

The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston

CARINGMinds

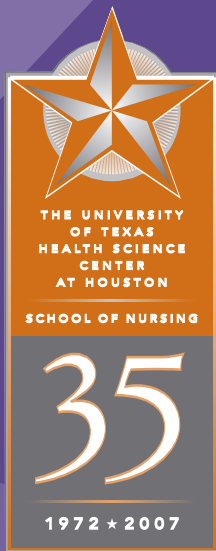


THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

SCHOOL OF NURSING AT HOUSTON

A part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION OF ITS PARENT ORGANIZATION, THE SCHOOL OF NURSING WILL BE A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE. THE SCHOOL OF NURSING IS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, THE NATION, AND OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATING PROFESSIONAL NURSES AND INNOVATIVE SCIENTISTS WHO DISCOVER, APPLY, AND TRANSLATE ADVANCES IN NURSING AS WELL AS IN THE SOCIAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.



About the Cover:

Doctor of Nursing Practice students Vonja Gentle and Debra Trimble work with 'Stan', a high-fidelity patient simulator that talks, blinks, breathes and moves just like a real patient in the UT School of Nursing's state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Lab.

Greetings from Dean Patricia Starck

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If there is a theme to this issue of *Caring Minds*, it is progress. Our school, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, is setting a new standard in nursing education, innovation with leading-edge degree programs, aggressive pursuit of grants to fund research and training in emerging nursing specialties, and the creative use of technology resources to provide nursing education to students in distant locales.

I'm happy to report that we now rank among the top five percent of the nation's nursing schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools" guide. The School of Nursing moved up in the rankings to 19th from 29th among 395 master's programs surveyed. We will earn even higher ranking in the years to come with our dedication to providing the best, most comprehensive nursing education in the Texas Medical Center, the state and the nation.

One of the most exciting achievements of the last year is our new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program, launched in Fall 2006. As one of only 11 in the nation, it is also the first program of its kind in Texas. Our first class of 16 students represents a diverse cross-section of nursing practices. All are full-time nurse practitioners working in a variety of settings — from rural communities to focused medical disciplines such as oncology and cardiology in the Texas Medical Center here in Houston, and from pediatrics to long-term acute care. Furthermore, the DNP program allows us to address several emerging health care issues such as caring for the underserved in our communities, increasing numbers of patients with chronic illnesses, and our aging baby boomer population.

Another benefit of our DNP program is that our graduates will make superlative clinical instructors for nursing schools, thus addressing the critical issue of faculty shortage.

Since the fastest growing segment of our nation's population is people aged 65 or older and, according to a 2002 Johns Hopkins University study, 20 percent of patients 65 or older present at least five chronic conditions, we introduced a program of specialized training in geriatric nursing in January 2007. Thanks to a new \$500,000 grant from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, five groups of 15 nurses are enrolled in a six-month course that will cover such issues as chronic disease management,



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rehabilitation, interpretation of lab data in older adults, physiological changes of aging and altered presentation of disease, in addition to leadership and mentorship training. Our first group is drawn from nurses in the Texas Medical Center but, eventually, the program will extend to outlying hospitals in the region.

Sharing the Caring

An important part of our mission and our work is to share our expertise with other qualified and eager non-native nurses so they can return to their countries armed with state-of-the-art nursing practices. Last summer, we provided four master's degree candidates in Clinical Oncology Nursing from the Henrietta Szold Hadassah Hebrew University School of Nursing with the opportunity to learn U.S. nursing practice, the role of nurse practitioners in a hospital setting, and to observe the practice of oncology in one of the medical world's premier institutions. The students from Israel were hosted by the Houston Chapter of Hadassah and the program was coordinated by our school and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Accolades to our Angels

Our community support group, PARTNERS, topped the \$1 million mark in scholarship endowment. The 2006 spring luncheon, which featured as its speaker Linda Armstrong Kelly (mother of seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong), raised more than \$220,000. Today, PARTNERS boasts 255 hard-working members who traditionally provide silver pins for our graduates and healthy snacks for our students during exams. PARTNERS has funded 64 full tuition scholarships and 31 faculty research projects, and this past year, established a \$100,000 PARTNERS Endowed Professorship. They deserve our thanks and gratitude for their uncommon dedication to nursing education.

Reaping our Awards

Aside from our ever-improving national ranking among graduate nursing schools, we are also ranked 31st among 102 schools of nursing that receive research dollars awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). To date, we have received NIH funding for five faculty and two DSN research projects. This recognition of the excellence of our endeavors is important in the context of our mission in nursing education.

We have also been recognized (again) for our inspired and forward vision regarding our healing and caring learning environment – our "green" home – the School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Last year, we were selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment (COTE) to receive one of their "Top 10 Green Projects Awards" for 2006. Our home is, in fact, the largest green academic building in the Southwest and has already earned 10 other awards for its innovative and sustainable, best practices design.

Making more Nurses

Many of you have heard me talk about the nation's shortage of nurses and my work on the Advisory Committee of the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. In November 2006, we submitted a report to the Texas Legislature on the supply and demand for registered nurses and nurse graduates in Texas. This report observed that the gap between supply and demand for nurses will grow wider each year for the next decade, impacted by factors in population projections, per capita health care use, health care market conditions, economic conditions, patient acuity and nursing staffing intensity equations. Using the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration model, we project that by 2020, Texas demand for nurses will rise by 86 percent while supply will grow by only 53 percent. Placed in today's context, where we are currently producing approximately 6,300 new nursing graduates out of 84 programs in Texas, we will need to be producing 25,000 graduates by 2020. This is a serious issue and one that I am committed to addressing unrelentingly until we can provide the highest standard of care to all who are in need of it — here in the Texas Medical Center, in Houston, in Texas and across our country.

Patricia L. Starck

Patricia L. Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN

Dean, School of Nursing

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

April 2007



New DNP program explores new frontiers of nursing

By Alice Adams

A select group of nurse practitioners, coming to Houston's Texas Medical Center from all parts of the state, gather in quiet anticipation on a humid August afternoon.

Fourteen are women and two are men. They represent a diversity of ethnicities with an average age of 30. Some are teachers who also maintain clinical practices. One is an occupational health nurse at an oil refinery. Two work in long-term care facilities. Four are acute care practitioners employed within the Texas Medical Center specializing in oncology, cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, neurocritical care, and emergency care at the Level I Trauma Center. One works at a paper mill near Louisiana, taking care of workers and their families. Another works in a metropolitan HIV/AIDS clinic.

All have been carefully chosen for their experience, their goals and their dreams.

This is the first day of class for The University of Texas School of Nursing's new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, the first practice (not research) doctorate degree in nursing offered in Texas; it is one of only a dozen such programs in the U.S.

Like astronauts preparing for launch into the unknown, the 16 men and women chosen to be in this classroom are eager, excited and ready to take their next steps in exploring new opportunities and yet-to-be-discovered frontiers in nursing.



“All of these students are nurse practitioners,” said Joanne V. Hickey, PhD, APRN, BC, ACNP, FAAN, FCCM and coordinator of the DNP program. “Selected by our review committee from a field of 52 candidates who applied within a very narrow five-week application period, these students came from a variety of rural and urban settings and are doing important and innovative work within their individual practices,” she pointed out.

Even after the deadline, the program continued to receive phone calls and e-mails from interested candidates.

Between April 20, 2006, when the new program was approved by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and that hot August afternoon, details and finishing touches were applied at warp speed. In their Herculean effort to meet myriad deadlines, Dr. Hickey and the program’s faculty had little time to stop and acknowledge their progress.

“Getting the details in place within a compressed time frame was challenging, but this faculty has seen this new program, not as a challenge but, instead, as an opportunity to build something with the potential of transformation,” the coordinator explained.

Discussions among the program’s first class of students have proven rich and robust, due, in part, to their varied experiences. This is yet another well-planned and unique aspect of UT School of Nursing’s model for its DNP program, a model that began taking shape five years ago when discussions began about the possibility of bringing the new degree offering to the school.

“We wanted nurse practitioners practicing in Texas who are passionate and committed to careers in direct patient care,” Dr. Hickey pointed out. “We then conducted interviews with a very deliberate plan for the diversity we wanted – a broad representation, urban and rural, with primary, acute and long-term care experiences as well as the sub-specialties found within those categories.”

To accommodate the group’s geographic diversity, classes are clustered into monthly intensive blocks, ranging anywhere from one and one-half to two days in length. While some of the new DNP students live within easy driving distance, many rely on air travel for their monthly commutes to the Texas Medical Center. Between trips to Houston, the students complete online assignments.

During their first semester, the students studied medical ethics in an interdisciplinary setting, involving the School of Nursing, UT Medical School and the UT School of Public Health. Instructors from UT’s nursing, medical and public health faculties have assisted the students in exploring the scholarly foundations

“WE WANTED NURSE PRACTITIONERS PRACTICING IN TEXAS WHO ARE PASSIONATE AND COMMITTED TO CAREERS IN DIRECT PATIENT CARE,” DR. HICKEY POINTED OUT. “WE THEN CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS WITH A VERY DELIBERATE PLAN FOR THE DIVERSITY WE WANTED – A BROAD REPRESENTATION, URBAN AND RURAL, WITH PRIMARY, ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE EXPERIENCES AS WELL AS THE SUB-SPECIALTIES FOUND WITHIN THOSE CATEGORIES.”

of advanced practice, including theoretical frameworks, evidence-based practice, health policy and evaluation methodologies.

“Our goals are to engage these students in the highest level of advanced practice, leadership in patient care and achievement of quality outcomes,” Dr. Hickey said. “All the other objectives fall under those goals.”

During the second year, students engage in preceptorships with clinical experts to expand the depth and breadth of their clinical knowledge and patient care. Upon successfully passing oral and written comprehensive exams at the end of their second year, the DNP students begin developing a Clinical Scholarship Portfolio of scholarly projects, such as evidence-based practice innovations, interdisciplinary practice projects, in-depth case analyses, and at least one first author, peer-reviewed publication. The third year is the fellowship year of scholarly practice and completion of the portfolio.

For Dr. Hickey and members of the DNP faculty, the high point of the first semester was seeing the caliber of students attracted by the new program, their personal commitment to patient care and the promise they hold for transformational change in nursing practice. “They came with such enthusiasm, excitement and joy because there was, finally, a practice doctorate,” she commented.

UT’s model for the new doctoral program mandates a doctorally prepared practice advisor for each of the 16 students. “A large part of doctoral education is based on mentorship by clinical expert faculty and collegiality with your classmates,” Dr. Hickey pointed out. “In this group, the rapport was

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Profile

Joanne V. Hickey, PhD, APRN,
BC, ACNP, FAAN, FCCM

*Coordinator of The UT School of Nursing's
New Doctor of Nursing Practice Program*



As coordinator of the DNP Program, Dr. Hickey leads a faculty of nine and collaborates with faculty from UT Medical School at Houston and UT School of Public Health.

- Her high energy leadership style and her passion for excellence in patient care and nurse education supplies the momentum and excitement surrounding the new DNP program.
- “I’m committed to practice and my experience as an advanced practice nurse has provided the vision to build this program,” Dr. Hickey said. “I believe DNP graduates involved in new models of interdisciplinary, collaborative practice will revolutionize patient outcomes and quality of care.”
- “The needs of patients are more complex,” Dr. Hickey pointed out. “We need visionary practitioners with the ability to translate research into evidence-based practice and health policy to assure patient access to the latest scientific advances.” Before joining the UT School of Nursing, Dr. Hickey developed and directed the acute care nurse practitioner program at Duke University and was Attending Nurse for Neuroscience Nursing at Duke University Medical Center.
- Her career has been focused on acute/critical care neuroscience nursing as a practitioner, teacher, author and researcher.
- Her classic text, *The Clinical Practice of Neurological and Neurosurgical Nursing* is currently in its fifth edition.
- She serves as chairperson for the Institute of Credentialing Research for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and also serves on the ANCC Board of Directors.
- Dr. Hickey earned her PhD from The University of Texas at Austin and her post-master’s certificate as a nurse practitioner from Duke University.
- She is certified as an acute care nurse practitioner by the ANCC and as a neuroscience nurse by the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing.
- Dr. Hickey is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, and a fellow in the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

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immediate, and by bringing and sharing their own experiences to the group, they are able to learn from each other as well as from discussions of the various topics.”

Compared to the School of Nursing’s undergraduate and master’s level programs, the new DNP program brings a unique educational experience to its students. “Teaching in a doctoral program is different because of the dynamics contributed by the mentorship and socialization of students at the doctoral level,” Dr. Hickey explained. “There’s an emphasis beyond teaching facts and theories,” she continued. “At the heart of this emphasis is a socialization process that refines the students’ higher level thinking skills. In addition, it broadens their scope of knowledge and clinical competencies for innovative and transformational scholarship and leadership in clinical practice.”

As coordinator of a program still in its infancy, Dr. Hickey and the DNP faculty continually evaluate and fine-tune its direction. “One of my concerns, now that the program is in its second semester, is how to maintain a sense of community with students who are working full-time, going to school part-time and scattered across the state. To address that concern, we’ve created high-touch personal and electronic strategies we’ll use throughout the program.”

The School of Nursing’s model for the new program, created within the structure of nationally accepted DNP Essentials guidelines, was designed with room for flexibility and creativity. The rationale? To recognize and explore all of UT System’s resources as well as those of the world’s largest medical center. “In this environment and with these resources, we believe we are positioned to expand the breadth and depth of knowledge our students will take into their own practices,” Dr. Hickey said.

“OUR GOALS ARE TO ENGAGE THESE STUDENTS IN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADVANCED PRACTICE, LEADERSHIP IN PATIENT CARE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF QUALITY OUTCOMES,” DR. HICKEY SAID. “ALL THE OTHER OBJECTIVES FALL UNDER THOSE GOALS.”

At this point in the new program, the faculty is finalizing logistics and planning for the students’ second year, when they begin their clinical preceptorships. The school has more than 200 contracts with clinical facilities for clinical practice, and it is anticipated that even more will be developed.

In the interim, the faculty’s enthusiastic consensus is the program is off to a great start and on the right road. “We know where we’re headed and what we need to do to create this new level of professional scholar,” the coordinator acknowledged. 🇺🇸

With assistance from PARTNERS scholarship, Family Practice Nurse pursues her dream through new DNP program

It hadn't been an easy few months for Holly Jeffreys, CFNP.

Her 11-year-old son, Keldon, was continuing his struggle with hydrocephalus and Dandy Walker Syndrome. Two shunts had been performed but he was, once again, suffering from severe, chronic headaches and vomiting.

His physicians now wanted to try another surgery. It would be his fifth, and as it turned out, his most successful.

Several months earlier – before Keldon had become so ill – the nurse practitioner had applied to the new Doctor of Nursing Practice program at The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston. With the additional medical bills, however, her tuition would be a hardship for the family.

“I had been looking at several out-of-state doctoral programs,” said Jeffreys, who teaches nurse practitioner students at West Texas A&M University in addition to working in a Canyon, Texas, clinic. “It didn't take long for me to determine there was no way I could afford out-of-state tuition.”

Then, in March 2006, the 34-year-old nurse met UT School of Nursing's Dean Patricia Starck, and learned about the possibility of the new DNP program in Texas. In April, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the new curriculum, and in June, Jeffreys received an e-mail about the program.

After discussing the new opportunity with husband Kelly, Jeffreys immediately sent in her application to be considered for the new program's first class. That was before she knew about the surgery Keldon needed.

Now, she was having second thoughts. “It was nearing the tuition deadline,” the nurse practitioner remembered, “so I decided to call, just to see if there was some kind of payment program available, maybe a scholarship, if they had even processed my application, or if I could withdraw my application and reapply after we had gotten back on track financially.”

When Jeffreys was told she had been chosen to receive the PARTNERS scholarship, which would cover her tuition and fees for the entire program, she couldn't believe it. “I was speechless,” she said, “except for trying to say ‘thanks’ with a lump in my throat and tears streaming down my face.”

It was a good time for Holly Jeffreys to begin the next chapter in her life. “I've been at the clinic, full-time, since 2002, so I have a substantial patient load,” she said. “Now, I work 2 days a week and my days are full, but it's great to see the same patient population – infants to geriatric patients, rural and urban – that I've been following for several years.”

Juggling a busy family schedule for her husband and four children – ranging in age from 14 to 4 – Jeffreys currently teaches



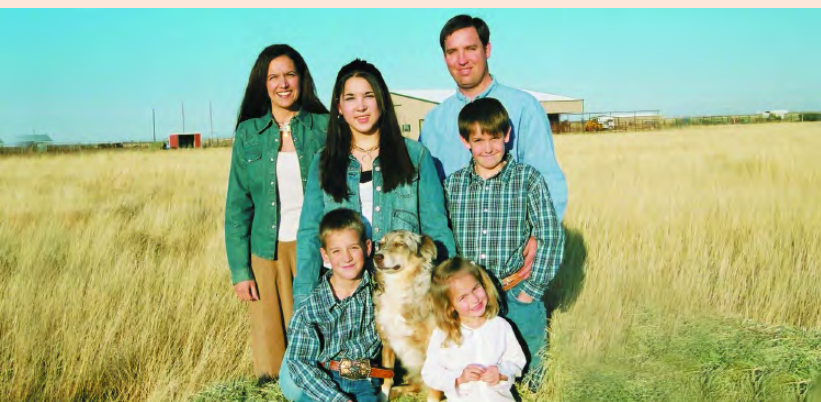
at West Texas A&M, shares the clinic's patient load with four physicians, and is now one of the first 16 students in the new DNP program at UT.

After hours, the Jeffreys family shares another of the nurse's passions – rodeoing and raising and showing livestock. “We rodeo during the summer,” she explained. “During the winters, we go to livestock shows where we exhibit all kinds of sheep, goats and cattle. That's our family time. Sometimes it's work and sometimes it's fun, but we're always out there together.”

“The Panhandle is considered medically underserved,” the nurse pointed out. “One of my goals is to begin a clinic in Bushland – the area where we live. I think the advanced clinical training I will receive in the DNP program will better equip me for the challenges I anticipate and afford me advantages that will assure a successful practice and make my contributions even greater.”

“Our community is very young but it's also growing and we need a community clinic for those who don't want to drive to Amarillo for their health care needs,” the nurse practitioner said. “In 2005, we had 500 students in our school district. This year, we have twice that number.”

She calls the PARTNERS scholarship “an amazing blessing,” making possible a cutting-edge education that will “do nothing but help me offer better care.”



School of Nursing offers training in geriatrics for nurses

In an effort to meet the increasing health needs of a booming population of older people, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston is using a new grant to train geriatric resource nurses.

Nurses at hospitals in the Texas Medical Center have been recruited for training under a three-year, \$504,000 education grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing. The program eventually will reach out to outlying hospitals.

“People over the age of 65 are our fastest growing population, and – of that group – the fastest growing segment is over the age of 85,” said Vaunette P. Fay, PhD, Associate Professor of Clinical

Nursing at the nursing school. “Geriatric nursing is under-represented in all levels of nursing practice and education.”

Currently, 12.8 percent of the population is over the age of 65, but that group accounts for 60 percent of all adult hospitalizations. By 2030, 20 percent of Americans will be over the age of 65.

“Older patients have multiple chronic illnesses and because of the changes of the aging process, treating them is more complex,” Dr. Fay said. “But most nurses haven’t had geriatric training as part of their formal education.”

Under the grant, the first class of 15 nurses began in January 2007 in a six-month training and clinical course that includes issues in chronic disease management, rehabilitation, interpretation of lab data in older adults, physiological changes of aging, and altered presentation of disease.

“The course will include leadership and mentorship training so that these nurses will go back to their units and teach others,” Dr. Fay said.

PARTNERS organization endows first professorship

PARTNERS, the volunteer organization that has supported and encouraged UT School of Nursing at Houston students and faculty since 1994, has set an ambitious goal, to help the School of Nursing create new endowed professorships. The first PARTNERS Endowed Professorship in Nursing is already in place, the result of funds raised during 2006. The need is great, to support current faculty while recruiting and retaining the best educators, researchers and clinicians for the school and for Texas.

The annual PARTNERS luncheon raised more than \$200,000 in 2006, with Linda Armstrong Kelly, mother of Lance Armstrong, telling her compelling story to more than 400. She discussed her journey from poverty-stricken teenage mother in an abusive relationship to role model and business executive, single-handedly raising a child who would overcome cancer and go on to become one of the greatest athletes of all time.

“We had the most wonderful nurses I ever came in contact with at the time we needed them the most,” Kelly said about the period during which Armstrong underwent treatment for testicular cancer.

The April 17, 2007, PARTNERS luncheon features Dr. Mehmet Oz, co-author of *YOU: The Owner’s Manual*, *YOU: The Smart Patient*, and *YOU: On A Diet*, as speaker. Dr. Oz’ regular appearances on “Oprah” and other network morning and evening news programs have made him a household name. He is professor and vice-chairman of surgery at Columbia University, medical



Linda Armstrong Kelly, second from left, spoke at the Spring 2006 PARTNERS luncheon, which was chaired by Mary Martha Stinnett, left. They are pictured with Dean Patricia L. Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN, and 2006 PARTNERS chairman Maria Pappas.

director of the Integrated Medicine Center, and director of the Heart Institute of New York Presbyterian/Columbia Medical Center.

PARTNERS’ influence and dedication is evident in other ways. Each year, PARTNERS sponsors a well-received lecture series for the community. Nurses and physicians share health care information on topics such as stem cell research, childhood obesity, preventing and reversing heart disease, and aging.

Upon graduation, Bachelor of Science students receive traditional School of Nursing pins as a gift from the organization, at a special pinning ceremony. The spacious PARTNERS lounge is a highlight of the school’s award-winning design, and offers students a place to study and gather with friends.



University of Texas Health Services planning to expand number of clinics

Expansion of the number of its nurse-managed clinics is an immediate goal of UT School of Nursing's University of Texas Health Services (UTHS). This will make available outstanding clinical primary care, behavioral health, and occupational health services to more people and provide clinical educational sites for the increasing number of the school's graduate nurse practitioner students.

"I expect within the next 18 months we will grow from two to four primary care clinics operating within Houston or the surrounding communities," says Thomas A. Mackey, PhD, NP-C, FAAN, FAANP, Associate Dean for Practice. "These clinics will enhance the service and education missions of the School of Nursing. In addition, faculty can use their expert practice skills to serve the community and engage students' participation in clinic activities that foster their learning objectives.

Since opening the first UTHS clinic, in Houston's Texas Medical Center in 1991, the school has been recognized nationally as providing a model nurse-managed clinic, one that provides quality care, fosters student education, and demonstrates a business model that allows for financial stability," say Dr. Mackey.

Services offered include adult primary care, preventative care (annual physicals/well woman exams), occupational health screenings, health counseling and education, immunizations, radiology services, and travel medicine for pre-/post-travel to foreign countries.

The UTHS Medical Center clinic averages 12,000 annual patient visits and 60 student learner days, while showing a positive financial picture. Occupational health services are also provided by UTHS Medical Center to some 52 employers including private and public agencies as well as local businesses and corporations. Businesses/organizations that utilize UTHS Medical Center for their

employee health services include: METRO, City of Houston Fire Department, The American Red Cross, Planned Parenthood, Encysive, Tanox, Stericycle, and Rice University. In addition, another 2,800 patient visits occurred onsite at companies and organizations throughout Texas and the greater Houston area: Harris County Psychiatric Center, Coca Cola of North America, Texas Commission on Environmental Health (TCEQ), Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Women's University, and St. Thomas University. The delivery of on-site employee health services to TCEQ has saved them an estimated \$6 million over the past 10 years, contributing to lowering health care costs to the citizens of Texas.

With the opening of a second clinic in 2006, residents of Pearland, one of the fastest growing communities on the Texas Gulf Coast, now have access to the expertise of faculty members from UT School of Nursing in a multipurpose care facility. The UT Health Services Pearland Clinic provides primary care, on-site lab draw, x-ray service, EKG, and behavioral health and substance abuse counseling. "Our expansion of services to Pearland is another opportunity for us to provide quality health services to a community while also providing an opportunity for our faculty to practice and teach students in a clinical setting," said Dr. Mackey.



Dr. Thomas Mackey, Associate Dean for Practice, UT School of Nursing, was elected president of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Foundation Board of Directors in January 2007.



Caring Leaders

UT School of Nursing is recognized nationally for the quality of its research. The school is also known as one of the top places to educate and be educated because of the faculty's commitment to excellence. These five individuals have recently received recognition for exceeding expectations in their areas of expertise.

Nancy Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN

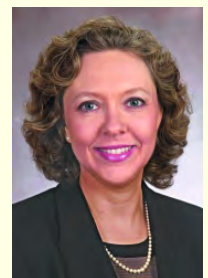
Nancy Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN, Theodore J. & Mary E. Trumble Professor of Aging and Director, UT School of Nursing Center on Aging, is considered by her colleagues a “pioneer” and “legacy maker” for future nursing researchers. A letter to Dr. Bergstrom from Dr. Patricia Grady, Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), acknowledged her “. . . for the rich legacy you are creating for future nurse scientists . . . for the pioneering role you have played in advancing our relatively young science.”



In 2006 Dr. Bergstrom was recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the NINR for her research on testing the Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Sore Risk for Predictive Validity. A synopsis of her research was included on her 20th anniversary commemorative NINR poster “Nursing Research-From the Beginnings to 20 Years at NIH.” The citation read, “Researcher Nancy Bergstrom, in a multi-site study, tests the Braden scale for risk of pressure sores and finds its predictive capability accurate. The scale is incorporated into the AHRQ Clinical Practice Guidelines and is now used widely in nursing homes and hospitals to identify patients susceptible to pressure ulcers.” Dr. Bergstrom was invited to present one of only three papers at the NIH 20th anniversary celebration. Those selected highlighted research findings that have been meaningful and successfully translated into practice.

Amy O. Calvin, PhD, RN

No one wants to think about how they would want life to end. But for chronically ill patients, the painful decision must be made to allow resuscitation or to die when the time comes. Research by Amy O. Calvin, PhD, RN, has helped patients and health professionals interact with each other to ease end-of-life decisions. Dr. Calvin’s work was recognized by The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston at the second annual Outstanding Young Investigators luncheon, September 2006. “I had the opportunity to care for many patients with terminal or irreversible conditions as a nurse in the emergency department and the adult intensive care unit,” Dr. Calvin said. Inspired by three patients suffering from kidney failure, she became particularly interested in how chronically ill patients make decisions about end-of-life treatment.



Dr. Calvin’s experience in the hospital fostered an interest in ethical treatment of chronically ill patients. “I pursued graduate study to gain knowledge of concepts related to health care ethics and to acquire the necessary tools to help me improve seriously ill patients’ situations,” she said. It’s not easy to be an excellent teacher, researcher and practitioner, but “this is how I would describe Dr. Calvin,” said Patricia L. Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN, dean of the UT School of Nursing during the September event. The first nurse researcher for the Palliative Care Service at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, Dr. Calvin has dedicated herself to end-of-life research. “I think that you can realize that this important area of study is one that will benefit patients and families and will have an impact on all clinicians,” Dean Starck said.



Marianne Marcus, EdD, RN, FAAN

Marianne Marcus was named an "Edge Runner" by the American Academy of Nursing. The designation comes from the work of health futurist and motivational speaker, Leland Kaiser, who stated that Edge Runners are those individuals who push ideas forward against resistance, convinced that those ideas will lead to necessary change in systems and practices. Dr. Marcus was one of six nurses invited to speak at the AACN annual meeting in November 2006 about her research to bring mindfulness-based stress reduction to individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. This initiative launched a year-long "Raise the Voice" campaign to showcase the work of nurses and their focus on finding solutions to health care issues.



Dr. Marcus is the John P. McGovern Professor in Addiction Nursing at UT School of Nursing and Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Education and Research. Among her many honors is a 2006 Lifetime Appreciation Award, Texas Research Society on Alcoholism, and appointment in 2006 to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Nursing Expert Panel to develop curriculum. In 2006, Dr. Marcus was appointed to the Texas Drug Demand Reduction Advisory Committee, a committee that recommends drug reduction strategies to the state legislature.

Elda G. Ramirez, PhD, RN, FNP, BC, CEN, FAANP

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners recognizes as fellows those nurse practitioners who have made outstanding contributions to health care practice, research, education or policy. Elda G. Ramirez, PhD, RN, FNP, BC, CEN, FAANP, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, and Director, Emergency Care Division in the Department of Acute and Continuing Care at UT School of Nursing at Houston, was one of 19 fellows selected in 2006. Her primary sponsor was the late Frank Cole, PhD, with whom she conceptualized and implemented the Emergency Nurse Practitioner program at the UT School of Nursing in 1994.



Ramirez is an experienced educator and clinician. In collaboration with the UT Medical School at Houston, she developed



an animal lab to teach emergency procedures to nursing students and established the first cadaver lab for graduate students in the School of Nursing. Through her clinical practice, she has developed a research project to identify competencies for nurse practitioners in the emergency department.

Renae Schumann, PhD, RN

The Good Samaritan Foundation, an organization that promotes nursing as a career by providing student scholarship funds for clinical nursing courses, honored Renae Schumann, PhD, RN, Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing in The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, with its 2006 Excellence in Nursing Award for Academia. The foundation's goal is to alleviate the current severe shortage of nurses throughout the state of Texas.



Schumann was recognized for her efforts to make nursing education more accessible to students, particularly through coordinating the Workforce Increases in Nurses and Nursing Faculty: Excellence in Resource Collaboration (WINNER) program. The program, funded with a \$2 million grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, examines and tests new methods of educating more nursing students with current resources.

"Dr. Schumann exemplifies creativity and innovation," said Patricia L. Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN, dean of the UT School of Nursing. "Best of all, with a classroom of students, she is a fantastic teacher and makes her passion for nursing contagious." One of Dr. Schumann's passions is the school's BSN Honors Program, which continues to grow and matches highly motivated senior BSN students with faculty research mentors to promote the idea of advanced degrees and nursing scholarship. "This program has a great deal of faculty buy-in and is successful, so much so that some of our senior students are doing conference presentations and publishing before they graduate," Dr. Schumann said.

Dr. Schumann is the current president of the Zeta Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, a member of the board of directors of the Healthcare and Nursing Education Foundation, and a member of Houston's Health Services Steering Committee.

The Engine of Innovation

School of Nursing researchers part of \$36 million NIH grant to spur innovation

UT School of Nursing researchers and faculty members played an important part in planning the \$36 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) that was awarded Oct. 3, 2006, by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The nursing school has key roles in the five-year grant that will enhance clinical and translational research, ultimately improving patient care and community health.

With the federal funding, the UT Health Science Center has become home to one of the nation's first 12 CTSA centers. The health science center and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center partnered in planning the grant and will collaborate on many research and educational activities supported by the new center. The health science center also will work on collaborative projects with Memorial Hermann Healthcare System and The University of Texas School of Public Health's Brownsville Regional Campus.

UT Houston's center – called the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS) – is the only one of its kind in Texas. The CCTS is designed to spur research innovation so that new treatments can be developed more efficiently and delivered more quickly to patients. “It is meant to improve the nation's health,” said Frank C. Arnett, MD, UT Houston's principal investigator and director of the CCTS.

“There is a great deal of science that is applicable to many human diseases. New scientific information and technologies are not being integrated fast enough or being applied to multiple biomedical disciplines in a timely manner. We need to change that by developing creative ways to more quickly get results from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside and clinic.”

“One of the strengths of the UT Health Science Center proposal was that it was based not only on the partnership with other major health care research providers, including UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, but also because it brought together the diverse strengths of the UT Health Science Center in medicine, informatics, public



UT School of Nursing Associate Professor M. Terese Verklan, PhD, RN, serves as co-director of the Community Engagement component of the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS). The Community Engagement component educates physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and their patients as well as pharmacists about clinical trial opportunities and innovative therapies. The component also brings research ideas to solve health-related problems from the community back to the CCTS.

health, nursing and dentistry,” said James T. Willerson, MD, president, UT Health Science Center at Houston. “Our program has exemplified the NIH goal of breaking down the silos of professional skill and expertise that have served as an impediment to clinical research in many academic programs.

“The major role that the faculty of UT School of Nursing has played in both the planning and implementation of the CTSA program speaks to our emphasizing the support of interdisciplinary research at our university.”

“We have been gathering some of the most successful and novel-thinking researchers to serve as a think tank, which we have termed The Engine of Innovation,” Dr. Arnett said. UT School of Nursing's Sandra K. Hanneman, PhD, RN, FAAN, The Jerold B. Katz Distinguished Professor for Nursing Research, Associate Dean for Research, and Director of the Center for Nursing Research, is a member of this think tank. Core, state-of-the-art laboratories in genetics, micro-arrays, proteomics, immunology and MRI imaging will help facilitate more rapid research results, Dr. Arnett said. Lorraine Frazier, DSN, RN, Associate Professor, is the director of the BioBank Core.

This core will support storage and sharing of biological samples and related clinical and laboratory data among researchers.

Several School of Nursing faculty hold leadership positions in the CCTS. In addition to Drs. Hanneman and Frazier's participation, Dean Patricia L. Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN, serves on the CCTS Administrative Council. Geri L. Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN, Research Associate Professor, is Chair of the Internal Scientific Advisory Committee. M. Terese Verklan,



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PhD, RN, Associate Professor, is co-director of the Community Engagement component. The other co-director is Nancy Murray, DrPH, Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at UT School of Public Health. Dr. Hanneman is also on the Training Board for the T32 and K12 programs. Several other faculty serve on peer review committees and as mentors to predoctoral and postdoctoral CCTS students. Currently, these faculty include Mara Baun, DNSc, RN, FAAN, Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor; Nancy Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN, Theodore J. and Mary E. Trumble Professor in Aging Research; Marlene Z. Cohen, PhD, RN, FAAN, John S. Dunn Sr. Distinguished Professor in Oncology Nursing; Deanna Grimes, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Professor; Marianne Marcus, EdD, RN, FAAN, John P. McGovern Professor in Addiction Nursing; Janet Meininger, PhD, RN, FAAN, Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor; and Sharon K. Ostwald, PhD, RN, Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontological Nursing.

NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, said these first 12 institutions that received CTAs make up a new, national consortium that will transform how clinical and translational research is conducted. An additional 52 academic health centers received planning grants to help them prepare applications to join the consortium. When fully implemented in 2012, about 60 institutions will be linked together to energize the discipline of clinical and translational science.

“The development of this consortium represents the first systematic change in our approach to clinical research in 50 years,” Zerhouni said.

“Working together, these sites will serve as discovery engines that will improve medical care by applying new scientific advances to real world practice. We expect to see new approaches reach underserved populations, local community organizations, and health care providers to ensure that medical advances are reaching the people who need them.”



Johnson and Johnson gala spotlights nurses Chad and Heath LaPray

Houston was one of four locations chosen by Johnson & Johnson for their 2007 Campaign for Nursing's Future galas. Hundreds of area nurses and health care professionals from regional hospitals and institutions attended the Promise of Nursing for Houston/Galveston event that celebrated the nursing profession while raising funds to relieve the growing shortage of nurses. The collaborative efforts of local health care organizations including UT School of Nursing along with the Johnson & Johnson effort raised \$300,000 to fund local nursing school grants, faculty fellowships and student scholarships. During the evening's program, UT School of Nursing was represented by identical twin students Chad and Heath LaPray.

The LaPray brothers live in Vidor, and shared an interest in nursing that took them both through LVN school, RN school, associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees, and certifications as nurse practitioners. Heath is currently in the first Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) class at UT School of Nursing while working in a private family practice clinic for employees of a paper mill. Chad is with a wound care/hyperbaric center in Beaumont.

UT School of Nursing and Memorial Hermann Hospital create partnership with Chief of Advanced Practice position



The newly created UT School of Nursing position of Chief of Advanced Practice at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center was established in January 2007. "Having a Chief of Advanced Practice position is, to my knowledge, a first in the nation," said UT School of Nursing Dean Patricia L. Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN. "This signifies that nursing care will be at the highest

level for patients at Memorial Hermann, and it also will create an ideal learning environment for students in our doctoral and master's programs." An agreement between the hospital and the UT-Houston nursing school runs through at least August 2009.

Elizabeth Fuselier, DNP, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing at The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, will work to establish a cutting-edge advanced practice model for nurse practitioners and physicians assistants while expanding the number and types of advanced practice health care providers within the hospital. Dr. Fuselier will continue as a UT School

of Nursing faculty member while overseeing all elements of the advanced practice program and collaborate with hospital administrators and staff.

"I am thrilled that our two institutions share a vision for this program," said Juanita Romans, CEO of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. "Our partnership is an innovative approach for Memorial Hermann to improve patient safety and provide the best possible clinical outcomes with exceptional patient care experiences."

"The UT School of Nursing intends to be the national leader in developing the role of those earning the Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree," said Thomas A. Mackey, PhD, the school's Associate Dean for Practice. "This new partnership with Memorial Hermann will provide us the opportunity to develop innovative collaborative models of care, educate our DNP students and advance our clinical research agenda."

"We expect to be creating a new frontier in nursing by merging dynamic relationships in patient care, education and research," said Fuselier. "Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, the nursing school and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston are on the forefront of health care and making nursing history by placing a nurse with a DNP in this creative position."

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK COLE

A great man and teacher left us June 1, 2006, with the passing of Frank Cole, PhD. Cole was Professor, Chair and Assistant Dean for the Department of Acute and Continuing Care, UT School of Nursing at Houston. Dr. Cole will forever be recognized for having a national impact on emergency nursing. The material he developed for the School of Nursing's Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) program became the national standard and contributed to a redefinition of the practice of emergency nursing in the United States and abroad. He and colleague Elda Ramirez, Division Head, Emergency Care in that department, conceptualized, developed and implemented the ENP program in 1994. Today the Emergency Care Graduate Nursing Program offers three options: ENP, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Post-Master's Certificate.



Dr. Cole received numerous national awards and recognitions, including induction as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing, the Academy of Emergency Nursing as a member of the inaugural group, and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

In September 2005, Cole received an award of honor from the Texas Nurse Practitioners in recognition of his "outstanding contribution and commitment to the education of advanced practice nurses." He also was selected to receive the UT Austin Graduate School Outstanding Alumnus Award for 2005-06 at the doctoral degree level.

He leaves a written legacy of his work, as Cole authored and co-authored dozens of articles, gave presentations and consulted with other universities on emergency nursing and the practice of nursing.

Faculty Scholarship

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF NURSING AT HOUSTON
2005 - 2006

FACULTY HONORS AND AWARDS

Mara Baun, DNSc, RN, FAAN Member of the Nursing Research Grant Review Committee, American Nurses Foundation (2006-2009)

Nancy Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN Member, Institutional Training Grant (T32) Review Panel, National Institute of Nursing Research, NIH (2006)

Vaunette Fay, PhD, RN Member, Invitational workshop for the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE), National Centers of Excellence in Canada (2006)

Lorraine Frazier, DSN, RN Chair, Genetics Committee, Council for Collegiate Education in Nursing, Southern Regional Education Board (2006-2007)

Marianne T. Marcus, EdD, RN, FAAN Member, Drug Demand Reduction Advisory Committee, State of Texas (2006-2007) Member, Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment Grant Steering Committee, State of Texas (2006) Lifetime Achievement Award, Texas Research Society on Alcoholism (2006)

Janet Meininger, PhD, RN, FAAN Fellowship, Society of Behavioral Medicine (2006)

Elda G. Ramirez, PhD, RN, FNP, BC, CEN, FAANP Fellowship, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (2006)

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RESEARCH

- Bergstrom, N.** (Mentor), **Rapp, M.** (Fellow). (2004-2006) Skin Failure in the Elderly at the End of Life. American Academy of Nursing/The Hartford Foundation. (\$70,931)
- Bergstrom, N.** (2005-2007) On-time Prevention of Pressure Ulcers: Partnering with Quality Improvement Organizations. Subcontract through ISIS, Inc. (\$9,363)
- Carroll, T.** (2000-2006) Nurse Executive/ Nurse Manager Job Loss: A Career Transition? Houston Organization of Nursing Executives. (\$2,000)
- Cohen, M.**, Cleeland, M., Ander, K., Mendoza, T., Xin Wang, S., Giralt, S., Neumann, J. (2002-2005) Symptom Management in Blood and Marrow Transplantation. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$700,575)
- Decker, S.** (2006) Pain Assessment and Management in Minority Elders. Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence in Iowa. Subcontract through the University of Iowa. (\$1,202)
- Engebretson, J.** (2006-2009) Partners in Living: Theory of Planned Behavior as a Family Intervention Strategy to Influence Breast Cancer Screening Behavior of Latina Immigrants. Subcontract through Stephen F. Austin State University. (\$33,076)
- Eriksen, L.** (2000-2009) Texas Instrument of Functional Assessment (TIFA). Texas Department of Human Services. (\$85,600)
- Eriksen, L.** (2005-2006) Medication Administration Error Prevention System. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research (J. Turley, PI). (\$13,904)
- Hanneman, S. K.**, Gusick, G., Hamlin, S., Gilman-Wachtel, S., Oldham, S., **Cron, S.** (2005-2007) Multi-site Randomized Clinical Trial of Horizontal Positioning to Prevent and Treat Pulmonary Complications in Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Patients: A Feasibility Study. Texas Medical Center/Howell Nursing Research Grant. (\$15,000)

- Hanneman, S. K.**, Gusick, G., Hamlin, S. K., Gilman-Wachtel, S., Oldham, S., **Cron, S.** (2005-2007) Multi-site Randomized Clinical Trial of Horizontal Positioning to Prevent and Treat Pulmonary Complications in Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Patients: A Pilot Study. Society of Critical Care Medicine - Norma J. Shoemaker Nursing Research Award. (\$15,000)

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Hanneman, S. K. (Mentor), Gusick, G., Hamlin (Fellow), S. K., Gilman-Wachtel, S., Oldham, S., **Cron, S.** (2006-2007) Multi-site Randomized Clinical Trial of Horizontal Positioning to Prevent and Treat Pulmonary Complications in Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Patients: A Pilot Study. American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Mentorship Grant. (\$10,000)

Frazier, L., Willerson, J. T., Boerwinkle, E. (2005-2006) Genetics and Heart Disease. Greater Houston Partnership. (\$450,000)

Frazier, L., Willerson, J. T., Boerwinkle, E. (2006-2007) TEXGEN: Premature Myocardial Infarction/Family Study. Greater Houston Partnership. (\$100,000)

Frazier, L., Boerwinkle, E., **Meininger, J.,** Tyson, J., Vaughn, W., Willerson, J. T. (2003-2007) Inflammatory Markers and Cardiovascular Patient Outcomes. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$337,807)

Marcus, M., Liehr, P., Moeller, F. G., Schmitz, J., Swank, P., **Cron, S.** (2004-2008) Stress Reduction in Therapeutic Community Treatment. National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse. (\$1,393,000)

Marcus, M. (2004-2007) Consortium for Research in Self-Neglect in Texas [CREST]. Subcontract through Baylor College of Medicine. (\$70,702)

Marcus, M. (2004-2007) Group Therapy for Nicotine Dependence. Subcontract through M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. (\$105,861)

McNeill, J. (Mentor), Ethier, A. (Fellow). (2004-2007) Exploring a Parent's Memories as a Dimension of Resolving Grief. American Cancer Society. (\$60,000)

Meininger, J., Brosnan, C., Upchurch, S., Eissa, M., Selwyn, B., Kelder, S., **Reyes, L.,** Taylor, W. (2005-2007) Aldine-UT Partnership to Prevent Obesity in Youth. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$440,265)

Ostwald, S. K. (Mentor), Sixta, C. S. (Fellow). (2004-2007) Border Intervention by Promotoras for Type 2 Diabetes. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$57,995)

Ostwald, S., Marshall, G., Swank, P. R., Robinson-Whelen, S., Hersch, G., Kelley, C. (2001-2007) Intervention for Stroke Survivors and Spousal Caregivers. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$2,226,669)

Owby, K., Mahoney, J., Clark, C. (2002-2006) Exploring Correlates of Fatigue in HIV/AIDS. Association of Nurses in AIDS Care. (\$5,000)

Owby, K. (2003-2006) Biochemical Markers for Symptom Management Research. Oncology Nursing Society Foundation. (\$13,700)

Verklan, M. T. (Mentor), Helmreich, R. (Fellow), **Meininger, J.** (Mentor). (2006-2007) Obesity on Vagal Tone and HbA1c during Pregnancy. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$75,027)

Verklan, M. T., Padhye, N. (2004-2008) Effects of Noise on Newborns <1000g. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R. Lasky, PI). (\$163,813)

Wasserman, J., Ostwald, S. (2004-2005) Capturing Costs for Outpatient Rehabilitative Stroke Care. American Nurses Foundation. (\$7,500)

TRAINING

Bailes, B. (2004-2007) New ANP Track and Diversity, HPDIP, Web-Enhanced and Telehealth for All. Subcontract through the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. (\$113,849)

Carroll, T. L. (2004-2007) Consortium to Advance Nursing Diversity and Opportunity (CANDO). Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). (\$1,010,369)

DaCunha, M. F. (2003- 2005) Center For Teaching Excellence: A Proposal. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (\$47,746)

Fair, B. S. (2003- 2007) Tuberculosis Curriculum Coordinating Center. Subcontract through the University of California - San Diego. (\$119,729)

Fay, V. P. (2000-2006) Texas Consortium of Geriatric Education Centers. Subcontract through Baylor College of Medicine. (\$146,465)

Fay, V. P. (2006-2007) Improving Practice with Geriatric Resource Nurses. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). (\$504,518)

Grimes, D. (2005-2007) Texas Bioterrorism Continuing Education Program. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) (S. Lillibridge, PD). (\$225,489)

Marcus, M. (2003-2005) Coordinating of Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT). Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Treatment. (\$20,938)

Marcus, M. (2004-2005) Project Mainstream (Professional Services Agreement). Health Resources and Services Administration. (\$29,852)

Owby, K. (2006-2007) Promoting Successful Transition from Applicant to Registered Nurse. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (\$90,000)

Schumann, R. (2003-2007) Nurse Education, Practice and Retention: Internship and Residency Programs. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). (\$283,964)

Schumann, R. (2004-2007) Workforce Increases in Nurses and Nursing Faculty: Excellence in Resource Collaboration (Winner). Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (\$1,035,506)

Stafford, L. (2001-2006) Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center. Subcontract with the University of Texas - Austin (\$70,408)

OTHER GRANTS

Hanneman, S. K. (2006-2007) Pre-clinical Critical Care Laboratory. The University of Texas System. (\$500,000)

Persson, D. (2005-2006) Ombudsman Program. City of Houston Health and Human Services. (\$722,555)

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*In a November 2006 letter,
The UT School of Nursing received
official notice from the national
accreditation body, the Commission
on Collegiate Nursing Education
(CCNE), that the school has been
approved with no recommendations
for improvements. The school
will have its next on-site evaluation
of the baccalaureate and master's
degree programs in Spring 2011.*



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