DOCTORAL DELIVERY
NEW DNP PROGRAM ARRIVES
What an honor it’s been this year to be a part of celebrating the UAMS College of Nursing’s 60th anniversary.

I’ve always felt that in order to put your best foot forward, it’s important to have a good understanding of where you’ve been. In just my second full year serving as dean, there was no better time for such a celebration to help familiarize me with the many smiling faces that have played such an important role in our college’s history.

But just as integral as the milestones in the past are the ones that lie ahead. Just this fall we welcomed the inaugural class of students working toward their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees. In this issue you can read more about the kinds of students attracted to this exciting new program and how it will impact their careers. Those on campus also have noticed many upgrades we’ve made within our facilities, right down to the new hallways in which they walk. It’s all part of the next chapter we’re working together to help write so that 60 years from now, we will be just as fondly remembered as those we celebrated this fall.

But in order to keep putting our best foot forward, it’s going to take the continued dedication from those who entrust us with their kind support. I encourage you to read more about the Dean’s Circle of 100 and other exciting ways that you can help ensure the College of Nursing has the resources it needs to move into the future. Please keep an eye on our evolving website and the pages of this magazine, which we will continue to use as a vital tool to keep you informed of the exciting things happening here and how we’re putting to use the valuable resources you provide.

It’s an exciting time to be a part of the UAMS College of Nursing, and I invite you to join us as we educate top-notch nursing professionals and turn out innovative programs of research that are changing the health care landscape in Arkansas and beyond.

Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet the First Class</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana in the Wind</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Moving</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying it Forward</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Heart for Hearts</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Honored Career</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixty Years of Caring</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Hospitality</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s Circle &amp; Dean’s Award</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Donors</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships Recipients</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points of Excellence</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the News</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sometimes it’s the smallest things that can make the largest impact.

For Rebecca Sartini, RN, the tiniest patients at UAMS influenced her life in ways she never imagined.

Twenty-five years working in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) provided personal satisfaction as she made a difference in thousands of babies’ lives born at UAMS. In particular, she remembers a baby with a rare heart condition expected to live only a few short days yet, through the care of Rebecca and the neonatal team, the baby lived for several months, time that her parents still treasure.

Caring for these tiny UAMS patients inspired Rebecca to enroll in the College of Nursing’s new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program that launched this fall. The doctorate will provide her with additional skills and knowledge to impact patient care through her leadership in the changing health care environment. Her desire is to expand her current role as clinical services manager, supervising 185 employees, Sartini said. “The DNP program curriculum, with an emphasis on nursing leadership, is tailor-made for the skill set that I am hoping to develop, enhance and perfect.”

Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

The post-masters DNP program provides advanced skills in the delivery, management and care of patients to advanced practice registered nurses. It is a terminal degree for advanced practice.

The DNP program can be completed through full-time or part-time plans of study. It’s designed so that working nurses like Rebecca can continue their careers while enrolled in the online program. A maximum of six consecutive calendar years from the date of first enrollment is allowed for completion of all degree requirements.

The UAMS College of Nursing conducted a survey of working nurses to determine their interest in pursuing a DNP degree, and more than 500 responded positively, with nearly 150 of them indicating they would make definite plans to enter a DNP program. UAMS began its DNP this fall with a group of
19 advanced practice registered nursing students who will become tomorrow's leaders in advancing and changing health care for the citizens of Arkansas.

**Degree for Demand**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than half a million of Arkansas’ 2.9 million people reside in areas with a shortage of primary care professionals. Many Arkansans who live in rural areas do not have access to a health care provider in their community, particularly where the demand for primary care physicians have increased. The DNP graduates will help reduce the primary care shortage by providing care and designing health care processes that more effectively meet the health care needs of our population.

Mark Tanner, clinical instructor in the UAMS College of Nursing and student in the program, sees the benefits for him personally and professionally.

“We are approaching a time of very rapid change in the health care industry, where the ability to adapt will be paramount,” Tanner said. “I think that the program will give me a larger knowledge base for implementing change than I currently have. This will allow me to influence students and teach them the best practices before they even get to the workforce so that they will be prepared to practice what the evidence shows and provide high-quality care to their patients.”

**Online Distance Education for DNP**

Another major benefit of the program is that the students do not have to be on campus in Little Rock to earn the degree. It is fully online.

The program reaches working students in every corner of the state through its online capabilities and through UAMS Regional Programs. Students are allowed and encouraged to continue working where they are as a nurse practitioner while earning the DNP and then put those new skills to use.

Telischa Lewis, a family nurse practitioner at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System’s Hot Springs-based Community Based Outpatient Clinic, is also in the DNP program’s inaugural class.

“I always knew I wanted to obtain a clinically focused advanced degree in nursing, which led me to the DNP program,” Lewis said. “This program will allow me to obtain a terminal degree for my nursing profession and to stay at the forefront of the ever-changing health care system. It will allow me to become an expert in translating evidence into clinical practice and enhance my leadership skills to strengthen my practice, health care delivery and improve patient outcomes.”

But for nurses in the program, it’s not all about the big picture. In some cases, it’s as simple as being able to provide better treatment for their patients. And for nurses like Sartini, it’s about being equipped to better care for the tiniest patients of all.
MEET THE FIRST CLASS
Telischa D. Lewis

Hometown
Little Rock

Current job/title
Family Nurse Practitioner at CAVHS Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Primary Care, Hot Springs

Education history
Mississippi State University - Prerequisite for Nursing; Mississippi University for Women - BSN; University of Mississippi Medical Center - MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner

Why nursing?
My passion in helping others led me to choose a professional career in nursing. Having several options to work in different areas also intrigued me. If I wanted to work in maternity, with kids or adults, improve public policy or work in education, I could. It’s one profession with unlimited possibilities. But ultimately, I wanted to make a positive difference in peoples’ lives, and this career allows me to do so.

Why did you choose to enroll in the new DNP program?
I always knew I wanted to obtain a clinically focused advanced degree in nursing. This program will allow me to obtain a terminal degree for my nursing profession and stay at the forefront of the ever-changing health care system. It will allow me to become an expert in translating evidence into clinical practice and enhance my leadership skills to strengthen my practice, health care delivery, and improve patient outcomes. In addition, this degree allows me to enhance the status of our nursing profession by obtaining a degree that is comparable to other inter-professional colleagues such as PharmD. and DPT.

How do you hope earning a DNP will change your life or career?
The DNP degree will enhance my leadership role within my health care organization.
Mark Tanner

Hometown
Sheridan

Current job/title
Clinical Instructor, UAMS College of Nursing

Education history
Brigham Young University – BS in Biology; UAMS - BSN, MNSc in Nursing Administration/Education

Why nursing?
Nursing is a very diverse field with a lot of opportunities. When I was finishing my biology degree, I realized that I had to get more education and nursing provided the most varied set of job options.

Why did you choose to enroll in the new DNP program?
I enjoy my current position as a nursing instructor in the UAMS College of Nursing, and I know that in order to be able to accomplish all of my goals for the future I need a terminal degree. I am much more interested in the dissemination and implementation of research than in conducting primary research, so the DNP program is a perfect fit for what I want to do with my career.

How do you hope earning a DNP will change your life or career?
We are approaching a time of very rapid change in the health care industry, where the ability to adapt will be paramount. I think that the program will give me a larger knowledge base for implementing change than I currently have. This will allow me to influence students and teach them the best practices before they even get to the workforce so that they will be prepared to practice what the evidence shows and provide high-quality care to their patients.
Rebecca P. Sartini

Hometown
Little Rock

Current job/title
Clinical Services Manager, UAMS Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Education history
Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis – diploma; Regis University in Denver – BSN and MSN

Why nursing?
My passion is to care for others, especially infants and their families, and I have found nursing leadership can impact their care to the greatest extent. I have had over 25 years experience in the specialty of Neonatal Intensive Care and, as my career evolved, I have received the blessing of professional and personal satisfaction in making a difference in thousands of babies’ lives.

Why did you choose to enroll in the new DNP program?
I am currently in a nursing leadership position at UAMS, and I desire to gain the knowledge to expand my skills in my current role as clinical services manager, supervising 185 employees. This program curriculum, with an emphasis on nursing leadership is tailor-made for the skill set that I am hoping to develop, enhance and perfect.

How do you hope earning a DNP will change your life or career?
With the onset of the changes in neonatal nursing, movement to a more family-centered care model, and need for health care reform, it is essential that I expand my knowledge base to be able to implement the changes needed to ensure the highest level of care for our high-risk infants.
GHANA

IN THE WIND

NURSING PROFESSOR MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN A FAR-OFF LAND BY SANDRA NEW BERRYMAN, DNP, APN, RN
I boarded the plane, new book in tow. I was eager to read the words by Pam Cope about Ghanaian 5- to 6-year-old boys sold by family to the fisherman. The boys were sold into a life of slavery having to dive into the dark, frightening waters to untangle nets in the cool of the morning. They dive wearing nothing in order to not get tangled, hoping to survive. They dive not knowing how to swim; some never come up from the dark waters that enveloped them. These boys do not attend school. They are not sold because they are being punished, but because the families are so large they cannot feed them. The parents hope the boys will grow stronger and able to learn the trade of fishing.

I treated one such young man who had been sold to the fishermen and freed in his teens. He appears to be deaf. Diving can be destructive to eardrums while slavery can be destructive on the spirit of a person, and this young teen no longer chooses to speak. I read the book, every single page, before the airplane landed in Ghana. I put it down a number of times because the painful emotion was too great. Sometimes people ask me why I go to places far away to treat the sick. I struggle for a clear answer, but am confident that I have been given a compulsion to share my talent in foreign countries. I go, not because I am wise, but simply because I feel that I should and I am willing.

The most amazing things happen on trips like this one. This year the mission team asked me to bring wound care items, and I wondered if we would see people who needed those things. On the first day I saw two bad wounds. There were more to come later in the week. I believe that I was meant to take wound care items and the reasons became evident on the first day. The first woman had a bad ulceration on her ankle approximately five centimeters in diameter, and she had it wrapped in strips of fabric. Underneath the soiled fabric, the wound was actually clean and showed signs of healing, but the process would be slow. I cleaned the ulceration and when I gathered a large amount of dressings to send with her, my translator marveled asking, “Are you going to give her all of that?” I was joyful to have the needed items to share with her.

The next woman I treated had a nasty three-inch cut on her lower leg across the shin bone that she told me was from a piece of wood. Her swollen leg and draining injury was significant. When I asked what she does during the day, I learned that she is a fishmonger. That apparently means one who goes to meet the fishing boats and helps clean the fish caught that day. I realized her leg would be in dirty water and would struggle to heal. I recalled the occlusive dressing in my trunk and the hydrogen peroxide that a colleague donated that I never would have brought. I know that hydrogen peroxide can delay healing, but it also does clean and due to her setting where she lives and works, it seemed a useful product on this day. I started her on antibiotics, cleaned and dressed her ugly wound, applied an ace wrap to help decrease the swelling of her leg, and then asked her to come back later in the week. The next time I saw her, it took much effort to remove the wet, filthy gauze from her fishing labor, but underneath the wound had begun to heal and the swelling was distinctively less. We poured antimicrobial soap into a lidded container and sent items for daily wound care. I gave her gauze to cover the cut and protect from the dirt, plus I gave her small plastic medication bags and tape to cover the injury when in the water. I had what she needed and believe the injured leg will heal completely in a couple of weeks. Seeing the difference our short-term medical mission teams make is rare, but moments like this one remind me that for at least this one lady, our presence made a difference.

Our dentist treated broken decayed teeth. I shudder thinking there would be no way to gain relief from a broken tooth living in many parts of the world. I felt thankful that our dentist, Don, his college-aged son, Caleb, and sister, Darlene, were willing to pay a lot of money and travel a long distance to provide relief to the dozens they treated.

The eye team consisted of one man trained as an optometrist and three teens ages 13, 15 and 17. Together they tested and provided glasses to more than 425 Ghanaians who were in need. Dorian, Cameron, Alex and Kaileg were the four on the eye team. They assessed vision, tested tonometry for glaucoma, and saw many people with terigiums growing across the cornea due to dust when it blows daily year-round in this country.
They handed out liquid tears to soothe the dryness and abrasiveness from the dust.

Since my background is in geriatrics, I paid special attention to the elderly we treated. We saw more between the ages of 75-85 this year than I have seen in other parts of Africa. One elderly man walked slowly, painfully, carefully toward me using a homemade cane, of sorts. He sat cautiously and told his story. He had a stroke one year ago. His body showed severe weakness on one side. I treated his hypertension and provided aspirin every other day mostly to make it last longer, plus instructed in-range of motion exercises to promote improved function of his weak side. As he thanked me with gratefulness in his eyes, he stood and slowly moved away by sheer will using his improvised cane. I could not help but feel a pang of sadness as I noted his long, loose tunic and baggy pants that looked like they were made from a rug. The clothes he wore were probably the only ones he could manage getting into with such limited motion in one side of his body. No doubt he had practiced moving and adapted to his debilitated state of being. No one assisted him. He appeared alone.

The days were filled with malaria, typhoid fever, worms, amoebas, ear infections, upper-respiratory infections and urinary-tract infections. There were people with sexually transmitted diseases, chicken pox and hypertension. Many people were thrilled just to get a small bag of ibuprofen for pain relief to have available when needed to treat their aching joints from too much manual labor.

One woman showed me a breast with orange peel textured skin that was hard as a rock. I have only seen one case of breast cancer that looked like hers and that was a lady who died within six months. I consulted Jon, our Tennessee doctor, who brought over Alex, a Ghanaian doctor with us that day. All three of us reached the same conclusion. She was in her mid-thirties. All I could offer was a consult in Accra, the capital city, and our strongest pain reliever meloxicam. She has a five-year-old son. I knew that if she lived somewhere else, she could have been diagnosed earlier and treated. I wanted to step away and mourn for her, but the crowd of others waiting and our lack of anywhere to actually go made that impossible. We were set up in a concrete-walled building with a tin roof and rough floor of concrete mixed with mud so very irregular that one had to step carefully not to stumble and fall down. I stood up and looked out an opening in the concrete to see children playing, small chickens scratching the clay-colored dust for insects, and the enormous hog along with a few random goats rooting for food just a few feet away.

I came home exhausted. My heart overflows with emotion as I type. I saw in the eyes of many Ghanaians their thankfulness that someone would travel so far to provide compassionate health care in a remote village. I saw in the Ghanaians people of integrity and a strength of character unlike any I had ever witnessed. I came home content and with a new found appreciation and respect for my new friends in Ghana.

Sandra New Berryman
THE DAUNTING STATISTIC speaks for itself — only two percent of women 60 and older exercise regularly.

“That’s just not going to cut it,” said Leanne Lefler, PhD, APN, an associate professor and researcher in the UAMS College of Nursing. “People think it’s too late to do anything about their health, but that’s simply not true.”

Lefler, who earned a doctorate in nursing science at UAMS in 2006, is in the midst of a groundbreaking study that aims to not only boost the number of older women who exercise, but to do so by making that demographic want to do it by taking a realistic approach and by letting the results do the motivating.

“Research shows that physical activity improves heart health and also improves thinking as we age.” Lefler said. “So we’re not only going to age physically healthier, but also mentally. We’re basically showing people the path to aging more gracefully and living longer, healthier lives.”

This new approach for increasing physical activity in older, sedentary women comes as the result of a $434,000 National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) grant through the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). Lefler was awarded NIH funding after receiving a letter of support and a commitment of $30,000 from the UAMS Translational Research Institute that helps cover the costs of equipment used in the study.

The three-year study, led by Lefler, replaces traditional, structured aerobic exercise with physical activities that are incorporated into people’s daily lives. During the study, 120 sedentary women age 60 and older at the Thomas and Lyon Longevity Clinic in the UAMS Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging will receive specialized motivational counseling from a social worker to help tailor physical activities according to each participant’s preferences.

“We know that people who are even minimally active live longer, healthier lives than those who are sedentary,” Lefler said. “You don’t have to go to the gym, but you should have at least 30 minutes of purposeful physical activity at least five days a week, whether it’s playing catch with your grandchildren, walking, mopping the floor or gardening.”

The activities can be done in three 10-minute sessions each day and still meet the American Heart Association’s latest exercise guidelines for seniors.

Lefler, who conducted three pilot studies before receiving the NIH award, has found that many older adults have fallen into the trap of believing they have to go to the gym or do very strenuous exercise to achieve any health benefits. She and her interdisciplinary research team, which includes a geriatrician, two nurses, a biostatistician and a social worker, believe that interventions that inform people about the benefits of physical activity and that are tailored to individual needs will be more effective in changing health behavior than traditional methods.

By using specially trained social workers to motivate people to craft physical activity routines that fit into their lifestyle, Lefler said, the participants are much more likely to sustain those exercises. In the future she hopes that primary care physicians will be able to refer older sedentary patients to social workers or others trained to provide such counseling.

“If this works for us, then the next step would be testing this at a multi-site level,” Lefler said. “If this works, and so far after the first year we’re seeing good things, we can potentially make a dent in the health of the entire nation.”
Paying it Forward

LECTURESHIP ESTABLISHED BY LONGTIME NURSING PROFESSIONALS WILL PAY OFF FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS BY NATE HINKEL

Frances is holding a photograph of her late sister who inspired her to go into nursing.
REARED BY AN AUNT AND UNCLE during the Great Depression with three siblings, Frances Dalme, PhD, had finished high school at age 15, earned an associate’s degree in business at tiny Kilgore Junior College in Kilgore, Texas, and was suddenly hit with a bit of depression of her own.

On the heels of her older sister’s sudden death, Dalme’s aunt and uncle sought to soothe the pain by taking a road trip “out to the wild, wild west,” as she puts it.

“It just hit me. I knew it was time to register for nursing school,” said Dalme, whose sister had been a nurse before her death. “We drove 36 hours straight back just so I get there in time to register for nursing school. The tuition was $200.”

And so that moment of clarity set Dalme on a career path that led her from the Highland Sanitarium School of Nursing in Shreveport, La., to Nashville, Tenn., back to Shreveport, back out west to the University of Colorado in Boulder, Co., and eventually through the halls of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Nursing, where she joined as associate dean for graduate programs to start the master’s program and eventually a doctoral program in the early 1970s.

A long career at UAMS, including an appointment at the Central Arkansas Veteran’s Healthcare System (CAVHS), was balanced with the peacefulness spent on 40 acres of land she owned west of Little Rock with goats, donkeys, geese, “and anything that’d eat grass,” she said. It was there she befriended a neighbor, Linda Rickel, an oncology nurse and one of the first specialists at CAVHS.

“We spent a lot of time together back in those days and still do to this day,” Dalme said. “We wanted to do something special for UAMS and for the students. It’s the students that I had the opportunity to mentor during my career that I am most proud of.”

“Up to Oregon and Wyoming, through Washington and California,” Dalme said. “We hit them all.” It was on that trip, somewhere between the mountainous western landscape and the rain-soaked Pacific Northwest, where a sudden moment of clarity determined the rest of Dalme’s life.

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The pair of nursing pioneers last year established the Frances Dalme and Linda Rickel Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in Oncology/Community Health.

“The premise is that out of the lectureship the college can hire inspirational people to come in to give lectures, share their experiences and make a difference in the lives of students and their education and career choices,” Rickel said.

Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, dean of the UAMS College of Nursing, said the gift is appreciated on several levels.

“Just coming from two people with such steeped history in nursing in Arkansas and with UAMS is what really makes this a special gift to the College of Nursing,” Frazier said. “But the lasting gift is the potential this lectureship has on the future nursing professionals of Arkansas. We are deeply appreciative of this gift to our college.”
A Heart for Hearts

STUDENT'S FASCINATION FOR THE HEART MOTIVATES HER EDUCATION BY NATE HINKEL

BSN Student Jerrica Chika
DURING A QUIET MOMENT in deep thought one day many years ago, Jerrica Chika’s mind began focusing on the human heart.


With each series of pounding thuds arose more questions, some that still fascinate the senior student in the UAMS College of Nursing’s Baccalaureate of Nursing program, where she’s working toward her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

“You don’t even have to think about it, your heart just keeps on working and doing its job to keep you going,” Chika said. “I’ve been fascinated with the heart and I want to be able to help people with theirs. That’s been a motivating factor in a lot of the choices I’ve made and has kept me going with my education.”

The North Little Rock native earned her undergraduate degree in health science from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and decided to give the UAMS College of Nursing a try to help people in a health care setting. She’s learned plenty about the heart during her studies and rotations, but that’s just part of the experience, she said.

“Being involved with things on campus has been the biggest eye-opener for me since I’ve been at UAMS,” Chika said. “That’s where you really get a chance to get in there and create memorable experiences for yourself and open up doors to the future.”

Last year Chika was the community service chair for the UAMS College of Nursing’s chapter of the Student Nursing Association. This year she is serving as its vice president, and is looking forward to her 2014 term as the College’s class president.

As community service chair, Chika helped direct several events and service activities, including a toy drive for Arkansas Children’s Hospital patients last fall that collected more than 200 items and most recently the collection of more than 1,500 items to create disaster relief kits for those affected by the May tornadoes in Oklahoma.

“The students all really come together and get heavily involved,” Chika said. “Whether it’s blood drives or volunteer work, we always have great participation and work together as a team.”

Last fall, Chika organized a “red out” on campus as part of the American Heart Association National Wear Red Day. All UAMS faculty, staff and students were encouraged to wear red clothing or accessories to show support and raise awareness for women’s heart disease.

“That was something I am very passionate about,” Chika said. “I’m just one person, but it was so great to spread awareness and see everyone wearing red that day to focus on finding preventative measures and interventions for women with heart disease.”

Chika spent the summer as one of five students chosen for a UAMS Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing externship. She says that’s just another step toward helping her reach her goal of being a cardiovascular nurse in an intensive care unit.

“We have great faculty and staff here at UAMS that support student leadership and help motivate students,” Chika said. “That’s why I excelled and have grown into the person I am.”
An Honored Career

BECK GETS NATIONAL AWARD FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS AT UAMS BY NATE HINKEL
**DR. CORNELIA BECK** has devoted her research career to clinical and health care interventions that improve care between patients and their caregivers.

Her career research has focused on testing non-drug interventions to alleviate problem behavior and promote functional performance in patients with dementia, and recent research had been aimed at finding ways to improve strategies in long-term care settings.

Last November, Beck, PhD, RN, co-director of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE) and the Translational Research Institute, was awarded for her nationally recognized work in gerontology.

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the nation’s largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging, presented Beck with the M. Powell Lawton Award at its 65th Annual Scientific Meeting held in San Diego.

"It’s quite an honor to be recognized with such a prestigious award in front of an impressive group of colleagues from around the country," Beck said. “It’s a very special landmark in my career and one that I share with all of the hard work done by our group of faculty and staff at UAMS.”

The award recognizes significant contributions in gerontology that have led to an innovation in gerontological treatment, practice, or prevention or a public policy change that improves the lives of older people. Beck is also a professor in the UAMS Department of Behavioral Sciences in the College of Medicine and the UAMS Colleges of Nursing and Public Health, has spent her career on clinical interventions that improve care within the patient-provider relationship.

“Dr. Beck is an integral part of UAMS and its effort to meet the growing demands of the older population in Arkansas,” said Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, dean of the UAMS College of Nursing. “We are lucky to have her expertise on campus, from both practice and education standpoints.”

Beck’s dementia research focused on behavioral techniques used with stroke and head injury to patients with dementia. Using an individualized approach based on a patient’s remaining cognitive abilities, Beck’s research team demonstrated that ability to perform activities of daily living could be retained for a longer period of time and even improved upon. The research has been replicated by several other investigators and disseminated throughout the country in training videos, publications and presentations.

The GSA is the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education and practice in the field of aging, with a mission to advance research and spread results among those in the field. Beck received the GSA’s Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award in 2008.

Beck’s role as co-director of the UAMS HCGNE and Translational Research Institute is to influence public policy to improve the lives of a vastly growing aging population.
IN 1953, elite Americans who happened to have an extra $1,175 rushed out to buy the first-ever color televisions, perhaps just in time to watch President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s inauguration speech.

But as the first model of Corvettes rolled off assembly lines and Sir Edmund Hillary became the first to summit Mt. Everest, history also was in the making within the nursing profession in Arkansas. The UAMS College of Nursing’s first class of 14 students began their historical march toward giving Arkansans a higher standard of skilled and educated health care professionals.

“To be here for just about two years and to be looking at this 60th anniversary celebration, it’s truly amazing to think what has been accomplished by all of those who came before me,” said Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN dean of the UAMS College of Nursing. “It’s exciting to see the foundation that’s been set and to know there’s so much more we can build on into the future.”

In 1946 the Fort Smith District Federation of Women’s Clubs presented a resolution at the annual statewide convention, at the request of members of the Little Rock Departmental Club, asking the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to establish a collegiate school of nursing. The resolution passed unanimously, opening the doors to move forward with a plan. The state legislature followed in 1949 with an act recognizing the need for a college of nursing, and the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees adopted a motion to establish it in 1952.

Since then, many hurdles have been cleared and milestones marked in the history books.

The first program established within the College in 1953 was the baccalaureate program. Its purpose is implemented through a unified curriculum combining general education and professional instruction within a university setting.

The graduate program leading to the degree of Master of Nursing Science was initiated in fall 1971. This program builds upon baccalaureate education and provides a program for advanced preparation in nursing. The Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) was implemented in 1997, with the first class graduating in May 2000. Graduates of the doctoral program are prepared to advance the art and science of nursing through research and scholarship. They assume leadership positions in academic and health care settings and influence nursing practice, health care delivery and the social awareness of nursing’s contributions to health care. Also in 2000, the College became one of only nine national Hartford Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (Today it is one of only eight).

Even today, 60 years later, the College of Nursing continues to add educational programs, with the launch of its Doctor of Nursing Practice degree this fall. The College has expanded overall to provide baccalaureate, master, and PhD and DNP-level programs to more than 600 students.

“This celebration is as much about the future as it is the past,” Frazier said. “We are dedicated to continuing the growth of this college and to giving students a well-rounded education to be the future leaders of this profession in Arkansas and beyond.”

This fall, the College of Nursing held several commemorative events welcoming back alumni, friends, faculty and staff that played a large role in where it is today and where it’s headed. The accompanying photos highlight these events.
ALUMNI HONORED DURING 60TH CELEBRATION

Esteemed Alumni
Beth Freyaldenhoven Crowder, PhD, APN, LNC
Laura Evans, PhD, APN, WHNP-BC
Michael Jamuz, BSN, RN
Tammy Jones, PhD, RN
Sara Rhoads Kinder, PhD, DNP, APN
Anita Mitchell, PhD, APN, FNP-C
Cornelia M. Pearson, MN, RN

Honorary Alumni
Claudia Barone, EdD, APN, LNC, CPC, CCNS-BS
Mary Lou Bond, PhD, RN
Ann Coleman, PhD, RN, RNP, AOCN
Nicolas Lang, MD
Helen F. Lang, RN
Cheryl Schmidt, PhD, RC, CNE, ANEF
Richard Smith, MN, BSN, RN
Ralph Vogel, PhD, APN, RN, CPNP

Distinguished Alumni
Darlene Byrd, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP
Maxine Cannon, BSN, RN
Susan Temple-Erickson, MNSc, RN, BC-NA, CHCR
Mary Helen Forrest, MNSc, RN, NEA-BC
Angela Green, PhD, RN, APN, NNP-BC
Alice S. Hill, PhD, RN, FAAN
Cyndy Simonson, MS, ANP-BC, AOCN
WHILE LITTLE ROCK’S downtown River Market district with its bustling nightlife, unique Arkansas River bridges and presidential library provided a show of its own, the UAMS College of Nursing took the lead in attracting and hosting more than 600 visitors to the 27th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference last winter.

With banners promoting the conference lined down President Clinton Avenue during the Feb. 27 – March 2 event, UAMS College of Nursing faculty, staff and students led a statewide team in rolling out the red carpet for some of the nursing profession’s top researchers and SNRS members.

“We really had complete buy-in from many institutions, departments and businesses across the state that all came together to help us put on a memorable conference,” said Jean McSweeney, PhD, RN, professor and associate dean of research in the UAMS College of Nursing and co-chair of the SNRS conference. “Throughout that week and ever since, I’ve gotten comments and emails from people all over saying what a great conference it was and how eye-opening it was to see what all Little Rock had to offer.”

“The best conference ever,” as McSweeney said many referred to it, featured scholarly paper presentations, posters, education and networking sessions, leading speakers, forums and workshops. The event, dubbed “Expanding Networks of Knowledge for Health Care Innovations,” provided a forum for encouraging a robust dialogue among colleagues on major research areas, an occasion to mentor and introduce the next generation of researchers to the scholarly community, and opportunities to benefit from the value of networking.

But even being granted the opportunity to host was the first step that took a monumental effort statewide. Aside help from the then-Peabody hotel and the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, McSweeney said, leaders from several statewide institutions banded together to win a competitive bid to host. Along with co-chair Tammy Jones, PhD, RN, director for the UAMS Center of Nursing Excellence, other instrumental entities included Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas State University, the University of Central Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Harding University.

“It really is a great opportunity to showcase how much research is done and how much we impact health care,” McSweeney said. “It’s extremely important to doctoral and all nursing students to get to attend and meet some of the top researchers in the region and talk to them about research. I can’t begin to tell you how wonderful of an opportunity it is to foster mentorships and for people to begin socially networking that will impact their careers.”

Three presidents of the SNRS have served their terms as members of the UAMS College of Nursing, including McSweeney (2002-04), Craig Stotts (1998-2000) and current president Patricia Crane, PhD, RN, (2012-14) who is now at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

“I don’t think any other school can say that about their faculty,” McSweeney said. “The UAMS College of Nursing is well represented at these conferences.”

Next year’s annual SNRS conference is slated for San Antonio, Texas.
DEAN’S CIRCLE OF 100 SOCIETY

The UAMS College of Nursing continues to seek ways to meet the opportunities and challenges it now faces and will confront in the future among its missions of teaching, service, and research.

To help address these issues, the College has established a Dean’s Circle of 100. Alumni and special friends of the College are invited to become members of this special group by committing to an annual tax deductible gift of $1,000 or more. The fund is used to finance the most pressing needs of the College, as determined by College of Nursing Dean Lorraine Frazier.

Dean’s Circle of 100

Mrs. Kelly Betts
Dr. Claudia Beverly
Dr. Kathy Bock Chambers
Dr. Frances Dalme
Mrs. Dona Dorman
Dr. Lorraine Frazier
Mr. David Frazier
Dr. Angela Green
Mrs. Neena Grissom
Dr. Donna Gullette
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Harris
Dr. Jeanne K. Heard
Mrs. Stacy Hoyle
Dr. Jean McSweeney
Dr. Donna Maddaugh
Mr. James Oelke
Mrs. Karen Oelke
Mrs. Susan R. Ritchie
Mrs. Mary G. Robertson
Mrs. Janet Rooker
Mrs. Heba Sadaka
Dr. Cheryl Schmidt
Mrs. Nancy Shaver
Mrs. Cornelia Sundermann

To find out more, contact:
Brenda Scisson
Executive Director for Development
UAMS College of Nursing
bscisson@uams.edu
Telephone 501.526.8950

THE DEAN’S AWARD:
GOV. MIKE BEEBE

Each year, the Dean’s Award recognizes special individuals who have contributed to the growth and success of the UAMS College of Nursing. This year, the College was delighted to honor Gov. Mike Beebe.

In 1997, a critical year for the College, Beebe was serving in the Arkansas Senate and our PhD program was in the process of being established. His support during that time helped the College’s progress with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to establish the only nursing PhD program in the state.

Beebe has been steadfast in his platform of raising the education levels of all Arkansans and for Arkansas to be a leader in providing better health care for its citizens, especially in rural areas. In August 2011, Gov. Beebe in addressing a better way to pay for health care in Arkansas put forward a 12-point plan that included attacking the nursing shortage in the state.

Research shows that the better educationally prepared nurses are, the better the patient outcomes; the more higher degree-prepared nurses graduating will result in more efficiency in health care settings. In one of the Beebe’s radio addresses, he noted, “I want to see more Arkansans with college degrees in hand, who will then have the opportunities to apply their knowledge in their home state. We can change the culture and make college the given path of continued education after high school.”

Born in Amagon, Arkansas (Jackson County), in 1946, the Governor earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Arkansas State University in 1968, and completed law school at the University of Arkansas in 1972, while serving his country in the U.S. Army Reserve. The Governor and his wife, Ginger, have three adult children. They have worked together to improve children’s health and literacy throughout the State.
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Annual contributions to the UAMS College of Nursing provide continued support that helps us maintain excellence in ways that are both tangible and far-reaching. Gifts of any size are appreciated and put to good use to advance the College of Nursing’s mission. Thank you to all who gave during the fiscal year 2013.
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<tr>
<th>BSN Program</th>
<th>Florence Grabiel Ellis, RN Scholarship</th>
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UAMS COLLEGE OF NURSING
POINTS OF EXCELLENCE

1. The most recent US News and World Report survey ranks the UAMS College of Nursing in the top 10% of the 475 best graduate nursing schools in America.

2. We are the only nursing college in Arkansas that is part of the state’s only health sciences teaching university in Arkansas. This means our students are surrounded by other health care students, nurses, physicians and researchers on a daily basis and there is collaboration and interdisciplinary practice.

3. We are the only college of nursing in Arkansas that offers a PhD degree.

4. We are the first Arkansas nursing college with an active Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program with 19 students enrolled in our inaugural class (2013-2014 school year).

5. We offer Arkansas’ most comprehensive nursing education with a total four degree programs — BSN, MNSc, PhD and DNP – and an additional educational track for RN to BSN and a Bridge to Master’s program (for a RN who has a baccalaureate degree in another field).

6. Our nursing college takes pride in its valued and selective enrollment criteria. We are committed to graduating the best educated nurses in Arkansas. For example, to enroll with us, 58 hours (approximately two years) of college credit is required to be considered for admission to our BSN program.

7. Our faculty and staff are committed to helping our students succeed. Last summer, faculty and staff provided over $21,000 to establish a new Learning Resource Center to assist students who face curriculum challenges.

8. Through its 60 year history, our college has attracted students from all areas of Arkansas.

9. During the past five years, our college has had an enrollment of approximately 600 students per year.

10. We offer our BSN program on the campus of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (UACCH).

11. We offer RN to BSN degree education at Regional Programs Centers throughout the state.

12. We pride ourselves in our expertise on geriatric nursing. We are one of only eight Hartford Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence in America.

13. Our nursing students have a myriad of clinical opportunities — with our UAMS Medical Center, the Central Arkansas Veteran’s Healthcare System, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute, UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, and several medical clinics scattered throughout central Arkansas.
The Arkansas Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE), established in 2001 with funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation, for the past 13 years has aimed to increase the capacity of academic geriatric nursing to provide expert geriatric care that improves the health of older adults in Arkansas and the southern region of the United States.

With a new, two-year, $300,000 grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Arkansas HCGNE will focus on establishing the pipeline into academic geriatric nursing by increasing knowledge and to retool and enhance the geriatric credentials of academic faculty and others who will serve as faculty.

Some highlights within our program during the last year include:

• The Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence in collaboration with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing conducted a free webinar on “Overcoming Barriers to the Integration of Gerontology Content in Undergraduate Nursing Programs: Lessons Learned Post-GNEC.” Nearly 350 registered for this live event, with a panel made up of: Drs. Leanne Lefler, Mathy Mezey, Joan Stanley, Beth Barba.

• AR HCGNE Co-Director Dr. Cornelia Beck is currently mentoring a Claire M. Fagin fellow from Duke University and a BAGNC scholar from University of Pennsylvania. We have 1 PhD student applying for the 2013-2015 cohort.

• Selected 4 BSN nursing students for the Summer Geriatric Nursing Externship for the summer of 2013. This 8-week program provides a stipend of $4,000 for each student that is supported by the HCGNE. The purpose of this externship is to provide learning opportunities in leadership, practice, education and research related to geriatric nursing.

• The HCGNE hosted a Southern Nursing Research Society Pre-Conference in February 2013 when the meeting was held in Little Rock. The goal of the program: To foster successful programs of Adult-Gerontological research and hone specific skills to gain a competitive edge for funding. There were 11 participants from 7 states.

• Marilyn Rantz, PhD, RN., FAAN will present at the 2013 HCGNE Distinguished Nursing Leadership Lecture Series in September. Her presentation is titled: "Nursing Leadership of Innovation and Change in Health Care for Older Adults-The Real Story." She will also present at the UAMS RIOA Geriatric Grand Rounds the program titled: "One + One = Much More than Two!! Interdisciplinary Research Teams Leading Innovations for Older People."
UAMS’ Beverly Named Officer on National Nursing Board

Claudia Beverly, PhD, RN., director of the Arkansas Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE) and associate professor in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Nursing, has been named treasurer of the National HCGNE Board of Directors.

The appointment is Beverly’s second consecutive term on the board, which works to increase the capacity and competency of nurses trained to provide quality care to older adults. The 13 HCGNE national sites do this through faculty development, advancing gerontological nursing science, facilitating adoption of best practices, fostering leadership and designing and shaping health policy.

The Arkansas HCGNE began in 2000 with support from the John A. Hartford Foundation, and subsequently attracted additional funding partners in The Atlantic Philanthropies and Mayday Fund. Its aim is to increase the cadre of academic geriatric nurses, build leadership capacity in academic geriatric nurses, and build national collaboration and excitement about gerontological nursing. The John A. Hartford Foundation is a private philanthropist working to improve the health of older Americans.

UAMS is the state’s only comprehensive academic health center, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; a hospital; a statewide network of regional centers; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Psychiatric Research Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging and the Translational Research Institute. Named best Little Rock metropolitan area hospital by U.S. News & World Report, it is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. UAMS has more than 2,800 students and 790 medical residents. It is the state’s largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including about 1,000 physicians and other professionals who provide care to patients at UAMS, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the VA Medical Center and UAMS regional centers throughout the state. Visit www.uams.edu or www.uamshealth.com.

Brenda Scisson Named Executive Director of Development for UAMS College of Nursing

Brenda Scisson has been named executive director for development for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Nursing, where she will oversee fundraising efforts for the college that is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Scisson, who was previously director of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Foundation Fund, began her new duties July 1.

Prior to joining UAMS in 2011, Scisson was employed by Stone Ward advertising firm in Little Rock, where she began in 2002 as director of public relations before assuming the position of public relations counselor in 2007. Before Stone Ward, Scisson spent almost three years as senior vice president and director of marketing and public relations at Metropolitan National Bank.

Scisson was employed by the Little Rock advertising firm Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods from 1977-1999 where she was executive vice president and provided public relations counsel to numerous agency clients.

“I am excited to be part of a vibrant nursing college that is rich in tradition and well respected by its peers, nationwide. I am honored to be a part of Dean Frazier’s team to help strengthen the college’s brand, increase its endowments, and reinvigorate its alumni association and donor relations” Scisson said.

Scisson continued, “Nurses are most often the first contact a patient has in the health care setting. The role of a nurse is critically important, for he/she sets the tone to the ensuing medical experience. I’ve personally witnessed the compassionate and conscientious care that nurses provided by parents years ago. For that, I will be forever grateful. Now I have the chance to use my expertise in public relations and development to help this extremely noble profession.”
THE UAMS COLLEGE OF NURSING RANKS IN TOP 10% OF THE 475 BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Junior nursing students receive their first UAMS white lab coats and sign the Nightingale Pledge at the White Coat ceremony.