A newsletter from the office of the Executive Chief Nursing Officer

Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC

IN THIS ISSUE
Staff attend Magnet conference
Barut wins national psychiatric nursing scholarship
Perioperative nursing association honors Wyatt

Kudos abound in this issue of the newsletter. Jennifer Barut, MSN, RN-BC, and David Wyatt, MPH, BSN, RN, CNOR, have received prestigious national honors, and we take a special look at advanced practice nurses who have climbed the nursing ladder. Two of our APRNs advanced from care partners to staff nurses to leadership positions. What a great example of the opportunities available in the nursing field.

This issue also has a recap of the recent Magnet conference in Dallas. I accompanied 18 other Vanderbilt attendees for a week of sharing best practices and learning from our colleagues around the country. We had the opportunity to share our Magnet culture through research posters and podium presentations. We have a lot of fuel going into our third designation and are excited to continue the process.

Enjoy this issue,

Marilyn Dubree

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVANCED PRACTICE

Many nurses at Vanderbilt University Medical Center are continuing their education to become advanced practice registered nurses, or APRNs. These advanced practice nurses are, in partnership with physicians, trained to treat illnesses as well as order tests.

Vanderbilt is one of the largest employers of APRNs, with nearly 700, said April Kapu, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, assistant director of Advance Practice Critical Care at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

An APRN is someone with a post-graduate education in nursing and a specialized field of knowledge. There are four main types: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives and Clinical Nurse Specialists. Each specialty area is board certified.

“We are a specialized group of nurses,” Kapu said. “We continue to build upon a strong foundation of nursing education and training when we become APRNs.”

Kapu and others with advanced nursing degrees talked about the benefit of obtaining an advanced nursing degree at Vanderbilt, continued on page 2.
while still valuing all of the nursing roles they had previously that added to their education. APRNs build on their skills from staff nurse roles.

With tuition incentives and flexible scheduling, Vanderbilt nurses have great opportunities to continue their education and pursue opportunities as APRNs, Kapu said.

The possibilities include advancing as practitioners as well as becoming researchers and educators.

It’s never too late. Teresa Simpson, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN, a Cardiology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, served 12 years at Vanderbilt before beginning her advanced practice education in 2005. Before graduating from the Vanderbilt School of Nursing in 2009, she served roles as an extern, staff nurse, critical care RN, charge nurse and nurse educator. She said she wouldn’t trade any of it.

Simpson said the inspiration to become a nurse practitioner struck while she was in the cardiovascular intensive care unit. Two nurse practitioners, pioneers in the unit, were excellent role models.

“Right then, I started thinking, ‘I want to do what they do,’” she said. “I like the fact that they shoulder all this responsibility. They can make decisions very quickly and impact the patient very quickly, because they’re right there in the moment, can give orders, give medications and instructions.”

Simpson used Vanderbilt’s tuition benefit to complete her nurse practitioner education over four years, while continuing to work.

Justin Calabrace, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in the Neurology/Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit (Neuro ICU), graduated in 2008 after two years of full-time studies, but began his nursing career at Vanderbilt in 1996. He advanced from care partner to staff nurse, then charge nurse, all in the Neuro ICU.

He said his work doesn’t feel like a job.

“I always said that if I didn’t have bills, and I didn’t have to pay for things, I’d do the job for free,” he said. “That’s how much I love the job.

“The school work is hard, but in the end, the rewards are worth it. I think that it’s the future of health care, too.”
Four Vanderbilt staff nurses attended the American Nurses Credentialing Center National Magnet Conference in Dallas in early October, as the Medical Center seeks to renew its prestigious Magnet designation.

They were Jessica Walker, BSN, RN, and Jodi Perry, BSN, RN, from Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, Mary Downey, RN, from Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and Nicole Muoio, RN, from Vanderbilt University Hospital.

“The Magnet conference provides updates for the new Magnet requirements and is always a place to learn,” said Sabrina Downs, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC, director of VUMC Nursing Professional Practice.

More than 7,000 nurses attended the annual conference. Downey said it was an opportunity to unlearn old practices and focus on patient care outcomes and satisfaction.

“I was exposed to new ways of teaching and approaching everyday problems and obstacles that all nurses encounter in their practice,” she said.

Vanderbilt nurses were active participants in the conference. Poster presentations were done by Janet Myers, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, GNP-BC, ADM-BC, CDE, CLNC, NE-BC, Roxy Baumgartner, MSN, RN, ANP-BC, and Ty Williams, DNP, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, on APN Mentoring-LEAP, and by Briana Witherspoon, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, on APN Intensivists in the Neuro ICU. Podium presentations were done by Terrell Smith, MSN, RN, and Lane Stiles on the New Patient Education Program and by Erin Tickle, MSN, MMHC, RN, and Susan Hernandez, MBHA, BSN, RN, on the CSL Model.

Anthony Fleming, a senior talent acquisition consultant at Vanderbilt, recruited for staff openings in nursing.

Walker said she was inspired by the accomplishments of her fellow nurses.

“This Magnet conference was invaluable to me as a nurse because I got to learn from and network with other nurses from all over the world,” she said. “The sessions were very inspirational and motivating for my nursing career.”

From left: Nicole Muoio, RN, Jessica Walker, BSN, RN, Jodi Perry, BSN, RN, and Mary Downey, RN
Vanderbilt University Hospital’s David Wyatt, MPH, BSN, RN, CNOR, is set to receive the highest individual honor in perioperative nursing.

Wyatt will receive the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) 2015 award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing at the organization’s national conference in March in Denver.

Wyatt is the interim associate hospital director and associate chief nursing officer for the Surgery Patient Care Center and Perioperative Services for Vanderbilt University Hospital and Vanderbilt Medical Group.

He will be the 27th person to receive this award.

“I’m humbled to be the recipient,” he said. “The award is really designed to recognize individual nurses who have made contributions in research and education and in practice.”

Wyatt said he learned that his name was submitted earlier this summer, but “it did not cross my mind that I would actually be awarded.”

He notes that AORN has about 40,000 members. About 6,500 of them will be present at the conference in March, where Wyatt is one of the speakers. He previously served on the board of AORN for four years.

“I’ve had an opportunity to serve our association and perioperative nursing nationally and internationally with representation through that board and it was an honor and a privilege,” he said, “as we start to understand the future of health care and the role that nurses are playing in its redesign.”

Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Hospital and Clinics, said the award is just another example of excellence in VUMC’s Magnet-designated nursing enterprise.

“I am thrilled to learn about David’s honor,” she said. “He exemplifies leadership in an organization full of exceptional people.”

Since arriving at Vanderbilt in 2010, Wyatt and others have been responsible for many changes in perioperative nursing. Their shared governance initiatives have created an executive unit board that allows nurses to connect on issues and come to consensus on a resolution, Wyatt said.

Wyatt helped implement a huddle for charge nurses to focus on operational efficiencies in the morning and staffing decisions in the afternoon. In addition, he has helped supervise several construction projects, including two EP rooms, four operating rooms and the remodeling and opening of three more operating rooms.

Wyatt previously worked at Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center and Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children in Denver, and the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City.

He is a PhD candidate at University of Colorado-Denver, where his emphasis is nursing systems and health systems research.

“I have a pretty strong belief that we’ve done a lot of things through technology to enhance patient safety over the years and we’ve made tremendous gains but I think the last frontier for us, really, where we have a tremendous amount of work still to do is on how humans interact with each other with that technology,” Wyatt said.

“Technology is not the solution for all of our patient safety problems. It’s really working on initiatives that enhance the relationships and how our teams work together.”

David Wyatt, MPH, BSN, RN, CNOR