

# Nursing Leadership Forum

October 8, 2005

McLeod Hall

## Alumni Participants

**Shelley L. Boyce, BSN, MBA,**  
**Chief Executive Officer, MedRisk, Inc.**  
(BSN 1983)

Shelley is chief executive officer and founder of MedRisk, Inc., the nation's leading provider of specialty managed care services and automated, expert-based claims management tools for the workers' compensation industry. Headquartered in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, Shelley is a dynamic leader who oversees all aspects of the company's strategic growth and business development initiatives. Her visionary thinking, commitment to excellence and dedication to providing high-quality healthcare to the patients in MedRisk's growing network have influenced how the industry views traditional managed care service offerings and solutions. She is an active participant in industry leadership events and currently serves as chair of the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) Core Funders Group. In addition, Ms. Boyce has authored numerous articles on medical management, which have been published in *Business Insurance*, *The Journal of Workers' Compensation*, and *Risk & Insurance*. Shelley received a bachelor of science degree from U.Va. and a Masters of Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Amanda C. Faircloth, CRNA, MSN**  
**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)**  
(BSN 2000)

After graduating from UVa, Amanda moved to Baltimore where she worked in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital for 2-1/2 years. She left in 2003 to start graduate school at Duke University where she obtained her MSN in Nurse Anesthesia. Amanda currently is on staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City working as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). She provides anesthesia during the operative course to patients from all age groups (newborns to geriatrics.) She works with a variety of operations including the disciplines of general surgery, gynecology, neurosurgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, pediatrics, thoracic and urology.

**Monty D. Gross, RN, MSN**  
**Associate Professor of Nursing**  
(BSN 1992, MSN 1997)

From 1999 to 2005, Monty served as assistant professor of nursing at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke. He taught medical-surgical nursing to Paramedics, Registered Respiratory Therapists, and Licensed Practical Nurses who were working on obtaining an RN licensure in an accelerated RN program. As coordinator of the program, he designed instruction, coordinated faculty and clinical locations, and evaluated the program. Monty was promoted to the associate professor level this year. In addition to those responsibilities, he has been working in a team to develop an MSN program with two tracks - Nursing Leader and Nursing Educator.

To maintain his clinical competencies, Monty has been working on the Neurology floor at U.Va. in a wage position since June of this year. He is currently working to complete a PhD in Instructional Technology at Virginia Tech. His dissertation research focus is on instructional design practices of expert nurse educators. His goal is to complete the dissertation by May 2006.

**Patty J. Hale, RN, FNP, PhD**  
**Professor of Nursing, Lynchburg College**  
(MSN 1986, FNP 1996)

Patty is currently a professor at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. She has practiced public health nursing in Wisconsin and Virginia, and has consulted widely to many organizations on community health and infectious diseases, most notably the World Health Organization. She has taught courses in

community/public health nursing, epidemiology, environmental health, mental health nursing, and health assessment. Patty has been responsible for both undergraduate and graduate courses in epidemiology, community health and population focused nursing. An advocate for HIV/AIDS education and prevention, she developed and taught two of the first courses ever on HIV/AIDS early in the epidemic. She formerly taught at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville Virginia. She has practiced in community clinics in Lynchburg and along with students conducted clinical and research practice which contributed to the development of a community health center, The Johnson Health Center.

Her publications and presentations have been in the areas of HIV/AIDS, health promotion, service learning, and nursing education. She received a 2000 *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award for the CD, *Real World Community Health Nursing*. In 2003, Patty was named a Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year, and was the first nurse ever to receive this honor. She holds a bachelor of science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has a master's in community health nursing and family nurse practitioner from the University of Virginia, and a doctorate in nursing from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

**Jayne Gosnell Helm**  
**Attorney at Law**

(BSN 1964)

Jayne is an attorney practicing in Charleston, SC and using her nursing as a basis for her Elder Law practice. She has just completed two years as Associate Probate Judge for Charleston County, SC.

After graduating with her BSN, Jayne worked as a staff nurse in NYC, then returned to UVA as a Junior Instructor of Nursing. She found she loved teaching so she enrolled in Emory University and received her Master of Nursing. She returned to UVA as an Associate Professor of Nursing. Following a stint in NYC where she taught at Columbia University's College of Nursing she served again at UVA as an Associate Professor.

Jayne took time off for ten years to raise two children, then returned to work as a part-time staff nurse at the medical center in Columbia, SC, then as Instructor of Nursing at the University of SC College of Nursing. When her children were in high school Jayne entered law school and graduated in 1989 with a Juris Doctor degree. She had her own law practice in Columbia for 7 years, interrupted by two years as the Risk Manager at the medical center there. She then moved to Charleston, SC to work for a medical malpractice defense firm, but two years later opened her own law practice which emphasized family and probate law. In 2002 Jayne was appointed Associate Probate Court Judge for the County, and served for two years. She is now back in private practice specializing in elder law and probate law.

**Merritt Compton Holmberg, RN, BSN**  
**Division Nurse Administrator, Jewish Child Care Association, New York, NY**  
(BSN 2000)

Merritt found that her experience on a women's health med-surg unit and a personal interest in the health care of underprivileged populations pointed her toward the Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA), the non-profit child welfare agency where she's now a Nursing Administrator. For three years, she carried a caseload of 70+ youth from the South Bronx, all of whom are in New York City's foster care system. As a Nurse Case Manager, she serves as the children's "medical home" and helps guide them through the gauntlet of NYC's foster care regulations and services. Now she is managing JCCA's nursing staff and has the opportunity to improve and attend to medical care for hundreds of foster care children in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

**Lisa Kelley, RN, MS, WHNP, AOCNP**  
**Oncology Nurse Practitioner**  
(BSN 1999)

Lisa is a certified women's health nurse practitioner and oncology certified nurse practitioner who works for a private physician's office (H.O.P.E. – Center for Cancer Care) in Charlottesville, Culpeper, and Fishersville Virginia, providing care to outpatients with malignancies and hematologic disorders. She serves on the School of Nursing Alumni Council, the Virginia Legacy editorial board, and the School of Nursing Advisory Board.

**Julia Balzer Riley, RN, MN, AHN-C, CET®**

**Professional Nurse Speaker, Certified Advanced Practice Holistic Nurse, Author, and Expressive Arts Facilitator**

(BSN 1970)

Julia is president of Constant Source Seminars; teaches courses in complementary and alternative therapies and health promotion through the arts at the University of Tampa; and is a certified seminar leader in Spiritual Elder-ing®. Julia is the author of nine books, including Mosby's text Communication in Nursing and Hartman Publishers' Gift of the Caregiver. She facilitates expressive arts at the bedside at Hospice of Southwest Florida and is a Certified Expressive Therapist. Julia is developing Arts for the Health of It® retreats in Tennessee and Florida. Her mission is to Respirit, Reinspire, and Revitalize nurses to deliver sensitive care and find joy, humor, and meaning along the journey. Visit [www.constantsource.com](http://www.constantsource.com).

**Phyllis J. Ross, RN, CNOR**

**Operating Room Nurse, U.Va. Medical Center and International Volunteer**

(Diploma 1966)

Phyllis has been a registered nurse at U.Va. since 1966. Her career started in the U.Va. Emergency Room, but Phyllis has worked in the operating room for more than 30 years. She has experience in all areas of perioperative care but has special interests in Cardiac and GYN surgery. In 1993, Phyllis began volunteer work with Operation Smile, a group of health professionals that travel to developing countries to perform plastic surgery on children with cleft lips and palates. As a volunteer, Phyllis has participated in missions throughout the world. Her role with Operation Smile began as a staff nurse and progressed to Nursing Coordinator. Phyllis is also a founding member of the local AORN chapter.

**David Edward Simmons, Jr., MSN, RN, CNN**

**Clinician 4 and Clinical Director, U.Va. Nephrology Outpatient Clinic**

(BSN 1984, MSN 1993)

David is a Clinician 4 and Clinical Director of the Nephrology outpatient clinic at the University of Virginia. He currently serves on the Virginia Minority Health Advisory Committee for the State of Virginia and the Virginia Nurses Association's Continuing Education Approval Committee. He is a founding member and current president of the Charlottesville chapter of the National Black Nurses Association. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Heart Attack Alert Program (NHAAP) Coordinating Committee, and serves as Vice Chair of the Educational Subcommittee. David has served as course faculty of "The Doctor, The Patient, and the Illness," for the U.Va. School of Medicine. He currently serves as an instructor for the Nursing Synthesis Practicum course for the U.Va. School of Nursing. David is an active participant in the community serving on numerous boards and committees. He is a recipient of the American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award, for exemplary community service.

**Michele T. Tarbet, BSN, MS, RN**

**Senior VP and CEO of Sharp Grossmont Hospital**

(BSN 1974)

Michele has over 30 years of progressive health care management experience including both nursing management and hospital operations. Sharp Grossmont Hospital is a 481-bed acute care facility which houses the busiest emergency room in San Diego County. Under Michele's leadership, the hospital opened in September 2004 a new five-story Emergency and Critical Care Center designed to be the most progressive in the western United States.

In addition to her duties as CEO, Tarbet serves on the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce executive committee and board of directors, as well as being a member of the La Mesa Rotary Club and on the board and past president of the Boys and Girls Club of East County. She is a member of the School of Nursing's Advisory Board.

Michele is the 1999 recipient of the prestigious San Diego YMCA Tribute to Women and Industry "TWIN" award and the 2001 recipient of the San Diego County Council on Community Clinic's "Hero Award."

She earned an MS in Health Care Administration from the University of LaVerne.

**Debbie Wilkinson, RN, BSN, CCRN**  
**ICU Charge Nurse, Martha Jefferson Hospital**  
(BSN 1979)

Debbie currently works as a charge nurse in the ICU at Martha Jefferson Hospital where she is a Clinical Nurse 4 (a designation on the clinical ladder). She is serving as chair of the hospital's Shared Governance Practice Excellence Council, as well as being a member of the ICU Practice Committee. She is a long-time member and former co-chair of Martha Jefferson Hospital's Clinical Ladder committee.