

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

HOUSE ORGAN

www.mc.vanderbilt.edu

September 2009



**Meet VUMC's
Oldest Working Nurse**
(That's him on the right)

Evelyn and Orvan Thompson

House Organ online reaches out

BY WAYNE WOOD

Here are some things I know: People love to look at pictures of their pets.

One Hundred Oaks is still a popular subject to read about.

And the story of Kaitlyn Lasitter, the girl injured at the Kentucky amusement park and treated at VUMC, endures as the most popular Medical Center story of the year online.

House Organ has been on the Web since 2002, but in the past year or so we've been able to measure, thanks to a free program called Google Analytics, what stories are the most popular, as well as other information about the way readers use the Web site.

As an old print guy, I have to say this is a really cool thing.

With a printed magazine or newspaper, you only know how many copies were printed and about how many reached readers.

Sure, sometimes a writer can tell whether readers really liked or didn't like a particular story, either by polite and considered written response ("Dear writer, It is my polite and considered opinion that you are a jackass."), or by spoken comments from loyal readers ("Hey, you! You're a jackass!")

But with Google Analytics, it's possible to know things in more detail.

Such as, in the past year *House Organ* has had about 100,000 page views from just under 28,000 online readers. While about half of those readers are accessing the site from Vanderbilt computers, a lot of people are finding stories through Google or other search engines, or because of blogs or e-mails from friends.

There is a universe of readers out there of which only now are we learning the dimensions.

It turns out the most popular *House Organ* story of the past year (and also the most popular story on any Medical Center site) was the

continued on page 16

4

Benefits to Change

A complete guide to the changes in benefits for 2010 and the open enrollment process.

6

Long, long time

You have colleagues who have worked here 55 and even 60 (!) years. A complete list of those who are being honored at this month's Service Awards, including Jane Park, Ph.D.



10

90 Years Old and Still Working

Orvan Thompson's life has taken him from a boyhood on a Canadian farm to his job as a sitter for Vanderbilt Home Health, and, at the age of 90, he is VUMC's oldest working nurse.



14

Employee Celebration Month

A listing of events to help you make the most of the month of events dedicated to Vanderbilt employees.



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House Organ is the magazine for the staff, faculty, volunteers, and students of Vanderbilt University Medical Center. It is published monthly, with a combined December/January issue, by the Office of News and Public Affairs of VUMC. News stories, ideas, and suggestions are welcome, and should be sent to *House Organ*, CCC-3312 Medical Center North, Nashville, Tenn., 37232-2390. E-mail: Wayne.Wood@Vanderbilt.Edu.

The paper used to print *House Organ* is recycled and recyclable.

Vanderbilt University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action university.

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House Organ photo contest wants pet photos, more

Enter through Oct. 15 on House Organ Web site

This is the 28th year that *House Organ* has called on VUMC staff, students, volunteers and faculty to submit photographs to the *House Organ* Photography Contest, the winners of which will be featured, one per month, in the 2010 *House Organ* Calendar, to be included in the combined December /January issue.

Only digital images will be accepted for the contest. These may be shot with a digital camera or scanned from prints, but all entries must be submitted by e-mail.

We are also asking for pictures of your pets. The pet pictures will be featured in the February 2009 issue in a "Pets of the Medical Center" feature.

The *House Organ* Calendar has changed formats several times in its 28 year life. The most common format has been a calendar grid on one page with a photograph on the facing page. That may change this year, due to budget cuts. That's still being worked out.

Details:

Calendar Photography Contest: Open to all subject matter. Twelve winners will be selected on the basis of interest, technical proficiency and suitability, and printed in the *House Organ* Calendar.

Pet Photography Division: Photographs of pets of Medical Center staff, faculty and students are welcomed. Photographic skill matters less than pictures that show the personality of the pets. It's OK for people to be in the pictures, too. *At the discretion of the judges, pet pictures may be considered for the calendar.*

Those who want to include some information about their pets, such as age, or the fact that she was picked up as a stray, or that he howls when a fire truck goes by, are encouraged to do so. At the very least, tell us the pet's name and the names of others in the pictures..

General rules (please read and follow carefully to avoid the disqualification of your entry):

Who may enter: The contest is open to Medical Center staff and faculty, volunteers, nursing students and medical students. People who work in News and Public Affairs are not eligible for the calendar competition. The photo must have been taken by the person entering it.



Karen Fitz of MICU was a recent winner with this photo of her dog Kara.

What type of photography is suitable? Anything—studio portraits, still lifes, landscapes, art photographs, aerial photography, pictures of children, pictures of adults and pictures of pets have all won in the past.

What formats are acceptable? The images must be saved as .jpg images, and must be at least 300 dpi. (That means no cell phone photos or other low-resolution images; they just won't work for print).

What information should be included with each entry? Your name, department or school, an address and a phone number should be

written on or attached to each entry. Again, with the pet photographs, include the name of the pet and the names of any people in the photograph with the pet.

When is the deadline? Midnight on Thursday, Oct. 15. No entries received afterward will be considered.

How do I enter? Go to the *House Organ* Web site at <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan/> and click on the button to enter, or send photos by e-mail to house.organ.photo@vanderbilt.edu, saved as .jpg images, and at least 300 dpi.

No increase to monthly premiums for Health Plan; limited list of generic drugs priced at \$1 highlight this year's benefits Open Enrollment

Two Benefits Fairs outline options for 2010

There will be two Fairs this year, one at One Hundred Oaks and one at the Student Life Center.

**Vanderbilt Health
One Hundred Oaks**
Wednesday, Sept. 23
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Breakout sessions at
OHO will be in 26102-26104

Student Life Center
Thursday, Sept. 24
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Breakout sessions at SLC
will be in Ballroom C.

Benefits administrators and vendors will be on site at both fairs:

ActiveHealth Management; Aetna; Ameritas VSP Vision; BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee; CIGNA Dental; Fidelity; MetLife; Navitus (new pharmacy benefit manager); Office of Benefits Administration; PayFlex Systems; The Hartford; TIAA-CREF; VALIC; Vanguard

At the Student Life Center, the Vanderbilt Faculty and Staff Health & Wellness staff will be in the Board of Trust Room assisting faculty and staff with their Go for the Gold program.

For Fair details, including a list of breakout sessions, go to <http://hr.vanderbilt.edu/benefits/benfair.htm>.

The annual Open Enrollment for Vanderbilt's benefits-eligible faculty and staff is Oct. 1–15. Online Open Enrollment begins at 8 a.m. Oct. 1 and ends 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 15.

Among the highlights in benefits changes that staff and faculty will be considering this year:

- There will not be an increase to the monthly premiums for the three health plan options—Standard, Advantage P and HealthFund.
- Rates for Short-term Disability for staff are reduced approximately 20 percent for both the 15-day and 30-day options.
- Three optometrists at the Vanderbilt Optical Center are now part of the VSP Vision network. They are Jeffrey Sonsino, O.D., Lori Ann Kehler, O.D. and K. Bradley Kehler, O.D. The rates for VSP Vision coverage are not increasing for 2010.
- An increase in the rates for both CIGNA dental plans.
- The Vanderbilt Health Plan pharmacy benefit is changing to a self-directed pharmacy plan in 2010 and will include a 'mandatory generic' program. The mandatory generic program means that when a generic drug is available for a drug you are prescribed, you must either fill the prescription with a generic or, if you want to purchase the brand-name drug, you must pay the difference in price from the generic co-pay amount to the actual cost of the drug.

"We must gain better control of our prescription drug costs, which last year cost Vanderbilt \$29.4 million," said Jane

Bruce, HR director, benefits administration. "And, that amount is just the Vanderbilt portion, the amount that our faculty and staff paid in co-pays was \$8.3 million. I am passionate about getting a handle on our drug costs, because we have the capability of internally designing a pharmacy plan that can meet Vanderbilt's expectations as well as those of our faculty and staff."

Beginning in 2010, the pharmacy benefit will include a reduced co-pay for a limited list of generics. "Most of the prescription drugs that will be on this list are those needed by our faculty and staff who have a chronic illness. We hope this reduced co-pay will encourage employees to take their medicine keeping their treatment plan on track," said Dexter Shurney, M.D., HR health plan medical director.

A computer will be available for online enrollment in HR Express, 2525 West End Avenue on the second floor, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. each weekday during Open Enrollment. Faculty and staff will need to have their VUNetID and e-password to use the Web-based enrollment. Those needing to get a VUNetID and e-password, should contact ITS or visit <https://jprod.its.vanderbilt.edu/apps1/its-epassword/main.html>.

For more information on Open Enrollment, visit the Benefits tab of the Human Resources Web site at <http://hr.vanderbilt.edu/benefits>.

Contact: benefits@vanderbilt.edu

Information for this article was provided by Ginny McLean, marketing coordinator in Benefits Communications.

Pharmacy benefit changes:	
Description of Change	The Change Affects
Navitus will be the pharmacy benefit manager in 2010.	All three health plan options
All health plan participants will receive a Navitus pharmacy ID card to be used beginning January 1, 2010.	
A mandatory generic program begins January 1, 2010. When a generic is available for a prescribed drug, you must fill the prescription with a generic, or pay the difference in price from the generic copay amount to the actual cost of the drug.	
The copay for a limited list of maintenance drugs for select medical conditions will be lowered to \$1 for up to 31-day supply only at the Vanderbilt outpatient pharmacies (\$3 for 90-day supply).	
The copay for other generics (not on the limited list) will be lowered to \$5 only at the Vanderbilt outpatient pharmacies (\$15 for 90-day supply).	
A new formulary (preferred drug list) will be in place January 1, 2010.	

Enrollment system changes include:		
Change	Description	Will this change affect you?
No post-tax payroll deduction	The option to pay for your benefits on a post-tax basis is being eliminated to prepare for HR records system changes for 2011.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, if you have post-tax payroll deductions for the health plan, dental, vision, accidental death and dismemberment and/or short-term disability benefits, you will no longer be able to choose this payroll option and MUST MAKE PRE-TAX BENEFITS ELECTIONS FOR 2010. • Yes, if you have the PayFlex-administered Health Reimbursement Account (formerly "FRA") and pay for some or all of your benefits post-tax, you will no longer automatically receive a reimbursement check from your HRA. Instead, you must file claims to be reimbursed from your PayFlex-administered HRA.
No paper enrollment forms	Open Enrollment elections should be made online.	Yes, if you previously enrolled using the paper form.
No paper confirmations	Printing and mailing paper confirmations are being eliminated.	Yes, you will need to print your Benefits Enrollment Receipt while logged on to the enrollment site or use C2HR to review your elections. Confirming your elections before October 15 is your responsibility.
Enrollment ending at 5:30 p.m.	The enrollment site will close at 5:30 p.m. on October 15.	Yes. To avoid delays or problems with your enrollment, do not wait until the last day to enroll as the system is very busy that day and if you encounter a problem there will be little time to assist you before the 5:30 p.m. close.

Health Plan changes:	
Description of Change	The Change Affects
Go for the Gold Wellness Credit in 2010 will be paid into the Vanderbilt Health Plan Account as an annual amount of either \$120 (Bronze), \$180 (Silver) or \$240 (Gold). If you are enrolled in and pay for the Vanderbilt Health Plan and participate in the Go for the Gold program, your Wellness Credit will automatically be applied toward meeting your deductible (does not include copays) for you and your family. You do not need to file claims to use the Vanderbilt Health Plan Account, as Aetna or Blue-Cross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST) will pay from this account on your behalf.	All three health plan options
Deductibles are increasing by \$250 across all coverage tiers and networks. (Offset by the amount of any Go for the Gold wellness credit)	
Out-of-pocket maximums are increasing by \$250 across all coverage tiers. (Offset by the amount of any Go for the Gold wellness credit)	
Dental benefit changes:	
Monthly premiums increasing approximately 6% for CIGNA Dental DHMO and 5.5% for CIGNA Dental PPO.	Both CIGNA dental plans
Short-term Disability benefit changes:	
Monthly cost reduced by 20 percent.	Both the 15- and 30-day options

Nominations being accepted for Research Staff Awards

n Vanderbilt University Medical Center is accepting nominations for Research Staff Awards in the following categories:

Edward E. Price Jr. Award for Basic Research—for excellence in conducting basic research.

Vivian Thomas Award for Clinical Research—named after research assistant Vivian Thomas, whose career started at Vanderbilt School of Medicine in the lab of Alfred Blalock, M.D., this award recognizes excellence in conducting clinical research.

Contributing to Multi-investigator Teams—this award recognizes research excellence as a contributor to a multi-investigator team.

Over the past nine years, the VUMC research enterprise has grown tremendously, achieving the fastest NIH research growth of any U.S. academic medical center. Vanderbilt ranked 10th in NIH funding in FY07 with \$282 million, up from 24th in 2000.

Eligible staff includes Research Assistant I, II, & III; Senior Research Specialist; or any person who provides exemplary research support. Faculty members, research fellows, postdoctoral and graduate students are not eligible. For more information about eligibility, contact Ann Richmond at 343-7777 or ann.richmond@vanderbilt.edu.

Nominations, which must include a letter from a faculty member and *curriculum vitae* or resume for the candidate, should be received in electronic format by Sept. 25. Please indicate clearly the award category for which you are nominating the individual. Electronic applications should be sent to ann.richmond@vanderbilt.edu.

Award recipients will be announced at a celebratory luncheon at the University Club on Nov. 6. Award recipients will receive a check for \$1,000, a certificate and a trophy.

Years of service honored at annual celebration

Ceremonies throughout month to honor years of dedication to Vanderbilt

The combined Medical Center and University Service Awards on Sept. 23 at 3 p.m. in Langford Auditorium will be a part of the September Employee Celebration Month at Vanderbilt. Those being honored this year are staff with five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years of service, with 20 years and longer recognized at the celebration.

Here's a list of Medical Center employees who will be honored this year, arranged by years of service and beginning with 10 years, with the faculty list following the staff list:

MEDICAL CENTER STAFF

10 years

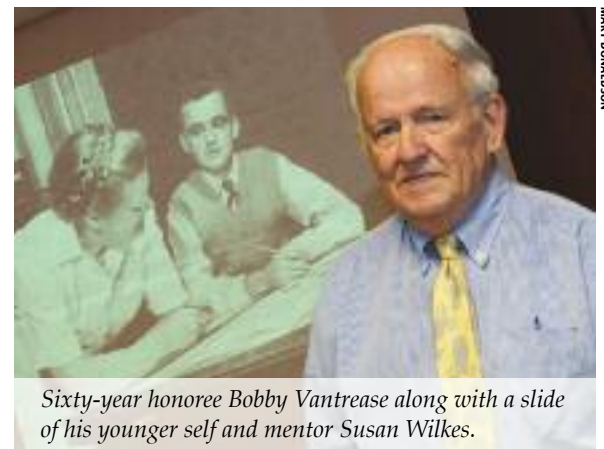
Heather Adams
Charles Alexander
Jennifer Allen
Tara Allos
Sustin Anderson
Andrea Antone
Melinda Apple
Cheryl Arnott
Mimi Arthur
Betty Austin
Olufunmilayo Aworunse
Dorothy Bagwell
Nanette Bahlinger
Joseph Baker
Sharon Barker
Janet Barker
Suzanne Barrett
Sharon Bateman
Lydia Beadles
Keisha Beard
Jacquelyn Beekley
Mary Belcher
Jerome Bell
George Belton
Noah Beverly
Christina Bieseemeier
Sherry Blair
Martin Blair
Lisa Blankenship
Faye Boatman
Kellie Boucher
Russell Bowden
Hal Bowman
Lucious Boyd
Yukiko Bradford
Sara Brazzale
Laura Breece
Carol Brennan
Scharneitha Britton
Anna Brogdon
Nancy Brown
Timothy Brown
Shavetres Brown
Peggy Buchanan
Sherron Buchanan
Robert Burnell
Lenora Butler
Sandra Camp
Tori Cannon
Baze Carlile

Craig Carmichel
Shirley Carr
E. Carroll
S. Carter
Mary Celestine
Bernard Chalker
Qiufang Cheng
Dong-Sheng Cheng
Raymond Chrenko
Lisa Chumbley
Sherri Churchwell
Stephanie Clark
Yanick Clermont
Sharon Coleman
Paige Conatser
Cynthia Conrath
Lisa Cornell
Jackie Cothron
Patricia Covington
Shelley Cox
Sherman Cox
Tammie Crague
Keisha Crump
Eugenia Crumpton
Willie Crutcher
Michael Cull
Laura Currie
Lynne Damon
Brenda Daniell
Gina Dann
Lesla Daugherty
Janice Davenport
Mary Davis
Kimberly Day
John Decker
Gerald DeMarco
Waverly DeMers
Kristen Denmon
Cameron Dipasquale
Mustafa Dirir
Mark Dodd
Martha Dodson
Janet Dorris
Pamela Doss
Lisa Eason
Ronald Eatherly
Linda Eggleston
Christine Eighmey
Veronica Elders
Roy Epperson
Alisa Escue
Jeffrey Farmer
Benjamin Farmer
Bibo Feng
Charlotte Ferguson

Laura Fisher
David Fitzgerald
Jeffery Fizer
Vera Flowers
Paula Forte Kerr
Sue Frazier
Mazo Freeman
Janette Friend
Virginia Fuqua-Meadows
George Giles
Elizabethan Gill
Tina Gipson
Gloria Glick
Annette Goad
Pamela Grant
Cheryl Graves
Karen Greer
April Greer
Carroll Greer
Kathy Grinder
Beverly Gross
Yvette Hale
Debbie Hall
Diane Hancock
Vicky Hardimon
James Hargrave
John Hargrove
Marcia Harrington
Emma Harris
Sayed Hashemi
Carol Haslett
Donna Hawkins
Melissa Hayden
Kimberly Hayes
Jennifer Haynes
Tiffany Henderson
Barbara Hendley
Dottie Herendon
Esther Hightower-Scott
Angela Hill
John Hobby
Thomas Hollinden
Melissa Hollingsworth
Theresa Hook
Betsy Hooper
Michelle Hooter
Jacqueline Hornbeck
Tabitha Horton
Margaret Howard
Amanda Hunter
Nancy Ingram
Julie Isbell
Jerry Ishee
Betty James
Freyja James

Pamela Jeanneret
Albert Jenkins
Kimberly Jenkins
Christopher Jircitano
Jessica Jobe
Lucille Johnson
Ann Johnson
Catherine Johnson
Ruth Johnson
Nadolyn Johnson
Adem Jugovic
Julieann Kapelan
Kuisook Keel
Dana Keele
James Keith
Kristi Kelley
Jane Kendall
Virginia Ketschke
Misty Kile
Elizabeth King
Beverly Kinzer
Quinina Knight
Cindy Kolenda
Barbara Konz
Michael Kopytko
Robert Krozely
Fannie Lambert
Shelly Lampley
John Lampman
Angela Lane
Kenya Lanier
Susan LaRue
Michael Lavender
Martha Lavy

Susan Logan
Marilyn Lowry
Twila Lockett
Minnie Lyons
Marga Madir
Jama Maenza
Janice Malone
Bethany Malugin
Mary Manier
Stacey Maple
Billy Martin
Diana Marver
Kathryn Mashburn
Princess Maynie
Nancy Mays
Shonda McCasland
Paula McClain
Pamela McClanahan
Carol McCord
Angelique McCray-Kenaston
Betty McDaniel
Mary McElrath
Ann McGauran
Sherry McKew
Irene McKirgan
Sharon McMahan
Susan McMillen
Stephanie McNeal-Goddard
Kris Meadows
Carl Meadows
Melody Mendenhall
Edward Merkle
Frederick Mick



Sixty-year honoree Bobby Vantrease along with a slide of his younger self and mentor Susan Wilkes.

Lisa Lawrence
Shannon Leach
Lori Lederer
Julia Lee
M Lee
Richard Lewis
Derrick Lewis
Erik Lillie
Marcella Lively
Beth Loats
Jeffrey Loeb
Shelly Logan

Barbara Miller
Michael Miller
Leanna Miller
Solomon Modjeska
Trevicca Moore
Carla Moore
Patrick Moss
Mojdeh Mozayani
Christy Mullen
Kelly Newhouse
James Nichols

Mark Nickel
James Oeser
Pamela Ogles
Halina Onishko
Folashade Oyebade
Jacquelyn Patterson
Tynya Patton
Bret Perisho
Vincent Phillips
Pamela Phillips
Janene Pierce
Steven Pierce
David Posch
Jeanne Potter
Julie Poulsen
Cynthia Powell
Carl Pullen
Karen Rader
Margie Raduski
William Raines
Suzanne Randall
Robert Ratliff
Keith Rawlings
Martha Rawls
Robert Reams
Karen Reece
Dionne Reed
Phillip Remke
Johannie Resto
Ladonna Reyka
Angela Reynolds
Joseph Ricci
Kristen Riggs
Thomas Rine
Mary Robinson
Samantha Rooks
Katharine Rothaar
Nancy Rudge
Catherine Rupard
Susan Russell
Constance Ryans
Margreth Saria
Michael Schelling
Deborah Scott
Sarah Seep
Linda Selfridge
Bashar Shakhtour
Maria Shiavi-Johnson
Maria Shook
Susan Short
Nickeysha Simmons
Marcia Sloan
Ben Small
Crystal Smith
Kristie Smith
Lisa Smith
Liesl Smith
Mette Smith
Joyce Speer
Valerie Spence
Rachel Stacey
Brenda Starks
Robert Stilwell
Roger Stinson
Eddie Strain
Carolyn Strickland
Kimberly Suttle
Angela Swinger
Lockridge

Penny Szklarski
Lynne Taylor
Deborah Taylor
Aldrus Taylor
Monica Taylor-Jordan
Erin Terry
Jodie Thomas
Karen Thompson
Sharon Thornhill
Carlotta Thornton
Tracy Torres
Debra Trostel
Lane Tyler
Matthew Underhill
Tamika Vannoy
Elizabeth Vaughn
Sharon Vaughn
Cathy Vickers
Pamela Vourazeris
R. Wade
Susan Walker
Kimberly Walter
Dawna Walters
Yufen Wang
Daleene Washington
Margaret Ways
Andre Webster
Roshutta Webster
Teresa Welch-Burke
Christi Wesson
Theda West
Katherine Wheaton
James Wheeler
Angela White
Andrea Whitman
Cathleen Williams
Michelle Williams
Sondra Williams
Tyrone Williamson
Pamela Winfrey
Sharon Winston
Mary Witt
Wendy Wood
Johnny Woodard
Lucille Woodroof
Kimberly Yeager
Janna Yeargin
Tatiana Zaboikina
Heng Zeng
Yueli Zhang
Jerry Zhao

MEDICAL CENTER STAFF

15 years

June Adkins
Nancy Adkisson
Regina Akin
Luis Alcazar
Nancy Anderson
Carolyn Anderson
Vicki Bailey
Linda Bandy
Beverly Barker
Diane Batch
Dianne Batts
Camilla Beasley

Linda Bell
Caroll Berry
Trenia Bigham
Shirley Binkley
Bonnie Black
Robert Blackwell
Sondra Blount
Ella Bostic
Tanya Boswell
Walter Bowman
Cullom Bradford
Geraldine Brown
Robert Bryan
Sean Bunch
Elizabeth Card
Quentella Carpenter
Paula Case
Gaynelle Chatman
Paul Clary
Leanna Craft
Genorris Crawford-Clark
Catherine Crumbo
Kay Dahlk-McSherry
Terry Davidson
Olga Davis
Turina Davis
Himanshu Desai
Hector Doromal
Judy Dreddy
Maria Edmonds
Treva Edmondson
Arnette Edwards
Jennifer Eutsler
Joseph Eyrich
Nancye Feistritzer
Isabel Fiala
Jane Fill
Carol Fine
Cairllon Fitzgerald
Kelly Floyd
John Floyd
Tonya Fox
Glenda Fox
Patricia Frawley
Paula Fullwood
Lois Gisting
Timothy Gistover
Tracy Glassco
Angela Gleaves
Maria Goostree
Nicholas Gordon
Joyce Green
Hattie Greer
Janet Gressman
Candy Hall
Kathryn Hall
Gail Hammonds
Deborah Harlan
Jodi Haynes
David Haywood
Cheryl Hedgepath
Marlyn Henning
Reginald Herron
Beverly Hill
Deborah Holifield
Carol Holt
Donna Horton
Gloria Howard
Brenda Hughey



Jane Park, Ph.D., in her Medical Center North office.

Janet Iacolino
Mine Ikizler
Debra Jacks
Lottie Jackson
Jarvis Jackson
Emma Jenkins
Ellen Johnson
Catherine Johnson
Larry Jones
Cheryl Jordan
Beth Kammer
Jewelle Keese
Nancy Kidd
Judy King
Grace Kopp
Debra Krag
Michael Lance
Susan Lasher
Shelia Lewis
Karen Lilly
Jane Longhurst
Robbie Loupe
Kimberly Manley
Sheryl Margolis
Carla Marsh
Drexel Martin
Beverly McCauley
Margo McClain
Deborah Mitchell
Michael Mitchell
Cindy Morris
Eldora Mushi
Stephen Nelson
Connie Nixon
Dee Osborne
Tracy Palmer
Cathy Perry
Beverly Phillips
Terri Phillips
Patricia Polman
Claudia Raby
Judy Ralph
Eileen Redmond
Billie Rich
Charlotte Roberts
Deborah Robertson
Randall Robinson
Brenda Rouse
Sonja Russell
LaSonia Scantling
Faye Scruggs
Stephanie Sermsai
Qiong Shi
Misty Skelton

Jennifer Slaughter
Jonathan Strong
Dana Sylak
Henrietta Szymd-Hogan
Mark Tankersley
John Taylor
Maxine Thomason
James Thompson
Linda Thornton
Jeryllyn Thurman
Traci Tidwell
Joan Tiller
Bakula Trivedi
Mark Vallo
Grace Vicente
Christopher Vincent
Arlene Votra
James West
Lisa Wheeler
Joyce White
Steven Wilkinson
G Williams
Harry Wilson
Sara Woodbury
James Wright
Barbara Yudiskas
Mei-Ying Zhu

MEDICAL CENTER STAFF

20 years

Marchelle Alexander
Natalia Anderson
George Armstrong
Negasi Asmelash
Jane Baker
Sandra Baugh
Pamela Beaudo
Robert Bentley
Howard Bolinting
Bryan Brand
Susan Brigance
Chereta Brigman
Sernetta Bufford
Lynn Cain
Magnolia Campbell
Karen Carney
George Carter
Cally Charping
Qiu-Chen Cheng
Connie Chesemore
Helen Chomicki



PHOTO: VNUC

One of John Flexner, M.D.'s memorable days at work when he married Glenda Voss in the VUH Chapel in 2003.

Charles Clark
Regina Claybrooks
Virginia Climo
Judith Coffman
Beth Collins
Leslie Crabtree
Royce Crawford
Barbara Crossland
Erin Cunningham
Kimberly Cutrell
Dianne Davis
Glennith Davis
Jerry Dewitt
Teresa Dugger
Cynthia Duncan
MaryLou Farinaro
Elizabeth Farmer
Charlene Finney
Peggy Fisher
Barbara Forbes
Beverly French
Charlotte Frey
Gladys Garrison
Belinda Gascon
Ella Gatson-Bey
Terri Gay
Patricia Gladu
Eva Gray
Jane Greene
Rebecca Gregory
Alvin Gresham
Frederick Haitch
Kimberly Halliburton
Charles Hamar
Susan Harness
Scott Harrison
Mavis Harrop
Mark Hearn
Andrea Hedley-Williams
Christa Hedstrom
Sarah Helbig
Linda Henry
Paul Hightower
Ernestine Holden
Linda Horton
Eddie Hurd
Linda Hutcheson

Anne Hyde
Gerald Hyland
Allen Jackson
Angie James
Judith Johnson
Hazel Johnson
Nancy Kennedy
Donna Kilpatrick
Carol King-Baer
Mary Kirby
Ronald Knuutila
Dana Ladd
Valerie Lincoln
Fannie Locke
Nancy Lodwig
Marsha Loneagle
Joan Lorber
Jennifer Love
Barbie Lovett
Carole MacIntyre
Mary Matthys
Freda McClendon
Phyllis McFolin
Willie McLin
Karen Meek
Lisa Meyers
Cheryl Miles-Boggs
Fernanda Mineo
Daphne Mitchell
Linda Moore
Rebecca Mullen
Stephen Myers
Karen Nanney
Timothy Peck
Louise Perkins
Maxine Perlen
Dennis Purcell
Shirley Qiao
Zhichao Qu
Joanne Rains
Terry Ralph
Donald Reeves
Celeste Riley
Judith Rister
Phoebe Ross
Paulette Russell
Patricia Sagen

Stephanie Sanchez
Marva Sawyers
Cynthia Senick
Linda Shade
Delores Shaw
Jane Shoun
Amanda Simpson
Marion Singleton Bailey
Georgette Smiley
Brenda Smith
Marguerite Stack
William Stewart
Phillip Stewart
Richard Stotler
Sherry Stuart
Mao-Fu Sun
Margaret Sweatt
Howard Thomason
Edna Tomlinson
Charles Vaughn
Debora Welch
Paulette Wells
Janice West
Marcia West
Felecia Wharton
Jannie Whitehurst
Thomas Wright
Debra Wujcik
William Zackert
Jane Zubulake

MEDICAL CENTER STAFF

25 years

Audrey Batey
Regina Baynham
Sheila Beavers
Lynn Bennett
Sally Bowers
Diane Boyd
Deanna Bracy
Elaine Brown
Robert Brown
Ken Browning
Stephanie Bryan
Cathy Burton
Kathy Byington
Cathy Caldwell
Linda Clark
Toney Cole
Judy Copeland
Cindy Craft
Harriet Davis
Margie Day-Ramsey
Anthony Dematteo
Toni Donegan
Marcia Freudenthal
Shelia Gad
Pam Gibson
Jeff Gordon
David Gregory
Jay Groves
Mary Gunn
Cheri Halaparda
Kathi Hall
Doris Head
Sharyn Holder

Gwen Holder
George Holmes
Frances House
Carol Hutchinson
Sarah Hutchison
Rischelle Jenkins
Sharon Johnson
Mary Ann Jorissen
Bharati Kakkad
Trisha Kennedy
Danny Knight
Steve Koch
Anne Kush
Cathy Lackey
Les Lasater
Anna Belle Leiserson
Lisa Leuellen
Maggie Lively
Sally Lyden
Sandra Mangrum
Shirley Martin
Ms. Mac McDougal
Renna McKnight
Linda McNeil
Cindy Miller
Freddie Milliken
Tandie Moore
Candy Morgan
Cindy Mullins
Ron Neufeld
Carla Nicholson
Kris Norris
Johnna Oleis
Jill Owen
Ray Parker
Marjorie Patch
Rhonda Phillippi
Helen Pride
Flo Printz
Starr Ramsey
Sam Reed
Mary Reeves
Elizabeth W. Robinson
Freda Scott
Paula Shearon
Lisa Siegenthaler
Rita Smith
Mary Smith
Wanda Spakes
Nancy Stanley
Steve Steele
Kimberly Stracener
Mary Stroud
Cathy Summerlin
Sheila Thomas
Jean Tidwell
Rhonda Walker
Diane Ward
Sandy Watkins
Cheryl Williams
Karen Winrow

MEDICAL CENTER STAFF

30 years

Myra Agee
Larry Amos

Candy Baker
Judy Bennett
Yvonne Bernard
Gwen Booth
Judy Bourgoin
Tommy Braden
Deborah Brandon
Louise Brown
Deborah Brown
Nokomis Brown
Jannette Chambers
Beverly Conner
Brenda Crews
Selena Cunningham
Rebecca Davis
Kathy Dieterich
Glenda Dollard
Pat Donahue
Dale Finney
Pat Fisher
Connie Ford
Geri Foster
Sheree Foster
Phyllis Frost
Laura Goins
Gayle Grantham
Jewell Haas
Becky Hall
Adlenita Harbert
Camelia Head
Becky Hicks
Martha Hoover
Connie Huff-Simmons
Mark Hunt
Anita Jenkins
Ray Johnson
Jackie Johnson
Terry Johnson
Cecilia Karrigan
Kathy Karrigan
Nancy Kraft
Peggy Krozely
Nita Lamb
Brenda Lucas
Amy Mac Kenzie
Henry Madison
Barbara Marshall
Martha Martin
Patricia Massey
Julie Mavity-Hudson
Alice Mealer
Vera Merriweather
Daris Merriweather
Gerry Miller
Cynthia Moe
Mary Murray
Donna Nolan
Carolyn Patton
Gordon Perry
Pat Quarles
Kathy Reed
Yolanda Ricci
Ruth Robertson
Lynn Robinson
Connie Root
Sam Saleh
Brenda Sandlin
Merrell Scruggs
Terri Seale

Kenneth Sinclair
Janice Sisco
John Allan Smith
Dana Smith
Bonnie Smith
Benita Stubbs
Barbara Swann
Gracie Taylor
Rob Thomason
Kathy Walter
Elizabeth Watson
Deirdre White
DeDe Wright
Rhonda Zollars

**MEDICAL CENTER
STAFF**

35 years

Rhonda Altick
William Anderson
Kay Blocker
Debby Booth
Margaret Brandon
Lynn Butler-Bailey
Vicky Cagle
James Crenshaw
Ms. Davis
Donna Glenn
Joe Goff
Ella Howard
Pat Howard
Phyllis Hudson
Guin Johnson
Helen Lane
Sherrie Leach
Adele Lewis
Frances Lynch
Eula Oglesby
Felicity Peck
Melvin Robinson
Juanita Taylor
Estelle Thomas
Tommie Thompson
Arthur Thompson
Mary Tidwell
Alma Turner
Wade Walker
Ronald Welch
Sandra Williams
Nancy Wood
Jacquelyn Woods

**MEDICAL CENTER
STAFF**

40 years

Barbara Boyd
Martha Cook
Freddie Easley
Susie Huddleston
Yolander Jackson
Rosalie Lewis
Brenda Merrell
Brenda Pride
Annette Reed
Chris Traylor

**MEDICAL CENTER
STAFF**

45 years

Mrs. Baker
Ms. Boles
Eula McCall
Barbara Smith

**MEDICAL CENTER
STAFF**

60 years

Bobby Vantrease

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

10 years

Deanna Aftab Guy
John Algren
Catherine Arthur
Dean Ballard
Julie Bastarache
Jordan Berlin
Jean Blank
Kimberly Brennan
Christopher Brown
Daniel Byrne
Brian Carter
Walter Chazin
Xiwu Chen
Sallaya Chinratanalab
Yong-Jig Cho
Lynn Clement
Shannon Cole
Clarence Creech
Ramon Cuevas
Kathryn Dahir
Sean Davies
Roy DeHart
Punita Dhawan
Wonder Drake
Phyllis Egbert
Haydar Frangoul
Gerald Frank
Lee Golper
Thomas Golper
Adriana Gonzalez
Ewa Grzeszczak
Marek Grzeszczak
Jeffrey Guy
Maureen Hahn
Patricia Hall
Jennifer Halpern
Paul Harris
Stephen Hays
Shubhada Jagasia
Sharon Jones
Sebastian Joyce
Hillary Kaplan
Srinivas Kumar
Tsutomu Kume
Anthony Langone
P. Lin
Andrew Link

Zigmund Luka
Kevin McManus
Clifton Meador
Anna Means
Bonnie Miller
Oleg Ossipovitch
Maria Overstreet
A Pearson
Benjamin Poulouse
Todd Ricketts
William Riordan
Frank Rosato
Bruce Roth
Friedrich Schuening
Chasidy Singleton
Clay Smith
Jarrod Smith
Jeffrey Smith
Heidi Smith
Deborah Snedegar
E. Southard Smith
Theodore Speroff
Catherine Stober
Thomas Talbot
Helen Talbot
Ingrid Verhamme
Pamela Waynick-Rogers
Robert Whitehead
Jennifer Wilbeck
Danny Winder
JinMing Yang
Ruth Young
Michail Zaboikin
Tiffinie Zellars

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

15 years

Matthew Abbate
John Barwise
Robert Beauchamp
Olivier Boutaud
Marcela Brissova
Steven Brown
Meera Chandrashekar
Amy Chomsky
Ok Chung
Robert Deegan
Thomas Dina
Thomas Doyle
Sandra Ermini
Catherine Garrett
Nunzia Giuse
Dario Giuse
Thomas Groomes
Youfei Guan
Chuan-Ming Hao
Michael Higgins
Leslie Hopkins
Karen Joos
Laurie Lawrence
William Lummus
Letha Mathews
Jackiel Mayo
Michel McDonald
Randolph Miller
David Miller

Gerald Murley
David Noel
Don Park
Scott Parker
Ray Paschall
John Peach
Jennifer Pietenpol
Ivan Robbins
Michele Salisbury
Christine Saunders
Nathalie Schnetz-
Boutaud
Sandra Seidel
Masakazu Shiota
Yu Shyr
Robbin Sinatra
Michael Smith
Marcia Spear
Oleg Tikhomirov
Dao Wang
Sally Watson
Charles Weaver
Mary Yarbrough
Mingzhi Zhang
Jing Zhou

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

20 years

Joseph Awad
Jackie Corbin
Timothy Cover
David Cox
Janie Daddario
John Downing
Susan Drummond
Jack Hawiger
J Helderman
Shan Huang
Kevin Kelly
Lynda Lamontagne
Lawrence Marnett
Jean Pfothenauer
Ann Richmond
Marcy Sipes
Walter Smalley
Wanda Snead
Michael Tramontana
Ruth Veach
Ann Walia
John Worrell
Seth Wright

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

25 years

George Allen
Daniel Ashmead
Colleen Conway-Welch
Debra Dodd
Darrel Ellis
John Greer
Reza Habibian
Theresa Inott
James Johns

Robert Kessler
Thomas Lewis
Owen McGuinness
Stephen Moore
John Morris
Gary Niblack
John Phillips
Thomas Powers
Margaret Rush
Charles Rush
Sharon Schach
Kenneth Sharp
Karen Starr
Jack Tyson
James Whitlock

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

30 years

Carolyn Aubrey
Brenda Butka
Benjamin Byrd
Elaine King
John Newman
Thomas Oeltmann
James Pichert
Max Shaff
Charles Stratton
Penny Waugh
Robert Workman

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

35 years

Margaret Bender
Carl Hellerqvist
Allen Kaiser
Anthony Kilroy
John Leonard
Wayne Ray
Phillip Williams
Peter Wright

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

40 years

Carolyn Bess
Gerald Fenichel
William Stone

**MEDICAL CENTER
FACULTY**

55 years

John Flexner
Jane Park

Vanderbilt's Oldest Working Nurse

At 90 years old, Orvan Thompson's life has led him through one marriage, four children, several careers, and now, to Vanderbilt Home Care

BY LESLIE HAST



A Canadian farm boy, born the month World War I ended in 1918, is Vanderbilt's oldest working nurse. In his 90 years, Orvan Thompson, LPN, has had quite a life.

Thompson, who trained as a nurse in the 1940s and still works as a sitter for Vanderbilt Home Care Services, has nearly a full head of silvery hair and a mustache to match. His glasses are thin and his gait is sure and steady.

"I've had good health, I really have. I'm getting now some arthritis and eye problems, but I've always been fortunate," he said. "Somebody asked me one day what I attribute that to. I said good food and hard work. I don't know what else it would be. I never was one to smoke or drink either."

He lives with his wife of 66 years, Evelyn, who is also a nurse, at the Madison home they bought in 1950, where they raised their four children.

Thompson works on-call on a 3 to 11 p.m. shift. He is usually called in twice a week but once worked a 21-day stretch.

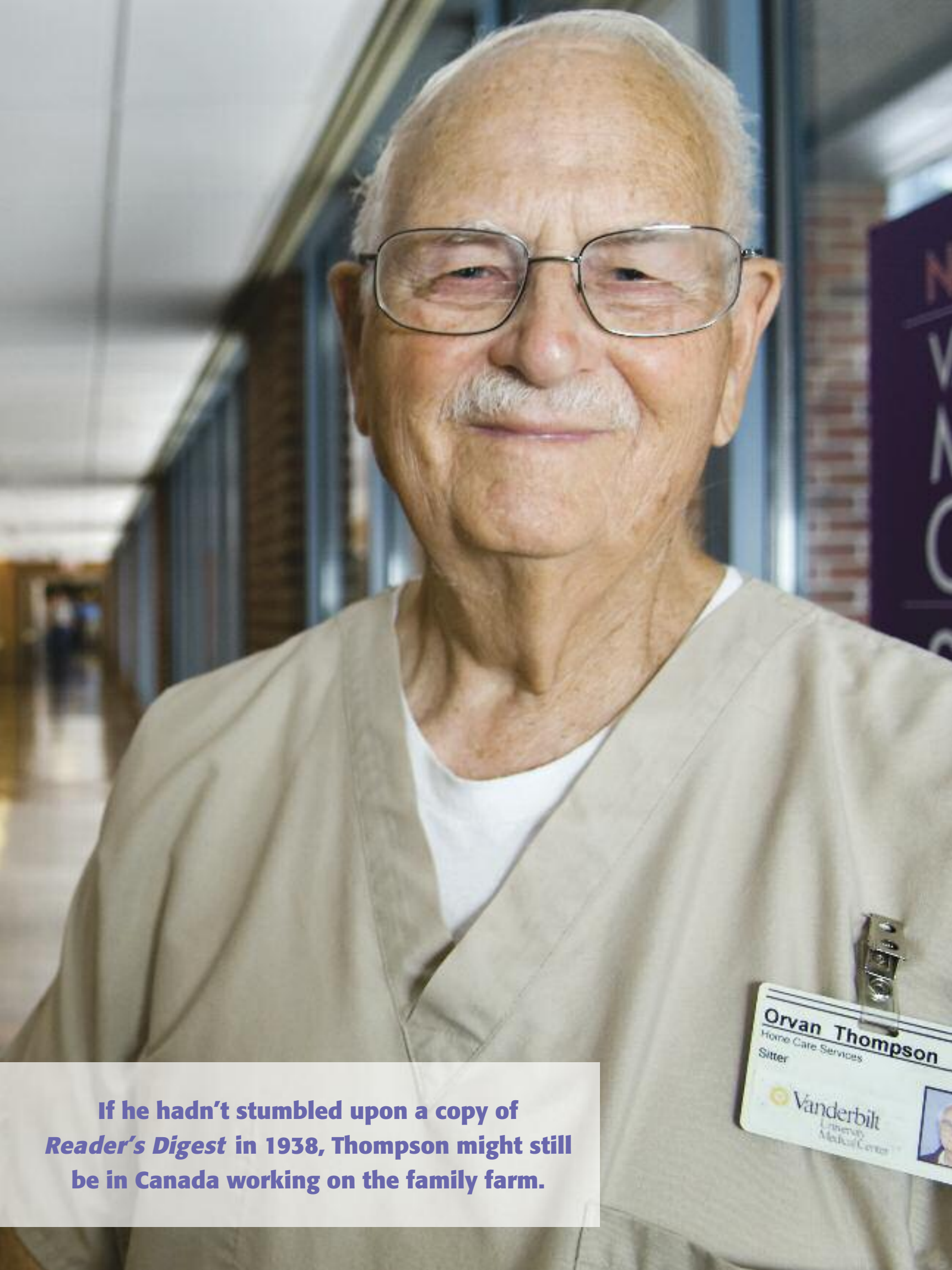
"It's a crazy way to work, and if you had to do it for a living it wouldn't pay, but just to do some extra work, it's not bad," he said. "It's nice to have a little money coming in and to have something to do, but I probably work harder at home in the yard and garden. I've got a nice little garden with tomatoes and squash growing in it."

Though Thompson has worked in hospitals, he's now content to leave inpatient duties to the younger nurses.

"At my age, I'm not going to start IVs, and give shots and go over all those medications. [Sitting] is something I can do," he said. As a sitter, Thompson watches over patients who need constant monitoring—confused ICU patients who may rip out their ventilator or feeding tube, battered children, people who have attempted suicide.

"I talk if they want to talk. If they clam up and don't say anything, I'm not going to dig in and ask them anything. If I start a little conversation, and then they follow up, then I'll talk quite a bit.

"You see, sometimes they don't have visitors or relatives and that really hurts some of them. It's hard to, but it's nice to try to take the place of a relative or friend," he said.



If he hadn't stumbled upon a copy of *Reader's Digest* in 1938, Thompson might still be in Canada working on the family farm.



SUSAN UHLMANN

When not working at Vanderbilt Home Health, Thompson enjoys his garden.

The serendipity of Reader's Digest

If he hadn't stumbled upon a copy of *Reader's Digest* in 1938, Thompson might still be in Canada working on the family farm.

Thompson's parents, Thomas and Mary, were trying to make a living on the dry plains of Nebraska when they heard about the fertile lands in Alberta, Canada. They moved there in 1916, and Orvan was born two years later.

"We always milked 15 to 20 cows, so we had a lot of cream. Mother also had a lot of chickens, so the cream and the egg money was her money for groceries. Dad had almost a thousand acre farm, mostly wheat, and he had a lot of cattle. I grew up in the saddle," Thompson recalled.

He had two brothers and three sisters, one who died of pneumonia at age 9. He said his parents were good people but very strict.

"My mother was a wonderful cook. We had a huge garden, and she would have hundreds of quarts of vegetables. We didn't have much fruit that far north except what was shipped in. She always had pies and cakes," he said.

"Dad was a good man, hard worker, but he was so stingy, he didn't want to spend a dime. We would thrash hundreds and thousands of bushels of wheat and it would just sit there in granaries and he wouldn't sell it. Said maybe next year the prices would be a little higher."

Although Thompson's father wanted him to work on the farm rather than get an education, he was able to finish high school. The example of his older brother and the urging of his brother-in-law inspired him to leave the farm and try to make his own career.

"[My father] wanted me to stay on the farm and work for nothing. My oldest brother did stay on the farm. He had a wife and four children, and he worked there for years and all he had was a broken-down Model-T Ford. My brother-in-law pushed me, he really pushed me, if I wanted to get out and do something to get out and do it on my own," he recalled.

He had been working for a lumber company out in the Canadian bush for one winter when he made the discovery that changed everything—a box filled with magazines and books. One was a 1938 edition of *Reader's Digest* with a feature on Madison College, a school just north of Nashville that prepared students for careers in agriculture, industry, teaching and health care.

"It had pages and pages of a story—how they had a hospital, broom factory, garden, farm, and several other industries and people could work their way through there if they wanted to. I asked for them to send an application to me, and they accepted me. I went 3,000 miles by bus down to Madison. I was there three years and worked every minute of my way through."

Thompson was one of five males in his class of 30. He said the nursing profession was beginning to attract more men, and he wanted to get into something where he could make a living.

Adventure at the wheel of a Zephyr

After two years away at college, Thompson's mother wrote him and asked him to come home for a visit, and what ensued is one of his greatest adventures.

She told him that if he came home and helped put up the hay, his father would pay his way back to Madison. So Thompson and his roommate, who was from Wenatchee, Wash., inquired around and found a Kentucky car dealer that needed help driving cars out west.

"I worked double shifts for a couple of days while my roommate hitchhiked to Kentucky, and you couldn't imagine what he came driving back—a brand new 12-cylinder Lincoln Zephyr. We took our girlfriends out for a date, then drove to Chehalis, Wash., to deliver the car."

The pair then hitchhiked to Wenatchee, and Thompson continued on to Canada, across the Rocky Mountains, to his home in Alberta. He helped put up the hay, but his father refused to pay his way back to Tennessee.

"He said if you want to go back to school, you go back the way you came. And I hitchhiked 3,000 miles back to Nashville. Mother slipped me a \$20 bill, and it took almost a week."

Thompson was even offered a job from a Proctor & Gamble salesman he rode with, but he knew that with a war on, he would be drafted as soon as he left school.

He was eventually drafted into the 75th infantry division after a year of pre-nursing courses and two years of nursing training, and served as a medic.

"Just days before they left overseas, orders came through transferring me out [of that unit]. I don't think I'd be here if [I hadn't been transferred] because [the unit] fought in Belgium at the Battle of the Bulge. That was my outfit. I would have been right in there," he said.

"I can't tell you much about where they transferred me. It was a super-secret germ warfare plan. They built a brand-new little hospital for us, and I was scrub nurse in surgery."

I said, 'Will you marry me?'

She got so shocked she dropped her purse and her stuff scattered all over the hallway.

"Will you marry me?"

Thompson met his future wife, Evelyn, in college. She was also training to be a nurse and they dated off and on but were "wishy washy" about getting married. When Thompson was stationed at the Army post near Paris, Tenn., he made reservations for Evelyn to stay at the guesthouse.

"She came in on the bus one evening. Well, the next morning I went down and knocked on her door. We were going out to get a bus to town to go to a restaurant to eat. She came out, she was all dressed up with a purse and everything, and I

He is always very helpful and is a compassionate person. He has a quiet demeanor and is calm even when there is chaos.

said, 'Will you marry me?' She got so shocked she dropped her purse and her stuff scattered all over the hallway. So we were married Jan. 19, 1943."

Evelyn followed Thompson to the different army stations, and after the war, they returned to Madison and started a family. One of the hospital's administrators told them about a man from Hunstville, Ala., who had just had major surgery and needed home care. The Thompson family moved into his big plantation house and cared for him for more than a year.

Then they returned to Madison, buying and refurbishing the house they still live in today, and Thompson continued doing home care.

"I did private duty for several years, then the children got up to school age and we wanted to send them to private school. One of those hospitals—not this one [Vanderbilt], but I won't say which one—offered me 60 cents an hour to work the night shift. Can you imagine that? I said 'no way, no way.'"

Instead, Thompson started a photography business.

"We had a finishing plant out at Madison, and we had up to five photographers that traveled. We worked towns from Indiana to Miami. I'd send photographers to Florida for two months during the wintertime, and you know how bad that hurt their feelings."

Thompson would advertise his services, then set up a studio in stores or hotels. Clients would have their picture made, then someone would show proofs and take their order. Then, two to three weeks later, the prints would be delivered.

"I think we were in it a total of 18 years. We wanted a lot more money than nursing would pay. I don't know whether we made an awful lot of money, but we sent all four of those children all through private school."

Once the children were through school, Thompson closed the business and began working in coupon book advertising.

"I worked towns from Miami, Fla., to Seattle, Wash., from Toronto, Ontario, to Vancouver, British Columbia, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg. My wife came out and stayed with me, and we spent a whole year in Washington. We were there when Mount St. Helens blew that Sunday morning [in 1980]."

It's good to be needed

When he got tired of traveling, Thompson went back to home care nursing around Nashville.

"Most of the nursing that I did for years was in the homes, private duty, but when all these nurses agencies came I quit. They wanted me to go here for two hours and fix them breakfast and give them a bath and change the bed and drive across town and do another two hours. I just refused to do that."

So he came to work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1991, and was amazed at how much nursing had changed.

"Years ago, we didn't even have IV pumps. You had to count the drops. You had a chart and so many drops equaled so many CCs. Now you walk down those main hallways and they're full of computers."

Evelyn had worked as a technician at Nashville Memorial Hospital for almost 20 years, and when she retired, she also became a sitter at VUMC.



Orvan Thompson

"She worked here for about two years, and they were really good to us for scheduling us together. That's been several years ago, but every week I have nurses here who ask how my wife is doing," he said.

Thompson's assistant nurse manager, Lolita Kelso, R.N., said patients and families often request him as a sitter when they return to the hospital.

"He is always very helpful and is a compassionate person. He has a quiet demeanor and is calm even when there is chaos. He never gets excited, which helps patients and families," she said. "We have not had one complaint about his age. Most don't realize it because he looks so young."

Thompson may retire at the end of the year, and he and his wife sometimes talk of moving to a retirement facility, but for now, they are reluctant to leave their home and garden. He enjoys tending his crops and spending time with his four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

But he also likes getting the call telling him that he is needed at the hospital.

"I've felt good about being able to help because if somebody needs it, I've been able to give it."

After severe head injury, Paul Hightower given chance to thrive

BY RHONDA KELLEY

Editor's note: This is an update of a story that ran in House Organ in February 1988.

Paul Hightower's life changed 25 years ago in a tragic motorcycle accident, after which he was treated at Vanderbilt for his severe head injury.

His life changed again a couple of years later, also at Vanderbilt, when he went from patient to staff member.

And now, 23 years later, Hightower is still at VUMC, working as a Clinical Technician II in the East OR.

He says he has Vanderbilt to thank for his recovery and for the chance to thrive, even with his disabilities.

"After my accident, I had a fear of working and I didn't think I would be able to do it," Hightower said. "An employee working with disabled applicants in the Opportunity Development Center at Vanderbilt encouraged me then and told me I could."



JOE HOWELL

Vanderbilt has allowed me to grow at my own speed all these years
and **I am going to continue to grow** because of that.

Hightower lived a different life in his youth. In 1984, he was a 22-year-old college student, living, he says, every day like it was his last. And one night, it almost was: he went on a 70 mph motorcycle ride through Edwin Warner Park which ended when he crashed and suffered severe damage to the left side of his brain.

His brain injuries caused the motor skills on the right side of his body to be slowed. He has severe memory loss, suffers from epilepsy, and is blind in his right eye.

After spending two months in a coma from his accident, Hightower came to Vanderbilt as an inpatient in physical, occupational and speech therapy. He continued as an outpatient for two years, and during that time began volunteering at the Medical Center delivering flowers.

Based on his success as a volunteer, he was hired to work in the Materials Management department.

"Vanderbilt has been very supportive of me," says Hightower. "The experience of being here in this environment and going from patient to employee has been remarkable."

Hightower still has to deal with effects from the accident. His memory fades very quickly and he often has to write things down to remember.

"At Vanderbilt I have been given an extra chance many times," Hightower said. "I have been accepted and protected here despite my disabilities and I am so thankful for that."

He shows his gratitude every day through his work ethic and his interaction with patients. He tries to joke with the patients and tell them a story, and his

fellow employees also notice his efforts.

"Paul is very sympathetic to patients and families," says Randy Joheson, R.N., who works with Hightower in the East OR. "He goes out of his way to make sure they have what they need and know where they are going. It may take him longer, and he may have to repeat things several times, but once he learns something, he takes the initiative and does it without anyone asking him."

From patient to 23-year employee, Hightower is thankful to all the people who have helped him along the way. "I know I am blessed to be where I am today. Vanderbilt has allowed me to grow at my own speed all these years and I am going to continue to grow because of that. I know it's simply the power of God."

Employee Celebration Month schedule has something for everybody

Vanderbilt's Employee Celebration 2009 begins Saturday, Sept. 5, with the annual Tailgate celebration before the Western Carolina game. A picnic on Library Lawn follows on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The monthlong celebration honors Vanderbilt staff and faculty for their service.

Throughout the month, a variety of free special events will take place. "The planning committee has done an excellent job of creating a wide range of events that we believe will appeal in some way to everyone at Vanderbilt," said Susie Lyons, manager, employee programs.

Among the highlights are the foodcentric Taste at Vandy on Sept. 30; the Service Recognition Celebration on Sept. 23; and a night at the Dyer Observatory on Sept. 22.

The following is a list of events for Employee Celebration Month 2009, with information that was available at press time. Some times, events and locations are subject to change, so check online for updates at www.vanderbilt.edu/employeecelebration.



Saturday, September 5

Employee Tailgate

Rob Roy Purdy Field
at Student Recreation Center
(Entrance on 25th Avenue South)
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 8

Employee Celebration Picnic

Library Lawn, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Hot dogs, t-shirts and more!

Wednesday, September 9

Health Plus Day!

Yoga Under the Tent!
Library Lawn, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Health Plus Evening

Zumba Class Under the Tent!
Library Lawn, 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 11

Kids Heading Toward College?

189 Sarratt Student Center
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 12

Garage Sale

25th Avenue Garage
(facing tennis courts), 7:00 a.m.–Noon

Monday, September 14

Kohl's Safety Central— Keeping Your Kids Safe!

419 Light Hall
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15

Cancer Survivorship: How Do You Get Back to the "New Normal"?

415 Light Hall
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16

Know Your Numbers

Light Hall lobby
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17

LifeFlight Open House

LifeFlight helipad
6:00–8:00 a.m. and 5:00–7:00 p.m.

The Health Plus Life Phase Series— Transitioning to College

Light Hall, room 415 b-d, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Night Owl Howl

Courtyard Café, 9:00 p.m.–Midnight

Friday, September 18

VUH Giftshop Discount Day

2nd Floor Mezzanine,
VUH

Houses in Ancient Greece

189 Sarratt Student Center
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

Family Movie—"Hotel for Dogs"

Children's Hospital Theatre, 3 p.m.



Tuesday, September 22

Cooking Demonstration

Dayani Center
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Dyer Observatory, 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23

Service Recognition Celebration

Langford Auditorium, 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 24

Branches

Sarratt 116
Noon–1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 25

Stylish Dress for Men— Early in the 20th Century

411 Light Hall
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

VMC Bookstore Discount Day

2nd Floor Mezzanine,
VUH

Saturday, September 26

Start!/Heart Walk

(Sports Club Field), 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 27

We Care for Kids, 2 p.m.–4 p.m.

Monday, September 28

Ms. Cheap—99 Ways to Save on Your Household Budget

(Room TBD)
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30

Taste at Vandy, Langford Lobby
3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

For the latest information and event updates, go to www.vanderbilt.edu/employeecelebration

June feature on Kaitlyn Lasitter, which has been viewed by more than 8,000 readers online—most of them from outside Vanderbilt. Since I'm proud of the story and the work that writer Leslie Hast and photographer Dana Johnson did on it, getting thousands more readers than we ever would have gotten with the print version alone is a great bonus, as well as great PR for Vanderbilt.

And, as I said at the beginning, people like pet photos, and in February when the "Pets of the Medical Center" first came out, there was a huge spike in traffic from dog and cat lovers.

The feature from last December, "50 Questions about One Hundred Oaks" continues to get a lot of readers long after its newsstand life was over, thanks to its presence online and the

continuing interest in VUMC's expansion into the former shopping mall.

We know that thousands of people have read *Watching the Wheels*, and that the winners and honorable mentions from the *House Organ* Writing Contest have reached readers far beyond the walls of our institution. Take it from me, writers tend to like having readers, and now we know we are reaching people.

When we told the story about Jon Jackson, the NICU nurse who had produced a music video at his trailer, we were able to link to the video, giving a dimension to the story than we never would have had before, and hundreds of people watched the video. If you missed it, check it out at www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan/archive/home509/TPJv.htm.

In the past year, *House Organ's* Web site has had readers from 90 countries, including Malaysia (13 readers), Argentina (34) and Kyrgyzstan (one reader, and we thank you sir, or ma'am). Among foreign countries, *House Organ* is most popular in Canada, Germany and the UK.

I never really thought much about foreign readers for *House Organ*—we were way more focused on reaching everybody in MRB IV—but in the past year we've had more readers in Paris, France (14), than in Paris, Tenn. (4). In fact, I've put in a proposal to open a bureau in Paris, France, which I plan to staff myself. I'll let you know how that works out.

Heart Walk scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26

The American Heart Association (AHA) Start! Heart Walk is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26.

The AHA has made it easy for Vanderbilt University Medical Center employees to participate. If you would like to join a team, visit the Nashville Heart Walk Web site at <http://nashvilleheartwalk.org> and click "find a team." If you are already on a team, you can give your donation to your team captain, donate online or attend the Heart Walk Bank Day. Representatives from the AHA will collect cash

and checks on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the conference room on the fifth floor of Medical Center East.

The Heart Walk festivities begin at 8 a.m., at the Sports Club Field on the corner of 25th Avenue and Children's Way. The walk begins at 10 a.m. and will cover three miles. Festivities, including music and food, continue until noon. All participants will receive a T-shirt from their team captains.

Nursing musical "Hey Florence!" debuts this month

BY LESLIE HAST

"Hey Florence!"—a musical presenting the hilarious, poignant and courageous day-to-day life of nurses—makes its debut this month. The musical was written by Craig Christie.

Performances will be Sept. 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Langford Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 18 and under. Nurses from any health care institution and Vanderbilt School of Nursing students will receive free admission upon showing their ID badge. Tickets can be purchased at Vanderbilt Valet, the Office of Cultural Enrichment in 1002 Oxford House, or at the door.

The 60-minute show stars nine active-duty VUMC nurses. Christie based the musical on stories told by VMC nurses and his own experiences shadowing them throughout their workday.

It includes songs like "Someone's Gotta Do It," about the difficult and messy jobs nurses take on, "Another Goodbye," about the pain of losing patients, and "I Need Chocolate," which needs no explanation.

"This is a chance for the nurses to tell their stories. It's a look at contemporary nursing, and it will touch everyone emotionally. You will laugh and cry," said Donna Glassford, director of Cultural Enrichment, who is producing the show. The production is a collaborative effort between the Office of Cultural Enrichment and the Nurse Wellness Committee.

The cast and crew for "Hey, Florence" are:

- James Barnett, R.N., M.S.N., C.N.R.N., nursing education and development
- Donna Collins, R.N., 11N Myleosuppression
- Susan Hernandez, R.N., M.B.A., Children's Hospital
- Ellen Musick, R.N., mental health clinic
- Marisa Neely, R.N., VUH OR
- Sandra Sandgren, R.N., VUH OR
- Demytris Savage, L.P.N., urology
- Brooke West, R.N., B.S.N., PCCU Children's Hospital
- Terrilyn Vickers, R.N., VMG Appointment Service (costume and propmistress)

More information is available at www.vanderbiltnursing.com