

## FULD ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTORY

In the spring of 2001, the Helene Fuld Health Trust awarded an academic leadership grant to AACN in order to develop an executive leadership institute for new and aspiring deans. Designed to prepare a more diverse, younger pool of leaders for nursing programs, this professional development experience encompasses an assessment and evaluation of leadership skills, opportunities for strategic networking and case study development, consultation to achieve long-term goals, and identification of key partnerships.

The 2004 Fellows attended a three-day workshop in Washington, D.C. in March and will attend another workshop in October 2004. Throughout the year the Fellows are engaged in professional development activities, including assessment of their current leadership style and skills, mentoring opportunities with an experienced dean, and working to accomplish their identified goals.

This directory highlights some of the 59 Fellows who were selected through a competitive application process. Representing a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and skills, these Fellows are developing the necessary tools to be leaders in the academic nursing world.

## **FULD ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTORY**

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**Lisa Allison-Jones, PhD, RN**  
**Chair, Department of Nursing**  
**Jefferson College of Health Sciences**  
**920 S. Jefferson Street**  
**PO Box 13186**  
**Roanoke, VA 24031-3186**  
**540-224-6970**  
**[lallisonjones@jchs.edu](mailto:lallisonjones@jchs.edu)**



Lisa Allison-Jones is in her second year as Chair of the Nursing Department of Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke, Virginia. She received her BSN from Lenoir-Rhyne College, her MSN from the University of Virginia, and her PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Tech. Dr. Allison-Jones has extensive experience in nursing education. Her research interests center on the quality of nursing education and in improving access to nursing education. She is currently involved in the development of a MSN program at Jefferson College of Health Sciences. She is an active member of the Virginia Nurses' Association and is President-Elect for the Nursing Honor Society of the Roanoke Valley, which has applied for status as a Sigma Theta Tau Chapter.

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**Carol A. Ashton, PhD, RN**  
**Chair, Department of Nursing**  
**Idaho State University**  
**Campus Box 8101**  
**Pocatello, ID 83201**  
**208-282-2443**  
**[ashtcaro@isu.edu](mailto:ashtcaro@isu.edu)**



Carol A. Ashton received a BS and MS from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio and a PhD from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Ashton has held senior leadership positions in nursing practice and academic institutions including Director of Nursing Research for LDS Hospital, Intermountain Healthcare Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah where she developed practice guidelines for the prevention of skin breakdown in hospitalized patients, facilitated care delivery model redesign and the implementation of shared governance. Prior to becoming Chair, Dr. Ashton was the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies at Idaho State University and facilitated further development of distance learning sites across Idaho, implementation of a Nursing Education option, and new curricular options based on a statewide needs assessment. Her interest areas include developing a culturally sensitive needs assessment to determine health needs of

traditional Navajo elders, health policy, leadership models and partnership development. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the American Nurses Association, and the Western Institute of Nursing.

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**Richardean Benjamin, PhD, RN, MPH**  
**Chair**  
**Old Dominion University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Hughes Hall Room 2091**  
**Norfolk, VA 23529**  
**757-683-4297**  
**rbenjami@odu.edu**



Dr. Richardean Benjamin currently serves as chair of the School of Nursing at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia a position she has held since 2002. Dr. Benjamin's nursing preparation includes a diploma from Grady Hospital School of Nursing, BSN from Armstrong State College, MSN from the Medical College of Georgia, and PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. She is certified as a clinical specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing and has teaching experiences at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels. Additionally, Dr. Benjamin completed a postdoctoral fellowship and the MPH specializing in psychiatric epidemiology at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Benjamin's community and professional affiliations include; Chair of the Minority Health Research Consortium of Hampton Roads, Member of CCNE Board of Directors and the Report Review Committee, Vice President of the Virginia Association of Colleges of Nursing and Chair of Nominations committee of Epsilon Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, member of the American Public Health Association, Southern Nurses Research Society, and the American Nurses Association. Honors and special appointments include legislative aide to Texas State Representative Wilhemina Delco and United States Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. Her research and scholarship focuses on emotional and behavioral problems of minority children and adolescents. More recently her scholarship has concentrated on preparing culturally competent nurses.

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**Audrey Berman, PhD, RN, AOCN**  
**Professor and Dean, Nursing**  
**Samuel Merritt College**  
**435 Hawthorne Avenue**  
**Oakland, CA 94609**  
**510-869-6611**  
**aberman@samuelmerritt.edu**



Audrey Berman was recalled to the main campus of Samuel Merritt College in February to serve as Interim Dean and was appointed Dean in June 2004. Prior to this, she served

as Associate Dean on the Sacramento and Oakland campuses after many years as a faculty member. Her BS, MS, and PhD in nursing are from the University of California San Francisco with a clinical focus in oncology. Dr. Berman's areas of interest include legal and ethical issues in nursing education and practice and she presented on these topics at the 14<sup>th</sup> Research Conference of the Japan Academy of Nursing Education in July 2004. She is co-author of two nursing textbooks: *Kozier & Erb's Fundamentals of nursing: Concepts, process, and practice* (7th ed., 2004) and *Techniques in clinical nursing* (5th ed., 2002). She has served as a CCNE site visitor four times.

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**Linda A. Bernhard, PhD, RN**  
**Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**  
**The Ohio State University**  
**346 Newton Hall**  
**1585 Neil Avenue**  
**Columbus, OH 43210**  
**614-292-8336**  
**Bernhard.3@osu.edu**



Linda Bernhard received her nursing diploma from the Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota. She earned her baccalaureate degree at the University of Iowa, master's at the University of California, San Francisco, and doctorate in Nursing Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Since 1987, she has had a joint appointment in Nursing and Women's Studies at Ohio State. She had been a Practitioner-Teacher at Rush University prior to moving to Ohio. She continues to hold a 25% appointment in the Department of Women's Studies, along with her appointment as Associate Dean in the College of Nursing. Her teaching and research interests have been in the area of women's and lesbian health and sexuality. She has had small grants for understanding women's experiences of hysterectomy, as well as natural and surgical menopause, and lesbian health. She currently serves on the Diversity Advisory Board for AWHONN. Her most recent publications are related to lesbian health.

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**Vicky R. Bowden, DNSC, RN**  
**Professor**  
**Azusa Pacific University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**901 E. Alost Ave**  
**Azusa, CA 91701**  
**626-815-5383**  
**vbowden@apu.edu**

Vicky Bowden has served as the Assistant Director of Nursing for the Undergraduate Program in Nursing for the past five years. Dr. Bowden teaches at both the

undergraduate and graduate levels, specializing in pediatric nursing, family nursing and nursing leadership. Dr. Bowden has coauthor/edited three texts on pediatric and family nursing. Dr. Bowden served as the National President for the Society of Pediatric Nurses. During her time as president she assisted the organization in becoming involved in several major projects related to pediatric palliative care. This specialty area remains of particular interest to Dr. Bowden, and she is heavily involved in a regional project to improve pediatric palliative care in Southern California healthcare facilities. Dr. Bowden is a member of Sigma Theta Tau serving as Bylaws chair for her local chapter. She serves as a CCNE On-site evaluator. In addition to participating in the AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing program, she was also selected to participate in the leadership Development Institute sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

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**Beverly Bryce Bowers, PhD, RN, CNS**  
**The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**  
**College of Nursing**  
**1100 N. Stonewall**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73190**  
**580-591-8014**  
**Beverly-Bowers@ouhsc.edu**



Dr. Beverly Bowers is coordinator of the Lawton Nursing Program, a distance campus of the University of Oklahoma, College of Nursing. In addition to administrative duties she also coordinates two web-based undergraduate courses. She enjoys developing innovative distance learning and web-based instructional strategies for nursing courses. She serves as a research mentor for graduate students in the American Indian/Alaska Native MS to PhD Nursing Science Bridge program. She received a BA in Education from the University of Florida, BS in Nursing from the University of Central Oklahoma, MS in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and PhD from Texas Woman's University. She is a Maternity Clinical Nurse Specialist. Research interests are Professional Labor Support, Nursing Student Attitudes Toward Persons with Disabilities, Neonatal Palliative Care and Postpartum Depression in Native American Women. Professional Memberships include AWHONN and Sigma Theta Tau. Awards and Honors include OU College of Nursing –Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award; Sigma Theta Tau - Beta Delta Chapter Research Award; and Lawton Senior Students - Spirit of Nursing Award.

**Raymonde A. Brown, PhD, APRN, BC**  
**Professor in Charge**  
**The Pennsylvania State University**  
**209 HHD East**  
**University Park, PA 16802**  
**814-863-2235**  
**rab16@psu.edu**



Raymonde Ann Brown is in her third year as professor-in-charge of the undergraduate nursing program at The Pennsylvania State University. She obtained her baccalaureate and master's degree from The Pennsylvania State University and completed her doctoral studies in 1999 at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, where she received the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. Her practice background includes critical care and nursing administration. Dr. Brown is certified as an advance practice nurse by the American Nurse Credentialing Center and continues to be clinically active by supervising students in the acute care clinical setting. Her teaching responsibilities have included both graduate and undergraduate courses with the major focus on teaching introduction to nursing research at the undergraduate level. Dr. Brown's research interests include cardiovascular reactivity and risk factors in aging women and health promotion. Dr. Brown has published in the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, and the *American Society for Long Term Care Nurses Journal*. Dr. Brown maintains membership in the American Nurses Association, National League of Nursing, and Sigma Theta Tau International and serves as president of the Beta Sigma Chapter.

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**Theresa Perfetta Cappello, RN, PhD, C.Ht.**  
**Dean and Professor**  
**School of Health Professions**  
**Marymount University**  
**2807 N. Glebe Road**  
**Arlington Virginia, 22207**  
**703-284-1580**  
**tess.cappello@marymount.edu**



Dr. Cappello is dean and tenured professor of nursing at Marymount University, Arlington VA. She has 20 years experience in higher education as a nurse educator with teaching experience at associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels. Prior to appointment as dean, she held the positions of chair, acting associate dean, and acting dean. She received her BSN degree and the MSN in nursing administration from Marymount University in Arlington Virginia and the PhD from the University of Maryland in health education with an emphasis in public health and informatics. Her practice experience ranged from critical care to home health care. She is certified in hypnotherapy and has several publications on alternative therapy. She is a past chapter president for Sigma

Theta Tau and is a site visitor for CCNE. Her research interests include the use of informatics in public health program planning and evaluation.

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**Kimberly F. Carter, PhD, RN**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Radford University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Box 6964**  
**Radford, VA 24142**  
**540-831-7706**  
**kcarter@radford.edu**



Dr. Carter is originally from St. Clairsville, Ohio and currently lives in Moneta, Virginia. She has taught nursing for fifteen years and currently is an Associate Professor at Radford University (Radford VA). Her principle areas of teaching are community health, nursing research, advanced nursing research, and advanced nursing practice in rural families and communities. She has chaired School and College curriculum committees, and has just completed leading the faculty through transition to a community based curriculum. Dr. Carter was lead writer of Radford's CCNE self-study report and coordinated the 2003 site visit, with a pleasing result of full accreditation. She serves on the University IRB and has been elected to chair the IRB beginning Fall 2004. Her principle areas of clinical and research interest are with the homeless and intentionality of teen pregnancy. She is a member of the Roanoke Valley Task Force on Homeless, which is a city-manager appointed active group monitoring trends in homelessness, advocating for the homeless, and educating the community and planners. She enjoys students, the stimulation of an academic environment, and the ability to make a difference in communities through assisting faculty to organize community based student learning activities.

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**Jennifer S. Couvillon, PhD, RN, FNP**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Louisiana State University Health Science Center**  
**School of Nursing**  
**1900 Gravier St.**  
**Office 3 A2**  
**New Orleans, LA 70112**  
**504-568-4185**  
**jcouvi@lsuhsc.edu**



Jennifer Couvillon, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Louisiana State University School of Nursing. While completing her master's program at Georgetown University, Mrs. Couvillon studied the role of family nurse practitioners and worked in

the student health clinic at Georgetown University. Mrs. Couvillon completed her master's work by working with HIV-positive women. She was involved with the Women's Interagency HIV Study and directed workshops as well as counseling on the topic of domestic violence for study participants. Mrs. Couvillon completed her doctorate in nursing education from Duquesne University and has completed the informatics course from New York University. She has a certificate in distance education in nursing through a collaborative program offered by Indiana University and the National League for Nursing. She is a faculty resource at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center for development of online classes and teaches using online teaching methods. Dr. Couvillon is a critical care nurse and member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, National League for Nursing, Southern Nurses Research Association, Society of the Teachers of Family Medicine, American Nurses Association, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Louisiana State Nurse Association, and New Orleans District Nurses.

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**Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN**  
**Dean**  
**State University of New York**  
**Downstate Medical Center**  
**450 Clarkson Ave**  
**Box 22**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11203**  
**718-270-7632**  
**[daisy.cruz-richman@downstate.edu](mailto:daisy.cruz-richman@downstate.edu)**



Daisy Cruz-Richman is dean of the College of Nursing at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC). Dr. Cruz-Richman received her PhD and MA degrees in psychology from New School for Social Research, MEd in curriculum from Columbia University, MS in psychiatric nursing from Hunter College, and BS in nursing from University of the East Medical Center in Manila, Philippines. She is a member of the President's Executive Cabinet at SUNY-DMC. She currently serves as a member of an Advisory Board of NY State Health Education Center and AACN Task Force on Baccalaureate Education. On June 14, 2004, Dr. Cruz-Richman represented AACN at a Capitol Hill briefing, discussing how Title VIII federal funds help educate nursing students, alleviate shortages, and provide quality care to underserved populations. In July 2003, she served as Chair of a federal grant review panel on "Career Ladder in Education and Service." Dr. Cruz-Richman has published, presented papers, and conducted research in areas related to attitudes toward the elderly, nursing, and education. In 2002-2003, she received grant awards from HRSA to implement an Accelerated BS in nursing program; NY State Department of Health (DOH) to train family nurse practitioners; and NYC DOH to upgrade the skills of school-based nurses.

**Janice Davidson, PhD, RN, CNAA**  
**Division of Nursing Graduate Program Director**  
**Mississippi University for Women**  
**PO Box W-910**  
**Columbus, MS 39701**  
**662-329-7323**  
**jdavidson@muw.edu**



Dr. Janice Unruh Davidson holds a PhD in Nursing from Texas Woman's University and earned her Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Nursing from Wichita State University. She additionally completed a post-doctoral fellowship as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. She currently serves as the Division of Nursing Graduate Program Director at Mississippi University for Women. She held appointment previously for nearly six years on the Graduate Faculty at Fort Hays State University where she earned tenure and promotion to Professor of Nursing while serving as the Coordinator for Nursing Administration and Advanced Practice. She also served nearly ten years as the Department of Nursing Chair and Undergraduate Program Director at Bethel College. Dr. Davidson remains nationally board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and in Nursing Informatics and Nursing Administration, Advanced by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Dr. Davidson is recognized as a quality curriculum consultant for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and has served extensively as an accreditation visitor for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission. She has authored numerous data-based publications and received over \$200,000 in competitive grant funding. Dr. Davidson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and recently completed a two-year appointment as one of two U.S. members of the International Council of Nursing's Workgroup on Health Policy for the International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network.

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**H. Michael Dreher, DNSc, RN**  
**Associate Director of Undergraduate**  
**Nursing Programs**  
**Drexel University**  
**College of Nursing & Health Professions**  
**1505 Race St.**  
**Bellet Bld., 7<sup>th</sup> Flr, MS 501**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19102**  
**215-762-7481**  
**hd26@drexel.edu**



Heyward (Michael) Dreher's primary research areas are sleep, sleep disruption and immune function, and sleep and aging. He has presented international papers on both sleep and teaching pedagogy and was the first nurse to complete the jointly funded

National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute and National Institute of Nursing Research two-year postdoctoral research fellowship in sleep and respiratory neurobiology at the University of Pennsylvania. In May 2004, he received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Drexel University and he was appointed on August 1, 2004 to the new position of Director of Doctoral Nursing Programs at Drexel. He will be in charge of developing a practice-focused nursing doctoral program, hopefully will be implemented in Fall 2005. He is a Research Fellow in the Center for Health Equality at Drexel and is currently pursuing a postgraduate certificate in Gerontology from the University of Washington at Seattle. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina at Columbia (AND, BSN, MN) and Widener University (D.N.Sc.).

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**Leisa Easom, PhD, RN**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Georgia Southwestern State University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**800 Wheatley St.**  
**Americus, GA 31709**  
**229-931-2283**  
**lre@canes.gsw.edu**



Dr. Leisa Easom is an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Georgia Southwestern State (GSW) University. She is a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia and the recipient of a 1.5 year fellowship with the Rosalynn Carter Institute of Human Development. Currently, she collaborates with the Rosalynn Carter Institute regarding caregiving interests and research. Her program of research focuses on health promotion of older adults and caregivers. She is certified in gerontology and integrates her clinical and research experience into her geriatric nursing courses in an effort to improve the healthcare of older adults. Dr. Easom has completed ELNEC (end-of-life nursing education consortium) Training both at the graduate and undergraduate level. In the past, Dr. Easom has served as a board member of the Georgia Gerontology Society and is a current member of the Gerontological Society of America, Georgia Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, and serves as a manuscript reviewer for professional journals. She has served as the chair for many university committees and is currently in charge of the development of the Master's program in the GSW School of Nursing.

**Bonnie Farmer, PhD, RN**  
**Associate Chairperson**  
**University of Southern Maine**  
**USM/ Lewiston Auburn College**  
**College of Nursing and Health Professions**  
**51 Westminister St.**  
**Lewiston, ME 04240**  
**207-753-6589**  
**[bfarmer@usm.maine.edu](mailto:bfarmer@usm.maine.edu)**



Bonnie Cashin Farmer is Associate Chairperson of Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Lewiston-Auburn campus, University of Southern Maine. Varied clinical management positions, certificate programs, and a graduate degree in public administration with a concentration in health care management established her academic and experiential foundation. Throughout her career she has been interested in management/leadership issues as indicated in her vita available for review at [www.usm.maine.edu/conhp/faculty/farmer.htm](http://www.usm.maine.edu/conhp/faculty/farmer.htm). Her doctoral studies at the College of Nursing, University of Rhode Island further developed her research and practice area of gerontology within an organizational focus. In 2002 she assumed the role of senior nursing administrator on the USM Lewiston-Auburn campus for expansion of the nursing program. Significant components of her current responsibilities have been on program development. CONHP/LA Nursing has initiated multiple unique programs such as a collaborative program with our community partners entitled Coaches for Nursing Students, a Peer Associate for Learning (PAL) program, and the integration of handheld technology in nursing education. Despite program success, she acknowledges the complexities inherent in leading a program with such challenges as an ever-increasing nursing student population, decreasing resources, and a unique organizational/budgeting structure between two campuses and two colleges. Such leadership demands a goal of excellence and requires a specific body of knowledge, experience, and expertise. An underlying assumption of this goal is that leaders can make a difference - a difference for students, faculty, community partners, and ultimately the delivery of health care.

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**Julia Faucett, RN, PhD, FAAN**  
**Professor and Department Chair**  
**2 Koret – Box 0608**  
**School of Nursing**  
**University of California**  
**San Francisco CA 94143-0608**  
**415-476-3221**  
**[Julia.Faucett@nursing.ucsf.edu](mailto:Julia.Faucett@nursing.ucsf.edu)**

Julia Faucett is in her second year as Chair of the Department of Community Health Systems at UCSF. Before becoming Chair and for nearly ten years, she directed a UCSF

graduate program for nurses specializing in occupational and environmental health, which was funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. She received her doctorate and MS from UCSF, BSN from Winona State University (Minnesota), and BA in psychology from Stanford University. Her program of research focuses on modifications in the workplace that may prevent or reduce the pain and fatigue of musculoskeletal disorders. Her studies have investigated biomechanical, psychosocial, and organizational work factors for their influence on musculoskeletal disorders, primarily of occupational origin, in agricultural, office, health care, and manufacturing settings. She has been nationally recognized for her collaborative research to improve the working conditions of immigrant farm workers. She is currently a member of the National Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services). Her teaching focuses on occupational health and safety; prevention and accommodation of painful musculoskeletal disorders in the workplace; behavioral theory and theory development.

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**Susan Gennaro, DSN, RN, FAAN**  
**Professor & Director of Doctoral and Post Doctoral Studies**  
**University of Pennsylvania**  
**School of Nursing**  
**420 Guardian Dr.**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19104-6096**  
**215-8981844**  
**[gennaro@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:gennaro@nursing.upenn.edu)**



Dr. Susan Gennaro is a professor at the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania. She has served as the Director of the Doctoral Program at Penn and as the Director of the International Center of Research for Women, Children, and Families. Currently, she is the Co-Director of the Center for Health Disparities Research at Penn, heads a training grant for pre- and post-doctoral students interested in conducting research on vulnerable families, and is conducting research on stress and preterm labor. Dr. Gennaro is interested in honing her leadership skills while on sabbatical this year as she continues in her mission to improve the health of vulnerable mothers, infants, and families in this country and around the world.

**Jane Giedt, PhD, RN**  
**Director & Chair of Graduate Nursing Program**  
**Tri-College University Nursing Consortium**  
**MN State University Moorhead**  
**1104 So 7th Ave.**  
**Moorhead, MN 56563**  
**218-477-4699**  
**giedt@mnstate.edu**



Jane Giedt is completing her third year as Director of the Tri-College University (TCU) Nursing Consortium and Chair of the Graduate Nursing Program. The TCU consortium consists of the nursing departments of Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, MN; North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND; and Concordia College, Moorhead, MN. She has been teaching nursing for over 25 years in diploma, baccalaureate, and graduate programs. She also has over 20 years of military nursing experience with both active duty and reserve assignments. Her clinical nursing background is medical-surgical nursing in the critical care arena. Her research interests are in psychoneuroimmunology, especially guided imagery. Her nursing education includes a diploma in nursing from Presentation School of Nursing in Aberdeen, SD; a BSN from Mary College, Bismarck, ND; an MS in Nursing from University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND; and PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Jane is active in the North Dakota Nurses Association, Xi Kappa Chapter at Large (STTI), American Holistic Nurses Association, and Midwest Nursing Research Society. She participates in committees and task forces of the North Dakota Board of Nursing and is a member of the organizations of colleges of nursing in both ND and MN.

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**Sheila Grossman, PhD, RN, APRN**  
**Professor**  
**Fairfield University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**North Bensom Rd.**  
**Fairfield, CT 06430**  
**203-254-4080**  
**sgrossman@mail.fairfield.edu**



Dr. Sheila Grossman is a Professor and Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Track at Fairfield University School of Nursing. She has worked on a variety of medical, surgical, and critical care units. Dr. Grossman has been a Coordinator of Nursing Education & Research at Mt. Sinai Hospital and a Critical Care Clinician & Instructor at St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center and Hartford Hospital. She practices as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Trinity College Health Clinic on a weekly per diem basis. She presently teaches pathophysiology & pharmacology, medical & surgical nursing, critical care nursing, and leadership & management and advanced physiology & pathophysiology

and primary care adult health. She also affiliates clinically at Yale New Haven Hospital. Her research includes multiple outcome studies in critical and primary care as well as leadership development. She is the co-author of *The New Leadership Challenge: Creating A Preferred Future for Nursing* second edition and is presently authoring *Mentoring Nurses: The Process of Empowering Versus Enabling*. She is the author of multiple chapters on leadership, mentoring, and other topics. Dr. Grossman's curriculum vita supports over 100 presentations and refereed journal publications. Most recently Dr. Grossman has been selected as a Fellow, AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing Program, has been a Sigma Theta Tau International Distinguished Lecturer, a Fellow in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Institute of Genetics, and a Member of the CT State Board of Nursing. She serves on the AACN Continuing Education Panel and the STTI Collateral Review Board.

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**Kim Hoover, PhD**  
**Associate Dean for Academic Program**  
**Development and Evaluation**  
**University of Mississippi Medical Center**  
**School of Nursing**  
**2500 North St**  
**Jackson, MS 39216-4505**  
**601-984-6276**  
**[khoover@son.umsmed.edu](mailto:khoover@son.umsmed.edu)**



Kim Hoover is a professor and associate dean for academic program development and evaluation at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. Dr. Hoover received her BSN from Northeast Louisiana University, her MSN and her PhD in Clinical Health Sciences from the University of Mississippi. Her professional experience includes nursing education, distance education, outcomes measurement and nursing workforce research. For the past four years, Dr. Hoover has worked with the Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce, as the project director, the director of research and most recently, as the data consultant. She is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating nursing workforce data for Mississippi and has presented her nursing workforce and outcomes research nationally. Dr. Hoover maintains memberships in the MS Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, AcademyHealth, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Phi Kappa Phi, and served as a Nursing Information and Data Set Evaluation Center (NIDSEC) Review Panel Member.

**Brenda R. Jeffers, PhD, RN**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Illinois State University**  
**Mennonite College of Nursing**  
**Campus Box 5810**  
**Normal, IL 61790-5810**  
**309-438-2349**  
**brjeffe@ilstu.edu**



Brenda Recchia Jeffers, PhD, RN is an Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program and Research at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. Her areas of interest include examining ethical aspects of nursing practice and creating research environments that promote research integrity. Dr. Jeffers' teaching in the graduate program has been recognized with the Graduate Program Teaching Excellence Award. She serves locally on the Illinois State University Executive Level Institutional Review Board and the BroMenn Medical Center Medical Ethics Executive Committee, Normal, IL and has been an invited speaker for local community groups. Nationally she completed End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium Training, served as a summer intern with the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights, and worked with members of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Ethics Workgroup to develop ethics materials for practicing critical care nurses. She serves as Co-Investigator of the Mennonite College of Nursing John A. Hartford Geriatric Nursing Education Project and the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home federally directed grant. Dr. Jeffers has presented papers in the area of research ethics at several national forums including the State of the Science Congress and has work published in *Advances in Nursing Science*. Her focus for the Fellows project period includes continuing to build the College's research infrastructure and expand educational offerings in the graduate program.

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**Suzan E. Kardong-Edgren, PhDc, RNC**  
**BSN Program Director**  
**University of Texas, Arlington**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Box 19407**  
**Arlington, TX 76019**  
**817-272-2776**  
**sedgren@uta.edu**



Suzan Kardong-Edgren is in her second year as the BSN Director at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing. She manages 55 faculty members in the 16th largest BSN program in the U.S. Her 15-year teaching career was preceded by 17 years of clinical experience, including 5 years in the USAF. She completed her doctorate in health education in summer 2004, at Texas Woman's University. Her dissertation, "Cultural Competency of Nursing and Health Education Faculty" reflects her lifelong

interest in culture and cultural competency. She has extensive experience in RN-BSN distance education, and teaching online, utilizing the WebCT platform. She is currently developing expertise in the use of human patient simulations for accelerated learning in nursing students. For several years, she has taken nursing students to Mexico for a 2-week summer cultural immersion experience. Suzan has served on the Editorial Board of JOGNN. She is an active member of STTI and has served as the Region 6 Coordinator as well as a chapter president, vice president, newsletter editor, and program chair. She exercises regularly to relieve stress and recently completed her 5th marathon.

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**Beth R. Keely, PhD, RN**  
**Assistant Director of Undergraduate**  
**Nursing Programs**  
**California State University, Long Beach**  
**1250 Bellflower Blvd.**  
**Long Beach, CA 90840**  
**562-985-4478**  
**bkeely@csulb.edu**



Dr. Keely is the Director of the Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Nursing, and has the additional responsibility of coordinating the off-site programs for both graduate and undergraduate students. She has taught Medical-Surgical Nursing, Health Care Policy and Economics, and Curriculum Development in Nursing. Due to the severe nursing shortage in California, the undergraduate program has tripled in size since January 2004. Two new innovative programs (an accelerated 58-week program for second degree students and a tri-mester program for generic students) have kept the department particularly busy. Finding additional clinical sites and qualified faculty to teach the additional sections has been a challenge. However, it has also opened new opportunities for advanced practice nurses to enter the teaching field. It is Dr. Keely's responsibility to evaluate these new programs. She also works closely with the faculty coordinators to identify students at risk so they can be provided with additional support and guidance. Dr. Keely works closely with hospital Directors of Education in the greater Los Angeles - Orange County area to identify appropriate clinical facilities and to coordinate RN to BSN programs for hospital staff. Because BSN students are in high demand by many hospitals, Dr. Keely helps coordinate scheduling with the community colleges so that all students are ensured clinical experiences that meet course objectives.

**Kathleen LaSala, PhD, APRN-BC, PNP**  
**Associate Dean and Director, Graduate Nursing**  
**University of Colorado, Colorado Springs**  
**Beth El College of Nursing and Health Sciences**  
**1420 Austin Bluffs Pwy Box 7150**  
**Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7150**  
**719-262-4411**  
**klasala@uccs.edu**



Dr. Kathleen Bradshaw LaSala, PhD, APRN, BC, PNP is the Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate Nursing Program at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Beth El College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She received her BSN from Radford University, MSN and PNP certification from the University of Virginia, and her PhD in Nursing from George Mason University. Dr. LaSala has worked as a PNP, nursing educator and nursing administrator in Virginia, Michigan and presently in Colorado. Her areas of research are workforce issues and tobacco cessation issues.

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**Jan Lee, PhD, RN**  
**Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**  
**The University of Tennessee, Knoxville**  
**College of Nursing**  
**1200 Volunteer Blvd**  
**Knoxville, TN 37996-4180**  
**865-974-7619**  
**jlee39@utk.edu**



Dr. Lee is currently Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Nursing. She previously held faculty appointments at the University of Southern California, UCLA, and the University of Michigan. Dr. Lee has been funded by numerous intramural and extramural agencies (including NIH) to pursue her research interests in self-management of chronic illness and quality of nursing care. She has served as a consultant to the RAND Health Program and to the Veterans Health Administration. In addition, she has been a visiting scholar to Kitasato University in Japan and, as a member of the Visiting Team from UCLA School of Nursing, helped to found the Erebouni School of Nursing, the first baccalaureate nursing program in the Republic of Armenia. She is the recipient of numerous honors in nursing and healthcare, including: biography in both Who's Who in American Nursing and Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation Excellence in Research Award for in the area of clinical research for the article, "Does What Nurses Do Affect Clinical Outcomes for Hospitalized Patients? A Review of the Literature," published in Health Services Research (1999). Dr. Lee was ANCC-certified as a clinical specialist in medical-surgical nursing, for twenty years. From 1988 – 1996, she served the ANCC in various capacities, including as Chair of the Board of

Certification for Medical-Surgical Nursing, and as a member of the Commission on Certification.

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**Gail Lemaire, PhD, APRN**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**University of Maryland**  
**School of Nursing**  
**655 West Lombard St., 6th Floor**  
**Baltimore, MD 21201**  
**410-706-4914**  
**lemaire@son.umaryland.edu**



Gail Schoen Lemaire, PhD, APRN/PMH, BC, received her Bachelor of Science degree from Boston University School of Nursing and her Master of Science degree in adult psychiatric mental health nursing and nursing education from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She earned her doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Nursing where she was admitted to doctoral candidacy with distinction and received the Doctoral Award for Excellence. Dr. Lemaire is currently assistant professor and coordinator of undergraduate psychiatric mental health nursing at the University of Maryland. She has more than 30 years of experience in nursing practice, administration, research, and education. Dr. Lemaire's clinical practice has involved counseling and educating women about issues concerning menstrual cycle disturbances including premenstrual syndrome, infertility, endometriosis, postpartum depression, hysterectomy, menopause, and androgen excess. Dr. Lemaire was appointed to two terms on the State of Maryland Governor's Commission on Women's Health. Her research interests include androgen excess and depression in women, psychiatric rehabilitation outcomes, and patients' perceptions of student nurse interactions as a method to evaluate teaching effectiveness. Dr. Lemaire has written multiple patient education materials and refereed articles, has coauthored several book chapters, and has presented papers to public and professional audiences.

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**Nan S. Leslie, PhD, RNC**  
**Professor**  
**Dept. of Health Promotion/Risk Reduction**  
**School of Nursing**  
**PO Box 9630, HSC**  
**WV University**  
**Morgantown, WV 26506-9630**  
**304-293-1390**  
**Nleslie@hsc.wvu.edu**

Nan Leslie is a professor of nursing who teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the WVU School of Nursing. She currently practices as a women's health nurse

practitioner in the Clark Sleeth Family Medicine Center at West Virginia University. She has been elected to the National Academies of Practice in Nursing. Her research area of interest is health promotion and empowerment of women in their health care, and has focused extensively on early detection of breast cancer. She has had funding to study: an intervention to enhance women's breast health self care (PI); an intervention to increase nurses' skills and preparedness to discuss end-of-life care with patients and families (CoPI); and a test of a lifestyle intervention for cardiovascular risk in women (CoI). She is currently an investigator on the WV WiseWomen enhanced research initiative designed to study cardiovascular health risk reduction in poor, older rural women (CoI). Dr. Leslie has disseminated her research through publications, and regional, national and international presentations.

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**Julie Luetschwager, DNSc, RN**  
**Chair**  
**Lester L. Cox College of**  
**Nursing and Health Science**  
**Department of Nursing**  
**1423 N. Jefferson Ave.**  
**Springfield, MO 65802**  
**417-269-8316**  
**[jluetsc@coxcollege.edu](mailto:jluetsc@coxcollege.edu)**



Dr. Luetschwager obtained her bachelor in nursing degree from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, WI and shortly thereafter moved to Missouri. The majority of her clinical background is in the area of maternal/newborn care. She began clinical instruction in 1988 and over her career has served the nursing profession as an educator for nursing students in LPN, ASN, and Baccalaureate programs. She completed her masters in nursing degree in 1995 from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS and her doctoral degree in 2002 from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Dr. Luetschwager currently serves as the Department Chair of Nursing at Lester L. Cox College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Springfield, MO. Her research focus on adoption blends my clinical expertise in maternal/newborn care and my educational focus of family. She has carried out qualitative research on adoptive parenting and has developed an adoptive parenting class that is offered to prospective adoptive parents.

**Lois Marshall, PhD, RN, CPN**  
**Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies**  
**University of Miami**  
**School of Nursing**  
**5801 Red Road**  
**Coral Gables, FL 33124**  
**305-284-6258**  
**boomeister4556@aol.com**



Lois S. Marshall, PhD, RN, CPN, has been a nurse educator for 25 years. She received her BSN from the University of Miami (1978), her MN from Emory University (1980), and her PhD from the University of Miami (1999) with a focus area on higher education and curriculum design. Dr. Marshall's research area of expertise is outcomes assessment, test taking strategies, and the licensure examination. She has been preparing students and new graduates for the licensure examination for over 25 years with her own preparation program. Dr. Marshall has held a variety of faculty and administrative positions at the University of Miami School of Nursing (1980-2004) from Director of the Generic/BSN Program to Director of the Learning Resource Center, to coordinator of numerous programs, including the PhD track in nursing education and the Clinical Nurse Leader proposal that she submitted and was accepted by AACN in 2004. She was most recently the Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing at the University of Miami School of Nursing. She has been appointed to the Planning Committee for the 16th Research Congress in Hawaii. Dr. Marshall is currently working as a nurse consultant expanding her licensure preparation program and it's availability to institutions of higher learning and health care agencies.

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**Marcia Maurer, PhD, RN**  
**Professor & Dean of Nursing**  
**Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Alumni Hall**  
**PO Box 1066**  
**Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066**  
**618-650-3959**  
**mamaure@siue.edu**



Dr. Maurer is currently Dean at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, for the past nine years prior, Maurer has been associate dean in Nursing and director of Graduate Programs at Loyola University in Chicago, and has more than 20 years experience in higher education. She has been a member of the faculty of Maternal Child Health Nursing at Loyola since 1983. She taught at the University of Illinois Chicago Medical Center approximately 12 years, and while there, established the first Master of Science offered in High Risk Perinatal in the state, as well as conducted summer workshops for

RNs on the Care of the High Risk Neonate. Maurer also held positions as staff nurse and eventually head nurse in pediatrics before beginning her teaching career, which included a year at Cook County Hospital School of Nursing. In addition, she was only one of three nurses on the state regionalization committee for Perinatal Medicine and Nursing. Maurer also enjoyed national recognition as a Perinatal nurse specialist frequently sought for consultation and presentations nationally.

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**Anne McGinley, PhD, CRNP**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Director, Undergraduate Program**  
**Department of Nursing**  
**Thomas Jefferson University**  
**Jefferson College of Health Professions**  
**130 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Suite 1230B**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19107-5233**  
**215-503-8104**  
**[anne.mcginley@jefferson.edu](mailto:anne.mcginley@jefferson.edu)**



Anne McGinley is an associate professor and is the Director of the Undergraduate Nursing Program at Thomas Jefferson University. She graduated from Northeastern Hospital School of Nursing and earned a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania and completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the Annenberg School for Communication, Center for Public Policy. Her doctoral dissertation focused on providing computer-tailored information about hormone replacement therapy and osteoporosis via the Internet. Research interests include: consumer health information delivered via the Internet and electronic data collection. Dr. McGinley is a women's health nurse practitioner and prior to her appointment at Jefferson worked in private practice and was on the faculty of the OB/GYN nurse practitioner program at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of several professional organizations including: Sigma Theta Tau International, International Association of Women's Health Care, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses, and the American Nurses' Association.

**Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
**Associate Professor**  
**University of Virginia**  
**McLeod Hall**  
**Box 800872**  
**Charlottesville, VA 22908**  
**434-982-3286**  
**merwin@virginia.edu**

Dr. Elizabeth Merwin is the Associate Dean for Research & a Professor of Nursing at the University of Virginia, School of Nursing. Dr. Merwin is a health services researcher with specialty areas in rural health and mental health service delivery. Dr. Merwin is Director of the Rural Health Care Research Center which is funded from 2004-2009 as a developmental center by the National Institute of Nursing Research. She recently completed 5 years as Director of the Southeastern Rural Mental Health Research Center. Currently, Dr. Merwin is conducting a R01 study on Shortages of Health Professionals in Rural Areas. Dr. Merwin is a methodological expert regarding the use and analysis of large secondary data sets in health care research, evaluations and quality initiatives. She has been consistently funded by NIH over the last ten years to use secondary data sets as the basis for health outcome studies. She has a Joint Appointment in the Department of Health Evaluation Sciences in the School of Medicine at the University of Virginia where she has taught a graduate course in database management and the analysis of secondary data sets for the last several years. Building on her experience as a Director of Nursing Services and with support from a HRSA grant, Dr. Merwin recently participated in the transition of the Health Systems Management focus of the MSN program to an online format. She also recently served as Chair of the Faculty Organization in the School of Nursing. Dr. Merwin lives in Glen Allen, Virginia.

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**Mary Nies, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
**Co-Director, Center for Urban**  
**African American Health**  
**Wayne State University**  
**College of Nursing**  
**5557 Cass Ave #146**  
**Detroit, MI 48202**  
**313-577-3911**  
**m.nies@wayne.edu**



Dr. Nies is Co-Director, Center for Urban and African American Health and Professor in the College of Nursing and Professor of Community Medicine in the School of Medicine at Wayne State University. At Wayne State University, Dr. Nies has served in administrative roles in the College of Nursing as Assistant Dean of Family, Community, and Mental Health; Director of the Center for Health Research; and Director of the Doctoral and Postdoctoral Program and Associate Dean for Research. Prior to joining

Wayne State University, Dr. Nies was a faculty member at the University of Tennessee-Memphis College of Nursing and the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Dr. Nies earned a Bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, received a Master's degree in nursing from Loyola University in Chicago, and a PhD in nursing science from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her postdoctoral work was in the area of health promotion and community health at the University of Michigan. Dr. Nies is a Fellow in the American Academy of Health Behavior and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Her national leadership roles include that of study section member for the National Institutes of Health, Associate Editor for the American Journal of Health Behavior, and serving on the editorial boards of the Journal of Women's Health & Gender-Based Medicine and Nursing Research. In addition, she is co-editor of the textbook *Community Health Nursing: Promoting the Health of Populations*, which received the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award in 1994. Dr. Nies received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Loyola University School of Nursing in 2002 and the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Achievement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing in 2003.

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**Janet Noles, PhD, RN, FNP-C**  
**Dean and Associate Professor**  
**Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing**  
**2149 Hickory St.**  
**Abilene, TX 79601**  
**325-672-2441**  
**jnoles@hsutx.edu**



Dr. Noles is beginning her second year as Dean at the school of nursing having served previously as faculty, Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, and Director of Graduate Programs. The Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing is a very unique program in that it is a consortium of three private church affiliated universities. Her primary objective in the last year has been to increase the visibility of the program in the Abilene and surrounding areas by participating in more community activities – American Heart Association Heart Walk, March of Dimes Walk, Health Fairs, etc. Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing is an approved provider of CNE and provide programs for many surrounding rural community hospitals and long-term care facilities. A second objective relates to creating a supportive environment for faculty – because monies are limited for salaries, they are examining other options that will attract and retain quality faculty. As an NP, she works 8 hours per week in the student health center at one of their parent universities.

**Katherine E. Nugent, PhD, RN**  
**Professor and Director School of Nursing**  
**University of Southern Mississippi**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Southern Station, Box 5095**  
**Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5095**  
**601-266-5445**  
**katherine.nugent@usm.edu**



Katherine Nugent recently has been appointed as the Associate Dean and Director of the School of Nursing, and professor of nursing in the College of Health, University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nugent has served as the Associate Dean and Interim Dean at the School of Nursing Medical College of Nursing. She received her BS (Nursing) and MS (Nursing) from Texas Woman's University and her PhD from Texas A&M University. Katherine has extensive experience in the administration of nursing programs and initiating new educational programs of study. Dr. Nugent's publications and research have focused on nursing education and diversity. She was the primary investigator of a HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant. Dr. Nugent serves as a reviewer on four nursing journals.

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**Tobie Olsan, PhD, RN, CNAA**  
**Director of Education Research, Associate Professor**  
**University of Rochester**  
**School of Nursing**  
**601 Elmwood Avenue, Box SON**  
**Rochester NY 14642**  
**585-389-2712**  
**tobie\_olsan@urmc.rochester.edu**



Dr. Olsan has a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Nazareth College in 1980, a master's of Public Administration from SUNY Brockport, a master's of Science in Nursing Administration and a doctorate in Nursing from the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She also holds an appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing at the University of Rochester School of Nursing. Her research interests are in institutional and professional ethics, home health care delivery system reform, and the nursing shortage. Active in many professional organizations, Dr. Olsan is a member of the editorial board for *The Journal of the New York State Nurses Association*. She is President-Elect of Epsilon Xi at the University of Rochester and a member of Pi Psi at Nazareth College, both are chapters of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. Dr. Olsan is also a board member of AIDS Rochester and a member of the Lyon Daughters Bioethics Lecture Committee at the Rochester Academy of Medicine.

**Mary Parsons, PhD, RN**  
**Chair of Accelerated Nursing Program**  
**Creighton University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**2500 California Plaza**  
**Omaha, NE 68178**  
**402-280-2049**  
**parsonsm@creighton.edu**



Mary Parsons is currently Program Chair of the Accelerated Nursing Program at Creighton University School of Nursing. She has taught medical-surgical content in all three undergraduate programs, accelerated, traditional and RN to BSN. Most recently she has completed her doctorate with a specialization in gerontology from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Research interests have included: change in critical thinking among nursing students as they progress through their curriculum, perception of ethical issues among older adults, and quality of life in nursing homes. Dr. Parsons has been a member of the local Speaker's Bureau for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders since it's inception.

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**Karin Polifko-Harris, PhD, RN, CNAA**  
**Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs**  
**University of Florida**  
**College of Nursing**  
**PO Box 100197**  
**Gainesville, FL 32610-0197**  
**352-273-6399**  
**kpolifko@nursing.ufl.edu**



Karin Polifko-Harris is the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Florida's College of Nursing. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Polifko-Harris was the Vice President of System Development and Resources for the NCH Healthcare System in Naples, Florida. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, her Master of Science in Nursing as an Adult Nurse Practitioner from the University of Pennsylvania, her Doctorate in Public Administration and a certificate in Advanced Policy Analysis from Old Dominion University. Dr. Polifko-Harris' career has spanned both the academic and service fields of health care. Along with teaching experience at the undergraduate, graduate levels and doctoral levels at several universities, Dr. Polifko-Harris held the position of Chair of Nursing and Graduate Director at Christopher Newport University in Virginia. She has extensive administrative experience in a variety of health care settings, including acute care, ambulatory care and community care in the roles of Director of Nursing, Nurse Manager, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. Recent consulting projects include nursing

program development, organizational change assessment and evaluation, outcomes systems management, and leadership assessment/coaching.

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**Rosanne Pruitt, PhD, RN**  
**Professor and Interim Director**  
**Clemson University**  
**510 Edwards Hall**  
**Clemson, SC 29634**  
**864-656-5528**  
**prosan@clemson.edu**



Dr. Rosanne Pruitt is Professor and Graduate Coordinator at Clemson University School of Nursing. She served as interim director of the School of Nursing 2003-4. Dr. Pruitt holds degrees from Emory University and University of South Carolina. She earned a PhD in Nursing and Health Policy from the University of Maryland. In addition to the AACN Helene Fuld Academic Leadership Fellowship, currently Dr. Pruitt is serving a second term on the executive committee of NONPF (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties) as treasurer. She was recently awarded the South Carolina NP advocate excellence award from AANP. Her research is in the area of health promotion and policy evaluation. This past year she has been involved in analyzing innovative techniques for nursing education to incorporate in several new initiatives. Prior to coming to Clemson Dr. Pruitt taught at the University of Maryland for 6 years. Dr. Pruitt practices part-time as a FNP in the Sullivan Center for Nursing and Wellness at Clemson. She teaches several courses in the graduate program.

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**Mary Jo Regan-Kubinski, PhD, RN**  
**Dean and Professor**  
**Indiana University- South Bend**  
**Northside Hall**  
**1700 Mishawaka Ave**  
**PO Box 7111**  
**South Bend, IN 46634-7111**  
**574-237-4207**  
**mreganku@iusb.edu**



Mary Jo Regan-Kubinski is Professor and Dean of the Division of Nursing and Health Professions at Indiana University South Bend, where she holds the William and Kathryn Shields Endowed Chair. Most recently, she was the Chair of the Department of Nursing, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. Dr. Regan-Kubinski received her BSN and MSN (major: Child Psychiatric Nursing) from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and her PhD in Clinical Nursing Research from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has taught at Saint Mary's College Notre Dame, Kellogg Community

College, Villanova University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Her teaching experience ranges from associate degree through doctoral level courses, and she is well experienced in curriculum and assessment, in both nursing and at the college/university levels. She headed the strategic planning process at Saint Mary's College. Her research interests focus on decision making processes, and she has published on both nurse and patient decision making. Mary Jo has been a long-time member of the Society for Education and Research in Psychiatric Nursing, which has merged with the International Society of Psychiatric Nursing. She currently serves as Treasurer of this organization. She is active member of a number of local and regional nursing organizations.

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**Jenny Sauls, DSN, RN**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Middle Tennessee State University**  
**MTSU Box 81**  
**1500 Greenland Dr.**  
**Murfreesboro, TN 37132**  
**615-898-5845**  
**jsauls@mtsu.edu**



Jenny Sauls, RN, C, MSN, DSN is employed at Middle Tennessee State University as a tenured Associate Professor where she was awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1996. She has taught a variety of topics on adult health and critical care and served on numerous university committees. She also has been involved in various community service activities such as the AHA Heartwalk, Parish Nursing, American Red Cross blood drives and speaking engagements at local hospitals. Jenny is a member of the American Nurses Association and has served as delegate for the state convention and as a member of the state Committee on Education for TNA and is now serving on the Committee for Continuing Education. She is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau, International, Xi Alpha Chapter where she served as president for two years and other local officer positions. She is also a member of the AACN and was a certified Critical Care Nurse for 13 years. She now holds certification in Medical-Surgical Nursing through the ANCC. Jenny graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1981 with an Associate Degree in Nursing. She earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing from Tennessee Technological University in 1984, a master of science in nursing from Vanderbilt University in 1988, and a doctorate of science in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2000.

**Victoria Schirm, PhD, RN, CS, Director  
Center for Gerontological Health  
Nursing and Advocacy  
The University of Akron  
College of Nursing  
210 Mary Gladwin Hall  
Akron, Oh 44325-3701  
330-972-7732  
vschirm@uakron.edu**



Victoria Schirm is professor and Director, Center for Gerontological Health Nursing and Advocacy at The University of Akron's College of Nursing. She received her BS and MS in nursing from The Pennsylvania State University, and her PhD from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. She has held faculty positions at Penn State, James Madison, and Kent State Universities. Victoria has directed the College's Gerontology Nursing Center since 2001, a position in which she has developed and managed several ongoing partnerships with community agencies and long-term care institutions in northern Ohio. The Gerontology Nursing Center is associated with The University's Institute for Health and Social Policy, an affiliation that provides opportunities for interdisciplinary research and scholarly collaboration with College of Arts and Sciences colleagues. Victoria has received federal, state, and foundation funding for her research and scholarly activities in geriatric nursing. Dr. Schirm is currently project director of a Comprehensive Geriatric Nursing Education grant entitled Online Partnership for Long-Term Care Nursing, funded through June 2006 by DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration. From 2001 to 2003, she directed a demonstration project funded by the Administration on Aging. She administered grant activities that included a Best Practices Nursing Care Conference held in association with the National Gerontological Nurses Association 2003 Annual Meeting and Convention in Houston. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, Secretary of NGNA, and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International. As an AACN/Helene Fuld participant, Victoria's goal is to enhance executive skills for a chief administrative position in academic nursing.

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**Mary W. Stewart, PhD, RN**  
**Dean and Associate Professor**  
**Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing**  
**William Carey College**  
**498 Tuscan Avenue – Box 8**  
**Hattiesburg, MS 39401**  
**601-318-6478**  
**mary.stewart@wmcarey.edu**



Dr. Stewart received her BSN from Mississippi College in 1991 and began work in adult-health/critical care units. While continuing to work, she returned to school in 1993 to pursue the MSN degree from University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). She completed the master's with a role focus in nursing education in 1994 and accepted a faculty appointment as Instructor at The University of Southern Mississippi. For six years, Dr. Stewart taught in adult health courses, primarily in the BSN program. In 1998, she began work toward the PhD in nursing from UMMC and completed that degree in 2003. She accepted a faculty appointment as Associate Professor at William Carey College (WCC) in 2000. In 2003, Dr. Stewart was selected as Nursing Program Director for WCC in Hattiesburg. Soon thereafter, she was selected as Interim Dean for the Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing at WCC. Her present position is Dean of the School of Nursing, which is housed on the three campuses of WCC – Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Gulfport, Mississippi; and New Orleans, Louisiana. WCC School of Nursing offers the BSN and MSN degrees and currently enrolls approximately 500 nursing majors. Dr. Stewart is the recipient of the Arthur L. Davis Publishing Company Scholarly Writing Award and serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Theta Beta Chapter, The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and serves as President of the Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing Honor Society.

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**Elizabeth Stullenbarger, DSN, RN**  
**Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate Studies**  
**University of Alabama School of Nursing**  
**University of Alabama at Birmingham**  
**1530 3rd Avenue South**  
**Birmingham, AL 35294**  
**205-934-0610**  
**bstullen@uab.edu**



Elizabeth Stullenbarger received her BSN from Alderson Broaddus College and her MSN and DSN from University of Alabama at Birmingham. In addition, she completed a post-doctoral certificate as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and was certified as a PNP. Dr. Stullenbarger is Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies with overall responsibility for the master's and doctoral programs at the School of Nursing. Prior to assuming her current position two years ago, she was Director of the School of Nursing at the University of Central Florida, Orlando for seven years. Dr. Stullenbarger has both

faculty and administrative experience in Associate Degree, Baccalaureate, Master's and Doctoral Programs in Nursing. She has knowledge regarding curriculum development at different levels of education, state and federal regulations governing basic and advanced practice levels, and national accreditation standards. She sits on the Board of Nursing for the State of Alabama and is an experienced site accreditation visitor. In addition, Dr. Stullenbarger has obtained over 5.4 million dollars in education grants and endowed funds to support various levels of nursing education. Dr. Stullenbarger's professional service includes involvement at the local, state and national and international levels. She served on a study section at NIH Center for Scientific Review, provided leadership for two different chapters of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing, and served in positions with the West Virginia, Florida, and Alabama State Nurses Associations. She co-chairs the Faculty Shortage Committee for the SREB Council on Collegiate Education in Nursing. She served as delegate or Visiting professor to universities in Thailand, Peoples Republic of China and St. Lucia.

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**Patricia Suplee, PhD, CS, RNC**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Drexel University**  
**College of Nursing and Health Professions**  
**1505 Race St.**  
**MS 501**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19102**  
**215-762-8456**  
**[tds@drexel.edu](mailto:tds@drexel.edu)**



Patricia Dunphy Suplee is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Professions and is the newly appointed Director of Baccalaureate Nursing Programs at Drexel University. She received her BSN from Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana, an MSN from the University of Pennsylvania with a primary focus in perinatal nursing, and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Suplee has over 20 years experience caring for women during the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods of their pregnancies. She has participated in international clinical work to improve maternal-infant outcomes with the American International Health Alliance and has presented at local and national conferences on topics such as complications of pregnancy, empowerment and mentorship of students and faculty, and smoking relapse. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, and is on the Editorial Review Board of the Journal of Obstetrical and Neonatal Nursing. Dr. Suplee has been the recipient of several awards including the Provost Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Faculty Teaching Award from the University of Pennsylvania, the Nursing Excellence Award from the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, and a research award from Sigma Theta Tau for her study on Smoking Relapse in the Postpartum Period. She also has been named to Who's Who in American Nursing and Who's Who in Health Sciences Education.

**Kathleen Mongan Thies, PhD, RN**  
**Director, Graduate Entry Pathway**  
**Graduate School of Nursing**  
**University of Massachusetts Worcester**  
**55 Lake Avenue North**  
**Worcester, MA 01655**  
**508-856-3936**  
**Kathleen.Thies@umassmed.edu**



Over the past few years, Dr. Thies has spent much of her academic career developing nursing education programs. In January 2004, she joined the Graduate School of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Worcester to develop and direct the new Graduate Entry Pathway, which opened in August of 2004. Previously, she was the chair of the Department of Nursing at Colby-Sawyer College, and received funding from the Fuld Trust to develop and implement a community-based undergraduate nursing program in rural New Hampshire. She has published and presented abstracts and posters on models of undergraduate education and evaluation, and partnerships with clinical affiliates. Dr. Thies is also a clinical specialist in mental health nursing and a developmental psychologist, and did a post-doctoral fellowship in developmental disabilities at Dartmouth Medical School. She founded the Council for Children with Chronic Health Conditions in NH, which developed school-based interventions. Her publications have focused on children with special health care needs, including research on the developmental implications of illness, and the development of school programs and policies. She has written two books on human development for health professionals. As a developmentalist and a program director, Dr. Thies is interested in developing models of nursing education and models of patient care that are developmentally appropriate for students and patients respectively. She served on the Government Affairs Committee of AACN from 2001-2004, and on the planning committee for the Master's Conference for 2005.

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**Robert Topp, PhD**  
**Professor and Associate Dean for Research**  
**University of Louisville**  
**555 S. Floyd St**  
**Louisville, KY 40292**  
**502-852-8510**  
**rvtopp01@louisville.edu**



Robert Topp, PhD, RN is a Professor and the Associate Dean for Research at the University of Louisville School of Nursing. Dr. Topp has been the principal or co-investigator on over \$2.5 million of extramurally supported research projects over the past 10 years, which has resulted in over 45 publication in peer reviewed journals and 80 presentations at professional scientific meetings. The content of these studies has examined the effect of various modes of exercise on the functioning and health of older

adults. Dr. Topp has served as a temporary and regular member of the Nursing Study Section within the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at the NIH since 1997 and has provided ad hoc reviews of numerous proposals for other study sections within the CSR. His expertise in the areas of research methodology and statistics is sought by numerous professional nursing organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International Inc. and the Midwest Nursing Research Society in reviewing proposals for funding and abstracts for presentation. Finally, Dr. Topp has a consistent history of mentoring students and junior faculty in obtaining intra and extramural awards and facilitating completion of their projects through to publication and presentation. With a PhD in Exercise Physiology and Health Education and post doctoral work in Geriatric Medicine Dr. Topp has a strong commitment to improving the health and functional ability of older adults through encouraging them to engage in various modes of exercise.

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**Kathleen O. Vito, DNSc, RN**  
**Associate Professor and Director**  
**of the Graduate Nursing Program**  
**La Salle University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**1900 W. Olney Avenue**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199**  
**215-951-1413**  
**vito@lasalle.edu**



Kathleen O. Vito is an associate professor and has been director of the graduate nursing program at La Salle University since June 2002. She began her career in nursing after completion of her associate degree from Maria College in Albany, New York. She earned her BS and MS in nursing from Russell Sage College in Troy, New York. She later earned her doctorate in nursing science from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Dr. Vito has worked as a staff nurse and supervisor in a variety of nursing service positions but mainly worked in the area of community based practice and home care for children with special needs. She has been a nurse educator in baccalaureate, master and doctoral degree programs for 28 years along with positions in nursing service. Dr. Vito is an associate member of the Betty Neuman Systems Model (NSM) Trustees Group and holds membership in the ANA, Sigma Theta Tau, National Catholic Nurses Association, and the International Association for Human Caring. Her current research is based on the NSM and is focused on spirituality. Her current faculty practice is in an after-hours school nurse role and as a parish nurse.

**Angela Wood, PhD, RN**  
**Chair of Undergraduate Studies in Nursing**  
**Carson-Newman College**  
**1646 Russell Ave.**  
**Jefferson City, TN 37760**  
**865-471-3442**  
**awood@cn.edu**



A native of East Tennessee, Dr. Wood earned the BSN, MSN and Ph.D in Nursing from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Her clinical background is in maternal-infant nursing with experience in both neonatal intensive care and caring for the postpartum family. Dr. Wood is currently the Chair for Undergraduate Studies in Nursing at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, TN where she teaches Maternal-Infant Nursing for undergraduates and Theories in Nursing in the Graduate program. Her research interests are in the area of Maternal-Infant Nursing and she has recently completed a qualitative study with clients experiencing hyperemesis gravidarum. Dr. Wood is married and has two teenage children. She enjoys sewing and playing the piano.

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**Susan P. Yarbrough, PhD, RN**  
**Assistant Dean for Graduate Nursing Programs**  
**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
**College of Nursing and Health Sciences**  
**3900 University Blvd.**  
**Tyler, TX 75799**  
**903-566-7220**  
**syarbrough@mail.uttyl.edu**



Susan Yarbrough assumed the role of assistant dean for the graduate nursing program in 2001. Originally a diploma graduate from Texas Eastern School of Nursing, Dr. Yarbrough received her BSN from Texas Woman's University and her MSN and PhD from The University of Texas at Austin. Her clinical areas include medical-surgical, adult health, and home health care. Dr. Yarbrough teaches an undergraduate senior level professional issues course in addition to the graduate contemporary health care issues and ethics course. Since assuming the leadership role, she has led the implementation of an all web-based graduate program. Her research and practice interests have focused on the development of professional nursing values and physical activity in women with breast cancer. She is an active member of numerous nursing and professional organizations including The International Honor Society for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau and the American Nurses Association.