me to do different things but has also been an avenue to do new things and carve out new territory.”

Darville is particularly interested in the psychology and behavior of long-time tobacco users and has made that the focus of her PhD studies at the College of Nursing. “Initiation of tobacco use is really a pediatric problem, especially in states like Kentucky where tobacco is such a big part of the tradition and the economy,” says Darville who has written or contributed to an impressive body of published work. “Many tobacco users in our state, particularly the older generations, have a relationship with tobacco that started when they were very, very young.” Darville spoke with one patient who told her he’d smoked his first cigarette at age six months. It was part of his family’s tradition. “As soon as a baby could sit up, they would put a cigarette in his mouth,” says Darville. “It was a rite of passage, a sort of ‘coming of age’ ritual.” Another older patient, a woman from rural Kentucky, told Darville that when she was growing up, all sixth graders were given the choice—they could go to the playground or to the “smoking tree” at recess.

Working with tobacco-dependent patients requires sensitivity, understanding and solid, science-based treatment practice,” says Darville. In fact, when the UK campus went entirely smoke-free last year, Darville’s position as a tobacco treatment specialist played a key role in its successful implementation. “We knew we needed to have cessation programs in place for our own students and faculty,” says Suzanne Prevost, associate dean for practice and community engagement. “Audrey is a very strong, very talented advanced practice nurse and has a specialized and unique set of interventions for individuals with tobacco addictions.” According to Medical News Today, close to 100 colleges and universities across the nation have implemented tobacco-free or smoke-free policies since the University of Kentucky became smoke-free last November. Many of these institutions called on UK to find out about the University’s policy and the steps it took to implement it. “Audrey blends all of her roles so effectively,” says Prevost. “She’s a great role model for today’s student who can see the really interesting career you can have by combining your research and teaching with a practice area in which you are expert.”

Anatomy of a Nurse

Jacob Adams is a stand-out—and not just because he was one of two men to graduate with this year’s first newly expanded BSN class. The 21-year-old native of Paducah Ky., was named the Maurice A. Clay Award (Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Award) recipient as the student who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the College and the community and performs at a high-level academically. Growing up, Adams’ mother was an ICU RN at the local hospital. As an elementary school student, he remembers going to his mother’s workplace at the hospital after school and being thrilled by the activity and excitement of the ICU. It still gets his pulse racing. After graduation, Adams accepted a position in the Cardiac/Thoracic ICU at UK A.B. Chandler Hospital, his top choice in both specialty and location. It wasn’t a surprise. As part of the Student Nurse Academic Practicum (SNAP), he’d already spent 10 weeks of his summer there. SNAP is an innovative College collaboration with UK HealthCare’s A.B. Chandler, Good Samaritan and Kentucky Children’s Hospitals to give qualifying students a hands-on clinical experience, with pay as well as credits, the summer before senior year. This past summer, 50 BSN students “snapped” at UK or in similar programs at other medical facilities in Kentucky. Programs like these give employers and now graduates a chance to “test drive” one another, says SNAP coordinator Jennifer Cowley and Darlene Welsh, who also coordinates the senior Synthesis experience. They call it a win-win situation for everyone. “They may be new hires but they’ve already gone through a pretty amazing orientation,” says Cowley.
When it was over, you could have heard a pin drop. Carolyn A. Williams, then-president of the influential American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) had just finished her talk at the 2001 AACN doctoral conference in Sanibel, Fla. Her topic: a bold new initiative to advance nursing practice. Williams, dean of the University of Kentucky College of Nursing at the time, was persuaded by other forward-thinking nurse professionals in the organization to talk about the innovative DNP program she had helped launch at UK that very year. The wisdom behind a doctoral degree with a focus on nursing practice should not be hard to argue, but it was. The health care environment was becoming more and more complex. A shortage of medical professionals, nurses and doctors alike, wasn’t just a trend—it was real and it was here to stay. Health care delivery systems, many of them broken or inaccessible to populations that needed them the most, were desperate for change. There was a crying need for nurse leaders in clinical management and practice who were prepared at the doctoral level, yet the idea of a practice doctorate for nursing was difficult for many in nursing to accept. Williams’ address was an eye-opener if not a mind-opener to the assembled AACN audience, many of them academic leaders of the nation’s top nursing PhD programs. She remembers the reaction well. “It was either ‘that’s ridiculous,’” she recalls. “Or ‘that’s interesting.”’

The idea of a doctorate in nursing practice wasn’t entirely new. Boston University opened a doctorate program leading to a DNSc in 1960 which had a clinical orientation but also had a research focus and required a dissertation. Case Western Reserve University began offering a Nursing Doctorate (ND) in 1979 as entry to nursing practice. However, over the years programs that offered a doctorate in nursing science similar to the one at Boston University evolved into research intensive programs and looked very much like PhDs. At the time that UK developed the DNP program the terminal degree for advanced practice was the MSN degree. But the expanding length of MSN programs and the need for even more content in the face of a rapidly changing health care environment made the requirements for a master’s degree in nursing look more like those of a doctorate in other fields. Williams and other early DNP pioneers knew it was time for change. And so began the journey, one that would place the College at the helm of a national movement.

UK provided early leadership for the national movement toward the DNP,” says Jane Kirschling, dean of the UK College of Nursing.

Williams’ highly-regarded research background had already attracted top faculty and national attention to the University and its master’s and PhD programs. Still, in those early years, Williams believed the College could do—and be—more. One of her first tasks as dean had been to encourage faculty participation in clinical practice as part of the faculty role and the development of a program of faculty practice for the College of Nursing. “In our efforts to move nursing practice forward, it became apparent that people wanted and needed a broader use of tools to work with—those that a doctoral-level education could provide.” Williams says. With the support of UK administration, an internal task force began exploring the idea for a doctorate in nursing practice—and examining the possibility from all sides. Finally, in the fall of 2001, with Williams and faculty members Marcia Stanhope, Juliann Sebastian and others leading the way, the College began accepting post-master’s students into the new DNP program.
Tukea Talbert was one of them. "It was always my goal to be doctorally prepared," says the Lexington native who was managing UK HealthCare’s Markey Cancer Center when she began the DNP program in 2001. Talbert notes that a PhD in nursing, with its traditional focus on research, scholarship and the preparation of nursing educators, didn’t really fit her desire to lead and manage in the clinical setting. When Talbert learned of UK’s DNP Program and a degree track concentrated on populations and organizational system leadership, she knew she found her answer. Talbert says the DNP’s emphasis on the whole caregiver picture—from management to financial systems to evidence-based practice and process change—gave her a knowledge base that is deep as well as wide on the professional skills she needed—from strategic planning to budget analysis to clinical supervision. Talbert, who keeps a framed picture of her cohort, "the original six," in her office, was awarded her doctorate in 2005. She now serves as chief nursing officer for Clark Regional Medical Center in Winchester, Ky. "Until the DNP, I might have had to pursue a doctorate outside of nursing for nursing," she says.

That was one of the unintended consequences of a practice discipline without a doctorate level. Williams herself remembers the talented young MSN graduate who came to her for advice on his career in nursing administration. "He wanted to pursue a doctorate but he didn’t see how a PhD in nursing would really fit," she says. "He was considering a law degree or even business.

Meanwhile, as UK’s first DNP students were preparing for graduation, AACN was preparing a position paper on the practice doctorate. In the fall of 2004, the organization released a groundbreaking document calling for "nurses prepared at the doctoral level with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic and leadership skills…able to critique nursing and other clinical scientific findings and design programs of care delivery that are locally acceptable, economically feasible, and which significantly impact health care outcomes.”

The second task force, chaired by Williams, released their report in 2008 and endorsed by the AACN and more than 45 professional nursing organizations nationwide, outlines the requirements and standards for DNP licensure and accreditation. To date, 32 programs have been accredited (including UK’s program) with 90 more actively pursuing accreditation. "This is an exciting time to be in nursing," she says, crediting UK’s "Our time has come."
Can one nurse make a difference? Absolutely—especially if it’s one with the heart, mind and spirit of Associate Professor Carol Riker. In 2007, Riker was named a UK Distinguished Service Professor and awarded $10,000 each year for the three-year appointment. Riker, who teaches community and public health nursing in the undergraduate program and is one of the first two University professors to win the first-ever Distinguished Service Professor designation, speaks instead of what the financial award has allowed her to do for a public health program close to her heart.

The Gainesway Community Empowerment Center in Lexington is located in a storefront in one of Lexington’s most at-risk communities. The center offers health promotion programs and initiatives that support local children and families. Riker has worked in clinical practice with the center for more than a decade, both as a volunteer and with her nursing students. “The College of Nursing has been a leader in the kind of public health that really engages the community,” says Riker who spent the majority of her award on community assessment research, professional development funding, and health classes and programs for residents.

The community assessment piece was led by a graduate student in the BSN-to-PhD program and included demographic mapping and focus groups with local residents. Results from the assessment were instrumental in earning a policy-change grant that placed more nursing students at a new neighborhood community center and helped launch more exercise opportunities and nutrition education for residents. Today, adults, children and entire families come to the center for line dancing, health lessons, healthy snacks and other community-building activities. The assessment also got the wheels turning on an ambitious community garden project. “In focus groups, residents told us that one of the biggest obstacles to healthy eating was access to fresh food,” says Riker. “There wasn’t a single grocery store in the community where people could buy produce.” Residents told Riker they had to travel outside the area if they wanted fresh food and then had to carry it long distances by bus and by foot. “Produce is heavy,” says Riker. “There were just too many obstacles for them.” With the help of nursing graduate students and a group of local Boy Scouts, Riker’s award helped fund the design and implementation of a large community garden. Now in its second growing season, residents have access to fresh peas, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, lettuce and more. “Right now, anyone can harvest and anyone can help,” says Riker. “The community will decide how it wants to operate the garden because it’s for them.” Everyone is excited about the garden, not just because of the healthy eating benefits but for the sense of community it’s building among neighbors. “Carol Riker has really gotten to know the community well over the years,” says Suzanne Prevost, associate dean for practice and community engagement. “They’ve built a trusting relationship. She understands their concerns as well as their needs.”

While the work she’s doing today at the Gainesway Center has earned her the respect of her peers and the community she serves, Riker has been serving the greater Kentucky community for years through her involvement in health research and policy. In the seven years, Riker worked on getting a seat belt law in place for Kentucky, one of the last states in the nation without one at the time. Today, she’s a leader in UK’s Tobacco Policy Research Program, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the UK College of Nursing to help educate legislators and the public on the importance of smoke-free environments. “As nurses, it’s our role to translate the science behind health issues to constituencies and policymakers to help them understand why it’s important to wear seat belts, why it’s important to be smoke-free in a way they can really understand,” she says.
50th Anniversary Events Calendar
/2010-2011

December 17

BSN Pinning Ceremony and Reception
4 p.m., Singletary Center
We invite you to attend the pinning ceremony and reception in honor of the December 2010 BSN graduates. Reservations are not necessary. Alumni who are interested in marching in regalia can contact Laurel Martin at (859) 323-6635 or laurel.martin@uky.edu to learn more about how to be a part of the celebration.

February 6

Graduate Hooding Ceremony and Reception
10 a.m., Singletary Center
We invite you to attend the graduate hooding ceremony and reception in honor of the May 2011 MSN, DNP and PhD graduates. Reservations are not necessary. Alumni who are interested in marching in regalia can contact Laurel Martin at (859) 323-6635 or laurel.martin@uky.edu to learn more about how to be a part of the celebration.

May 17

Ribbon Cutting with McConnell
9-11 a.m., College of Nursing Third Floor Patio
We invite you to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony with Senator Mitch McConnell and other government and campus dignitaries as we celebrate the renovation of the College of Nursing third floor balcony and the opening of this dedicated space for nursing students. Reservations are not necessary.

May 22

BSN Pinning Ceremony and Reception
1 p.m., Singletary Center
We invite you to attend the pinning ceremony and reception in honor of the May 2011 BSN graduates. Reservations are not necessary. Alumni who are interested in marching in regalia can contact Laurel Martin at (859) 323-6635 or laurel.martin@uky.edu to learn more about how to be a part of the celebration.

May 26

50th Anniversary Gala and Hall of Fame Inductions
6 p.m., Student Center Grand Ballroom
Following the College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony, graduates and their families are invited to attend a special evening that will allow us to reflect on all that has been accomplished during our first 50 years and anticipate all that is possible in the years ahead. The College of Nursing will induct five alumni into the College of Nursing Hall of Fame during this event. Tickets are $50. For reservations, please contact Laurel Martin at (859) 323-6635 or laurel.martin@uky.edu.

UK Hall of Distinguished Alumni

Elizabeth “Betsy” Weiner
BSN ’75 Nursing, PhD ’82 Education

The University of Kentucky Alumni Association welcomed 20 new inductees into its Hall of Distinguished Alumni, which included Elizabeth “Betsy” Weiner, BSN ’75 (Nursing), PhD ’82 (Education). Weiner was inducted into the College of Nursing’s Hall of Fame in 2007, the inaugural class.

Weiner is the senior associate dean for informatics at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in Nashville, Tenn. Considered a pioneer in multimedia development, she is responsible for the distance learning programs in nursing and the informatics tools that help to tie together the research, practice and academic arenas. Currently, she is the principal investigator of $3 million in grants for faculty development, working in conjunction with the UK College of Nursing.

Early in her career, she was selected as a research fellow in the IBM Institute for Academic Technology. Her multimedia-based project focused on labor and delivery simulation and included the measurement of learning and clinical confidence outcomes. This innovative product has been used continuously for more than 20 years and holds the record for the most widely distributed product of the IBM Healthcare Consortium.

Weiner is a leader in the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). She was recognized as a Pioneer in Nursing Informatics by the AMIA Nursing Informatics Working Group. She received the Virginia K. Saba Nursing Informatics Award from AMIA in 2008. She is an expert in the development of online informatics-based programs for nurses in emergency planning and response for which she received the 2007 Sigma Theta Tau International Computer-based Professional Education Technology Award. She has published extensively on this topic and has received approximately $2 million in grant funding to develop informatics programs on this topic.

She has worked with Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society in Nursing to facilitate the use of technology in building the knowledge base for nursing and providing nurses with access to that knowledge.

The UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni was established in 1965 in celebration of the University’s centennial year. Every five years the UK Alumni Association recognizes a select group of outstanding alumni and honors them with induction into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni. This honor acknowledges UK alumni who deserve recognition for personal and professional endeavors and community leadership.
At the 2010 College of Nursing Scholarship Banquet, more than 190 donors, their families and the students and faculty who benefit from their generosity enjoyed a brunch at the historical Spindletop Hall. Guest speaker remarks from Louise J. Zeger, professor emerita at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, who shared several of her memories of the College and that she continues to be involved in the life of the College because she is so proud of all that is being accomplished. Her husband established the Louise Zeger Award in her honor and that award is given to a full-time faculty member who demonstrates a commitment to excellence, undergraduate education and mentors students in a successful transition into practice and graduate education.

This event allowed us to “Celebrate the Future of Nursing” and is hosted by the University of Kentucky College of Nursing and the College’s Emeriti Faculty. At this year’s event, we announced six scholarships which were awarded for the first time during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Dr. Patricia A. Calico Nursing Scholarship
This annual scholarship was given in 2010 by Patricia A. Calico as part of the 50th Anniversary Scholarship Campaign. This renewable scholarship shall be awarded to students who are from Lincoln County, Ky., or if not from Lincoln County then from one of the five counties contiguous to Lincoln County. Guaranteed, Boyle, Lee, Pulaski and Casaray, or from Clay, Whitley or Knox County. Recipients should have demonstrated need and be in good academic standing. Awarded to Sherry McCallum.

“...my experiences at the College and while working as a nurse’s aide at UK Hospital have provided me with so many experiences. I love helping people and plan on becoming an acute care nurse. It means so much to have your support so I can accomplish my dreams and goals.”

–Sheena McGuffey

Every-Highpotency Nursing Scholarship
Established in 2010 as part of the 50th Anniversary Scholarship Campaign by Vicki Beekman Gorman, this renewable scholarship shall be awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in nursing who is in good academic standing and has financial need. Awarded to James Grau.

“I have enjoyed every experience I have had while attending the University of Kentucky and cannot wait until I graduate so I will be able to practice the many skills I have learned through my classes and clinical experiences. It means so much to have this support as I pursue my degree and professional goals in nursing. I could not do it without the help of you and others around me.”

–James Grau

Vicki Beekman Gorman Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship
Given in 2009 as part of the 50th Anniversary Scholarship Campaign by Vicki Beekman Gorman and F. Chris Gorman, this renewable scholarship will be distributed to the next four years as an undergraduate scholarship beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year. The scholarship shall be awarded to a student who is enrolled in the traditional BSN program and has qualified for “guaranteed freshman admission” into the College of Nursing, with preference given to a student from Kentucky. Awarded to Jamie Hatcher.

“Thank you for the opportunity to attend the University of Kentucky. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank you for your scholarship given in honor of your namesake. I have such a strong desire to pursue my goal of helping an underserved population as a psychiatric nurse practitioner and your gift helps me to realize that goal and dream.”

–Cheryl Marrs

Martha Neal Moore RN-BSN Nursing Scholarship
Given in 2010 by Dr. Patricia A. Calico, this scholarship shall be awarded to students who are from Lincoln County then from one of the five counties contiguous to Lincoln County. Guaranteed, Boyle, Lee, Pulaski and Casaray, or from Clay, Whitley or Knox County. Recipients should have demonstrated need and be in good academic standing. Awarded to Judy Harrison.

“...I have enjoyed every experience I have had while attending the University of Kentucky and cannot wait until I graduate so I will be able to practice the many skills I have learned through my classes and clinical experiences. It means so much to have this support as I pursue my degree and professional goals in nursing. I could not do it without the help of you and others around me.”

–Sheena McGuffey

Teresa Ann Free Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Scholarship
Awarded in 2010 to celebrate the life of Teresa Free by her family and friends, this scholarship shall be awarded to a student who is enrolled in the pediatric nurse practitioner track. Free was a beloved professor, colleague and friend who served as the coordinator of the PNP track from 2002 until 2007. Awarded to Judy Harrison.

“...Dr. Free was the person who interviewed me when I applied to the program and she served as my advisor for a brief period of time. She exemplified what a nurse practitioner should strive to be in their life and that is to be the best you can be for children. I hope that I can do the same thing as I begin my career.”

–Judy Harrison

Teresa Ann Free Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Scholarship
Awarded in 2010 to celebrate the life of Teresa Free by her family and friends, this scholarship shall be awarded to a student who is enrolled in the pediatric nurse practitioner track. Free was a beloved professor, colleague and friend who served as the coordinator of the PNP track from 2002 until 2007. Awarded to Judy Harrison.

Marcia A. Dake Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship
This annual scholarship was given in 2010 by Marcia A. Dake, EdD, RN, as part of the 50th Anniversary Scholarship Campaign. Dake served as the first dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Kentucky and led the College from 1975 until 1987. Under her leadership, the college celebrated many milestones and laid the foundation for our first fifty years. This scholarship is to be awarded to a nursing student with preference given to a second degree student. Dake is making this gift in honor of Marcia Scofield, her niece, who has recently graduated with a master’s in nursing.

“I choose to return to UK to pursue a second degree in nursing after volunteering at a rural hospital in Kenya where I worked with HIV/AIDS patients. As a child, I lived in an impoverished third world country where many could not access health care services and died from illnesses that could be easily treated or avoided through immunizations. I am excited to give back to these communities as a nurse.”

–Sarah Kimama

Allison Loevevitz brought remarks on behalf of the students who have received scholarships. Allison remarked the Cassara B. Schmidt Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship. Allison acknowledged that “Nursing school is definitely not something that can be done alone. It requires hard work and dedication. And it is amazing to have someone that believes in us and has made an investment in us.”
At the 19th Annual Homecoming Awards Banquet held in October 2009, the College of Nursing was proud to recognize Andrea Packer, BSN ’09, and Roslyn Young, BSN ’89, with the 2009 Lyman T. Johnson Awards.

Packer is an outstanding BSN alumnae who demonstrated leadership and service, while going above and beyond the commitment required of her while in nursing school. She began her undergraduate work as a dual-degree student from Georgetown College, later transferring to UK for her last two years. As she moved through the program and gained confidence, one faculty member describes her as having “taken off like a rocket!” Packer was on the Dean’s List for the College and while working as a peer tutor, she not only taught test-taking strategies and study skills, but made a point to be present for students emotionally, as well. Faculty commented that she was delightful in her approach, calm in her presence and sincere in her interactions.

As a junior, Packer was asked to serve as the student representative to the College of Nursing faculty search committee. Faculty commented that she did an exceptional job and encouraged other students to attend the candidates’ interviews. She was an officer in the Undergraduate Nursing Activities and Advisory Council and served as vice president of her class. In Spring 2009, Andrea and another student initiated a student organization named OATH—The Organization for Awareness of Trafficked Humans—and were instrumental in providing awareness training to other students. Packer was honored as a William C. Parker Scholar and as a recipient of a University of Kentucky Medical Center Undergraduate Enhancement Scholarship. She received the Main Street Salute Award from UK’s Regional Office of Undergraduate Admissions for demonstrating character, achievement, tenacity and spirit. She was one of 15 students, from more than 300 applicants, selected to participate in the Summer Partnership Integrated Clinical Experiences and Education program at Central Baptist Hospital. She logged over 310 hours as a nurse extern in the Cardiothoracic ICU and was awarded the Central Baptist Nursing Leadership Award at graduation. She began her nursing career at Central Baptist and recently assumed a position in a cardiovascular intensive care unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. In August, Packer was married to James Reginald Powell.

Roslyn Young received the 2010 Torch of Excellence Award. Throughout her career, she has exemplified the criteria for this award: Faith, hard work and determination that has positively affected the lives of those around her. In her current role as the director for advanced practice nursing for the Bluegrass Regional Mental Health–Mental Retardation Board, Young serves as the regional coordinator for advanced practice nursing who conducts psychiatric evaluations and provides medication management for children and adolescents in four counties. She has served in similar roles and built a career around caring and advocating for children and their families.

Her professional involvements have included memberships in the Kentucky Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, International Society of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurses as well as being appointed by Governor Fletcher to the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board. In addition to her BSN and MSN, Young is credentialed as a clinical specialist in child and adolescent psychiatric and mental health nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Her nominator, Patricia Howard, associate dean for MSN and DNP studies, said, “Roslyn Young is a model for all health care providers who care for children with emotional problems and their families. She is a genuine advocate for this vulnerable population and many families have experienced improved quality of life because of her work with them.”

Rachel Dickman received the inaugural Lynn Garman Au Scholarship. This scholarship was established by Greg H. Au in memory of his wife, Lynn. Greg and Lynn decided to create a scholarship at the College of Nursing because of the quality nursing care they received during her battle against breast cancer. They both attended the University of Kentucky for their undergraduate degrees and decided to create this scholarship in their alma mater.

It was their hope to support students who had a passion for service to others and to provide a full academic in-state tuition scholarship for the next six years. As the recipient of this scholarship, Rachel Dickman was expected to initiate, grow or lead a health care education, health screening or a community-based outreach program or event.

For her project, Rachel chose to partner with the staff at the Florence Crittenden Home. This private, non-profit, residential treatment facility provides medical, nutritional, educational and counseling services in a home-like environment for Kentucky’s young women facing single pregnancy and parenting, abuse and neglect. Rachel selected this facility because she has a passion for helping pregnant teenagers and mothers in need, and, with support and guidance, she helped to create and deliver a presentation about nutrition during pregnancy. Along with the help of the nursing staff at the home, Associate Dean for Practice and Community Engagement Suzanne Prevost served as a faculty mentor for the project.

At the presentation, the expectant mothers received a goodie bag with a laminated magnet that listed the top 10 foods to eat while pregnant, some healthy snacks and pans and nosegays with the UK College of Nursing logo on them. At the end of the presentation, several young women got College of Nursing hats for answering questions correctly during a “quiz show” that Rachel created for them using material from the presentation. When asked about her experience, Rachel indicated that it had been an awesome experience.

“I am extremely grateful for this scholarship, excited to continue my nursing education and hope, in some small way, I have honored the memory of your wife through this program.”

—Rachel Dickman
The following alumni have kindly and generously given to the College of Nursing during the 2009-2010 fiscal year which ran from July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2010. We thank each and every one for helping to make a difference.

### 1968
- Mrs. Dorothy H. Adams
- Mrs. Linda F. Burke
- Mrs. Ann C. Curry
- Mrs. Nancy Dickinson-Hazard
- Ms. Sondra E. Ferguson
- Capt. Karen E. Hall
- Mrs. Charlotte M. Rock
- Ms. Shirley A. Williams
- Mrs. Toni C. Warrhnam

### 1969
- Mrs. Sarah M. Fisler
- Dr. Carol Irwin
- Mrs. Maureen Libbie
- Mrs. Gayle T. Machner
- Ms. Sally F. Martin
- Mrs. Mary H. Pichotta
- Ms. Sadie S. Sacks
- Mrs. Mariella R. Walds
- Ms. Judy L. White

### 1970
- Mrs. Antoinette A. Abrames
- Dr. Madonna C. Combs
- Dr. Barbara A. Davis
- Mrs. Patricia A. Davis
- Mrs. Julie C. Ewing
- Ms. Donna Wyatt Honaker
- Mrs. Joanne A. Levin
- Mrs. Patricia H. Powell
- Mrs. Karen C. Robbins
- Mrs. Pamela L. Tuttle

### 1971
- Ms. Wilma J. Benham
- Miss Bette G. Brotheron
- Mr. Gilbert H. Cecchi
- Mrs. Jenny D. Davis
- Mrs. Linda B. Gorton
- Mrs. Robin L. Kayastas
- Ms. Terry F. McCarthy
- Mrs. Carolyn Walker

### 1972
- Mrs. Rosamaria Blau
- Linda L. Dempsey-Hall
- Ms. Edythe A. Egbert
- Mrs. Kathleen E. Evans
- Mrs. Marilyn L. Hill
- Mrs. Nancy B. Hooper
- Mrs. Carol E. Johnson
- Dr. Marjory J. Massacchia
- Ms. Susan M. Peterson

### 1973
- Mrs. Janet D. Brotherson
- Mrs. Ellen M. Currey
- Mrs. Katherine J. Flack
- Mrs. Linda R. Godfrey
- Mrs. Kathleen C. Gordon
- Mrs. Rose Ella Jones
- Mrs. Virginia L. Kohn
- Dr. Claire D. Nalepka
- Ms. Catherine M. Snelson
- Mrs. Mary L. Stephens
- Mrs. Peggy T. Tudor
- Mrs. Harriett D. Waldron
- Ms. Cynthia L. Wyatt
- Ms. K. Jane Younger

### 1974
- Lt. Deborah A. Benjamin
- Ms. Ann M. Bright
- Mrs. Nancy C. Butler
- Mrs. Debbie D. Dedman
- Mrs. Beverly V. Dobner
- Mrs. Jane L. Doherty
- Mrs. Janice V. Dunavent
- Mrs. Angie Allen Gaskins
- Ms. Carol S. Gilpin
- Ms. Pamela C. Hogan
- Mrs. Sara L. Holzer
- Mrs. Sheila E. Highpenstein
- Ms. Linda M. Johnstone
- Dr. Jennie L. Nickell
- Dr. Bonita E. Quarles
- Mrs. Carol A. Riber
- Mrs. Darlene Robertson
- Mrs. Deborah L. Royalty
- Mrs. Mary A. Suhm
- Mrs. Victoria L. Stotz
- Mrs. Vicki L. Weiler

### 1975
- Mrs. Patricia A. Adams
- Mrs. Lisa L. Barton
- Mrs. Margaret B. Battersby
- Mrs. Marilyn L. Hill
- Mrs. Nancy B. Hooper
- Mrs. Carol E. Johnson
- Dr. Marjory J. Massacchia
- Ms. Susan M. Peterson

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Thank you for generously supporting our 50th anniversary celebration!
The College of Nursing is very fortunate to have the support of friends who generously support the College of Nursing. We are very grateful for the meaningful support provided during the 2009-2010 fiscal year which ran from July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2010, by foundations, and individuals.

1979
Mrs. Leslie W. Ebelhar
Pamela D. McDaniel
Dr. Gail L. Moddeman

1980
Ms. Victoria Henley
Dr. Regina L. Cray
Sandra Kay Prutz
Mrs. Lucinda R. Warran
Mrs. Susan Z. Luster

1981
Ms. Sara K. Eckert
Wendy Etka Geer
Ms. Debbie R. Haddix
Dr. Leslie J. Higgins

1982
Ms. Angela L. Blasie
Jonathan D. Craft
Ms. Barbara A. Fife
Ms. Katherine E. Fletcher
Dr. Deborah F. Foster
Dr. Barbara S. Kienan
Mrs. Angela L. Morris
Mrs. Cynthia Brooks-Boss
Mrs. Karolyn R. Parshall
Mrs. Kirsten A. Rabinson
Mrs. Shara L. Taylor
Mrs. Nora C. Warman

1983
Mrs. Karen S. Bernard
Mrs. Catherine A. Brunke
The Rev. Dr. Katherine J. Burrus-Schier
Ms. Vicki L. Conway
Jim J. Cornelius
Constance M. Dumas
Mrs. Delene B. Jacoby
Dr. Laura Parter Kimbie
Mrs. Karen M. Long

1984
Mrs. Karen L. Montgomery
Mrs. Judy A. Khanna
Mrs. Margaret R. Strohmand

1985
Ms. Anne R. Bertram
Ms. Anita F. Dixon
Mrs. Margaret B. Friel
Mrs. Jennifer S. Greene
Mrs. Kimberly L. Patton
Mrs. Laura E. Hill

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Mrs. Karen L. Montgomery
Mrs. Judy A. Khanna
Mrs. Margaret R. Strohmand

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Mrs. Jennifer S. Greene
Mrs. Kimberly L. Patton
Mrs. Laura E. Hill

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Ms. Anita F. Dixon
Mrs. Margaret B. Friel
Mrs. Jennifer S. Greene
Mrs. Kimberly L. Patton
Mrs. Laura E. Hill

1989
Ms. Mary B. Starrett
Toni D. Dennis
Ms. Constance Smith-Elliot
Dr. Debra Sue Hall

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Constance M. Dumas
Mrs. Delene B. Jacoby
Dr. Laura Parter Kimbie
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Mrs. Judy A. Khanna
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Of all the historic changes in health care over the last 50 years, we’d like to recognize one thing that hasn’t changed: our commitment to nursing excellence and our belief in its power to make a difference in the lives of those we serve, especially here in Kentucky. To our alumni and current students, our faculty and staff, and our colleagues at UK HealthCare, our thanks for proving, year after year, that partnership and collaboration are still the most powerful tools in health care.