



## College of Nursing *Highlights*

- Save the Date: The 13th annual [Keep Memories Alive Walk](#) is Nov. 4 at the Town Center at Boca Raton.
- Save the Date: Nursing Consortium of South Florida's [Fall conference](#), "Mindfulness: Finding the Space to Care," is Nov. 16 at the Signature Grand in Davie.
- Save the Date: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on March 2, at 6 p.m.
- FAU's College of Nursing published its annual magazine. [This issue](#) is themed "Caring through Advocacy."
- Dr. Maria Ordóñez was appointed by Fla. Governor Rick Scott to the [Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee](#).
- Dr. Lisa Wiese will receive the Springer Publishing Company Geriatric/Gerontological Award for a Distinguished Single Work of Research.
- Dr. Andra Opalinski was honored at the Soroptimist Women of Distinction breakfast as a Woman of Distinction in the Healthcare category.
- College of Nursing student Kelley Jackson took 1st Place, and Indhira Piquion was awarded 1st Runner Up and People's Choice in the FAU Three Minute Thesis competition (Heat#2).



## FAU's College of Nursing Now Home to C-P.A.W.W.

Every day, about 20 military veterans in the United States die by suicide – more than are lost daily in combat. Many veterans develop post-traumatic stress disorder and struggle reintegrating into life's daily routine.

To address this widespread issue, Dr. Cheryl Krause-Parello, professor in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and faculty fellow in FAU's Institute for Healthy Aging and Lifespan Studies (I-HeAL), is investigating how to reduce risk factors for suicide in the military veteran population by developing interventions and measuring their effects on biological and psychosocial stress indicators. Dr. Krause-Parello founded Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors (C-PAWW) after noticing the healing effects of the interactions of dogs with veterans experiencing stress. The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is now home to C-PAWW, which is expanding the College's efforts to investigate protective factors for suicide in the military population and improve the understanding of palliative effects of animal-assisted interventions.

"C-P.A.W.W. was created in response to the lack of vital information regarding the healing capacities of the human-animal interaction in military veterans," said Dr. Krause-Parello. "Service dogs are specially trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities, enabling them to live independently. They can be trained to sense a veteran's anxiety, can serve as a calming influence through deep pressure therapy, and help a veteran feel safer in a crowded public area. Many veterans with a service dog can positively reintegrate into civilian life and reestablish a sense of independence."

"C-P.A.W.W. is providing an invaluable service to our veterans locally and nationally, and we are very excited to have this important initiative housed in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing," said Dr. Marlaine Smith, dean of FAU's College of Nursing. To learn more about C-P.A.W.W., click [here](#) or watch this [video](#).



## Nursing Faculty Collaborating with Harbor Branch to Assess Human Exposure to Toxic Algae

Drs. Nancy Harris and Kathi Harvey are working with FAU Harbor Branch's Florida Center for Coastal and Human Health study on human exposure to harmful algal blooms in the Lake Okeechobee region. The research is being conducted by scientists at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and is designed to fill an important gap in our understanding of the impact of the current harmful algal blooms on environmental and human health.

Drs. Harris and Harvey are coordinating with Adam Schaefer, study director, to collect biological samples from people in the communities surrounding the lake. The team has visited several locations in Martin County and recently returned from Fort Myers, collecting urine, blood and nasal swabs from residents.

"Every participant in the study has a story they want to share regarding their fears of exposure to the microcystin toxin in the algae. Many report illnesses or fear of the unknown. This is ground breaking research, and we are enthusiastic about the College being a part of it. Dr. Shirley Gordon will join us to conduct nursing research focused on collecting and analyzing these stories so that we can better understand the full impact on the lives of those living near these blooms," said Dr. Nancy Harris, assistant professor.



*Caring is a Science, and we study it. Caring is an Art, and we practice it. Caring is a Way of Being, and we live it.*



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