

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing

# CARING *Minds*





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December 2011

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*CaringMinds* is the annual publication of the UTHealth School of Nursing that celebrates achievements in philanthropy, research, faculty excellence and other areas of interest. For additional copies, please e-mail: David.R.Bates@uth.tmc.edu or call 713.500.2111.



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#### On the Cover:

Memorial Hermann Hospital System Scholar and PhD candidate Luba Yammine, MSN, (left) examines collected patients’ samples in the nursing school’s Biological Laboratory with Jennifer E. Sanner, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Nursing Systems (right). Work being done by Sanner and Yammine underscores that biobanks will remain crucial to scientists who depend on large numbers of biological samples and data to answer research questions. (See story on Page 2.)

## Greetings from Dean Patricia Starck

I appreciate this opportunity to tell you about the UTHealth School of Nursing and why I am so proud to serve as its dean.

Three important numbers come to mind as hallmarks of the past year and how our school is growing and achieving excellence.

First, we got good news with the release of the influential rankings in the 2012 edition of *America’s Best Graduate Schools*. The UTHealth School of Nursing is ranked higher than any of the state’s many other nursing graduate schools. We placed at No.21 among 467 master’s programs surveyed by U.S. News & World Report – which continues our position in the **Top Five Percent** nationally, a distinction we first attained in 2007.

Second, we had a record-breaking total of **963 students** enrolled for Fall 2011. Enrolled B.S.N. students totaled 514, along with 311 M.S.N. students and 92 doctoral students (46 seeking the Ph.D. and 46 working toward the D.N.P. degree.) Our faculty is busier than ever, working together with our School of Nursing staff to educate professional nurses as clinicians, scientists and educators.

Finally, our B.S.N. graduates scored a **99 percent pass rate** as first-time takers on the state NCLEX-RN licensing exams (FY 2011).

During a speech last May, University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, M.D., said: “We must be absolutely unyielding in protecting the value of a UT degree and the UT brand.”

I agree with our President *ad interim* Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D., who said during town hall meetings on campus, “In looking at the performance of our students, we still do a very good job in delivering that product.”

Assessing our excellent feedback from two different sets of accreditation evaluators, looking at the pride of our graduates at Commencement and the excitement of the new students who started the Fall 2011 semester, I know the UTHealth School of Nursing is performing at a level among the highest in the nation.

However, as our faculty and staff grow even busier, we cannot let educational quality slip. We must keep striving for our B.S.N. graduates to achieve a high pass rate on the NCLEX exam, to prepare them to successfully earn advanced



certifications and to have outstanding careers in patient care, research and nursing education. After all, we stand for excellence!

Partly in response to a budget reduction under the new biennial budget from the 82nd session of the Texas Legislature, the School is restructuring its programs and discovering cost-savings and new revenue streams.

Our completed five-year strategic plan for the nursing school aligns our future with national trends. We are positioned to be responsive to a changing healthcare environment and to the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. The School is working to offer a seamless academic progression for nursing students to raise their level of education and to increase the number of nurses who are doctorally prepared.

As you will see in the pages to follow, the School of Nursing's research enterprise continues to model collaboration and innovation while also mentoring junior nurse scientists.

We also have enthusiastically signed early acceptance program agreements with Houston Community College and the Lone Star College System. A new partnership for a dual-degree program is underway between the School of Nursing

and the University of Houston, which will potentially allow freshmen UH students to earn both a Baccalaureate degree from UH and a B.S.N. from UTHealth in only five years.

My thanks go to everyone who supported or participated in our important strategic planning activities, and those who accepted new responsibilities for academic departments, special projects or degree programs.

The number of clinics managed by our nurse practitioners has grown to four, while consistently delivering a positive financial margin. Our University of Texas Health Services (UTHS) clinics had 10,369 patient visits this year in both the primary care and occupational health service areas.

Also this year, a new gift of \$500,000 from the Huffington Foundation will establish an endowed chair to honor the leadership legacy at the School of Nursing by establishing a proposed Huffington Foundation Chair in Nursing Education Leadership. (In 2008, we honored Dr. Roy M. Huffington – a long-time and loyal friend of nursing – as the school's first million-dollar donor for his cumulative contributions to support 18 D.N.P. scholarships).

In October 2010, I was honored to be among 60 alumni chosen by my alma mater, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing, to be named "Visionary Leaders" at its 60th anniversary celebration.

Finally, last summer I accepted additional leadership responsibilities as Senior Vice President for Community Affairs, in which I am working with the Office of Advancement to raise UTHealth's profile and enhance philanthropic giving to the university.

As we take note of measurable signs of our success, we also are rethinking how UTHealth and the School of Nursing will achieve a common vision – delivering innovative solutions that will create the best hope for a healthier future.

**Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.**  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor  
Dean, UTHealth School of Nursing

Senior Vice President for Community Affairs  
UTHealth Office for Advancement

December 2011

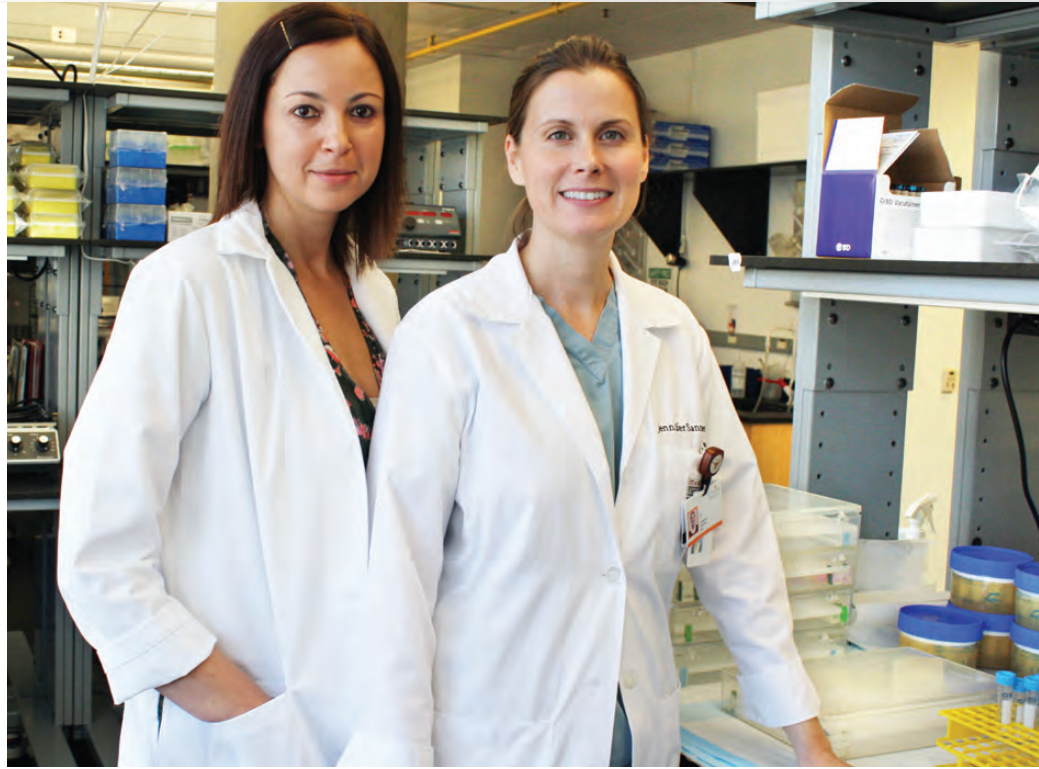


# BIOBANK AND CENTERS MODEL COLLABORATION, ENABLE WORK OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Changes underway in the UTHealth School of Nursing's research enterprise will make it even more collaborative and efficient, while also providing for the mentoring of junior faculty members and graduate students embarking on their own careers as nurse-scientists.

Perhaps the most apparent sign of these changes is an important leadership transition in the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) Biobank, which is headquartered at the nursing school.

The biobank consists of human biological samples and related clinical data owned by contributing investigators



*Lorraine Frazier, Ph.D., R.N.*

within the Texas Medical Center. It has collected over 200,000 samples – including plasma, serum, DNA, buffy coat, urine and saliva – through the donations of nearly 60,000 consenting patients. Since 2002, more than 14,800 samples have been distributed to 53 researchers, who are investigating such major disease categories as cardiovascular, aneurysms, cancer and autoimmune system disorders.

**Lorraine Frazier**, Ph.D., R.N., who now is the dean of the College of Nursing of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), has been succeeded as director of the CCTS Biobank by Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D. Boerwinkle is professor and director of the Center for Human Genetics in the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, as well as director of the Division of Epidemiology at The University of Texas School of Public Health.

New leadership of the CCTS Biobank also includes **Jennifer Sanner**, Ph.D., R.N., (at right in above photo) as its manager.

Sanner joined the faculty in Aug. 2011 as an assistant professor (tenure track) in the Department of Nursing Systems after completing and defending her

dissertation, “The Role of Serotonin in Depression and Clotting in the Coronary Artery Disease Population.” She also earned her master’s degree in women’s health at the School of Nursing.

Last summer, Sanner attended the Summer Genetics Institute, a tuition-free one-month intensive research training program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

## **ROI study to continue here**

Frazier is the principal investigator on the ROI study, “Depressive Symptoms and Genetic Influences on Cardiac Outcomes,” funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research at the NIH. This grant, which has two years left to run, will conduct much of its work at UTHealth. Sanner is co-investigator of the study.

“Dr. Sanner held the senior research nurse position on Dr. Lorraine Frazier’s grant while she was a doctoral student here,” noted Dean Patricia L. Starck. “We’re glad to have her on our faculty.”

Also working on Frazier’s RO1 study is **Luba Yammine**, M.S.N., R.N., a member of the Patricia L. Starck Accelerated Ph.D. Scholars Program. “For my dissertation project I am planning to utilize blood samples collected from individuals who were previously enrolled in Dr. Frazier’s study,” explained Yammine. “I will be examining these samples with regards to a particular biomarker which could be potentially implicated in the depression-heart disease link.” (Frazier also will continue as Yammine’s doctoral mentor.)

“Very little biobehavioral research was done by nurses or with nurses before now – but we’ve shown that specialists in this area *can* be nurses – and medical research must include the environment and behavior of patients,” said Frazier.

### Collaboration increases

Work being done by Sanner and Yammine underscores that biobanks will remain crucial to scientists who depend on large numbers of biological samples and data to answer research questions.

“My goal is to continue with my biobehavioral research with a focus on cardiovascular disease and depression, while incorporating a genetic component,” said Sanner. “I’m currently working on a preliminary study that is looking at serotonin transporter gene polymorphisms in a group of cardiovascular patients.”

“Because coronary events occur relatively infrequently at a younger age, it would typically take years to accrue sufficient samples for a project like mine – therefore, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity of using existing blood samples and being able to carry out this project as part of my Ph.D. program,” said Yammine. “After completion of my dissertation, I intend to maintain my research focus on cardiovascular disease and hope to continue working collaboratively with other

members of the Biobank research team.” Frazier, an acknowledged national expert, views the various aspects of how a biobank is used as a model of research collaboration. “Collaborative research takes time to develop and formulate a model that serves everyone’s needs for their work,” she said. “Enhanced collaboration is the future, both the near future and over a long time, and I think that’s beautiful.”

### Lab conversion provides many functions

Another School of Nursing facility modeling collaborative effort is the Pre-clinical Critical Care Laboratory (PCCL). Its 1,010 square feet of space was specially constructed in 2009 like a hospital OR and ICU to accommodate investigations important to the care of critically ill patients.

The PCCL operating room recently underwent a “reversible conversion” for use as a simulation laboratory for the Nurse Anesthesia program. “Reversible conversion means that the space can be easily re-converted back to an OR for animal studies,” said **Sandra K. Hanneman**, Ph.D., R.N., the Jerold B. Katz Distinguished Professor for Nursing Research. “Infrastructure changes needed to support the sim lab use were the

addition of nitrogen and carbon dioxide piped into the PCCL’s OR and the addition of more electrical outlets and data ports.

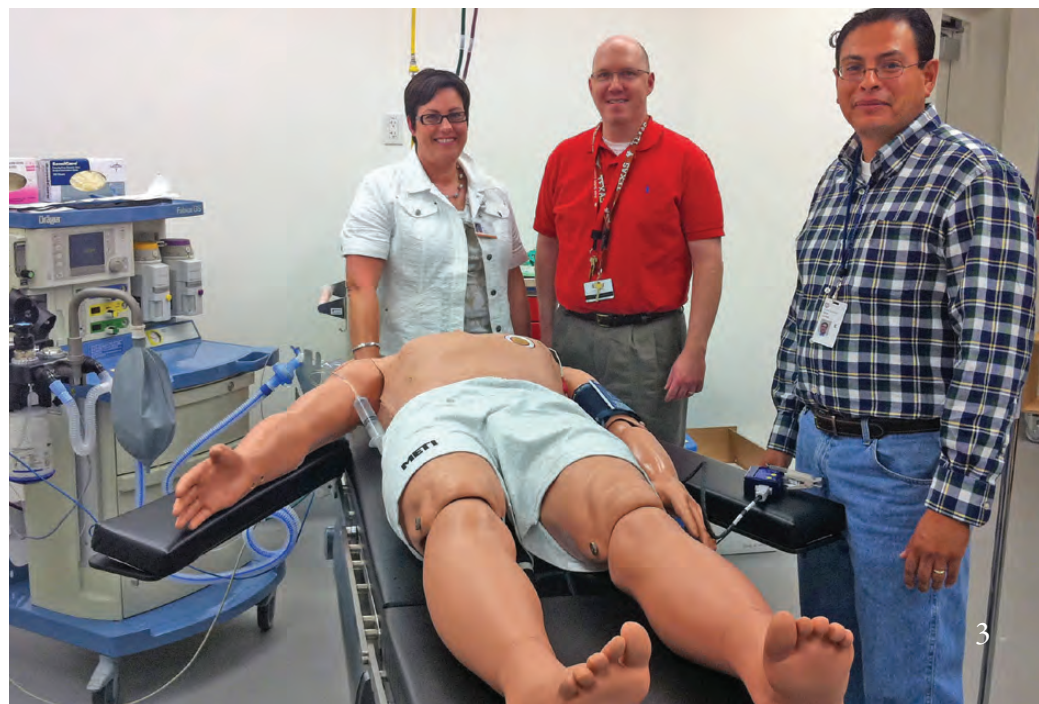
### New organizational framework

The ongoing formation of the School of Nursing Centers provides an opportunity for leaders in education, research and practice to focus on their unique initiatives and maximize collaboration among the various specialty areas. The “umbrella” organization brings together the following centers: International and Global Initiatives; Continuing Education; the Center on Aging; the Center for Substance Abuse Education, Prevention and Research; the Center for Nursing Research; the Bioscience Laboratory; and, the PCCL.

“This collaboration also allows for us to maximize the use of a highly trained staff who can efficiently coordinate services,” noted Interim Associate Dean for Research **Nancy Bergstrom**, Ph.D., R.N.

“For some time, we have been trying to re-conceptualize all of our School centers and to come up with a plan where they would all share a common staff,” said Dean Starck. “We want to streamline and make services very efficient and timely.”

*With the newly installed PCCL SimMan (left to right) are Nurse Anesthesia Track Director Kristen Starnes-Ott, PhD, CRNA; Myron Arnaud, MSN, CRNA; and Research Coordinator II Rene Flores, PhD. (Photo by Jennifer Guerra)*





# AccPhD Scholars Find First Year Exciting, Challenging



AccPhD scholar Sandra Branson (left) demonstrating IV medication administration for High Acuity BSN students in the Simulation and Clinical Performance Lab.

“Challenging” is the word most often used by the 10 members of the Patricia L. Starck Accelerated Ph.D. Scholars Program to describe their first year of doctoral-level study. They also mention excitement about the educational progress they are making and *esprit de corps* among the scholars in the pilot program.

A successful \$2-million fundraising initiative is providing the students with stipends that should enable them to get their degrees much sooner in the new accelerated Ph.D. program than the eight years of part-time study it traditionally takes to complete the rigorous doctoral curriculum of 66 post-master’s credits.

Support mostly came from local healthcare organizations and foundations, as well as the nursing school’s volunteer Advisory Council (which achieved 88 percent gift participation by its membership). Each of the 10 doctoral scholars carries the title of an organization that made a three-year, \$180,000 commitment.

“The last year has gone by fast,” noted School of Nursing Advisory Council Scholar **Susanne Lim**. “Now I’m amazed at how little I knew when I started.”

“The past year *has* been challenging – the high load of courses that we had to take each semester, the number and the complexity of the projects associated with these courses, these were some of the particular challenges that I have encountered,” observed **Luba Yamine**, the Memorial Hermann Hospital System Scholar.

“The curriculum is rigorous and challenging with an enormous time investment but it is off-set by learning and researching about what you love,” said **Sandra Branson**, the Hamill Foundation Scholar.

These research projects cover a variety of interests, each mentored by a veteran faculty member. (see Page 6)

Branson’s research will look at the human-animal bond and how these relationships influence psychobehavioral and physiological outcomes in patients’ recovery and well-being.

“My hypothesis is that one’s own dog, to whom one is emotionally attached, will have a greater stress-relieving effect than an unknown dog,” said Branson. “This type of research will serve to promote healing environments in hospitals through pet visitation as a stress-reducing modality in improving recovery. Many hospitals in the Texas Medical Center are already allowing patients’ pets to visit, and patients and staff are realizing the benefits.”

“My area of research interest is in women’s health – specifically the prevention of sexually transmitted infections among adolescent and young adult females,” said **Stacy Crandall**, one of two George Foundation Scholars. “I feel confident that this program is preparing me to be an excellent nursing educator and researcher.”

Kissito Healthcare Scholar **Lisa Boss** plans to study if an applied relaxation technique can reduce stress and cortisol

response and thus improve cognitive function among elderly residents in a post-acute Kissito facility in Katy. “This is a highly important emerging area of research for the elderly,” said her mentor, **Duck-Hee Kang**, Ph.D.

**Licia Clowtis**, the Vivian L. Smith Foundation Scholar, is doing research on pediatric asthma and the effects of family stress in the social environment/child interactions. (Childhood asthma presents a considerable burden to affected children and their families, accounting for 10 million lost days of school and over \$700 million dollars in lost wages due to parental work absence.)

Lim is planning research on an interventional study of colic “Colic has been seen as a temporary thing, quickly over with in infants – so it hasn’t been dealt with much,” she explained. “I see need for a colic intervention, because it could make a difference in the mother-baby relationship.”

George Foundation Scholar **Angela Nash** is focused on a particular type of outpatient therapy for adolescents with substance use disorders, a therapeutic model that was established in Houston in 1971. “The instruction I’ve received here makes me feel certain that the research I produce will be work of quality, which is what these families and programs deserve,” she said.

Texas Children’s Hospital Scholar **Anitra Frederick** is building on her nursing experiences “in the largest NICU in the nation,” to explore her interest in the role of “kangaroo” or skin-to-skin care in maternal attachment.

**Faith Strunk**, the UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Scholar, is examining how breast cancer and its treatment may worsen symptoms for some patients with pre-existing health conditions. “Another area I’m interested in is developing apps and Web-based programs for symptom management,” she said.

### Daily life impinges on studies

Of course, a doctoral student’s personal life and non-academic responsibilities can’t be put on hold for three years, no matter how demanding the program of study.

“I didn’t see what was coming, really, having a two-year-old and a six-year-old,” said **Christina Nunez**, the Cullen Trust for Health Care Scholar, who is comparing TB outcomes in Texas for patients with and without case managers. “Although I still have to deal with the scheduling problems and school and other things, the stipend has really helped with all of that.”

During her first semester, Nunez also had to cope with an

emergency appendectomy. “That was crazy,” she recalled. “But, I still managed to get everything done and I was back in school in a week, even got all of my stuff in on time.”

Branson found her home in Magnolia threatened by the Sept. 2011 wildfires that nearly spread out of control. “We needed to evacuate, so we loaded up our family – which included me, my kids and my husband, cats, dogs, horses and fish – and we just started driving, not knowing really where to take the horses,” Branson said. “Police were escorting livestock trailers out of the area throughout the night and a local firefighter offered his land to keep our horses. Thankfully, we returned without fires getting to our neighborhood, because the firefighters worked so diligently.”

Drawing inspiration from her personal life, Boss credited a neurosciences course at the University of Houston and her husband’s work as a chiropractor with prompting her to look for stress-related biomarkers in the salivary samples of seniors with osteoarthritis health problems.

### Relationships with faculty mentors are key

“When I changed my focus to a pediatric population (my first love), I had to change advisors – and Dr. Kang’s doctoral dissertation was also about pediatric asthma – so it was an ideal match for me,” said Clowtis.

“My faculty advisor and pioneer in human-animal interaction research, Dr. Mara Baun, is one of my greatest gifts and highlights of the program,” affirmed Branson.

“The accelerated program has been extremely fulfilling, as I have had the opportunity to learn from wonderful mentors and faculty like my advisor

Dr. Marcus,” said Nash. “It has definitely been more rigorous than I anticipated – every assignment is a challenge.”

Despite the challenges, the AccPhD scholars are keeping their eyes on their common goal. “I want to earn my degree, finish everything on time – because I want to *walk* in May 2013, go across the stage at Commencement along with everybody else,” said Nunez.

“Because a lot of further learning has yet to take place, I look forward to the upcoming semesters and to my candidacy project which will take place next summer,” said Yammine, whose research focus is younger individuals who experience acute coronary syndromes.

“I want to defend my dissertation in spring 2013,” agreed Lim. “I’m counting on Dr. Cathy Rozmus, who is instrumental in my doctoral work and an expert at organizing, to keep me on schedule.”

### AccPhD curriculum overview (original by Licia Clowtis):

**YEAR 1:** Foundational course work, construction of a theoretical framework to guide research

**YEAR 2:** Continue to refine framework and methodology for research, submit proposal to IRB (summer of 2012)

**YEAR 3:** Pilot study to be completed in the fall of 2011, refinement of methodology and proposal with dissertation study to be completed spring 2013.



# THE NAMED SCHOLARS OF THE PATRICIA L. STARCK ACCELERATED PH.D. SCHOLARS PROGRAM ARE:

## THE CULLEN TRUST FOR HEALTH CARE SCHOLAR

Christina Nunez, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Deanna E. Grimes, DrPH, RN, FAAN

## THE GEORGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS (two):

Stacy Crandall, MSN, MPH, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Joan C. Engbretson, DrPH, RN, AHN-BC

Angela Nash, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Marianne T. Marcus, EdD, RN, FAAN

## THE HAMILL FOUNDATION SCHOLAR:

Sandra Branson, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Mara M. Baun, DNSc, FAAN

## THE KISSITO HEALTHCARE SCHOLAR:

Lisa Boss, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Duck-Hee Kang, PhD, RN, FAAN

## THE MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL SYSTEM SCHOLAR:

Luba Yammine, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Lorraine Q. Frazier, PhD, RN, MS, FAAN

## THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ADVISORY COUNCIL SCHOLAR:

Susanne K. Lim, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Cathy L. Rozmus, DSN, RN

## THE TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOLAR:

Anitra Frederick, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Nancy H. Busen, PhD, FNP-BC, APRN

## THE UT M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER SCHOLAR:

Faith Strunk, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Geri L. Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN

## THE VIVIAN L. SMITH FOUNDATION SCHOLAR:

Licia Clowtis, MSN, RN  
Faculty Mentor: Duck-Hee Kang, PhD, RN, FAAN

## Event Salutes AccPhD Donors' Support

During a celebratory event on Oct. 28, 2010 at Trevisio Restaurant in the Texas Medical Center Commons, **George R. Farris** and Dean Patricia L. Starck, together unveiled a plaque now permanently on display in the lobby of the UTHealth School of Nursing to recognize gifts of \$10,000 and more to the Patricia L. Starck Accelerated Ph.D. Scholars Program. Farris led the drive on behalf of the school's Advisory Council as a tribute to Dr. Starck's 25 years of service as dean.

AccPhD scholars and their spouses attending the event enjoyed the opportunity to meet their philanthropic sponsors and to mingle with faculty members.

Faith Strunk, the UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Scholar, thanked the initiative's supporters on behalf of her fellow AccPhD students and re-affirmed their commitment to earn their doctoral degrees and join an area nursing school faculty at the end of three years.

Dean Starck thanked, not just the donors, but also the School's faculty for their willingness "to take on the extra work to make this innovative program a reality."



*George R. Farris (left) with Dean Patricia L. Starck, unveiling the permanent plaque now displayed at the UTHealth School of Nursing to recognize gifts of \$10,000 and more to "The Patricia L. Starck Accelerated Ph.D. Scholars Program." Farris led the successful \$2-million fundraising drive on behalf of the school's Advisory Council. (Photo by John Everett)*



# Fay named to UT System's Academy of Health Science Education



**Vaunette P. Fay, Ph.D., R.N.C., FNP, GNP**, professor of clinical nursing in the Department of Nursing Systems, was inducted into The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education, composed of outstanding educators at health institutions of the UT System. An induction ceremony was held May 18, 2011 at the annual "Innovations in Health Science Education" conference in San Antonio.

Also during the two-day conference, the UTHHealth project, "Geriatric Interdisciplinary Student Team Competition," took away first prize and an award of \$7,500 from the annual Innovations in Health Science Education competition. The winning entry was co-authored by **Sharon K. Ostwald, Ph.D., R.N.**, deputy director of UTHHealth's Consortium on Aging and holder of the Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontological Nursing at the nursing school.

"Dr. Fay is an outstanding nursing educator and a very well regarded expert on geriatric nursing education," said Dean Patricia L. Starck. "I'm particularly proud that she will join five of our faculty members on the prestigious roster of the UT Academy of Health Science Education."

Fay joined the nursing school's faculty in 1981. Since 1990, she has served as track director for the Gerontological Nurse

Practitioner track. In 1997, she was appointed as associate director for education at the nursing school's Center on Aging.

She received her Ph.D. in nursing theory development and research in 1992 and her M.S.N. with a major in nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner (F.N.P.) in 1974 from Texas Woman's University.

Other UT Academy of Health Science Education members on the School of Nursing's faculty are: Deanna E. Grimes, Dr.PH., professor in the Department of Nursing Systems; Marianne T. Marcus, Ed.D., the John P. McGovern Professor In Addiction Nursing; Janet C. Meininger, Ph.D., the Lee and Joseph Jamail Distinguished Professor; Sharon K. Ostwald, Ph.D., holder of the Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontological Nursing; and Geri L. Wood, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Nursing Systems.

Nominations for membership in the academy may come from the president, dean or vice-dean and the faculty senate at each of the six University of Texas health institutions.

UT System Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., worked with the presidents and selected faculty from the health institutions to establish the academy in 2005. Only a small number of nominees are selected each year, based on their outstanding contributions in the areas of direct teaching, curriculum development, mentorship, educational scholarship and leadership.

## Class of 2011 puts UTHHealth School of Nursing's total alumni at 8,000-plus

The 308 new graduates at all levels who crossed the stage to receive diplomas at the George R. Brown Convention Center on May 10 also carried the number of UTHHealth School of Nursing alumni past the 8,000 mark. Class of 2011 graduates make a total of 8,245 alumni for the nursing school in its 38th year of existence.

UTHHealth President ad interim **Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D.**, who greeted the commencement ceremony audience and participants, praised "all of the loved ones who support our graduates through this incredible journey." He also noted that "they would not be here tonight without your efforts."

**Cathy L. Rozmus, D.S.N., R.N.**, professor and associate dean of academic affairs, presided over the school's annual celebration of academic achievement, filling in for Dean Patricia L. Starck, who was unable to attend.

Leslie Bowlin Bennett, vice chairman of the PARTNERS community support organization, was on hand for the presentation to undergraduates of the traditional nursing pin, which is a gift from PARTNERS. (The nursing pin has its origins in the badge of the Nightingale Training School, established in 1925 by Florence Nightingale.)

The school's Spring 2011 graduates included 219 students at the bachelor's level, 73 earning the master's (M.S.N.) degree and 11 candidates receiving the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree.

Among the six 2011 Ph.D. candidates, two current School of Nursing faculty members were "hooded" as recipients of their doctoral degrees: **Stephanie Meyers, Ph.D., M.Ed., R.N.** (dissertation chair: **Joan C. Engebretson, Dr.PH., R.N.**) and **Kristen Starnes-Ott, Ph.D., CRNA** (**Janet C. Meininger, Ph.D., R.N.**, was dissertation chair).



*May 2011 Nurse Anesthesia graduates (left-right) Bianca Ghetes, Candice Barker and Mary Briggs share an excited hug after receiving their MSNs. (Photo by Interstate Photography)*

# Opera Star Hails Nurses as “BEAUTIFUL ANGELS” at 2011 PARTNERS Spring Luncheon

(PHOTOS ©PRISCILLA DICKSON)



OPERATIC SOPRANO AND CANCER SURVIVOR BARBARA PADILLA PERFORMS AT THE PARTNERS 2011 SPRING LUNCHEON, HELD APRIL 6, 2011. UTHealth PRESIDENT AD INTERIM GIUSEPPE COLASURDO, M.D., THANKED ATTENDEES FOR THEIR SUPPORT. CHRIS AND MARIA PAPPAS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THE UTHealth AND THE SCHOOL OF NURSING.

Opera singer **BARBARA PADILLA** shared her touching story of the impact nurses had during her cancer treatment when she spoke and performed at the UTHealth School of Nursing’s PARTNERS 2011 Spring Luncheon held April 6, 2011 at The Westin Oaks Hotel. Proceeds from the annual event benefitted programs and services for the nursing school.

**DEAN PATRICIA STARCK**, highlighted numerous accolades achieved by the School, which now is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the top nursing graduate school in Texas.

“The UTHealth School of Nursing continues to be an institution of excellence, and that excellence isn’t possible without the continued support of PARTNERS,” Dean Starck said. “I’m always in awe of everything PARTNERS does.”

Master of ceremonies and former news anchor **STEVE SMITH** gave a brief history lesson of the PARTNERS organization, which has raised more than \$1 million toward scholarships, faculty research grants and endowed professorships since its formation in 1994.

PARTNERS Board chair **LESLIE BOWLIN BENNETT** recognized “true friends of UTHealth and the School of Nursing” **CHRIS AND MARIA PAPPAS** for their dedication to the organization. Chris is president and CEO of

Pappas Restaurants, as well as CEO of Luby’s Fuddrucker’s. Maria, along with other community service, has served on the PARTNERS Board and executive committee, the UTHealth Development Board and the School of Nursing’s Advisory Council.

Over 400 guests laughed and shed tears as Padilla described her five-year journey through her cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery. “My nurses were like my own beautiful angels around me, helping me to keep on fighting,” said Padilla. “I may not be able to thank all of the nurses I came across but it is because of organizations like PARTNERS that great nurses do exist.”

Padilla performed two moving arias before ending a heartfelt keynote speech with an encore performance of Puccini’s soprano aria, ‘*O mio babbino caro*,’ from the opera *Gianni Schicchi*.

Money raised from this year’s luncheon goes towards the continuous efforts of PARTNERS – “Promoting Advancement Resources to Nursing Education Research and Students.” Luncheon event co-chairs were **KATHY REDDEN** and **NANCY WILLERSON**. Chaplain **DICK MADDOX** from The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center opened the luncheon with an invocation.



*PARTNERS stands for “Promoting Advancement Resources to Nursing Education, Research and Students.” The organization was formed in 1994, and today holds a \$1-million endowment to support its projects.*



(LEFT-RIGHT): PARTNERS BOARD CHAIR LESLIE BOWLIN BENNETT JOINS HONOREES CHRIS AND MARIA PAPPAS; DEAN STARCK; KEYNOTER BARBARA PADILLA; AND EVENT CO-CHAIRS NANCY WILLERSON AND KATHY REDDEN ON STAGE AT THE PARTNERS 2011 SPRING LUNCHEON.



### Ross receives PARTNERS support, named 2010 “Outstanding Nurse”

In April 2011, Mary Ellen Trail Ross, Dr.PH.,R.N., assistant professor of clinical nursing in the Department of Nursing Systems, was named the first recipient of the PARTNERS Faculty

Research Scholar Fund. Support received through this endowment over the next three years will help advance her research, which focuses on interventions to relieve stress in caregivers who are raising their grandchildren.

The Texas Nurses Association (TNA) District 9 Foundation honored Ross as one of the “20 Outstanding Nurses of 2010” during an award ceremony held Nov. 18, 2010. Honorees were chosen by their peers and co-workers as exemplary registered nurses in the Houston area.

Ross, who earned a Doctor of Public Health degree from The University of Texas School of Public Health, also received a Master of Science in Nursing from UTHealth. She joined the nursing school’s faculty in 1988.

Including Ross, five of the “20 Outstanding Nurses of 2010” are alumni of the UTHealth School of Nursing: **Virginia Bowman** (’04), **Melanie Gander** (’06), **Patrick Laird** (’05) and **Kelly Maresh** (’95).

## Hodges Voted School’s 2011 McGovern Outstanding Teacher

Commencement ceremonies on May 10, 2011 included the recognition of student awards and the announcement of **Pamela J. Hodges, Ph.D., R.N.**, as winner of the 2011 John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award. Hodges is an assistant professor of clinical nursing in the Department of Acute and Continuing Care.

Hodges was cited by her students as a “caring and concerned” faculty member and a “great motivator” who “has an endless supply of encouragement.” One nominator wrote: “She embodies all the qualities of who I aspire to be as a nurse: patient, kind, knowledgeable and compassionate – and she communicates her desire to see us do well every day.”

Another student wrote: “Dr. Hodges wants each and every student that comes through her class to succeed and become a wonderful nurse – she truly cares!”

Hodges joined the nursing school’s faculty in 2009, after earning her doctorate from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She is a member of UTHealth’s Consortium on Aging with research areas of interest in heart failure and the health-related quality of life.

Students at each of the six UTHealth schools choose a John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher for stimulating curiosity, promoting professional development and contributing to students’ abilities to think creatively. The awards, announced at commencement ceremonies, are made possible by an endowment from the John P. McGovern Foundation.





# GRADUATES SOAR – STEADY GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF DNP PROGRAM FOLLOWS BEING FIRST IN

# TEXAS

*In May 2009, the UTHealth School of Nursing graduated nine women who were the first students ever to earn the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree in Texas.*

Fall 2011 has brought the largest total student enrollment ever to the School of Nursing – including 46 students seeking the Doctor of Nursing Practice. Twenty-five are new to the program.

“Our program continues to grow and mature, and the faculty is dedicated to providing a dynamic and outstanding educational experience for our students,” said **Joanne V. Hickey**, Ph.D., coordinator of the D.N.P. program. “There are always challenges, but I am very optimistic about the future of nursing and the degree program.”

It is an especially *Texan* program – barely more than five percent of all UTHealth D.N.P. students were admitted from out of state. About 40 percent of 74 admitted D.N.P. students were either Hispanic, African-American or Asian/Pacific Islander.

The previous three classes of the school’s D.N.P. graduates came to the practice-oriented doctoral program as experienced nurse practitioners. After graduation, some returned to their home towns and positions that they held when they matriculated – but with much-enhanced theoretical and clinical skills. Others have taken on new clinical and teaching roles that their three years of advanced study uniquely qualify them to fill.

### *New nursing leaders make their mark*

**Iris Sanchez**, Class of 2010, recently presented findings about shared medical appointments to a national audience of diabetes educators. Her work on the Texas-Mexico border at the Weslaco Medical Clinic, which is staffed by one physician and two nurse practitioners, yielded evidence that



*“I definitely feel that the DNP has added value to my career. I’m looking for even bigger ways to impact healthcare.” – Sherry Forest (2010)*



shared medical appointments helped to maximize efficiency of delivery of diabetes education while also delivering quality medical care.

“Dr. Sanchez was very innovative and enthusiastic about the potential of group appointments for diabetic patients as a student, and her work has demonstrated its value and contribution to quality, cost effective care.” said Hickey, who holds the Patricia L. Starck/PARTNERS Endowed Professorship in Nursing. “Her practice inquiry project at UTHealth was on group appointments for diabetic patients.”

“The practice in which I work recently got NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition and we just received notification we got Diabetes Education Accreditation Program (DEAP) from the American Association of Diabetes Educators,” Sanchez reported in October. “I am excited, and I couldn’t have done it without the knowledge and perspective I gained in the DNP program.”

**Lori Hull-Grommesh**, Class of 2009, is director of operations for advanced practice services and the PICC team at Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center.

The Class of 2010’s **Laurie Anne Ferguson** now is an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Loyola University New Orleans. While maintaining an active clinical practice in family practice in rural Louisiana, she pursues a research interest in health literacy and its impact on health outcomes. She also has been active on the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners Public Policy Committee.

**Elizabeth A. Gonzales**, Class of 2009, is the manager of CCRN nurse practitioner services at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital. In Dec. 2009 she published an article on Marfan syndrome in the *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners* (Volume 21, Issue 12, pages 663–670).

**Shannon Pearce**, Class of 2010, is an assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. “I know it seems a cliché, but when I chose nursing as a career my intent was to make a difference and improve in the quality of care for the patients I served,” she said. “Since graduation, I have worked with Dr. Alexie Cintron to establish a thriving and much needed Palliative Medicine Consultation Service at Ben Taub General Hospital.”



### *Two return to UTHealth*

**Patrick A. Laird**, Class of 2011, has joined the UTHealth faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Acute and Continuing Care. He has presented to faculty and students on “Induced Hypothermia for Neuroprotection Following Cardiac Arrest: Applying the Evidence.”

A member of the first D.N.P. class, **Laura Rooney**, is an assistant professor of clinical nursing and now sees patients at the University of Texas Health Services (UTHS) clinic, located in the Texas Medical Center.

*continued on next page*

## Finding her NICHE – Frances Stokes

The Class of 2011’s **Frances Stokes** is a nurse practitioner intensivist at Renown Regional Medical Center, Reno, Nevada. She also is the coordinator there of the Nurses Improving Care to Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program, awarded by The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University College of Nursing. Developed in 1992, NICHE is the only national designation for elder-care excellence – and hers is one of only 350 medical facilities in the nation to bear the NICHE designation.

“The unique thing about NICHE is it is a nursing initiative, but Renown Health has developed a plan to immerse all staff in sensitivity training regarding the older adult,” Stokes said.

She recently presented on “How NICHE Makes the Elder Patient Experience Excellent” at Renown Health’s annual Touching Lives Through Nursing Excellence conference.





In Louisiana, neonatal nurse practitioner **Sharron (“Sherry”) Forest**, Class of 2010 (*pictured above*), is busier than ever at the same small Lake Charles hospital where she has practiced for 20 years. “However, after graduating I became the supervisor (a management position) of the other NPs” she reported. “We are involved in some big projects – one is a unit-specific performance improvement project and the other is a population-based project that started with my DNP practice inquiry.”

***“What I find amazing is that I am almost as busy now than when I was in school!”***  
*– Christy Blanco (2010)*

The Class of 2010’s **Christine (“Christy”) Blanco** will be teaching this spring in the women’s health part of the master’s FNP program at The University of Texas at El Paso, which recently started a D.N.P. program. “I am working at the moment to start up an organization led by nurse practitioners to provide care in the homes in El Paso, because many people in the community are homebound and unable to get appropriate screenings due to physical barriers,” Blanco explained. “I am working with two other providers, hoping to start in the next several months. The DNP program has given me the education I need to help start up a business, all of which I am very grateful.”

Also, Blanco was elected last summer as the Texas Nurse Practitioners organization’s El Paso representative and now is working toward policies that will remove barriers for access to care by nurse practitioners. “Since graduation I have been accomplishing personal goals of mine, too,” she reported. “I have run two half-marathons in the last year and performed belly dancing routines throughout El Paso.”

**Lilia A. Fuentes**, Class of 2009, is an assistant professor and the M.S.N. program coordinator at The University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, 10 miles north of the U.S./Mexico border. She is building on her dissertation topic at the Samuel T. Garcia, M.D. and Associates Family Practice Clinic, where she is developing a clinical program to observe risk factors for Type 2 diabetes in children and counsel families about what they can do to reduce the risk of developing diabetes.

**Holly L. Jeffreys**, Class of 2009, now is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at West Texas A&M University. She sees patients as a nurse practitioner in the Family Medicine Center of Canyon and was instrumental in beginning the Skin Care Center, the only aesthetic medicine center in Canyon dedicated to the education, prevention, and treatment of skin concerns. “Wow! – talk about meeting a need!” Jeffreys said. “I love it!”

### ***A first for Texas, then rapid growth***

When UTHealth’s D.N.P. program was launched in August 2006, it was one of only a dozen such programs in the country and the first of its kind in Texas.

“Dr. Hickey was committed to academic excellence and promoted her students to become a community of scholars,” recalled Shannon Pearce. “Our class started out as an eclectic group from a variety of advanced practice nursing specialties, but we melded together to become friends, colleagues and mentors.”

Today, about 154 D.N.P. programs are operating in 37 states, plus the District of Columbia, and more than 100 additional ones are under development. States with the most programs (more than five) include Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

According to a 2011 press release from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), in 2010 enrollment in D.N.P. programs grew by approximately 35 percent. From 2009 to 2010, the number of students enrolled in D.N.P. programs increased from 5,165 to 7,034. During that same period, the number of D.N.P. graduates increased from 660 to 1,282.



## *Health care of the future will depend on DNPs*

Hickey noted the recent Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (2011) and called it “monumental.”

“It’s the first time the highly respected and influential IOM has dedicated a report exclusively to nursing and the huge role of nurses in changing the current health care system,” she said. “This is the report of the decade in its importance and influence on nursing and healthcare – and D.N.P. graduates have the knowledge, skill and commitments to lead these proposed changes for a better healthcare system.”

Although more advanced practice nurses than ever are earning the title “doctor,” physician organizations and others would curtail more independent practice by doctorally-prepared nurses and resist an expanded role for holders of the D.N.P. degree in health care’s future.

“The term ‘doctor’ doesn’t belong to any one profession but is the term used to indicate the terminal degree in almost every field,” Dean Starck has said. “Besides, these D.N.P. professionals are achieving just what we hoped our graduates would do!”

“Better serving the healthcare needs of patients and nation is the central core of what we are doing,” added Hickey.

“WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES AND STUDENTS; THEY DEMONSTRATE ON A DAILY BASIS WHAT THE D.N.P. GRADUATE BRINGS TO HEALTHCARE THAT IS DIFFERENT. THEY ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST CLINICAL SCHOLARS WHO BRING THE BEST PRACTICES OF CARE TO INDIVIDUALS AND POPULATIONS OF PATIENTS THROUGH DIRECT CARE, LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.”

## Reception honors Freds for endowed professorship held by Engebretson

A Dec. 2, 2010 reception at the UTHealth School of Nursing formally introduced **Joan Engebretson**, Dr.PH., AHN-BC, R.N., professor in the Department of Family Health, as the holder of the new Judy Fred Professorship in Nursing, which focuses on ethical professional behavior and a commitment to instilling ethical behavior in students.

A commissioned portrait of Judy Fred was unveiled to commemorate the endowed professorship. It now is prominently displayed on the fourth floor of the School of Nursing building. Dr. Herbert L. Fred, a clinical professor of internal medicine at the UTHealth Medical School, has more than a half-century of bedside teaching and is the recipient of many awards and honors for his advancement of medical education. He established the professorship in 2010 to honor his wife, Judy Fred, for her 30-year career in nursing and her work as a member of PARTNERS.

Fred described his wife as “a modern Florence Nightingale” and said he decided on endowing a nursing professorship to honor her “in a significant and lasting way.”

“I can’t tell you how unusual and gratifying it was that Dr. Fred approached us, not the other way around – and he simply handed us a check,” said Dean Patricia L. Starck, “This is a wonderful way to support the School of Nursing for decades and generations into the future.”

Guests at the reception included: PARTNERS board members and life members; Development Board members; family and guests of the Freds and Dr. Engebretson; Advisory Council members; members of Campus-Wide Ethics Program of The John P. McGovern, M.D., Center for Health, Humanities and the Human Spirit; and School of Nursing faculty and staff.



*Alongside professorship namesake Judy Fred’s official portrait are: Dr. Herb Fred (left) with Mrs. Fred’s sister Sue and brother-in-law Richard Ransford (right) at the reception. (Photo by John Everett)*

# 2012 “Best Graduate Schools” guide ranks UTHHealth School of Nursing tops in Texas

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing now ranks at the top among the state’s nursing graduate schools, according to the 2012 edition of the influential America’s Best Graduate Schools guide. The School of Nursing is ranked at No.21 among 467 master’s programs surveyed by U.S. News & World Report.

Overall, the School of Nursing shared the No. 21 spot (and an assessment score of 4.0 out of a “highest possible” of 5.0) with Arizona State University, Boston College, Columbia University (NY), Emory University (GA), New York University, the University of Alabama – Birmingham,

the University of California – Los Angeles, the University of Kentucky, the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

“Our place at the top among Texas graduate nursing programs is something to celebrate,” said Dean Patricia L. Starck. “We keep our focus on being the best that we can be, making a positive impact on those we serve. It’s nice to get recognition by our peers from across the nation.”

The School continues to place in the top five percent of U.S. nursing graduate schools, a distinction it first attained in the 2006 U.S. News & World Report

rankings when it moved up from 29th among 395 master’s programs surveyed.

The closely watched nationwide ranking of college and university graduate programs this year features results from 2011 peer assessment surveys for master’s programs in nursing accredited by either the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. The survey reportedly had a 33 percent response rate.

Every four years, U.S. News & World Report asks deans of nursing schools and departments of nursing to rank the best 10 schools overall, as well as eight individual graduate programs.

## Nursing Excellence Award honors Gallagher for teaching



**Martina R. Gallagher**, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor in the Nursing Systems department, received the “2011 NURSE.com Nursing Excellence Award” in the Teaching category for the South Central region of the United States. She and winners in five other categories (Advancing and Leading the Profession, Clinical Care, Community Service, Management and Mentoring) were honored at an August awards event at the Norris City Centre Conference Center in Houston. The program recognized only 54 regional winners nationwide.

Gallagher was a nominee in both the Teaching and Mentoring categories, with nominations from colleagues and students for her devotion, energy, knowledge, skill, encouragement and positive effect on others.

Nominators described her as “genuine, available, inspirational, unique, intelligent and compassionate” and lauded Gallagher for advising them on academic and personal matters, as well as “exemplifying her love of education, students and the profession.” Comments included:

- “She truly cares about those she works with, bringing out potential in them that they didn’t see in themselves.”
- “She serves each community of learners as if it were her own, and she is particularly invested in the Latino community, of which she is a member. Her advocacy extends into academia and nursing organizational work as well.”
- “Widely published, Martina is ... more than a teacher, nurse or researcher, but someone who genuinely cares about students and dedicates herself to helping them go above and beyond, and truly achieve.”

Gallagher’s research is on the prevention and treatment of obesity in Latino families, with current projects focusing on the incorporation of sleep hygiene into weight loss/management interventions in community settings. Her funded studies have focused on the maternal influence on lifestyle factors that place preschool children at risk for obesity.

*For more than a decade, Nurse.com’s Nursing Excellence Awards program has recognized the extraordinary contributions Texas nurses make to their patients, each other and the profession. The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing’s Future is the national sponsor of the 2011 Nurse.com’s Nursing Excellence Awards.*



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**Sharon K. Ostwald, Ph.D., R.N., FGSA**

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**Kathleen Pace-Murphy, Ph.D., M.S., GNP, CNS-P/MH**

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**Bridgette R. Pullis, Ph.D., R.N.**

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**Cathy L. Rozmus, D.S.N., R.N.**

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Szmedra, P., Sharma, K. L., & **Rozmus, C. L.** (2009). Health promoting behavior among chronically ill Pacificans living with non-communicable disease in Fiji, Nauru, and Kiribati. *Pac Health Dialog*, 15(2), 55-65.

**Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., R.N., FAAN**

**Starck, P. L.** & Woolbert, L. (2010). DNP comprehensive care certification: What are the issues? *Clinical Scholars Review*, 3(2), 59-63.

**M. Terese Verklan, Ph.D., RNC, CCNS**

**Verklan, M. T.** (2010). The power of nursing. *J Perinat Neonatal Nurs*, 24(4), 373-374.

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**Evangelina T.Villagomez, Ph.D., R.N.**

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**Nancy F. Weller, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., M.S., R.N.**

Kong, A. S., Williams, R. L., Rhyne, R., Urias-Sandoval, V., Cardinali, G., **Weller, N. F.**, et al. (2010). Acanthosis Nigricans: high prevalence and association with diabetes in a practice-based research network consortium—a PRImary care Multi-Ethnic network (PRIME Net) study. *J Am Board Fam Med*, 23(4), 476-485.

## Faculty Research

**Armstrong, T.**, Gilbert, M. (2008-2012). Collaborative Ependymoma Research Network (CERN). Collaborative Medical Research, LLC. (\$130,848)

**Armstrong, T.**, Gilbert, M. (2008). Gauging Impact of Treatment on Symptoms, Health Related Quality of Life and Neurocognitive Function in Patients with Primary Brain Tumors. Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure (ABCC)/Tug McGraw Foundation. (\$28,860)

**Armstrong, T.**, Wefel, J. (2009-2011). Phase III Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Conventional Concurrent Chemoradiation and Adjuvant Temozolomide Plus Bevacizumab Versus Conventional Concurrent Chemoradiation and Adjuvant Temozolomide in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma. American College of Radiology-Radiation Therapy Oncology Group. (\$129,046)

**Baun, M.** (Mentor), Mann, E. (PhD. Student). (2010-2011). Prediction of Sepsis for the Burn Intensive Care Unit Patient. TriService Nursing Research Program. (\$41,270)

**Bergstrom, N.**, **Rapp, M.P.**, Horn, S. (2007-2011) Pressure Ulcers: A Multi-site RCT in Nursing Facilities. (5 R01 NR009680) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$2,537,614)

**Bergstrom, N.** (2009-2010). Administrative Supplement for Summer Students. Pressure Ulcers: A Multi-site RCT in Nursing Facilities. (5 R01 NR009680) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$67,060)

**Bergstrom, N.** (Mentor), Nelson, F. (Ph.D. Student). (2008-2009) Frequency, Severity, and Distress of Dialysis-Related Symptoms Reported by Patients on Hemodialysis. American Nephrology Nurses Association. (\$5,000)

**Bergstrom, N.**, Nelson, F. (2008-2009). Frequency, Severity, and Distress of Dialysis-Related Symptoms Reported by Patients on Hemodialysis. American Nurses Foundation. (\$4,000)

**Bergstrom, N.**, Nelson, F. (2008-2009). Frequency, Severity, and Distress of Dialysis-Related Symptoms Reported by Patients on Hemodialysis. Sigma Theta Tau, Zeta Pi Chapter. (\$2,000)



- Engebretson, J.** (Mentor), Meyers, S. (Ph.D. Student). (2008-2009) Maternal Role and High Risk Pregnancy Experience with Antepartum Hospitalization. Sigma Theta Tau International, Zeta Pi Chapter. (\$2,000)
- Engebretson, J.** (Mentor), Meyers, S. (Ph.D. Student). (2008-2009) Maternal Role and High Risk Pregnancy Experience with Antepartum Hospitalization. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. (\$5,000)
- Frazier, L.,** McPherson, D. (P.I.) (2006-2011) Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences – BioBank Core. (1 UL1 RR024148) National Institutes of Health/National Center for Research Resources. (\$534,171)
- Frazier, L.,** Boerwinkle, E., Klos, K., Moeller, F.G., Vaughn, W., Henderson-Everhard, M. (2007-2012) Interactions Among Depressive Symptoms and Genetic Influences on Cardiac Outcomes. (1 R01 NR10235) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$2,365,972)
- Frazier, L.,** Teng-Yuan, Yu (Erica). (2009-2011). Minority Supplement. Interactions Among Depressive Symptoms and Genetic Influences on Cardiac Outcomes. (1 R01 NR10235) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$209,894)
- Frazier, L.** (2010). Equipment Supplement. Interactions Among Depressive Symptoms and Genetic Influences on Cardiac Outcomes. (1 R01 NR10235) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$97,590)
- Frazier, L.,** (Mentor), Sanner, J. (PhD student) (2010) Plasma Serotonin and Depression in Acute Coronary Syndrome. Sigma Theta Tau International, Zeta Pi Chapter (\$2,000).
- Frazier, L.,** Willerson, J. (P.I.), Boerwinkle, E. (2001-present) TEXGEN: Premature Myocardial Infarction/Family Study. Greater Houston Partnership. (\$200,000)
- Frazier, L.,** Willerson, J., Boerwinkle, E. (2006-2011). Genetics and Heart Disease. Greater Houston Partnership. (\$1,040,000)
- Hanneman, S.K.** (Mentor), Vincent, M.A. (Ph.D. Student). (2008-2009) Biomarker Circadian Rhythm Profiles in Mechanically Ventilated Critically-Ill Patients. Sigma Theta Tau International. (\$5,000)
- Hanneman, S.K.** (Mentor), Vincent, M.A. (Ph.D. Student). (2008-2009) Biomarker Circadian Rhythm Profiles in Mechanically Ventilated Critically-Ill Patients. Sigma Theta Tau International, Zeta Pi Chapter. (\$2,000)
- Hanneman, S.K.,** Gusick, G.M., Hamlin, S.K. (Ph.D. Student), Gilman Wachtel, S. (Ph.D. Student), Oldham, S., **Cron, S.** (2005-2009) 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)
- Hanneman, S.K.** (Mentor), Hamlin, S.K. (Ph.D. Student). (2006-2009) Multi-site Randomized Clinical Trial of Horizontal Positioning to Prevent and Treat Pulmonary Complications in Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Patients: A Pilot Study and Hemodynamic Sub study. American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. (\$10,000)
- Kang, D.H.** (Mentor), Tamayo, G. (Ph.D. Student). (2009-2011) EGFR Inhibitor-Induced Rashes: Severity and Management. American Cancer Society Fellowship. (\$30,000)
- Marcus, M.T.,** Wetter, D. (P.I.) (2004-2008) Group Therapy for Nicotine Dependence. Subcontract through M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. (\$103,647)
- Ownby, K.** Biochemical Markers for Symptom Management Research. Oncology Nursing Society Foundation. (\$13,700)
- Ostwald, S.K.** (2010) Measuring Health Quality of Life in Stroke Survivors and Spousal Caregivers. Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation. (\$11,990)
- Padhye, N.,** Lasky, R. (P.I.) (2004-2008) Effects of Noise on Newborns <1000g. (1 R01 HD42639) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (\$119,618)
- Verkhan, M.T.** (Mentor), Helmreich, R. (Ph.D. Student/Fellow), **Meininger, J.C.** (Co-mentor). (2006-2008) Obesity on Vagal Tone and HbA<sub>1c</sub> during Pregnancy. (5 F31 NR009611) National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$74,272)
- Verkhan, M.T.,** Padhye, N. Heart Rate Variability and Cardiac Time Intervals in Neonates with Congenital Heart Anomalies. Texas Medical Center – Howell Nursing Research Grant. (\$25,000)
- Villagomez, E.,** Hsueh, W. (P.I.) (2009-2010) Overcoming Health Care Disparities in Denver Harbor. The Methodist Hospital Research Institute. (\$75,030)

## Endowed Faculty Positions

### CHAIR

Sharon K. Ostwald, Ph.D., R.N., F.G.S.A.  
Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontological Nursing

### DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
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Sandra K. Hanneman, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
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Mara Baun, D.N.Sc., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
*Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor*

Janet C. Meininger, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
*Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor*

Duck-Hee Kang, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
*Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor*

Marianne T. Marcus, Ed.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
*John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor in Addiction Nursing*

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*PARTNERS Professor in Nursing*

Joanne V. Hickey, Ph.D., R.N., A.C.N.P.-B.C., F.A.A.N., F.C.C.M.  
*Patricia L. Starck/PARTNERS Professor in Nursing*

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Joan C. Engebretson, Dr.PH., R.N., A.H.N.-C.B.  
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(As of Sept. 30, 2011)



*In mid-August 2011, seven nurses from four of China's leading university schools of nursing visited Houston and were welcomed by the School of Nursing, the Harris County Hospital District and Memorial Hermann Hospital administration and staff. After two days of intensive briefings, the Chinese visitors gained a sense of how community nurses function within a university and within the public and private healthcare delivery systems. This visit was part of a privately funded effort to help Chinese nurses establish model primary care practices in association with their universities or provincial government. Associate Dean for Practice Thomas A. Mackey, Ph.D., R.N., is leading this project at the invitation of Dr. Linda H. Aiken, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.*

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December 2011



**The University of Texas  
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