Dear colleagues and friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to our fall newsletter, which includes annual report details on pages 8-9. Although this has been a year of transitions, we have moved forward with continued excellence.

Earlier this year, we inaugurated Dr. M. Roy Wilson as the 12th president of Wayne State University. He has generated much enthusiasm and inspiration among us.

During the past year, the College of Nursing enjoyed many remarkable accomplishments that demonstrate how our mission and activities directly align with President Wilson’s vision of this model public urban research university.

This newsletter showcases many proud accomplishments within the College of Nursing. I would like to highlight a few more.

This year, we received word from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education that accreditation for both our BSN and DNP programs was renewed for 10 years and our MSN program was renewed for five years. Our baccalaureate program graduates continue to have high first-time pass rates on the RN licensure exam. The first-time pass rate for 2013 was 99 percent compared to an average 2013 Michigan pass rate of 87.65 percent and an average 2013 national pass rate of 83.4 percent.

In October 2013, we signed an affiliation agreement with Oakland Community College to initiate an RN-to-BSN program. In accordance with the recommendation from the Institute of Medicine’s Future of Nursing report to increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020, we admitted and enrolled six students to our inaugural ADN to BSN program. Graduates of OCC’s associate degree program in nursing can earn their WSU College of Nursing BSN in as few as five semesters with minimal duplication of courses. All classes are held in Oakland County, with most classes taught at Wayne State’s Oakland Center in Farmington Hills. The clinical lab classes are held at OCC – Southfield Campus. We plan to admit our second cohort of students this fall.

Our Michigan Area Health Education Center (MI-AHEC) activities are flourishing. Under the leadership of co-principal investigators Ramona Benkert and Valerie Parisi, MI-AHEC is improving access to primary care for all Michigan residents, many of whom live in areas that have too few health professionals. Through recruitment and retention initiatives as well as special clinical education programs, MI-AHEC is exposing disadvantaged students to health care opportunities, expanding the number of underrepresented minorities in the health professions, and encouraging students and health professionals to work in areas that need greater access to primary care providers. To date, four of the five regional centers are in operation: Southeast, Mid-Central, Western and Upper Peninsula, meaning that 62 of the 83 counties in Michigan are now covered by a regional center. Approximately 1,200 high school students have participated in more than 2,000 hours of MI-AHEC activities, with more than 90 percent of them coming from disadvantaged populations.

Wayne State's nurse-managed Campus Health Center, operated by our nonprofit Nursing Practice Corporation, has experienced wonderful success delivering health care to WSU students. In the last year, 7,071 students were seen for acute and chronic illness care, preventive and urgent care, travel health, weight management, TB screenings, and immunizations. The clinic focuses on student wellness and health promotion. Our exceptional faculty members are ensuring that more and more students are being exposed to interprofessional education.

Opportunities include community health and psychiatric mental health students participating in Street Medicine Detroit (through care to homeless who attend the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Sundays), pediatric nurse practitioner students participating in advanced health simulation intensives with pediatric fellows, and nursing having an integral role in the multidisciplinary infant mental health graduate certificate program.

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continued on page 2
one semester. Additionally, nurse practitioners in the health center delivered 2,824 flu shots to students, collected immunization records for approximately 1,600 dorm residents and screened approximately 841 international students for TB. Soon, nurse practitioners in our campus health center will be delivering care to students, faculty and staff.

Our nurse scientists continue to be very productive. Among our junior investigators, Carmen Giurgescu recently received a CURES Pilot Project Program grant as well as a University Research Grant to study chronic stressors, proteome profiles and preterm birth in African-American women. See pages 16-17 to learn more about our newest faculty members.

Moving forward, we do have some challenges and goals. For example, we aim to increase enrollment in our graduate programs. During the next year, we also will be revising and updating our Ph.D. program to ensure we develop a cadre of urban health-related nurse scientists prepared for team science and to launch successful long-term programs of research. We will also be exploring ways we can market our biophysical laboratory and simulation labs.

In closing, all of us at the College of Nursing are committed to many more future successes. I am grateful for your generous support that makes our continued success possible.

Nancy T. Artinian, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FAAN
Interim Dean and Professor

A WSU education close to home

The College of Nursing’s distance learning program gives students across the U.S. the opportunity to receive a classroom experience while remaining close to home and work.

Eligible students can participate using nothing more than a computer, webcam and microphone. Those within 90 miles of a distance learning site in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette and Traverse City connect there, while those without site access can log in from home.

“We feel that being present in a classroom, virtually or otherwise, gives students greater opportunities to interact, show leadership, give presentations, learn from others and participate in activities that they wouldn’t have access to in an online setting,” says Christine Rodemeyer, CON distance learning and area coordinator.

“From anywhere in the country, you have access to a host of advanced practice specialties.”

Unlike online courses, during which students participate in the same coursework but miss out on important classroom interactions, distance learning allows participants to engage. Not only can students see the professor but their faces also appear on class monitors, facilitating real-time participation.

Students receive the same emails and notifications, are assigned the same work, and take exams in the same manner as on-campus students. Participants can even take over the system when giving presentations.

Partnerships with health care agencies throughout the state allow CON faculty to arrange clinical experiences close to students’ homes, so they can gain necessary hands-on experience without a lengthy commute. While students may have to come to campus for simulation intensives, the majority

continued on page 19
Nancy George is leading the way in expanding the role of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in the state of Michigan. The associate clinical professor in the College of Nursing and director of the college’s doctorate of nursing practice program is a passionate advocate for Senate Bill 2, which would establish full practice authority and clarify the scope of practice for the state’s APRNs.

George, who is also president of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP), has worked tirelessly with fellow advocates for the past six years, meeting regularly with elected officials to explain the bill’s importance.

At issue is a disconnect between the level of care that APRNs can provide and the limited level of care that Michigan’s outdated public health code (PHC) allows them to deliver. Under Senate Bill 2, APRNs would have full practice authority to write prescriptions, diagnose illnesses and treat patients. George believes the bill would allow nurse practitioners to provide more efficient, effective treatment and keep nurses working in the state, able to practice to their full capacity.

“Regulation in Michigan is antiquated. It’s from 1978, and practice and education have changed drastically since then,” she says. “We need statutes that reflect the future, not the past. This bill basically allows APRNs to do everything they are capable of, closing the gap between clinical preparation and regulated practice authority, and helping to end some of the disparities that patients encounter when they seek health care.”

George has been at WSU since 2004, and her 10 years as an educator shine through in her advocacy work. Even as she navigates the intricacies of Michigan’s bureaucracy, George is constantly teaching. She takes time to both educate legislators on the work done by APRNs and rally fellow nurses to speak with their elected officials.

“Nurses are at the bedsides of people who are at their most vulnerable, and we have no problem talking about all kinds of bodily functions with a perfect stranger. But many are afraid to go talk to the elected officials who represent them,” says George. “While nurses are very good advocates for their patients, they are often not great advocates for themselves. Nursing has a wonderful history of being politically active, but we somehow forget that.”

In addition to educating nurses on how to contact and address their concerns with legislators, as president of MICNP George has spearheaded annual advocacy days that bring together nurses and elected officials for one-on-one conversations. Prior to these meetings, which draw 50-200 nurses, the participants are briefed on how to concisely and politely bring their concerns before legislators.

“One of the officials told me a few weeks ago, ‘The thing I love about you nurses is that you never scream at me, you’re respectful and you get your point across, and I can appreciate that.’ I think that a lot of the things we learn as nurses — such as how to deal with difficult situations and people — translate to how you talk to a politician. I tell them to not get personal, keep to the point and repeat that point at least three times so they hear the message,” she says.

George’s work has also had an effect on students, with several interested in pursuing careers in politics and being mentored by elected officials and advocacy groups. “We’ve encouraged students to be more politically aware, and many now meet regularly with their legislators. We teach them that legislators like talking to and hearing from their constituents,” George says. “To me, that’s the future.”

Senate Bill 2 was approved by the Michigan Senate in November 2013 — the first such bill in the United States to pass with a Republican majority. The bill is currently in committee in the Michigan House of Representatives, and George hopes to see it pass by year’s end. And while she’s excited about the possibility of more autonomy for APRNs, George says the greatest part of her work is inspiring others to carry the baton and work with legislators on important issues in the future.

“The fact that nurses are more involved politically is the thing that makes me the most proud,” she says. “Don’t get me wrong: I want Senate Bill 2 to pass. But I think getting people to understand how the process works and getting them to be part of the solution is vitally important.”
During the height of the summer, when typical high schoolers were focused on part-time jobs and hanging out with friends, 66 rising seniors from 16 schools across metro Detroit got a head start on college. From July 7-18, they lived on Wayne State’s campus, participated in lecture discussions, experimented in labs and collaborated with project teams. Getting along with new people, balancing studying and socializing, being away from home — these students had a semester’s worth of college in the span of two weeks, and they hadn’t even started their senior year of high school.

Giving students an early advantage — at no cost to families — was a primary goal for organizers of the WSU C2 Pipeline Warriors College Experience. The only camp of its kind in Michigan, C2 Pipeline offered students a multidisciplinary hands-on adventure with health care at its core. This college 101 camp for students interested in health care careers brought together nursing, medicine, social work, engineering, and pharmacy and health sciences to immerse students in university life while offering a hands-on preview of their intended academic programs. Everyone attended on a full scholarship covering all camp activities plus room and board thanks to program grants (see “C2 Pipeline,” opposite).

Many participants will be the first in their families to go to college,” says Don Neal, College of Nursing principal investigator and C2 Pipeline project director. “We know that freshman year is stressful for these students — getting along with your roommate and managing your course load while you’re away from home. In an effort to boost retention and graduation rates, our idea was to give them a crash course a year in advance, when it’s not a high-risk situation. Not only can they acclimate to campus life, they can explore health care to make sure it’s the right career for them.”

The camp’s central focus was diabetes. Students were organized into interprofessional education (IPE) teams, with one student representing each of the health care related professional disciplines. Campers spent their mornings together in Academic Success Center sessions learning about good study habits, stress management and conflict resolution. After lunch, they split off into specialties for their diabetes project-based lessons and labs. Nursing students learned how to take blood pressure and dissected a pancreas, for example, while engineering students investigated prosthetic limb construction and insulin delivery systems. When organizing the event, Neal and his team asked faculty members to plan hands-on lessons rather than focus on theory. “They’ll get enough theory when they actually enroll in college,” Neal says, noting that the camp’s goal was to ignite their curiosity and enthusiasm. “The faculty wrote some really cool lessons focusing on experiences usually reserved for upper-level undergrads and including the chance to play with high-tech toys.”

In the evening, IPE teams reconvened to compare what they’d learned and collaborate on projects, which ranged from a school cafeteria diabetes prevention campaign to a website that helps patients with diabetes maintenance and care. Teams would be presenting their projects to a panel of judges, Shark Tank-style, at the end of camp to compete for scholarship prizes.

“We left it up to the students to decide who would take the lead on projects,” says Neal. “It wasn’t necessarily the student representing medicine on the team; sometimes it was the social worker. We also saw conflict — that’s to be expected and what we wanted, because they’ll experience that when they get to college for real. We didn’t solve issues for them; we watched as they found a way to compromise.”

Campers were kept busy from 7:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. but their long days included plenty of fun. IPE team building took place during a volleyball tournament, on the rec center’s rock wall and through a campus scavenger hunt. Over the weekend, campers enjoyed Wayne State’s surrounding neighborhood, playing along the RiverWalk, doing community service by painting a colorful mural and enjoying a Mexicantown meal.

Those who live a short drive away but had never spent much time in Detroit said that although they hadn’t previously considered WSU an option, experiencing the vibrant community had changed their mind. “I loved the urban campus feel,” says Waterford Mott’s Megan Arandela. Fellow camper Michelle Malik, who attends North Farmington High School, says she had never been to Wayne State before and now is considering it as a college option.

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Sweet summertime rewards

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School just 22 miles from Wayne State but had never visited campus, was impressed by how much there was to do. The first in her family to attend college in America, Malik previously had Michigan State and the University of Michigan at the top of her list. Now, Wayne State is too. “I’m sold on WSU’s MedStart program,” says Malik, who has her eye on pediatric endocrinology. “This camp opened my eyes to the real world of medicine. It gave me the tools to succeed in college and later plan my way to med school.”

On the last day of camp, WSU admission counselors met with students to practice the college application process by applying to Wayne State. Admission decisions were targeted to arrive in the campers’ mailboxes before the start of their senior year.

If admitted, 14 of those students will have a jump on financial aid. The top three IEP team-based projects earned WSU scholarships ranging from $1,500 to $2,500.

Everyone felt like a winner during the Poster Reception and Showcase Gala at the end of the camp. Students dressed up to present their projects, celebrate their accomplishments and enjoy a fine dining experience that included a popular chocolate fountain. “It was over the top by design,” says Neal of the event that was also attended by parents, high school principals and WSU deans. “We wanted the students to feel special.”

The highlight of the evening came when each student was presented with an official WSU lab coat by the dean from their health discipline. “I was most impressed with the projects designed by these innovative, energetic and creative students,” says CON Interim Dean Nancy Artinian. “Thank you to our faculty and staff who participated in helping make the C2 Pipeline Warriors College Experience a huge success.”

Nearly 70 faculty and staff members from across the university devoted their time and talents to the program. Major partners included the College of Nursing; the School of Medicine; the School of Social Work; the College of Engineering; the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; the Irvin D. Reid Honors College; the College of Education’s Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies; and the Academic Success Center.

Everyone involved can rest assured that their efforts were of value. When students were asked to reflect on their time at camp, many cited the very lessons Neal had hoped to impart: teamwork, stress-management, prioritization, responsibility and getting along with others. They also expressed gratitude.

“I truly appreciate everything Wayne State has done for me,” says Diamond Anderson-Stokes of Cody Medicine and Community Health High School. “I learned a lot about myself; I was interested in social work but now I have a passion for nursing. See you again in fall 2015!”

The College of Nursing’s C2 Pipeline program was recently awarded two 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants, administered through the Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Education and Family Services. The two grants — each for $675,000 per year for five years — will allow the C2 Pipeline to expand the college-and-career-readiness program to 10 additional high schools. The College of Nursing also has a current C2 Pipeline program grant in its third year, with the three grants totaling $10,125,000.

C2 Pipeline focuses on providing expanded academic enrichment opportunities to help high school students attending low-performing schools in the Detroit metropolitan area prepare for college admission and STEM careers, including nursing. This is accomplished through a project-based learning environment to enhance the student’s secondary educational experience. The model includes two and a half hours of after-school activities Monday through Thursday for 32 weeks, plus six weeks of summer programming, including the two-week Warriors College Experience.

“The program is unique in that we are the only one in the state with this structure and purpose,” says Don Neal, CON principal investigator and C2 Pipeline project director. “It is a working collaborative of many different partners. These are truly partners, with everyone bringing something to the table in order to reach these high school students.”
Assistant Professor Cynthia Bell is a new face around the halls, malls and classrooms of Wayne State. But to the families she works with, Bell is a calming presence, a facilitator, and reassurance that life is worth living even in its darkest hours.

Bell’s research primarily focuses on adolescents with advanced and incurable cancer. She’s interested in developing a tool that can be used to measure a patient’s degree of readiness to engage in meaningful discussions about the end of life, and recently received a major grant to help with that endeavor.

Bell was drawn to her area of focus while she was a clinician caring for seriously ill adolescents. “I saw a lot of turmoil and anxiety,” she says. “And I became very passionate about how to engage in meaningful conversations so we can know what these young people want to accomplish, where they want to live out their final days and what advanced directives they want at the end of life.”

Those experiences inspired a return to Indiana University, where her doctoral research examined the quality of life in adolescents living with advanced cancer.

A Wayne State faculty member since August 2013, the primary focus of Bell’s research these days is readiness, which consists of three constructs: cognitive awareness, emotional acceptance and willingness to engage in discussions.

Bell has found that readiness is a dynamic process. “One day, patients will express fear about the future, wondering what’s going to happen to them and how their families will be,” she says. “But the next day, they don’t want to talk about any of that and will instead be focused on something like planning their senior prom. It can even change within a given day or sometimes the same encounter.”

Bell says this can be confusing for a health care provider. Just as behavioral researchers are able to measure emotions such as anxiety, she wants to develop the ability to measure readiness, understanding when patients want to engage and what they want to discuss on a daily basis.

Adolescent oncology research, especially when dealing with advanced and incurable diseases, presents many challenges. In terms of feasibility, the sample size of young adults with advanced cancer is small. Generally, one in five of the adolescents diagnosed will die from their disease — these are the people who Bell is passionate about helping. Because of this small population, researchers have to find creative ways to recruit and engage participants.

In April, Bell and her team received a University Research Grant to explore the feasibility of recruiting participants through social media. She’s hoping that utilizing this medium will help reach new candidates across the nation, targeting adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24.

“I envision having the ability to sit in a virtual room and talk with patients and families through programs like Skype,” Bell says. “This allows for the presence and level of interaction necessary to process with them.”

Emotional challenges also arise with this type of research. As a young nurse, Bell swore she’d never work with dying children because of the emotional difficulty. But as her career evolved and she treated these patients, she began to learn a lot about herself.

“I feel like I’m a better mother, wife, friend, nurse and person because I’ve taken care of these young people,” she says. “If I’m able to give back in some way, even though it’s difficult, that’s important to me.”

To do this work, Bell explains, it’s essential to come to terms with your own mortality: “If you can’t face the fact that you’re going to die, it’s impossible to help and be present with someone going through that.”

Parents are an important component in overcoming the challenges of this research, but they present an interesting dynamic themselves. Like their children, parents are going through their own process and often require emotional support. Bell has seen parents walk their children through the end of life without additional support, but in many cases, she says parents need someone to help them do that.

“There’s a huge protection factor involved,” Bell says. “Parents are protecting their kids from the fact that they’re going to die, but the kids are also protecting their parents. This paradox of protection often inhibits conversations about death, dying or end-of-life issues.”

Cynthia Bell’s work has resulted in patients finding smiles during their most challenging times.
She notices that children and adolescents pick up on the emotions of their parents, showing reluctance to discuss the realities of their situation because they don’t want to see them burdened or hurt.

Although the family dynamic can bring complications, finding ways to elicit open discussion can yield positive results.

“It’s so rewarding when you’re able to pull people together and help families acknowledge their experience,” Bell says. “It’s about facing the facts and processing them together. It’s an iterative process of accepting and struggling to accept. And in this process, you can celebrate the time you have left because there’s so much living you can do.”

Bell recently received a $20,000 Research Career Development Award from the Oncology Nursing Society Foundation to continue her research at Wayne State in partnership with Hospice of Michigan. She will be working with Dr. Pam Hinds, a pediatric end-of-life research expert, to learn cognitive interviewing methodology.

Bell acknowledges the difficulties surrounding her research endeavor but hopes to develop a solid foundation that can be built upon by future researchers who share her passion.

“This research often produces more questions than answers,” Bell says. “But if I can do my small part to advance our knowledge of the end-of-life process, I will have accomplished something great.”

WSU’s nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International – Lambda Chapter, inducted 52 members in April, including 24 undergraduate students and 28 graduate students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship. Congratulations to all!

2013-14 Alumni Association Board President Constance Kanelas-Gangadharan, RN (WSU B.S.N., B.A. ’77), presents 2014 Alumna of the Year Davida F. Kruger, RN, M.S.N., APRN-BC, BC-ADM (WSU M.S.N. ’82), with an etched bowl at Research Day in May.

Congratulations to all CON graduates, including Robert Sharon (left), Matthew Fitzgibbon, Stephanie Eckleberry, Krista Matusiak and Nicole Vergara.
College of Nursing by the numbers

65

Total number of full-time faculty
34% Tenured and tenure track – 22
66% Non-tenured – 43

Current active research awards
External: $2,770,245
Training: $22,763,158
Internal: $663,621

Faculty publications
September 2013-July 2014
Refereed journal articles: 61
Chapters in books: 6
Invited articles: 2

Giving summary
2013-14 academic year
681 Total number of donors
524 alumni (85%)
71 other individuals
23 organizations

More than $692,400 gifts received in 2013-14 academic year
More than $471,100 pledges made in 2013-14 academic year
Fall 2013 enrollment: 596

Degrees and certificates granted in 2012-13:
- 49.8% (118) Master’s degrees
- 37.1% (88) Baccalaureate degrees
- 9.3% (22) Doctoral degrees
- 3.8% (9) Post-master’s certificates

- There are just under 50 named scholarships derived from philanthropy given by the College of Nursing each year.
- More than 10,000 total alumni from the College of Nursing.
- Over 72% of all alumni live in Michigan (6,888).
- 1.7% of all alumni live outside of the United States (161).

There are CON alumni living in Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Greece, India, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the British Virgin Islands.
Asante sana: Kenya traveler group is thankful

Editor’s note: Each year, College of Nursing students have the opportunity to travel to a developing nation to gain greater insight into global health issues. This year, nine students and three faculty members spent their spring break in Kenya (see “In search of an opportunity to make a difference,” page 12). Newly admitted nursing student Grace Albers was among them. This is her story.

It was an impulse, really, to go to Africa. I had consulted my boss, who had traveled to Zambia a few years ago, and he warned me of the dangers:

“Don’t drink the water because you might get sick.”

“Don’t go out at night because you might get kidnapped.”

“Don’t walk around without shoes because there are little worms that like to burrow into your feet.”

I had never thought about visiting Africa before meeting Dr. Joan Bickes during a Future Nurse Professional workshop. The College of Nursing assistant professor told me about the trip she’d be leading. After that, I knew I had to travel to Africa because I believed it was going to make me a better nurse.

Beyond self-fulfillment, I wanted to get to know the College of Nursing’s culture, having planned to apply for admission in spring 2014.

Another reason to go was the pad project I coordinated. When I first heard about the Kenya trip, I learned that every month, thousands of Kenyan girls are forced to stay home from school during their menstrual cycles because they do not have proper protection. Sanitary pads are considered a luxury, and some girls resort to unsanitary and risky alternatives. The girls who stay home fall behind in their studies, limiting their future prospects. In the months leading up to the trip, I coordinated a campaign to make reusable pads out of towels, flannel and elastic. This campaign snowballed and people from around the country sent pads for us to deliver to the Kenyan community. We distributed approximately 900 pads to four middle schools, giving each sixth, seventh and eighth grade girl two sanitary pad kits. During prearranged educational sessions, we explained the use of the pads and discussed body health and safety issues.

Fueled by tradition

I was afraid that our group wouldn’t be welcome in Kenya, but it was just the opposite. People invited us into their homes and gave us fruit. The people we met did not seem to dislike foreigners; instead they seemed grateful for what outsiders have done to improve their country. Missionary workers taught Kenyans how to read and educated them about farming techniques. At times we felt like celebrities — Kenyans followed us around, wanting to take pictures and touch our hair.

Traditional Kenyan dishes fuel some of the best runners in the world, and I tasted some of their favorites, including mandazi, a fried donut typically served at breakfast; ugali, similar to polenta in consistency; and sukuma wiki, a staple similar to kale. All the ingredients were fresh, including bananas straight from the garden, and all the dishes were made...
at home. It was unbelievable how much energy the food gave me.

A typical day started with hardboiled eggs and toast before heading to Maseno Mission Hospital and clinics to work until 4 p.m. After a dinner of samosa (a fried pastry with savory fillings), beans and lentils, we would explore the town, climb up the mountain with the locals, play with the children at the orphanage, or head to Maseno University for soccer with the college guys. Back at the house, our group would stay up talking and playing cards into the early morning.

**Happiness and despair**

The experiences I had in the mission hospital cannot be matched by any in the United States. The Kenyan nurses were very open to sharing their experiences. For example, each patient had a family caregiver who stayed with their relative during the hospitalization. The Kenyan nurses and student nurses believed that the family was responsible for the care of their relative. I learned from the WSU faculty and students that it is very important for a nurse to understand the patient and have good communication skills. Although I did not have the skills to deliver a baby or work in the surgical theater, I could still comfort the patients and ask them about their lives. So many people feel lonely in the mission hospital because they are away from their families, but just asking them their name or how their day is going can make a difference.

One day will always stay with me: I was observing a C-section where both the mother and baby were in danger, but there was just one oxygen mask available. The Kenyan nurses focused on the mother, saying that while she could have another baby, they didn’t want to make this one an orphan. The Wayne State nurses who were assisting jumped into action to focus on the baby. They searched the operating room, finally finding a second oxygen mask. They performed CPR and saved the baby’s life.

Kenya is a place with great happiness and great despair. Although HIV and AIDS are rampant, people find ways to be grateful. Education is highly praised and is a privilege, so you’ll find the happiest children in school.

The Kenyans I met did not have many material possessions, and they took good care of the things they owned. Despite dirt roads and houses made of mud, their clothes were spotless.

After this trip, I really appreciate my education. Kenya also taught me to appreciate fresh, home-cooked meals. When I came back to the U.S., I found myself sleeping in all the time and not having enough energy because of my highly processed diet. I missed Kenyan food and am now making an effort to include fresh, organic foods into my diet. I’ve also learned to be less reliant on material goods. I hope to be happy with the things I own, and not want more just because the media tells me I need more. I want to live modestly and not be wasteful.

My advice to others after this trip is: If you have the time and resources to travel, do it, because you might not get the opportunity again. You may not think you’re ready to go to Africa, but if you wait until you’re ready, you may never go.

I will forever be affected by the connections I made in Kenya; they will stay with me for a lifetime.

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*Offering hands-on help was important to the travelers.*

*CON representatives handed out hundreds of pad kits to Kenyan girls.*
In search of an opportunity to make a difference

Last March, when Michigan was still covered in snow, 12 Wayne State Warriors were packing suitcases with sandals, insect spray and sunscreen. They were headed to 90-degree humidity, but this was no typical spring break — their pre-trip prep included getting vaccinations against typhoid and yellow fever, and filling prescriptions for antimalarial drugs.

The previous December, when Dr. Joan Bickes held an informational meeting about traveling to Kenya, there was so much interest that the College of Nursing assistant professor had to limit the number of participants. Nine nursing students and two additional faculty members were selected.

In the past, Bickes has led interdisciplinary groups to India, Costa Rica and Kenya, but everyone on this spring’s not-for-credit trip was affiliated with the College of Nursing. Students who travel to developing nations witness global health issues firsthand while developing new skills and learning about disease progression.

“Our goals for this trip were to experience health care delivery in rural Kenya, and to give hands-on care to patients seen in the Maseno Mission Hospital, the maternal-child health clinic and the HIV/AIDS clinic, as well as home visiting with patients and families from the HIV clinic,” Bickes says. “This trip was to immerse the students and faculty in the local culture. We see poverty in Detroit but it’s at a whole different level in developing countries. This was a chance to learn and to make a difference.”

Indeed, each participant rolled up her sleeves for plenty of hands-on experience, with WSU faculty members supervising the WSU students during ward and clinic rotations — a practice that surprised the Maseno Mission Hospital staff and Maseno nursing students, according to Bickes, who says, “There is real potential to collaborate with the Maseno School of Nursing, especially in the areas of faculty supervised clinical experiences and current best practices within their culture and their available resources.”

Nicole Gonzalez, a second-year BSN student, signed up for the trip to gain a new kind of perspective. “Other countries have a different nursing experience,” she says. “But it’s always about the patient.” The WSU students demonstrated, for example, how to move bedridden patients using sheets. Gonzalez and the other students went with faculty members on home visits — often to houses that could only be reached on foot.

Bickes says, “We visited families with HIV to make sure they were taking their antiretroviral medications as prescribed and eating properly. Many families we saw on our home visits were experiencing low food and water supplies. As a nurse, this was concerning because patients are not supposed to take antiretroviral pills on an empty stomach — this was one of the many challenges facing the patients we saw. Even our guesthouse experienced scarce water by the end of our stay. The rainy season in Kenya begins in March and the fields are planted after the rainy season.”

Corinne Hoyle, who graduated from the accelerated program in fall 2013, went on the trip to round out her education by working with Kenya’s underserved population. “I would love to be a midwife and work with teen mothers. Most of the work I did in Maseno was focused on maternal and child health: taking measurements, giving vaccines, and assisting with both vaginal and C-section deliveries.”

The group also visited four middle schools to discuss menstrual health and distribute reusable sanitary pad kits to help girls stay safe and in school each month. The group stressed the importance that the girls take responsibility for their own physical and mental well-being.

“Before we left Maseno, we received many words of gratitude from the Kenyan students and staff, as well as from the people with whom we shared the guesthouse. We were asked to come back again next spring break,” Bickes says. “This is always a sign that our presence was appreciated.” After 10 days of hard but rewarding labor, the group celebrated with a safari in Masai Mara. Says Bickes, “It was a pleasant way to transition back to our lives after Maseno.”

Dr. Joan Bickes (front, third from right) led CON students and faculty members on an adventure to remember.
Redefined and laser-focused

Rose Torrento cares for patients in 48 states, meeting their needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. How can one nurse do it all?

Torrento (’96 B.S., ’98 M.S.) never imagined she would make an impact of this magnitude when she was sitting in her kitchen one day in 1996 sifting through the mail.

It was a trying time. Torrento had been a young nurse and loved the job, but a latex allergy had abruptly ended her career. Hospitals were not equipped to handle the issue at the time, so Torrento found herself jobless and labeled a liability to employ. “I was really down and out,” she says. “But one day when I was going through my mail, there was a postcard from Wayne State. I looked at it and decided I would redefine myself.”

Torrento met with an academic advisor who reviewed her skills and helped her choose a course of study. A degree in nursing was not an option because the program required clinical rotations, but the advisor suggested psychology. Torrento had strong medical knowledge and wanted to help patients, so she agreed it might be a good fit. She then met with Professor Marlyne Kilbey in the psychology department. “That was the beginning of a whole new world for me,” Torrento says.

Kilbey took an interest in her, and offered to work with Torrento to design a program of study that would allow her to apply her nursing skills and expand her knowledge in psychology. She also offered Torrento a position on a research team. This was a much needed lifeline for Torrento because she was a single mother. The job enabled her to work in the lab and fund her studies while taking care of her daughter. “Wayne State saved my life,” Torrento says. “They truly care about education and the people they educate.”

She excelled in the undergraduate program and went on to graduate studies in psychology immediately after finishing her bachelor’s. Torrento also began a new job at Beaumont Hospital recruiting nurses. She enjoyed the work and was happy to be in the nursing industry again — but wanted more.

She was approached at a business fair by investors looking to start a private nursing recruitment firm. Torrento joined their team and built their business quickly. Under her leadership, the company made $6 million in revenue within the first six months. It was an exciting time but Torrento still desired more. She aspired to lead a firm of her own: “I didn’t want to work for someone.”

That drive led her to an ambitious new project partnering with an IT and engineering recruitment company that had taken a hit during the recession and was facing a possible closure. Torrento saw an opportunity to help a struggling business and reach her goal of becoming an entrepreneur. “I didn’t have the money to start a business,” she says. “All I had was the intellectual capital that Wayne State gave me.”

Torrento struck a deal with the company owners. She would help them pay off their debt by shifting their focus to nurse recruitment; if she succeeded they would make her co-owner of the company. Two years later, the debt-free company was making $20 million in revenue, and Torrento became co-owner of the newly renamed Health Providers Choice.

Torrento is now CEO, president and chief executive nurse of the thriving company. She employs and manages 100-300 nurses at any given time, sending them to more than 100 facilities across the U.S.

Torrento credits much of her success to the pivotal moment when she chose to attend Wayne State. The university helped her grow as a health care provider in ways she did not anticipate, and the skills she learned at Wayne State still affect her career.

“Research, development, how to be a project manager, how to do gap analysis — I use all of these skills in my job, and I learned them at Wayne State,” says Torrento. “I am directing and managing a couple hundred nurses, and I never realized I’d love it and could have the skills to do it.”

Today, Torrento stays connected to Wayne State as an active volunteer in the College of Nursing, where she serves on the Board of Visitors. She also is a generous donor, a role she enjoys because it allows her to help students who may be struggling like she did. “It’s getting harder for adults to go to school,” she says. “The more I can give back the better. This is our future and our kids’ future.”

Torrento’s own future continues to be bright, and she intends to use it to help others every day. She cherishes her roles as independent businesswoman and nurse. In this combined capacity, Torrento is one nurse whose influence is felt through every action of every nurse she sends to a new hospital, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is not the nursing career Torrento had planned for, but it is the one that she built from a place of adversity by redefining what it means to be a care provider. “I was forced to look at a whole new way to use my nursing skill,” she says. “If you have a passion for something, you can find it at Wayne State.”
Quick but not hasty: 
Alumna’s decision leads to longtime love

Dr. Nancy Elsberry made the decision to attend the Wayne State University College of Nursing, hopped in her car and drove from Iowa to Detroit all in one day — the day before the semester began.

“I had an appointment with my academic advisor the next morning, and she asked if I had a place to stay,” says Elsberry (’64 M.S.N.). “I said ‘No, but I’ll find one.’”

This was the start of a whirlwind six years at Wayne State, an experience that launched Elsberry’s long and accomplished career and established a lasting love for the university she still supports today.

That first day on campus, Elsberry secured a room in the international student dorm, the only on-campus housing at the time. And Elsberry loved the experience of bunking with fellow students from all over the world. “I had just come from the middle of Iowa and moved to a big urban area,” Elsberry says. “It was a good experience for me to see other cultures.”

She jumped head first into her studies, too, and found the College of Nursing to be the academic challenge she had hoped for: “I was really pushed to do my very best. The depth of the scholarship and the knowledge base was a good motivator for me.”

She connected with many faculty members during her time as a student, but it was Professor Irene Beland who left an impression. Beland taught in the college but did not have a degree in nursing; she was a biological sciences scholar. This intrigued Elsberry. She loved the idea that nursing could expand beyond traditional patient care to research, teaching and a variety of specializations, and formed a bond with Beland through these shared interests. “Irene always had a warm place in her heart for me,” Elsberry says.

After receiving her master’s, Elsberry worked at the university for an additional four years, often collaborating with Beland on research. During that time, Elsberry taught students in the classroom and in clinical settings. Those experiences led to her interest in a career in higher education, and Beland encouraged her to pursue a doctoral degree. “I enjoyed mentoring students and working closely with them on the clinical side,” says Elsberry. “I knew from that experience that I wanted to teach and that I was good at it; to teach at a university level, I would need a doctorate.”

In 1968, Elsberry left Wayne State and began doctoral studies at the University of Kansas in the nurse scientist program. There was no doctorate in nursing at the time. Students in the program would identify an associated area of study and, upon completion of the program, work in cadres to develop advanced programs in nursing for universities around the country.

Following that experience, Elsberry accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. During her career, she helped establish a graduate program to train family nurse practitioners, and spent 20 years growing it before retiring in 1996. The groundbreaking program was the first of its kind for family nurse practitioners in the country, and it laid the foundation for the doctoral program at UW Oshkosh that was established in 2006.

Today, Elsberry looks back at her career and is appreciative of her experiences, successes, the people she helped and the connections she made. Much of this she credits to that initial decision to pick up and move to Detroit.

“I look back at those days and I think, ‘How did you have the audacity to do that?’” Elsberry says. “I amaze myself looking back. Wayne State was all focused on nursing and advancing knowledge and competence. It put me in good stead for my career in terms of actual nursing as well as teaching. I really have had a warm place in my heart for Wayne State from the start.”

That affection has inspired her to give back to the university. She has pledged a planned gift to the College of Nursing, and hopes it will someday help other students achieve their degree and establish careers that continue to advance the field of nursing.

“I was helped along, so now at this point when I am able to help somebody, I’d like to do that,” she says. “I feel obliged because I had such help financially during my graduate education that I want to give back and help others.”

~ College of Nursing
Honoring her life’s work

When you ask Professor De Witt Dykes Jr. his favorite thing about his wife, the late Dr. Marie Draper Dykes, you can hear a smile in his voice. “There are so many, it’s hard to pick just one,” he says. “I loved her intelligence, charm and wisdom. Yes, definitely those three things.”

These qualities and more made Draper Dykes a beloved member of the College of Nursing. She was a compassionate health care professional, an advocate for students in the classroom and a skillful administrator at Wayne State for more than 30 years.

Draper Dykes’ love of nursing developed at a young age. Her first exposure to nursing came from her mother’s job at a hospital, and through this experience, Draper Dykes developed a passion for connecting with people and helping to make a difference in their lives.

“Nursing was important to her because she cared about the vital issues of health and life,” says Professor Dykes. “She valued individual contact with patients, and so she knew from high school, or maybe younger, that she was going into nursing.”

Draper Dykes was the first in her family to attend college. She received the Helen Newberry Joy Scholarship, which paid her full tuition for four years at WSU. While at Wayne State, she was an active member and officer of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. After earning a bachelor of science in nursing in 1964, she worked in several Detroit hospitals before heading to the University of California-San Francisco to pursue her master’s. She also received a Ph.D. in higher education administration in 1978 from the University of Michigan, and a certificate in Educational Management from Harvard University.

“Shel was the true definition of a woman who had it all,” says Dr. Laura Dykes, Draper’s daughter. “She was pregnant with me when she was finishing up her doctorate. She came to every one of my games and theatre performances, not just one show but every performance of every show. I knew her as a mom, and she also was a very accomplished professional.”

Draper Dykes began teaching at Wayne State in 1967 and remained at the university for the duration of her career. She joined the faculty as an assistant professor; her medical knowledge combined with her kind and gentle demeanor made her a favorite of students and colleagues alike.

In 1971, Draper Dykes shifted from the classroom to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. She started as assistant dean but held many positions throughout her tenure, including associate provost. Draper Dykes enjoyed the administrative side of her work because it gave her the opportunity to enhance the student experience.

“Working for the administration allowed her to explore new ways of helping students,” says Professor Dykes. “She wanted to effect changes in policy for them.”

In her role as an administrator, Draper Dykes did facilitate great changes for students. She was instrumental in the approval of new courses and curriculum changes, and she oversaw the Office of Catalogs and Course Records. Well known for being fair and balanced, Draper Dykes also was the university’s liaison for negotiating new contracts with faculty and staff.

Draper Dykes retired from WSU in 2004 after health complications, and passed away in 2006.

That year, Professor Dykes and Dr. Dykes established a scholarship in her memory that was endowed in 2012. They wanted to support Wayne State students in a way that would honor the work of Draper Dykes and give back to the university that brought her so much joy and fulfillment.

“My mother was very involved in education, and we wanted to honor her while helping other people,” says Dr. Dykes.

Through personal gifts and support from family, friends, colleagues and members of the Dykes’ church, the family raised more than $25,000 — the amount needed to endow the scholarship and ensure that the funds will ease the financial burdens of Wayne State College of Nursing students in perpetuity.

Professor Dykes has added to the fund again, committing an additional $50,000 to the scholarship to further bolster the Dr. Marie Draper Dykes endowed scholarship. The College of Nursing will award the inaugural scholarship in the fall.

“We wanted to do something to have the spirit of her life go forward,” Professor Dykes says. “I want to carry Marie’s legacy of helping students into the future.”

Dr. Marie Draper Dykes’ (left) memory is honored through a scholarship fund established by daughter Laura Dykes and husband De Witt Dykes Jr.
Meet our newest faculty members

In the past year, the College of Nursing has welcomed a number of new faculty members to Wayne State. Each brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and we’re delighted to have them aboard. From innovative research to classroom instruction, the weight of their contributions will be felt across campus for years to come.

As they settled in, a few offered insight on Wayne State and the nursing profession.

CYNTHIA BELL
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Indiana University, 2011
M.S.N., Indiana University, 2006
B.S.N., Indiana Wesleyan University, 1980

What brought you to Wayne State?

The College of Nursing provides a research-intensive environment to support my collaborative endeavors. I am very fortunate to have a portion of my salary bought out by Hospice of Michigan. I will be working primarily with their Pediatric Early Care patients, family and staff, which aligns with my research interest to support adolescents living with advanced cancer and their families. I have formed collaborative relationships with the pediatric hospice team in west Michigan and oncologists at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids, as well as Karmanos Cancer Institute and the Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

What’s one piece of advice you would offer a new nursing student?

Being a nurse allows you to be present at some of the most vulnerable times in a patient’s life. Master the tasks of nursing, but never lose sight of the person. Take the time to be fully present with your patients — and listen to them. Some of my greatest teachers were my patients and their families. As you care for your patients, you will learn more about life than you could ever learn from a textbook.

CYNTHERA MCNEILL
Clinical Instructor
D.N.P., Wayne State University, 2013
B.S.N., Michigan State University, 2009
B.S., Coppin State University, 2007

What brought you to Wayne State?

I went to WSU and I’m from Detroit, so it means a lot to me to be here and grow here as a nurse practitioner and educator. I also do a lot of work in the community, so to be able to help out in the city and have the backing of Wayne State in many of those initiatives is great.

What’s the most rewarding part of your profession?

I like to say I have three careers in one profession. I’m a bedside nurse, and the connection I share with patients is one of the greatest things about what I do. I’m a nurse practitioner, engaging people in prevention and teaching them how to live healthy lives. I’m also an educator, sharing my experience and encouraging students to pursue their passions while conducting research and staying involved in my community.

RONALD PISCOTTY
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2014
M.S.N., University of Michigan, 2006
B.S.N., Wayne State University, 1998

What brought you to Wayne State?

I chose to accept an assistant professor position at WSU because I wanted to work at a well-respected, research-intensive university with outstanding faculty.

What’s the most rewarding part of your profession?

It’s incredibly rewarding knowing that the research I’m conducting will actually improve my profession and the lives of nurses and patients.

What do you hope to accomplish at Wayne State?

My goal is to become a well-respected researcher in nursing and health care informatics.

NUTRENA TATE
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Wayne State University, 2011
M.S.N., University of Michigan, 2000
B.S.N., University of Michigan, 1996

What brought you to Wayne State?

WSU is a premier research institution in an urban environment. In addition to its excellent research reputation, Wayne State has a stellar nursing program. I realized how rigorous, yet worthwhile my experience was when earning my Ph.D. I wanted to give back to the school that had given so much to me. WSU’s College of Nursing was the only choice for me, and I’m honored to be among some of my former professors as their colleague.
What’s one piece of advice you would offer a new nursing student?
Treat everyone you encounter how you would want to be treated. Treat your professors with respect, as you never know when you’ll need them as a reference — the world of nursing can be quite small. Treat your classmates as if you will see them again. Your reputation as a nurse starts as a student, and you never know who you will work with in the future.

What’s the most rewarding part of your profession?
In every aspect of nursing — practice, education, administration and research — you have the chance to give back to others. There is boundless flexibility and endless opportunity when you seize the moment. I am so thankful that I chose the field of nursing. I am fulfilled on a daily basis through service to others.

UMEIKA STEPHENS
Assistant Clinical Professor
D.N.P., Wayne State University, 2013
M.S.N., Michigan State University, 2000

What’s your greatest professional accomplishment?
The completion of my D.N.P. here at Wayne State. Studying for my D.N.P. gave me an enhanced view of nursing. I now look more at how we as nurses can advance nursing science, and I incorporate this philosophy into my teaching. I want my students to think about how their nursing practice will add to the greater voice of nursing.

What brought you to Wayne State?
I was born and raised in Detroit. I graduated from Cass Tech and spent many of my formative years on campus in different community programs. Being able to return to Detroit and teach the new generation of nurses feels like completing the circle of life for me.

What’s the most rewarding part of your profession?
Being able to encourage and mentor future nursing professionals.

CLARISSA SHAVERS
Clinical Instructor
W.H.N.P.-B.C., 2012
TRECOS Fellow, 2000-02
D.N.Sc., The Catholic University of America, 2000

What brought you to Wayne State?
I was very excited about the opportunity to teach in the RN-to-BSN program. I enjoy working with students and helping them reach their personal and professional goals.

What’s one piece of advice you would offer a new nursing student?
If nursing is your dream, stay encouraged, study hard and don’t give up your dream of becoming a nurse.

What’s the most rewarding part of your profession?
To me, the most rewarding part of being a nurse is having the opportunity to make a positive difference in my profession.

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

In May, nursing students participated in a community baby shower hosted by Friendship House in Detroit. Nursing professors Kate Zimnicki and Joan Visger led the students and collected diapering and bathing supplies for the moms-to-be. Students sat with the guests, answered questions and distributed gifts while Visger performed a baby bath demonstration. Participants also learned how to swaddle, burp and handle newborns during the well-attended event.
Accolades

Accomplishments
Preceptor Heather Bartlett has received the Outstanding Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Preceptor Award from the Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

Dr. Tess Briones was named an American Academy of Nursing Fellow. Dr. Briones will be inducted at a ceremony during the academy’s October conference.

Dr. Margaret Campbell was accepted as a full member of the Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group.

Dr. Nancy George was named a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

The Michigan Area Health Education Center has appointed Dr. Wanda Gibson-Scipio to serve as co-program director.

The Michigan Chapter of the American College of Cardiology appointed Dr. Sandra Oliver-McNeil Cardiac Care associate liaison.

Dr. Katherine Zimnicki was selected to attend the NIH sponsored workshop, “Wound Repair and Skin Healing in Older Adults.”

Grants and funding
Graduate student Amanda Atchoo received a grant from The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation Student Award Program for her project, “Acupressure: A Way to Decrease Cost and Improve Positive Patient Outcomes.”

Dr. Cynthia Bell received the Oncology Nurse Society Foundation Research Career Development Award for her proposal, “Adding Essential Instrumentation Skills for Use With Adolescents Living With Cancer.”

Dr. Cynthia Bell and her team of co-investigators received a University Research grant for their study, “Evaluating Feasibility of Social Media Recruitment and Online Data Collection in Adolescents and Young Adults With Cancer.”

Dr. Margaret Campbell and her research team (co-investigators Dr. Thomas Templin, Judy Wheeler and Julie Walch, palliative care NPs at the Detroit Medical Center) received a Detroit Medical Center/College of Nursing Faculty Scholar Award for their proposal, “Intensity Cutpoints Substantiation for the Respiratory Distress Observation Scale.”

Dr. Wanda Gibson-Scipio, PI, and her research team (co-principal investigators Dr. Karen MacDonell from the Pediatric Prevention Research Center and Dr. Claire Pearson from Detroit Receiving Hospital) received a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation grant for “Development of a Mobile Application to Support Transition Readiness of African American Youth With Asthma.”

Dr. Carmen Giurgescu received a University Research grant for “Social Stressors, Inflammation and Preterm Birth in African American Women: A Pilot.”

Dr. Carmen Giurgescu and her research team’s proposal, “Chronic Stressors, Proteome Profiles and Preterm Birth in African American Women,” was funded by the CURES pilot project program at WSU.

Nursing advisor Dr. Felecia Grace received WSU funding for “Student Nurses Achieving Academic and Professional Success (SNAAPS) Learning Community” to provide for academic support and peer mentoring.

Doctoral student Jason Kiernan received a grant from The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation Student Award Program for his project, “Mitigating Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea Using Ginger.”

Dr. Cynthia McNeill and her collaborators Dr. Umeika Stephens, Dr. Nutrena Tate and Dr. Tara Walker received funding for the 2014 "Stomping Out" Youth Step Show and Health Fair from a Minute Clinic Health Promotion grant. This award is granted through the Association of Nurse Practitioners Corporate Scholarship and Grant Program.

C2 Pipeline Program Manager Don Neal and his team received two $675,000 grants from the Michigan Department of Education to add 10 high schools to the college and career-readiness program with a focus on STEM.

Christina Raheb, Ph.D. student, received a grant from The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation Student Award Program for her project, “The Relationship Between Ghrelin, Mood, and Binge Eating Behavior Among College Students.”


Dr. Deborah Walker, Dr. Marci Simon-Burrell, Dr. Hossein Yarandi and Liza Jenuwine received a Detroit Medical Center/College of Nursing Faculty Scholar Award for their proposal, “The Magical Hour: The Effect of Early Maternal-Infant Skin-to-Skin Contact on Health and Psychosocial Outcomes and Breastfeeding Duration and Exclusivity.”

Presentations and awards
2014 Research Day poster winners:

- Faculty – Virginia Hill Rice and her team for “Health Effects of Adolescent Water Pipe and/or Cigarette Smoking Compared to Never Smoking.”
- Student – Emily Glick and her team for “Are Children With Type 1 Diabetes Happy With Their Physician? Examining the Relationship Between Diabetes Outcomes and Satisfaction With the Physician.”
- Community Partner – Bethany Page of Children’s Hospital of Michigan and her team for “Pediatric Early Warning Score: Nursing Staff Education.”
Dr. Sandra Oliver-McNeil’s abstract, “Regional Hospital Collaboration Is Associated With Reduced 30-Day Readmission in Medicare Heart Failure Patients,” has been accepted for presentation at the 18th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Heart Failure Society of America.

Several College of Nursing faculty received awards at the 2014 Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference:
- Palliative and End of Life Research Interest Group Recognition Award for Outstanding Research Presentation: Dr. Cynthia Bell.
- Self-Care Research Interest Group Dissertation Award: Dr. Mary Franklin.
- Best Manuscript Award from the Palliative and End of Life Care Research interest Group: Dr. Karen Kavanaugh.
- Distinguished Researcher Award from the Pain and Symptom Management Research Section: Dr. Barbara Pieper.
- Junior Doctoral Award from the Health Systems, Policy and Informatics Research Interest Group: Dr. Ronald Piscotty.

Dr. Cynthia Bell was awarded the 2013 APhON Counts Award from the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses.

DNP student Ericka Brunson-Gillespie won the research poster competition at the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners Conference for her poster, “Policy Analysis of the Organ Donation Policy at the University of Michigan Health System.”

Promotions and appointments

Dr. Joan Bickes has been named program director for the Community/Public Health Nursing graduate specialty program.

Dr. Margaret Campbell has been promoted to professor (research).

Ms. Shelley Clifton has been named CON business affairs officer. She has served as senior administrative manager, division administrator and manager at the U of M Health System and the U of M. She is currently working on her M.B.A. at EMU.

Dr. Kay Klymko has been promoted to associate professor (clinical).

After 27 years of continuous service, Dr. Olivia Washington retired from the College of Nursing and received emeritus status.

University committees

Dr. Tess Briones was selected by the provost and the Academic Senate Policy committee to serve on the university Research Grant committee for the 2013-14 academic year.

The Academic Senate Policy committee selected Dr. Helene Krouse to serve on the universitywide Sabbatical Leaves committee.

Dr. Barbara Pieper was selected to serve on the universitywide Faculty Promotion and Tenure committee.

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of the learning experience happens close to home.

“The program allowed me the opportunity to participate in a classroom setting from the comfort of my hometown instead of learning over a faceless online university program,” says Cortney Crocker, a Traverse City resident and graduate student in the pediatric nurse practitioner program. “It’s had a tremendous effect on accelerating my learning.”

When the program was implemented in 2007, only a handful of students participated. Today, more than 60 distance learning students are enrolled in the master of science in nursing program (MSN), and about a half-dozen are enrolled in the doctorate of nursing practice program (DNP). For students specializing in midwifery, community and public health, pediatrics, and neonatal care (programs that are offered at very few Michigan universities) distance learning provides one of the only opportunities to learn these important practices without leaving family and work behind.

“Many of these programs are popular on the west side of the state, where there are health centers that specialize in these areas but few opportunities to learn them,” says Rodemeyer. “In northern Michigan, there is a demand for higher-level care but little being offered in advanced practice education. Distance learning opens up access for those areas.”

While the majority of MSN students are from Michigan and Ohio, distance learners in the DNP program are located in areas as far away as Florida and Canada. Word of mouth has led to significant growth.

The program also increases diversity within the college, as students bring different viewpoints and backgrounds to the program — a benefit faculty members appreciate. “We are able to get perspectives on nursing from beyond our local area, which adds diversity to the classroom experience and knowledge base,” says Umeika Stephens, CON assistant professor. “As we have become a more global and technological society, distance learning provides a way to integrate these principles into the learning environment.”

The program also has opened up partnerships with hospitals and clinics across the state. Sites at Calvin College in Grand Rapids and Lansing’s Sparrow Hospital not only provide convenient locations for students to take part in WSU classes but also allow the college to offer new clinical experiences. And by expanding into Traverse City and Marquette, students take their WSU education and put it to work locally, improving the quality of care across Michigan.

Rodemeyer would like to see the program continue to grow and include more degrees, increasing access to a WSU education.
Alumni updates

A survey will be sent this fall asking how alumni might like to engage with the college and university. The alumni board is looking forward to your response.

Did you know that the College of Nursing Alumni Association provides $10,000 for various CON undergraduate and graduate student scholarships each year? These monies come from interest earned on the College of Nursing Alumni Association endowed scholarship.

The alumni board also sponsors two continuing education programs per year, with two CE contact hours awarded for each one. Professor Margaret Campbell, an internationally recognized palliative care scholar, will present “Commonly Used End-of-Life Interventions That Lack an Evidence Base” on Nov. 19 at 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Hospice of Michigan at 400 Mack Ave. in Detroit. For more information or to register, write to Dawn Hameister at aj0415@wayne.edu or call 313-577-8945. A second program will be held in March 2015. Check the alumni website for more news and information: nursing.wayne.edu/alumni.