As a part of a longtime Baylor family, I understand the significance and importance of the Louise Herrington Baylor School of Nursing. It has meant much to the quality of health care in Texas and the Southwest region for more than 100 years.

I knew Louise Herrington Ornelas as a friend across the decades and appreciated her generosity to LHSON.

It was a privilege to attend Baylor University during Judge Abner McCall’s tenure as president. His vision for Baylor’s growth from 1961 to 1981 laid the foundation for where Baylor is today. Mary Wilson McCall was a gracious and talented First Lady for Baylor and her family continues to serve Baylor.

Planned giving through endowed scholarships impacts both current and future generations. It truly is the “gift that keeps on giving!” As Judge McCall often said, “it is incumbent on every friend of Baylor to do their part in ensuring the future of our great University.” Together, what each friend of Baylor does, when added together - has a mighty impact . . .

Dr. Edwards has nine endowed scholarships at Baylor and additional endowed scholarships at other institutions of higher education in Texas. He owns and operates commercial real estate properties in Texas and Louisiana and was honored with the W. R. White Meritorious Service Award from Baylor in 2009. He has served as chair for the Baylor Libraries board three times and is a 1976 graduate of the Hankamer School of Business with a BBA degree.

Planned giving through endowed scholarships impacts both current and future generations.

To learn more about how you can make an impact, contact Janis Kovar, Director of Development for the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing at Janis_Kovar@Baylor.edu or call 214-808-9802.
A MESSAGE FROM DEAN CONROY

Baylor Nurses Are Called to Serve

More than ever before we all appreciate that nurses are called to serve and to care for the physical, social, psychological/emotional and spiritual needs of their patients. Here at the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing (LHSON) our mission actualizes our faith through service for those who are hurting or in need of comfort.

During the early spring of 2020, we were all confronted with the life-altering COVID-19 crisis. Healthcare workers, including our wonderful nurses, became critical heroes on the front lines in fighting the pandemic. As Baylor President, Linda Livingstone noted in her March 2020 email to the campus, “As members of the Baylor family, we ask that you continue to pray for all those across the globe whose lives have been impacted by COVID-19 and for the public health officials, doctors and scientists who are working around the clock to end the outbreak. May they be the hands and feet of Jesus, our great physician.”

Echoing throughout the country during this time was the mantra, “we’re all in this together.” I am so grateful to our amazing staff and faculty who quickly transitioned our undergraduate programs online so our students could continue their education. Our graduate programs, while leading the way in online delivery, faced the closure of clinical practice sites and cancellation of intensive immersion experiences. I also appreciate the generosity from alumni, donors and friends of the LHSON who offered prayers and support. Perpetuating this goodwill, the LHSON donated its remaining personal protective equipment (PPE) to Baylor Scott & White Health, Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC), for use by frontline screeners and others. To help ease the shortage of this vital equipment, our Clinical Simulation Director, Jeanne Carey, coordinated with the Director of Supply Chain Management for BUMC, Scott Kester, to pick up over 2,000 masks, 9,000 gloves, 200 isolation gowns and 24 canisters of hand foam. What a testament to teamwork and truly caring for one another.

Unmistakably, the need for caring and compassionate nurses has never been greater. Unless you’re a nurse or know someone who is, it’s hard to appreciate how demanding, exhausting and yet incredibly rewarding it is to be a nurse. Dedicated to supporting our legacy of service and next generation of Baylor nurses through our belief here at the LHSON that each new nurse makes the world a better place.

Moving forward, in honor of Florence Nightingale’s 200th birthday (the founder of nursing), the World Health Organization (WHO) declared 2020 the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife.” This fitting tribute to nursing also coincides with the celebration of the LHSON’s 110th birthday (October 2019) and Baylor University’s 175th birthday. Celebrating these important milestones also included banner moments such as being listed in U.S. News & World Report’s (USNWR) 2021 Best Graduate Schools. LHSON’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, which includes programs in anesthesia nursing, executive nurse leadership, family nurse practitioner, neonatal nurse practitioner, nurse-midwifery and pediatric nurse practitioner – ranked No. 59 nationally. In the specialty rankings, LHSON’s U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing (USAGPAN), which operates at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, ranked No. 8 nationally, while Baylor’s nurse-midwifery program ranked No. 21 in the nation. Plus, USNWR’s 2020 Best Online Programs ranked LHSON’s Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the top 25% nationally, moving up to No. 41 and most notably, ranked No. 8 nationally among the Best Online Master’s in Nursing Administration Programs. Overall, we are honored and inspired to be ranked among so many distinguished nursing programs throughout the country as we forge through unprecedented moments in history.

During this season of change, so too comes a personal decision. After eight years of service to Baylor University as Dean of the Louise Herrington School of Nursing, I have decided to step down from my administrative post effective June 30, 2020. Serving Baylor students, faculty, staff and stakeholders has been a career highlight. Servant leadership propels organizational success, and I am grateful to have served over the years, contributing to the professional successes the LHSON has achieved. I will be taking a year-long sabatical beginning July 1, which will permit me to further advance my research interests in upstream global nursing through educational partnerships, but more importantly, to assist in caring for and spending quality time with my elderly parents who need the attention and service of their nurse/daughter. While the Baylor search committee will work to identify my successor, LHSON’s Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Linda Plank, will serve as Interim Dean.

On behalf of the LHSON, I want to acknowledge how grateful we are for the sustaining support and prayers of our Baylor family and healthcare community. We are also blessed by our outstanding faculty and staff who educate and nurture our students to fulfill their calling to Learn, Lead, Serve. I join me in applauding the incredible work of nurses all across the globe and our belief here at the LHSON that each new nurse makes the world a better place.

Shelley & Conroy
New to the opportunities at Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing is the post-baccalaureate Distance Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN). This is an intensive full-time, online program with a combination of teaching methodologies including online courses, clinical and lab experiences, and hybrid interactive learning courses.

What makes this track special is that it is currently designed for students residing in Texas, but outside the DFW metro area. Students who reside within Dallas and Tarrant counties should apply for the on-campus accelerated FastBacc® program at the Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas.

According to KeyPath, “There’s an RN shortage in Texas because of the baby boomer generation needing more care, current RNs moving into retirement, and health care reform.

The need for nurses has never been greater.”

- 1 million RNs will retire by 2030
- Texas has the 2nd largest RN shortage in the nation
- 17% of Texans lack health insurance
- Demand for nurses is projected to grow 12% through 2028

“The new ABSN track is focused on reaching rural areas of Texas and allowing students to exemplify our school motto, Learn, Lead and Serve in their own communities,” said Dr. Renea Powell, FastBacc® Co-Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing. “The nursing shortage in Texas and all over the United States continues to be problematic along with an aging population.

Everyone deserves a Baylor nurse and with this program we plan to provide top quality nurses to rural communities in Texas.”

The new program is structured for students to complete a BSN degree in one year. It requires travel to the nursing school in Dallas for two weeks. Students will be on campus working with instructors and utilizing our state-of-the-art simulation lab. They will complete the other components of the program online in their own communities. “The quality of a Baylor nurse speaks for itself and now we can deliver this quality to rural communities in need of nurses,” said Dr. Powell.

“I am from a rural community and have seen firsthand the lack of services in these areas,” said Dr. Powell. “I believe all people deserve access to quality health care. This program is a step in the right direction to provide this access to care for all persons, no matter their geographical location.”

Addressing Growing Health Needs for Children

New DNP Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program

As children’s health needs become more complex, and more communities experience limited to no pediatric care, nurse practitioners have a unique opportunity to fulfill important, high-demand roles. According to the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, PNP Workforce White Paper Findings, “approximately one million children have no access to a pediatrician, specifically in lower income and rural areas. Increasing the PNP workforce, especially in underserved areas, will help meet the health care needs of children.”

Baylor University’s online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) is offered through the Louise Herrington School of Nursing (LHSON), which ranks within U.S. News & World Report’s top fifty best graduate schools. Fully online with Immersion Sessions throughout the course, the program offers the ability to obtain a Primary Care PNP or Dual Track Degree with Acute Care/Primary Care PNP.

“Launching in August 2020, the new online DNP-PNP program stands out offering many “firsts” of its kind. It is the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to DNP-PNP in Texas; the first true dual DNP-PNP program in Texas; the first missions-based program in Texas and the first program with a focus on the underserved and rural health primary care in Texas,” said Renee Hppo, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, Clinical Associate Professor and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Track Coordinator, Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing. “It will also strengthen community partnerships with Dallas ISD, Dallas Life and Dallas County to improve quality of health in pediatric residents.”
**Academic Support Specialist**

**Administrative Associate for Griffen A. Henderson**

**Education Council.**

**students about psychiatric mental health nursing.** Dr. Neathery will also be serving as a steering committee member on the APNA

- **Dr. Melissa Neathery** was selected as Co-Chair of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association’s Pre-licensure Education Committee.
- **Dr. Lori Spies** was named to the 2019-2021 International Council of Nurses: Advanced Practice Nursing Network.

- **Experienced Academic Leadership Academy for nurses.** In this role, she will work with educators across the country to develop resources and research topics pertinent to educating nursing
- **Dr. Beth Hultquist** was selected by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing to participate in the 2020 cohort of the

**Sr. E-Learning Designer/...**

**Academic Affairs**

**LHSON**

**STAFF**

**RECENTLY ASSIGNED FACULTY RANK**

- **Clinical Professor**
- **Armance White, DNP, CRNA, Phase 2 Assistant Program Director:** Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center,
- **Brooke Army Medical Center,**
- **Brad West, MSN, CRNA, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret), Phase 2 Assistant Program Director,**
- **Clinical Associate Professor**
- **LTC Matthew Ruemmler, DNAP, CRNA, Phase 2 Program Director:** Womack Army Medical Center,
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **LTC John R. Reed, PhD, CRNA, Phase 2 Program Director:** Eisenhower Army Medical Center,
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Jonathan W. Reed, DNP, CRNA, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret), Phase 2 Assistant Program Director,**
- **Memphis Veteran Affairs Medical Center,**
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Robert Peden, III, DNAP, CRNA, Phase 2 Assistant Program Director:** Womack Army Medical Center,
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Mark Schienrock, DNAP, CRNA, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret), Phase 2 Assistant Program Director:** Madigan Army Medical Center,
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Mark Schienenbach, DNAP, CRNA, Major, U.S. Army (Ret), Phase 2 Assistant Program Director:** Eisenhower Army Medical Center,
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Erica West, MSN, CRNA, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret), Phase 2 Assistant Program Director,**
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Amass White, DNAP, CRNA, Phase 2 Assistant Program Director:** Memphis Veteran Affairs Medical Center,
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**

**Faculty Member Supports Honor Flight DFW**

On September 22, 2019, Dr. Beth Halstatt participated in Honor Flight DFW. The program takes WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans to Washington DC to visit the DC memorials and be honored in our nation’s capital. As part of the experience the Veterans are surprised on the return trip with “Mail Call.”

**D Magazine Excellence in Nursing**

Congratulations to LHSON honorees of D Magazine’s 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards. LHSON recipients included:
- **Jeanne Carey** and
- **Drs. Kathy Osteen, Cheryl Tucker and Kelly Rosslie**.

**LHSON Faculty Make Impact at SREB Conference**

Four outstanding LHSON faculty members attended the 2019 SREB-CERC Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Drs.
- **Drs. Cindy Tynes, Cheryl Tucker, Renee Flippo and Deborah Petty** presented posters. LHSON Dean, Shelley Conroy, serves as President.

**Vietnam Partnership Strong**

Global outreach through teaching and research is pivotal to LHSON’s mission. In late 2019, Dr. Kathy Osteen, Ha Kim Ngoc and the Consul General from

- **Vietnam National Nursing University.**

Awards. LHSON

- **Excellence in Nursing**

- **Congratulations to LHSON honorees of D Magazine’s 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards. LHSON recipients included:**

**Community Interaction Partnership**

LHSON appreciates the work of Dr. Renee Flippo who teaches the Dallas Independent School District 2nd year new school nurses pediatric physical assessment course. The school nurses come to LHSON once a month, from October to March, and Dr. Flippo lectures for the first two hours followed by practicing their new skills in the lab. At the end of the course they take a final skills check-off.

**Fond Farewell to Dr. Tanya Suddia**

In December 2019, LHSON recognized Dr. Tanya Suddia, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship for five years of service to Baylor University. In January 2020, Dr. Suddia began a new opportunity in Georgia as Dean of the College of Nursing at Augusta University. LHSON wishes her all the best.
Faculty Accomplishments & Accolades


Multi-Media


Peck, J. KERV Fox 26 Houston, 12/18/2019. Medication Safety, on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control Up and Away Campaign.


Grants


Garner, S. L., Bradley, D., US Agency for International Development (USAID) American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) project title: An International Collaboration to Build a Living and Learning Center with Smart Classrooms to Advance Nursing Education in India, $52,693.


Awards/Honors

Ridler, K., Recipient of D Magazine’s 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards for Nursing Education and Research, March 2020 issue.

Ridler, K., Recipient in Nursing Research award by Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University Alumni Association, October 2019.

Peck, J.Lu, Nurse Practitioner of the Year, Texas Nurse Practitioners, September 2019.
According to the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) there is an estimated $150 billion human trafficking industry significantly impacting children. Bolstering this organization, The Alliance for Children in Trafficking (ACT) is focused on improving awareness among pediatric APRNs and other healthcare providers. In fact, ACT (an initiative of NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth) reports an estimated 87 percent of rescued trafficking victims had at least one encounter with a healthcare provider before identification.

Serving as a new Clinical Professor of the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing is Jessica Peck, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, CNE, CNL, FAANP, who is also President-Elect of NAPNAP and is a nationally recognized anti-human trafficking advocate. She served as the founding Chair of the Alliance for Children in Trafficking (ACT) and started the ACT Advocates grassroots advocacy program, training hundreds of nursing professionals to respond to human trafficking in their communities. Highly accomplished in her field, Dr. Peck is an expert pediatric clinician who has practiced in the general pediatric and newborn population for 15 years. She was honored as the Texas Nurse Practitioner of the Year in 2019 and recently inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to join the incredibly accomplished group of faculty at Baylor Nursing School,” said Dr. Peck. “As a high school student, I dreamed of spending four years at Baylor Nursing School, but college was not financially accessible for me at the time. God had better plans and now I intend to spend the next 20 years or more as a Baylor nurse- learning, leading and serving,” said Dr. Peck. “This is an exciting time in my career. As a Clinical Professor, I have academic freedom to choose scholarly projects that are the most meaningful to me, and those which may have the greatest impact. I am very excited to see Baylor’s desire to use scholarship to positively impact underserved populations. I hope to impact my students by inspiring them to follow God’s calling with their profession. I also hope to impact the patients we serve both directly and indirectly by using nursing to improve health outcomes. In fact, I am looking forward to partnering with Baylor Nursing to help start a pediatric palliative care program in summer 2020 in India.”

Passionate about serving as an anti-human trafficking advocate, Dr. Peck is a voice for nursing. She partnered with Unbound Houston and development of the Alliance for Children in Trafficking, an initiative of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. “Nurses are ranked the most trusted profession by the American public. We are ideally situated to engage and equip communities to respond to child trafficking,” said Dr. Peck. “I was proud to be part of the effort in passing HB 2059 in last year’s legislative session, requiring all direct care providers in Texas to take continuing education related to human trafficking. We can use our voices as policy advocates, our eyes and hands as competent caregivers, our minds as teachers and scholars, and our hearts to clothe these efforts in compassion and resilience.”

As a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and devoted wife and mother of four, Dr. Peck has a special interest in educating and equipping families to promote positive physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual health. “As nurses, it will take our collective efforts, our acquired knowledge, our applied wisdom, and our unwavering dedication to fearlessly do whatever it takes to be a voice of advocacy for children all over the world. I am incredibly inspired by my fellow nurses. We are among the ranks of the most innovative, resilient, honorable, life giving, tenacious profession that has ever existed. Nursing will always find a way to rise up and meet the challenges of tomorrow.”
On Thursday, September 19, 2019, Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing (LHSON) participated for the seventh consecutive year in Communities Foundation of Texas’ 11th Annual North Texas Giving Day. Thanks to the sustaining generosity of 190 donors during this action-packed, one-day online giving day, the LHSON raised $42,434, surpassing what it raised each year in 2018, 2017 and 2016.

“Every gift to LHSON helps students achieve their dreams of a nursing education,” said Shelley F. Conroy, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Dean and Professor, LHSON. “Participation in this event builds upon our tradition of integrating faith and academic excellence in nursing education, enabling us to provide transformational experiences for our students to realize their calling to Learn. Lead. Serve.”

In the spirit of North Texas Giving Day, LHSON fueled fundraising excitement with lots of fun activities throughout the day in the lobby of the Academic Building at 333 North Washington Avenue. The LHSON bear mascot was the center of attention for many photo ops and volunteers managed a giving table adorned with balloons, fall décor, giveaways and the convenience of multiple laptops to make online gifts. During the lunch hour, the event welcomed two savory food trucks, Loaded Dallas and The Greek Girls. Later in the day, LHSON celebrated Baylor’s tradition of serving Dr Pepper floats and as an added treat provided fresh popcorn. The Waco-based Baylor Bookstore set-up a pop-up shop in the lobby. Nursing students also managed a Health Check Station measuring blood pressure, pulse rates, oxygen saturation levels, and showed compelling models of 5 and 10 pounds of fat to underscore the importance of healthy living. Additionally, the day included giving challenges made possible by generous donors who offered support to inspire a student challenge, class challenge, alumni challenge, faculty/staff challenge and night owl challenge.

“What a blessing our Baylor alumni, parents and friends are to LHSON,” said Janis Kovan, Director of Development, LHSON. “Over 190 donors gave on September 19 to make a difference for our students. Thank you to those that provided challenge gifts to help increase our funds. It was a great day for our nursing school and our students.” Save the date for 2020 North Texas Giving Day scheduled for September 17, 2020!
Nestled in a live oak tree grove on the front north side of the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing Academic Building, is a new outdoor sculpture garden. The peaceful area includes a bench and two life-size bronze bear sculptures generously donated by Laurie Kim Johnson Nielsen* and Mark A. Nielsen. The thought-provoking bear monuments represent “Repentance” and “Redemption” and were designed by Walt Horton.
The stereotype of hungry people are those we interact with as a part of our Christian call to mission. But the reality is that hunger is insidious, invisible, and present in all communities. It is an emerging priority that our students learn that the ‘regular’ people in our clinics and hospitals may not have adequate quantities of nutritious food. Nurses often care for people who have chronic diseases related, not to a lack of food, but to a lack of appropriate quantities of nutritious food. But hunger is a significant health issue in Texas and one in four children in Dallas, Texas don’t know where they will get their next meal illustrates global hunger here at home.

Patients are unlikely to mention that they do not have a consistent or reliable source of food. The person with diabetes or hypertension may not be able to afford the fresh fruits and vegetables that are healthiest. The person with a slowly healing wound may not have adequate protein available. Our future nurses and advanced practice nurses are learning to make sure that the people in their care have access to affordable food.

As I became aware of how widespread and rampant hunger is, I chose to incorporate a hunger module into the graduate NUR 5349 Global Health and Missions course. The assignment requires students to investigate hunger where they currently live and reflect on the health ramifications. Over the years the students, who live all over the U.S., have initially been quite certain that hunger wasn’t an issue where they live. They have been consistently shocked at the hidden prevalence of hunger in their community. The Global Health and Mission students are required to gather information about hunger in the community in which they live. The students are also asked to respond and share their response to learning about hunger from a local perspective. The students are then asked to read and respond to their peer’s reflections. They are asked to respond to the question, How will this impact you? How will it change your life-long learning, professional practice, and future work? A byproduct of this assignment is not only increased awareness but often a change in behavior. As students become aware of the issue of hunger some seek new opportunities to serve.

At Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing our students are provided numerous ways to serve and learn. Through domestic and international missions students give back using their nursing skills and Christian heart. Our school’s unique faith-based approach prepares students for a committed life of caring. From the adventure of the mission field, to an exciting student life and innovative classroom experience, we want our students to find their life positively changed in ways they never expected. We offer annual missions domestically in Rio Grande Valley in Texas and globally to Africa, India, Peru and study abroad trips in England and Zambia. At LHSON we encourage all of our students to participate in endeavors that make the world a better place. Sometimes that involves joining a global mission or identifying that their local patient does not know where they will get their next meal. Being aware of hunger in their patients will help future Baylor nurses become better providers.

LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.

Nurses Serving the Hungry: Learning About an Invisible Issue

Incorporated into Global Health and Missions Course

By Lori A. Spies PhD, RN, NP-C
Assistant Professor and Fulbright Scholar, Missions Coordinator, BU LHSON

LHSON students and faculty participated in a 12-day Study Abroad in Hong Kong in 2019 focusing on Complementary Therapies in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The trip included a week at the Chinese University of Hong Kong School of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Nethersole School of Nursing. Students also had the opportunity to visit several Chinese medicine hospitals, participate in workshops, learn from experts, plus enjoy a few days of cultural immersion.

Forging ahead into her new nursing career at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina, Ashlie Escalle, RN, BSN and May 2018 graduate of Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing graduate, put her skills to work to exemplify the LHSON motto, Learn. Lead. Serve. Much to her surprise, she was given the opportunity as a nurse to participate in a groundbreaking surgical heart transplant.

“As a cardiothoracic operating room nurse at Duke, I mainly function as a scrub nurse setting up the sterile field, advocating for my patients and assisting the surgeons and fellows throughout surgical procedures,” said Ashlie. “I am able to assist as a scrub nurse in both cardiac and thoracic surgeries. However, my favorite surgeries to scrub include transplants, ventricular assist device placements and valve replacements.”

Glimpsing into an active operating room scene, Ashlie shares her perspective. “The nurse’s most important role is to be a patient advocate. A patient under anesthesia and surgical drapes is completely vulnerable and unable to advocate for themselves. So, as a nurse, I make sure that no one in the room from the anesthesiologists to the surgeons interfere with the sterility of the procedure or the patient. There are countless opportunities for people to contaminate the surgical field and place the patient at risk for infection. Additionally, I ensure my surgical table is always organized and prepared for what is to come during the surgery. Functioning as a cardiac operating room nurse, I must prepare various suture to either cannulate the patient for cardiopulmonary bypass or to fix holes in the heart or major blood vessels that may occur. Additionally, it is crucial to be monitoring the vital signs throughout the case to be aware of any desaturations of blood pressure or heart rate. Although there are anesthesiologists and surgeons in the room, it is always important to keep an eye on what is going on with your patient.”

Working “on call” one weekend in early December 2019 proved to be a life-changing experience for Ashlie. Her pager went off abruptly at 2:30 a.m. one Saturday morning notifying her there was an upcoming heart transplant and she had thirty minutes to get to the hospital. “As I was driving quickly to the hospital, I was excited to scrub another heart transplant,” said Ashlie. “Based on the call schedule, I was set to be the scrub nurse for the night which meant that I would scrub in with the surgeon, set up the sterile field and gather everything necessary for the transplant. When I got to the hospital, I changed into my operating room scrubs and began to set up the operating room for the procedure.”

Throughout the case and even after, I did not know I was part of a surgical first,” said Ashlie. “The next day I learned that I had participated in the first ‘Death by Circulatory Death’ (DCD) adult heart transplant in the United States. What makes this transplant so special is that it is the first one to be done in the U.S. and the donor pool has the potential to expand by 30 percent, according to the surgeon that performed the operation Dr. Schroder.”

“Being a Baylor graduate means that I strive for excellence and always have the desire to learn more about the cases I am doing and the patients I am caring for,” said Ashlie. “The LHSON taught me how to look for challenges and always ask new questions. As a nurse, I learn something new every day. I hope that more nursing students appreciate the complexity and excitement that comes along with operating room nursing. Baylor set me up for success and I am extremely proud to call Baylor my alma mater.”

The Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing hosted an endowed scholarship luncheon in early 2020 to introduce the new Janna Kay Entzminger Endowed Scholarship Fund in Nursing. The luncheon was a total surprise to the honoree, Janna, who is a nurse at Baylor Scott & White Health. Mr. and Mrs. Bowlin made the donation to the nursing school in Janna’s name because of the impact she made in their life. This was their way of showing their gratitude for her and the field of nursing.
B A B Y  B E A R S

Katharine Gillett (BSN 2016) and Michael Seyman (BSN 2016) welcomed Miles Paul on January 29, 2020.

W E D D I N G  B E L L S

Baleigh Maynor was married January 2, 2020 to Caleb Duncan.

I N  M E M O R I A M

Sandra Lynn Holdcraft (BSN 1972) of Dallas, Texas passed away on April 17, 2018.
Virginia Sue Hendrew (BSN 1951) of Watauga, Texas passed away on May 15, 2019.
Willie Fay Cole (BSN 1939) of Dallas, Texas passed away on June 11, 2016.
Margaret Elaine Sanderski Koester (BSN 1948) of San Diego, California passed away on February 28, 2019.
Katherine Rhodes McGarthy (BSN 1940) passed away on February 22, 2015.
Mildred Hallbrook Vincint (BSN 1940) of Dallas, Texas passed away September 7, 2019.
Muriel Kathryn Osborne (BSN 1946) of New Braunfels, Texas passed away on January 28, 2015.
Mildred Tushio Shibata Blesosisa (BSN 1952) of Alhambra, California passed away on September 25, 2017.
Virginia Ann Pittman (BSN 1962) of Pleasant Hill, California passed away on June 12, 2019.
Gwendolyn Fouts (BSN 1940) of Benbrook, Texas passed away on October 11, 2019.
Gay Joan Haller (BSN 1957) of Fort Worth, Texas passed away on September 10, 2019.
Bonnie Tindera (BSN 1990) of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on August 10, 2019.
Penny Michelle Gravas (BSN 1995) of Nederland, Texas passed away on August 08, 2019.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Buffy Franklin Lucas (BSN 2017) worked at Underhill Children’s Hospital after graduation from the LHSON. She completed her MSN in December 2019 from Belmont University in Nashville. She now works at the Baptist Office of Wilton Bend in Plano as an FNP.
Madeleine Blunt (BSN 2019) who was an honor student, published an article related to her honors project in a high impact factor journal (Health Education). Her work was on building health champions among youth in India for NCD prevention. She also started the MPH program at Johns Hopkins in summer 2019.
Ramona Barcham (MSN 2017) was promoted in September 2019 to Nurse Scientist/Magnet Program Coordinator for Baylor All Saints Medical Center. She is currently completing her PhD at Texas Christian University.
Jacqueline Smudzinski (BSN 2017) Following graduation from the LHSON she worked for three years for the Baylor Scott & White Rehabilitation Center in Dallas, Spinal Cord Injury Unit, and served as the Spinal Cord Education Series Instructor. In September 2019, at the age of 23, she presented at the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. In January 2020, she began teaching full time an LPN program in New York in congruence with creating a curriculum that she can teach and lecture at Spinal Cord facilities, workshops, and conferences across the nation.

Dr. Sherry B. Perkins (BSN 1982) was recently appointed president of the Anne Arundel Medical Center In Annapolis, Maryland.
Houston in San Antonio, ranked No. 8 nationally, while Baylor's nurse-midwifery program is newly ranked at No. 21 in the nation. USNWR’s 2020 Best Online Programs ranked LHSON’s Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the top 25% nationally, moving up to No. 41. Additionally, LHSON’s online MSN in Leadership and Innovation ranked No. 8 nationally among the Best Online Master’s in Nursing Administration Programs.

May this prayer bring some measure of comfort and hope to you as we navigate together through the unknown.

Father God, we are so grateful that you are mindful of all of us during this time.
You tell us to cast our cares, anxieties, and worries on you because you care for us.
We admit we are sometimes scared, uncertain, and nervous at times but we stand on your promises.
We believe and confess you are our calm in the middle of the storm, you are our present help. Help our unbelief.
We release our worries to you as we take comfort in your peace. We lean not on our own understanding; we trust you God.
We pray for others who are experiencing hardships and illness at this time, that they would be healed.
We pray for our school, faculty, staff, and students, as solutions are being created to ease transitions.
We ask that you help us to focus on the fruit of the Spirit - love, kindness, longsuffering - as we support each other.
Keep us healthy and help us to be providers of correct information and not add to the panic.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.
I knew that I had always had a calling to serve and to love others the way Jesus had fiercely and unconditionally loved me. Graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in Psychology, I had every intention to pursue a career in Social Work to advocate for those in Child Protective Services and foster care. However, after graduation I decided to drop everything and move to Haiti for two years with Life Teen Missions. It was there I felt the calling to become a nurse so one day I could go back and provide Haitians and those in third world countries with basic healthcare resources and empower them with health education so they can help their country as well. I wanted to attend Baylor not only because it is a prestigious nursing school but because it teaches nursing students to be holistic in their practice-serving patients’ body, mind, and spirit. The Lord used scholarships as a way to show me that He is in control of providing for the path He has called me, and I only need to trust and say “yes” along the way. I am so thankful for those who have generously given from their abundance to invest in my career, my future patients, and my family.