

**FAU** FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

# TRANSFORMING

*Care*

CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING  
OCTOBER 2014





## A Message from the Dean



We have a very special College. The unique commitment of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing to Caring as the focal point of our missions has garnered international attention. However, I often think of our College as a hidden jewel that is yet to be discovered. Every day I'm inspired by the work of our faculty, students and alumni.

Our educational programs are thriving. Following a rigorous self-study and a visit from a team of expert assessors, our BSN, MSN and DNP programs received re-accreditation by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education. The programs met all standards and will not require reaccreditation for 10 years. Our enrollment has grown to more than 1,700 students in four degree programs. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of our research doctoral program with an event in the atrium of our beautiful building. In Fall 2014, the College launched the admission of our first freshman direct entry into nursing class; nearly

100 freshmen were admitted into the nursing major. Both our DNP and PhD programs are growing with more than 130 students enrolled. Because of our generous donors, and federal and foundation grants, we've been able to provide about \$1 million in financial support to our students, including traineeships for advanced practice nursing students in our MSN and DNP programs, generous scholarships to students in our accelerated program, and stipends to support full-time PhD study.

Our research profile is expanding! Under the umbrella of advancing caring science, we have four research focus areas: healthy aging, health equity, holistic health and transforming practice environments. Currently, we have federally-funded projects in each of these areas. Research expenditures last year totaled \$2,284,148, up from \$1,415,256 in the previous year.

Our Centers serve as vibrant learning laboratories, providing care to people in the community, and sites for interprofessional student learning and faculty research. We have added three additional faculty practice sites. A new addition to the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center will enable the Center to provide services to more clients. Our former Diabetes Education and Research Center has expanded services and is now the FAU Community Health Center. This Center has received support from a HRSA grant, the Quantum Foundation, Palm Beach County and the Office of Minority Health, and offers primary care, specialty diabetes care, mental health services and women's healthcare.

This issue of *Transforming Care* is dedicated to our teaching, research and practice initiatives that have focused on the underserved and underprivileged. We are proud of our work in obtaining scholarships for underprivileged students, for conducting research that advances health equity, and for our community service and practice that fill gaps in care for those in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marleine C. Smith".

Marlaine C. Smith, RN, PhD, AHN-BC, FAAN  
Dean and Helen K. Persson Eminent Scholar

# TRANSFORMING

*Care*

CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING

2014



Meeting the needs of the underserved



New FAU Community Health Center



Dr. Lynne Dunphy returns to the College



Dr. John Lowe studies Native American Talking Circles

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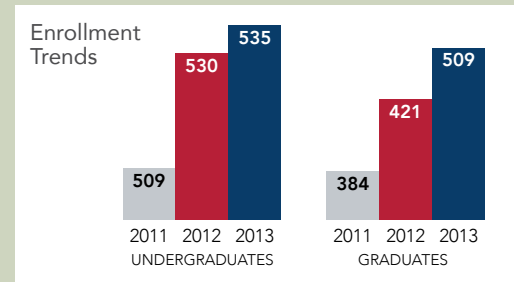
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Supporting the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

## Educating Advanced Practice Nurses to Meet the Needs of Aging, Minority and Underserved Populations

*l – r: Sheminia Williams, Noel Barnes, Dr. Karen Wisdom-Chambers, Nicole Marsden, Betty Chukwuma, Tracian Kelley, and Dr. Kay Edwards*

This year, the College of Nursing received much needed assistance in its mission of transforming care by training the next generation of nurses to meet the needs of a changing population. The assistance came in the form of a grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund nursing scholarships, with a total value of \$1,032,144 from 2013 to 2015.



The HRSA, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded principal investigator, Dr. Karethy “Kay” Edwards, Professor & Associate Dean for Academic Programs, with funding through its Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship (AENT) program.

According to the Florida Department of Health, Florida’s population nearly tripled in size between 1970 and 2010. Given the state’s reputation as a retirement haven, it’s not surprising that Florida’s senior population has grown at a disproportionate rate compared to the rest of the country. As of 2011, Florida’s senior population outpaced the national average, with 17.3 percent of Florida’s population over the age of 65, compared to 13 percent nationwide, according to the Kaiser Health Foundation. In addition, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the state is also home to a higher-than-the-national-average population of blacks and Hispanics, who, when compared with whites, face health disparities including obesity, infant mortality and incidence of AIDS, according to the Florida Department of Health.



## Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant Supports Students Pursuing New Careers in Nursing

Based in Princeton, NJ, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is the nation's largest charitable organization devoted solely to public health. The foundation awarded Dr. Edwards with \$55,500 through its New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) program, which helps students at universities throughout the nation who have already earned a bachelor's degree in another field to change careers to nursing by enrolling in accelerated nursing degree programs.

Through a competitive process, five FAU scholars – Michele Campbell, Camila Escobar, Henry Fidler, Romilda Jean and Tiffany Pico – each received \$10,000 NCIN scholarships. In addition to the funding, students were provided with additional support to help them be successful in their accelerated degree program.

The students' support system included leadership programs, mentoring and a Pre-Entry Immersion Program (PIP) to help prepare for the program by acquiring skills in time management, critical thinking, test-taking, mind-mapping, managing test anxiety, and evidenced-based approaches to studying. Dr. Nancey France, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Beth King, Visiting Assistant Professor and RN-BSN Coordinator, organized and implemented the PIP for the scholars, and also extended the program to all newly admitted BSN students.

Dr. Susan Dyess directed the leadership development activities for the NCIN scholars, and Drs. Marlene Brennen, Jacinto Garrido, Vanessa Johnson, Eugenia Millender and Maria Ordonez served as their mentors.

"It has been an honor to invest both time and funds in these scholars as they pursue their academic and career paths," said Dr. Dyess. "They are the future of nursing and will build a more diverse workforce serving traditionally underserved populations for years to come."

"The trends in our state's population speak for themselves. The need is clear, and the College is committed to increasing the number of advanced practice nurses serving aging, multicultural, and other underserved populations in South Florida," said Dr. Edwards. "Through the HRSA grant, we are able to demonstrate this commitment to our students in a very tangible way."

In disbursing scholarships to students, emphasis is placed on supporting veterans, full-time students and students who are members of underrepresented minorities. Full-time students receive \$18,650, and part-time students receive \$10,200 for tuition and a stipend. Recipients, so far, have ranged from those pursuing careers as nurse practitioners to doctoral students.

Marie Bazelais, one of the scholarship recipients, said, "By awarding me with this AENT Scholarship, the College of Nursing lightened my financial burden, which allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of school – learning. As the only working adult of a family of five, I would not have been successful in the program without this act of generosity. I am currently enrolled in the BSN to DNP program and can't wait to work in the Haitian-American community, where there is so much need!"

# NEW PROGRAM ALLOWS FRESHMAN TO JOIN NURSING PROGRAM



*Dr. Nancey France consults with student joining freshman class.*

## **For the first time ever, the College of Nursing will admit 100 students to the nursing program as freshmen this fall.**

As part of the freshmen-direct admission program, students will begin nursing courses during their first semester. They will continue taking nursing courses, along with all of the other science and general education requirements, throughout the entire degree process which is typically four years.

“We want students fully connected with us from the beginning of their baccalaureate education through graduation,” said College of Nursing Assistant Dean Nancey France. “This new program allows students to be a part of the College’s unique, caring-based nursing curriculum from the day they step foot on campus.”

The inaugural freshman-entry nursing class was chosen based on outstanding academic quality. They are not classified as “pre-nursing” and will not be required to apply to the nursing program during their sophomore year.

As one of the few Florida schools to admit freshmen directly into the nursing major, FAU aims to continue attracting the top level of nursing talent.

The College will offer the freshmen-direct admission program in addition to the original three programs of nursing study at the baccalaureate level, including the traditional BSN, five semester, full-time, upper-division track; the accelerated BSN, four-semester, full-time track for students with bachelor’s degrees in other disciplines; and the RN to BSN track, designed for registered nursing student with diplomas or associate degrees in nursing.



# Using Evidence to Improve Patient Care

A crucial call in today's healthcare environment is the provision of safe and quality care through the use of evidence-based nursing practices. Care decisions need to be grounded in evidence that is generated through research. The ability to search for and to evaluate evidence, and bring this knowledge to the bedside is imperative for nurses. Developing these skills needs to begin in undergraduate nursing education.

As the College of Nursing was revising its undergraduate program, it became clear that students needed real-life experience in applying evidence in practice," said Dr. Joy Longo, Associate Professor.

A new three-course series was created to address this. It consists of a nursing research course introducing the student to the process of scientific inquiry followed by an evidence-based nursing practice course where students identify practice issues that call for a review of the current evidence, and in small groups partner with hospitals, long-term care facilities and health centers to plan an evidence-based practice project. In the final capstone course, students assist these facilities in implementing the project, measuring outcomes and presenting the findings.

As the College launches the inquiry series, the first group of students is working with practice partners on developing projects that address issues such as falls, hand-washing for prevention of infections, access to prenatal care, mental health services and medication education. Through these projects, students are able to gain experience working as a team to enhance delivery of care. The overarching goal is improved health outcomes for the community.



TRANSFORMING CARE  
through education



## ENHANCING PATIENT SAFETY USING AN INTERPROFESSIONAL APPROACH

In its 1999 report, "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System," the Institute of Medicine defines medical errors as "the failure of a planned action to be completed as intended or the use of a wrong plan to achieve an aim." And, according to The Joint Commission, more than 80 percent of medical errors can be attributed to miscommunication.

To help increase clear and efficient communication among members of the healthcare team, and, ultimately, patient safety, faculty in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing are educating the next generation of nurses with an emphasis on interprofessional communication. One way this is being accomplished is through the TeamSTEPPS® (Team Strategies to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) program, which cross-trains students from the Colleges of Nursing and Medicine.

The program was developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Department of Defense as an evidence-based curriculum for interprofessional collaborative practice promoting patient safety. Nursing and medical students sharpen their communication skills through role-playing scenarios, allowing faculty and students to reflect on the types of communication techniques that are most effective.

Nursing Professors Terry Eggenberger and Kathryn Keller became Master Trainers for TeamSTEPPS® in 2009. TeamSTEPPS® was adopted as part of the nursing and medical school curricula, with nearly 700 students and more than 50 faculty members participating over the past five years.

"By taking an interprofessional approach to training through programs including TeamSTEPPS®, we are building the crucial communication skills necessary to prevent errors that are costly - financially, emotionally and medically," said Dr. Eggenberger.

In addition to the TeamSTEPPS® program, FAU students in nursing, medicine and social work take joint interprofessional classes focused on health policy and the roles of various healthcare disciplines. Over the course of a year, students work together with residents of a senior living community to practice the team-based competencies they learn.

Building on their earlier work, Eggenberger and Keller are collaborating with the FAU College of Medicine's new residency program to develop an interprofessional education and practice model that will extend these efforts into local hospitals, beginning with Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

## A Dream and a Passion Inspire Professor and Students to International Work



With a caring heart, selfless curiosity and deep respect for cultural diversity, FAU College of Nursing Assistant Professor Rhonda Goodman created an international study abroad learning experience for her students. Dr. Goodman partnered with a non-governmental organization called Nursing Heart to bring FAU nurse practitioner students to Guatemala to provide primary care to indigenous Mayan people in rural villages. Nursing students eagerly registered to travel to a place where their lives would be forever changed.

Dr. Goodman and her first round of students arrived in Guatemala in spring of 2013. They had uncertain expectations of who would come and what their interactions would be like. To their surprise, villagers came in droves seeking care for many health concerns. In addition, several hundred women were screened for cervical cancer. The group saw more than 1,200 patients in four days across five different villages.

**“These students gained more than a primary care practicum experience,” said Dr. Goodman. “They had an intense immersion in a culture different from their own...this ultimately changed their lives.”**

After the first successful study abroad trip, Dr. Goodman returned to Guatemala in the spring of 2014 with several FAU nursing professors and two new groups of students. Additionally, Dr. Goodman expanded the program to include education for health promotion and disease prevention.

**“Our purpose is to strive to make a difference in this world, and to provide multicultural experiences in which our students learn and practice,” said Dr. Goodman. “Not only are we helping an international community in need, our students can translate these experiences and knowledge to the different cultural groups in South Florida.”**

## Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing receives CCNE Accreditation

After three years of preparation, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing underwent its reaccreditation visit by the evaluation team from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in November 2013. The CCNE is the accrediting body responsible for the evaluation of baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in nursing. At FAU, this includes the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

The 5-member team visited the Boca Raton and Davie campuses and the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute site where members interviewed College and University officials; program faculty, students, and alumni; and community representatives. The team reviewed information in the self-study document, appendices, the resource room, as well as other materials provided at its request. The team also observed the classroom, including onsite, video

conferencing and online, and clinical experiences at several clinical partners.

Following an intense two and a half day review, the CCNE evaluation team presented its findings to the CON faculty of full compliance with all four standards and no citations. The CCNE Board of Commissioners granted the three programs re-accreditation until June 30, 2024.

Accreditation by the CCNE shows that a nursing program is in compliance with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's essentials and CCNE standards for baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing education. Simply stated, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing adheres to the highest standards for its BSN, MSN and DNP programs.



\*The baccalaureate, master's and DNP programs at Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation>).

# New Health Center Removes Barriers to Quality Care

Recently opened in Westgate, the FAU Community Health Center cares for a community in need

In January 2014, the FAU Community Health Center opened in the heart of West Palm Beach at the Westgate Community Center. Long recognized as a vulnerable, medically underserved area, Westgate had been lacking a spot for comprehensive health services.

With more than 750 patients served since opening, the Community Health Center provides all-inclusive primary care and mental health services, including well-child services, chronic disease management, nutrition services, laboratory services and more. The Center also encompasses the FAU Diabetes Education and Research Center, which focuses on diabetes care and education for children and adults.

“The Community Health Center provides culturally sensitive care to this underserved population while training the next generation of healthcare professionals,” said Dr. Eugenia Dr. Millender, director of the FAU Community Health Center. “Our vision is to improve health equity and create healthy communities by providing community-based primary care grounded in a philosophy of caring.”

With a wide range of services and community partnerships, the Center aims to decrease the impact of social factors on wellbeing. Eliminating barriers to quality care, the Center treats all patients, with healthcare services available on a sliding fee scale for those who qualify. The Center accepts Medicaid, Medicare and most insurance plans. The Center is also able to serve homeless clients through clinical service agreements with community partners.

“Low-income populations that lack health care access are at greater risk for chronic illness and early death,” said Dr. Millender. “Bridging the gap with Medicaid acceptance and help for the uninsured makes a real difference in the health of this community.”

During the first four months of service, providers took time to survey the Westgate community to better understand patients’ needs, priorities and expectations. The staff gained important insights that helps them better serve the community every day.

The Center has altered its programs based on this feedback and will continue to do so as it matures. The need for primary care for the uninsured was highly noted and will continue to be a priority. The importance of substance

abuse and mental health services, especially related to coping with the stress of day-to-day life, was also prominent in the feedback.

“The demand for our primary and mental health services present the opportunity to provide integrated comprehensive care, allowing us to have a more profound effect on the overall wellness of our patients and the community,” said Millender.

The survey also indicated a need for increased teenage pregnancy services, and HIV and STD testing and treatment. In March, the Center became state certified to conduct HIV counseling, testing and services, and is in the process of expanding STD services from prevention to testing and treatment.

Community feedback also validated the importance of culturally and linguistically appropriate care. To support the health care needs of such a diverse community, clinicians at the Center offer services and education in multiple languages.



## The FAU Community Health Center offers:

- Primary care
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse support
- Well-child exams
- Chronic disease management
- Nutrition counseling
- Laboratory services
- HIV and STD services
- Pharmacy assistance
- Care coordination
- Referrals to specialty care
- Case management
- Community outreach
- Diabetes care and education

As a place to enrich student learning, and faculty research and scholarship, the Center employs and educates more than 60 nursing students this year and often integrates other health professional students.

“What an amazing way for our students to learn,” said Dr. Millender. “By immersing students into a community where help is desperately needed, this center is the living work of the College of Nursing’s philosophy of caring.”

In 2014, the FAU Community Health Center received support from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Quantum Foundation, Palm Beach County and the Office of Minority Health.



TRANSFORMING CARE

through practice





## Empowering Community Health Care Providers in Haiti

Often when we hear about Haiti, it is associated with tragedy. Health is a major challenge of its people, as mortality rates are among the worst in the world. Health equity is a global concern, and a large portion of the population has no access to health care. The good news is the country is slowly rebuilding its infrastructure and advancing health care programs.

In late-2012, the College of Nursing partnered with the Haitian government, the Ministry of Health, Partners in Health, St. Croix School of Nursing and Hospital, and the Episcopal Church in Haiti to develop community health programs. Drs. Charlotte Barry and Beth King were at the forefront of a community health project, which included the establishment of a school-based wellness center and training for a cadre of community health workers to

focus their efforts in the villages as first-hand health care providers.

In the Bondeau community in June 2013, Barry and King ran a women's clinic and provided services to more than 50 women and children. "We observed the women at the clinic to understand their life practices and their medical needs," said Dr. Barry. "Having the chance to be immersed in their environment inspired us to continue working on the community health project that will greatly benefit them, as well as their families."

The professors also visited the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti in Léogâne (Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti), a bachelor of science in nursing program, to discuss integrating clinical practices, community health and school nursing courses into their curriculum.

FAU's College of Nursing is listening to the needs of the people of Haiti, sharing knowledge and providing ethical leadership in an area that is greatly needed. By involving and partnering with the local health care providers in these communities, the College of Nursing is ensuring these initiatives are not only established but sustainable, empowering the health care providers in this country to nurture the wholeness of their community.



## PROVIDING A VOICE FOR PATIENTS UNABLE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Patients who are intubated are unable to speak with medical providers, nursing staff, family members and friends. They often become very frustrated with their inability to speak or let others know their needs. **Speak for Myself® (SFM)** is a newly developed computer application for an Android tablet that provides a voice for patients who are unable to speak.

*"I developed **Speak for Myself** because a number of friends and clients experienced being voiceless, and we needed a solution," said Dr. Rebecca Koszalinski. "I'm so pleased that as part of my dissertation research I've been able to create and test this technology that can make such an impact in the lives of patients during a very stressful time."*

While SFM was undergoing testing at three local hospitals, Rebecca and her dissertation mentor, Dr. Ruth Tappen, learned that it is effective in a number of different situations. One situation, in particular, exemplified the purpose and uses to which SFM can be used. Late one afternoon, the College received a text about a patient in a Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit who was choosing hospice care rather than treatment. The plan was for her to be extubated the following morning and for mechanical ventilation to be



turned off. No one really knew how long she would be able to continue breathing once the mechanical ventilation system was stopped, but did not expect it to be for very long.

Her nurses asked for SFM for the night so that this patient could document her needs and wishes with the staff and her family. The patient used SFM through the night and was able to communicate her wishes to them. When Rebecca returned the following morning, the patient indicated that she had said what she needed to say and wanted to prepare for her legal guardian to arrive so that she could be removed from mechanical ventilation. When Rebecca left the room, the patient was sleeping quietly, calm after she had communicated her last wishes.

SFM will next be evaluated by hospital nurses so they can share their opinions of SFM, how it could be improved, and how it is best used to help intubated patients and other voiceless patients speak for themselves.

# Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center Celebrates Expansion; Doubles in Size

For more than thirteen years, the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center has provided an important venue for the College of Nursing to serve individuals and families of those with memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

This year, the Center celebrated a landmark expansion – doubling in size – with a special ribbon cutting ceremony on February 27, 2014. The expansion was made possible through a renewed commitment by the Green Family, who have supported the Center since its founding in 2001.

Through the 5,000 square-foot expansion, as many as 150 people per day can now participate in enrichment activities promoting mental vitality, which include expanded art and wellness treatment, opportunities for creative expression and holistic healing services.



FAU Vice President Dennis Crudele, Anne Green, Louis Green, College of Nursing Dean Marlaine Smith, Center Director María Ordóñez, FAU Board of Trustees Chair Anthony Barber

With the physical expansion comes increased capacity for research, as well as enhanced practicum experiences for students of nursing, medicine, social work, exercise science, communication disorders, health administration and other disciplines from across the University.

The diverse, professional staff of the Center, which include gerontological nurse practitioners and social workers working side-by-side with art and yoga instructors, strives to understand each client and family and to respond to individual needs in a caring way, providing tailored treatment for each person.

"We're excited to write the next chapter of the history of the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center," said Center Director María de los Ángeles Ordóñez. "The Greens' generous gift allows us to expand our programming, services and research offerings in both size and scope. We are so grateful for their ongoing support and are proud to be part of both FAU and its dynamic Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing."



## Dr. Lynne Dunphy Returns to FAU as Associate Dean for Practice and Community Engagement

To ensure the College meets an important set of strategic goals, a uniquely qualified individual was needed to serve as the first Associate Dean for Practice and Community Engagement in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

The person selected, a nationally recognized scholar and leader, is no stranger to the College. Dr. Lynne Dunphy was part of the College's faculty from 1995 to 2006, when she served as a Professor and Assistant Dean.

In 2006, Dr. Dunphy left FAU to join the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, where she served as the Routhier Endowed Chair of Practice and Professor of Nursing, and became Associate Dean for External Affairs in 2012.

In her new role at FAU, Dr. Dunphy will develop a Faculty Practice Plan for the College, and will seek out and develop sites for faculty practice. One current example is a shelter run by Aids for Victims of Domestic Abuse. Dr. Dunphy

and her team will identify similar opportunities to develop greater engagement in the community for the nursing faculty.

"I am thrilled to return to the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing," said Dr. Dunphy. "There are many exciting possibilities to increase our reach in the community as we build a world-class faculty practice program."

An expert in primary care, Dr. Dunphy is the co-author of *Primary Care The Art and Science of Advanced Practice Nursing*, one of the leading textbooks in the nation on primary care.

Dr. Dunphy was founding Director of the Rhode Island Center for Nursing Excellence, and served on the Rhode Island Senate Commission on Nursing. She was also chosen as a Robert Wood Johnson Leadership Fellow in 2009 and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Dunphy earned her BSN at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York and her MSN in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing at Hunter College in New York City. She also earned a PhD from the University of Miami, and a post-Master's certificate in the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration at FAU.



## Fighting Substance Abuse Ties Through M



Across many Native American Indian tribes, talking circles are a traditional format for discussion, allowing each member of the circle to discuss what is on their minds – and in their hearts – in a supportive environment, free from interruption. One by one, members of the circle discuss their thoughts and feelings while the other members quietly contemplate the discussion, sometimes completing the circle multiple times.

A Cherokee tribal member, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Professor John Lowe received a \$2.9 million grant in 2014 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study whether participation in talking circles by Native American youth could prevent substance abuse, while also strengthening cultural ties within their respective tribes.

“Talking circles are a deeply rooted Native American tradition that have traditionally been used to settle disputes, make decisions and build consensus in a safe environment,” said Dr. Lowe. “Many of the world’s problems could be solved around a talking circle; we’re starting with youth substance abuse.”

The Aspen Institute’s Center for Native American Youth lists substance and drug abuse prevention among its top priorities. The Center cites alcohol mortality rates for Native Americans at more than 500 percent higher than the general population. The Center also cites 22 percent of youth ages 12 and older reporting alcohol abuse, 18 percent reporting binge drinking and 16 percent reporting substance

dependence or abuse. Thirty-five percent reported commercial tobacco use and 12 percent reported illicit drug use.

Dr. Lowe’s study, titled “Intertribal Talking Circle for the Prevention of Substance Abuse in Native Youth,” is a five-year research project which will work with Native American sixth graders in three tribal communities – the Ojibwe/Chippewa in Minnesota, Choctaw in Oklahoma and Lumbee in North Carolina.

“We chose to work with sixth graders transitioning to middle school because that time is such a critical juncture in an adolescent’s growth and development – a time fraught with peer and other pressures for all youth of that age. Because the talking circle is both a cognitive and behavioral interaction, we can monitor stress levels, substance abuse and other risk factors associated specifically with Native American populations,” said Dr. Lowe.

The project will begin as an after-school program, employing a community-based research approach. It will later be delivered as a web-based virtual talking circle that connects participants from all three of the tribal communities. Tribal staff members will also be trained on how to implement talking circles as a formal, long-term program in their respective communities.

The project, and Dr. Lowe’s scholarly work as a whole, is an important part of the College’s mission of advancing caring science through one of its central research themes, health equity.





# Prevention of Substance Abuse and Strengthening Cultural Native American Talking Circles



Dr. Lowe is one of only 20 doctorally-prepared Native American nurses in the United States and serves as FAU's John F. Wymer Distinguished Professor. He is a leading voice for advancing culturally conscious healthcare for Native Americans and Indigenous people around the world through his many advisory and consulting roles.

Dr. Lowe has represented Native American and Indigenous nurses in many national and international forums, and with national leaders such as the U.S. Surgeon General and former first lady Rosalyn Carter.

Dr. Lowe has provided healthcare services and research consultation to underserved and disadvantaged groups in countries including Australia, New Zealand, Tanzania, Costa Rica, Jamaica and China. He has presented nationally and internationally, and has published several articles and books that report the findings of his research.

This project continues years of research by Dr. Lowe in evaluating the use of talking circles to prevent substance abuse among Native American youth.

According to Dr. Lowe, results of earlier studies increased self-worth and cultural identity, and decreased dependence on drugs and alcohol by adolescent participants. His latest NIH grant will allow him to further evaluate the program's effectiveness so it can be adopted and implemented by other tribal communities and Indigenous populations.

"Dr. Lowe's work with Native American adolescents and Indigenous people around the world embodies an

important focus of the College – working within cultural frameworks to develop models of caring that make a real difference in health and quality of life," said Dr. Marlaime Smith, Dean of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. "Already, Dr. Lowe's work has been identified by the U.S. Department of Justice as a model program for prevention of adolescent substance abuse. This latest project has potential to refine it and extend its influence to other Native American tribal communities."



## SIT N FIT™ CHAIR YOGA RESEARCH PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY



About 70 percent of people over the age of 70 suffer from osteoarthritis and related symptoms, according to *The Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases Journal*. Yoga may have the potential to counteract the effects of osteoarthritis, but up to half of the elderly population is unable to practice yoga due to decreased balance, pain or fear of falling.

To explore a possible solution, two FAU faculty members – Dr. Ruth McCaffrey, a professor in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, and Dr. Juyoung Park, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work in the College for Design & Social Inquiry – were awarded \$389,000 from the National Institutes of Health to study the effects

of the Sit N Fit™ Chair Yoga Program on adults ages 65 and older with osteoarthritis who are unable to participate in standing exercises.

As the name implies, Sit N Fit™ Chair Yoga consists of yoga

exercises practiced in a chair or using a chair for support. The goal of the program is to decrease pain while improving the physical and psychosocial functions of elderly people with osteoarthritis who are unable to participate in other exercise and yoga programs.

The program began at the start of 2014, and the first cohort of 40 participants completed the program with a 97% completion rate.

Recruitment for the second cohort began in August, and the third and final cohort will begin in early 2015. So far, the program has been well received by both the participants

and their yoga instructors, who have observed improvements in the yoga participants.

“As we enter the next phase of the study, we are encouraged by the results of the Sit N Fit™ Chair Yoga Program, which will help us as a caring community to make strides in elder care by promoting the health and healing of those suffering with the effects of osteoarthritis,” said Dr. McCaffrey.



## Survivors are Heard ‘With Their Voices Raised’ from the U.S. to Japan

History books and TV documentaries tell us about important historical events. The stories rarely change and often repeat, even if they are inaccurate.

On August 6, 1945, with the fall of the A-bomb, 676 members of the Funairi community died, most of whom were students. To tell the real story of this major historical event, a group of researchers dug deep into the history of the Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima bombings by interviewing 51 survivors, and the documentary theatre performance named “With Their Voices Raised” was born.

Katy Morris, a PhD graduate student from the College of Arts and Letters at Florida Atlantic University, created the documentary using research from American and Japanese collaborators, including Dr. Patricia Liehr, from FAU’s College of Nursing, and Dr. Ryutaro Takahashi, from the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology. Other collaborators include Dr. LisaMarie Wands, from Emory University, and Dr. Mio Ito and Chie Nishimura, from the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology.

The survivors’ stories include a rollercoaster of emotions, including shock, misery and, at the same time, peace. Although wartime trauma is expressed in the survivor’s stories, the overall theme of the performance is peace and honor, showing the human face of war and how it affected the lives of survivors over the following seven decades.

“Hearing survivor stories was very powerful because not only did we learn about their experiences, we learned how they moved on to create meaningful lives” said Dr. Liehr. “The survivors were willing to share their experiences so future generations can understand their passion for pursuing peace.”

“With Their Voices Raised” is keeping the story alive and raising awareness all over the world. It has been performed in the United States, including at FAU in 2011, and it has been presented at the International Human Caring Conference in Kyoto, Japan by high school students from Funairi High School. The team is now planning a Fall performance at the Pacific Aviation Museum at Pearl Harbor by students from Farrington High School in Oahu.

# Decision Guide Aims to Reduce Unnecessary Hospitalizations

*"Rehospitalization transfers are not only expensive, but extremely stressful on patients,"*

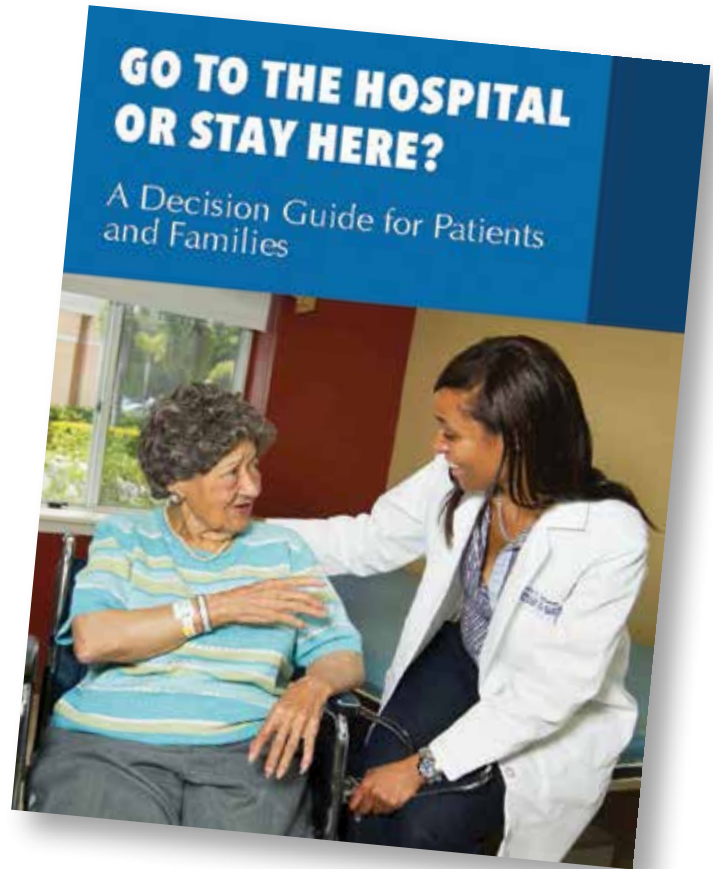
Dr. Ruth Tappen

Almost one in four people admitted to a skilled nursing facility in the U.S. is rehospitalized in less than 30 days at an estimated cost of \$4.3 billion per year. Research has shown that many of these rehospitalizations are avoidable if the change in the resident's condition is noted soon enough, if treatment can be provided in the nursing home and/or if a resident has advance directives in place.

"Residents and families sometimes insist on transfer despite assurance that they can be cared for in the nursing home," said Dr. Ruth Tappen, professor and Christine E. Lynn Eminent Scholar at the College of Nursing. "Their insistence accounts for a substantial proportion of unnecessary transfers."

To address this issue, the College of Nursing was awarded a grant by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to develop and test a decision guide for patients and families facing the possibility of rehospitalization.

This grant is one of 50 awarded in this highly competitive initiative. More than 800 applications were submitted to PCORI, which funds research to help patients and health care providers make more informed decisions.



Dr. Tappen leads the diverse interprofessional team working on this guide. Hundreds of hours of research have been spent by Drs. Debra Hain and Maria Ordonez from the College of Nursing; Drs. Michelle Duhaney and Joseph Ouslander from the College of Medicine; and Dr. Mauricio Almonte from the College of Arts and Letters. Three doctoral students from the College of Nursing and a graduate student from the Department of Psychology are also on the team. Dr. Nancy Henry from the INTERACT team and retired Boca Raton Regional Hospital Nurse MaryAnn Weglinski complete the research team.

To ensure the decision guide has the most relevant information, the team conducted more than 275 in-depth interviews with a diverse group of patients, families and health care providers in 19 nursing homes across South Florida.

The value of the printed decision guide is currently being tested in English and Spanish at cooperating nursing homes. The team will continue to gather feedback from residents and families and obtain hospital readmission data to evaluate the guide's effectiveness. They will use this data to make additional improvements, if needed.

The team will create an electronic version of the guide for easy distribution to residents and families at nursing homes and students at the College of Nursing.

"Rehospitalization transfers are not only expensive, but extremely stressful on patients," said Dr. Tappen. "Many people are unaware of the level of treatment available in a nursing home or rehab center. By putting this important information in the hands of residents and families, we hope to improve care and reduce unnecessary hospitalizations."

## FACULTY AND STUDENTS TRANSFORM ELDER CARE THROUGH RESEARCH AT SENIOR COMMUNITY

Tucked away at Linton and Congress Ave. is Abbey Delray South, a place that has become special to College of Nursing faculty and students.

Beginning in 2009, faculty have visited the senior living community, presenting seminars that helped to establish a foundation for an ongoing collaboration with the community and FAU's College of Nursing, College of Medicine and the School of Social Work, part of the College for Design and Social Inquiry.

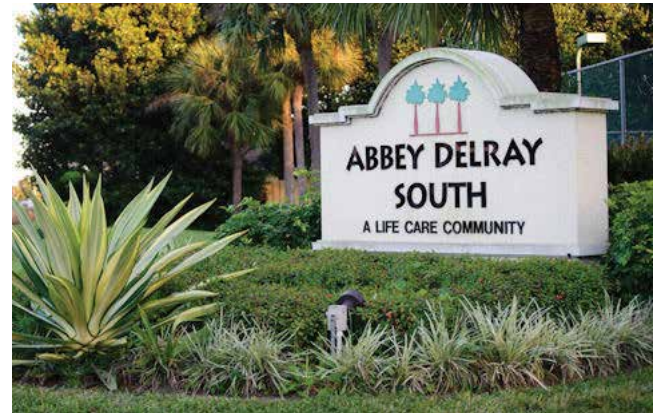
An early seminar, "Walking Away Sadness at the Morikami Gardens," presented by associate professor, Dr. Ruth McCaffrey, led to a partnership with Dr. Elizabeth Force to create a nature-walking path at Abbey Delray South. Dr. Force, a PhD prepared epidemiologist and resident at Abbey Delray South, has a courtesy appointment as an Associate Professor in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

Working with Drs. McCaffrey and Force, doctoral student Christie Bailey is currently gathering dissertation data at Abbey Delray South to test three interventions, including reflective garden walking, garden walking alone, and guided reflective journaling, to determine the effect of nature on resilience, quality of life, perceived stress and personal growth of 45 elderly participants.

Dr. Patricia Liehr has been involved with the Abbey Delray South collaboration from the beginning, and Dr. Lenny

Chiang-Hanisko has also collaborated with Dr. Force to collect data about over-the-counter drug use by older adults.

"The College of Nursing's involvement with Abbey Delray South has allowed our students and faculty to have meaningful interaction with seniors in our own backyard," said Dr. Liehr. "Dr. Force is a special woman with a commitment to supporting young scholars. As a result of a successful partnership with Dr. Force, we are working to make quality of life breakthroughs that can one day be applied to senior communities nationwide."



### Dr. Linda Weglicki Chosen as New Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship

Dr. Linda Weglicki joins the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing as Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship. She will also serve as the Schmidt Family Foundation Distinguished Professor. In this new role, Weglicki will work with faculty members to create meaningful research and scholarship paths, and provide support for grant development, management and research dissemination.

Dr. Weglicki joins FAU from the National Institutes of Health where she served from 2008 to 2014 as Health Scientist Administrator and Chief of the Office of Extramural Programs in the National Institute of Nursing Research. Her primary responsibility was to manage, coordinate, direct, implement, maintain and evaluate the NINR's extramural scientific programs and programmatic priority areas. In this role, she was key in setting the nursing research agenda for the nation.

Prior to her time at the NIH, Dr. Weglicki was part of the faculty at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit. She earned her undergraduate and master's degrees in nursing at WSU with a specialty in community health nursing, and earned her PhD at the University of Michigan with a focus on health promotion and risk reduction.

Dr. Weglicki's research focuses on using technology to prevent disease and to promote health in urban adult populations. She has also studied tobacco use among Arab-American youth and health promotion in pregnant adolescents.

Dr. Weglicki assumes this position as Dr. Patricia Liehr, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship from 2004 to 2014, has decided to step down from that role, continuing with the College as a tenured professor.

*"It is an honor to have been selected as the next Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. I am excited to build on the groundbreaking work by Dr. Liehr and the entire faculty as we continue to transform care through research," said Weglicki.*

# CELEBRATING NEW FACULTY



**SUSAN BULFIN** is the Director of the DNP Program and an associate clinical professor whose clinical practice, teaching, and research have focused on community health, women's health, and caring-based models for health care delivery. Her research interest involves development of collaborative models for DNP and PhD students

through joint coursework, practice and academic experiences. As an experienced family nurse practitioner, Dr. Bulfin teaches advanced practice courses in Women's Health and Health Assessment, as well as DNP seminars. Prior to joining FAU, Dr. Bulfin was with the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University.

*"I'm delighted to join the faculty of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and look forward to building on successes of the DNP program."*

Dr. Bulfin earned her BSN from the University of Florida, MN from Emory University and DNP from the Medical College of Georgia.



**KATHERINE CHADWELL** is an associate clinical professor, clinical nurse specialist and board certified gerontological nurse practitioner with training in primary, acute and long-term care settings. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses including pathophysiology, advanced assessment and the older adult in chronic care nursing

situations. Her research focuses on safer sexual practices related to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse and hepatitis, and she has been the project director for federally funded grants in this area. Dr. Chadwell is President of the Broward Chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

*"Being a part of a College that places such an emphasis on caring science will be key to the next steps in my research. I'm excited to be part of the team that launched my academic career."*

Dr. Chadwell has a BS from Florida International University, MBMS from Barry University, and MSN and DNP degrees from FAU.



**SAREEN GROPPER** is a professor who joined FAU from Auburn University, and teaches the Food, Nutrition and Health courses in the undergraduate College of Nursing curriculum. Her research interests include healthy aging with an emphasis on the role of diet and nutrients in the prevention and treatment of disease, and

diet, physical activity and lifestyle factors associated with unhealthy gains in weight and body fat during college.

*"I look forward to continuing to collaborate with faculty and community leaders in research, health and wellness projects, and serving on graduate student committees in my role at the College of Nursing."*

Dr. Gropper received her BS from the University of Maryland, MS and PhD from Florida State University, and

is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN) through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She also has earned a national reputation as the leading author of *Advanced Nutrition and Human Metabolism*, now in its sixth edition. This textbook is used by more than two-thirds of dietetics programs in universities and colleges in the United States.



**DAWN M. HAWTHORNE** is an assistant professor joining FAU from Florida International University. Dr. Hawthorne has worked in a variety of staff nursing roles, including nurse midwife and staff nurse in both a pediatric and neonatal intensive care units. She has taught as an adjunct faculty member at Florida International University and

Nova Southeastern University. Her research focuses on the influence of spiritual coping strategies for parents grieving infant/child death in an intensive care setting. During her doctoral study, Dr. Hawthorne was awarded a diversity pre-doctoral supplement from the National Institute of Nursing Research that supported her dissertation research.

*"I am excited to join FAU's faculty and expand my research while preparing the next generation of nurses for successful careers."*

Dr. Hawthorne received a BSN from Barry University, graduated from FIU's Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program with an MSN, and from FIU with a PhD.



**BETH KING** is an assistant professor and the RN-BSN Coordinator. Dr. King's practice experience is in the area of mental health and community nursing. Her teaching includes several caring-based foundational courses and Mental Health Nursing. Dr. King's research has focused on the study of caring and education as well as mental health issues.

*"The focus on caring science drew me to the College of Nursing. To be able to assist students to understand that 'caring is the essence of nursing' is what I value the most."*

Dr. King earned her BSN from Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa, MSN from the University of Maryland and PhD from Iowa State University. She holds a professional certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health. Dr. King is actively involved in the Boca Raton community, serving as a board member and chair of the Healthcare Committee of Boca Helping Hands and on the Ways and Means Committee of the Debbie Rand Memorial Services League, Inc. of Boca Raton Regional Hospital.



**JACQUIE MARSHALL** is an instructor and BSN Clinical Coordinator who teaches Chronic Care in Nursing Situations with Adults and Aging Populations in Practice. Her primary research interest includes spirituality, health and breast health in minority women. She remains actively involved in research agendas pertaining to breast health disparities among women of color.

*"It is a privilege to be counted among the faculty who bequeath the caring philosophy to student nurses."*

Ms. Marshall received her BSN from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, MPH from Florida International University and MSN from FAU. Currently, she is a PhD candidate in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

**EUGENIA MILLENDER** is the Director for the FAU Community Health Center, where she is responsible for providing day-to-day leadership for team members including staff, interprofessional colleagues and patients. Her research focus areas include health equity, mental health and substance use among Guatemalan Mayas and minority populations.



*"My family experience with diabetes, mental health and language barriers*

*motivates me to be an agent of change to achieve a collective impact."*

Dr. Millender earned her BSN, MS and PhD at FAU, and also earned a post-graduate certificate in psychiatry and mental health from Rush University in Chicago. Her prior experience includes more than 10 years as a critical care nurse and six years in the U.S. Army. Dr. Millender is currently funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Florida Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and the Quantum Foundation.



**ANDRA OPALINSKI** is an assistant professor and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who teaches Developing Family and Health Assessment courses. She will also teach in the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration. Her research areas include cultural aspects contributing to childhood obesity, the away-from-home-meal, and implications

for childhood obesity and health promotion though faith communities.

*"The College's focus on a holistic approach to nursing was the greatest factor in my choice to join the faculty. Together, we can contribute toward innovative approaches to health in pediatric and family populations."*

After receiving her ASN and BSN from Samford University, Dr. Opalinski earned her MSN from the University of Florida and PhD in Nursing from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Before joining FAU, she was with Jacksonville University School of Nursing and also taught for the University of Colorado and Barry University.



**TERESA SAKRAIDA** is an associate professor with educational expertise in public health, health policy and health promotion. Dr. Sakraida joins FAU from the University of Colorado and will be facilitating learning in the RN-BSN program. Dr. Sakraida's research explores transitions in disease burden and altered self-management by patients with Type

II Diabetes and chronic kidney disease. She has received funding from Sigma Theta Tau International and the Robert

Wood Johnson Foundation to study tailored intervention supporting self-management for people with chronic diseases.

*"The College of Nursing and FAU embody a creative spirit with demonstrated scholarship; I value the opportunity to engage with a diverse community of scholars and students."*

Dr. Sakraida earned her BSN from Goshen College, MSN in Community Health Nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University, MSN in Education from Indiana University, and PhD from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.



**LISA KIRK WIESE** is an instructor who recently became board certified in Advanced Public Health Nursing. She also conducts neuropsychological driving evaluations at the College of Nursing's Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center. The focus of Dr. Wiese's research is Alzheimer's disease management

in rural populations. She teaches Professional Preparation, Caring Environments, Chronic Care of the Aging Adult and Foundations of Caring in Nursing Situations.

*"The nursing as caring philosophy as evidenced by thoughtful faculty and staff, and support of research efforts by the Dean are the reasons I've chosen the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing as my home."*

Dr. Wiese's nursing career began with earning an associate's degree in nursing in her home state of West Virginia. She also earned her BSN and master's degrees from the University of Virginia, and PhD at FAU. Dr. Wiese is a 2014 Hartford Geriatric Institute Summer Research Scholar with sponsorship by the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. In addition, she serves on the Boca Raton City Council's Elder Affairs Advisory Board.



**KAREN WISDOM-CHAMBERS** is a nursing instructor with the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. Her nursing experience spans a variety of healthcare settings, including hospital and community practice. Dr. Chambers has received several awards and scholarships during her nursing career, notably the Walshin academic nursing scholarship,

St. John's Medical Surgical outstanding nursing award, Boca Woods Women scholarship and the Palm Health Foundation Nursing Scholarship.

*"In addition to my love for teaching, it is the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing's philosophy and caring staff that make me grateful to be a part of the faculty."*

Dr. Chambers is a three-time graduate of the College, receiving her DNP, MSN and BSN from FAU. She is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Florida Nurses Association, Association of Black Nursing Faculty, Golden Key Honor Society and Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society.

# FACULTY AND STAFF FAREWELLS

Over the past two years, several faculty and staff have departed from the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. Each has made important contributions that left an indelible mark on the College. They remain in our hearts as they move on to other adventures.

**KAREN ANDERSON** retired from the College of Nursing after 16 years of service. The faculty will surely miss Karen's support as their administrative assistant. She is especially known for her caring support of international students. Karen spends a few weeks every year in Thailand where she assists the mahoots in taking care of elephants. She'll have more time to invest in this passion when she retires.



After 12 years of service, **MARY CURRAN** retired from the College of Nursing. She was the Academic Coordinator at the Port St. Lucie Campus, and when operations were suspended at that campus, she moved to the Boca Campus serving as advisor to students in the traditional and accelerated

BSN program, and to students at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute site. Mary is looking forward to joining her husband in experiencing the joys of retirement.



After 17 years, **CAROL KRUSE** retired from the College of Nursing. For the past seven years, Carol worked as the Program Assistant for the master's program. She is looking forward to spending more time with her grandson, including more trips to Disney World.



Among the first class of graduates from the College of Nursing's research doctoral program, Dr. **BERNADETTE LANGE** joined the faculty in 2006. She has served as Coordinator of the Advanced Holistic Nursing track. She has a love of community health nursing and spent time serving the Belle Glade community. Lange is a creative teacher, integrating the

latest technologies into her courses. She has a passion for holistic health and is a certified yoga instructor. Lange and her husband enjoy their summers in Spain, and may spend even more time there after her retirement.



Dr. **NINO LOCSIN**, Professor Emeritus, has been at the College of Nursing for 23 years. He is known for excellence in teaching philosophy and theory across all levels of the curriculum, for his exquisite scholarship, including his theory of technological caring, and for the global reach of his research

and service. Locsin is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and was the first John Wymer Distinguished Professor. On retiring, he will continue his international consultation and research.



Dr. **RUTH MCCAFFREY**, Sharon Raddock Distinguished Professor, was the inaugural director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. She led the program's development and has shaped the curriculum from its very beginning. Dr. McCaffrey is currently the Principal Investigator of a study funded by NIH-NCCAM on the effects of chair yoga on pain and functional ability for older adults with osteoarthritis. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. McCaffrey is retiring and will continue her research, consulting and enjoying life, at least part time, in the mountains of Georgia.



In 2004, Dr. **MARGUERITE PURNELL** joined the faculty and is retiring in February 2015. She has taught graduate level courses in Caring, holistic nursing at the BSN and MSN levels, and courses on caring for self. Dr. Purnell served as the Coordinator for the Advanced Holistic Nursing concentration and is currently the Editor of the *Journal of Art and Aesthetics in Nursing and Health Sciences*. We will miss Dr. Purnell's tea and cookies, and delicious soups, but mostly, we'll miss her beautiful smile and warm presence. We're hoping the journal will keep her close.



Dr. **JOSIE WEISS**, Associate Professor and Coordinator at the Harbor Branch site, put her heart and soul into the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration on the northern campuses. She leaves an amazing legacy behind, including a 100 percent pass rate on the FNP certification exams for all her FNP graduates. Dr. Weiss is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and is leaving for a faculty position at the University of Central Florida.



For 31 years, Dr. **JILL-WINLAND BROWN**, Professor at the Harbor Branch site, has been with the College of Nursing. She teaches in the family nurse practitioner concentration and has worn many administrative hats in the College, the last being the Director of the Nursing Program at the Port St. Lucie Campus. Dr. Brown is editor of a leading textbook on primary care nursing and is an ethics scholar. She is retiring to her beautiful oceanfront home where she'll undoubtedly be playing a lot more tennis.

## APPLICANTS

**1,114** applications to the undergraduate program in 2013

**463** applicants to the graduate program in 2013

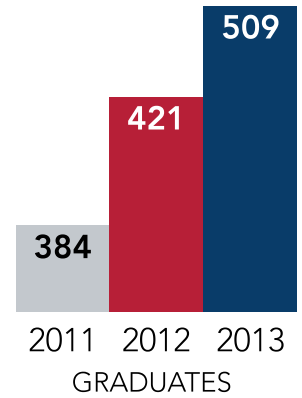
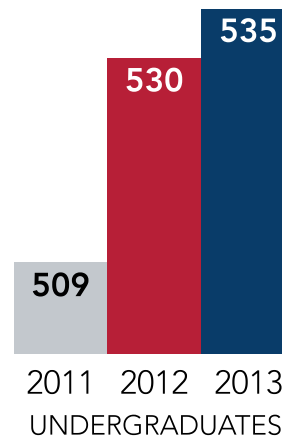
## ENROLLMENT TRENDS

**1,101**..... enrolled in degree programs in Fall 2013

**524**.....graduate students; of those,

**104**..... are doctoral students

**3.58**..... High School GPA of freshman class



## GRADUATION TRENDS

**95%** average graduation rate over five years



**163**  
2013  
GRADUATES



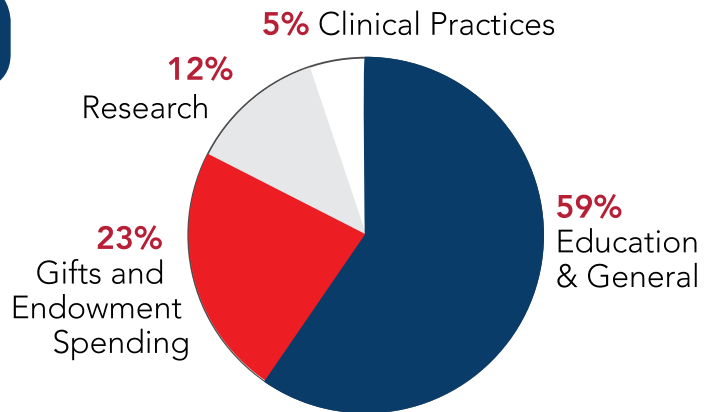
# By the Numbers

## BUDGET

**\$10.4M** Total Funding

**\$1,708,493** in donations received in 2013-14

**\$2,294,148** in research external funding



## SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$985,112** in scholarships, traineeships and fellowships awarded in 2013-14

## FACULTY AND STAFF



## ALUMNI

**5,014** total number of alumni

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 54** articles and books published in 2013-14
- 48** presentations at national and international conferences in 2013-14
- 800** local health provider partners offering students nursing experience

**11** Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing

**93%** pass rate for 2013 BSN grads on NCLEX-RN certification exam

**95%** pass rate on FNP certification exam

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## CELEBRATING FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. JOHN LOWE has had many recent accomplishments. He was appointed to the Canada Institutes of Health Research's HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research committee and received the Association of Black Nursing Faculty's Lifetime Achievement in Education Award for his work with underserved communities. Additionally, Dr. Lowe's abstract, titled "Cultural Based Intervention to Affect Substance Abuse Among a Native American Adolescent Population," was selected for the 2014 Best Research Abstract Award for the Association of Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse Conference. He was also selected by Crimesolutions.gov, a U.S. Dept. of Justice website, for inclusion on its list of evidence-based programs affecting juvenile wellbeing, and was named Chair of the newly formed Native American National Institutes of Health Principal Investigator Committee.

Dr. TERRI TOUHY, Professor Emeritus, and Dr. KATHLEEN JETT, Adjunct Professor, received the 2012 AJN Book of the Year Award for their 8th Edition of "Toward Healthy Aging: Human Needs and Nursing Response."

Dr. DEBRA HAIN received the 2014 FAU University Scholar of the Year award in the Assistant Professor category. She was also awarded the Nephrology Nurse Researcher of the Year Award from the American Nephrology Nurses' Association. Dr. Hain is currently serving on two prestigious national committees: the American Society of Nephrology Planning Committee and the ANA Care Coordination Quality Measures Panel-Advisory Committee. Dr. Hain and Dr. JACINTO GARRIDO were inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Dr. MARILYN "DEE" RAY, Professor Emeritus, and Dr. JACINTO GARRIDO, Adjunct Faculty, were inducted in 2013 as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing.

The following faculty were honored as the Florida Nurses Association 2013 class of Great 100 Florida Nurses: Drs. MARLAINE SMITH, ROSE SHERMAN, JILL WINLAND-BROWN, DEBRA HAIN, SUSAN DYESS, RHONDA GOODMAN and JOY LONGO.

Dr. RHONDA GOODMAN was FAU's 2013 Distinguished Teacher of the Year; she was nominated by students and selected by a committee of students representing all colleges in the University. Dr. Goodman also received

the 2013 Nurse of the Year and Nurse Educator of the Year awards at the Palm Healthcare Foundation Nursing Distinction Awards. In addition, she was selected for the Barnes & Noble Faculty Service Award, and plans to split the monetary award between the two NGOs she is working with in Guatemala.

Dr. CYNTHIA ARCHIBALD received FAU's 2014 Alumni "Degree of Difference" Award. She also received the 2014 First Lady "Distinguished Woman of Faith" award from the Dade County Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Dr. LYNNE PALMA received the 2013 Florida Nurses Association South Region's Advanced Practice Nursing Award. This is a tribute to her dedicated work as a leading APN educator and practitioner.

Dr. PATRICIA LIEHR was honored by the Soroptomist International Organization of Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach at the Women of Distinction 40th Annual Awards Breakfast. Dr. Liehr and her co-editor Dr. MARY JANE SMITH received the 2013 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year award for the 3rd edition of their book, "Middle Range Theory for Nursing."

Dr. TERRY EGGENBERGER and Dr. ROSE SHERMAN were selected for the prestigious Sigma Theta Tau Faculty Leadership Academy: Dr. Eggenberger as a mentee and Dr. Sherman as a mentor. Dr. Sherman was also the 2013 FAU Scholar of the Year in the Associate Professor category.

The Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation honored DEAN MARLAINE SMITH with its 2014 See the Light Award.

Dr. CHARLOTTE BARRY was named 2014 School Nurse Educator of the Year by the National Association of School Nurses, and will be inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in October 2014.

Dr. CYNTHIA BLUM received one of FAU's 2014 Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching awards. She also received the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)/National League for Nursing research award at the STTI biennium conference.

Dr. JOY LONGO was honored as one of the 2014 Nurses of the Year at the Palm Healthcare Foundation's Heart of Gold Nursing Celebration.

## CELEBRATING STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BARBARA EDWARDS, a graduate of the master's-level Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) concentration program, received the 2013 CNL Vanguard Award in recognition for her innovative work as a CNL-certified nurse at St. Lucie Medical Center. The award is given by AACN and the Commission on Nurse Certification.

Nursing alumna MARGARET NEDDO received the Leadership Award from Palm Healthcare Foundation in June 2014. ELIZABETH BARSOUM, a 2014 graduate of the MSN program, was also honored as one of the Foundation's 2014 Nurses of the Year.

SUZY PINOS, a student in the BSN-PhD program, was awarded a \$5,000 United Health Foundation Diverse Scholar Scholarship by the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

ANGELA PRESTIA, PhD candidate and CNO at Good Samaritan Hospital, won the Council of Graduate Education in Nursing Administration award for her dissertation titled, "CNO Sustainment in the Continued Practice of Nursing Leadership: A Phenomenological Inquiry."

# Alumni Focus



## Caring and Connecting with College Alumni

Nearly 5,000 Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing alumni enrich the lives of those they interact with, making a true difference in their communities. Many of these College of Nursing graduates work in Palm Beach County and surrounding areas, committed to providing healthcare access to a variety of populations.

This past year, the College of Nursing held two events for alumni to make connections among each other and with their alma mater. In the fall, prior to an FAU football game, alumni, faculty and friends gathered in the atrium of the nursing building with food and music for a Tailgate Party. Then, in the spring, more than 50 nursing alumni were treated to a Self Preservation Awareness (SPA) Day as a Valentine's Day gift. The day was filled with self-care activities which included a specialist in holistic nursing, Dr. Jennifer Reich, leading the day with activities such as a labyrinth walk, Reiki, artistic expression, dance and guided imagery.

If members of the Nursing Alumni Society are interested in volunteering, there are many ways to get involved, including planning alumni outreach events, both professional and social; fundraising for student scholarships; and joining a mentor program to gain leadership and teaching experience. The Mentor Connector Program consists of caring experts who have the knowledge and experience that other students will benefit from greatly. Mentoring may be in person, by phone or email.

The College of Nursing is proud of its alumni success. It appreciates the contributions alumni make to their alma mater, whether it's financial contributions, giving of time, research collaborations, or visits to campus to give back to the place where they started their education. Each interaction, experience and commitment contributes to the goal of the alumni society, to strengthen relationships between alumni and the College.



Connect with the College of Nursing

 FAUNursing

 @faunursing

Join the FAU Nursing Alumni Society  
<http://www.nursing.fau.edu/alumni>  
or email [nuralumni@fau.edu](mailto:nuralumni@fau.edu)

# Meet MARIE MCLEOD-BEEN, BSN, RN, JD



**B**orn in Jamaica and then raised for seven years in London, England, Marie McLeod-Been joined her family at the age of 11 on a voyage to the United States, as her parents sought better opportunities for their children. It would not be an easy journey for them. But, Marie's mom, who continues to serve as her inspiration today, maintained that education would be the key to a successful life and caring for or giving to your community on your life's path was of utmost importance. Ultimately, these philosophies and points of wisdom became engrained in Marie's life, leading her down a notable personal and professional path.

"In my family, we knew growing up that we were either going to educate or care for others," said Marie. "So, I was either going to be a teacher or a nurse. Well, I became a nurse."

In 1987, Marie transitioned from another state university and began her nursing education at Florida Atlantic University. She was one of the first graduates of the College of Nursing's program, a degree program that was on the cutting-edge of healthcare, educating nurses within a curriculum with caring as its core. Upon graduating from FAU in 1989, she would become a staff RN at Bethesda Hospital in Boynton Beach.

Marie's health care career spans more than 20 years and includes work as a staff nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach. As an RN, she would become particularly interested in efficient ways to deliver healthcare, delving into how hospitals operate and the overall cost of healthcare.

Though an uncommon course, these types of administrative

interests would lead Marie to pursue and earn a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida in 1994. Shortly after, she would be admitted into the Florida Bar, and is a member of the Health Law Section.

Marie has been with Florida Blue for more than 12 years. Her role today is Regional Director of Network Contracting and Management for Florida Blue, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan of Florida, who has a Foundation with a vested interest in nursing education, providing scholarships to FAU nursing students. In her role, she provides strategic and tactical leadership in the management of the South Florida healthcare delivery system, from Indian River County to the Florida Keys.

Marie is an active volunteer in the community. She currently resides in Delray Beach with her husband and two children.

# Fun Facts

**Marie**  
**MCLEOD-BEEN**  
**BSN, RN, JD**

PROFESSION .....  
**Regional Director Network Contracting  
& Management South Florida Region  
at Florida Blue**

DAILY CLOCK .....

UP @: **5:30 a.m.**

SLEEP @: **10:30**

DAILY MILEAGE: **100+**



HOBBY .....

**Travel**



FAMILY FACTS .....

**MARRIED**

Children: **1 Boy, 1 Girl - twins**  
*Both are left handed*



*Natural Stress  
Reliever*  
**Gardening**



MOST FULFILLING IN LIFE .....

*Being a wife and mother*



GETS ME THROUGH THE DAY .....

Piping hot herbal tea

MOTIVATIONAL TIP .....

*Carpe Diem*



INSPIRATION .....

"It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership."

*Nelson Mandela*

CAN'T DO WITHOUT IN LIFE .....

**FAMILY  
FRIENDS**



# Meet LAURIE GRISSMAN, MS, DNP, ARNP



Laurie Grissman, FNP, ARNP, DNP, is a nursing entrepreneur who opened Mobile Medical Associates, an independent house call practice in 2010. Today, the company's 14 employees serve hundreds of patients on the Treasure Coast through house calls, office visits, and in nursing facilities and hospitals.

Mobile Medical Associates was born from Grissman's concern for chronically ill patients who had a difficult time travelling to their primary care provider when they were experiencing troubling symptoms and ultimately delayed treatment until they needed emergency care. She recognized that these patients were at greater risk for experiencing poor outcomes, and that by assessing and treating patients more quickly in their homes, higher quality and more cost-effective care could be provided. The company is one of 17 primary care home visit practices in the United States chosen as demonstration models in the Independence at Home Project sponsored by the Commission for Medicare Services. It is the only nurse-owned and advanced-nursing-based group included in this important project.

Grissman's previous experience includes working in the intensive care unit at Martin Memorial Medical Center and with Pulmonary & Internal Medicine Associates in Stuart, Florida. She received a BSN from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, and was a member of the first class to receive a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

Grissman was born and raised in Marshfield, Massachusetts, and has lived in Stuart since 1996. She has two daughters, ages 8 and 11, and enjoys coaching their soccer and lacrosse teams.

ALUMNI FOCUS



# Fun Facts

**Laurie**  
GRISSMAN  
MS, DNP, ARNP

PROFESSION .....  
**President, Mobile Medical Associates**

HOBBY .....  
**Any Sports**

Soccer, lacrosse, golf, tennis, basketball, skiing, boating, anything outdoors. There is no better feeling than a victory after putting in so much effort to get there.



DAILY CLOCK.....  
**UP @: 6:30 a.m.**  
**SLEEP @: 11 p.m.**  
**DAILY MILEAGE: 75**

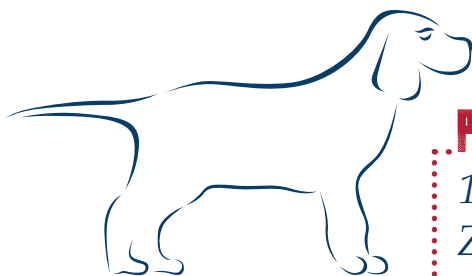


FAMILY FACTS  
**DIVORCED & IN A GREAT RELATIONSHIP**  
**Children: 2 Girls - 11 and 9 years old**



MOST FULFILLING IN LIFE.....  
**FAMILY**  
**TIM**  
**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

**PETS**  
*1 dog - Golden Retriever*  
*Zoey "the worry wart"*



## Words of Wisdom

Don't ever say, "I can't".  
The proper phrase, is, "I need help improving...."

MOTIVATIONAL TIP .....  
**NO REGRETS**

"YOU MUST BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THIS WORLD"

INSPIRATION.....  
*Live, Laugh, Love*

CAN'T DO WITHOUT IN LIFE.....  
Laughter, family time, sports, and the ocean



# Supporting the College of Nursing

## *Igniting the Flame for a Student's Journey*



The faculty, staff and students of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing are so grateful to those who support the College through their generous financial gifts. Without them, the College could not provide the support to students so critical to their success. In the past year, the College of Nursing provided nearly \$1,000,000 in scholarships, traineeships and stipends to its students. This included grant funding from the federal government, foundations and local donors. Many students bear heavy financial responsibilities for their families, struggling to achieve their dreams of continuing their education in nursing. The College's incredible donors make it possible for them to complete their programs, and deliver excellent healthcare within the South Florida region and beyond.

For the first time this Fall, the College of Nursing is admitting approximately 100 freshman directly into the

Nursing major. These students will be engaged in nursing courses during their first two years at Florida Atlantic University, and will need financial support for their books, uniforms, stethoscopes and supplies. As part of this initiative, the College of Nursing is introducing the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Lamplighter program. For a gift of \$500, donors can ignite the flame that will illuminate one nursing student's educational journey through nursing. Students will receive the name of their Lamplighter sponsor as they begin their nursing studies.

A gift of any amount to the Dean's Excellence Fund or the Scholarship Fund can make a real difference in ensuring excellent healthcare for the community. Please consider a donation at <http://nursing.fau.edu/donations>.



## Opening Doors for Doctoral Students

Upon moving to South Florida 20 years ago, Dr. Nettie Birnbach established a connection with Florida Atlantic University. A former nurse and professor, she was asked to serve as an Advisory Board member for FAU's College of Nursing. An advocate for the nursing profession, Birnbach

felt the need to support the university, and more specifically, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. "The Dr. Nettie Birnbach Nursing Research Scholarship" was created for doctoral nursing students, and she plans to endow an additional gift in the future.

The Nursing Research Scholarship will help students in financial need who are conducting and completing nursing research at FAU's College of Nursing. Being a doctorally prepared nurse herself, Birnbach understands the importance of higher education in the nursing field. She is committed to helping FAU students because she recognizes the impact that nurses have in the community.

Birnbach's endowment comes as a surprise to some since she is not an alumna and did not serve on the faculty. "I have a strong connection with FAU," said Birnbach. "I would like to see FAU's College of Nursing become the most desirable in Florida."

## What Goes Around, Comes Back Around

As a 13 year-old-girl, Evelyn Weinberger started working to make ends meet. She lived on a tight budget in a one-bedroom apartment with her growing family. In 1957, tragedy would strike with the death of her 2-year-old child and later in 1975 the death of her husband. Through several family tragedies and personal surgeries, Weinberger began an intimate relationship with hospitals and their staff, and she always kept a positive mindset remembering that attitudes are contagious.

As Weinberger recently recovered from one of several major operations, her stay at a local rehabilitation hospital reminded her of the great need for financial help among young women in entry-level jobs. "I want to help bring women out of low

paying jobs in the health field," said Weinberger. "They are gifted, but cannot afford higher education, and they deserve to be rewarded."

Weinberger owned and operated a travel agency. The results of her successes are now being generously rewarded through the Evelyn Weinberger Scholarship for the College of Nursing. To keep the scholarship fund alive, recipients are asked to contribute \$500 to the fund one year after graduation.

Her experience with family caregiving, relationship with the administration of the College of Nursing, and appreciation for the nursing profession were the inspiration for her philanthropic efforts. "I have always felt the need to pay it forward," said Weinberger.



## Creating a Legacy for her Profession

A pioneer in the field of transcultural nursing, Marilyn A. "Dee" Ray, RN, PhD, FAAN, is creating a legacy for her profession through a generous gift to the College of Nursing.

The recipient of the first PhD in transcultural nursing, and an award-winning, prolific author of books and papers, Dr. Ray

recently established the Dr. Marilyn A. Ray Endowment for Excellence in Transcultural Nursing and Global Health.

According to Ray's book, *Transcultural Caring Dynamics in Nursing and Health Care*, transcultural caring is defined as "the relationship between charity and right action—between love as compassion and response to suffering and need, and justice or fairness of doing what ought to be done within the dynamics of culture (individuals, families, nursing situations, communities, complex organizations), or society."

Transcultural care redefines nursing within the framework of a multicultural society, and Dr. Ray's gift establishes a way to provide international immersion experiences to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty in the College of Nursing who demonstrate an interest in transcultural caring in nursing and global health.

The endowment finds a perfect home at FAU, widely known as one of the most culturally diverse universities in the nation, with connections to cultures around the globe. The endowment also helps to continue the research legacy of Ray's mentor, the late Dr. Madeleine Leininger. Leininger was the first nurse anthropologist and founder of transcultural care.

"I am delighted that my endowment will help continue the study of transcultural nursing, and ultimately the enhancement of my profession for many years to come," said Dr. Ray.

# Meet CHRISTINE E. LYNN, RN



Florida Atlantic University's College of Nursing is so fortunate to have the continuing support of its namesake, Christine E. Lynn. Lynn, the Chairman of the Board of Lynn Insurance and a generous philanthropist, has been a benevolent force behind the creation of the College since its beginning.

The College opened in 1979 with support from Lynn and her late husband, Eugene. In 1984, she and her husband established the Christine E. Lynn Eminent Scholar Chair, the first chair position at the College intended for the advancement of nursing knowledge.

For more than two decades, Lynn has faithfully donated time and financial support to enhance the College's programs, especially those focused on caring, gerontology and community outreach to the underserved. Lynn's support has provided an endowment for scholarships for students intending to work at Boca Raton Regional Hospital; an endowed Center for Caring to establish programs that humanize healthcare; an endowment to advance intramural research; talent retention funding to provide deserving faculty with enhancement awards; and, of course, the beautiful building that is the home to the College today.

"We wouldn't be the College we are right now without Christine's support," said Dean Marlaine Smith. "We share big dreams for this College, and with her help, we are reaching for them. I can't thank her enough for all that she does for us. She is a loving and giving person, and I'm so grateful to be the dean of the College that bears her name."

A native of Norway, but born in Denmark, Lynn studied nursing and began her career in Oslo, Norway. As a former registered nurse and surgical nurse, she understands the importance of quality medical care and has spent her life helping others through the advancement of healthcare.

A long-time resident of Boca Raton, Lynn has committed her energy and resources to improve the health and well-being of South Florida. She has given generously to a number of local organizations including Stetson University, Boca Raton Regional Hospital, Lynn Regional Cancer Center, Hospice by the Sea, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Center for Group Counseling, YMCA, Florence Fuller Child Development Center, The ARC and the Junior League. Lynn has received numerous prestigious local and national awards including honorary degrees from FAU and others.

"So many have benefitted from Christine's lifelong generosity," said Smith. "Her philanthropic spirit has had an enormous effect on the lives of people in South Florida and around the world, and will continue to do so for decades to come."

# Fun Facts

# Christine Eliska

LYNN

RN



DAILY CLOCK

UP @: 6 a.m.

SLEEP @: 11 p.m.

DAILY MILEAGE: 60

PROFESSION

Chairman of the Board of  
Lynn Insurance

MOTIVATIONAL TIP

# BE HAPPY

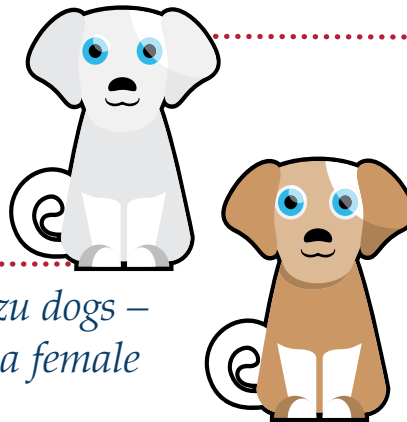
HOBBIES

**Boating  
& Golf**



PETS

*Two Shih Tzu dogs –  
a male and a female*



FAMILY FACTS

Enjoy spending  
time with my  
great nephew,  
his wife and  
children

MOST FULFILLING IN LIFE

# Happiness



I LIVE LIFE

# Stress Free



CAN'T DO WITHOUT IN LIFE  
Love and family

GETS ME THROUGH THE DAY  
I just wish I had 48 hours  
in every day

# ADVISORY BOARD PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Volunteer Advisory Board was constituted in 2012 to provide support to the College. Board members are ambassadors of the College, sharing its message and raising funds to support programs and students. Each member was selected for the gifts that they can bring to the Board for its continued success.

**The Board members include Nettie Birnbach, Terry Fedele, Michael Filon, Jesse Flowers II, Jerome Gold, Carrol Gubana, Beth Johnston, Cindy Krebsbach, Joseph Landolfi, Joseph Martin, Kathy Molinet, Maurice Plough Jr., Holli Rockwell-Trubinsky, Margaret Mary Shuff, Marilyn Swillinger, Jay Van Vechten, and Joan Wargo. Ex-officio members of the Advisory Board are Dean Marlaine Smith, Stacey Turner, College of Nursing Development Officer, and Kristine Gobbo, communications/public relations consultant for the College of Nursing. Maurice Plough was recently elected to chair the Advisory Board.**

Members of the Board are prominent business leaders and humanitarians within the community. They have a history of leadership in community organizations, and the College is grateful for their dedication.



# CARING HEARTS AUXILIARY ENTERS SUCCESSFUL 11TH YEAR



Caring Hearts Auxiliary Board Members (from right to left) – Debbie Lindstrom, Vanessa Boltz, Patricia Thomas, Holli Rockwell Trubinsky, Morgan Green, Terry Federle, Elaine English, Evie Zimmerman, Marion Godin (not pictured: Liz Dudley)

Now in its 11th year, the Caring Hearts Auxiliary (CHA) is making a greater impact than ever in supporting the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center, a part of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at FAU.

The mission of the CHA is to raise community awareness and funds in support of the Center's programs and services, including funding caregiver programs and scholarships for individuals with Alzheimer's and other memory disorders to attend the Day Center.

The CHA got its start in 2003 soon after the Center opened. The original group, consisting of dedicated women with a common tie to Alzheimer's disease, came together to help meet the special needs of the Center. The current President of the CHA Advisory Board is Terry Federle. Past presidents include founding President Pat Thomas, Karen Hoffheimer and Nancy Quick.

The Auxiliary's signature annual fundraising events are the Shades of Green event and the Keep Memories Alive Walk.

First held on St. Patrick's Day of 2005, the Shades of Green event in 2014 was a resort-casual cocktail party held at a

private home, including dinner by the bite, live music and a silent auction. Over the years, the event has grown from raising approximately \$4,000 to nearly \$90,000 in 2014.

In 2014, the CHA held its ninth annual Keep Memories Alive Walk, which is staged each year in early-November at the Boca Raton Town Center Mall. This family-friendly event draws more than 450 participants and raises more than \$300,000.

"We are so thankful for the tireless work done by the Caring Hearts Auxilliary," said Dr. Maria Ordóñez, Director of the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center. "The CHA provides critical outreach and fundraising support for the Center that we simply couldn't accomplish without their help."



Yearly dues are \$25 and \$300 for a lifetime membership to the Auxilliary. To join, please call 561-297-4066.

