One of the great things about being a nurse is the opportunity to learn every day. Our education doesn’t end with the last degree we received. Whether it’s seeking a higher degree, gaining skills at a professional conference or accepting a leadership role, Vanderbilt nurses are performing at the top of their licenses.

It is in this spirit that I want to congratulate six nurses who graduated from Belmont University this spring with BSN degrees. Three more nurses are expected to graduate with BSNs in December. They were part of a pilot partnership between Vanderbilt and Belmont, as we seek to have 80 percent of nurses with BSN degrees by 2020. Research has shown that this will lead to better patient outcomes.

This is part of our journey toward our third Magnet designation. We are seeking Magnet Champions who will lead our Magnet effort in every area where nurses practice. Please consider taking on one of these leadership roles.

Finally, I would like to give kudos to our nurses who organized a successful Urology conference, as well as the finalists for The Tennessean’s 2015 Salute to Nurses. You continue to make us proud.

Enjoy this issue,

Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC

MAGNET CHAMPIONS NEEDED

Vanderbilt Nursing is looking for energetic and enthusiastic nurses who will help Vanderbilt attain its third Magnet designation.

Magnet champions are the front-line leaders during VUMC’s journey toward a third Magnet designation. They are responsible for educating and energizing their colleagues, helping staff recognize their contributions to the Magnet culture, and participating in the Magnet Site Visit.

During the site visit, expected in 2016, appraisers will speak with staff to verify and validate what is written in Vanderbilt’s Magnet document.

“Magnet Champions are the backbone of our Magnet education effort,” said Chris Wilson, MSN, RN-BC, director of Nursing Education and Professional Development.

“They are at the front lines working side by side with the Vanderbilt nurses that make us a Magnet organization. They represent their peers in the Magnet journey and ensure our success.”

Wilson said about 300 champions will be recruited from all areas in VUMC where nurses practice, including Vanderbilt University Hospital, Children’s Hospital, Perioperative Services, Vanderbilt Medical Group and Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital.

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She said a Magnet Champion should be a high performer and have the respect of their peers. “We really want somebody who is very positive,” she said, with a “can-do attitude... really good follow-through and who will take initiative and ask questions.”

Champions will receive special training and educational materials from August to at least the middle of October. Registration for training dates for the two-hour sessions will be available in the Learning Exchange. Training will occur at many times and places on- and off-campus.

“We try to make it very educational but also make it kind of fun in getting people’s energy level up,” Wilson said.

To submit a name for Magnet Champion, visit www.vanderbiltnursing.com. The deadline to apply is July 31.

PAST CHAMPIONS SHARE EXPERIENCES

Nurses who have served as champions in previous Magnet journeys speak enthusiastically about their experience.

“By serving as a Magnet Champion I developed a deeper understanding of the process, the terminology, and the value of being a Magnet Hospital much better.” — Debby Booth, RN/CN.

“It has been an enriching experience and I have been proud to serve as a Magnet Champion.” — Patricia Polman, RN, CCRN.

“As a champion with all three of these journeys I have been allowed to share all the things about Vanderbilt, encourage other nurses to share their stories and be blessed by hearing patients share their experiences with our community.” — Georgette Smiley, RN.

“My experience as a Magnet Champion allowed me the opportunity to view the full complement of care that we provide our patients. I was able to meet former patients and hear their inspiring stories of recovery, and the important role that Vanderbilt nurses played in their recovery as well as how our nurses were able to support the families of these patients during some very dark times.” — Maria Sullivan, MSN, RN, CNOR, Nurse Educator.

2015 Salute to Nurses finalists

Six Vanderbilt nurses were among 30 finalists in The Tennessean’s Salute to Nurses awards, held June 2 at City Winery Nashville. According to the newspaper, members of the public are invited to nominate outstanding nurses and a panel of nursing professionals determines the award winners.

Here are the finalists from Vanderbilt:

• Marie Phillips, RN, Vanderbilt School of Nursing School-Based Health Clinic at Park Avenue Elementary School

• Shawna Wiley, BSN, RN, CPON, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

• Chris Wilson, MSN, RN-BC, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

• Dana Wruble, BSN, RN, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

• Patsy Trimble Yarbrough, MSN, APRN, CPN, Vanderbilt Pediatric Diabetes

• Katie Zganjar, BSN, RN, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Six VUMC nurses graduate from Belmont with BSN degrees

Six Vanderbilt nurses graduated from Belmont University in May with BSN degrees, and another three are set to graduate in December, under a pilot partnership to boost the number of nurses with a BSN at Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt has a goal of increasing its percentage of frontline clinical staff with BSNs to 80 percent by 2020, following the recommendation of a 2011 report from the Institute of Medicine. The report says that the medical system in the United States needs more nurses with higher levels of education and training in order to meet the needs of an evolving health care system and the changing needs of patients.

Research has shown that institutions with a higher percentage of nurses with BSNs have better patient outcomes, including lower mortality rates and fewer readmissions.

The partnership with Belmont is one of several ways Vanderbilt is encouraging nurses to further their higher education.

The nine nurses have bonded together, taking classes and studying together and interacting online via a Vanderbilt Freeform page. Students juggled their full-time nursing jobs with family and school.

“Some of these are not people who just got out of school two years ago,” said Chris Wilson, MSN, RN-BC, Director of Nursing Education and Professional Development. “Some of them have been out of school for a long time. They stepped up to re-enter the school scene after having been away for a while.”

One of them is Donna Gardner, BSN, RN. “I had been out of school for 17 years,” she said. “It was a big decision.”

She added, “Personally, I don’t think you’re ever too old to better yourself.”

The nurses credited Vanderbilt’s tuition reimbursement benefit for making it possible. Vanderbilt reimburses tuition for one degree for each eligible nurse. “I would not have been able to go back had it not been for the tuition reimbursement from Vanderbilt, at least not to Belmont,” said Sherry Bowman, BSN, RN. “It was truly a godsend.”

Though the work was challenging, the nurses said they would recommend the experience to others.

“So much has changed in nursing since I graduated with my associate’s degree,” said Alicia Gomez, BSN, RN. “Evidence-based nursing and leadership courses were not a part of the nursing curriculum when I attended school. Going back gave me an insight as to how new nurses today are better prepared to make critical thinking choices, manage complex patients, and treat a patient as a whole that includes family involvement and/or a community.”

Vanderbilt’s Nursing Education and Professional Development department is working in other ways to encourage nurses to go back to school. The third annual Education Expo on May 29 featured more than 15 schools where students could use their tuition benefit. Prospective students were given lists of questions they could ask the schools; for example: “Does your program have an entrance exam that you have to take?”

“We try to help people make the best choices that they can about what’s the right program for them,” Wilson said.

May Graduates
Jennifer Mann, BSN, RN
David Rose, BSN, RN
Sherry Bowman, BSN, RN, CCRP
Raychel Enck, BSN, RN
Donna Gardner, BSN, RN
Alicia Gomez, BSN, RN, CNOR

December Graduates
John Paulley, RN
Tammy Bello, RN
Rachael Cain, RN
UROLOGY NURSING CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Roxelyn Baumgartner, MS, RN, ANP-BC, and Shelli Burton, MSN, ACNP-BC, facilitated a Urology Nursing Conference on May 7 and 8 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Nashville.

Urology Nursing Society Inc. provided the conference structure.

Physicians and advance practice professionals from Vanderbilt Urology presented at the educational event, which featured 93 participants from 16 states. Participants came from clinic and inpatient settings, and included guest advanced practice providers from plastic surgery, wound, ostomy and continence areas.

“I think the best part of it was we were able to give out 16 scholarships to nurses and nurse practitioners from our institution to be able to go to the two-day conference,” said Baumgartner, an Inpatient Adult Urology Nurse Practitioner at Vanderbilt University Hospital. “That was money well spent in terms of bringing nurses who care for our patients.”

The goals of the conference included broadening participants’ knowledge of current clinical applications, research, therapeutics, treatments and modalities being utilized in various disciplines and in a variety of clinical settings. Another goal was to provide participants with the opportunity to discuss, compare and network with colleagues from the local area and surrounding states on issues such as standards of care and scope of practice.

The hope was that participants would upgrade their clinical skills and affect continuous improvement in quality patient care.

Billy Cameron, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC, assistant director of Advanced Practice for the Surgical Patient Care Center, credited Baumgartner for her work and initiative in organizing the conference.

“It’s great work,” he said. “It really highlights advanced practice here at Vanderbilt, specifically in the surgical PCC and it’s just really fantastic work. It’s quality, it’s evidence-based and the scholarship element for nurses and other nurse practitioners, I thought, was really, really special.”

April Kapu, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, Associate Nursing Officer, Advance Practice, added, "Roxy and Shelli’s commitment to patients and families, their team, to Vanderbilt and to Advanced Practice is second to none. Now they are extending their expertise and commitment to patient care to other health-care providers across the country.

“Their efforts in this project were truly remarkable. They enlisted the expertise of their physician and nurse practitioner colleagues to produce a well-attended, successful event.”

On hand for the conference were Vanderbilt nurses Melissa Jenkins, Maria Martinez, Jessica Sly, Jenny Lippincott, Brenda Hughey, Michelle Wood, Outhsa Sysonexay and France Derivera.