As we enter June and the summer months, we look back on May in this issue. It was the month we celebrated Nurses Week, reviewed the State of Nursing and honored our remarkable nurses at our annual awards ceremony and reception. It was a time when we gathered with familiar faces across the Medical Center.

The theme for Nurses Week was “4 Million Reasons to Celebrate,” recognizing the 4 million nurses in the United States. We have more than 6,500 of those reasons right here. This issue is dedicated to each of you.

I truly believe that it “takes a village” to reach our ambitious goals for patient care. Each and every one of you has contributed to making Vanderbilt Nursing a beacon to the nursing community nationwide. Thank you for everything you do to care for our patients and families.

Enjoy this issue,
Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSIs) were reduced 22% through the third quarter of fiscal year 2019. Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital had a 28% reduction in falls with injury compared to the same time last year. And in Vanderbilt Medical Group, there were 265,357 total preventative assessments, screenings and well child visits performed since January 2018.

More than 50 nurses have been recognized in the Good Catch Awards, which honors those who prevent a potential serious safety event and recognize and elevate a system problem to prevent possible harm. Meanwhile, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses awarded Children’s Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU) a Bronze Level Beacon Award for its commitment to improve patient care.

Dubree recognized the Vanderbilt Nursing Informatics Committee, which helped implement the switch to Epic clinical systems in November 2017 and continues to refine improvements and leverage data collection from the eStar system. “For nursing, it’s really critical to us that we have the input of people who touch our patients most,” she said.

New models of care are improving the patient and family experience across the Vanderbilt Health enterprise, Dubree said. The new Ambulatory Care Model has been designed to decrease emergency room visits, readmissions and clinical office visits as well as improve patient outcomes and patient and staff satisfaction. And a new Couplet Care model gives a delivering mother and her child the same nurse, improved communication and improved patient education.

Dubree also highlighted the accomplishments of Vanderbilt’s advanced practice nursing. Vanderbilt Health OnCall, a smartphone app that sends an advanced practice nurse to a home, hotel or workplace, expanded to a more than 600 square mile service area. Advanced practice nurses are embedded in the community in locations such as Melrose neighborhood and The Clinic at Mercury Courts.

Vanderbilt is also seeking national accreditation of its Nurse Residency program, which will improve and standardize processes and further distinguish VUMC in a competitive market, Dubree said.

Through outreach activities, Vanderbilt nurses are making a difference in the community and internationally, from providing foot care to the homeless at Room In The Inn to educating nurses in the South American country of Guyana. And it all starts with one nurse.

“...The impact of each nurse with each patient is what we do every day,” Dubree said. “We do it together in teams, alone and in concert with a system that supports nursing and offers the very best care. I am honored to stand with you and am so proud of you.”
2019 NURSING HONORS

Rosamond Gabrielson Staff Nurse of the Year
Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital
Sally Dye, BSN, RN, TNCC, RN 4, Adult ED

Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Tamera Hawkins, RN, LCCE, RN 4, NICU

Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital
Lori Weber, BSN, RN, RN2, Child/Adolescent Unit

Vanderbilt Medical Group
Paula Culbert, RN, RN2, Plastics, Cosmetics, Oral Surgery and Dental Clinics

Rebecca Clark Culpepper Education & Mentorship
Stephanie Abbu, DNP, RN, CNML, Clinical Business Coordinator, NICU, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

Nancy Wells Research and Evidence-Based Practice
Heather Jackson, APRN, FNP-BC, Assistant Director, Outpatient Surgery, Interventional Pain Center, Vanderbilt Medical Group

Adrienne Ames Transformational Leadership
Marlee Crankshaw, DNP, RN, CNML, Director, Neonatal Services, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
2019 NURSING HONORS

Jerita Payne Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year
Kiersten Brown Espaillat, DNP, APN, FAHA, Assistant in Neurology, Stroke Services Program Manager, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Annette Pacetti, APRN, MSN, NNP
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, NICU
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

Nursing Professional Development
Carmen Mauldin, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Specialist, CVICU, Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

Friend of Nursing
Philip Walker, MLIS, MSHI, Director, Eskind Biomedical Library, Vanderbilt University

Licensed Practical Nurse of the Year
LeAnn Burchett, LPN, Lead Licensed Practical Nurse, Belle Meade Walk-in Clinic, Vanderbilt Medical Group

Team Award
Adult Heart Transplant Nursing Team