



Dr. Brad Carter (82)

Dr. Brad Carter is a highly successful physician—a research scientist specializing in breast cancer, an astute clinician, a devoted teacher, and a top surgical endocrinologist. Carter is an attending physician at the Barbara Brodsky Comprehensive Breast Center at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Pennsylvania.

Focusing on the individual is Carter's specialty. In the words of Dr. Howard Lilienfeld, his former section chief of endocrinology at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Carter is "respected by peers and adored by patients."

One such person is Carter's former biology professor, Dr. Michael McConnell, who has known Carter as a student and now as a member of the Board of Research Associates, the PLNU alumni auxiliary supporting student research in chemistry and biology.

"[Carter] is energetic, enthusiastic, good-humored, honest, tenacious, intellectually curious, dependable, compassionate and empathetic," McConnell said. "All of these traits combine to make him one of the most admirable people I have ever known. I have especially appreciated that in spite of all of his accomplishments, he maintains a spirit of humility."

An ordained minister in the Assemblies of God Church, Carter has recently enrolled in Nazarene Theological Seminary. His faith in the healing power of God is strong.

"The curious thing about being a surgeon is that I am not the only one doing the curing," Carter said. "I am merely nudging along, in the right direction, the creating that God has done."

Carter was recalled from the U.S. Navy Reserves to serve on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. His duties included deployment on the USS Carl Vinson as ship's surgeon, and tertiary treatment of combat casualties while on staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Carter has been engaged with PLNU since he graduated, leading his class reunion every five years, serving on the research associates board, enlisting students to be summer research interns, and returning to campus for science reunion events.

Dr. Ken Hyde, former PLNU professor of biology, could tell Carter would do great things, even when Carter was a student. "I knew then that Brad Carter was a man adorned with the mantle of Christian character and destined to be one of life's givers. And I have not been disappointed."

Carter, his wife, Janie, and their three children, Elisabeth, Scott and Sarah, live in the Philadelphia area.



Michelle Gennaro (88)

When **Michelle Gennaro** and her future husband **Chris (89)** graduated from PLNU, she never imagined that she would be called to serve in Africa.

Michelle graduated with a degree in communications and Chris graduated with a degree in graphic design, and they married in 1989. Michelle began a career in teaching, earning her master's in education. She then became a resident director at PLNU, influencing many students. Chris began a successful career in dressmaking and design.

Life changed forever for Michelle and Chris when they hosted the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda in 2003.

"We fell in love with the children," Michelle explained. "As they were leaving, Chris boldly said, 'We will see you again, and it will be on your soil!'"

The Gennaro's took several short-term mission trips to Uganda and both came to sense a definite call to service in Africa. They adopted two Ugandan boys, Joseph and Duane, who joined four siblings.

In 2011, they left for Lesotho, Africa, with their six children, after being appointed by Africa Inland Missions. They spent the first year growing accustomed to the language and culture. Thereafter, Chris taught sewing while Michelle homeschooled the children.

Then tragedy struck.

In January 2013, Chris contracted encephalitis and was hospitalized in South Africa. After three weeks of being in a coma, he went home to be with the Lord. Michelle and the children returned to San Diego for a compassionate leave.

"Losing Chris was my worst fear, but I was determined that I wouldn't quit," Michelle explained. "God was giving me a new purpose."

The Gennaro family returned to Africa within a year of Chris's death. Michelle felt a need to continue serving, and began teaching English at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. They are now in San Diego for a year-long home assignment. Michelle is preparing for her next term of service, discipling and mentoring young people and potential missionaries, as well as sharing her testimony for Christ through speaking engagements throughout the U.S.

"Speaking of God's faithfulness is my clear calling," Michelle explained. "And that was my specific prayer as Chris was dying. I can now speak of His faithfulness because I've been an eyewitness. God hasn't wasted any of it."

The Gennaros' children are Julia, 22; Olivia, 19; Jedidiah, 16; Cecilia, 14; Joseph, 12; and Duane, 11.



Reanna Thompson (77)

“Caring is defined as taking courageous, intentional actions on behalf of other people,” shared **Reanna Thompson**, chief operating officer at PIH Health. “It’s not just a feeling, but how you advocate for someone else.”

After graduating from PLNU with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, Thompson immediately began working as a staff nurse at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier, Calif., now PIH Health, where she has stayed for 38 years. During that time, she realized her passions for improving healthcare, coaching and mentoring leaders, and above all, integrating her faith into her leadership.

“My faith impacts every aspect of my job,” Thompson shared. “I’m constantly reminded of how God loves each one of us for who we are, and the importance of showing respect and dignity to each person who crosses our path, in all walks of life.”

At PIH, Thompson rose from staff nurse to the unit manager to administrator for medical services, then to chief nursing officer in 2003. For the past two years, she has also served as chief operating officer of the hospital.

Early on, Thompson made a significant impact on the hospital’s intensive care unit, where she served for 20 years. She received recognition from the Voluntary Hospital Association (VHA) for achievements made from an ICU performance improvement project.

Under her leadership, the hospital has received the Path to Excellence Award from National Research Corporation for its top scores in patient experience for six consecutive years; Truven Health Analytics’ Top 100 Hospital; the prestigious Franklin Award for excellent patient case management; as well as numerous other awards for achievements in quality of patient care.

While working at PIH, Thompson pursued her education further, earning a master of science in nursing degree from California State University, Fullerton. She also taught as an adjunct nursing instructor at Azusa Pacific University, and she taught leadership courses at Biola University.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society, the Association of California Nurse Leaders, and the American Organization of Nurse Executives. She has also served as president of the Hospital Association of Southern California’s San Gabriel Valley Nursing Leadership Council and currently serves on the Nursing Advisory Council for the Hospital Association of Southern California.

She and her husband, **Mendell (76)**, have attended Glendora Community Church for nearly 25 years.

Throughout her career, Thompson has modeled leadership, integrity, compassion and respect for all. She and Mendell have two grown children, **Jana (01)** and **Darren**, and four grandchildren.



Dr. Scott Wylie (93)

Dr. Scott Wylie grew up watching his grandfather struggle with Parkinson’s disease, a chronic movement disorder. While Wylie was at PLNU, his mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, another neurological disease. Seeing firsthand the devastating effects of these disorders, Wylie developed

an interest in studying how they affect cognition and how to impact the lives of those suffering from them.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in psychology from PLNU, Wylie went on to earn his master’s degree in clinical neuropsychology at the University of Northern Colorado in 1997. He then received a Ph.D. in neuroscience and clinical psychology at Indiana University in 2002.

Wylie completed a clinical internship at the Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, and a postdoctoral fellowship in the neurology department at the University of Virginia (UVA) before joining the faculty at UVA.

Wylie is currently an assistant professor in the neurology and neurosurgery departments at Vanderbilt University. He conducts clinical research on the effects of pharmacological and surgical therapies on cognitive changes in Parkinson’s disease patients—a facet of the disease largely unexplored. He also runs a clinic providing neuropsychological evaluations for patients seen in the Parkinson’s disease and functional neurosurgery programs.

For Wylie, the most rewarding part of his career is the opportunity to encourage and educate his patients as they cope with a neurodegenerative disease.

“Life is a series of unexpected opportunities to trust,” he said. “There were curves thrown at me, emotional challenges, which are inevitable parts of living. But when I hear people’s stories of wrestling with challenges these diseases present, and those people have hope and inexplicable joy, that encourages me.”

Wylie has received grant funding from the National Institutes of Health and private foundations to conduct his research. He has authored more than 40 publications and given more than 30 presentations at national and international venues.

Recently, Wylie and a colleague at Vanderbilt co-founded a business called SportsSense, which evaluates cognitive “intangibles” in athletes across several sports. They currently work with several NCAA and professional football, baseball, soccer and softball teams around the country.

Wylie and his wife, Heather, have a daughter, Hannah, 20, and two sons, Law, 4, and Maverick, 2.