In the Spotlight

Dr. Pamela Jeffries, the former inaugural vice provost of digital initiatives at Johns Hopkins University, had been a Hopkins nursing professor since 2009.

Your most memorable patient: Early in my career, I had a young MI (heart attack) patient who had prolonged, severe chest pain and arrhythmias. He was fighting for his life the night he was admitted. Fortunately he survived. A few years ago, my name was in the paper and he contacted me to see if this was the same Pamela Jeffries who had saved his life 25 years ago.

Which medical TV show would you star in? I don’t watch much TV, but I’d like to propose a show that re-enacts the life of Florence Nightingale, telling the story of how modern nursing came to be.

Where is your favorite vacation spot? Bali. It’s paradise — beautiful, full of diverse people and has a culture where you live in the present and enjoy the moments of life. I lived in Indonesia for four years and traveled to Bali several times.

What is your greatest extravagance? I travel quite a bit, so I spend a lot of time sitting in cars and on airplanes. I like to treat myself to massages on occasion to work out the muscle knots and keep up a good blood flow.

What word or phrase do you most overuse? “I’m just making this up.” I use that when I’m trying to give examples. I say it to my staff, my kids and just about anyone else who is looking for me to elaborate.

What’s one thing you’re glad your employer didn’t know about you before you were hired? I’m an early riser and like to cross off half of my to-do list by noon, so they will probably receive emails starting early in the morning.

What’s one thing you can’t live a day without? My family and my favorite lip balm, Burt’s Bees. I also drink a Diet Coke every day.

What keeps you up at night? As a lifelong football fan (Go Colts!), football season is hard for me because when my team loses, the Monday morning quarterbacking comes early. I play the game through my mind Sunday night.

Which D.C.-area business leader do you most admire? Bill Conway, co-CEO of The Carlyle Group. We are experiencing a shortage of medical professionals in the U.S. and his commitment to nursing education is the kind of support we need to ensure that patients are well cared for.