Learning by Doing
Simulation Center Expansion

New Year.
New Beginnings.
Welcome Dr. Shelley Conroy

Helping Our Local Homeless Community
Going for the Gold

This school year has been a busy one at LHSON! We have new faculty and record numbers of student enrollments. Of course, the big news is the appointment of Dr. Shelley Conroy as the new dean for LHSON. I will work with her through the spring 2012 semester to make her transition as seamless as possible. When one is in the building, participating in faculty meetings, or talking with students, one can sense excitement and a sense of anticipation of great things to come.

One of the endeavors I will work on in the spring is being the dean’s liaison for the Going for the Gold Gala on April 14. This event will emphasize accomplishments in LHSON and will serve as a way to raise funds for our endowed scholarships. Kim Mulkey is our featured speaker—who better to talk about aiming for excellence and giving 100% to all that you do! I hope many of you will be able to attend; watch for more information.

Over the past few weeks, I have had many occasions to chat with recent graduates of our BSN program. Each one of these young nurses enthusiastically let me know what a good education she received from Baylor. Each graduate commented how, when she compared herself to other new graduates, she realized how thorough our curriculum is. Or, when asked by other new nurses, “Where did you learn that?” the easy reply was, “In school.” These experiences help our new graduates with their confidence in their educational preparation and further enhance our reputation in the health care settings.

This is my last message as interim dean, so I once again wish to express gratitude to everyone around me. There have been countless individuals who have supported, volunteered, encouraged, uplifted, protected, prayed and cared for me during my leadership. It is because of you that we at LHSON are on such a wonderful path within the profession of nursing and as part of Baylor University.
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A Message from Mary Brucker

You probably know that consistently nurses are ranked the highest in public trust by a routine Gallup poll. You also may have heard about a horrible situation on a “Black Friday” shopping frenzy when an individual collapsed and shoppers simply stepped over him in order to get to the sales, with the exception of some nurses who risked life and limb to perform CPR.

Perhaps you also know that the whistleblower nurses in Winkler County, Texas, who discovered a physician was providing unacceptable care and reported it lost their jobs in the attempt. These nurses now have been vindicated in the courts with large monetary settlements. And sometimes nurses are simply brave in other ways, assuming roles that others would avoid. The new individual nominated to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is a nurse.

In this issue you also will learn more about some of our own special nurses who deliver care to those in need and share important educational information—usually outside the usual classroom time. These faculty provide role modeling for all our students, so that nursing will continue to top the polls in public trust.

A Message from Cathy Rosser

December is a special month on many levels. For the school of nursing it encompasses the end of the semester with its flurry of papers, exams and grades, as well as graduations and celebrations. Yes, both undergraduate and graduate students have special events for graduation in December as well as in May.

On the morning of December 16, the undergraduate students were recognized with their nursing pins in front of family, friends and faculty. Later that day the graduate students had their own recognition ceremony.

December also is the time to celebrate the Lord’s birth. Hopefully everyone was able to take a bit of quiet time to appreciate the awe of the season, the addition of more Baylor nurses and nurse practitioners to the health care workforce and the great things to come in the New Year for LHSON, including a new dean, new students and new opportunities!

Corrections: In the Spring/Summer 2011 issue of Learn. Lead. Serve, we incorrectly listed an LHSON alumna with a BSN degree from 1944. However, the BSN degree was not officially awarded at Baylor until the 1950s. In fact, Eppie Jane Marmion, Doris Mann and Wanda Marie Rohr were the first three Baylor nursing graduates to earn BSN degrees. Thanks to Wanda Marie Rohr Mitchell for keeping us on our toes!
Going for the Gold Gala and silent auction to benefit endowed scholarships for Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing

Featuring special guest

TROY AIKMAN
Three-time Super Bowl Champion as Dallas Cowboys Quarterback and Pro Football Hall of Fame member

and keynote speaker

KIM MULKEY
Baylor Women’s Head Basketball Coach

APRIL 14, 2012
The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas

Co-Chairs: Joel and Diane Allison • Joe and Kelly Armes • Ron and Cheryl Murff

For more information, contact Stephanie Willey at 214.820.4183 or Stephanie_Willey@baylor.edu.
New Faces
Please join us in welcoming the following faculty to our Baylor family!

Shelby Garner, MSN
Lecturer
NUR 3317 Human Needs II
NUR 3324 The Maturing Family
NUR 3414 Professional Nursing Practice I

Rebecca Phillips, PhD
Assistant Professor (tenure track)
NUR 3420 Pathophysiology/Pharmacology I
NUR 3425 Professional Nursing Practice II

Becky Spencer, MSN
Lecturer
NUR 3314 Health Assessment
NUR 3414 Professional Nursing Practice I
NUR 4339 The Childrearing Family
NUR 4351 Professional Development: Consumer of Research

Course listings are from fall 2011.

Jane Nunnelee Honored
On November 17 Jane Nunnelee, PhD, RN-BC, GNP, coordinator of the Gerontological Nursing Initiative and senior lecturer at LHSON, was honored by the C. C. Young retirement community with the Body, Mind & Spirit Award for her dedication to C. C. Young and to improving the lives of the local aging community. “It is largely due to Dr. Nunnelee that the Louise Herrington School of Nursing is one of the minority of nursing programs in the United States that has a strong thread in gerontology and even a separate course in the area for undergraduate nursing students,” states Mary Brucker, associate dean and graduate program director.

Faculty Recognition
In addition to delivering world-class education on campus, our faculty are continually recognized for their contributions in nursing.

SUMMER/FALL 2011 PUBLICATIONS

POSTERS, PRESENTATIONS, PARTICIPATIONS, SPEECHES
Brucker, M. C. (2011, June). Women’s health across the lifespan. Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrical and Neonatal Nursing, Denver, CO.


Brucker, M. C. (2011, October). Participating member. Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Board to State of Texas Board of Nursing Meeting, Austin, TX.


Spies, L. A. (2011, October). Uganda national nursing research committee. In J. Gray (chair), Developing research capacity through an international partnership with nurses in Uganda. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing 41st Biennial Convention, Grapevine, TX.


HONORS

Bader, S. G. (2011, October). Received the Distinguished Service Award at the annual meeting of the South Central Chapter/ Medical Library Association.


Planning a Brighter Future

Planning. It’s something we do every day of our lives. We make dinner plans, holiday plans, vacation plans. We plan where we’ll go to school, where we’ll get married and where we’ll raise our families. We watch commercials telling us the importance of planning for our retirement. Planning. It’s all about the future.

One thing you can plan on is the fact that each and every one of us will have our lives touched by the healing hands of a nurse at one time or another. Whether that nurse is caring for you personally or someone you love, you will come to know just how important good nurses are to the quality of our life’s plans.

Planned giving is one way to help ensure more Baylor nurses are there by our sides when we need them most. Planned, or estate, giving is a financial instrument incorporated into your overall estate planning process. Giving options include will bequests, such as naming Baylor a beneficiary in insurance or retirement policies or life income plans such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts or retained life estates. Planned gifts may be any portion of the overall estate or a specified amount and often provide substantial tax advantages.

What inspires someone to make a gift is different for everyone. Many of our donors recount unique and touching stories as to why they decided to support the faculty and students at LHSON. One of our most recent planned gifts was made by Michael Weinert of Beaumont, Texas, and I’d like to share his particularly heartwarming story with you.

Michael Weinert established the Colonel Charles M. Weinert Endowed Scholarship Fund in Nursing in memory of his father. Charles Weinert was drafted into the US Army in 1951 and completed officer candidate school in 1952, being branched into the Medical Service Corps due to a shortage of medical service corps officers during the Korean War. He also served as the senior medical advisor to the Second Army of the Republic of Vietnam Logistics Command, among other units and commands during his 24-year career in the Army. Colonel Weinert was the first official observer to be sent to Jordan in the Middle East during the Black September International Red Cross/Red Crescent Casualty Relief Effort in 1970. He pioneered the development of the US Army’s Health Services Command, the beginning support planning that has evolved into the superlative troop recovery and medical treatment program that the Army uses today for wounded soldiers in combat theaters. Colonel Weinert completed the US Army Command and General Staff College in 1965. In 1969, he received his master’s degree in health care administration from Baylor University.

“My dad was very proud of his affiliation with Baylor. I know he is smiling down from heaven because of what I am doing,” remarked Michael. “I just want to make a difference in people’s lives.” Until later this fall, Michael himself had never been to a Baylor campus, but he described the value of a nurse in his endowment pledge...
by stating, “This endowment is dedicated to the heart of the medical profession, the nurses. The heart and soul of the medical profession lies with the nurses, who care for patients on a day-to-day basis. It is through their kindness and constant care that the wounds of the afflicted are healed and that their loved ones and relatives are comforted. May God bless each of you throughout your lives as you pursue your careers in nursing."

Please join us in our mission to educate more nurses for service to individuals and communities throughout the world. Whether or not planned giving is the right avenue for you, there are several ways you can help support LHSON:

Mail a gift
Mail a check to the nursing school directly at 3700 Worth Street, Dallas, TX 75246. Be sure to reference the specific area you’d like to support.

Planned Giving
Options for planned or estate giving include a bequest in one’s will, naming Baylor as a beneficiary in an insurance policy or retirement plan, or through a life income plan such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or retained life estate. A planned gift does not have to amount to the entire estate; it can simply be a percentage or portion thereof.

Corporate Matching Programs
More than 7,500 companies nationwide offer matching gift programs to their employees and some even double or triple the gifts made by their employees.

Go online to www.baylor.edu/give
Here you will be able to give directly to LHSON funds and support the initiative that matters most to you.

Contact me, Janis Kovar, directly at (214) 808-9802 or janis_kovar@baylor.edu
I’d like to answer any questions you have about the area you would like to support.

Ways to Show Your School Support
We have designed funds that specifically benefit our students and faculty so that you can make an impact in an area that is important to you.

Current Scholarship Fund
Provides scholarship support for current LHSON students and is a perfect outlet for those who want their gift, combined with existing scholarships, to sustain today’s Baylor nursing students.

Named Endowed Scholarships
Many donors choose to memorialize or pay tribute to a friend or loved one through the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund. Endowments may be initiated with a gift of $10,000 and funded over a period of five years. Funds are named when the balance reaches $50,000.

LHSON Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund
Donations (of any amount) are combined with others to form an endowed scholarship that will benefit future LHSON students in perpetuity.

LHSON Excellence Fund
Distributed at the dean’s discretion, this fund is used to provide training opportunities for faculty, supplies for students, campus building repairs or expansion and much more.

Missionary Family Nurse Practitioner Program
This fund enables students to participate in medical mission efforts around the world by providing medical supplies, medicines, portions of airfare and more.

Good Samaritan Dean’s Fund
This fund is used to cover unexpected situations that arise throughout the year, such as a student’s difficult circumstance that renders him or her unable to buy textbooks, or the need to replace daily-used lab equipment.

Lecture Series Endowment Fund
This fund is designed to enhance students’ education by bringing distinguished leaders and keynote speakers to campus on a regular basis. An annual lecture series is created with a gift of $250,000.

Endowed Professorship Fund
Endowed professorship funds create prestigious faculty positions and enable the school to attract and retain high-quality scholars. Increasing the number of professors reduces the student-to-faculty ratio and further improves the overall student experience. A fund is established with a gift of $1.5M.
Baylor University Nursing Statistics

TOTAL NURSING ENROLLMENT
Total nursing enrollment at Baylor University has grown over 70% in the past ten years and is expected to increase another 12% by fall 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Nursing (BSN) - Waco campus</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-Level Nursing (BSN) - LHSON campus</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FastBacc (BSN) - Accelerated degree track</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (MSN)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Nursing Enrollment</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>803</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL NURSING ENROLLMENT: $721 + 747 + 774 + 803 = 3045$

PROJECTED NURSING ENROLLMENT: $336 + 353 + 370 + 389 = 1458$

Upper division enrollment on the LHSON campus has grown steadily throughout the years, with the most significant source of growth being our FastBacc and graduate programs.

STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO
Providing a low student–faculty ratio is not just a focus here on our campus; it is a Baylor University imperative. LHSON has consistently maintained a ratio below the industry standard of 10:1. Ensuring students’ access to faculty results in a higher standard of educational excellence and student success.

NURSING FACULTY
In order to continue to grow our student body, we are also prepared to grow our faculty and teaching staff. The current nursing faculty is comprised of tenure and tenure track faculty, lecturers, joint appointments and part-time faculty and administrators.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS (LHSON campus)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollments</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>International Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>Female 286 Male 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-resident 4 Permanent-resident 303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippines 2</td>
<td>India 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nigeria 1</td>
<td>Ethiopia 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mexico 1</td>
<td>China 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Korea 2</td>
<td>Brazil 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iran 1</td>
<td>Belize 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicity

- Caucasian: 203
- Hispanic: 37
- African American: 28
- Asian: 21
- Multiracial: 17
- Native American / Pacific Islander: 1

National average: 10
Louise Herrington School of Nursing: 8
Financial Support

The continued support of our alumni, family and friends provides critical financial assistance to our students, enables us to recruit and retain a world-class faculty and provides for the purchase of state-of-the-art learning and training equipment and necessary improvements to our facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation amount</th>
<th>Percentage of donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $1,000</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,001–5,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,001–25,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,001–100,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $100,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL LHSON GIVING

ALLOCATION OF LHSON ALUMNI GIVING

Current LHSON alumni roster: 5,580

LHSON FUND AS PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN

Note: All enrollment and financial data are as reported in October 2011
A Sea of Green at Sigma Theta Tau Conference

On Saturday, October 29, 2011, 88 undergraduate research students wowed over 2,000 international attendees at the 41st Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Biennial Conference at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine. The theme was “People and Knowledge: Connecting for Global Health.” There was a sea of green as the students, all dressed in their scrubs, attended the opening plenary and a special event held for students. Our Baylor students comprised 60% of the entire attendees at the student event. Twelve faculty members and two graduate students were also in attendance. LHSON sponsored nine faculty members, and the Eta Gamma Chapter of STTI sponsored three faculty members and one graduate student. Baylor faculty made a statement with three poster presentations, two panel discussions and multiple presentations. Three days after the students attended, we still had members stopping by the LHSON booth to compliment the students’ professional presence and the school’s dedication to scholarly pursuit in exposing the students to a professional honor society prior to their graduation. Sic’em, Bears!
Scholarships Honor Dr. Lott

This past January, Dr. Judy Wright Lott announced her plans to step down as dean of the nursing school and return her focus to teaching. In appreciation of her dedication and service to our school, faculty and students, two new endowed scholarships have been created in Dr. Lott’s honor. Our dean’s board has established the LHSON Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of Dr. Lott, and our school’s namesake, Louise Herrington Ornelas, recently created the Dr. Judy Wright Lott Endowed Scholarship Fund in Nursing for neonatal nurse practitioner students. Both funds will ensure that our students continue to be impacted by Dr. Lott’s unwavering passion for nursing.

New Faces

In addition to the many new students we welcomed this fall, we are pleased to announce some exciting additions to our campus staff. Please join us in extending a proper Baylor Bear welcome to:

- Cameron Armstrong, MS
  Director of Student Services

- Desrick Shelton, BBA
  Senior Academic Consultant – Technology

- Erin Mulvey, MS
  Academic Support Specialist

- Jeanne Carey, BSN
  Lab Coordinator

Former dean Judy Wright Lott’s portrait has been added to our deans wall.
There is certainly no shortage of reports and data highlighting the current nursing shortage crisis. On April 1, 2011, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the healthcare sector of the economy continues to grow, despite significant job losses in recent months in nearly all other major industries. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other ambulatory care settings added 37,000 new jobs in March 2011 alone, the biggest monthly increase recorded by any employment sector. Even more important, as the largest segment of the healthcare workforce, RNs will likely be recruited to fill many of these new positions. In fact, in June 2011, Wanted Analytics reported that employers and staffing agencies posted more than 121,000 new job ads for registered nurses in May, up 46% from May 2010.

However, the solution does not merely lie in graduating more nurses. We must look to graduate more confident and prepared nurses—nurses ready to perform at the level that will be required of them. Another category of studies reports the very real incidence of transition or reality shock that many nursing graduates face as they move from the classroom to the patient care setting. Recent nursing hires consistently report feelings of extreme stress, frustration and anxiety upon entering their new careers. One proven method of reducing the occurrence of transition shock is through patient care simulation. Simulating the patient care experience allows educators to place students in a very real patient care scenario without risk to an actual patient’s health (in simulation, if the patient “dies,” it is nothing more than a learning opportunity).

In October 2008, thanks to the generous support of more than 70 LHSON donors, the Don A. and Ruth Buchholz Simulation Lab was opened to provide our students with this invaluable hands-on learning tool. Since that time, LHSON faculty and students alike have seen the immense level of learning that is available in high-fidelity simulation and through the continued generosity of our donors. The Simulation Lab has recently grown to be the Don A. and Ruth Buchholz Simulation Center.

**WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

This name change is more than just swapping one word for another. The change represents the expansion and integration of simulation learning across all LHSON curricula. The importance of graduating more nurses capable...
and ready for immediate transition into practice (while at the same time lowering the incidence of transition shock) is a primary focus across all of our nursing programs. At a time when real estate space on our campus is at an all-time premium, the administration and faculty agree on the benefits of expanding the Simulation Center footprint. To this end, walls were knocked down and equipment purchased to expand the number of patient care settings and increase space in the control room. “We are thrilled to now have the equipment and space to run 11 patient scenarios simultaneously,” explains Vivian Gamblian, Simulation Center coordinator. “The ability to run simultaneous scenarios gives students the experience of handling multiple patients at one time in a very real clinical setting that more closely mimics the reality they will face in practice.” And, even more important, they are learning in a completely safe environment where nobody gets hurt. “In our Simulation Center students get to perform everything from basic care procedures to more complicated, high-risk procedures that they might not see before they enter practice. This makes our students more desirable hires to prospective employers. Our goal is that they enter the workforce more confident and independent and less likely to be caught off-guard by certain procedures,” Gamblian explains. “The focus is on preparing our students to be as close as possible to practice-ready as any graduate can possibly be.”

Patient care simulation teaches more than just how to do a procedure. Since the Simulation Center enables faculty to record scenarios as they are played out, the debriefing process helps them explore the students’ actual thought processes—not just how they did something, but more importantly why they did it. “We want to be able to understand the layers of their thought process and help them recognize the importance of anticipatory thinking,” explains Lyn Prater, senior lecturer and undergraduate clinical coordinator. “We want to not only give students information and facts but the context of how to apply them.”

Simulation Center scenarios are not limited to only the hospital setting; all high-fidelity simulators can be used in a variety of patient care settings such as a home or community center. The wireless technology enables faculty to utilize the simulators outside of the Center, whether in their classrooms or in larger venues such as conference rooms. “Classroom learning is typically a linear process. High-fidelity simulation is the non-linear complement to a student’s education. It enables them to take what they learned yesterday, last month or even last year and put it all into context at once,” Gamblian states.

Due to the expansion of the Simulation Center, all LHSON students from J1 through S2 benefit from simulation learning. “We now see students through their complete progression and help them deal with every emotion along the way, giving them the skills they need to take into a successful clinical setting,” Prater adds.

Simulation Center Learning Not Just Limited to Students

As international standards for best practices in simulation learning continue to be established, research is being done to support the benefits of high-fidelity simulation in student education. Through funding from the Dean’s Grant Award, LHSON faculty Vivian Gamblian and Dr. Leslie Payne are currently spearheading an IRB research study focused on understanding students’ clinical judgement skills in the high-fidelity simulation setting. The study includes the use of Galvonic Skin Response (GSR) monitors as a physiologic measure during simulation. The somatic marker hypothesis is a theory that suggests physiological markers, as evidenced by GSR, are present during decision making. The goal of the study is to continue to develop best practices in simulation teaching by understanding the emotional component of a student’s critical thinking skills. Phase 1 of the study is scheduled to be completed in spring 2012.
As we ring in the new year this January we will also be ringing in a new era in our school’s history, as Dr. Shelley Conroy, EdD, MS, RN, joins our Baylor family as dean of the nursing school.

Dr. Conroy comes to Baylor from Savannah, Georgia, where she served as dean and tenured professor of nursing in the College of Health Professions at Armstrong Atlantic State University. “I am truly excited about becoming a Baylor Bear. I feel that I’ve prepared my entire career for this opportunity,” Dr. Conroy smiles. “Baylor is such a well-respected school with excellent faculty and staff that I really see this as the capstone of my career.”

The LHSON dean’s search committee received a number of responses from candidates nationwide; however, with over 25 years of experience in higher education, health care administration and nursing and health care research, Dr. Conroy quickly became the clear choice. “The school of nursing family is thrilled about Dr. Conroy’s appointment as our next dean! She brings to us the wisdom of experience, vision and enthusiasm for the future and guidance from the Lord,” shares Dr. Martha Bradshaw, interim dean. “Dr. Conroy will truly be a wonderful asset to our students, faculty, staff and alumni here on our campus, and I’m confident she will interface wonderfully with her fellow dean colleagues and university administrators in Waco. I look forward to working with her during the transition period this spring.”

The daughter of a Southern Baptist minister and career Army chaplain, Dr. Conroy notes that she is particularly drawn to Baylor as a faith-based institution. Dr. Conroy holds a doctor of education degree in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in nursing education and a cognate in health policy from the University of Central Florida, a master
of science degree in maternal-infant nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University’s Medical College of Virginia; and a BSN degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. To date Dr. Conroy’s research and scholarship foci include the impact of service and cultural immersion student experiences in nursing education, psychological support for caregivers experiencing traumatic stress and moral distress, nursing practice initial and continued competence, and nursing policy issues.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Conroy is quick to point out that she briefly lived in Texas when she was a preschooler and her father was stationed here. Having met their freshman year at the University of Richmond, Dr. Conroy and her husband have been married 34 years and they have two grown children, Jennifer and Richie, and two grandkids.

Dr. Conroy previously served as dean and tenured full professor of nursing and graduate faculty at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, and dean for professional and technical studies, nursing program head and professor of nursing at John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia. “Oddly enough, our move to Ogden was prompted by our son Richie,” she laughs. “As a competitive ski racer he had the opportunity to join the ski race team there, and we naturally wanted to support him in his pursuit of the Olympic race circuit.”

Dr. Conroy has a significant background in research, grants and sponsored projects. Some of these specialty areas have included simulation training, critical incident stress, rural health outreach, nursing and health professions workforce preparation, LPN to RN and RN to BSN transition, curriculum development, and nursing externship.

As a self-described “army brat,” Dr. Conroy’s passion for travel and other cultures started at an early age and is evident in her dedication to missions. For the past eight years, she has supported service learning trips in China to give students the opportunity to study traditional Chinese medicine practices. “Travel helps us look at the world in a different way. It gives us a chance to see life from a different perspective,” she explains. “As a nurse it makes us more accepting and understanding of patients from other cultures.”

As dean at LHSON, Dr. Conroy plans to be a servant leader. “I see myself as an ambassador of the nursing school,” she notes. “We have a unique mission of service, and I plan to be sensitive to the needs of all LHSON constituents. I want to provide the resources our faculty and staff need to further excite and empower them in educating more Christian nurse leaders.” She adds, “I want to work with the entire team to create a very targeted strategic plan that gives us a solid road map for the future.”

We are excited to welcome Dr. Conroy to our campus as we embark on this new chapter of preparing nurses to Learn, Lead and Serve.
Helping, Step by Step

Ask anyone what distinguishes the faculty and students of the Louise Herrington School of Nursing from other schools, and you’ll hear a common theme: a life’s calling to serve. The LHSON family is not only focused on caring for others but on using every opportunity possible to serve others. Students and faculty alike are constantly looking for opportunities to combine education, practice and service through mission and community service projects. Through an association with Cornerstone Baptist Church of Dallas, LHSON students are able to make a difference right here in our own community while gaining valuable clinical learning experience.

Since fall 2009, LHSON seniors in both traditional and FastBacc programs have been providing blood pressure screenings and foot care clinics for homeless individuals in South Dallas.

Cornerstone Baptist Church
When Pastor Chris Simmons joined Cornerstone Baptist Church, the Dallas Morning News had just run an article referring to South Dallas as a war zone. Citing increasing incidences of gang violence, prostitution, drug use and drive-by shootings, the article convinced him that South Dallas was truly a community in crisis. One of the first things Pastor Chris did was to ask his congregation if...
they should even be in South Dallas. His point was that if they were going to be there, they should be there to make a difference. He began by looking at gaps in community programs available at that time. One such gap presented the opportunity to better serve the homeless community. Often homeless individuals are caught in a cycle that prevents them from climbing out of their situation even when they want to. “In the homeless community many people face issues beyond just poverty that contribute to their situation, including literacy, health and medical issues or the emotional transition from life in prison,” Pastor Chris explains. “In this community, many families expect their children to drop out of school as soon as they are able to get a job, money being more important than an education. Unfortunately, this perpetuates the cycle.”

Through donor and volunteer support, Cornerstone Baptist Church began serving meals on Saturday mornings. At the time, they were serving approximately 100 meals a month. Today, more than 6,000 meals are served monthly, as the program has since expanded to provide seven meals weekly. It is in conjunction with the kitchen project that LHSON students are able to fulfill community clinical hours by providing vital preventive care and counseling. “Homeless individuals spend most of their days walking and on their feet, yet they don’t have access to basic foot care needs,” explains Cheryl Tucker, LHSON lecturer and undergraduate theory coordinator. At the foot care clinic, LHSON students wash feet and discuss proper foot care practices for sores and toenails using only basic tools that a homeless person might have access to (for example, baby wipes are used for cleaning rather than soap and water, which are harder to come by). Each individual is then given a brand new, clean pair of socks (each semester LHSON students hold a sock drive to collect donations of a variety of sock sizes). Students also perform blood pressure checks to look for signs of diabetes or other health concerns. Perhaps though, the most significant benefit our students are providing is the actual interaction that takes place as students take the opportunity to listen to, minister and pray with each person. “What some of these individuals crave even more than food or healthcare is simply a friendly face and somebody to listen to their story,” explains Pastor Chris. “There is nothing more humbling than washing someone else’s feet. The Baylor students show these people that someone is interested in them as a human being. That alone has immeasurable value.”

Even on this first cold and dreary day of fall, individuals are lined up early waiting for the kitchen to open. LHSON students see many regulars. Some approach them; others need approaching. As Melissa Wiegand, FastBacc student, washes one man’s feet she is able to make that personal connection Pastor Chris is talking about. “I’ve been excited about doing this as part of my clinical experience. It’s my opportunity to show my love by serving these people,” she shares. “I get to show them that someone cares and let them know that they are not alone in this world.”

**Ephesians 2:20–21**

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

FastBacc student Melissa Wiegand provides foot care and assessment to a local homeless man.
From the time she could remember, Tiffany wanted to do well in school. She simply wanted to make her parents proud. But honestly speaking, Tiffany didn't think college was an option for her.

Growing up in rural Texas, Tiffany’s world seemed small. “I remember one year the biggest news to hit Willis was that they were building a Kroger,” she laughs. Her father, a union worker, put in as much overtime as possible, and although her mother had an associate’s degree she had a hard time getting a better-paying job. So when Tiffany was in high school and saw her mother return to school for her bachelor’s degree, Tiffany learned that she too could have a dream and pursue it.

When she was 13, Tiffany was diagnosed with atrial septal defect, a congenital heart defect in which the wall that separates the upper heart chambers does not close completely. “I know the fear a child can experience when something is wrong,” she says. “My nurses really listened to me describe how I felt and helped me better articulate it to ensure my doctors understood me.” “Up until that time, I had no idea how much our physical health impacts our spiritual and emotional health,” she says. “It was my nurses that made the biggest difference in my life at that time.”

As a sophomore in high school Tiffany cultivated her relationship with God and began to comprehend her strengths and compassion. She realized that her heart was in caring for other people. When Tiffany’s mom bragged to her doctor about her daughter’s decision to pursue a medical career, he promptly suggested she enroll at Baylor. Their first reaction was that Baylor was too expensive, but Tiffany knew in her heart that she was going to be a Baylor student. She was accepted to Baylor as a biology/pre-med student, and in her freshman year she volunteered at a local hospital and joined a medical mission trip to Belize.

Through her various experiences, Tiffany saw herself in the nursing role. “I liked relating to the patients, empathizing with them. I wanted to be able to work with the patient as a whole person, not just focusing on one specific problem.” With the help of Diana Kohler in Baylor’s pre-nursing office, Tiffany was worked into the already-full nursing program before her sophomore year.

Now on track to graduate in May 2012, Tiffany says being a Baylor student has allowed her to learn more about herself and grow as a Christian. She feels called to help children, particularly those in medically underserved areas. “I have a great respect for my classes and my teachers because I know that my patients deserve the best care possible,” Tiffany stated in a recent presentation to the LHSON dean’s board.

Tiffany knows that her education at Baylor would not have been possible without the generosity of others through the Louise Herrington Endowed Scholarship Fund. “Without your financial contribution to my education, I would not be in this place studying something that makes me excited every single day. Thank you so much for giving a gift that comes down to so much more than money.”

Recently married to her high school sweetheart, Tiffany is focused on building her career as a nurse practitioner working with children in urban areas. For now, however, one of Tiffany’s proudest achievements is being a positive role model for her siblings. “It is important to me that my younger brother see how important continuing your education is. I want him to see that no matter how much money you come from, you can still dream and be anything you want to be.”
A Green and Gold Family Affair

To say that Baylor pride runs deep in the Sadler family is an understatement. Not only have several members of this family pursued their education at Baylor, but right here on our campus we have the unique honor of a dynamic mom-daughter team both fulfilling their dreams of becoming nurses.

Julie Sadler first graduated from Baylor with a degree in psychology in 1982. In 2008, Julie married Dr. Steve Sadler, a Baylor religion faculty member. Two of their four daughters were also Baylor Bears. Naturally, then, when Julie decided she wanted to return to school and pursue a nursing degree, Baylor was the only logical choice. This experience became even more special for Julie when her daughter McKenzie, who was already enrolled in a nursing program in Abilene, decided to transfer to Baylor so that they could pursue their degrees together. “I had heard from past nursing students that the last two years of nursing school are the hardest two years of your life,” McKenzie recalls. “So I thought, ‘Who else would I rather have by my side during that time than my best friend and mother?!’”

After obtaining her original degree, Julie went on to earn an MBA in management from the University of Texas at Arlington and worked in a variety of roles, including director of training and evaluation at a residential treatment center and children’s minister. She was on the leadership team at the Baptist General Convention of Texas and served as an adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University. Her career goal is to combine her education and work experience to help make a difference in people’s lives. “I am interested in the whole person, so I hope to get involved in nursing administration so that I can have an effect on many patients, maybe even at a community health clinic for the underserved.”

McKenzie remembers being fascinated by anatomy and physiology early on and credits a particular presentation by an RN during a class in high school with opening her eyes and fueling her passion to be a nurse. “Before that day, I never really knew what nurses did. I was literally brought to tears!”

Mom and daughter can often be seen walking around campus between classes to get some exercise while drilling each other on class notes and preparing for tests. This spring they even took a study trip together to Colorado to get each other ready for finals. “We have had so much fun studying together, and it was really unique that we had clinical rotations together at Parkland and BUMC last semester,” says Julie.

Julie and McKenzie are particularly excited that they will graduate together next May. Not that she’s counting down the months, weeks or days, but Julie has 2:30 pm on May 11, 2012 well-marked on her calendar! “How neat will it be to walk across the stage and know that we made it together!” exclaims McKenzie.

My daily goal is to live a life that counts.
-Julie Sadler

It never gets old when people say, “Wait, she’s your MOM?”
-McKenzie O’Teter
To say Baylor nursing students are unique is an understatement. We are continually amazed at the passion and focus displayed by current and past students alike. Baylor nurses are determined to enact change and make our world a better place.

Rose’s Journey
THE WALK OF A LIFETIME

Rose Clarke Nanyonga, FNP ’05 and Centennial Legend in the Line, was born in Uganda and estranged from her family when she was just a teen. Rose’s desire to live a life within the Christian faith conflicted with her family’s following of witchcraft, a widely accepted practice in Uganda that often includes child sacrifice rituals. Upon her brave decision to leave her family, Rose departed her village in Bamunanika and walked a 52-kilometer journey to Kiwoko, where she crossed paths with Ian and Robbie Clarke. The Clarkes, Irish citizens working to establish better medical care in Uganda, had a profound impact on Rose’s life as they took her in and helped her pursue her passion for nursing.

Upon her graduation from LHSON and return to Uganda, Rose started a nursing school, which has since been updated to a university, the International Health Sciences University. At that time she also served as the director of clinical operations at the International Hospital Kampala (IHK), a hospital founded by the Clarkes and located in Kisugu, Namuwongo. Rose just recently transitioned to the board of directors of International Medical Group in Uganda, an umbrella organization under which IHK and the university fall.

In July 2009, Rose retraced her journey from Bamunanika to Kiwoko to raise awareness of the similar plight facing many youths in Uganda. This past July, she made the journey once again. The aim of Rose’s Journey is to stop child sacrifice in Uganda and raise money for use in the Hope Ward of IHK, where charitable medical care is provided, and for a nursing scholarship fund.

As noted on the website of Narrow Road International, “Rose is an ambassador for many in Uganda who are unwanted, unloved, uncared-for, and without hope. She holds their stories in her heart, and seeks others to help her in this cause. Specifically, Rose desires to provide opportunities for young girls to enter the medical profession. She seeks to provide medical care to those who need it most but do not have the means to pay for their treatment. And she seeks to raise the issue of child sacrifice so that additional lives are not needlessly lost.”

To learn more about Rose Nanyonga’s efforts, visit www.rosenanyongac.blogspot.com.

Virginia Ann Pitman to Be Honored

On January 27 at the Waco Convention Center, Virginia Ann Dodson Pitman, BSN ’52, retired nurse educator and medical missionary, will be honored with the Abner V. McCall Humanitarian Award. This award recognizes alumni who have exhibited a Christian response to those situations and persons around them in ways exemplified by the life of Abner V. McCall. Congratulations, Virginia Ann!
Decades of political, military and ethnic conflict have torn Burma, also known as Myanmar, apart, causing citizens to flee the violence and live in refugee camps. Many seek to resettle in another country. According to the International Organization for Migration, an estimated 90,000 refugees will be resettled this year alone, mostly in the USA, Australia and Canada. Resettlement is certainly not easy, but it is their best chance for a future. Fortunately, there are people like Rebekah (Beka) Petty helping to ease their transition.

From an early age, Beka knew her life’s calling was to serve others. She graduated Baylor with a degree in nursing in 1994, enjoyed seven years as a school nurse and loved every minute of it. However, when her sister was diagnosed with cancer in 1999, Beka realized her true passion was in missions. She soon quit her school nurse job and went to work at Buckner Children’s Home, where she began working one-on-one with children in a variety of needs and settings. She also returned to LHSON to pursue a master’s degree in the nurse practitioner program.

Just prior to graduating in 2005, one of Beka’s classmates planted the idea of working with refugees. Beka instantly applied for a supervisor position at the Dallas County Refugee Clinic and was soon meeting people from all over the world with one thing in common: each one was searching for a safe place to call home.

“Throughout this time the Lord was calling on me to help these people, and he particularly called me toward the people of Burma,” she recounts. Beka approached Jeni Knighten, a long-time friend, and together they founded Hope4Refugees, a nonprofit organization formed to bridge the gap between government assistance and full integration into community. “Our goal is to help the people of Burma become productive members of society by caring for the whole person and sharing the love of our Lord,” explains Beka.

Beka and Jeni and the volunteers at Hope4Refugees are currently assisting 225 refugees in the Dallas area through language and reading courses, Bible studies and summer camps for kids. Beka is able to put her nursing education to good use doing skills assessments and physical and emotional evaluations. “It’s not just about the social help. Often a refugee needs spiritual and emotional help to make a full recovery from their previous situation,” she says. “I think the Baylor program not only showed me how to be a nurse but how to care, lead and serve people.”

To learn more, visit www.hope4refugees.org.
Introducing the Alumni Relations Committee
What a blessing to be a part of the LHSON community, where we are able to share our passion for nursing among our classmates, other alumni, faculty, staff and current students! Dr. Martha Bradshaw has asked me to spearhead a committee with Courtney Ross ’07, Melissa Roberson ’09 and Rachael Sisney ’11 to plan and promote exciting activities specifically for LHSON alumni.

Missions
We are collaborating with the LHSON missions committee to create opportunities for our alumni to serve side-by-side with students and faculty on missions trips. Future issues of Learn.Lead.Serve. will include more information on how you can be more involved in this invaluable service to various communities.

Going for the Gold Gala
We are honored to welcome Kim Mulkey, Baylor’s women’s head basketball coach, as our featured speaker on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at this fundraising gala. And how wonderful it will be to have Troy Aikman there as well! These are two individuals who truly know the meaning of hard work and determination! This will be a special evening to benefit scholarships for our LHSON students. For more information or to purchase a table or tickets, please contact stephanie_willey@baylor.edu or (214) 820-4183.

Again, all of us on the alumni relations committee are so excited to have this opportunity to build and strengthen the LHSON alumni network. We hope to see all of you at our Alumni Reunion next March. For more information or to share your ideas with us, please contact me at ellenbyrd@aol.com or (972) 234-1122.
Pilchers Share Vision for Scholarships

One of the first key concerns tackled by Baylor University president Judge Kenneth Starr last fall was making a Baylor education accessible to more students by increasing scholarship. The President’s Scholarship Initiative, a $100-million, three-year initiative, provides Baylor family and supporters near and far with the opportunity to help make a Baylor education financially feasible for thousands of students.

It was for this reason that LHSON dean’s board members Russell and Betty Pilcher, who also serve on the President’s Scholarship Initiative Steering Committee, graciously opened their home in Highlands Park, Colorado, this past July and hosted a dinner for more than 80 Baylor alumni and friends. The occasion provided the opportunity to build awareness of not only the Baylor scholarship initiative but also the difference a Baylor nurse can make in the lives of others.

“Russ and I became ABCs (Alumni by Choice) years ago. We fell in love with Baylor during the years our daughters attended there and became committed to the scholarship programs as we saw the needs were so great. We were thrilled when Alice and Judge Starr wanted to come and share the vision of Baylor’s scholarship goals with the large community of Colorado Bears. Alumni and friends of Baylor who had not yet had the opportunity to meet the Starrs were delighted they chose to come here and spend so much time with us,” shares Betty Pilcher.

LHSON alum and fellow Highlands Park resident Joy Petersen, BSN ’02, spoke to the group about her experiences at Baylor and why being a nurse is her life’s calling.

“We are grateful to the Pilchers for their dedicated support of not only Baylor but specifically LHSON,” states Janis Kovar, director of development at LHSON. “There is no doubt that we need more Baylor nurses in this world, and in order to make this happen we need to provide more financial support to students who want to pursue their education here.”

To learn more about how you can be a part of the President’s Scholarship Initiative, visit baylor.edu/nation.

Nation’s Oldest Homecoming Tradition Continues

The 102nd Baylor Homecoming was held November 4 and 5 and included long-standing celebrations like the bonfire, Pigskin Revue, parade and football game. More than 50 nursing alumni and friends stopped by our tent at the parade, and several others enjoyed the tailgate party hosted by LHSON Student Services at Floyd Casey Stadium prior to the victorious football game against the Missouri Tigers. Sic ‘em, Bears!
Whether they are Baylor graduates, alumni by choice, proud Baylor parents or simply friends of the school, all members of our dean’s board are considered family. That’s why it is always with a heavy heart that we share the news of their retirement from the board. However, we know that the love and dedication they share for Baylor will keep them engaged in the LHSON mission.

Ruth Buchholz
Anyone meeting Ruth Buchholz, BA ’49, for the first time quickly learns that she is a spirited woman with a generous heart. Ruth is passionate about many things in life: her family, her faith and her philanthropic service. Lucky for us, Ruth is also very passionate about Baylor. A charter member of the Baylor University Women’s Council of Dallas in 1987, Ruth led the charge in building scholarships for Baylor students. It was during her service on the board of the Baylor Hospital Foundation that Ruth first recognized the increasing need for nurses. So, naturally, when she was approached by Phyllis Karns, then dean of the nursing school, Ruth got involved on our campus. “I was already tied to Baylor and Phyllis asked me to be more involved with the nursing school,” she explains. “Joining the dean’s board gave me the opportunity to support LHSON in a more concrete way.”

A dean’s board member for several years, Ruth has been a staunch LHSON advocate, working to build not only scholarship funds but also providing resources to improve student learning. As lead donors, Ruth and her husband, Don, were instrumental in the opening of our high-fidelity simulation center, named in their honor. “The simulation center gives students a tremendous advantage,” Ruth states. “Students need more hands-on experience to build their abilities as nurses when they graduate.”

Ruth and Don have been married 53 years and have two children and five grandchildren. As a student at Baylor University, Ruth majored in English and education and taught post-graduation at an elementary school in Fort Worth. She later traveled through Europe for more than three years working for the US Department of State Foreign Service. “If I told you what I did, I’d have to kill you,” she says with a laugh. “Guess you could say I was sort of a spy catcher.”

Harris Clark
In addition to Harris’s counsel and service in the past two years, he and his wife, Anne, were part of the original group of donors to open the high-fidelity simulation center. The Clarks’ generosity provided for the purchase of the “Noelle” and newborn “Baby Hal” simulators used to teach students about various birthing scenarios. Harris and Anne also established a scholarship fund for FastBacc students. Through his affiliation with the Deerbrook Charitable Trust, Harris helped us secure funding for the FastBacc and Gerontological Nursing Initiative (GNI) programs. The GNI provides continuing education symposiums for practicing RNs, on-site training for health care providers working with older adults and lectures on a variety of geriatric topics throughout the community.
John and Marie Chiles Honored with Founders Medal

The Founders Medal was established in September 1969 and is one of the most distinguished awards given by Baylor University. This award is reserved for individuals whose service and contributions emulate those of our founders and have been unusually significant to the life and future of the university. Thus, it was no surprise to us when John, BA ’50, JD ’52, and Marie Chiles were announced as the 2011 Founders Medal recipients. It would require more pages than we have in this magazine to detail all the ways in which John and Marie have shown their unwavering dedication and support to Baylor University and the Louise Herrington School of Nursing.

Some of John's closest, lifelong friends were made while he was earning his business and law degrees at Baylor. Green and gold are in his blood. Marie, however, laughs when she describes herself as an “alumna by (no other) choice.” John’s zeal for his alma mater was contagious, and since they married in 1955 both have been ardent Baylor Bears.

When they lived in Waco, John and Marie were active participants in the 15 years of planning and fundraising to create the Mayborn Museum and generously provided the funds for a dedicated exhibit hall during the nursing school’s centennial celebration in 2009. After moving to Dallas, they visited with the current dean Dr. Judy Wright Lott and director of development Janis Kovar and were moved by the enthusiasm they showed for the work being done at LHSON.

The Chileses established the John H. and Marie E. Endowed Scholarship Fund in Nursing and the Good Samaritan Dean’s Fund. They are also the proud “parents” of two high-fidelity patient simulators: “John Houser,” an eight-month-old baby simulator and “JJ,” a five-year-old child simulator. Dean’s board members for more than several years, John and Marie have supported the school in numerous ways and were also recently honored by LHSON with the inaugural Friends of Nursing Award.

Recipients of the Founders Medal are awarded a bronze medallion and are recognized in a Founder’s Day ceremony where they are presented with a formal citation. Honorees are also invited to be the special guests at several events during Baylor’s Homecoming celebration, and one copy of each medal is on permanent exhibition in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Please join us in congratulating John and Marie Chiles on this prestigious award!
Event Calendar

January 5–6  Undergraduate New Student Orientation
January 9  First Day of Classes, Spring Semester
January 16  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – University Holiday
February 11  Pre-Nursing Day, Dallas
March 12–16  Spring Break
March 24  LHSO n Alumni Reunion
March 31  Gerontological Nursing Symposium
April 6–9  Easter Holidays
April 14  Going for the Gold Gala, Ritz-Carlton, Dallas
April 14  Spring Premiere, Waco
April 19  Diadeloso Holiday
April 27  Last Day of Classes
May 2–8  Final Examinations
May 10  Pinning Ceremony for Graduating Seniors (BSn), 10:00 am
May 10  Graduate Recognition Ceremony (MSN, DNP), 5:00 pm
May 11  Spring Commencement, Waco

Join Us on Facebook
Become a friend of Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing and be a part of our growing online community.

Go Green!
Please let us know if you would prefer to receive Learn.Lead.Serve. via email. Send an email with “Electronic News” in the subject line to LHSONnews@baylor.edu. Look for our next issue this spring!

Save the Date!
The LHSO n Alumni Reunion is March 24, 2012. See page 24 for details!