

# NURSING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL CENTER

Transforming patient care through professional practice

June 2021



A newsletter  
from the office  
of the Executive  
Chief Nursing  
Officer

Marilyn Dubree,  
MSN, RN,  
NE-BC

## IN THIS ISSUE

2021 Nursing Honors

## STATE OF NURSING LOOKS BACK ON YEAR

In her 2021 State of Nursing address, Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, looked back on an unprecedented year of nursing care at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as the organization continued to grow.

This year's event, held over Zoom on May 25, included recorded videos from three celebrity guests.

The address was part of VUMC's ongoing recognition of National Nurses Week, which honors the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale. The World Health Organization designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, which it has extended through 2021, noted C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD, Deputy CEO and Chief Health System Officer, in his introductory remarks.

"As nurses, you have served as invaluable members of the health care team with your expert knowledge, your emotional investment and your dedication," he said. "And I would say by all accounts you have faced the challenge with grace and courage."

Dubree pointed out that one year ago, VUMC was just restarting elective procedures and inviting patients back in to outpatient clinics after the first wave of COVID-19 cases forced those services to pause for

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As we get ready for a summer that is much more normal than last year, we take a look back in this issue at Nurses Week and an extraordinary year that we spent together.

In this issue, you will read about our virtual State of Nursing featuring three celebrity guests. We are coming through the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever because of your efforts. This is the second year for our virtual program and I am so proud of all the creative individuals who made this possible.

Please also take a moment to salute the winners of our 2021 Nursing Honors. These nurses represent the very best in each of our

entities across the enterprise.

Once again, for the 19th year in a row, nurses have been named as the most trusted profession in the Gallup Poll. It comes as no surprise to me, as I look around at the caring and compassionate nurses I have the privilege to work with every day.

Thank you again for everything you do to care for our patients and families, and please take a moment to celebrate yourselves.

Enjoy this issue,

more than a month. Nurses were on the front lines of developing safety protocols to safely welcome back patients, and to prepare for a potential surge of COVID-19 patients. That surge didn't happen immediately, but nurses were ready when it did, once over summer 2020 and a much larger one in winter 2020/2021.

"In the midst of a global public health crisis, you gave yourselves tirelessly to care for our patients," Dubree said. "You continued to adapt, because we had to. There is an endless list of how you adapted. You created assessment centers in garages and created monoclonal antibody clinics in innovative space. You provided care and coordination by phone, in home visits and by telehealth. You served as family when patients' family members could not be present."

Dubree credited nurses for responding to changing guidance from the local, state and federal government that seemed to change by the day.

"You were amazing at how you caught that information, changed what needed to be changed, to do the very best to stay safe," she said. "We all observed your flexibility and saw how hard you worked."

Hope came in the form of the first COVID-19 vaccine,



The virtual State of Nursing address featured a shout out from Country artist Garth Brooks, left, seated next to Heather O'Dell, ANP; Country artist and Brooks' wife, Trisha Yearwood; and Lindsay Miller, MSN, RN, NE-BC.

which VUMC began to distribute in December 2020. Shortly thereafter, VUMC grew again by purchasing the Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital and Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital in January 2021.

Dubree noted how so many individuals and groups in the Nashville community rallied around nurses to lift spirits and offer support. One initiative in particular was Gratitude, an effort by dozens of musical artists to send songs of thanks to VUMC clinicians caring for COVID-19 patients.

One of those artists was Brad Paisley, who appeared live during last year's virtual State of Nursing address to thank nurses for their incredible service. Paisley included footage from that Zoom session in his 2020 music video, "No I in Beer."

"If this was on your bucket list, you made it," Dubree said.

This year's presentation featured recorded video shout-outs from Keith Urban, Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood.

"We appreciate you so much," Yearwood said. "Thank you for everything that you've done and been through over the past year-plus."

Brooks added, "Let's just put this in concert terms, OK? So, if we're doing a concert right now, you guys have been the band, the crew, the truck drivers. You've done it all."

"I just want to say a massive thank you to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center front-line health care workers," Urban said. "You guys and girls are amazing."

# 2021 NURSING HONORS

## Rosamond Gabrielson Staff Nurse of the Year

### Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

Leslie Gleaves, BSN, RN, PCCN, RN3, 5 South/Cardiovascular Progressive Care



Gleaves

## Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

Kelsie Bottiggi, MSN, RN, Float Pool



Bottiggi

## Vanderbilt Behavioral Health

Emily Kidd, BSN, RN, RN2, Adult 1 Unit



Kidd

## Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

Meagan Davis, BSN, RN, CEN, RN2, Center for Women's Health



Davis

## Rebecca Clark Culpepper Education & Mentorship

Alyssa Bryant, MSN, RN-PCCN, Nursing Education Specialist, Nursing Education & Professional Development, 7 South and 8 North, Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital



Bryant

## Nancy Wells Research and Evidence-Based Practice

Susan M. Smith, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, FNP, Nursing Education Specialist, Nursing Education & Professional Development



Smith

## Adrienne Ames Transformational Leadership

Crystal Jackson, MSN, RN, Director, Clinical Education & Professional Development, Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

Jackson

# 2021 NURSING HONORS

## Jerita Payne Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year

Heather J. Jackson, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, NEA-BC,  
Administrative Director of Advanced Practice,  
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



Jackson

## Nursing Professional Development

Brandi Meacham, MSN, RN, CPN, Nursing Education  
Specialist, Pediatric Medicine Acute Care and Pediatric  
Oncology Units, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at  
Vanderbilt



Meacham

## Friend of Nursing

Matt Geisz, Program Manager, Nursing Education &  
Professional Development, Vanderbilt University Adult  
Hospital and Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

## Licensed Practical Nurse of the Year

Dana Fulton, LPN, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinic,  
Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

## Team Award

Moderna Blue Vaccine Trial team



Geisz



Fulton

