

Memphis Nursing Program

Director and College Deans



Reaching the 50-year mark in an organization calls for celebration—not just a celebration of the longevity, but of the thousands of lives who have touched and been touched by the organization. In this journey, many individuals have made significant contributions to advance nursing and the LCON. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we pause to celebrate also current and past leaders who played a significant role in our first 50 years.

Joan Dodson

Memphis Nursing Program Director, 1982-1984

Ms. Dodson is a leader for change. During her tenure as the program director, she paved the way for future Memphis nursing students to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and led the transition from an Associate Degree Program to a BSN Program and then to a School of Nursing. She ensured that the BSN Program recruited exceptional students (by interviewing every single candidate) and curriculum prepared students to meet the needs of patients.

Dr. Norma Long

First Loewenberg School of Nursing Dean, 1984-1990

The School's first dean, Dr. Long, was appointed in 1984 and served until retirement in 1990. She guided the successful accreditation and implementation of the BSN Program. During her tenure, Dr. Long established a relationship with the Loewenberg family of Memphis leading them to establishing the Loewenberg School of Nursing in year 1988. Her leadership and thoughtful direction provided solid foundation for future advancement of the School.

Dr. Lillian "Toni" Bargagliotti

Loewenberg School of Nursing Dean, 1992-2005

Dr. Bargagliotti served the Loewenberg School of Nursing as dean from 1992-2005. During these years, Dr. Bargagliotti was instrumental in establishing the University's Master of Nursing Science (MSN) Program with three concentrations: Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Administration and Nursing Education, and in participating in statewide consortium regarding Regents Online Degree Program.

Dr. Marjorie Luttrell

Loewenberg College of Nursing Dean, 2005-2010

Dr. Luttrell was appointed interim dean in fall 2005, and became dean in June 2006. Dr. Luttrell led the then Loewenberg School of Nursing through a tremendous period of enrollment growth until retirement in 2010. Dr. Luttrell was the first to integrate technology into the nursing curriculum and realized the importance of making computers accessible to faculty, staff and students. Technology integration remains a strategic effort for the College today.

Dr. Lin Zhan

Loewenberg College of Nursing Dean, 2010-Present

Dr. Lin Zhan is the current dean of the Loewenberg College of Nursing. As a Fellow of American Academy of Nursing, she strives for excellence every day, working to achieve the strategic goals and shared vision of the College. Since she joined the College in 2010, she significantly increased the number of faculty with doctoral degrees from 18 percent to more than 50 percent and the diversity of faculty and students; strategically increased student enrollment to more than 1,000, including expansion to Jackson, TN; led to sustain school's independence amid financial challenges; led to elevate the status from school to college; and initiated global collaborations. Her current focus involves developing the College's first doctoral program, which is pending for approval by the state.

50 Leaders in 50 Years



The Loewenberg College of Nursing is recognizing 50 leaders who meet the needs of academic nursing and health care in innovative ways, leaders who generate nursing knowledge to guide nursing practice, and leaders who reflect the importance of their educational training and show pride and loyalty to Memphis Nursing.

Dr. Katherine Abraham-Evans

Director, DNP Program, Georgia State University

Memphis Alumna, BSN '01

Dr. Abraham-Evans is president of the National Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, an organization with thousands of APNs nationally and internationally who advocate for care of the older adults. As the leader, Dr. Evans positively influences quality, access and cost policies related to the care of older adults in the U.S. As a national expert in gerontological nursing, she delivers numerous presentations across the country, each time representing the Loewenberg College of Nursing as an alumna who is actively contributing to the future of nursing.

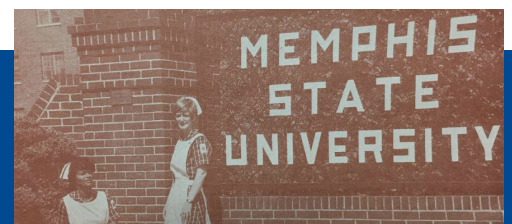
Meri Armour

CEO, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

As the president of Le Bonheur, Ms. Armour has taken something “good” and made it “great.” She has shared that she “started with something that had the kernels of goodness and the right attitudes, hearts, and minds, and took it to where it ultimately landed.”

Le Bonheur has consistently been named as one of the country's ‘Best Children's Hospitals’ by *U.S. News & World Report*. She believes that children matter; children make a difference; children come first. Her remarkable leadership sets an example for many in health care.

History of the Loewenberg College of Nursing



1967

Nursing at the University began in 1967 as an independent department offering an associate degree in nursing. Ms. Peggy Norman was the first program director.

Dana Avant-Clark

*Chief Nursing Officer, Methodist Le Bonheur Hospital
Memphis Alumna, MSN '10*

Ms. Avant-Clark is a change agent. She seizes new opportunities and creates ways to excel in the profession of nursing. Her passion for the nursing profession reflects her mentoring students to transition into practice settings. Ms. Avant-Clark exemplifies leadership in supporting evidence-based practice and effectively engaging front-line nurses to practice patient and family centered care with quality and safety.

Nancy Averwater

*Vice President of Human Resources, Baptist Memorial Health Care
Memphis Alumna, MSN, Health Administration '05*

Ms. Averwater has extensive professional nursing experiences. Ms. Averwater received the Health Care Heroes Award for Administrative Excellence by the *Memphis Business Journal* for her work in advancing end-of-life care in the community, and for establishing the area's first residential hospice and comprehensive grief center.

Baptist Memorial Health Care

Baptist Memorial Health Care believes strongly in corporate citizenship and the importance of collaboration with local organizations to build stronger and healthier communities. The Loewenberg College of Nursing sincerely appreciates the investment of time and resources provided by Baptist Memorial Health Care to support our students and faculty, engage our graduates and continue the success of our programs.

Kristen Bell

*Clinical Director, Methodist Germantown Hospital
Memphis Alumna, MSN '17*

Ms. Bell has been a nursing leader from the moment she arrived at the Loewenberg College of Nursing. As a BSN student, Ms. Bell received the Leadership Award for Community Outreach and maintained full-time status as a student-athlete and Scholar Athlete awards. As a nursing professional, she served as the clinical director of three critical care units at Methodist Germantown Hospital while maintaining a 4.0 GPA in the Executive MSN Program.

1970

Initial accreditation was granted to the associate degree program in 1970 by the National League for Nursing (NLN) for eight years.

1976

The name of the degree offered by the Department of Nursing was changed from Associate of Arts in Nursing to Associate of Science in Nursing because it more clearly defined the program.

1977

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission approved an RN-BSN program in 1977. The RN-BSN program was created to address the needs of the Memphis health care community.



Brea Bowers

*Registered Nurse; Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis Alumna, BSN '14*

Ms. Bowers is taking great strides in continuously learning and growing her professional knowledge because she knows better patient care is the end-result. Pursuing her Master's Degree with a concentration in Healthcare Administration, Ms. Bowers is actively involved in being a member of the National Association of Health Services Executives. Ms. Bowers is an emerging leader of healthcare professionals.

Denise Burnett-Stewart

President/CEO, OR Nurses Nationwide

Ms. Burnett-Stewart is a trailblazer. Not only has she provided outstanding care to countless patients, in 1988, she launched an entrepreneurial plan that would become one of the first Memphis-founded businesses to provide nursing staff to local, regional and national operating rooms and surgical centers. Today her company is thriving in three medical mecas. Ms. Burnett-Stewart shares her passion for supporting academic nursing with the Loewenberg College students and faculty.

Susan Cooper

*Senior Vice President & Chief Integration Officer
Regional One Health*

Ms. Cooper is a visionary leader. She thinks of patients as people. Her belief has served as the foundation for her remarkable career in health care. Ms. Cooper was the first nurse to serve as the Commissioner of Health for the state of Tennessee and one of the few nurses to serve in the role nationally. She has spearheaded powerful initiatives to foster prevention for people at risk for diabetes and obesity. She is also a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing—which honors extraordinary nursing leaders—and chairs the Loewenberg College of Nursing Dean's Advisory Council.

1978

The first RN-BSN students enrolled in the baccalaureate program in 1978, led by Ms. Lois Holloman, chair of the department of Nursing until her retirement in 1979.



1978

Initial accreditation was granted to the RN-BSN and BSN programs in 1980 by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) during Dr. Bonnie Duld's tenure as program chair, 1979 -1982.

1980

The associate degree program was phased out and transferred to Southwest Tennessee Community College. During the thirteen years of the associate degree program, the University graduated 1,244 associate degree nurses.

David Crislip

Memphis Alumnus, BSN '92; MBA '08

Mr. Crislip has generously shared his breadth of healthcare leadership experiences with the Loewenberg College of Nursing in a variety of roles. He served as the Dean's Advisory Committee's first chair. He approached this role as an involved alumnus and well-regarded healthcare leader. He has a strong voice for nursing and his professional work represents quality, efficiency and focused care for patients.

Allyson Curlin

Director of Emergency Services, Hospital Corporation of America

Memphis Alumna, BSN '07; MSN '10

Ms. Curlin has a passion for helping nurses develop personally and professionally. As a nurse manager, she has developed clinical nurses and nurse leaders to improve teamwork and patient care. As a trained coach and licensed facilitator for the Coaching Clinic from Corporate Coach U, she is actively involved in the Tennessee Organization of Nurse Executives and the American Organization of Nursing Executives. Her evidence-based leadership makes her now director of Emergency Services Hospital Corporation of America.

Paula Dycus

System Magnet Program Director, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

Memphis Alumna, BSN '97

Ms. Dycus has a heart for nursing and strives to make the best environment for nurses and patients. As a System Magnet Program director, Ms. Dycus has been instrumental in ensuring excellence in nursing through shared governance, respectful collaboration, and professional nursing practice. Her drive for excellence and compassion for people distinguish her as an outstanding alumnus.

1982

Ms. Joan Dodson led the nursing department from 1982 until 1984.

1984

Following an NLN Board of Review recommendation, the nursing department was granted School status in 1984.

The School's first Dean, Dr. Norma J. Long, was appointed in 1984 and served until retirement in 1990.



Dana Dye

Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Memorial Health Care

Ms. Dye has an intense desire to make a difference in the community. She says, "Having the ability to work with great healthcare providers to serve those most in need is a humbling experience." Ms. Dye's impressive nursing career spans more than 30 years. She is the first woman and first nurse to serve as CEO of Baptist Memphis. She is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Notably, Ms. Dye was 2014 Memphis Business Journal Super Woman in Business as well as the Health Care Hero. Her strong voice, advocating for excellence in nursing is greatly appreciated.

Victoria Eader

*Dialysis Center Staff RN, St. John Medical Center
Memphis Alumna, RN '77*

Ms. Eader has served with excellence and compassion as a staff RN for almost 40 years. It was at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans where she began a career as a dialysis nurse that has lasted for 30 years in three states; Louisiana, Oregon and Washington. Ms. Eader exhibits great professional and compassionate care working with patients who for the most part will never get well. She has walked with them from the beginning of their dialysis experience to the end. She does so with dignity and grace, and she exemplifies a caring, compassion and competent nurse.

Zachary Edmiston

*Clinical Director, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
Memphis Alumnus, BSN '12; MSN '14*

Mr. Edmiston is an emerging leader. He supports evidence-based practice and implements positive changes to improve practice and patient outcomes. He is a forward thinker and approaches nursing challenges in strategic ways. Mr. Edmiston is passionate about educating nurses of the future by interacting with Loewenberg College of Nursing Executive Leadership students each semester as a guest speaker in their classes.

1986

A Dean's Advisor Council was formed to provide a stronger link between community nursing leaders and the School. The unique insights from administrators in nursing care delivery were helpful to the School in program planning and in identifying collaborative endeavors that would benefit both the educational program and nursing care delivery in the community.

1987

Reaccreditation was granted to the BSN program by NLNAC for eight years.

1988

The Loewenberg family of Memphis endowed the Loewenberg Chair of Excellence in recognition of Mr. William A. and Mrs. Ruth Loewenberg's support of Nursing in the community.

Susan Ferguson

*Vice President and System Chief Nurse Executive, Baptist Memorial Health Care
Memphis Alumna, RN '77*

Ms. Ferguson has served in a variety of leadership roles throughout the Baptist Memorial Health Care system. She approaches each leadership role with exceptional support to nurses and those at the patient-bedside. Ms. Ferguson served on the first Dean's Advisory Council in an alumni capacity and chaired the Council in later years. Ms. Ferguson is a champion for excellence in nursing and for the Loewenberg College of Nursing.

Shelia Fleming

*System Director of Case Management, Baptist Memorial Health Care
Memphis Alumna, MSN '12*

Ms. Fleming has had a long nursing career with diverse specialties. As an experienced nurse, she leads large project teams in meeting their challenge goals. Challenge inspires her. She has the gift of leading change and inspiring others to follow by learning new and exciting ways to accomplish the outcomes patients deserve, that is quality and safety.

Lichterman-Loewenberg Foundation

In 1948, William Loewenberg and Ira Lichterman established the Lichterman-Loewenberg Foundation. Nearly 40 years later, in the late 1980s the Loewenberg grandchildren wanted to honor their father, William Loewenberg, with a Chair of Excellence to the nursing program. Over the years, the Lichterman-Loewenberg family has continuously invested resources into nursing and helped us grow from a program, to a school and most recently into the Loewenberg College of Nursing. They understand that good nursing equals good health. We are so grateful to honor the Lichterman-Loewenberg Foundation for its legacy of philanthropy and commitment to the students, faculty and staff of the Loewenberg College of Nursing.



In recognition of the Loewenberg family's commitment to nursing, the School name was changed to the Loewenberg School of Nursing (LSON).

1989

The LSON admitted the first class of upper-division, generic baccalaureate students in 1989.

1990

Dr. Marjorie F. Luttrell served as interim dean from 1990 until 1992, following Dr. Long's retirement.

Teresa Freeman

*Assistant Chief Nursing Officer, West Tennessee Healthcare
Memphis Alumna, MSN '16*

Ms. Freeman is the epitome of a servant leader. She achieves results by attending to the needs of those she serves. In her professional role, she works daily to support her nursing staff and their patients; however, her focus on service does not stop when she leaves the hospital. Ms. Freeman finds ways to connect with nursing students and supports veterans who want to attend nursing school through an endowed scholarship fund.

Mary Gaston

*Clinical Director, NICU, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
Memphis Alumna, MSN '10*

Ms. Gaston leads her team to care for the sickest babies in the Memphis area. She collaborated with a multidisciplinary team by changing the way they access and maintain the line to reduce CLABSI rates in the neonatal intensive care unit and maintained the rate for more than one year. Ms. Gaston is an active participant in TNA. As a graduate from the first LCON Executive MSN Program cohort, Ms. Gaston encourages her nurses to pursue advanced degrees at the Loewenberg College of Nursing. We are proud of Ms. Gaston for her dedication to excellence in nursing.

Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation

The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation Scholarship remains a preeminent scholarship of the Loewenberg College of Nursing and is integral to recruiting and retaining quality students. For 41 of the College's 50 years, the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation has provided scholarships for nursing students. The foundation has provided more scholarships than any other donor has to the College.



1992

Dr. Lillian A. "Toni" Bargagliotti led LSON as dean from 1992 until 2005.

The first class of LSON upper-division, generic baccalaureate students graduated in 1992.

1994

Reaccreditation was granted to the BSN program by NLNAC for eight years.

1995

The first competency-based BSN program in the United States was implemented at the University of Memphis.

Laura Hess

*Director of Quality and Performance, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
Memphis Alumna, BS '93; BSN '97; MSN '10*

As director of quality and performance, Ms. Hess collaborates with nurses and healthcare providers to implement change for high quality and effective performance. She uses her years of experience to propel nursing for Methodist North by ensuring nursing students complete projects pertinent to the unit and benefit the improvement of patient care. Ms. Hess has been a clinical instructor for the leadership student's rotation for the LCON and has ensured that unit leaders consider pursuing continued improvements as suggested by the LCON students.

International Paper

International Paper embraces an important responsibility to support the communities in which they operate. They mobilize their people, products and resources to address critical needs. Because retired senior vice president, Tom Kadien, saw an opportunity to meet a critical workforce need, he was instrumental in securing significant support for the Community Health Building that provides innovative education to the Memphis community. The building represents the vibrant future of our community revitalization and interdisciplinary research that lies within the Loewenberg College of Nursing.

Beverly Jordan

Vice President/Chief Information and Transformation Officer, Baptist Memorial Health Care

Technology in healthcare is a key driver to achieving excellence and Ms. Jordan is the leading force behind the technology for Baptist Memorial Health Care. For 40 years, she has influenced patients and families in many positive ways. Ms. Jordan understands access to healthcare and providers is the first step. She embraces her executive role, privilege and responsibility to influence the patient care locally, regionally and nationally. Ms. Jordan is a strong voice for Tennessee Action Coalition and in this capacity she greatly contributes to developing emerging nurse leaders and support excellence in nursing practice to improve patient and family health outcomes.

2000

The first dual-degree ASN/BSN program in the nation was designed and implemented in collaboration with Jackson State Community College in Jackson, TN.

2002

Reaccreditation was granted to the BSN program by NLNAC for eight years, and initial accreditation from the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) was granted for 10 years.

2003

In June and July respectively, the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) approved the University's Master of Nursing Science (MSN) program with three concentrations: Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Education. Initial approval from the Tennessee Board of Nursing followed in September.



Dr. La-Kenya Kellum

*Clinical Director, Orthopedics/Hematology, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
Memphis Alumna, MSN '06*

Dr. La-Kenya Kellum is the clinical director on the 9th floor at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. She is dedicated to the nursing profession and active in the Tennessee Nurses Association. Dr. Kellum is currently serving as vice-president at the state level, and has served as president and treasurer for District One. In these various leadership roles, she works to advance the practice of nursing in order to assure a healthier Tennessee.

Lola Llewellyn

Former Vice President of Nursing, Methodist Healthcare

Ms. Llewellyn successfully led Methodist Healthcare as Vice President of Nursing through the 1990s, a period in which the Mid-South experienced a critical shortage of nurses. Ms. Llewellyn implemented policies and procedures that supported nurse recruitment and retention, quality of care and workplace initiatives, and education for nurses. Ms. Llewellyn forged a lasting relationship with the Loewenberg College of Nursing by opening clinical units at all of the Methodist Hospitals for student clinical experiences. She saw to it that nurses on staff were developed as mentors for student nurses, and recognized and rewarded in that role as a job performance expectation. Her vision for clinical education has paved ways for nowadays calling for sustainable academic-practice partnership.

Dr. Judy Martin

*Chief of Nursing, Shelby County Health Department
Memphis Alumna, BSN '84*

Dr. Martin has distinguished herself as a mentor and community innovator. In her role as chief of nursing for Shelby County Health Department, she leads the charge for ensuring all Shelby County residents have information about and access to health care. She provides counsel and guidance to the Loewenberg College of Nursing as a member of the Dean's Advisory Council. Dr. Martin is a proud and involved alumna.

2004

Dr. Bargagliotti was one of the six founding deans of rural/urban universities to implement the MSN online program.



2005

Dr. Marjorie F. Luttrell was appointed interim dean in fall 2005, and became dean in June 2006. Dr. Luttrell led LSON through a tremendous period of enrollment growth until retirement in 2010.

2005

Initial accreditation was granted to the MSN program by CCNE in 2005. As part of the Tennessee Regents Online Degree Program (RODP), LSON also offered an MSN concentration in Nursing Informatics.

Jean McIvor

Jean McIvor believed that competent nursing practice would positively change the lives of the patients. She cared for patients by providing them and their families with the knowledge and skills they needed to make positive changes, large and small. She believed that the profession of nursing would change the lives of patients by changing the lives of how we educate our students. She helped students by challenging them to strive toward and maintain a high degree of professionalism, and by exposing them to service, work through nursing clinical practicum.

Dr. Libby McKnight

Family Nurse Practitioner, McKnight Clinic

Memphis Alumna, RN '74; BSN '04; MSN '05

Dr. McKnight lives to serve her patients. She opened the McKnight Clinic in 2008 as a family enterprise with families to serve families. In the same spirit as her father, Dr. McKnight makes quality healthcare available to many. Her dedication and family-centered health care service has helped to fill a gap due to a shortage of primary care physicians and advanced nurse practitioners.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare provides compassionate, patient- and family-centered care that meets the dire needs of our community. Methodist Le Bonheur extends its culture of compassion to the Loewenberg College of Nursing by investing in our students, faculty, programs and facilities. One small, yet significant example is its support for the college's White Coat Ceremony that welcomes each new student to the nursing profession.

2008

The Executive MSN in Administration (E-MSN) was approved by TBR and enrolled its first cohort of students in the fall.



2010

Dr. Lin Zhan was appointed dean of LSON.

The E-MSN program received a \$788,000 grant from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to prepare future nurse executives.

Michelle Nash

Patient Care Coordinator, Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital

As a clinical instructor, Ms. Nash—besides her working as a patient care coordinator—brings best practices into her work for teaching nursing students at LCON. She introduces new ideas to her team and helps facilitate learning opportunities for students. Ms. Nash ably teaches students using current and changing textbooks relevant to real-world practice. She brings together these two perspectives—academia and practice—to enhance students' learning about real-world nursing.

Plough Foundation

The Plough Foundation strives to meet pressing social and economic needs in an impactful and sustainable way for the good of the Memphis and Shelby County community. The Plough Foundation is committed to ensuring our future healthcare workforce and generously supported the efforts to build the Loewenberg College of Nursing's home, the Community Health Building. The Community Health Building is one of the largest facilities for community-health related education and research in the Mid-South.

Dr. Nikki Polis

Chief Nurse Executive, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Dr. Polis has extensive expertise and experiences as a nurse executive spanning clinical and educational arenas. She never stops advocating for professional and excellent nursing practice to improve patients and families health outcomes. Dr. Polis keeps patients and their families at the center of her work by transforming and shaping high-quality and safety care for patients and their families. Her remarkable leadership has led Le Bonheur to achieve Magnet Status. As a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, Dr. Polis provides tremendous counsel and support to the Loewenberg College of Nursing to ensure students to be well prepared for meeting emerging needs of healthcare.

2010

Associate dean and director of Graduate Programs Dr. Robert A. Koch, received a \$1.4 million grant from the United States Department of Defense to ensure effective interface between civilians and military personnel in the event of a catastrophe.

The LSON established a collaborative program with Jining Medical University in P. R. China. A five-year strategic plan was implemented to sustain quality higher education and advance faculty research and community partnerships.



2011

The LSON extended its BSN and RN-BSN program to the Jackson Lambuth campus, the first public BSN program in the area.

Tina Prescott

Chief Nursing Officer, West Tennessee Healthcare

Ms. Prescott provides outstanding leadership for nurses at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. She is instrumental to support academic practice partnership between the Loewenberg College of Nursing Lambuth program and the hospital. She works hand-in-hand with the Lambuth Nursing faculty and shares our vision for increasing the RN to BSN Program. She has secured support for the program. As a member of Dean's Advisory Council, she brings a breadth of knowledge regarding rural health care needs.

Dr. Shirley C. Raines

Former University of Memphis President, 2001-2013

As the first female president of the University of Memphis, Dr. Raines provided remarkable leadership in support of nursing to meet the dire health care needs of the community and in the region. She was instrumental in securing \$45 million state funding for the Community Health Building. Her leadership helped create a sense of place and learning community for nursing and audiology students, faculty, staff and community partners.

Wendy Rainey

*Clinical Director, Surgical/Cardiology Floor, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
Memphis Alumna, MSN '10*

As a clinical director on surgical/cardiology unit at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Ms. Rainey is a strong nurse leader to drive the bedside nurses to do their best to provide caring and competent care for children and their families while continuously mentors bedside nurses. She also encourages her nurses to be active in the community and in nursing profession. Ms. Rainey is an excellent representative for her nurses, the Loewenberg College of Nursing, and for the nursing profession.

The first "Executive Dialogue" among Memphis nurse leaders was held. Twenty nurse executives from across the city discussed strategies to respond to IOM Future of Nursing.

2012

The LSON, in collaboration with College of Communication and Fine Arts, designed a health promotion public service program to Memphians via a radio station WUMR 91.7.

2013

Dr. Sunghee H. Tak is appointed holder of the William A and Ruth F. Loewenberg College of Nursing Chair of Excellence.



Steve Reynolds

President Emeritus and Senior Consultant, Baptist Memorial Health Care

Mr. Reynolds began his career at Baptist Memorial Healthcare as a junior volunteer and at the time of his retirement served as the fourth CEO for the organization. As CEO, Mr. Reynolds recognized the importance of preparing nurse leaders and continuing professional education. He established a tradition of support for Baptist Memorial Health Care nurses to attend and complete the Loewenberg College Executive MSN Program. Under his leadership, Baptist Memorial Health Care generously contributed to the Community Health Building.

Joshua Roberts

*System Pediatric Practice Specialist, Baptist Memorial Health Care
Memphis Alumnus, MSN '09*

Mr. Roberts, graduate of the LCON Executive Leadership Program, is a valuable member of the Baptist Memorial Health Care Nursing leadership team. He leads his work to assure regulatory compliance, excellent patient care and improved patient outcomes. Mr. Roberts visits and assesses the care of these patients in 21 hospitals across three states. He is a firm believer in lifelong learning and encourages staff to continue their advanced studies in nursing.

James (JR) Ross

President & CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare

Mr. Ross is responsible for the overall day-to-day operations of the flagship hospital of West Tennessee Healthcare. He joined West Tennessee Healthcare in 1985 as a registered nurse in the surgical intensive care unit. As a CEO, he is supportive of the partnership between West Tennessee Healthcare and the University of Memphis Lambuth Nursing Program. In addition to generous scholarship support offered through the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, Mr. Ross recognizes the importance of academic-practice partnership by encouraging collaborative efforts between his team/staff and the LCON Lambuth Nursing faculty and students.

2013

Groundbreaking took place for the \$60M Community Health Building after successfully raising \$16.9M in private donations, matched by \$45M in state support.

2014

The LSON signed a MOU with Nrupur Institute of Nursing and Research in India at the Lambuth Campus, Jackson, TN. The LSON welcomed three nursing exchange students from Macau Kiang Wu College of Nursing.



Dr. Carolyn Speros-Simonton

Professor Emeritus

Students, colleagues and friends love Dr. Simonton. Many students share that she was a wonderfully energetic teacher and very dedicated to making them feel comfortable while challenging them to learn. Students recall her attentiveness, smile and laughter. To prepare future nurses, Dr. Simonton was instrumental to lead faculty to transform BSN curriculum to be in line with AACN BSN essentials, the quality and safety education for nurses (QSEN) criteria and competencies.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Smith and Family

Mr. Smith is a brilliant visionary leader who understands the tremendous value of an educated workforce. Compelled by a desire to honor his mother, he was moved to invest in the Community Health Building that was built on the site of the VA Hospital where his mother worked. Thanks to his investment, the Community Health Building allows the Loewenberg College of Nursing to provide innovative academic offerings, state-of-the-art simulation technology and opportunity for enhanced faculty research.

Brett Snodgrass

Director of Clinical Operations, LifeLinc Pain Centers

Memphis Alumna, BSN '98; MSN '08

Ms. Snodgrass is a nurse leader, educator and practitioner. As president the local nurse practitioner organization, she formed a relationship with the national organization that introduced her to many leadership opportunities.

Ms. Snodgrass is actively involved in educating other nurse practitioners about pain management through the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and other organizations. Ms. Snodgrass is an award-winning healthcare blogger where she offers answers to patients' questions whenever they ask.

The LSON was chosen as an academic partner of the Nurse Residency program for Regional One Health, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

2015

The LSON RN to BSN Program ranked 14th among 400 RN-BSN online programs nationwide by RNtoBSN.org.



The LSON MSN program ranked in the top 100 of the online graduate programs by US News and World Reports.

Rita Sparks

Ms. Sparks is a forward thinking leader who responds to community needs. Serving as a member of the Empowering the Dream campaign committee, she wanted to make a significant difference for the University of Memphis that would impact the community. Excited about bridging the gap to fulfill the workforce demand, Ms. Sparks made a transformational gift to the Community Health Building allowing the Loewenberg College of Nursing to expand and enhance its services to the community.

Sharon Stubblefield

*Director of Nursing Support Services, Baptist Memorial Health Care
Memphis Alumna, BSN '81; MSN '88*

Ms. Stubblefield has been a nursing leader for many years. As the nurse leader, she has led countless projects, staff support and process changes. She led conversion to computerized documentation in the outpatient setting, developed and implemented many training programs for nurses including training for the charge nurses. In addition, Ms. Stubblefield uses her leadership knowledge and skills to precept and mentor many LCON students.

Dr. Joan Thomas

Former Executive MSN Director, Loewenberg College of Nursing

Dr. Thomas, a retired professor of nursing from the LCON, is passionate about higher education and developing nurses to be leaders in healthcare. After consultation with local practice leaders, she developed and initiated the Executive Leadership MSN Program. During the process, she thoughtfully incorporated components of the American Nurse Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition criteria; notably, she received a large grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to prepare future nurse executives and particularly minority nurse executives. This national recognition for excellence continues today.

2015

The first cohort of Lambuth nursing student graduates earned a 100% NCLEX pass rate.



LSON moved to the \$60 million Community Health Building on the UofM Park Avenue campus.

Elesia Turner

Director of Risk Management, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Memphis Alumna, RN '76; BSN '94; MSN '06

A plaque in the former nursing program building recognized outstanding nursing students and Ms. Turner was included on the list. She has had a long and committed career as the director of Risk Management for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Recognized as a brilliant and amazing speaker, Ms. Turner shares her passion for quality and safety with anyone she encounters—including children. Ms. Turner has been a rock to Opportunity Camp's leadership for over 35 years. With her background in emergency care, she is the original camp nurse. Children from camp 30 years ago still talk about the time she took care of a scrape or scratch and how that attention and gentleness has affected their lives.

Pam Turner

Clinical Director, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

Memphis Alumna, RN '79; BSN '94; MSN '06

During her tenure as the director of the Neuro-critical Care Unit, Ms. Turner has produced excellent patient outcomes for severely ill medical and surgical neurological patients. Under her guidance, her staff gain and maintain high levels of competency in the care of the neurological patient. Aside from the daily provision of care to critically ill patients, Ms. Turner has a particular passion for mentoring new to practice nurses. Ms. Turner's overall leadership, competency and style make her stand out among nursing leaders. Her reputation for excellence is well-known across the hospital community.

The Urban Child Institute

The Urban Child Institute is a recognized leader in child advocacy, a valuable community partner and a generous source of support for the Loewenberg College of Nursing. The Institute funded one of largest grants in the College's history to initiate ACE awareness and integration across all nursing curricula to build a nursing workforce with ACE knowledge and skills. In addition, the grant supports efforts to manage pediatric asthma in Shelby County Schools. Together, the Urban Child Institute and the Loewenberg College are building a culture of health for urban children and their families.

TBR approved the elevation of Loewenberg School of Nursing to Loewenberg College of Nursing.



2016

West Tennessee Health Care Foundation gave a \$2.5 million nursing scholarship to promote BSN prepared nurses in the Jackson, TN area.

Cindy Wooten

System Director, Nursing Practice and Leadership, Baptist Memorial Health Care

Ms. Wooten is a driving force to leading significant change in Nursing for more than 40 years. Her leadership is held in high regard related to staff professional development, shared vision for excellence and mentoring of nurses. Ms. Wooten has been an active member of the Dean's Advisory Council for many years and encourages nurses to continue their advanced education.

Dr. Jan Young

Executive Director, Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.

Memphis Alumna, BSN '84

Dr. Young has had distinguished careers in health care, education, the military and in philanthropy. She is retired as a two-star general from the Air National Guard and is the current executive director of the Assisi Foundation. In this role, she is responsible for the implementation of the Foundation's philanthropic activities, management, community relations and strategic direction. The University of Memphis is honored to call her one of our own. Dr. Young continues her passion for building a just community through her remarkable leadership, strong voice, effective actions and significant philanthropy.