New dean leads the way
Since arriving last fall at UAMS, my inaugural year as dean has been one of great discovery, challenge and excitement. With the help of an exceptional faculty and staff, we’ve met these challenges head on, and as a result, have many wonderful accomplishments to share with you.

This issue of UAMS Nursing highlights some of the accomplishments of the college over the past year. The pages are filled with beautiful pictures and wonderful stories of our faculty, students, supporters and the individuals we serve as we strive to meet the health care needs of the state and the mission of UAMS and the college. I hope you enjoy flipping through the pages to get to know and celebrate the students, faculty, researchers, nurses and staff who work hard every day to meet our goals.

In this issue you can get to know more about my background, what’s been important for me to accomplish to this point, my research interests, and my vision to lead the UAMS College of Nursing into the future. You will also find stories about the patient-centered research we encourage among faculty and students, a revived tradition, proud alumni, our 60th anniversary plans and the commitment of donors who help make dreams a reality.

It is very important to me to foster a culture of caring among our faculty and staff, and to pass that along to students to ultimately make an impact on health care in Arkansas. I hope this publication will give readers a sense of the heartbeat within our program. I want to thank everyone who has made my transition in my first year as dean as seamless as possible, and I look forward to many more years of serving UAMS and the wonderful people in Arkansas.

Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN
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Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, recalls her curiosity about being the driving force of a nursing school. “I was just a young student at the time and was curious about the building and how everything worked, so one day I strolled by the dean’s suite, and her secretary invited me inside to see the dean’s office,” Frazier said. “She asked if I wanted to sit in her chair, so I did. Then she said, ‘Spin around a few times.’ I liked it. I liked it a lot.”

Frazier can now take a spin in a dean’s desk chair at will, having realized her dream of one day being at the helm of a nursing school of her own. Last October, she became dean of the UAMS College of Nursing.

“Dr. Frazier’s strong background, skills and personal qualities made her the ideal candidate we were seeking to fill this extremely important position within the UAMS educational structure,” said UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, MD. “She has shown a great dedication throughout her career to research, education and becoming a strong leader. We’re very happy to have her with us as we continue advancing the college to meet the state’s nursing needs.”

Feels Like Home

Frazier came to UAMS after leaving her post as assistant dean and chair of the Department of Nursing Systems at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing.

She spent 17 years in Houston, where she accumulated most of her educational accomplishments and became known as one of the nation’s leading biobanking experts. She earned her doctorate in nursing in 2000 from the UT Health Science Center at Houston, where she also completed a Master of Science in Clinical Research in 2005. She also holds a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas at Houston (1998) and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma (1993).

And so, after spending nearly two decades in a city that’s population is comparable to the entire state of Arkansas, one would expect quite a culture shock.

“Not at all,” Frazier said. “From the moment my husband and I stepped foot in Arkansas, we loved it. We’ve related to the people and love the idea of having all of the things you could find in a huge city still right here, with the added bonus of such great beauty all around you.”

Frazier, a Northern Ireland native, and her husband, David, an Oklahoman, lived in London before Houston. In both cities, they practiced their belief of not driving when it’s not needed. They continue that philosophy in Little Rock.

“I live downtown now where I walk to the market, to church, to get my hair done, lots of things,” said Frazier, who is involved with her church, the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library and the Arkansas Historical Society. “Little Rock is unique in that it offers you the urban lifestyle that we
had in Houston and London but on a much smaller scale. The city is the heartbeat of its people.”

**Off and Running**

Not that there’s been an abundance of leisure time for Frazier, who has accomplished some big things in her first year as dean.

Frazier has spent time with faculty streamlining the administration organizational structure for efficiency. Frazier also made it a priority to reestablish the longstanding tradition of “pinning” College of Nursing graduates, a ceremony that was last held 18 years ago. And she has organized the college’s first “white coat” ceremony for the new crop of students admitted this year, which is to become a traditional event.

“I think it’s imperative to talk about the importance of professionalism in nursing,” Frazier said. “I really want to focus on how special and what a privilege it is to work with patients.”

Frazier is also initiating a faculty retreat to discuss the culture and values of the College of Nursing.

“I really want to put an emphasis on the value of caring – caring for ourselves, each other, our faculty, and in turn, the students as we impart a ‘caring culture’ through the entire network,” Frazier said. “My philosophy is that you should want to come to work. Although you’re here to be challenged, you’re not here to be stressed. I want people to feel comfortable in their jobs. It’s also important to support family lives so our faculty can be the best they can be for us. That’s the kind of culture I hope to foster, and I think it will greatly benefit our students and, eventually, health care in our state.”

Frazier gives much credit for landing her first role as dean to being one of only 20 individuals selected nationally for the 2009 class of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellows program. The fellowship, which invests $500,000 in each Fellow over three years, has also made it a priority to reestablish the longtime tradition of “pinning” College of Nursing graduates, a ceremony that was last held 18 years ago. And she has organized the college’s first “white coat” ceremony for the new crop of students admitted this year, which is to become a traditional event.

“Graduation was absolutely amazing,” she said. “As I looked over all the enthusiastic graduates in the audience, I reflected on the years of work I’ve spent in the profession and what a wonderfully challenging journey it has been. I’m at the point in my life where in many ways it is time to give back and to mentor. It is my job now to make sure the faculty and students have what they need to continue to impact the profession. I enjoy every day of that calling! This position and community are real treasures, and exactly what I have been looking for. I am truly blessed!”

Frazier also completed the American Heart Association’s Fellowship in Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in 2004 and has won several research, education and leadership awards during her career.

**Going to Grow**

Frazier’s vision includes continuing to grow the undergraduate (BSN) program at UAMS while putting more emphasis on expanding its graduate program.

As the only nursing PhD program in the state, the college carries a significant portion of the burden for meeting the state’s future health care needs by graduating increasing numbers of doctorally prepared nurses. These graduates in turn will go on to faculty positions to teach Arkansas’ future nurses and will also perform critical research to advance health care science and improve patient outcomes. UAMS had 24 total doctoral students in the spring 2012 semester, 268 students in the Master of Nursing Science program and 326 students in the undergraduate program.

Frazier said the college is working to make the PhD program more competitive to entice people to enroll, while also making it more accessible to those who are working.

“We’re refining our talents and resources to meet the state’s needs,” Frazier said. “There’s a big emphasis on getting applicants into our PhD program, and we’ve accepted more into that program than we ever have before. Our faculty has stepped up in helping to make this happen.”

Her goal for the fall 2013 semester is to have a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program that will greatly aid in the future health care plan.

Though Frazier’s first year on the job has been fast-paced and full of firsts, it was the college’s graduation ceremony when it all caught up with her.

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Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, didn’t leave her strong research background and resources behind when she left the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing.

When she agreed to become dean of the UAMS College of Nursing, she was in the middle of a five-year, $3.4 million National Institutes of Health-funded study and had a full research team. But it was a package deal to come to UAMS for Frazier, who says she’ll never lose her passion for discovery.

“It was really quite amazing how I was allowed to move my grant to UAMS and structure a way to keep that up and finish what I started,” Frazier said, whose research interest is the relationship of stress to physical health. “I still go to Houston two days a month, have conference calls, and continue to work with my research team in Houston. I am currently in the process of bringing the data and samples to UAMS. It’s really worked out for the best.”

The study, which has been given a one-year extension, focuses on depression and heart disease, and the role genetics plays in the link. In heart disease patients, it’s known that there are individuals who have physiological changes in their inflammatory proteins when they are depressed. This change in these protein levels, although present throughout their lives in response to depression, becomes problematic as they develop heart disease.

“When you’re older and you have vulnerable plaque in your coronary system, increased levels of inflammatory protein that can be initiated by depression in these individuals can actually cause these plaques to rupture and result in a heart attack,” Frazier said. “So we’re looking to see if there’s a genetic propensity to those inflammatory protein levels in that group.”

Frazier is looking at 1,200 patients who gave blood samples immediately upon entering the hospital because of a heart attack. When the patients are stable, depression and demographic data are also collected.

“We are in the process of examining the interaction of the inflammatory protein levels, genetic variations in those proteins, and depression data to determine which patients have a genetic predisposition to increased inflammatory protein...
INVESTED IN DEAN’S CHAIR

UAMS College of Nursing Dean Lorraine Frazier was invested with the Linda C. Hodges Dean’s Chair in November 2011.

An investiture ceremony celebrated Frazier’s honor as many colleagues, family, and faculty attended the event at the Fred W. Smith Conference Center at the UAMS Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute. Formerly a professorship that was recently elevated to a chair, the honor was initially held by former College of Nursing Dean Claudia Barone, EdD, RN, who stepped down as dean. The chair is named after the longtime dean who held that position from March 1989 until she retired in October 2006.

Hodges is credited for greatly expanding the College’s academic programs to include the state’s first online higher education academic degree program, an outreach program for nursing students looking to complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees; several master’s specialty tracks, including the first nurse practitioner program in Arkansas; and the state’s only nursing PhD program. The Hodges Chair was funded in part with money donated by Daphine D. Doster, PhD, who was active in establishing the first nursing school in Arkansas to offer a bachelor’s degree in the early 1950s. In 1952 she was named acting dean of the University of Arkansas School of Nursing. Doster retired in 1971, but never stopped giving her time and money to help produce nursing professionals in the state. When Doster died in 2000, she left funds to establish the professorship to recognize Hodges’ leadership of the College of Nursing.

Professorships are supported by $500,000 in gifts, while chairs are supported by $1 million. A gift from a donor who wished to remain anonymous was instrumental in the professorship’s advancement to a chair.

levels when depressed,” Frazier explained.

“Different interventional approaches for depression may be necessary for this group of individuals. It may be that these individuals require a combination of behavioral therapy along with depression medications to effectively treat depressive episodes. Even more important, they may need to be mindful of the potential that depression may impact their cardiac health. It is important that we identify and treat depression in this group of individuals, because, if not treated, they are more susceptible to subsequent cardiac events.

The research team is now working with a group of individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease to test if behavioral interventions for depression impact inflammatory protein levels.

“Our challenge is putting people in the best environment to support their health,” Frazier said. “There is great value in finding these people, educating them, and then challenging them to make changes in their environment that enable them to support a healthy lifestyle.”
Closing the Gap

FEDERAL GRANT PUTS COLLEGE IN COMMAND OF STATEWIDE COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO ADDRESS NURSING SHORTAGE

BY NATE HINKEL
The College of Nursing will play a key role in a $4.9 million federal effort to train 1,500 Arkansas nurses and address a workforce shortage to meet the state’s future needs.

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board received a $4,952,848 million grant last March from the U.S. Department of Labor for the Arkansas Partnership for Nursing’s Future project. The collaborative effort will train at least 1,500 people for careers in the nursing profession, which range from certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses to registered nurses and beyond.

“It is well documented and supported that the future demand for registered nurses is a red flag in our health care system both nationally and in Arkansas,” said Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, dean of the UAMS College of Nursing. “As the flagship nursing program in our state, we are excited to play a large role in taking a proactive approach to preparing the nursing workforce to meet those future needs.”

The grant will target qualified workers who are on waiting lists to enter nursing programs, those in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, unemployed and dislocated workers, and those working in the health care field looking to further their education and credentials, especially workers in long-term care facilities.

Collaboration is Key

The UAMS College of Nursing, along with the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, Arkansas State Board of Nursing, Arkansas Hospital Association, Arkansas Health Care Association, Arkansas Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Community Foundation, are partners in the implementation of the grant.

“Clearly it’s going to take a collaborative approach like this one to address the health care workforce shortages in the state,” said UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, MD. “In the past year I’ve been heavily involved in working with health care leaders in the state to identify the workforce shortcomings in Arkansas and ways to address them. The nursing profession will play a tremendous role in meeting the needs of Arkansans. We are honored to play an integral part in working as a team toward a solution by using innovative recruitment and training strategies.”

Arkansas was one of 43 grantees who received more than $183 million in federal H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants. The overall goal is to reduce H-1B visas for foreign workers by educating and training Americans to fill those jobs. The registered nurse and career pathway to becoming a registered nurse were the focus of Arkansas’ grant application.

It’s estimated that the demand for registered nurses will increase more than 27 percent in Arkansas by 2018. According to the health care industry, more than 1,500 qualified nursing applicants are turned away each year in Arkansas because of limited capacity. The main barriers to increasing the number of nurses include a shortage of nursing faculty and clinical opportunities. To address that, the project will use distance education technology to educate students around the state and develop a preceptor training program that will increase the number of preceptors, allowing clinical opportunities for students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“The exciting thing for UAMS is that it’s a way for us to get out across the state and make a difference,” Frazier said.

Leading Role

UAMS, which will receive $2.8 million, and the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges will be the primary sub-recipients of grant funds to carry out those roles. UAMS will coordinate with the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to establish a statewide preceptor training and certification program in an effort to double the number of clinical opportunities available to students. UAMS also will provide distance education classes, recruit students, and coordinate the participation of statewide Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) programs and long-term care facilities.

Frazier said College of Nursing faculty are off to a fast start in the implementation of this grant.

“The RN to BSN online program at UAMS is already operational and will be electronically expanded as needed through a partnership with the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON),” Frazier said. “We are also developing a website that outlines the details of each BSN program in the state and bringing together representatives from each BSN program to discuss statewide strategies for increasing our numbers of highly trained nursing professionals.”

The Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges will coordinate the participation of statewide associate degree nursing programs and recruit students.

The Arkansas Department of Workforces Services also awarded the UAMS College of Nursing a grant of $300,000 to complement the U.S. Department of Labor sub-award of $2.8 million. The additional award is designated to support nursing recruitment and retention efforts. A large portion of the award is to be used through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future matching funds program, known as the PIN grant.

The PIN grant will focus on increasing the number of geriatric nurses in long-term care facilities. The grant will also actively recruit LPNs who are already employed in long-term care facilities into RN and BSN programs, Frazier said.
Identifying a problem, exploring it and finding an answer is the basic trinity of advancing health care practice through research.

But what good does it do if the answers never reach patients?

“We’ve made a concerted effort in the College of Nursing to encourage clinically relevant research,” said Jean McSweeney, PhD, RN, professor and associate dean of research in the UAMS College of Nursing. “We want our students to identify problems in their practice and bring those forward to investigate. And then it can really come full circle, using the research process to eventually refine and ultimately improve patient care.”

McSweeney said two research projects under way in the College of Nursing embody that spirit and hold great potential to impact health care. Two faculty members, Ayasha Stewart, APN, and Natalie Capps, RN, are teaming up to investigate the possibility of a link between secondhand smoke and cervical cancer. Stewart, who is also enrolled in the College of Nursing doctoral program, will pursue this or a related topic for her doctoral dissertation research. Christina Pettey, APN, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and who is also a doctoral student in the College of Nursing, is studying what can be done to improve treatment of high blood pressure in African-Americans and reduce cardiovascular disease in this group.

“Both of these projects are exactly the direction we want our research to go,” McSweeney said. “They began...
with a simple observation in their work and are being cultivated to use their clinic practice observations to develop relevant research investigations. It’s important for our students and other nurses to see that we have two great examples of research being done by nurses working toward their PhD but who are clinicians wanting to improve practice.

Secondhand Sampling

Cervical cancer is one of the world’s greatest preventable health problems among women. And while there’s a plethora of research and statistics detailing its link with cigarette smoking, not much is known about its relationship with secondhand smoke exposure.

“If we’re able to find that secondhand smoke plays as much of a role in cervical cancer as active smoking, there are a lot of potential clinical and behavioral changes that can come out of it,” Capps said. “There may be potential for cervical cancer to be an ideal model in explaining the relationship between environment, pathogens and genetics.”

To prove it, Capps and Stewart are collecting 60 samples from patients at the UAMS Community Women’s Clinic who have been referred to the weekly colposcopy clinic held there. Along with cervical samples, a detailed questionnaire will be used to determine demographics, occupational and medical history, and smoking exposure. The cervical samples will then be analyzed in the UAMS molecular diagnostics lab by cytogeneticist Bill Bellamy, PhD, a co-investigator in the study, who will extract valuable DNA information from the cells.

“We’re looking for fragile sites on the DNA, where we’re thinking the link between secondhand smoke exposure exists,” Capps said. “Specifically what we’re looking at are pairs of nucleotides on genes and if they change in patients who smoke or are exposed to smoke.”

The study is being funded from a nearly $70,000 grant awarded from money UAMS receives in its annual tobacco settlement share. McSweeney said the two approached her with the idea and she knew immediately its potential impact.

“I really think the neatest part is that they had just a kernel of an idea and we were able to take this idea, get a grant and have funding within a month,” she said. “It doesn’t always happen that way, but these two have shown great dedication and are willing to put in the work necessary to see their idea come to fruition.”

Hypertension Happenstance

The second research project that McSweeney says has the potential to make an immediate impact in a clinical setting explores ways to improve treatment of high blood pressure in African-Americans.

Christina Pettey, APN, a clinical assistant professor, nurse practitioner and a doctoral student in the College of Nursing, also came to McSweeney with an idea she had while volunteering at North Little Rock’s River City Ministries, a faith-based nonprofit that offers health care services to poor or homeless citizens.

“I noticed that African-Americans have much worse outcomes with high blood pressure,” Pettey said. “Theoretically, everyone has the same health care at River City, including free medication, lab work and things like that. But African-Americans with hypertension always seem to fare the worst, and I wanted to find out why that is and identify ways to improve those outcomes.”

Through a $60,000 predoctoral research grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health, Pettey is focusing on adherence patterns of African-Americans to the treatment and medications they need for hypertension. She will gather information from 15 male and 15 female African-Americans at River City, including detailed family history.

There is also a genetic component that she hopes will lead to a way to tailor hypertension medicines to what works best with certain families, similar to how many psychotropic drugs are prescribed.

“Those drugs are the only ones that are currently handled in that way, so maybe we can find out if that could be an intervention that will improve outcomes,” Pettey said. “An important component to this study is that a lot of times we might associate outcomes with socioeconomic status factors, but working in a controlled environment where everyone is getting equal treatment is an interesting piece to this puzzle.”
RETURN TO ZAMBIA

NURSING RESEARCHER RETURNS TO ROOTS, THIS TIME FOR A CAUSE

BY JON PARHAM

Anita Mitchell, PhD, APN
For College of Nursing faculty member Anita Mitchell, PhD, APN, a recent trip to the African country of Zambia offered not just a chance to help newborn babies, but also to visit the place where she grew up.

Mitchell was there to present a workshop on neonatal care and resuscitation along with neonatologist Whit Hall, MD, and physical therapist Charlotte Yates, PhD, all faculty in the UAMS Center for Translational Neuroscience (CTN).

The three also assisted local health care workers and consulted about patients in a small mission-run hospital. The group took equipment for workshop attendees as a donation to local health care organizations in this medically under-resourced country with a high infant mortality rate.

“A trip like this offers a big perspective because the world seems smaller today when you can travel to Africa in one day,” said Mitchell, an associate clinical professor in the College of Nursing.

“All of the health problems they face are not far from us and not that different from what we face. We can learn from them how they are dealing with these problems in an environment where medical resources are lacking,” she said.

The two-week visit in March was supported by the CTN and the trio. The workshop was underwritten by the Helping Babies Breathe initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

‘Meaningful Workshop’

The daylong workshop drew about 25 midwives and nurses from a 40-mile radius around the Namwianga Mission near Kalomo in southern Zambia. The manikins, suction bulbs, masks and workbooks for the workshop were part of four suitcases of equipment the group took with them, then donated to the health care workers.

“It was good to do something to give back, but little did I know it would be so rewarding and satisfying,” said Hall, a professor in the College of Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics making his first medical mission trip overseas.

Mitchell said the workshop included instruction on basic care techniques for newborns. She said the workshop attendees were overwhelmed with the reusable equipment they received in addition to learning about techniques like kangaroo care. The practice, studied by Mitchell, Hall and Yates, emphasizes skin-to-skin contact between mother and infant.

One midwife, Tebia Kambulu, wrote a letter thanking the workshop organizers, saying the “meaningful workshop” came at the right time and place. “It may look to have been short, but I want you to know it will go a long way, especially with the manikins that you have given to all the centers that were represented,” Kambulu wrote. “This will help health workers to practice more on manikins before doing the actual procedure on human beings.”

Going Home

For Mitchell, the trip was especially emotional. She was born in Zambia, the daughter of missionaries. She grew up there before coming to the United States to earn her nursing degree in the UAMS College of Nursing, the college from which her mother, a native Arkansan, had also graduated.

Mitchell returned to Zambia where she met her husband, who was in the country from Kansas doing volunteer work. They raised their children in Zambia before returning to the United States. This Zambian visit was her first trip back since 1982.

“Overall, it has changed for the better,” Mitchell said, pointing to better health care facilities, more readily available supplies and a better economy. Though still underdeveloped and a health system still lacking, she found reason for hope.

“When I left 30 years ago, they had a one-room hospital. In that sense, I saw huge progress,” she said of the now larger health care facility at the Namwianga Mission.

But it was tempered by the increasing number of orphanages in the country wracked by AIDS. The group visited some of the orphanages as well as schools and other area health care facilities.

Mitchell did get to see one of the homes she lived in growing up and visit a grade school classmate now in Africa as a malaria and HIV researcher, Philip Thuma, MD.

We can learn from them how they are dealing with these problems in an environment where medical resources are lacking.”

Anita Mitchell demonstrates neonatal care techniques during a workshop.
Carol Willey, Little Rock
Departmental Club president,
Leah Pursell, senior BSN student
A once-revered tradition and rite of passage in the UAMS College of Nursing was revived this spring thanks to the steadfast commitment of the Little Rock Departmental Club.

The pinning of graduating nurses was once the telltale sign that those in training had met the requirements to become a registered nurse. Pinning ceremonies date back nearly 1,000 years, beginning as a Maltese cross, a symbol of Christianity. Throughout the years, the pin became a coat of arms, eventually morphing into a design that signifies the school from which nurses graduated.

“Ask anyone who has been in the nursing profession for a number of years and they know that a pinning ceremony went hand in hand with the start of their careers,” said Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, dean of the UAMS College of Nursing. “So, it was a special tradition I knew we needed to revive.”

A lack of financial resources was the reason the pinning ceremony was discontinued a number of years ago. But this year, the Little Rock Departmental Club provided the funds to bring it back. And on May 18, 186 BSN graduates were pinned at the UAMS College of Nursing Recognition Ceremony.

“We were very excited and honored to be a part of restoring this important tradition to the UAMS College of Nursing,” said Carol Willey, president of the Little Rock Departmental Club. “It was such a neat thing for those graduates to be a part of.” Recently, nursing students Emily Arnold and Sarah Mullis attended a club meeting and presented the organization with a card to thank them for their generosity.

The Little Rock Departmental Club, established as part of the Arkansas Federation of Women’s Club (AFWC), has a long history of supporting the nursing profession in Arkansas. Members of the Little Rock Departmental Club, some of whom were active in the AFWC as early as 1946, shared a vision to establish a collegiate school of nursing. That year the Fort Smith District Federation of Women’s Clubs presented a resolution at the annual AFWC convention requesting the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville establish a collegiate school of nursing. The resolution passed unanimously, and a copy was immediately sent to the state nurses association, which was holding its annual meeting.

Excited about the opportunity to join forces with the AFWC, the nurses association also passed the resolution. Despite some setbacks, during the next six years, 6,000 federated club women, 1,000 nurses and many citizens from across the state worked to make that dream a reality. On Sept. 14, 1953, 14 nursing students were admitted to the first freshman class.

“We go back a long way with nursing, so you can see why traditions are an important part of our mission,” Willey said.

In 1955, with an initial holding of $234, the Little Rock Departmental Club established a loan fund for students at the College of Nursing. Through the years, the Club has sponsored many fundraisers and raised enough funds to establish a permanent scholarship. The club gives an endowed scholarship and two awards to UAMS College of Nursing students annually.
ADVANCED EDUCATION IS KEY TO MEETING STATE'S QUALITY NURSING NEEDS BY NATE HINKEL

Carol Compas, doctoral student
Carol Compas, a doctoral student in the UAMS College of Nursing, says she’s gotten this far in her career and education because of a little nudging and a whole lot of support.

Now things are beginning to come full circle, as she’s the one singing the praises of education and nudging fellow nurses and students to further their knowledge.

“Research is showing that it’s going to take a well-educated nursing workforce to help meet the state’s future health care needs,” Compas said. “Sure it’s hard to commit on the front end to complicating your life with pursuing more education, but the opportunities are endless as you progress.”

Now in the dissertation phase of her doctoral education at UAMS, Compas began her nursing career with a two-year associate nursing degree in 1988. She began her early nursing career in an intensive care unit, working with quality improvement projects and mentoring new graduates and student nurses. She developed a personal mentorship with Claudia Barone, EdD, RN, a professor and former UAMS College of Nursing dean. The two founded a legal nurse consulting business, and Barone encouraged her to enroll in the UAMS Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, which she completed in 1997.

Compas went on to focus on quality improvement and health care policy work, working under a federal Medicare contract as the long-term care project manager for the state’s Medicare Quality Improvement Program. There she oversaw implementation of the federal Nursing Home Quality Initiative for Arkansas.

From this work grew a relationship with the UAMS Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence. Cornelia Beck, PhD, RN, director of research, and Claudia Beverly, PhD, RN, director of the Center, both recruited Compas to enter the BSN to PhD program at UAMS in 2007.

“I admit I thought I was probably done with my nursing education,” Compas said. “But I was seeing the doors that kept opening up that were directly linked to higher education and with some gentle nudging and intensive encouragement, I made the commitment to earn a PhD. I could not have done any of this without the complete support and encouragement I’ve gotten along the way from the people in the College of Nursing, especially the Hartford Center team.”

While pursuing a doctorate, she was selected by the Hartford Center to receive a $20,000 scholarship provided by EverCare, a Minnesota company founded by two nurse practitioners who specialized in geriatric care. To receive the scholarship, Compas agreed to pursue a research career that focuses on geriatric nursing care, specifically in long-term care. Compas came to UAMS in the fall 2011 to work as the project director for the Hartford Center’s Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN) grant. The PIN grant allows her to mentor nurses working in long-term care to encourage them to pursue an advanced degree at the BSN and higher levels.

“My passion is in geriatrics,” Compas said. “My research focuses on the organizational factors necessary to implement and sustain quality improvement in geriatric health care. I want to bring an innovative model into the infrastructure, including policy changes to see the future geriatric nursing needs in Arkansas, and nationally, are being met as efficiently and expertly as possible.”

“The opportunities are endless as you progress.”
MAPPING HIS FUTURE

UNEXPECTED STOP AT UAMS A CAREER CHANGER FOR CALIFORNIAN  BY NATE HINKEL
As an accountant at a large title company in California for nearly two decades, the unexpected real estate bust and declining economy in 2007 left Joel Uy out of a job and open to adventure.

With he and his wife’s life savings dwindling to the point of losing the roof over their heads, the couple pulled out a United States map and plotted a last-ditch quest for a fresh start.

“Although we never had any relatives or good friends to turn to in Arkansas, we chose this Southern state,” said Uy. “We packed our small, aged SUV with all of our personal belongings and hit the road to Little Rock full of uncertainties and unknown fear.”

Upon arriving in Arkansas, he enrolled at the UAMS College of Nursing and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in May 2011. Now 44 and the father of a 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Uy considers himself to be a “late bloomer.”

His stay in Arkansas and studies at UAMS set him off on yet another journey. During his last semester at the UAMS College of Nursing, he was offered a job at the Federal Medical Center in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Lexington, Ky.

“My superiors here in Kentucky, including the director of nursing at my facility, have already noticed the superb education and training I received at the UAMS College of Nursing,” Uy said. “Whatever successes and accolades I hope to receive during my professional career will always be linked and credited to the unselfish giving and sharing of nursing knowledge, practices, ethical values and virtues I took from my time at UAMS.”

Helping prepare him for his job in the prison was a lecture in his Community Health Nursing class at UAMS that was geared toward the important roles that nurses perform in a tightly secured correctional institution.

“I learned through my instructor to do our jobs at all times as ethical and professional nurses to meet the needs of incarcerated individuals no matter what crimes they have committed and in spite of the risks involved working in that environment,” Uy said. “The prison environment is gloomy and full of uncertainties. In the back of my head, there is sometimes a thought that I may not make it home after a 12-hour shift. I believe that the contribution I make in prison matters, especially when I see the improvement in the health of the inmates in my care.”

With guidance from his nurse practitioner sister in California, his family and professors at UAMS, Uy has decided to further his education and began working toward a Master of Science in Nursing – Primary Care this fall at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind.

“It inspires me to see the patients I treat get better physically, psychologically and spiritually.”

Joel Uy, alumni 2011
It didn’t take long for a sizeable line to form 15-to-20 youngsters deep during the afternoon of May 5 at the Little Rock Zoo.

There were no fuzzy animals to pet or hungry mouths to feed, nor was there a twirling carousel or a chugging train to board. All of the typical zoo attractions momentarily played second fiddle to a booth set up by more than 30 UAMS College of Nursing students donating their time for Arkansas Safe Kids Zoo Day.

“There was no shortage of little ones at our booth,” said Hannah Davidson, a senior nursing student and community service chair of the Student Nurses Association chapter. “We had a really good turnout of volunteer students and faculty on hand, and we needed every one of them.”

The nursing students volunteered their time to set up a booth promoting bicycle safety. In addition to talking to parents and kids about being in control of their bikes and how to properly adjust their rides to avoid injuries, they handed out brochures with valuable bike safety information. But the most popular part of the booth was the free helmets. Each child was properly fitted for a new bike helmet and shown how best to wear it while cruising on their bikes.

“They loved it,” Davidson said. “You’d be surprised how many kids and parents didn’t realize not only the importance of wearing a helmet, but the importance of wearing one that properly fits their child’s head. It’s amazing how excited these kids were to be wearing a new helmet.”

Davidson estimates about 300 helmets were fitted and given away that day. They were provided by the Arkansas Children’s
Hospital Trauma Program.

The Arkansas Safe Kids Zoo Day was just one of nearly 15 events the Student Nursing Association takes on every year, each one calling on students to volunteer their time and extra effort.

“We are lucky to have such selfless students who not only take the time to volunteer, but to do so with great enthusiasm,” said Rebecca Patterson, DSN, RN APN, a clinical associate professor and faculty advisor for the Student Nursing Association. “A lot of students have a hard enough time balancing work and life and school with busy schedules, but we always have tremendous volunteer help when we call for it.”

Other events for the year included nursing students collecting donated items to create comfort kits for the American Red Cross. More than 250 bags filled with necessary toiletries and useful items were put together for distribution. The Student Nurses Association also collected, wrapped and distributed about 150 toys for the annual Arkansas Children’s Hospital toy drive.

Other Student Nurses Association events included:
- Helping with screenings for pre-K through 12th-grade students
- Conducting mass flu vaccine clinics with the Arkansas Department of Health
- Stocking and organizing food for the Arkansas Food Bank and creating sleeping mats for the homeless
- Volunteering for the Race for the Cure and the Jingle Bell Run to raise funds for community organizations
- Volunteering for the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Breakfast with Santa, Telethon and Kid’s Triathlon
- Helping with the Body Walk experience at elementary schools
- Helping collect and distribute school supplies for local elementary schools
- Volunteering with Special Olympics
- Serving as “disaster victims” at the Red Cross Rapid Response Camp for high school student

Hannah Davison, senior BSN student
Four College of Nursing faculty members were among the 15 UAMS faculty members Chancellor Dan Rahn, MD, hailed for excellence and innovation in preparing future health care professionals were.

The only universitywide award program at UAMS, the Chancellor's Teaching Award annually recognizes faculty from each of the five colleges, the Graduate School and the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs). The awards were based on contributions to education and teaching excellence during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Teaching, Rahn said, is now a more complex vocation. “Today it’s not just about having knowledge and good communications skills, you also must master new concepts and approaches such as problem-based learning and new technologies.”

At the ceremony, Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, dean of the College of Nursing, introduced the four teaching award recipients.

“To be recognized at the highest level of your institution is a tremendous honor,” Frazier said. “We are very proud to have these fine educators working in our programs with our students.”

Karen L. Davis, MSN, RN
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Education

Karen Davis, a nurse educator since 1987, joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in January 2006. She has taught Foundations II, Maternity & Women’s Health, Psychiatric Mental Health, Leadership & Management, and Issues for the online RN to Master’s program. Currently, she is teaching Leadership and Management online and a clinical Community Health course for senior nursing students in the baccalaureate nursing program.

Davis serves on the Admission and Progression Committee, UAMS Library Advisory Committee, Conflict of Interest Committee, Academic Senate Sub-Committee on Faculty Affairs, Evaluation Task Force Committee, and Awards and Scholarship Committee. She has also served as a past board member of Programs in Psychiatric Nursing.

She has been awarded the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Excellence in Nursing Education Award, as well as the Outstanding RN-to-BSN/ MNSc Student to Faculty Award in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Davis served on a panel of judges for the National Council of State Boards to select questions for the next NCLEX exam, and was also an item writer for the National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator exam.

Shannon A. Finley, MSN, RN
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Education

Shannon Finley began working with nursing students in 1999 as a clinical instructor at Henderson State University. In 2006, she joined the UAMS College of Nursing faculty. She teaches in the undergraduate nursing program, is faculty advisor for a group of RN-to-BSN students and is on the Board of Directors of Senior Citizens Activities Today Inc., a United Way Agency.

She has served on the Standardized Testing Task Force, Admission and Progression Committee, Leadership Council, Social Affairs Committee, Baccalaureate Council and Faculty Assembly and has chaired the college’s Nursing Education Department, UAMS Nurse Educator Conference Planning Committee and Dean Search Committee.

Finley has served many roles within the Arkansas Nurses Association (ARNA) – she co-chaired its communications task force; is a member of the District 12 Continuing Education Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Convention Planning Committee; and is a continuing education review panelist.

In May 2009, she was one of only two representatives from Arkansas at the American Nurses Association Constituent Assembly in Washington, D.C. She has been an American Red Cross volunteer disaster nurse since 2007 and was named co-recipient of the Sue Hassmiller American Red Cross Nursing Grant, which directly supports disaster nursing curriculum through the American Red Cross of Greater Arkansas Chapter. She is a community sponsor for the Rapid Response Team at Poyen High School, a certified first responder for Grant County and member of the Grant County Hometown Health Coalition.

Finley earned her MSN degree from the University of Central Arkansas and BSN degree from Henderson State University.
Barbara L. Pate, PhD, RN  
**Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Practice**

Barbara Pate is a doctorally prepared nurse with a master’s degree in Public Health Epidemiology. She came to the UAMS College of Nursing in 2008 with more than 15 years experience with the Arkansas Department of Health as a leader in administration, epidemiology and informatics. Pate’s research interests are in multimodal e-learning strategies for creating interactive social contexts for online learning. She is the PI on a project at White River Medical Center in Searcy that is testing the effectiveness of Wiki Journal Clubs for improving evidence-based practice collaboration in rural settings. She is also a co-investigator at Arkansas Children’s Hospital on a research project examining the impact of an e-learning training program for enhancing multidisciplinary evidence-based practice.

In addition to teaching courses by telecommunication to AHECs across the state, she has incorporated numerous e-learning technologies into her courses to facilitate effective distance learning, such as Wimba, Wikis, Jing, Eye-Jot, Group Skype and TeamViewer. She has also developed and incorporated financial management and informatics courses into the Nurse Administration program to meet the needs of Arkansas nurse managers and executives. She is a member of the Council on Graduate Education for Nurse Administration, the American Organization for Nurse Executives and the American Nursing Informatics Association.

Pate received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Arkansas State University and her Master of Public Health and PhD in nursing from UAMS.

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Patricia Sue Ragsdale, MSN, RN  
**Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Education**

Sue Ragsdale was a staff and student educator prior to becoming a faculty member in the UAMS College of Nursing in 2008. She received her RN license in 1983 and her APN license in 2007, and spent most of her clinical practice in adult-geriatric acute care settings. A clinical assistant professor, she taught junior and senior nursing students in the baccalaureate nursing program.

She served on the college’s Curriculum Committee, Research Committee, Social Affairs Committee, Image Council, and numerous task forces, including student scholarship awards and faculty evaluations. She collaborated with the UAMS Medical Center Advanced Practice Partners (APP) team as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) consultant in 2009-2010. She was among the founding leaders and an initial board member for the Arkansas Chapter of the National Gerontological Nursing Association in 2009.

Ragsdale served as the UAMS College of Nursing facilitator for AACN’s national Quality and Safety in Nursing Education (QSEN) initiative aimed at preparing undergraduate nursing students to provide quality, safe care that is patient-centered and evidence-based, and utilizes teamwork, collaboration and information technology.

She participated in the University of Minnesota’s Faculty Learning About Geriatrics (FLAG) program and will serve as a facilitator to replicate the program in Arkansas under the leadership of the Arkansas Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence and in partnership with the University of Minnesota College of Nursing.

Ragsdale earned her MSN from the University of Central Arkansas and her Bachelor of Science of Nursing from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette.
**RESEARCH GRANTS**

**New Funding–Extramural**


**Continued Funding–Extramural**


**New Funding–Intramural**


Pate, B. (PI). Building Evidence-Based Practice in Rural Arkansas the Wiki Way. CON Intramural. $2,995. April 2012 – March 2013.


Bryant, K. (PI), & McSweeney, J. (mentor) Understanding the Health Beliefs, Treatment Preferences, and Barriers to Care of African American Men with Depression. UAMS/CCTR (Career Development Award, KL2). $90,000. August 2011 – March 2013.

**Continued Funding–Intramural**


**Continued Funding–Collaborative**


**PROGRAM GRANTS**

**New Funding–Extramural**


**Continued Funding–Extramural**


**FACULTY SCHOLARSHIPS**


**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**


The center, led by Claudia Beverly, PhD, RN, and co-directors Cornelia Beck, PhD, RN, and Elaine Souder, PhD, RN, received a $370,000 renewal for 2010-2012. Other members of the leadership team include Pao-Feng Tsai, PhD, RN; Leanne Lefler, PhD, RN; Robin McAtee, PhD, RN; Sandra Berryman, DNP, RN; and program administrator Sandra Lubin.

**2011-2012 highlights include:**

1. Doctoral student Kerry Jordan was selected the 2012-2014 Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar with an award of $22,500 from the Jonas Nurse Foundation. Linda Crumpton, PhD, RN, was the Jonas Scholar for 2010-2012. The Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program supports educational development of new nursing faculty.

2. Joseph Byram and Amber White were selected for a 2012 Summer Geriatric Nursing Externship that provides rising juniors learning opportunities in leadership, practice, education and research related to geriatric nursing.


4. Nursing Research Summer Scholars Seminar, a collaboration of UAMS and the University of Iowa, was held June 11-15 at the University of Iowa, with faculty Cornelia Beck, PhD, RN, and Pao-Feng Tsai, PhD, RN.

5. The Arkansas Coalition for Nursing Home Excellence is expanding to include assisted living homes. The coalition, led by Cornelia Beck, PhD, RN; Claudia Beverly, PhD, RN; and Peggy Moody, is focused on culture change, retention of staff and improved quality of care.

6. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Partners in Nursing Grants:
   a. In 2009, the Center, in partnership with the Arkansas Community Foundation, received the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ‘Planning for Workforce Development in Geriatric and Long-Term Care- PIN4’ for $323,000 to focus on the geriatric registered nurse workforce needed in nursing homes and to provide support to LPNs and CNAs who want to move into advanced degree programs.
   b. In 2012, the Center, in partnership with the Arkansas Community Foundation, Arkansas Health Care Association and the state Department of Workforce Services, received the RWJF ‘Implementation of the Arkansas Nursing Educational Pipeline-PIN 6’ grant for $300,000 to provide access to the RN baccalaureate nursing degree or higher degree programs by recruiting LPNs, associate degree and diploma-prepared RNs from long-term care settings.

7. USDA Grant: “Delta Telecommunications Centers to Address Long-Term Care Unmet Health Needs” through the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), College of Nursing, John A. Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE), UAMS Center for Distance Health and the Arkansas Health Care Association (AHCA) for $241,723. This grant provides for learning centers in 6 nursing homes to be set up in the Delta which have limited access to online education, two of which will have telehealth available.
Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Linda C. Hodges Dean's Chair

Linda C. Hodges EdD, RN, served as dean and professor of the UAMS College of Nursing from March 1989 to October 2006. During her tenure, the college greatly expanded its academic programs to include the state's first online higher education academic degree program; an outreach program for RN students seeking to complete a BSN degree; numerous master's specialty tracks, including the first nurse practitioner program in Arkansas; and Arkansas’ only PhD in Nursing program. Under her leadership, a nationally recognized research program was developed, and the service mission was extended to include two nurse practitioner clinics and a faculty practice. While dean, Hodges authored grants that provided more than $12 million to support the college’s missions.

The Linda C. Hodges Dean’s Chair was established by the generosity of Dr. Daphine D. Doster and supporters of the College of Nursing.

Angela Green, PhD, APN, NNP-BC
John Boyd Family Chair in Pediatric Nursing

John W. Boyd was from the small town of Fountain Hill, Ark., where he and his wife, Monitte, raised their family. A World War II veteran, John started his civilian career clerking in the general store in his home town. John and Monitte worked hard at the general store and over the years began purchasing timberland and other property. When John died in 1986, the Boyds owned more than 3,500 acres of timberland.

The Boyds had two daughters, Mary Ann and Caroline. Caroline who was developmentally disabled, died in 1985. Mary Ann, a registered nurse, died in November 2001. Prior to her death, she made arrangements to honor her father’s wishes to bequest the reminder of his estate to establish the John Boyd Family Chair in Pediatric Nursing at the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Pao-Feng Tsai, PhD, RN
Alice An-Loh Sun Professorship in Geriatric Nursing

Alice An-Loh Sun dedicated 53 years to the nursing profession. Sun was born in Nanking, China, where she graduated from the Chin Lin School of Nursing. She came to the United States to study hospital administration with the intent of returning to China and starting a hospital with her brother, a surgeon. After the war broke out, Sun went to St. Louis where she worked for 19 years at Barnes Hospital. In 1969, she married C.N. Sun, MD, and moved to Little Rock. C.N. Sun was a professor of pathology at UAMS and the VA. Alice Sun worked at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center until her retirement in 1979.

It was her passion for nursing and philanthropy that led Alice Sun to make the gift to establish the Alice An-Loh Sun Professorship in Geriatric Nursing.
**PUBLICATIONS**


Middaugh, D. J. (2011). The 2-Minute Warning Part IV: Close
Out the Game and Then Celebrate! MEDSURG Nursing, 20(6), 340, 343.


Montgomery, B.E.E., Stewart, K.E., Wright, P.B., McSweeney, J.C., & Booth, B.M. (2012). We as drug addicts need that program: Insight from rural African American cocaine users on designing a sexual risk reduction intervention for their community. Substance Use and Misuse, 47(1), 44-55.


Sanner, J.E., & Frazier, L. (2011). The role of serotonin in

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2012-2013

BSN Program
Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association Scholarship
Shanna Long
Lanette Vazquez

Barbara Pearson Scholarship
Haley Graves

Barton Scholarship
Lynnac Adkins
Robert Cook
Lauren Downs
Jonathan Elliott
Rachel Erwin
Jennifer Greeno
Lori Hester
Kelli Johnson
Kimberly Larson
Alisha Lewis
Emily Lynn
Rachael McAlister
Kristine Meador
Kristen Murray
Kaylea Owen
Shelby Renfrow
Shelby Sharp
Jacqueline White
Britini Wilson
Kristen Young

Beaumont Foundation of America Scholarship
Morgan Biggs
Emily Ghastain
Lauren Coker
Amberly Francis
Kala Francis
Haley Hill
Randall Hodde
Steven Johnson
Elizabeth Kesterson
Relanda Mason
Jessica McDonald
Amanda Pettit
April Rippetto
Lauren Tyler
Lanette Vazquez

Benni Ogden Fambrugh Scholarship
Candace Dickerson

Blue Jeans for Books Awards
Leah Cruthis
Rhiannon Lyness
Relanda Mason
Michelle Stanek
Candace Watts

Cammy Giffin Haynes Scholarship
Emily Armstrong
April Verver

Carolyn B. Purtle Scholarship
Krista Askew
Angela Walker

Class of 1997 Scholarship
Jerrica Chika

Crystal Webster Nursing Scholarship
Jennifer Wilterson

David L. Johnston, Jr. Scholarship
Constance Owens

Dean’s Excellence Award for Future Teachers
Vallon Williams

Dr. and Mrs. William Pool Scholarship
Sara Clayton

Dr. Cheryl Schmidt Nursing Scholarship
Kelly Purifoy

Dr. Elizabeth O’Connell Scholarship
James Lloyd

Dr. Janet Lord Nursing Scholarship
Troy Carr

Dr. Lee and Mrs. Maria Nauss Scholarship
Tomicka Jones
Flora Mae Griffey Nursing Scholarship
Jacklyn Jackson

Florence C. Zook RN Nursing Scholarship
Monique Berumen

Florence Grabiel Ellis Scholarship
Kristine Ashley

Gloria Rauch Scholarship
Ginger Goben

Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship for Baccalaureate Nursing Students
Marie Guthridge
Jenna Lamkin
Hope Williams

Jane and Bob Wilson Nursing Scholarship
Shelby Earnest
Helen Leggett

Kathryn Crandall Scholarship
Taira Williams

Little Rock Departmental Club Scholarship
Michelle Stanek

M. B. Knighten Memorial Surgical Nursing Scholarship
Magbone Guidry
Lance Shultz

Madelyne M. and Edward C. McCarty Scholarship
Jasmine Hall

Marie Stephens Scholarship
Tiffany Bowerman

Marion Pool BSN Scholarship
Emily Williams

Martha Harding Gann Memorial Scholarship
Stephanie Brown
Michelle Stanek

Mary Katherine Mourot Scholarship
Hope Williams

Mike W. Spades Scholarship
Bernadette Black

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Ragsdale Scholarship for Nursing
Cody Horn

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Huntsman Scholarship
Haley Chronister
Neil and Clara Spain Scholarship
Brooklyn Johnson

Ray Woods Scholarship
Elisabeth Edmonds

Richard Monroe and Jo Ann Hennessey Smith Scholarship
Troy Carr

Rita M. Woods Scholarship
Megan Gatlin

Sharon Knighten Oncology Nursing Scholarship
Tiffany Cook
April Verter

Veronica McNeirney Scholarship
Joseph Byram
Lindsey Morton

Virginia L. Goosen Nursing Scholarship
Tiffany Cook

RN to BSN Program
Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation
Dianna Adams
Courtney Andrews
Steffany Benton
Heather Fulton
Anndi Hensley
Jennifer Kesterson
Lindsey Smith
Rhonda Woods
Jean McClendon Scholarship
Jennifer Kesterson
Rhonda Woods

Madelyne M. and Edward C. McCarty Scholarship
Dianna Adams

Paul O. Canaday Family Scholarship
Anndi Hensley

Master’s Program
AARP Book Stipend Award
Julie Mullenax

Angie F. Waldrum Scholarship
Charity Lowdermilk

Becky Moore Scholarship
Tiny Johnson
Kimberly Newman

College of Nursing General Scholarship
Kristen Murray

Cornelia J. Sundermann Scholarship
Amber Marts

Daphne Doster Scholarship
Lindsey Cookus

Deborah Dorsa Carman Scholarship
Megan Blagg
Lindsey Cookus
Kristen Murray

Dr. and Mrs. William Pool Master’s Scholarship
Charity Lowdermilk

Dr. Ann King Cashion Scholarship
James Bell
Lauren Smith

Dr. Beth Vaughan-Wrobel Scholarship
Yolonda Reed

Dr. Patricia Evans Heacock Scholarship
Vanessa Allen

Dr. Sheila Collier Horner Scholarship
Dena Montgomery
Julie Mullenax

Kim Knighten Oelke Family Nurse Practitioner Scholarship
Dannah Smith

Mary Emma Smith Scholarship
Megan Blagg

Patrick Joseph McNeirney Scholarship
Amanda Tippitt

Sophronia R. Williams Scholarship
Kennetta Wiggins

Virginia Ivey Penick Scholarship
Mega Holloway Jones

WG Copper Scholarship
Katie Loetscher

William Randolph Hearst MSNc Family Nurse Practitioner Scholarship
Jennifer Blaney
Kelsey Camp
Jeannette Carter
Susan Hanson
Robert Hollinger
Nancy Hornsby
Sara Nail
Samuel Nix
Shanda Vinson
Cynthia White

Doctoral Program
Arkansas Minority Health Commission Healthcare Workforce Diversity Scholarship
Kimberly Hayman

Dr. Carolyn Cason Scholarship
Crystal Gillihan

Dr. Cornelia Kelly Beck Gerontology Research Award
Crystal Gillihan

Dr. Elois Field Scholarship
Sondda Bedwell
Pamela Gouner

William Randolph Hearst Foundation Scholarship
Sondda Bedwell
Crystal Gillihan
Kimberly Hayman
Rebecca Parnell
FACULTY AND STAFF HONORS RECOGNITION

Susan Ball
- Received a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing degree, UAMS Graduate School

Kelly Betts
- Named assistant dean for baccalaureate education and director of Little Rock program

Claudia Beverly
- Received the Mary Tolle Wright Award for Excellence in Leadership

Keneshia Bryant
- Accepted for the Summer Research Institute for Geriatric Mental Health (July, 2011)
- Awarded the National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program (2011-13)
- Selected as a UAMS Translational Research Institute KL2 Scholar (2011-13)
- Awarded a UAMS-AHEC pilot grant (2011-12)
- Elected to the National Black Nurses Association Board of Directors (2011-14)
- Accepted for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-New Connections Symposium (June, 2012)

Karen Davis
- Received the Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching Award

Charlotte Dillon
- 2012 UAMS Phenomenal Women

Carol Enderlin
- Elected co-chair of the Arkansas Genetics Health Committee
- Accepted to attend NIH Pain Research Boot Camp: NIH Training, Bethesda, MD
- Presented the Fellow Award by the Arkansas Gerontological Society

Shannon Finley
- Received the Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching Award

Angela Green
- Appointed to the SNRS Advisory Board for the Institute for the Development of Administrative Research Leaders
- Recipient of the 2012 Society of Pediatric Nurses Excellence in Nursing Research Award
- Received second place, Society of Pediatric Nurses 2012 Nation Conference for Improving Capacity for EBP Using Interactive E-learning
- Received the Blackboard Catalyst Award for Staff Development from the Online Evidence-Based Practice Academy

Janet Harp-Shirley
- Awarded the Nurse Educator Hero Award by the American Red Cross in Arkansas

Stacy Hoyle
- Promoted to associate dean for administration

Debra Jeffs
- Received second place, Society of Pediatric Nurses 2012 Nation Conference for Improving Capacity for EBP Using Interactive E-learning
- Received the Blackboard Catalyst Award for Staff Development from the Online Evidence-Based Practice Academy.

Leanne Lefler
- Elected to the executive committee as secretary for the Southern Nursing Research Society 2012-2014

Tiffany Lofton
- Received a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree, Union University

Julia Goodwin
- 2012 UAMS Phenomenal Women
Barbara Pate
• Appointed to a two-year term on the Research Advisory Panel of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nursing
• Received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the College of Medicine
• Received second place, Society of Pediatric Nurses 2012 Nation Conference for Improving Capacity for EBP Using Interactive E-learning
• Received the Blackboard Catalyst Award for Staff Development from the Online Evidence-Based Practice Academy.
• Received the Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching Award

Christina Pettey
• Accepted into the International Society of Hypertension as a Research Fellow
• Elected chair-elect of the student body of the Southern Nursing Research Society

Sue Ragsdale
• Received the Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching Award

Larronda Rainey
• Named director of RN to BSN Program

Jan Rooker
• 2012 UAMS Phenomenal Women

Cheryl Schmidt
• Recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross
• Presented the Best Professional Role Model Award from the Class of 2012

Ayasha Stewart
• Promoted to clinical assistant professor

Ralph Vogel
• Honored by the Arkansas Cancer Coalition for service as chair of the Arkansas Genetics Health Committee and his work in pediatric cancer

Staff Awards

Latrina Prince-Williams
• Completed the Certified Research Specialist Program
• Received the Virginia Cole Education Scholarship from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Kristine Stump
• Named director of enrollment and scholarships

Dean’s Circle of 100

The College of Nursing established the Dean’s Circle of 100 in 2008. Becoming a member of the Dean’s Circle is one the college’s most prestigious honors.

Members of the special group of supporters donate $1,000 or more annually to this important fund. Dean Lorraine Frazier’s goal is to reach 100 members by 2014.

Involvement in the Dean’s Circle of 100 gives participants the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping lay the foundation for major advancements in the development and growth of the UAMS College of Nursing and that they are investing in future nursing students and faculty.

For more information, contact Cynthia Gregory, associate director of development at the College of Nursing, at 501-603-1413 or cmgregory@uams.edu.

Honor Roll of Founding Members (as of July 2012)

Mrs. Kelly Betts
Dr. Claudia Beverly
Dr. Kathy Bock Chambers
Dr. Frances Dalme
Mr. Paul Francis
Dr. Lorraine Frazier and Mr. David Frazier
Dr. Angela Green
Mrs. Neena Grissom
Dr. Donna Gullette
Dr. Mathew Hadley
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Harris
Mrs. Stacy Hoyle
Ms. Martha Kuhlmann
Dr. Jean McSweeney
Dr. Donna Middaugh
Mr. James Oelke
Mrs. Kim Oelke
Dr. and Mrs. Peter A. Ritchie
Mrs. Mary G. Robertson
Mrs. Janet Rooker
Dr. Cheryl Schmidt
Mrs. Nancy Shaver
Mrs. Cornelia Sundermann
$150,000-$25,000
Arkansas Community Foundation
Arkansas Health Care Association
Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation
Madelyne M. and Edward C. McCarty Foundation
William Randolph Hearst Foundation

$24,000-$5,000
Beaumont Foundation of America
Drs. Michael and Sarah Carter
Dr. Lorraine Frazier and Mr. David B. Frazier
Goldsby - Matthews Trust
The Huntsman Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Lang
The Dr. Robert E. Elliott Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Sullivan
Little Rock Departmental Club

$4,999-$1,000
Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association
Drs. Gary and Claudia Barone
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Betts
Dr. Claudia J. Beverly
Mr. Elwoody Cole
Ms. Lauraetta M. Edgar
Ms. Jeannie Winston and Mr. Paul M. Francis
Drs. Jerrii and Angela Green
Griffey’s Professional Uniforms Inc.
Dr. Donna L. Guillette
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March 9, 2013

For more information, contact Cynthia Gregory, director of development, at 501-603-1413 or cmgregory@uams.edu.