Welcome, Dean Clabo
She’s rolling up her sleeves and getting to work with students, faculty, staff and alumni

Service across the state
Michigan Area Health Education Center provides care and training

CON by the numbers
From grants to graduates, a snapshot of where the college stands today
Dear alumni, friends and colleagues,

As we begin a new academic year, I want to express my most sincere gratitude to each of you for the many gestures of welcome to the College of Nursing at Wayne State University. In my first months here, I have been overwhelmed by the notes, cards, flowers, meetings, shared meals and — most of all — the many words of sage advice as I begin my role as the eighth dean of this outstanding college.

Since its founding in 1945, the college has served as a national leader in both nursing education and knowledge generation. The work we do builds on the legacy of those before us, and actualizes and contemporizes the vision of founding Dean Katharine Faville. We continue to support her legacy of leadership as we were again ranked in the top 10 percent of graduate schools of nursing in the country by U.S. News & World Report this spring.

We also continue to deliver world-class educational programs that prepare nurses to excel in contemporary health care systems. We focus our knowledge generation on health promotion and symptom science in an urban environment. And, we continue to seek new ways to engage and support our community. Equally important, we strive to prepare a nursing workforce with the skills and abilities required to function as members of interprofessional teams that are as diverse as the populations we serve.

As I connected with faculty, students, alumni and our professional partners in the community this summer, I was struck by the palpable energy and commitment in the college and beyond. We have had tremendous turnout at faculty, staff and student town hall meetings with the dean. Each of these rich discussions has been positive and forward thinking, further shaping our collective vision for the future of the college.

In fact, as I write this, the college faculty have just unanimously approved our new mission and vision statements, which undergird our strategic plan. Our mission describes our core purpose and reason for being:

The mission of the College of Nursing is to create and translate knowledge and to educate a diverse student body prepared to excel as clinicians, scholars, and leaders who improve health in local and global communities.

Our vision statement describes our preferred future for the college and paints a picture of who we aspire to be:

The College of Nursing will be the leader in nursing research and education, known for our commitment to and impact on urban health.

The pages of this newsletter serve to share just a few examples of our strong commitment to our mission, from our brand-new B.S.N. for veterans (page 1) to the Michigan Area Health Education Center (page 4).

We invite you to join with us as we live out our mission and collectively advance toward our vision. I look forward to the work we’ll do together.

Thank you again for your warm welcome,

Dean Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Ph.D., RN
Wayne State students who are U.S. military veterans may now earn a bachelor of science in nursing through the B.S.N. for veterans pathway, which launched this fall with a cohort of eight students.

The College of Nursing is one of only 31 schools in the country to receive funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs, to support the development of a B.S.N. for veterans.

Geared specifically to military veterans who are interested in becoming nurses, the track is designed for those who have earned at least 30 college credits and maintained an overall 3.0 GPA.

The B.S.N. for veterans offers assistance in targeting the unique needs of veterans. Academic credit will be awarded for prior health care experience and training, and courses will build upon veterans’ military training and experience.

The accelerated program, which provides for completion of the nursing coursework over 18 months, will include several military veteran instructors and mentors, counseling services, study groups, and clinical education primarily occurring at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center.

“The potential students represent all of the men and women who have served the United States of America. I am proud to assist veterans as they transition into the next phase of their life,” says Sandra Oliver-McNeil, CON assistant professor and B.S.N. for veterans program director. “The College of Nursing at Wayne State University has educated professional registered nurses for more than 60 years. Students in this new program will benefit from our existing stellar curriculum with the added advantage that many courses will be taught by faculty with military experience.”

The $1 million grant, awarded over three years, provides funding for specialized faculty, academic advisors and mentors to support this cohort. Students will be responsible for their tuition and related costs. Veterans are encouraged to check with Wayne State’s Office of Military Veterans Academic Excellence (OMVAE) to explore their education benefits.

“The uniqueness of this accelerated program is that it is veteran-centric,” says Ken Smith, OMVAE veteran outreach specialist. “Only veterans can apply and the grant requires our College of Nursing to consider and grant course credit for military medical training so that veterans can graduate faster. In this program, their experience not only adds value in the classroom but it actually counts toward graduation.

“Wayne State’s leadership has demonstrated time and time again the importance of veterans feeling included on our diverse campus,” adds Smith. “This initiative by the College of Nursing is just another example of the support the university has for its military and veteran community.”

Further information about this program is available at nursing.wayne.edu/vbsn.
Cheerleader in chief

Each day, something happens to make Dr. Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo realize that coming to Wayne State was the right move. Whether it’s an impromptu conversation with a student in the hallway, a visit to a class in session or a meeting with the Information Technology team, Clabo walks away energized and optimistic about the future of the College of Nursing.

Clabo began forming an impression of Wayne State University long before learning of the opportunity to become the eighth dean of its College of Nursing. Born in Windsor, Ontario, she spent her childhood crossing the border to enjoy the many experiences Detroit had to offer. And once she discovered her passion for nursing as an undergrad at the University of Windsor in the ’80s, she began watching the city’s major university with interest.

“The Wayne State College of Nursing was one of the first in the country with a dedicated office of nursing research,” Clabo says. “Faculty in the College of Nursing were on the leading edge of knowledge development.”

So Clabo kept an eye on Wayne State as she progressed through her career, eventually earning her master’s degree in nursing administration from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Rhode Island (URI).

While serving first as associate dean of URI’s College of Nursing and then for five years as dean of the School of Nursing at the MGH Institute of Health Professions, a graduate school in Boston, Clabo watched as the national news continually reported on Detroit’s decline with a note of hopelessness.

“Even as the city began to revitalize, the rest of the nation seemed skeptical,” she says. “I would see these stories and know there was more to the city. I knew that Detroit had heart and that it would flourish again.”

Earlier this year, when she was named as a candidate to become dean of WSU’s College of Nursing, she realized she could help make that happen.

When Clabo visited Detroit over the next number of months, she explored campus and its surrounding community — gems such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, sure, but also challenged and revitalizing neighborhoods, each with unique needs and strengths.

“As I advanced through the interview process, it became even more clear to me that the research done here, with its focus on chronic illness and health issues in an urban setting, has significant meaning for the immediate community,” she says. “I was impressed to hear both students and faculty speak very clearly about why they chose Wayne State. I was even more impressed that their mission to serve the community through education, professional practice and research aligned perfectly with the mission expressed by President Wilson and the Board of Governors.”

Clabo was energized by the challenge and arrived in her new office on April 1 with ideas about how to further strengthen the College of Nursing’s close-knit relationship with the community. Coming from the East Coast, she expected it would take her awhile to acclimate — but she felt like an insider from the very beginning.

“I have enjoyed an outpouring of support within our college as well as from across campus,” she says. “There’s a sense of inclusion here. I think it’s a friendly Midwestern mentality to some extent, but it’s combined with Wayne State optimism. I was greeted with a sense of: Welcome to the team; how can we work together to exceed even our own expectations?”

To that end, Clabo brings expertise gained through a range of accomplishments. She is an alumnus of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows program, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Leadership for Academic Nursing Program and the AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership

Donna Malchie (left), Jacquelyn Smith and Dayna Hearod are all smiles during WSU’s first-ever White Coat Ceremony for Nursing.
Program. She also has served as president of the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing. Since 2012, she has been chair of the AACN’s national task force for APRN clinical training, which was tasked with redesign of the system of clinical education for advanced practice nursing students.

In addition, Clabo is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Professional Nursing* and the *Journal of Nursing Education* and a reviewer for the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. Her research interests center on the development of critical thinking in nursing and medical students, and workforce development issues. She is frequently invited to speak across the nation on these and related subjects.

A seasoned perspective meant that Clabo arrived with clear goals for the college — goals that have become even more focused as she has rolled up her sleeves. These include:

- Continue to support and grow faculty research that advances knowledge in urban health, symptom science and health promotion.
- Align the college’s resources to support contemporary teaching and learning strategies designed to prepare students to excel in a rapidly changing health care system.
- Provide opportunities for the highest quality interprofessional learning experiences to prepare graduates for patient-centered, team-based practice.

- Grow the breadth and depth of community engagement across campus, the city and beyond.

Clabo’s ongoing conversations with faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members since arriving in April have illuminated the paths toward these goals. The college is taking steps to align tuition more closely with comparable schools, for example, to make a Wayne State University nursing degree more attainable for more students. Clabo is leading the charge to examine moving nursing education from hours-based to competency-based.

“This is a time of revolution in nursing education,” she says. “From high-fidelity simulation to streamlined Ph.D. programs, the college and its faculty stand poised to embrace the future. We are using all of the available tools and knowledge to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders and scholars.”

Clabo knows that there are hurdles ahead but is confident they can be cleared. And she’s delighted to be charging forth in Detroit.

“I feel much of my role as dean is being the college’s cheerleader in chief,” Clabo says. “My new colleagues here in the college are so talented, but also so incredibly humble. There is excellent work happening in the College of Nursing. It’s a large part of my role to make sure that it is accessible to more students and recognized across campus and beyond.”

Dean Clabo enjoys seeking student input during town hall meetings.
Angel de la Torre grew up wanting to be a doctor. But as he looked around his Detroit neighborhood and watched his family struggle to make ends meet, he wasn’t sure he’d even get to college, let alone med school. In fact, de la Torre began to wonder if his goal of being a doctor was just as far-fetched as his childhood dream to win an Olympic gold medal. And then he heard about the Detroit Pre-Medical Scholars Program.

Thanks in part to the Michigan Area Health Education Center (MI-AHEC), de la Torre spent the summer before senior year immersed in a real-world health care setting. For eight hours a day, five days a week, he shadowed medical professionals at DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital, participated in targeted seminars and was exposed in an authentic way to his field of interest.

“My experience was incredible,” de la Torre said after WSU presented him with a Dr. Valerie Parisi Scholarship in June (pictured below, with CON’s Dr. Cynthera McNeill).

“I was given the chance to meet many different health care professionals. After talking with them, a career in medicine seemed within reach for me. Each one told me that it would not be easy — but that it wasn’t impossible either.”

Those words were music to Dr. Wanda Gibson-Scipio’s ears. As co-program director of MI-AHEC, she helps oversee the group’s three primary goals — the first of which is to recruit students from diverse backgrounds and guide them along the health care career path. Gibson-Scipio says, “Through pipeline activities such as camps, we recruit a diverse range of young people and introduce them to health care, guiding them on where to go and what to do to achieve future success.”

The U.S. Congress established the AHEC program in 1971 to build a health care workforce committed to serving medically disadvantaged populations. A national network was developed to improve the supply, distribution, diversity, and quality of the health workforce and increase access to health care in medically underserved areas.

Since then, relationships between universities and community health systems have resulted in 50 federally funded AHEC programs and more than 200 regional centers across the United States.

The MI-AHEC was founded by Wayne State’s College of Nursing and School of Medicine in 2010 — the only collaboration of its kind in the country. The program has grown to comprise five regional centers in Detroit, Mount Pleasant, Grand Rapids, Marquette and Houghton Lake (which just launched this spring), serving every single one of Michigan’s 83 counties. Additional academic partners include Wayne State’s Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and its School of Social Work, as well as the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University and Northern Michigan University.

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Caring for the littlest patients

Patricia Bloom Riley made sure that every baby she cared for at McLaren Hospital in Flint went home in one of her specially knitted caps. It was a small gesture, but indicative of the tender personality and passion Riley (’50 B.S.N.) had for taking care of the littlest patients in the hospital’s neonatal unit.

“There wasn’t a single premature baby for more than 20 years that left McLaren without one of Pat’s caps,” says Jerry Bloom, Riley’s younger brother. “Taking care of teeny tiny babies was her calling.”

Riley knew from a young age that she liked helping people, and that drew her to pursue a career in health care at Wayne State, where she was part of the first class in the College of Nursing to receive bachelor of science degrees. While at the university, Riley developed her skills in neonatal nursing, specializing in underweight and premature babies. Her educational experiences at Wayne State prepared Riley for a nearly 40-year career in which she specialized in the care of high-risk infants.

“She was always drawn to the littlest and sickest babies,” says Frances Simnitch, Riley’s coworker at McLaren. “She was in the premature nursery for her entire career because that was where she wanted to be.”

Riley retired from McLaren in the early 1990s and searched for ways she could continue to support neonatal patient care. With a goal to help the next generation of caregivers, she established a planned gift at the College of Nursing to provide scholarship support. Unfortunately, Riley passed away before the gift was complete, but her siblings established the Patricia Bloom Riley Endowed Scholarship in her memory.

“I wanted to honor Pat,” says Bloom. “She cared very much about supporting other people, and she didn’t really get the recognition she deserved for that. I thought this scholarship would be a great way to recognize her dedication.”

Since the initial contribution, Bloom has added more funding to the scholarship, which has increased support for graduate students such as Linley Badder.

Like Riley, Badder always knew she wanted to help people, and an experience in a neonatal intensive care unit during her undergraduate program sparked an interest in caring for babies. “I was only supposed to work for eight hours, but I stayed for 12 hours because I loved the work and I knew it was the right place for me,” says Badder.

The College of Nursing’s master of science in nursing with a neonatal nurse practitioner clinical specialty attracted Badder to Wayne State, and she is pursuing her degree while working full time at Beaumont Hospital. Though balancing work, school and home life is a challenge, Badder says that the Riley Scholarship has helped lessen her financial burden. This was particularly true in 2014 when her home was severely damaged by a flood, requiring expensive repairs.

“My husband and I thought I might have to take a year off because it would be a struggle to pay tuition,” she says. “This scholarship has been huge in helping me get over that hump.”

Now Badder has the resources to continue her education and reach her goal of caring for the littlest patients just as Riley hoped for.
College of Nursing BY THE NUMBERS

69
Number of faculty members

- 14% tenured
- 4% tenure track
- 64% clinical
- 14% PT-clinical
- 3% research

10%
TOP
of best nursing graduate schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report

$22,263,480
Current (2014-15) active research and program grants

63
Publications
July 2014-July 2015
Journal articles, books and book chapters

Philanthropy
740 total gifts
550 total donors
463 alumni
73 friends of the college

50
More than 50 named scholarships derived from philanthropy given by the College of Nursing each year
Fall 2014 enrollment: 596

- B.S.N. 46% (275)
- D.N.P. 17% (103)
- M.S.N. 33% (195)
- Ph.D. 4% (23)

Degrees and certificates granted in fall 2014 and winter 2015:
- B.S.N. 80% (87)
- D.N.P. 9% (10)
- Graduate certificates 8% (8)
- M.S.N. 9% (10)
- Ph.D. 4% (4)

2014 NCLEX first-time pass rates:
- WSU CON: 92%
- State of Michigan: 83%
- National: 82%

10,470 alumni from the College of Nursing

- 66% of all alumni live in Michigan (6,922)
- CON alumni live in all 50 states. There are 164 living outside the U.S.

66% of 2013 graduates in all programs found employment as nurses within six months

85% of 2013 graduates in all programs found employment as nurses within one year
In memoriam: Dean Lorene R. Fischer

Lorene R. Fischer, who served as dean of Wayne State University’s College of Nursing from 1977-87, died on March 10, 2015. She was 91.

Fischer had joined the CON faculty in 1955 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. She initiated the university’s first graduate program in nursing, dealing with the care of children with psychiatric disorders. This innovative program was the only one of its kind in the state.

Prior to becoming dean, Fischer served as chairperson of her department from 1957 through 1975. She was appointed director of Wayne State’s undergraduate program in 1976.

She served on the board of directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan from 1990 to 2003. Service on other boards of directors included the Greater Detroit Council for the Blind and the Visiting Nurses Association of Metropolitan Detroit.

Fischer consulted throughout the United States and globally for the World Health Organization and other organizations in Africa, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. A nationally recognized leader in the area of psychiatric mental health nursing and nursing education, she published numerous articles on emotionally disturbed children, the development of the nursing profession and the marketing of nursing education.

In 1961, she was admitted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She was a member the national nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau. She worked in various leadership capacities for professional organizations such as the American Nurses Association, and served as a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, president of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing, chair of the membership committee of the American Academy of Nursing, and secretary on the board of directors of the Michigan Nurses Association.

Fischer held baccalaureate and master’s degrees from Columbia University. She also pursued doctoral studies in higher education administration at the University of Michigan.

After retiring from Wayne State, she and her husband Heinz “Hans” Fischer resided in Dearborn. They continued to enjoy and support the Michigan Opera Theatre and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

She is survived by her daughter Susan Warner of Arlington, Virginia; her brother Allen Rowen of Rochester Hills; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. She is preceded in death by her brother Henry Rowen of Madison, Ohio, and her husband.

CON Dean Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo says, “Long before I arrived in Detroit, I knew of and respected Dean Fischer and her many contributions to the College of Nursing. We are able to move confidently into the future because of the solid foundation she helped build. She was a great friend to the university and she will be missed.”
Accolades

Grants and funding
Dr. Ramona Benkert and Dr. Wanda Gibson-Scipio received a three-year, $1.2 million award from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration for 2015-16 for ongoing support of the MI-AHEC regional centers.

Dr. Ramona Benkert and Dr. Sandra Oliver-McNeil received funding for a bachelor of science in nursing for veterans program from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs for $1 million over three years.

Dr. Carmen Giurgescu and her team received $61,000 in funding from the Institutes for Population Studies, Health Assessment, Administration, Services and Economics (INPHAASE) for their project, “Neighborhood Environment, Lipidomes and Preterm Birth in African American Women.” The study will analyze lipidome profiles based on data collected by Dr. Rosalind Peters (co-investigator) and Dr. Andrea Cassidy-Bushrow (dual PI, Henry Ford Health System) from a sample of 200 pregnant African American women.

Dr. Zorica Kauric-Klein received funding from the Michigan Corporation Relations Network – Small Company Innovation Program in the amount of $40,000 for her project, “Improving Outcomes in Chronic Kidney Disease Stages III to V Through a Care Circle Remote Patient Monitoring Intervention.” She will collaborate with Health Numeric to develop the intervention software.

Ph.D. student Shahrazad Timraz was awarded a $3,000 grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Michigan for her research, “Experience and Coping With Past Child Sexual Abuse in Arab American Women.”

The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded Dr. Feleta Wilson and Dr. Anwar Najor-Durack (WSU School of Social Work) a three-year, $945,000 SBIRT grant. They will receive $315,000 per year to train CON and social work students as well as community health care providers to assess patients in primary care settings for substance abuse behaviors. Wilson’s CON colleagues include Dr. Umeika Stephens and Dr. Cynthera McNeill. Social Work team members include Dr. Antonio González-Prendes and Dr. Suzanne Brown.

Presentations and awards
Ph.D. student Sumayya Attaallah received a Certificate of Recognition in the WSU Graduate Exhibit for her poster, “Self-Care in Older Adults With Heart Failure.”

Pictured right: M.S.N. students Denise Bergeron (left) and Daniela Bravo-Corona received first-place recognition for their research poster, “Managing Acute Childhood Exacerbations in Children: A Clinical Practice Change to Metered-Dose Inhalers” at the WSU Master’s Showcase.

M.S.N. student Brian Bigelow was selected to present his research poster, “Big Data and Predictive Analytics: A Nursing Return on Investment Model” at the American Nurses Association-Michigan Conference in East Lansing.

Clinical instructor Suzanne Billingsley presented a poster at ISPN in Seattle in March titled, “Application of a Cognitive Behavioral Group Program as a Practice Model for Advance Practice Psychiatric Nurses.”

The College of Nursing’s C2 Pipeline is the first 21st Century Community Learning Center program in the United States to receive STEM accreditation through STEM.org.

Three out of four interprofessional high school student teams sponsored by CON or Lambda Chi Chapter won awards at the C2 Pipeline summer residential program, including:

- CON A Team: Dr. Felicia Grace (team mentor), Dale van Yarbough, Irtaza Malik, Shaeqlyn Jones, Kendyl Gartelle and Ellen Braden. Innovation: “Healthy Stacks,” a deck of cards designed to prevent and bring awareness to diabetes for those at risk of developing the disease.

- CON B Team: Dr. Olubunmi Daramola (team mentor), Nicole Wing, Divya Gumudavelly, Vashti Lindsey, Ciara Coleman and Jamar Marshall. Innovation: “Sugar Rehab” an educational camp for those affected by type 2 diabetes along with a “Sugar Rush Run” 5K event to raise awareness and money for diabetes research.

- Lambda Chi Chapter, Chi Eta Phi B Team: Dr. Cynthera McNeill (team mentor), Danielle Lockhart, Kyll Dixon, Kameron Hardge, Shaequelyn Jones and Annika Christiani. Innovation: Create a talent show to educate and raise awareness in the community including related local vendors.

Above: Dr. Margaret Campbell (right) served as visiting professor at the School of Nursing at the National Defense Medical Center in Taipei, Taiwan, in August. She gave several presentations about assessing and treating dyspnea at the end of life. Campbell also met with faculty, clinicians, alumni and students throughout the week to discuss challenges and strategies for conducting palliative care research as well as nursing study proposal writing and publication.
CON Academic Services Officer Kristen Carney, along with colleagues from the WSU School of Social Work, presented “Preparing Future Leaders: Developing and Implementing an Inter-Professional Healthcare Education Camp” at the 2015 Michigan Academic Advising Association Annual Conference. Dean Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo has been appointed to the Journal of Nursing Education editorial board.

Dr. Carmen Giurgescu presented “Social Stressors, Inflammation and Preterm Birth in African American Women” at the 2015 Sigma Theta Tau International Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ph.D. student Sheria Robinson Grice was presented the Young Investigator Travel Award by the American Pain Society (APS). The award provided funds to the 2015 APS meeting in Palm Springs, California, where she presented “Poor, Scared and Hurting: The Experiences of Black Elders Managing Chronic Pain.”

Dr. Sandra Oliver-McNeil and Dr. Thomas Templin presented “Predicting Readmission After Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Using a Risk Model” at the Scientific Sessions of the 20th World Congress on Heart Disease in Vancouver, British Columbia.

CON Director of External Affairs Monika Miner recently received the Carol E. Franck Nursing Leadership Award. Michigan State University presented it in recognition of her tireless advocacy work on behalf of nursing education and practice in Michigan.

Dr. April Hazard Vallerand was honored for her work in promoting accessibility to quality pain management through public and professional awareness and education. She received the 2015 American Society for Pain Management Nursing Advocacy Award at the group’s national conference.

**2015 Research Day awards**

Alumna of the Year: Antonia Villarruel (Ph.D. ’93), dean, University of Pennsylvania College of Nursing.

Faculty Award: Dr. Ramona Benkert for “Effects of Interprofessional Practice on Obesity-Related Health Outcomes.”

Student Award: CON M.S.N. student Brian Bigelow for “Big Data and Predictive Analytics: A Nursing Return on Investment Model.”

Clinical Partner Award: Dana Greggs, Henry Ford Hospital, for “Increasing Healthy Newborn Breastfeeding Initiation and Exclusivity in the Hospital Setting.”

Sigma Theta Tau International Student Research Grant Awardees: Ph.D. students Maha M. Albdour and Shahrazad Timraz.

**New CON faculty and staff**

Welcome to clinical instructors Lynette Carroll, CNM; Belinda Fish; Michael Mooney and Julia Farner.

Welcome also to Toria Chandler, dean’s office receptionist.
“One reason I liked Wayne State is that a lot of my classes promoted hands-on work within the community — especially at the College of Nursing. It really made me push myself beyond my limits.”

– Roberta Ukavwe ’15 B.S.N.

Class notes

Angela M. Allen, Ph.D., RN, CRRN (B.S.N. ’91, M.A.T. ’06) is an Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation Scholar. Dr. Allen’s research focuses on how best to meet the needs of patients with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia in a health care setting. She is also the clinical research program director at Banner Alzheimer’s Institute in Phoenix, where she leads the Dementia Care Initiative program under a $6.2 million grant. Concurrently, she is a John A. Hartford Scholar, a clinical professor/coordinator, and Barrett Honors Faculty at Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation.

Nancy R. Berman, ANP-BC, NCMP, FAANP (M.S.N. ’78) was recently inducted into the Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She specializes in women’s health care at the Millennium Medical Group PC in Southfield, a division of Michigan Healthcare Professionals, and is also a clinical instructor in the WSU School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Marylin Dodd, RN, FAAN (Ph.D. ’81) was honored at the American Academy of Nursing 2015 conference as a Living Legend, the group’s highest honor, for her accomplishments as a nurse leader. Dodd is an emeritus professor in the Department of Physiological Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco. The honor acknowledges her outstanding and visionary contributions to patient self-care and to the science of symptom management, which spans four decades of research, clinical practice and education. Dodd’s model has been tested and extended to become the PRO-SELF Intervention Program, providing relevant information, self-care skills, and support to patients and families.

Sherry Farra, RN, Ph.D., CNE (B.S.N. ’79) is assistant professor and co-director of curriculum of the National Disaster Health Consortium at the College of Nursing and Health at Wright State University. She recently earned her Ph.D. as well as a distinguished alumni award from her Ph.D. program. Farra notes, “I always wanted to write to someone at WSU and tell them how much I appreciated my education. My time at WSU taught me to have a spirit of inquiry.”

Norma J. (Calkins) Smith (B.S.N., P.H.N. ’54) remains active in nursing and has enjoyed working during the last 61 years in many capacities, including bedside nurse, director of nursing, director of education, hospital supervisor (CCU, ICU, ER), and as a public health nurse. She notes, “It’s been an interesting life and I continue to work to pay it forward in gratitude for what the College of Nursing has given me. Over the years, the role of the RN has certainly grown and changed, and WSU’s College of Nursing really prepared me to be able to continue in a competent and successful manner.” She is an active volunteer with several organizations.

Carmen Stokes, Ph.D., RN, FNP-BC, CNE (B.S.N. ’94) is an associate professor at University of Detroit Mercy’s McAuley School of Nursing. In 2013, she was the first person...
In memoriam


Flora Hommel (B.S.N. ’58) passed away on May 15, 2015. She was one of the pioneers who brought the Lamaze psychoprophylactic method of painless childbirth to the United States, establishing an important teaching organization in Detroit, the Childbirth Without Pain Education Association. She championed the rights of women to control childbirth, creating a grassroots movement contemporaneous with the women’s movement of the 1960s and ’70s. WSU’s Walter P. Reuther Library hosted a display and discussion about her life in July featuring members of Hommel’s family, local historians and U.S. Congressman John Conyers Jr. (D-MI).

In June, WSU School of Medicine Dean Jack Sobel (left), CON Dean Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley and CON Professor Ramona Benkert were among those who gathered in Lansing for the first Friends of MI-AHEC Dinner, which celebrated the successful creation of the organization’s statewide network of five regional centers (see story on page 4).
Michigan AHEC continued from page 4

Together, these groups work to spark an interest in health care careers for disadvantaged youth such as de la Torre, as well as promote clinical training opportunities for students and continuing education programs for health professionals in underserved areas.

According to government data, all but four Michigan counties have areas with a shortage of primary care health professionals, most often in rural regions but in urban locations as well. Add to that a projected shortage of health professionals as a large population of current providers nears retirement and the need is clear.

“The overreaching goal is that students coming to us from these communities will return home to establish their careers and deliver high-quality, culturally sensitive health care to their neighbors,” says Gibson-Scipio.

To that end, programs are wide-ranging and include:

- Biomedical Career Advancement Program: Gives high school seniors a chance to participate in groundbreaking WSU research.
- C2 Pipeline: A yearlong program for at-risk high school students that includes an immersive college experience over the summer.
- Veteran’s Mental Health Project: A partnership with the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center to address health issues that affect returning service members and their families.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid: Providing lifesaving intervention training for minors in crisis situations.

In addition, there are dozens of regional-specific programs that address the unique needs of each area. Since MI-AHEC began, more than 2,600 students have participated in 2,300 hours of activities. Key to that stat is the fact that 90 percent of those activities have taken place in medically underserved communities. And the work continues: It was announced in August that MI-AHEC has been awarded an additional $1.2 million in federal funding for 2015-16, and also was just awarded a one-year, $750,000 grant related to autism.

“Thanks to MI-AHEC, students who might not have ever considered nursing as a career come to see that as a realistic possibility,” says CON Dean Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo. “Once they graduate into this profession that has a reasonable salary and offers a high potential for growth, then they have the power to change the economic base of our state — and change the future for their families.”
Save the date
UPCOMING EVENTS

Continuing education programs
The Role of Nurses in Reducing All Types of Tobacco Use
November 18
4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Hospice of Michigan

Annual Pain Lecture
March 23, 2016
4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Hospice of Michigan

Sponsored by the Alumni Board of Directors, two CE contact hours are awarded for each program. To learn more or register, contact Dawn Hameister at 313-577-8945 or aj0415@wayne.edu.

Alumni reunions
Houston Regional Event
December 7
For details, call 877-WSU-ALUM.

All Decades Reunion Week at WSU
April 11-15, 2016
For details, visit alumni.wayne.edu.

WSU-wide Golden Jubilee Celebration
April 15, 2016

College of Nursing Research Day
April 13, 2016
To RSVP, visit specialevents.wayne.edu/conresearchday2016.

Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing! Send updates and photos to con@wayne.edu.