

FNU

FRONTIER NURSING UNIVERSITY

Fall 2012 ■ Volume 88 ■ Number 1



50th Anniversary of the Mary Breckinridge Festival



CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

An eventful autumn brings Couriers, graduates,
faculty & friends back to our Leslie County home

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Frontier Nursing Service Quarterly Bulletin (USPS 835-740, ISSN 00162116) is published at the end of each quarter by Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., 132 FNS Dr., Wendover, KY 41775. Periodicals Postage Paid at Hyden, KY and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions: \$5 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Frontier Nursing Service Quarterly Bulletin, 132 FNS Dr., Wendover, KY 41775.

On the cover: Elsie Maier Wilson, Julie Daniels, Susan Stone, Tracy Ryan, Anne Cockerham and Julie Marfell celebrated the Frontier heritage by sporting riding uniforms like those historically worn by the FNS nurses. In early October, during Frontier’s Alumni Homecoming & Courier Conclave weekend, they participated in a parade in Hyden, Ky., celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Mary Breckinridge Festival.

Introduction to Frontier Nursing University

Mary Breckinridge spent her early years in many parts of the world – Russia, France, Switzerland and the British Isles. After the deaths of her two children, she abandoned the homebound life expected of women of her class to devote herself to the service of others, particularly mothers and children.

Mrs. Breckinridge founded the Frontier Nursing Service in 1925 after several years of studying and practicing nursing and midwifery in the United States, England, Scotland and France. It was the first organization in America to use nurses trained as midwives collaborating with a single medical doctor/obstetrician, based at their small hospital in Hyden. Originally the staff was composed of nurse-midwives trained in England. They traveled on horseback and on foot to provide quality prenatal and childbirth care in the client's own home. In 1928, she recruited young people to serve as Couriers and help the Frontier staff and nurse-midwives in all manner of efforts. In 1939, Mrs. Breckinridge established a school of nurse-midwifery. The school provided graduates, many of whom stayed to offer care to families in Leslie County, Kentucky.

Today, Mrs. Breckinridge's legacy extends far beyond Eastern Kentucky through Frontier Nursing University (FNU), which offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and a Master of Science in Nursing degree with tracks as a Nurse-Midwife, Family Nurse Practitioner and Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner. FNU has students and graduates serving all 50 states and many countries.

Mary Breckinridge said: "Our aim has always been to see ourselves surpassed, and on a larger scale." (*Wide Neighborhoods*, 1952)

HOW TO REACH US

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations: Please direct questions, comments or updates to Denise Barrett, Director of Development, at (662) 846-1967 or send an e-mail to denise.barrett@frontier.edu.

The Wendover Bed & Breakfast Inn: The Big House, Mary Breckinridge's home, is a licensed Bed & Breakfast Inn located at Wendover. For reservations or to arrange a tour, call Michael Claussen, Development Coordinator, at (859) 899-2707 or e-mail michael.claussen@frontier.edu. Group tours can be arranged, and we are always happy to set up tours for organizations and educational programs with an interest in nursing history and Appalachian studies.



THE JOURNEY

*By Dr. Susan E. Stone,
Frontier Nursing University President and Dean*

Autumn abounds with activity, guests and our biggest commencement yet

Fall is such a beautiful time of year at Frontier, and incredibly busy, too. October brought our annual Alumni Homecoming and Courier Conclave, our Board of Directors quarterly meeting, a meeting of the Leadership Council for our Endowment Campaign, two Clinical Bound sessions, Frontier's largest graduation ceremony ever, and finally our full faculty meeting. We could not have accomplished this without the incredible attention to detail and extra time devoted by our staff members.

Mary Breckinridge wrote often about the feat of gathering large groups at Wendover or the hospital. She described how difficult it was to have such a large number travel, many by horseback, to Leslie County for events and celebrations. While our transportation methods have obviously eased that burden, we still face quite a task in having such large groups converge on Hyden. With 80 faculty, 43 staff members, our Board of Directors, and more than 140 returning graduates and 500 family members and guests, this year's graduation drew our largest crowd ever. And, for the record, the number of visitors for





graduation weekend outnumbered the population of Hyden!

For those who have had the pleasure to visit our quaint, historical campus and beautiful Wendover property, you understand that overnight accommodations are limited. But, somehow, we continue to squeeze more faculty and staff into our quarters each and every year as we grow. Returning graduates and their families filled the hotels in the nearby towns of Hazard, Manchester and London.

We were honored to bestow Master of Science in Nursing degrees and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees to 141 returning graduates out of the more than 300 who completed the program over the last year. We also granted honorary doctorates to several well-deserving women who have made lasting impact in nursing and for Frontier. The following women received honorary doctorates:

Miss Helen E. Browne: Originally from England, Helen Browne came to the Frontier Nursing Service as a young nurse-midwife in 1938. In her early years, Miss Browne – known affectionately as “Brownie” – served as a district nurse-midwife and was appointed Supervisor of the Hyden



Hospital during World II. In 1947, she was named Assistant Director of the Frontier Nursing Service. Upon the death of our founder, Mary Breckinridge, Brownie was unanimously elected FNS Director in 1965. She served in that role until her retirement in 1975. Under her leadership, the Mary Breckinridge Hospital was built and the FNS educational program was expanded to combine family nursing and nurse-midwifery into an integrated curriculum. Miss Browne passed away in 1987.

Judith Pence Rooks: Judith Rooks is an internationally recognized nurse-midwife and epidemiologist with a long career in public health. She has been a teacher of nurses, nurse-midwives

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and medical students and is widely known in nurse-midwifery circles for her seminal publication, *Midwifery and Childbirth in America*. Judith has published more than 80 scientific and professional papers in a wide range of journals, including the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*,



where she was the primary investigator for the landmark study of outcomes in freestanding birth centers. From her five-plus years of scholarship on birth centers, she came to appreciate that the development of birth centers and perhaps even midwifery could be enhanced if nitrous oxide, used by midwives in most other developed countries, was reintroduced in the United States. Over several years, she completed an exhaustive investigation of the safety and feasibility of self-administered nitrous oxide for pain relief in childbirth and successfully overcame the controversy and adversity surrounding its reintroduction. Throughout her career, she has shined the light of scientific evidence on important issues to improve the health and welfare of women.

Barbara Safriet: A native of Eastern Kentucky, Barbara was inspired by the work of the Frontier Nursing Service as a child, and that early influence has shaped her work as an advocate of the nursing profession. Today, she is a Visiting Professor of Law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. From 1988 to 2007, she served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School in New Haven, Conn.



Barbara has served on numerous advisory boards, consulted widely in nursing, contributed a chapter to the Institute of Medicine's report on *The Future of Nursing*, and has been a longtime champion of nurse practitioners and advanced practice registered nurses. She has published and lectured extensively on topics of administrative and constitutional law and healthcare workforce regulation. Throughout her career, Barbara has written extensively about the role of the nurse practitioner and has advocated regulatory change to expand the scope of practice for nurse practitioners.

The hard work of orchestrating our graduation ceremony is worth it 10 times over. Nothing is more inspiring to our Board, faculty and staff than to see those graduates march into the gymnasium; to see their families applaud, cry and take photographs; and to witness their graduation in Hyden, the birthplace of nurse-midwifery and family nursing in America. Most of our graduates are career nurses with families. We are honored to have husbands, wives, children and grandparents in attendance. They are a huge part of a Frontier student's success, and this is their moment, too!

Join me in congratulating our 2012 graduates. We know they will carry on the traditions of the Frontier nurse to the thousands of women and families they will serve.

FNU President and Dean named to elite group of nursing leaders

Dr. Stone selected as American Academy of Nursing Fellow

We are proud to announce that Dr. Susan Stone, FNU President and Dean, was among 176 nurse leaders inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing on Oct. 31 during the Academy's 39th annual meeting and conference in Washington, D.C. Composed of the nation's top nurse researchers, policy makers, scholars, executives, educators and practitioners, the 2012 cohort is the largest class of inductees yet.

"Selection for membership in the Academy is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing," said Academy President Joanne Disch, PhD, RN, FAAN. The Academy is composed of more than 1,800 nurse leaders in education, management, practice, policy and research. Selection criteria include evidence of significant contributions to nursing and healthcare and sponsorship by two current Academy Fellows. Applicants are reviewed by a panel comprised of elected and appointed Fellows, and selection is based, in part, on the extent to which nominees' nursing careers influence health policies and the health and well-being of all.



FNU Endowment Campaign Update

Honoring our past, focusing on our future



Leadership Council gathers at Wendover

We were pleased to welcome members of the FNU Endowment Campaign Leadership Council to Wendover for our October meeting, which was held in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors and our annual commencement ceremony weekend. It was an exciting and busy time to visit our campus!

Leadership Council members enjoyed lunch at the Big House with the full Board of Directors before convening at the Livery for an update on campaign progress. Susan Stone and Denise Barrett reported that nearly \$600,000 has been raised toward the endowment after our first year of effort. Most of this funding has been pledged by members of the Leadership Council, faculty, staff and alumni. We then held a rich discussion on moving the campaign forward in 2013 and beyond. We are excited by our early success and eager to meet with more donors who want to be a part of this historic effort.

To make a gift

Gifts to the endowment can be made in cash, gifts of stock, or as planned gifts/bequests to be realized in the future. Pledges can be made for a period of up to five years. Please call Denise Barrett, Director of Development, with any questions about giving at (662) 846-1967.

Donor recognition levels

Gifts to the FNU Endowment Campaign are recognized in the Mary Breckinridge Society at the following levels:

- Founding Trustee:** \$1 million and above
- Life Trustee:** \$500,000 - \$999,999
- Trustee:** \$250,000 - \$499,999
- Ambassador:** \$100,000 - \$249,999
- Sponsor:** \$50,000 - \$99,999
- Steward:** \$25,000 - \$49,999
- Patron:** \$10,000 - \$24,999
- Friend:** \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Supporter:** \$1,000 - \$4,999



All in the Family: Peter Breckinridge Coffin and Susan Graham demonstrate Breckinridge family support for FNU

Connected by their family ties to Frontier and moved by the mission and work of our organization, Peter Breckinridge Coffin and Susan Graham – both members of the extended Breckinridge family – are volunteering their energy to ensure a strong future for Frontier Nursing University. Breckinridge family members reside in states across the country and many remain engaged with the work of FNU. Peter, who lives with his family in the Boston, Mass., area, and Susan, a resident of Rochester, N.Y., have both volunteered as members of the Leadership Council and made generous pledges of support to the campaign.

Susan, a cardiologist, and her husband, Jon Kucera, an internist, have supported Frontier for many years. Susan visited Wendover and our Hyden campus during the 2010 Breckinridge Family Reunion, held in Kentucky, and returned again this October for the Leadership Council meeting. (The next Breckinridge reunion, scheduled for 2014, will be held in Boston.) Susan has generously joined the campaign effort at the Sponsor level of the Mary Breckinridge Society through a three-year pledge to the campaign.

Peter founded an investment firm, Breckinridge Capital Advisors, which specializes in municipal and state bonds. His firm also encourages philanthropy and operates a robust corporate giving program. Susan Stone and Denise Barrett had the opportunity to make a presentation to the corporate giving committee in October. The committee approved a gift of \$25,000 toward the endowment effort, which Peter has generously matched! Peter, also a Sponsor in the Mary Breckinridge Society, is helping lead the way for the campaign.

We are beyond thankful for the support of Susan and Peter, as well as all of the Breckinridge extended family who continue to support our efforts.

COURIER CORNER

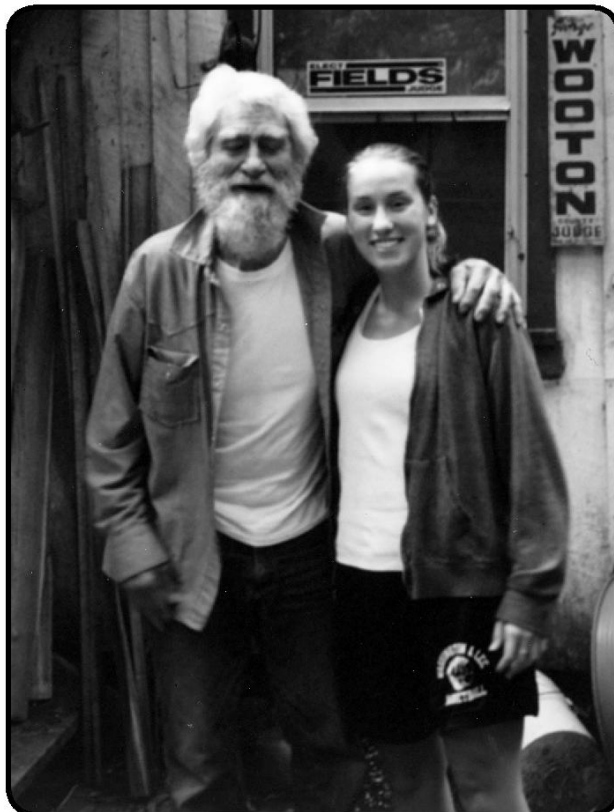


*By Nancy Reinhart,
FNU Development Officer/Courier Coordinator,
Courier 1998*

Frontier's Courier Program promises to be an exciting challenge

"I was a Courier, and the experience changed my life." I've heard that from so many of you with whom I've talked lately. It's true for me, too. It's one of the best parts of the legacy of the Courier program.

I served as a Courier in 1998. During my term, I witnessed my first normal



Sherman Wooton with Nancy Reinhart in 1998

birth – the birth of twins. I also made my first rocking chair with Sherman Wooton. Actually, I shouldn't say "first," because it's likely to be my last!

I've been hired by FNU to revive the Courier Program. It will be a group effort involving advisement and involvement from former Couriers, Frontier staff and faculty, students and alumni. I'm excited at the prospect, and I hope to meet many of you along the way.

The Courier Program won't be exactly the way it used to be, and sometimes change is hard. I share a vision with many of you – a vision of returning the Courier Program to its proper place as one of the most

well-respected, life-changing and adventurous service learning internships in the country.

We'll be building on program foundations laid by Mary Breckinridge's wise spirit and tended to by various staff and the more than 1,800 Couriers who have served Frontier since 1928. Just like in the past, we will:

- Continue to place Couriers in Leslie County to live at Wendover, who will volunteer at Mary Breckinridge hospital, do home health visits, help in nearby clinics, including Big Creek and Beech Fork, and engage in community projects.

- Require all Couriers to come to volunteer to help with at least one dinner at the Big House

Building on the strong historical foundation of the Courier Program, we'll also explore new frontiers including:

- Placing Couriers at "outpost sites" supervised by FNU alumni. Proposed 2013 outpost sites include birth centers in Madisonville, Tenn., and rural health clinics in Hazard and McKee, Ky.

Check our Courier list

Are your fellow Couriers on our list?

A book on the history of the Courier Program, to be published in 2013, will include a complete list of all Couriers who served through 2010 as an appendix. We wouldn't want anyone's service to be overlooked. We need YOUR help!

Visit www.frontier.edu/courier and look at our compendium of Couriers and years served. If you see someone missing or something that isn't quite right, email nancy.reinhart@frontier.edu.

- Having all Couriers come to Wendover for Courier Bound orientation and for Courier closing

- Increasing the number of Couriers from diverse backgrounds and underserved communities

Now you might like to know a little more about me.

After my service as a Courier, I obtained my undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University, where, coincidentally, Mary Breckinridge's father studied. I next served in the Peace Corps Armenia as a health volunteer, traveled in Asia and Africa, and then worked in two organizations focused on achieving social justice. Along

the way, I got a Master's Degree in Public Health and a Master's certification in Women's and Gender Studies, became a yoga instructor and a birth doula.

While in the Peace Corps, I met my life partner, Dave Mitchell. We have since become proud parents of three children (Palden, d., Maya, 3 and Anjali, 9 mos.). A Frontier Nursing University graduate, Kathleen Isaac, caught my middle child in 2009.

I am excited to bring my passion for birth, my experience in program development and my commitment to health equity and the Frontier mission to the revival of the Courier Program!

Visit www.frontier.edu/courier to help build and widen the Courier legacy. Questions? Comments? Ideas? Email nancy.reinhart@frontier.edu.

■ THE FRONTIER LEGACY:
SPOTLIGHT ON A COURIER

By Marian Barrett Leibold, 1977 Courier Term

This is a new feature of our *Quarterly Bulletin* in which former Couriers reflect on their experience. To write one, email nancy.reinhart@frontier.edu.



Mind-widening experiences ‘made an impression that will never leave me’

Why I became a Courier

I came to help where help seemed needed, drawn in by a spirit of adventure and the romance of a service once provided by nurses on horseback. In seeking my own life’s future direction, I was completely intrigued by the organizational mission and was particularly inspired that it was started by a woman.

First impressions of Wendover

Fellow Courier Kit Jamieson (Wysor) offered to pick me up on her way through Cincinnati. By the time we arrived in Hyden, we were fast friends.

When I arrived, I felt an immediate sense of belonging. From my journal:

The veil of silver mist rising over the rich green mountains, the apples on the drive, the dusty pebbles on the road, the nasturtiums which leapt colorfully out of the cracks in the stone wall, the abundance of purple joeypyeweed behind the garden house, an old shed with sleeping tools, the chicken coop still offering up eggs for breakfast all invited

me in. ... The first day we were introduced to our quarters and the ways of life here and our mission as couriers.

Inspired by the spirit of Mary Breckinridge

I felt her spirit at Wendover the moment I arrived. Upon studying her life, I realized that a large impetus for her desire to provide healthcare to the mountain people came from her own grief. The loss of her own children led her not to retreat from the world, but rather to ask what happens to the people who have no access to healthcare.

Though I never had the privilege of meeting her, people who remembered her convinced me she was an extraordinary woman. I was moved by her willingness to leave her own comfort zone to bring a better life to others. Such a courageous move is born out of tremendous character, conviction and compassion.

I often think of her now, at my age, with an even greater appreciation of all that she was able to accomplish and the spirit with which she did it.

Lasting changes

Countless experiences with nurses, fellow Couriers, and local people made an impression that will never leave me. The Courier experience came into my life at a time when I was ripe for understanding, for asking big questions of myself and life.

I met a nurse in the midwifery program, Sr. Yvonne de Turenne. I later joined her in Lesotho, Africa, to learn about her work and the medical missions. Her generosity in hosting me at her St. Rose Mission in Peka, Lesotho, and the tremendous experience I had there will always leave me grateful to her.

I went on to medical school at the University of Cincinnati. Before finishing, I decided to turn my attention to my family. I now live with my husband, Jack. Our four young adult children are pursuing their callings. I reflect often upon the importance of the mentors in the lives of young people, and I feel fortunate that I had such valuable ones at FNS.

The legacy of the Courier program

Teaching the rewards of deep and lasting commitments, valuing the opportunity to leave one's comfort zone for another look at life, and the importance of using our lives to further our understanding and development of ourselves that we may then better serve our families and communities.

Marian Leibold lives in Cincinnati and continues to remain involved as a supporter of Frontier Nursing University and host of Frontier's annual Cincinnati Committee dinner.



Dr. Deborah Skoruppa, left, shown with FNU faculty member Dr. Susan Calloway, a member of the Texas Rural Health Association Board, displays her Rural Health Champion Award. Heather Swanson, winner of the Rural Health Student of the Year Award, was unable to attend the awards luncheon.

FNU alumna and student receive Texas Rural Health Awards

A Frontier graduate and a Frontier DNP student were recognized with Rural Health Awards at the Texas Rural Health Association meeting on Oct. 31 in San Marcos, Texas. Deborah Skoruppa, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, received the “Rural Health Champion Award,” and student Heather Swanson, MSN, CNM, FNP, was named the “Rural Health Student of the Year.”

Dr. Skoruppa has been a champion for serving the underserved, underinsured and impoverished residents in rural areas of Texas for many years. Her most recent effort was to develop and implement a pilot project in Robstown, Texas, for improving medication adherence by improving access to prescription drugs and patient education. This program started as her DNP capstone project, *Bridging the Gap: Improving Medication Adherence in South Texas*, and is now spreading to the community where she is collaborating with a local church to provide additional resources to patients.

Most patients served by the clinic in Robstown are covered by public insurance plans or have no coverage. Skoruppa noted that during follow-up visits, a patient often returned with his or her health problem unimproved. The patients often responded, “I did not get my prescription.” When the rationale was explored for not filling their prescription, several barriers to access were identified, such as financial, transportation or language issues.

Skoruppa collaborated with the Robstown Health Center to conduct a pilot project to address the problem. She conducted a formal assessment of the issues and discovered that 30-40% of prescriptions are met with barriers to filling them, such as confusion, delays and lack of funds.

Skoruppa devised interventions that included providing one-on-one patient education in Spanish, using materials written in Spanish and providing one-on-one education about resources to access medications given the patient’s limitations. Because of the success of the pilot program, Skoruppa is working with various prescription-assistance programs to bring them closer to the clinic

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patients in Robstown. Through utilization of local resources, such as clinics and churches, the health of the population within this community can be improved. Her goal is to present her project to other rural communities for replication.

Swanson received the Student of the Year Award for her project designed to assure the sustainability of Holy Family Services, a birth center just north of the Mexican border near Weslaco, Texas. Swanson first came to Holy Family as a volunteer nurse-midwife, and ultimately wound up in a leadership role. She chose as her project the creation of a plan for the financial stability of the center to assure that the clinic could continue to provide services to the 88 percent of residents in the surrounding area living at or below federal poverty guidelines.

CLASS NOTES

Priscilla Crow writes that she is doing short-term trips to Haiti teaching “Home Based Life Saving Skills” to non-traditional birth attendants. This was developed by Sandy Tebben Buffington (a 1968 classmate). She is also supporting PN clinics in Haiti.

Recent graduate **Jona Hutson** wrote that she would be starting employment with University of Nebraska OB/GYN Physician’s Group and College of Medicine on Sept. 1. “I will have office hours as well as catch at two hospitals in Omaha, NE. I absolutely plan on spending a couple years getting some experience then passing along my FNU spirit by precepting.”

Dr. Kristi Davis Menix of Bozeman, Mont., writes that she is currently working as a nurse consultant for professional development and staff education, including program and competency development. Dr. Menix was a district nurse for FNU in 1967-1968 at Brutus Clinic.

Mrs. Judy Rafson, Class of 1972, recently sent a donation toward the repair of the St. Christopher’s Chapel window. She writes that the window holds a special place in her and her husband’s hearts since they were married beneath that window on May 24, 1975! Thank you, Judy, for the generous support.

Arlene Schuiteman, Class of 1959, writes that at age 88, she was delighted to make two trips back to Africa recently. She traveled with Northwestern College from Orange City, Iowa, when the drama ministry ensemble presented *Iowa Ethiopia* in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Iowa Ethiopia* is drawn from Ms. Schuiteman’s experiences as a missionary.

Mrs. Barbara Brown Webster, former FNS Courier, writes that she is retired from her position at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and enjoying leisure days at her home, “The Nuthatchery.” Mrs. Webster is an ardent birder, leading walks in the Holden Arboretum during the spring migration.

DEAN'S REPORT



*By Dr. Suzan Ulrich, DrPH, CNM, FACNM
FNU Associate Dean for Midwifery and Women's Health*

Passing the torch: New generation of nurse-midwifery leaders emerging at Frontier Nursing University

Frontier Nursing University always has a strong showing at the American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting. We greet students, alumni, preceptors and friends, reconnecting with members of the Frontier family. Singing always comes from our reception, signaling to everyone that Frontier is present. I have been struck by how these meetings are highlighting a new generation of emerging national leaders who are young, energetic Frontier graduates, such as Kendra Adkisson!

A 2012 graduate, Kendra Adkisson, CNM, MSN, has been a star at the American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting for the past two years. She made her debut with the video *We Need You to Become a Midwife*, which won an honorable mention in the 4th annual ACNM video contest in 2011 (search that title on YouTube to view the video). The video was a satirical presentation of the life of a midwife, including the minor inconveniences of being called out in the middle of the night, giving up social occasions and missing family events, balanced with such rewards as high pay and being with women during the sacred event of birth. It was shown at the meeting to rave reviews.

That same meeting also found Kendra the recipient of the Helen Varney Award. This award is given to a student nurse-midwife who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities. The winner attends the annual meeting and accompanies Mary Brucker, PhD, CNM, FACNM, to various committee meetings, getting a bird's-eye view of the ACNM leadership. One of the judges said she was so impressed with the support letter for Kendra from FNU, which said:

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Kendra Adkisson has been a breath of life in the Lexington, Kentucky, midwifery scene. She is determined to bring midwifery care to Lexington where it is scarce and hopefully start a birth center. She was instrumental in presenting the "Business of Being Born" to an audience of over 150 people. She has represented midwifery on the local TV station news spot about midwifery care. Kendra is driven, dynamic, and poised. She is a leader in the birth community of Lexington, Kentucky. She is also a leader at the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing, mentoring new students as they enter the midwifery program. She would be an outstanding Varney Scholar. She has so much to offer and would gain much from this opportunity.

This award opened doors for Kendra and energized her to become involved in the ACNM Political Action Committee, serving actively even as she completed her midwifery studies at Frontier. Kendra also was asked by ACNM to create a video for the 2012 Annual Meeting. She developed a spoof called *Mid-*



Kendra Adkisson, right, on stage with Holly Powell Kennedy

wifery Parity and played the role of ACNM President, talking to world leaders, defusing a bomb, catching a baby, and welcoming all the midwives to the 57th annual ACNM meeting (search "A Midwifery Parity by Kendra Adkisson" on YouTube). Kendra took center stage with ACNM President and Frontier graduate Holly Powell Kennedy, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, at the opening session, receiving a standing

ovation for her video that launched the meeting with great energy and humor.

After that annual meeting, Kendra completed her midwifery program at FNU, made a trip to Haiti, where she taught 80 nursing students, and joined the CNM practice Women's Care of the Bluegrass in Frankfort, where she works alongside fellow Frontier alums Katie Isaac, CNM, and Emily Dial, CNM. She continues to be a birth advocate and is developing a birth center in Kentucky. She has represented Frontier on local TV stations, at the signing of the 2012 National Nurse-Midwifery Week proclamation by Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, and at the recent Bluegrass Luncheon. Frontier honored Kendra with the Kitty Ernst Leadership Award during the 2012 Commencement Ceremony in Hyden on Oct. 27.

We expect more great accomplishments from Kendra in the future, including a birth center in Kentucky, as she takes the leadership torch for a new generation of Frontier leaders.

BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS



Mrs. Elizabeth Kramer (front row, third from left), shown with her family, was honored by Dr. Susan Stone (second from left) on behalf of Frontier Nursing University during the 2012 National Philanthropy Day Luncheon.

FNU honors Elizabeth Kramer at National Philanthropy Day event

Frontier Nursing University honored Mrs. Elizabeth Kramer of Lexington, Ky., for her passion and support for our mission during the 2012 National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony presented by the Bluegrass Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The event, which celebrates the spirit of giving and recognizes individuals, non-profits and companies that have made a significant contribution to enhancing the quality of life in their communities, was held Nov. 8 at the Hyatt in downtown Lexington, Ky.

Mrs. Kramer, a longtime resident of Lexington, has deep family roots in Hyden, Ky. – home of Frontier Nursing University. The city of Hyden is named for her great-grandfather, John Hyden, a two-term Kentucky senator. Her roots have inspired her to support Leslie County for many years and to most recently join the Leadership Council for Frontier's \$10 million endowment campaign. She has given her time and financial contributions to get the campaign off to a great start.

Joining Mrs. Kramer at the event to celebrate the honor were her children, son Charles von Schlutter and his wife, Barbara, of Lexington; son David Kramer and his wife, Martha, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and daughter Jane von Schlutter of the Chicago area.



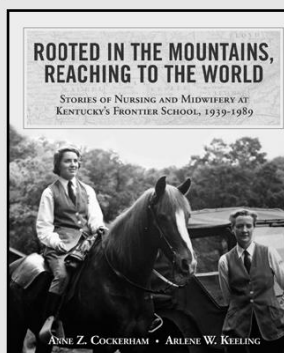
Dr. Julie Marfell, Associate Dean for Family Nursing, and Dr. Suzan Ulrich, Associate Dean for Midwifery and Women's Health, were proud to accept the award honoring Mary Breckinridge at the Girl Scouts' Women of Distinction event.

Girl Scouts recognize Mary Breckinridge as one of Kentucky's 100 Women of Distinction

Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Frontier's late founder, was among 100 Kentucky women honored during the Women of Distinction luncheon, presented by the Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council in Lexington, Ky., on Nov. 9.

To celebrate 2012 marking the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts as well as the Year of the Girl, the Wilderness Road Council recognized 100 outstanding women who have made a significant contribution to the lives of Kentuckians in Northern, Central and Eastern Kentucky. The honorees are women whose professional accomplishments have made them positive role models who inspire girls to achieve their own goals and dreams. In addition to Mrs. Breckinridge, the honorees included a number of well-known Kentucky women, including actress and activist Ashley Judd; retired jockey Patricia "PJ" Cooksey; author Barbara Kingsolver; singer Loretta Lynn; and Sallie Bingham, a writer, activist and philanthropist and a former Courier of the Frontier Nursing Service.

Stephanie Boyd, FNU's Director of Recruitment and Retention, and Associate Deans Dr. Julie Marfell and Dr. Suzan Ulrich represented Frontier Nursing University at the luncheon, held at Fasig-Tipton. The event was co-chaired by Martha Layne Collins, former Governor of Kentucky, and Mira Ball, founder and CEO of Ball Homes.

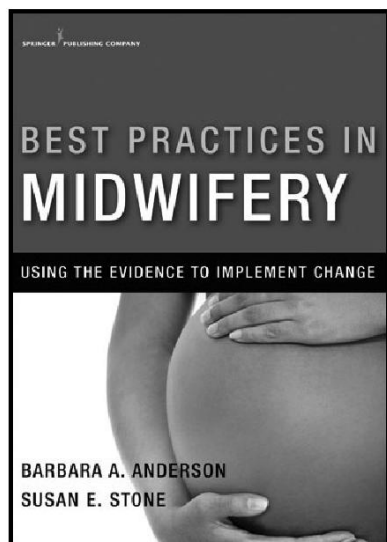


'Pioneer Book' available for holiday giving

Rooted in the Mountains, Reaching to the World: Stories of Nursing and Midwifery at Kentucky's Frontier School, 1939-1989 is available from Butler Books in time for holiday gift-giving. The book, co-authored by FNU faculty member Anne Cockerham, features the stories of our "Pioneer" graduates who attended Frontier during the first 50 years of the school. It's a fascinating glimpse into nursing history and makes a great gift for preceptors, nurses or those with an interest in healthcare or Appalachian history. It's available for \$30 plus tax, shipping & handling from www.butlerbooks.com.

New midwifery textbook marks a milestone for FNU

Frontier Nursing University is excited to announce the recent release of a new book, *Best Practices in Midwifery: Using the Evidence to Implement Change*.



The release of this book serves as a milestone for our university. One of Mary Breckinridge's dreams was that the Frontier nurse-midwives would share their knowledge through the written word. In following her dream, we are proud to announce that all contributors to this textbook are FNU faculty and alumni, and Dr. Barbara Anderson and Dr. Susan Stone served as editors.

The first book of its kind released in the United States, *Best Practices in Midwifery* provides a roadmap for nurse-midwives who strive to implement change through evidence-based practice by presenting the most current evidence-based research on the care of childbearing women. The book was so popular upon release that it is now in its second printing.

Eight universities have adopted the text. *Best Practices in Midwifery: Using the Evidence to Implement Change* is now available from Springer Publishing (www.springerpub.com). All proceeds go to the FNU scholarship fund.

Dr. Stone makes presentation at international conference



The University of Nottingham in Nottingham, England, held an inaugural academic conference focused on excellence in contemporary midwifery education and research on Sept. 7 and 8. Dr. Susan Stone was proud to represent Frontier Nursing University and the United States at this important international conference, which brought together educators, midwives and allied health professionals to explore developments and challenges in midwifery education from a research perspective. In Dr. Stone's presentation, *Using Distance Education to Prepare Midwives for Rural and Under-served Areas in the United States*, she described both the process and outcomes of the distance-education process used for educating midwives and nurse practitioners at Frontier Nursing University. The conference was deemed a resounding success, with midwives attending from Australia, New Zealand, Jordan, Canada and many European countries.

Minority Nurse campaign spotlights Frontier for diversity initiatives

Frontier Nursing University is one of a select number of institutions and individuals featured as winners in the Minority Nurse Take Pride Campaign. Minority Nurse's first-ever Take Pride Campaign was implemented to recognize places of employment that go above and beyond in encouraging diversity; recruiting and retaining minorities; and creating a cooperative, inclusive work environment. A call for submissions went out in early 2012 and the winners were featured in the fall issue of Minority Nurse magazine and also on MinorityNurse.com. FNU is one of only seven healthcare organizations and institutions recognized in this nationwide campaign.



Nena Harris

FNU faculty member Dr. Nena Harris nominated Frontier for the campaign. Harris has witnessed FNU's increasing commitment to diversity for the past 10 years since she began her journey at FNU as a student, one of only three minority women in her orientation session. When Harris became an FNU faculty member six years ago, she was the only professor of color. "Since that time, several faculty of color have been hired," she says. "Also, I have more face-to-face interactions with students on campus, and the composition of those sessions has become more colorful over the years." In that time, Harris says she's seen the university "develop a passion for diversity."

More information

Find the full Take Pride Campaign article on MinorityNurse.com. Learn more about FNU's PRIDE diversity program at www.frontier.edu/PRIDE.

A school founded to address the healthcare needs of the underserved, FNU is well-suited to train nurses and midwives to go into those communities that continue to be marginalized – often minority communities. "The administration and faculty realize that providing care to diverse populations requires educating nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners who are committed to returning to the diverse communities in which they live and have roots," Harris says. To that end, the university is working to recruit more diverse students and faculty, in part through its recently launched, multifaceted PRIDE (Promoting Recruitment and Retention to Increase Diversity in Nurse-Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner Education) initiative.

"FNU is a leader because it demonstrates the importance of educating a diverse workforce to meet the healthcare needs of an increasingly diverse population," Harris says. "I am very proud to be associated with this institution."

FRONTIER NURSING UNIVERSITY

Committee events, held in cities across the country, were established by Mary Breckinridge as a purposeful time to report to donors about our work. These annual events are coordinated by volunteers in the respective cities and are attended by Couriers, alumni, donors and new friends interested in our work. Please plan to attend these events in your area!



■ THE BOSTON COMMITTEE

*By Lees Breckinridge Dunn Yunits
Boston Committee*

“I grew up urban and chose rural.”
– Mary Breckinridge

Mary Breckinridge once relayed the above quote to former Courier Mrs. Patsy Lawrence, who offered the words to me recently at the luncheon of the Boston Committee of Frontier Nursing University. Patsy recalled Mary Breckinridge as “such a wise woman.” Mary had said to Mrs. Lawrence long ago, “Patsy, you have to choose what you want. Urban or rural. I grew up urban and chose rural.”

Our delightful lunch on a gorgeous fall day in Dedham, Massachusetts, was highlighted with new faces and familiar faces. Mrs. Caroline Standley helped Patsy with organizing the event, and willingly shared with us her experiences of growing up in Kentucky (“it’s not Louieville, it’s ‘loovull’); then to find herself in Massachusetts looking for a way to meet people, when she discovered a group whose labor of love was the Frontier Nursing Service. That was many years ago, and still four women from that time participated in this recent luncheon, including Patsy Lawrence, Caroline Standley, Lois Cheston and Sally Willis.

We heard stories from Patsy and Lois about their time as Couriers when horses were still the norm but the use of jeeps was on the rise. Patsy recalled being on a horse, crossing a stream, when suddenly she realized that her horse was swimming! Lois had memories of a nurse who’d arrived from London and who needed instruction on how to drive a jeep on the “wrong” side of the road (our side!). According to the attendees, Mrs. Willis used to hold lavish Kentucky

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Derby parties here in Massachusetts until recently, and all four women radiated love for Mary Breckinridge and her devoted purpose in life.

We heard from Fran Keene (daughter of Patsy Lawrence) of her exploits at Wendover years ago and how as a Courier, or a nurse, everyone “did everything” – from killing rattlesnakes to mending a horse’s thigh from a barbed-wire tear. A cousin of Fran’s (and niece of Mrs. Lawrence), Susan Wood, had spent a month volunteering in and around Wendover and recalled putting on a theatrical performance for about a hundred kids who’d come to have their tonsils and adenoids removed. Susan was also privileged to have seen “the farm” where unwed mothers came to deliver their babies and whose babies were lovingly cared for. Debbie Smith, once head of the Couriers in Kentucky, was glad to have a mini-reunion with Susan, whom she hadn’t seen in possibly 30 years. Ms. Smith is still actively involved here in Massachusetts in the medical field.

Peter Coffin, a great-nephew of Mary Breckinridge, expressed his pleasure at being able to continue the Massachusetts/Kentucky Derby parties, along with his wife, Abby. As well, the Coffins will be hosting a Breckinridge family reunion during the summer of 2014 in the Boston area.

I, too, am a great-niece of Mary Breckinridge, and as such have in my possession several letters written by Mary to my mother, Cynthia Ellis Dunn, wife of my late father, Lt. Col. George W. Dunn – nephew of Mary Breckinridge. In one letter, written in December of 1956, when our Air Force family was stationed at Westover Air Force Base in Springfield, Massachusetts, Mary expressed her regret that “My New England schedules never take me to Springfield ... [only] Boston and Providence and Hartford, Connecticut.” And that she “never has any time for proper letters.” She wrote, “Every time I start to write a family letter the huge heap of FNS letters, to be written and in arrears, rises up and confronts me with reproach.” As always, her letters ended with, “Devotedly, your old aunt,” and were always typed. According to Susan Stone, current President of Frontier Nursing University, Mrs. Breckinridge had such terrible handwriting, it was wonderful that she typed well!

Susan also brought the group up to snuff with the ever-expanding FNU and its place in the online world. She also commented on a new book co-authored by Karen Foster. Ms. Foster is a Yale professor who has compiled a collection of letters written by Mary Breckinridge to her mother, Katherine Breckinridge Carson, and other family members when Mary was a nurse in France. The letters were typed (thanks, Mary!). However, they have been translated into French! Luckily, interest has been piqued among the Frontier Nursing University crowd in publishing the letters. So, as the Boston Committee of Frontier Nursing University, we enthusiastically await the work and subsequent publication of the English version. Meanwhile, I’ve just ordered *Rooted in the Mountains, Reaching to the World*, co-authored by FNU faculty member Anne Z. Cockerham, and look forward to expanding my collection of “anything Mary Breckinridge.”



Marian Leibold (front row, third from left) gathers with friends, family and Frontier faculty at the Cincinnati dinner.

■ THE CINCINNATI COMMITTEE

Former Courier Marian Leibold hosts annual dinner

On the evening of Thursday, Nov. 1, we were honored to showcase the mission and work of Frontier Nursing University with a great group of supporters and new friends at the Cincinnati Country Club. This annual event was graciously hosted by Marian Leibold, a former Courier for Frontier and current member of the Courier Advisory Council. Nearly 40 friends gathered to learn more about Frontier through a presentation by President and Dean Susan Stone.

In attendance were alumni and current students, former Couriers and many new friends. We were honored to meet with Ruth Klette, Trustee for the Elsa M. Heisel Trust, which has given a generous \$10,000 gift toward the endowment campaign this year! It's always an honor to thank our supporters in person and tell them firsthand about the work their giving makes possible.

A huge thank you to Marian for continuing to host this amazing and fun event. We look forward to seeing old and new friends again next year!



Above: Eleanor Jordan, Sheila Schuster and Rep. Mary Lou Marzian.

Left: Bluegrass Committee members, from left: Linda Roach, Lindy Karns, Helen Rentch (front), Fra Vaughan and Ann Evans. Absent is committee member Vicki Tobin.

■ THE BLUEGRASS COMMITTEE

Central Kentucky friends raise money for Bluegrass Scholarship Fund

Members of Frontier Nursing University's Bluegrass Committee – Linda Roach, Lindy Karns, Ann Evans, Helen Rentch and Fra Vaughan – hosted a lovely luncheon at the Kentucky Governor's Mansion in Frankfort on Oct. 31.

Our guests included more than 50 donors, friends, faculty, staff, and civic and political leaders. Dr. Susan Stone updated guests on the work of FNU, and recent graduate Kendra Adkisson delivered a heartfelt address about her experience at Frontier and her calling to be a nurse-midwife.

The members of the Bluegrass Committee focused their efforts at this year's event on organizing a scholarship fund to help offset tuition costs for a deserving student in the Bluegrass who plans to work with a rural or underserved community. Lindy Karns delivered a gracious appeal, speaking about the importance of the work our graduates are doing to meet the needs in their rural communities. The committee raised nearly \$4,000 toward a scholarship, and donations toward this scholarship will be accepted through the end of 2012. The committee's goal is to raise enough money to fund one year of a Frontier student's graduate program – about \$13,000 – for a scholarship to be awarded in the spring. If you would like to contribute, please mail contributions to Frontier Nursing University, Attn: Starla Selby, 170 Prosperous Place, Lexington, KY 40509. Checks should be made to Frontier Nursing University. Also, please include a note designating that your contribution is for the Bluegrass Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to our Bluegrass Committee friends for their ongoing commitment to our mission and their work in organizing another fabulous event.

FIELD NOTES

WENDOVER REPORT



Faculty and students from Eastern Kentucky University

Nursing history comes to life near the banks of the Middle Fork

To make a reservation

To plan a tour or make a reservation at the bed and breakfast, contact Michael Claussen at (859) 899-2707 or by email at michael.claussen@frontier.edu. Rooms in the Big House are \$75-\$85; Barn rates are \$50-\$60. Price includes a hearty country breakfast.

Fall at Wendover brings several visitors and tour groups to the Historical Headquarters, and this year was no exception. There is so much nursing history at Wendover that several area schools and universities are reserving a day to take a tour of Wendover and Frontier Nursing University with a hearty lunch at the Big House. Groups that took the Frontier tour during the late summer to early fall are: Berea College, University of Tennessee, Eastern Kentucky University, Clay County Area Technology Center and Magoffin County Career and Technology Center.

Leslie County shines at Kentucky State Fair

The Leslie County booth took first place in the Pride of the Counties exhibit at the Kentucky State Fair in August. Several members of the Frontier Nursing University staff volunteered alongside leaders of the Leslie County community to answer questions and share information with visitors to the booth.





Trustees from the Van Sloun Foundation posed under the portrait of Mary Breckinridge with members of the FNU community. Front row, from left: Michael Claussen, Susan Stone, Neil Van Sloun, Joe Van Sloun; back row: Amy Van Sloun, Nancy Van Sloun, Kathryn Schrag, Catherine Shields and Everett Davis.

Van Sloun Foundation pays a visit to the mountains

We welcomed trustees from the Van Sloun Foundation from Massachusetts (Neil Van Sloun and Everett Davis) and Minnesota (Joe Van Sloun, Nancy Van Sloun and Amy Van Sloun) to Leslie County for a visit to the Wendover Bed and Breakfast Inn and the campus of Frontier Nursing University in early November.

This family foundation has generously given Frontier more than \$117,000 since 1990, with its last gift of \$10,000 designated to the FNU Endowment Fund in 2011. In 2012, the Van Sloun Foundation generously pledged \$10,000 to the restoration of the stained-glass window in St. Christopher's Chapel.

President Susan Stone hosted a fried-chicken dinner at the Big House for our visitors and was joined by members of the FNU faculty and staff. Our guests toured the Hyden campus the next morning and spent time with faculty and students.

The group was in our region to visit the organizations in Kentucky that the foundation funds, including Alice Lloyd College and Berea College.

We appreciate the continued support for our mission provided by the Van Sloun Foundation and hope they can visit us again.



Alumni, Couriers, friends, faculty and staff gathered for a photo during the Alumni Homecoming & Courier Conclave.

Members of the Frontier family gather for homecoming celebration

Alumni, Couriers, friends, faculty and staff flocked to the city of Hyden for Frontier's Alumni Homecoming & Courier Conclave and to celebrate Mary Breckinridge and her great legacy during the first weekend of October. Frontier alumni and Couriers gather each year to relive memories, to celebrate our founder and to share the fellowship and sense of family that runs so deep throughout Frontier Nursing history. This year's event was even more special as it marked the 50th anniversary of the Mary Breckinridge Festival, themed "Mary Breckinridge ... The Legacy: A Golden Celebration."

During Saturday's parade, Frontier faculty member Julie Daniels and President and Dean Susan Stone led a riderless horse through the streets of Hyden in memory of Mrs. Breckinridge. Former Frontier Dean Elsie Maier Wilson (1977-78), who now lives in Florida, was among those who traveled across the miles to join the festivities. Elsie, alum Donna Murphy and four FNU graduates and students who were born and raised in Leslie County waved to the children and families in the crowd from atop the FNU float.

The float created by the FNU staff, which featured a Banyan tree design, received the Hyden Citizens Bank Award. FNU staff members Susan Morgan, Michael Claussen and Chasity Collett served on the Mary Breckinridge Festival planning committee, and several staff members volunteered at the FNU festival

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booth throughout the weekend.

Our guests for the weekend included Couriers Julia Breckinridge Davis (1967) and Carolyn Gregory (1947); Linda Karle, 1973 graduate; Irene Shearer, 1972 graduate; Dianne Lytle, 1980 graduate; Donna Murphy, 1972 graduate; Tracy Ryan, 2002 graduate; Elsie Maier Wilson, 1963 alum and former faculty member and dean; and several friends and family members. Pioneer alumni Clara Jefferis and Barb French, who live in Leslie County, and Jean Fee joined us for a Saturday evening dinner at the Big House.

We also welcomed some special guests. Karen Polinger Foster of Yale University delivered a fascinating presentation about Mary Breckinridge's work in the reconstruction of northern France after World War I. Ms. Foster is the co-author of the forthcoming book *Au secours des enfants soissonnais: Lettres américaines, 1919-1921, Mary Breckinridge*, a translation into French of more than 50 previously unpublished documents providing insights into Mrs. Breckinridge's work



Julie Daniels and Susan Stone led a riderless horse in the parade to honor Mrs. Breckinridge.

in France and the early experiences that shaped her to lead the Frontier Nursing Service. Dr. Anne Cock-erham, a Frontier graduate and faculty member, read from and signed her book, *Rooted in the Mountains, Reaching to the World*, on Saturday evening.

We were incredibly proud to present Tracy Ryan, owner of Mountain Mid-wifery Center in Colorado, with the alumni award for Distinguished Service to Alma Mater. Sadly, Holly Powell Kennedy, who had hoped to be with us to accept the Distinguished Service to Society Award, had to cancel unexpectedly.



Julia Breckinridge Davis poses with the statue of her great aunt, Mary Breckinridge.



Pioneer alumna Donna Murphy waves to the crowd from the Frontier float.

FOOTPRINTS

Mrs. Breckinridge could always count on the support of her friends and donors in times of need. Today, we still value all the gifts from our friends of Frontier Nursing University and the need is just as great as it was in 1942. The following article was taken from the Fall 1942 Quarterly Bulletin.

The new Garden House is finished and occupied and the hum of its activities spins out from the very site where the old Garden House burned on the eighth of last January.

The pictures, just our own amateur pictures, can't begin to show even the external beauty of this house. As for its internal arrangements, they are beyond praise. We toyed with the idea of reproducing the blueprints and



then decided to substitute a verbal description.

First comes a huge basement of solid stone which was the gift of Mrs. Henry Alva Strong. In it is a room practically fireproof for records and important data; a storage room for canned goods and supplies; a sunny, ample laundry; furnace room; coal bins; a shower and toilet; and a long recreation hall for folk dances, when the boys come home, for carol practice and all social activities.

The office floor is the first one above the basement and that is the gift of the E. O. Rob-

inson Mountain Fund of which Judge Edward C. O'Rear is Chairman. Airy, light offices for Statisticians, Bookkeeper, Social Service Secretary, Executive Secretary and the rest make a day's work a delight for the staff

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who have been overcrowded like a slum since that dark day in January when the old Garden House burned.

On this same office floor is the clinic for the Wendover patients, with a bathroom and a large waiting room with books and magazines and toys for the children. The cost of this clinic was met by a gift of \$963.00 presented to the Director by members of the staff of the Frontier Nursing Service, secretaries, nurses, couriers, current and old, in memory of her brother, Lieutenant General James Carson Breckinridge.

The third floor, except for a small staff living room and two baths, is all bedrooms for couriers and some of the secretaries, with the resident courier's room immediately overlooking the barn so that she can dash out at any hour of the night on any horse emergency. This floor is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. George Clapp. It has verandas at both ends with ladders for fire escapes and a little bridge at the back on to the mountain for the same purpose.

Lastly, there is a huge attic running the entire length of the house with ample storage space for household, barn, office and other supplies and for the clothing sent us until it has been distributed. This attic is the gift of Mrs. Henry B. Joy. The heating and plumbing above the basement floor were given by Mrs. Herman F. Stone. The cable electric wiring for the electricity we hope to have when the war is over, and its installation, were given by Mr. and Mrs. Roger K. Rogan. The fire-proof office safe was given by Mrs. Morris B. Belknap. The fireproof roof was given by Mrs. E. O. Robinson, the widow of the donor of the original Garden House. The furnishings for the Garden House, including all of the office equipment except the safe, have been given by a host of friends from almost every section of the United States.

The total cost of the new Garden House, its excavation, retaining walls, its household furnishings and office equipment, as of November first was \$19,142.95. The total gifts as of the same date were \$20,916.25. A few bills were yet to be rendered, nor are the furnishings quite complete as a good many of them are being made locally. On the other hand, a few pledges are yet to come in before the close of the year. Gifts have met costs, with a margin over for final needs, and there is not one penny of debt. Furthermore, the Executive Committee estimated that it would cost \$25,000 to build and equip a place of this size with first-class materials and workmanship and such costly pieces of office furnishings as a safe, a calculating machine, steel files, typewriters. So far from exceeding the estimates of the cost, we have saved \$5,000 on the estimates.

IN MEMORIAM

These friends have departed this life in recent months. We wish to express our sympathy to their families and our gratitude for their interest in our work.

Ruth Beeman, former dean, played a crucial role in Frontier's success

Ruth K. Beeman, a former dean of Frontier Nursing University who remained engaged with the work of Frontier throughout her years, passed away on Nov. 1 at Lexington Country Place in Lexington, Ky., at the age of 87. She was a dear friend to our current administration and Board, continuing to offer sound advice and support. In 2011, we were honored to bestow the Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Ruth at our annual commencement ceremony. Her achievements as a nurse-midwife and leader have left a permanent mark on our institution.



Ruth became a nurse-midwife in 1950 and made major contributions to midwifery and women's health throughout her life. She spent her career as a nurse, midwife, educator, missionary, consultant, administrator and leader. As a nurse-midwifery pioneer, her accomplishments to nurse-midwifery included: development of innovative educational programs, advancement of family planning, licensure of lay midwives in Arizona and in promoting nurse-midwifery. Internationally, she made contributions in maternal-child health to the former Belgian Congo, Puerto Rico, Mexico,

the Virgin Islands, West Africa and Egypt.

She devoted her passion and expertise to advancing nursing and midwifery training and especially to seeing Frontier succeed. It was a blessed year when Ruth was recruited to Frontier in 1983. She immediately put her skills to work, forming critical partnerships and collaborations that would form the base to grow our school. Her ability to forge partnerships, encourage thoughtful discussions, generate ideas and solutions, and ultimately carry out the necessary steps to put them into action was essential to the program's adoption by Frontier Nursing Service and its long-term success. Her leadership on behalf of Frontier allowed the Community-Based Nurse-Midwifery Education Program (CNEP) to find its permanent home at the "birthplace of midwifery in America."

Ruth resigned as Dean of the school to devote full-time to developing a faculty practice and clinical site at Booth Maternity Center in Philadelphia. This effort was discontinued with the closure of that facility. Ruth, never one to give up easily, responded to the call to serve on the Frontier faculty during the successful implementation of the CNEP pilot program in Pennsylvania until it was moved to Hyden, Ky. Her recent contributions included her parish nursing work and mentoring Frontier Nursing University doctoral students.

A memorial service was held Nov. 16 at Central Christian Church in Lexington, Ky.

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Evelyn Mottram Aldridge, 92, widow of D.W. Aldridge, passed away Nov. 1 in Wilmore, Ky. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 11, 1920. After serving in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps during WWII, she graduated from the Frontier Graduate School of Midwifery (today known as Frontier Nursing University) and practiced as a nurse-midwife for many years in Hyden and Hindman, Ky. She became the campus nurse for Clear Creek in Pineville, Ky., and served until retirement. After retiring, she became a missionary midwife for the International Mission Board and served in Yemen. Throughout her career, she delivered more than 1,000 babies. Upon her return from Yemen, she settled in Lexington, Ky.

Clara Louise Meyer Eberly (1928-2012), a native of Pennsylvania and a 1951 Frontier graduate, passed away this summer in California. She served as a nurse-midwife for the Frontier Nursing Service and as a Navajo Mission Nurse & Midwife in New Mexico. She married in 1952 and raised a family, later working part-time as an OB Nurse and then becoming an instructor and then director of the LVN Program at Hanford Adult School. She retired after 20 years, having taught more than 300 students.

Jo Ann Isberg Eckels, a 2000 graduate of Frontier's nurse-midwifery program, died in a car accident in August with her husband, the late James M. Eckels, in Andover, Mass. Mrs. Eckels was a professional dedicated to the health of women and families with a special commitment to underserved communities.



She had worked for the past 25 years at the General Lawrence Family Health Center, initially as Director of Family Support Services responsible for the Maternal Child program and most recently as a coordinator for the prenatal program as a nurse educator. She was a nursing educator and worked as an Assistant Professor at Boston University, Boston College School of Nursing, Harvard Medical School, and Northern Essex Community College. She was a staff midwife at

Hearts and Hands Midwifery Services for ambulatory well-woman care.

Mabel Forde passed away on Sept. 12 in Southampton, Pa. Ms. Forde was a champion in the field of nurse-midwifery, helping to establish services and teach new students. Ms. Forde was instrumental in the work to turn the Salvation Army's home and hospital for unwed mothers in Philadelphia into the first successful demonstration of a family-centered, midwifery-led maternity hospital for all women. Ms. Forde went on to work with Booth Maternity Center, serving as a role model not only for the women she attended in childbirth, but for the more than 250 student nurse-midwives she supervised while learning their midwifery skills. A beautiful tribute to Ms Forde, written by Frontier board member and Mary Breckinridge Chair of Midwifery, Kitty Ernst, can be found at www.frontier.edu/MabelForde.

Frank B. Hower Jr., a Louisville banker and civic leader who helped guide the expansion of Louisville International Airport during the 1980s, died Sept. 18. He was 83. Hower, who was born and raised in Louisville, left his mark on many Kentucky institutions including Frontier Nursing Service and Frontier Nursing University. Most recently, Mr. Hower served on the Leadership Council for the FNU Endowment Campaign. He also sat on or presided over many corporate, charitable and college boards, including Anthem, Churchill Downs and the James Graham Brown Foundation. In

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addition, he served as trustee for his alma mater Centre College and at the University of Louisville and was an overseer at Bellarmine College.

Elizabeth Jane Phillips, 92, of Midlothian, Va., formerly of Minneapolis, died Aug. 6, 2012. Ms. Phillips was a Frontier supporter and a retired nursing administrator.



Eliza Rogers, 93, the widow of Garland Blair, died July 22 in Lexington, Ky. Mrs. Rogers was a Frontier supporter and friend and a past attendee of the Bluegrass Committee Luncheons. She was born in 1918 in Hyden, Ky., to the late Curt and Catherine Begley Wooton. Mrs. Rogers was a retired music teacher for Fayette County Public Schools.

*The following people gave contributions to Frontier **in memory** of their friends or loved ones. The names in bold are the deceased.*

In memory of Dorothea Chase, Courier 1931

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Chase, Jr.

In memory of Dr. William Moore

Dr. and Mrs. John B. Chewning

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Ms. Jean P. Owens

In memory of Ruth Newell

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Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Dickieson

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In memory of Lillian Harney

Mrs. Henry R. Heyburn

In memory of Betty Lou Johnson

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Regan M. (Johnson) Almada

Renee M. (Johnson) Cassidy

Dr. Roy Johnson

In memory of Bruce A. Miller

Mrs. Phillip C. Miller

In memory of Ruth "Jolly" Jolliffe Michaelis

Jo Dizikes and family

*The following people gave contributions to Frontier **in honor** of their friends or loved ones. The names in bold are the honorees.*

In honor of Marian Leibold

Ms. Julie Webster

In honor of Shanna Elliott

Martha Copeland

In honor of Susan Stone

Ms. Jeanne Westcott

**In honor of Tara Smith,
Midwifery Care Associates**

Carrie Fletcher

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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*Front row, L-R: Marion McCartney, Jane Leigh Powell and Nancy Hines;
back row: Dr. Michael Carter, Michael Rust, Dr. Susan Stone, Dr. Charles Mahan
and John Foley. Not pictured: Dr. Wallace Campbell, Kitty Ernst,
Ken Tuggle and Dr. Nancy Fugate Woods*

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YOUR GIFTS AT WORK:

Support from foundations helps FNU keep technology current

The needs of today's healthcare professionals continue to revolve around gaining immediate access to information to care for their patients. Frontier Nursing University's distance-learning model consistently utilizes the most recent advancements in technology. FNU students receive a series of clinical reference tools before attending Clinical Bound, the eight-day intensive on the

FNU campus that prepares students to begin clinical practicums in their home communities.



The mobile applications industry has boomed in recent years, putting important information at the fingertips of healthcare professionals. It is necessary for FNU graduates to be familiar with the variety of resources available and understand how to access and utilize them. Integration of mobile applications into the curriculum ensures that our graduates have a clear understanding of these uses.

Thanks to generous funding from private foundations, FNU has been able to implement several new programs for our clinical students. These programs are accessed via a mobile device or online and help students to locate important information at the point of care and to record their clinical experiences. Essential Evidence Plus is a library resource available to all faculty and students. Of particular interest to our students and faculty is the ease of finding clinical guidelines with this product. The program includes 1,000 concise primary care practice guidelines, 3,000-plus high-quality evidence summaries and a library of 1,000 photographs and images. Students can access the information they need, when they need it, using Essential Evidence Plus.

Another software utilized in the clinical setting is Lexi-Complete. Lexi-Complete is a software package for smartphones and PDAs that provides access to all Lexicomp exclusive databases plus complementary licensed content. This software lets FNU students link seamlessly between databases and improves workflow efficiency. Lexi-Complete contains more than 20 databases, including Lexi-Drugs, rated the most comprehensive drug resource and prescribing tool available in independent reviews, and Lexi-Interact, a highly re-

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garded interactions program. Lexicom Online is an Internet-based platform delivering continually updated drug information on an easy-to-use interface. Benefits include concise, point-of-care drug information with supporting modules providing interaction analysis, drug identification and medical calculations. Finally, Typhon Clinical Tracking is used to record students' clinical experiences. Designed for all advanced practice nursing programs, the Typhon system functions as a complete electronic student-tracking system, including comprehensive collection of each student's patient encounter logs that need to be tracked during their clinical rotations. Information from Typhon's system not only allows students to develop a portfolio of their work that can be used when seeking employment, but also allows faculty and program directors to follow the progress of each student.

The Cralle Foundation, the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Trust and the Mars Foundation have been generous supporters of Frontier's technology efforts through the years. In 2011, with a \$5,000 grant from the Cralle Foundation and a \$10,000 grant from the Mars Foundation, FNU purchased clinical reference software for use by students in the clinical practicum. The Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Trust awarded a \$30,000 grant to cover the annual costs of our clinical tracking software.

Providing the best instruction combined with state-of-the-art resources is one of many reasons FNU continues to admit 600 new students each year. Our vision is to continue offering these reference and tracking services to students in their clinical settings. Most will go on to use these as practitioners in daily practice. FNU is also working to enhance the simulations and practice occurring at Clinical Bound. During the weeklong Clinical Bound session on campus, students are practicing with standardized patients, anatomical models and high-tech simulation equipment. We are continually seeking funding to support new innovations in clinical training.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Cralle Foundation, the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Foundation and the Mars Foundation for helping us address our technology needs.

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Ways to Give: A Lasting Investment

Your investment in Frontier Nursing University is an investment in quality healthcare for all. There are many ways you can support FNU. Gifts ranging from donations for operations to trust instruments to testamentary gifts provide much-needed support for our work.

For additional information on making a gift to FNU or to receive a planned giving brochure, please call (662) 846-1967 or email Denise Barrett, Director of Development, at denise.barrett@frontier.edu. Give online at www.frontier.edu/online-giving.

FRONTIER NURSING UNIVERSITY

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

Its motto:

“He shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

Isaiah 40:11

Its object:

To safeguard the lives and health of mothers and children by providing and preparing trained nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners for rural areas where there is inadequate medical service; to give skilled care to women in childbirth; to give nursing care to the sick of both sexes and all ages; to establish, own, maintain and operate hospitals, clinics, nursing centers, and educational programs for nurse-midwives and nurse-practitioners; to carry out preventive public health measures; to educate the rural population in the laws of health, and parents in baby hygiene and child care; to provide expert social service; to obtain medical, dental and surgical services for those who need them, at a price they can afford to pay; to promote the general welfare of the elderly and handicapped; to ameliorate economic conditions inimical to health and growth, and to conduct research toward that end; to do any and all other things in any way incident to, or connected with, these objects, and, in pursuit of them to cooperate with individuals and with organizations, private, state or federal; and through the fulfillment of these aims to advance the cause of health, social welfare and economic independence in rural districts with the help of their own leading citizens.

From the Articles of Incorporation
of the Frontier Nursing Service.
Article III as amended April 1999