

2014

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Annual Report 2013-2014

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Florida International University

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CARING
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
EXCELLENCE
FREEDOM
TRUTH



Annual Report
2013-14

Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences

COMPASSION
INNOVATION
CULTURAL COMPETENCE
COLLABORATION
INTEGRITY



FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

MISSION:

To prepare diverse health care professionals who are providers and leaders in the delivery of high quality, accessible, culturally competent, and compassionate care within a highly technological and global environment.

To teach, conduct research and practice in service to the community through interprofessional collaboration.

To create, promote, expand and validate scientific knowledge and evidence-based practice through interdisciplinary research.

VISION:

To be globally recognized as the higher education destination that is innovative, inquiry-driven and technologically advanced; drawing diverse top-class faculty, students, staff and others for a positive transformation of society with a focus on the health care needs of underserved populations.





VALUES: TRUTH, FREEDOM, RESPECT,
RESPONSIBILITY, EXCELLENCE, COMPASSION,
CARING, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY, CULTURAL
COMPETENCE, COLLABORATION



Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues,

It is with much joy and satisfaction that I share with you this 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. The College has set high goals through its strategic business plans, and I am pleased to report much progress has been made during the past academic year toward those goals. We are realizing our mission and vision for positively influencing the delivery of and access to health care in South Florida and beyond.

Our educational programs have grown in size and quality as evidenced by two outstanding national accreditation visits to our Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Physical Therapy Programs during AY 2013-2014. The same was true with our Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Programs in 2013 and our Athletic Training Program in 2012.

It has been a time of important advances in health care education through our work in the Simulation Teaching And Research (STAR) Center – our simulated hospital – and our Center for Advanced Rehabilitation/Research and Education (CARE). During the past academic year, we also added another important laboratory to our educational arsenal, the Driving Simulation Lab, which is spawning notable research, teaching and community service opportunities.

The College's faculty research and teaching programs, particularly in veterans' health, maternal and child health, aging and elder care, and rehabilitation have attracted major external funding support, grown in reputation and inspired tremendous generosity among our many donors. We are forever grateful for their commitment and belief in our College, its students and faculty.

Most importantly, our educational programs, research and community service have improved the quality of life of the people we serve. The "high touch, high tech" philosophy we follow in all that we do has greatly enhanced the learning experiences we provide our students and elevated the level of our scientific inquiry.

As you scan the pages of this report, you will see a vibrant, growing college fueled by intellect, driven by innovation and compassion. It has been a banner year, and the sense of momentum is invigorating. Along with our colleagues across all the campuses of Florida International University, we are *Worlds Ahead* in our commitment to learning, research, entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity so that our graduates are prepared to succeed in a global market.

With sincere regards,

Ora Lea Strickland, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

THE PATH AHEAD

Faculty and students of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences envision a bright future of achievements in research, innovation, technological sophistication and community engagement. This vision is only attainable with a resolute academic and operational blueprint that lays out clear goals and a clear path for how to achieve them.

The College has embarked on ambitious 5- and 10-year strategic and business plans focused on priorities in line with highly ranked health care schools and colleges. This strategic plan sets objectives and related methods to:

Develop and execute outstanding educational programs

Hire, develop and retain excellent faculty and staff

Increase research and scholarly productivity

Optimize professional licensure and certification at graduation

Maintain fiscal sustainability

Expand faculty practice

Heighten faculty, staff and student community engagement

Expand global initiatives, and increase operational efficiency and effectiveness

SETTING OUR SIGHTS

Nationally ranked among the top 20 in NIH funding

Program rankings among the top 25 percent nationally within their disciplines

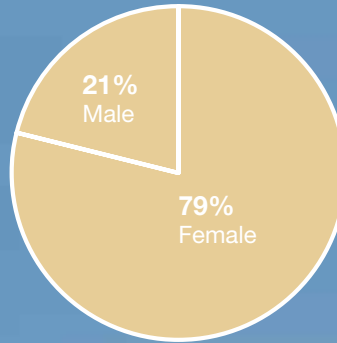
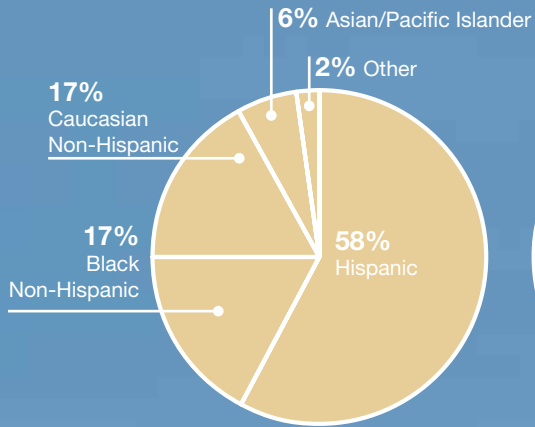
100 percent student licensure and certification first-time pass rates each year

Endowed centers for excellence

Fulbright exchange program for interdisciplinary global partnerships

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

COLLEGE AT A GLANCE (AY 2013-2014):



DISCIPLINES:

- Nursing
- Athletic Training
- Health Services Administration
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech-Language Pathology

Campus Locations:

Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 S.W. 8 Street, AHC 3 Building
Miami, FL 33199

Biscayne Bay Campus
3000 N.E. 151 Street, ACII Building
Miami, FL 33181

2,419 Students Enrolled

77 Full-Time Faculty

92% Doctorally Prepared Faculty

847 Degrees awarded



Caring. Culturally competent. Trailblazing. Dedicated. Passionate. These are the attributes of the faculty, students and alumni who are the lifeblood of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University in Miami.

The College was created in 2006 with the joining of the FIU School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences, each bringing with it more than 30 years of academic distinction. This young, vibrant and dynamic institution is focused on advancing the quality and spectrum of care through the highest levels of education, training, research and leadership. The College has more than 10,000 alumni in the fields of nursing, athletic training, health services administration, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology. They have gone on to serve communities locally and globally.

The College is one of the founding units of the Academic Health Center at FIU, built on an interprofessional approach to health care education that mirrors the new paradigm of today's health care system. It is making important strides to enhance practice and policy through interdisciplinary collaboration, state-of-the-art technology and resources, integration of real-world training in the curricula, and programs of research designed to make a difference in patient care and advocacy.

The multicultural student body and faculty of the College reflect the highly diverse South Florida community. This diversity, illustrative of changing demographics across the country, provides students with a unique perspective and distinct set of capabilities to address the health care delivery and health access concerns of minority and underserved populations.

The family of professors, academic leaders and students that comprise the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences work together to prepare culturally competent, compassionate and caring practitioners who are ready for the complexities and the challenges of today's health professions. They embrace the innovative clinicians and scientists who will help their professions evolve to optimally meet society's health care needs. And they will be leaders who will fight tirelessly to transform and elevate the health care system so that everyone in our society can benefit.

This is the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University. Fueled by intellect; driven by innovation and caring.

ABOUT FIU

Florida International University is Miami's first and only public research university, offering more than 180 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs.

As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU is *Worlds Ahead* in its local and global engagement, finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. Designated as a top-tier research institution, FIU emphasizes research as a major component in the university's mission, and remains focused on student learning, innovation and collaboration.

54,000: Number of students attending FIU in Spring 2014

#1 in nation in awarding bachelor's and master's degrees to Hispanic students

100,000 students will graduate from FIU in the next decade

#7 on list of largest public universities by enrollment

A TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT

On September 25, 2013, the futures of Florida International University's nursing and health sciences programs were transformed when South Florida philanthropists Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim presented a \$10 million gift to name and endow the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

This record-setting gift to the College means much more than a name change. It embodies the Wertheim family's commitment to clinical and interdisciplinary research, preventive health care and the belief that the best health care is delivered when health professionals work together as a team. It serves as a catalyst to accelerate our aggressive strategic plan to further enrich our academic and research programs and attract top faculty and students.

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has already announced the first endowed chair appointment in the College's history, and work is underway for expanding student scholarships, incentive programs for faculty recruitment and teaching innovation. All are vital to the College's mission and to accelerate the path to national prominence in health care education, leadership and innovation.

ABOUT THE WERTHEIM GIFT

The Nicole Wertheim Endowments for Nursing & Health Sciences Education and Research

These endowments will support faculty recruitment and enhancement, strategic faculty collaboration and innovation in program and research development across the various units of the FIU Academic Health Center.

Three endowed faculty chairs were established to attract and retain high quality research faculty that will mentor and participate in collaborative research with students and junior faculty members. These chairs are named in honor of Wertheim family members and reflect their commitment to the development of science and health care in key areas of need:

- Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Endowed Chair in Prevention and Family Health;
- Vanessa Von Wertheim Endowed Chair in Pain Management and Palliative Care; and
- Erica Wertheim Zohar Endowed Chair in Community Mental Health.



DR. JOANNE M. YOUNGBLUT

Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Endowed Chair in Prevention and Family Health

In April 2014, the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Endowed Chair in Prevention and Family Health was awarded to distinguished nursing professor JoAnne M. Youngblut, PhD, RN, FAAN. This is the first endowed chair awarded in the College's history.

Dr. Youngblut is a celebrated nurse researcher with a growing body of work on how a child's critical illness and death affects the health of family members, the quality of family relationships, and the family as a whole. Her research has been funded with more than \$8 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In the fall of 2013, findings from Dr. Youngblut's NIH-funded R01 research, "Death in the PICU/NICU: Parent & Family Functioning," conducted with fellow FIU nursing professor Dr. Dorothy Broten, were published in the prestigious American Academy of Pediatrics' journal, *Pediatrics*.

This gift has afforded us a tremendous opportunity to increase the quality and breadth of the College, and it is something we will not take for granted. We are determined to deliver on the vision that inspired such generosity from the Wertheim family.

– Dr. Ora L. Strickland, Dean

Wertheim Innovation Opportunity Endowment

This endowment will provide seed funding for faculty-driven innovation. It will encompass interdisciplinary research and innovative programs to encourage scholarship productivity and a culture of collaboration throughout the university and lead to additional external funding.

The Nicole Wertheim Nursing & Health Sciences Research Endowment

Earnings from the research endowment will help draw top-caliber doctoral students to the College, who will be known as Nicole Wertheim Research Scholars.

The Nicole Wertheim Nursing & Health Sciences Scholarship Endowment

Earnings from the graduate scholarship endowment will be used to attract high-achieving graduate students pursuing degrees as Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, or seeking clinical practice doctorates in nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech-language pathology. These scholars will be known as the Nicole Wertheim Nursing & Health Sciences Scholars.



Meet the Wertheims

Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim

Herbert and Nicole have been active in service to the South Florida community since 1967, making substantial contributions to many charitable organizations and to Florida International University. In 1977 they established the Wertheim Family Foundation, a nonprofit that has helped fund religious buildings, zoos, libraries, public TV-radio transmitters, plant conservatories, business lecture series, scholarships, performing arts, medical and health care education and research, and many other causes. Dr. Wertheim has been a member of the FIU Board of Trustees since its establishment in 2000 and served as chairman of the Board of Directors and a board member of the FIU Foundation, having helped raise more than \$200 million for scholarships, endowments and facilities. In 2011, Dr. Wertheim was inducted as a member of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.



Erica Wertheim Zohar

Erica inherited her father's entrepreneurial streak. She has played an instrumental role in various start-ups for fashion labels and consulting companies.

Vanessa Von Wertheim

Vanessa has continued her family's life-long connection to the health care field by pursuing a career in neonatal intensive care nursing and a PhD in Nursing.

Both Erica and Vanessa will join their mother, Nicole, serving on the Dean's Leadership Council, where they will advise and advocate for programs that will help the College grow to meet its strategic objectives.



SNAPSHOT'S DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING

In the academic year 2013-2014, the BSN program was awarded three grants by the federal government totaling more than \$10 million to support veterans' health care nursing education initiatives. These include the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP), Veterans to BSN (VBSN Medic-to-Nurse), and the Veterans Accelerated BS-to-BSN programs.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

Chair: Sharon Simon, PhD, RN

Program(s):

- Generic Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Online RN-to-BSN
- Foreign-Educated Physician to BSN/MSN
- VBSN Medic-to-Nurse

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 648

Number of Graduates: 297

Graduation Rate: 97%

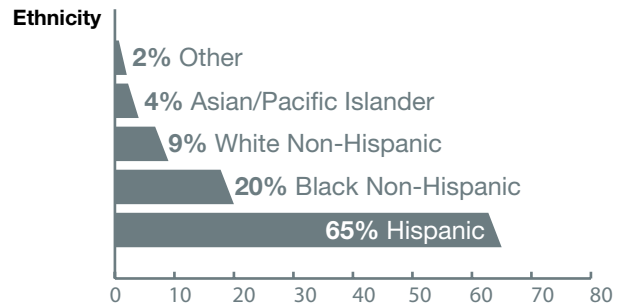
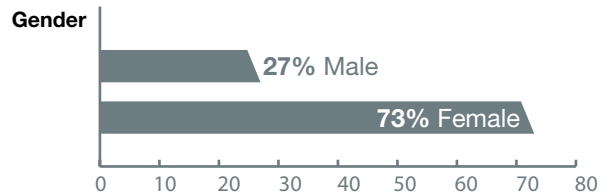
First-Time NCLEX (RN Licensure) Pass Rate: 89%

Full-Time Faculty: 18

Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); Florida State Board of Nursing Approved

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 31.8



GRADUATE NURSING

The Graduate Nursing Program is a leader in the production of nurse practitioners in the State of Florida and the nation. The program annually graduates more minority advanced practice nurses than any other program in the State of Florida.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

Chair – ARNP Programs:

Yhovana Gordon, EdD, DNP, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC

Chair – Nurse Anesthesia Program:

Jeffrey Groom, PhD, RN, CRNA

Program(s):

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Degrees and Post-Master's Certificate Programs:
 - Advanced Adult/Gerontology NP
 - Advanced Child NP
 - Advanced Family NP
 - Advanced Psychiatric & Mental Health NP
- MSN – Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Post-Master's Nurse Educator Certificate
- Dual MSN Degree – Nurse Educator Certificate

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 375 (degree program); 30 (certificate program)

Number of Graduates: 171

Graduation Rate: 96%

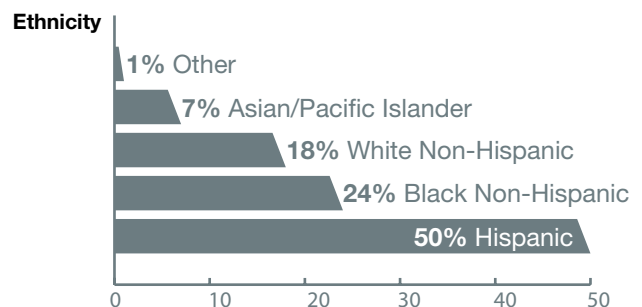
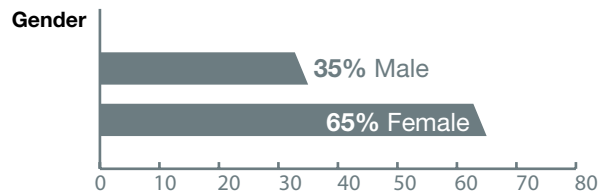
First-Time Board Certification Pass Rate: 96%

Full-Time Faculty: 20

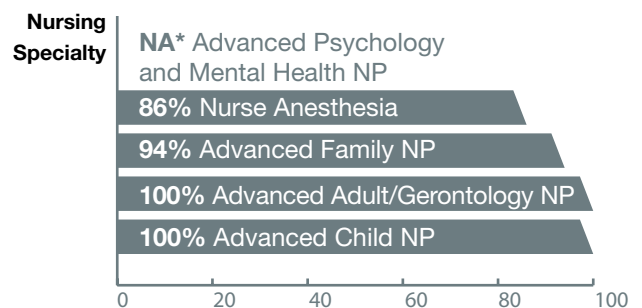
Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs; Florida State Board of Nursing Approved

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 36.6



First Time Board Certification Pass Rates



*First graduates in 2014-15

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

The inaugural class of DNP students graduated in August 2014.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

DNP Co-Directors: Yhovana Gordon, EdD, DNP, ARNP;
Sheldon Fields, PhD, ARNP

Program(s):

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
BSN-to-DNP

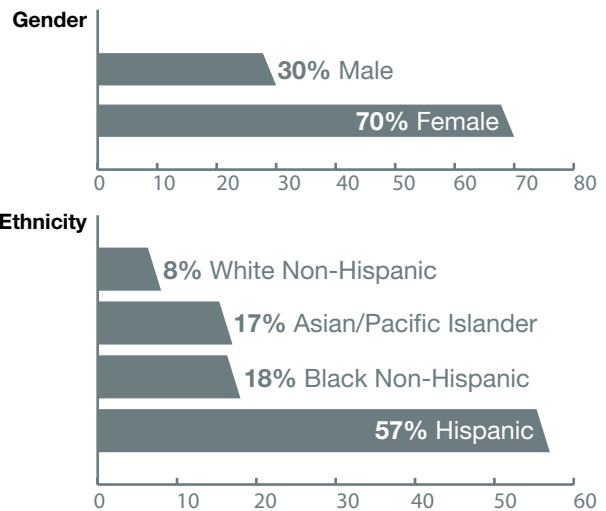
Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 22

Number of Graduates: 9

Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 42



PHD IN NURSING

The PhD in Nursing program leads the nation in graduating culturally diverse nurse scientists.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

Director: Dorothy Brooten, PhD, RN, FAAN (Acting)

Program(s) offered:

PhD in Nursing
BSN-to-PhD

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 24

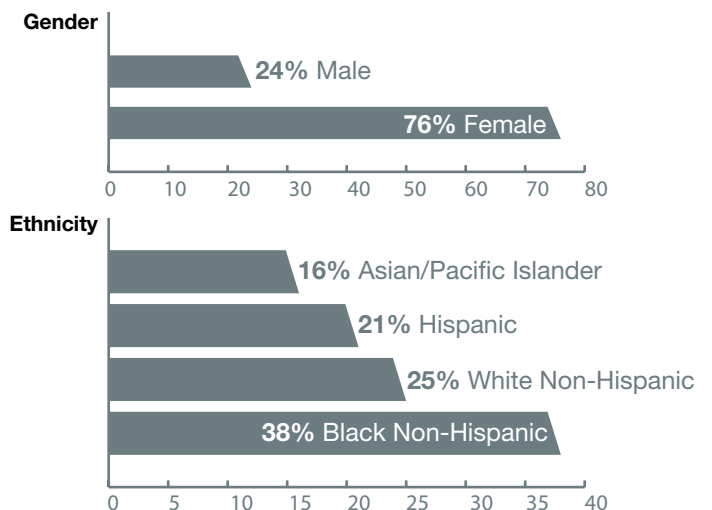
Number of Graduates: 5

Faculty/Dissertation Advisor Status: 12

Accreditation(s): Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 44.2



ATHLETIC TRAINING

Florida's only accredited professional Master of Science in Athletic Training (MS-AT) degree program.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

Chair: Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, PhD, ATC, LAT

Program(s): Master of Science in Athletic Training (MS-AT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 43

Number of Graduates: 17

Graduation Rate: 100%

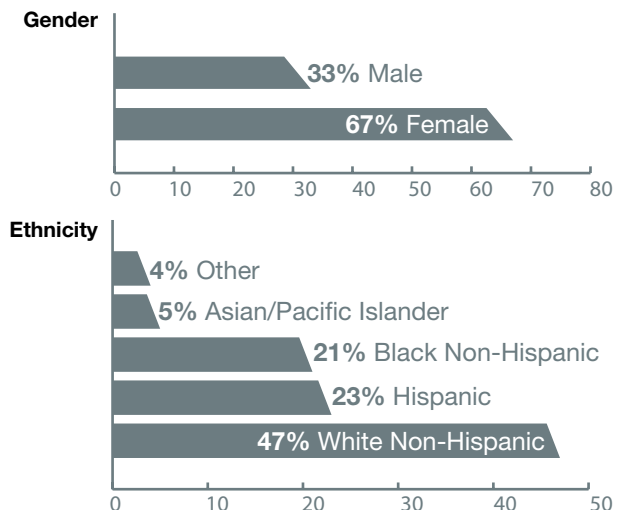
First-Time Licensure Pass Rate: 100%

Full-Time Faculty: 4

Accreditation(s): Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 24.9



COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

This accredited program provides a unique bilingual emphasis and prepares graduates to work with the increasing number of bilingual individuals in need of specialized care.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

Chair: Monica Hough, PhD, CCC-SLP

Program(s):

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP)
Certificate of Speech-Language Pathology

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 77 (degree program);
29 (certificate program)

Number of Graduates: 39

Graduation Rate: 100%

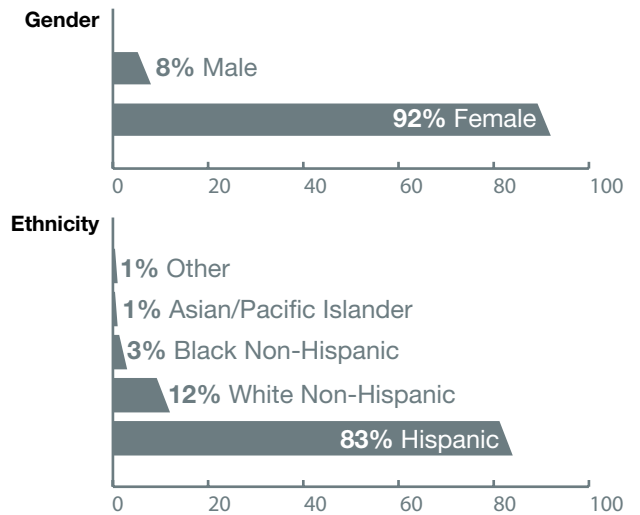
First-Time Board Certification Pass Rate: 97%

Full-Time Faculty: 6

Accreditation(s): Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 25.6



HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The Health Services Administration Department is developing a fully online program to launch in fall 2015.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

Chair: Salvatore A. Barbera, MS, FACHE

Program(s):

Bachelor of Health Services Administration
Minor in Health Services Administration

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 736

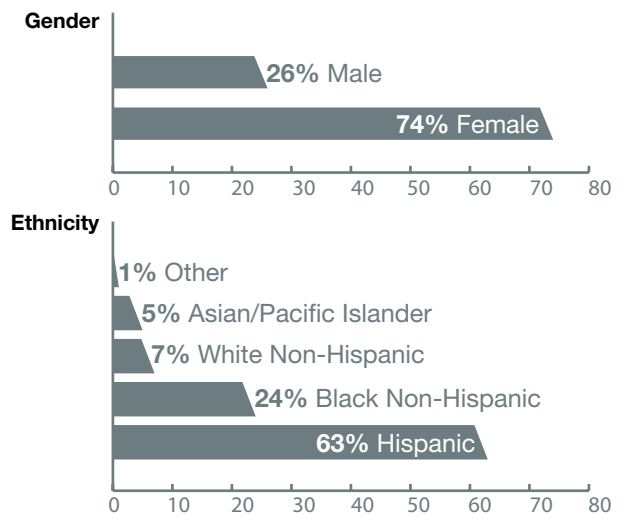
Number of Graduates: 202

Full-Time Faculty: 5

Accreditation(s): Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 25.3



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

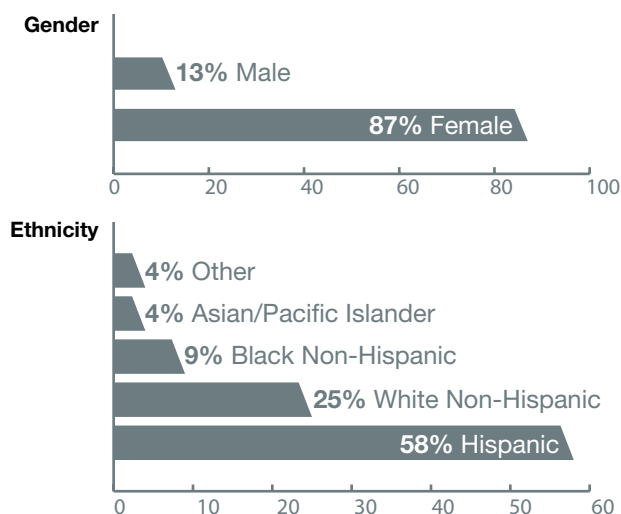
FIU Occupational Therapy (OT) faculty won a \$1.23 million dollar grant for student scholarships and training from the U.S. Department of Education.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

- Chair:** Kinsuk Maitra, PhD, OTR/L
- Program(s):** Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT)
- Student Enrollment (in and out of state):** 174
- Number of Graduates:** 61
- Graduation Rate:** 80.5%
- Annual Licensure Pass Rate:** 94%
- Full-Time Faculty:** 9
- Accreditation(s):** Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 26



PHYSICAL THERAPY

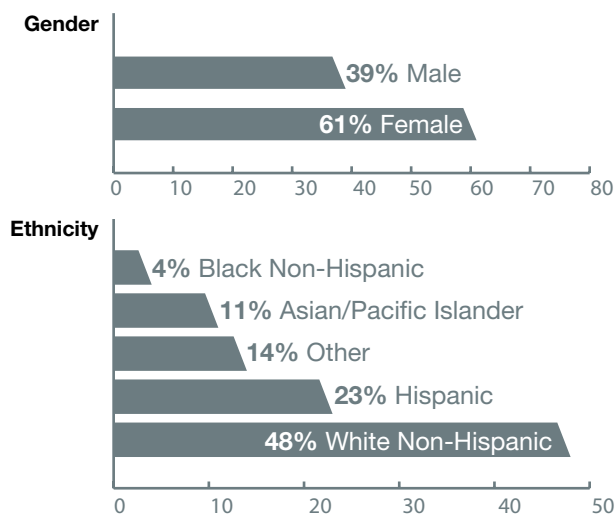
Recipient of a \$2.4 million grant from Health Resources and Services Administration for scholarships for disadvantaged students. On average, 30 percent of students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program receive financial support.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT (AY 2013-2014)

- Chair:** Denis Brunt, EdD, PT
- Program(s):** Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)
- Student Enrollment (in and out of state):** 166
- Number of Graduates:** 46
- Graduation Rate:** 93%
- Annual Licensure Pass Rate:** 93%
- Full-Time Faculty:** 11
- Accreditation(s):** Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

Student Body Diversity:

Average Age: 25



Edgar R. Vieira, PhD, PT

RESEARCH AT THE CROSSROADS OF FALL PREVENTION

Temporo-spatial gait parameters during street crossing conditions

More than 40 percent of nursing home admissions come after a fall, the majority of which are a result of general functional decline. Falls are also a leading cause of death among people age 65 and over. According to FIU physical therapy (PT) assistant professor Dr. Edgar Vieira, falls are the starting point for a domino effect of injury, deconditioning, health deterioration and mounting care expenses. “It got me thinking, what if we could prevent falls, and in the process transform our current ‘disease/injury’ care system into a full-spectrum health care system?”

Last year, Dr. Vieira embarked on a three-phase project to identify the causes of functional decline, and create interventions and therapies that help decelerate decline. For the first phase, he created a dual-task gait scenario to evaluate the gait of younger and older adults. Employing a simulated street crossing setting and using a GAITrite system in the College’s Human Performance Analysis lab to collect gait temporo-spatial parameters, the subjects completed tests under three conditions: (1) gait with preferred speed, (2) gait during simulated street crossing and (3) gait during simulated street crossing with reduced time. After comparing results from the two groups, older adults received a performance report describing their velocity; step length and base of support; risks and declines they presented during the tests; and recommendations to improve or sustain physical health.

The second stage of the study, recently funded by the Florida Department of Health, will focus on detecting initial signs of functional decline by studying influencers such as health, socioeconomic condition, nutrition and social support. The objective will be to devise physical and therapeutic interventions that address the cause of dysfunction to decelerate functional decline and mitigate falls.

The last stage will be a longitudinal study and cost-benefit analysis to determine if preventive measures to decelerate functional decline quantifiably improve health, lifespan and lower health care costs. “Ultimately, this research aims to create a simple test that can be applied at regular check-ups with primary care providers to identify people at risk of falls and implement remediation activities to avert the domino effect.”

While this is his long-term vision, outcomes of the recent street crossing study are already being utilized today and Dr. Vieira is working with the Health Foundation of South Florida to implement an ongoing fall prevention program.

“You say ‘physical therapy,’ and most people think ‘rehabilitation,’ but there’s another side to that coin. I’m fascinated by the possibilities to proactively improve health through preventive PT research and am proud to be working toward developing a true health care system.”





Hae Yean Park, PhD, OT

DRIVEN TO RESEARCH

Repetition priming of road signs to increase driver safety and longevity

By 2050 there will be 85 million people over the age of 65 in this country. As this population increases, so do concerns about driving safety. With an estimated 35 million licensed older adult drivers already on our roads, driving is considered a critical element of maintaining independence. But as they fail to recognize road signs or experience a decline in higher cognitive functions, many older adults quit driving and become isolated from society.

FIU post-doctoral occupational therapy (OT) fellow Dr. Hae Yean Park has been working closely with her mentor, department chair Dr. Kinsuk Maitra, on repetition priming and driving rehabilitation research. Their latest study at the College's Driving Simulation Lab at the Lehman Center for Transportation Research compared the effects of two types of visual perceptual priming at an intersection – word and symbol format road signs – and how it may affect driving performance at different ages.

Study participants included 41 younger adults and 19 older adults completing a total of 17,400 feet of simulated driving situations. They assessed brake reaction time and stopping distance from the intersection under the two signage scenarios. Results showed that priming in either word or symbol format led to an increased recognition of road signs and improved brake reaction times in both driver age groups. This promotes greater safety on the road for all drivers, which is especially beneficial for those

suffering from explicit memory deficits stemming from stroke, dementia or other traumatic brain injury.

“Repetition of the same thought or physical action develops into a habit which if repeated frequently enough, becomes an automatic reflex,” Dr. Park affirms, citing a quote from *The Power of Positive Thinking*. “That’s precisely the concept we are validating with this research.”

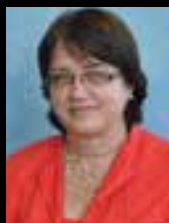
Dr. Park’s own road towards OT research was a trailblazing one. When she received her professional license after graduating from South Korea’s Yonsei University in 2004, there were less than 1,600 occupational therapists in a country of more than 47 million people. In 2011, she became only the 15th person in the country to hold a PhD in OT. She explains that, “Discovering the rewarding career of OT in my country was difficult because of the general lack of knowledge about the discipline, but it was my destiny.”

It was her three-year tenure as an occupational therapist at a rehabilitation hospital that sparked her passion for evidence-based research. “I wanted to prove that the therapies I was developing and employing were optimally effective for my patients. I’m getting the chance to do that at FIU with studies proving that you can still partake in everyday activities, like driving, even when life has put obstacles on the road.”



JoAnne M. Youngblut, PhD, RN, FAAN and Dorothy Brooten, PhD, RN, FAAN

THE LEGACY OF LOSS – DEATH IN THE NICU/PICU



Anyone who has lost a family member knows how powerful the experience can be, especially when it is an infant or child who dies. Groundbreaking

research from two nurse researchers at FIU has pinpointed quantifiable risks to the health and well-being of parents and families suffering the loss of a child, thus opening the door to new intervention strategies.

Professors Dr. JoAnne M. Youngblut, Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Endowed Chair in Prevention and Family Health, and Dr. Dorothy Brooten, are internationally renowned nurse researchers with distinguished careers each spanning over 25 years. As co-principal investigators on studies funded with more than \$2.8 million by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Drs. Youngblut and Brooten have made important breakthroughs in methods and findings regarding death and bereavement – particularly as it relates to loss of infants and children.

Drs. Youngblut and Brooten published their findings in the prestigious medical journal, *Pediatrics*, on parent health and functioning after a child's death in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). It is the first study to provide data on cross-cultural similarities and differences in the aftermath of a child's death in the NICU or PICU.

Among the findings: As many as 60-70% of parents

suffer from clinical depression and/or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at one month after their infant's or child's death. For one third of parents, clinical depression and/or PTSD persists through 13 months post-death. Hispanic and black mothers, more than white mothers, suffered moderate to severe depression and PTSD. Also, parents' chronic health conditions more than doubled in the 13 months after the death. Newly diagnosed conditions included mental illness, angina (chest pain), high blood pressure, asthma, arthritis, diabetes, and cancer. Many required changes in their medications to manage their chronic conditions. Mothers who lost an adolescent rather than an infant or did not expect their child's death had more chronic conditions.

"These findings are critical to help health care providers and family members understand the warning signs and potential impact on parents' health after such a loss," said Dr. Youngblut. "The study revealed that assessing parents' health regularly over the first year post-death is absolutely essential."

Dr. Brooten added, "Our goal in doing this research is to recognize signs that point to a potential for deterioration, identify those at greatest health risk, and target them for early intervention and support that is both culturally appropriate and acceptable."

The two researchers have received an additional \$2.5 million of NIH funding to continue this work, focusing on the impact of an infant's or child's death on surviving brothers and sisters.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white lab coat over black pants and sandals, stands in a brightly lit hospital hallway. She is holding a clipboard and looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The hallway has light-colored walls, wooden doors, and a wooden floor. There are some flowers in the background.

Jean Hannan, PhD, ARNP

BREAKING DOWN LOW-INCOME BARRIERS FOR NEW MOMS

Evaluating the efficacy of nurse practitioner follow-up communication on health care outcomes and costs

FIU Nursing assistant professor Dr. Jean Hannan has spent many years as a nurse practitioner in the pediatric emergency room at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. Here, she often saw low-income, first-time moms bring in their newborns for health concerns that weren't emergencies. "I thought if someone would follow up with these moms after delivery, they wouldn't bring their newborn to the emergency room and risk exposing them to other sick children," said Dr. Hannan.

Now she is studying the impact of how simple follow-up phone calls and texts from advanced nurse practitioners (APN) can help improve health outcomes for infants, and lower health care costs for these new mothers. Early results indicate a positive correlation on both fronts. Funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, her current research, "Low-Income First-Time Mothers: Effects of APN Follow-up Mobile Technology on Maternal and Infant Outcomes and Health Care Charges – A Pilot Study," follows low-income, first-time mothers with little or no access to health care.

Dr. Hannan and her team are recruiting 125 mothers for the study. The mothers receive a follow-up call from a nurse practitioner after postpartum hospital discharge, and then monthly for up to six months. During these calls, the APN can assess the baby's progress, address concerns, and offer resources to help resolve some of the mother's personal issues, putting the mother at ease and avoiding a costly and unnecessary trip to the hospital.

Based on her many years of practice at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Dr. Hannan has identified several gaps in health care delivery for first-time, low-income mothers, and found many problems for this group are preventable when barriers to health care access are eliminated. She plans to continue pursuing research in maternal and infant health for underserved populations. "Knowing that my research has made a difference to numerous women, families and children is incredible motivation," added Dr. Hannan. "It's what makes me want to continue seeking new answers and solutions so that all populations have access to the care they need."

Sandra Gracia Jones, PhD, ARNP, ACRN, ACNS-BC, FAAN and Eric Fenkl, PhD, RN, CNE

HIV PREVENTION 101 – A CAMPUS-BASED APPROACH



Building on the success of SENORITAS (Student Education Needed in Order to Reduce Infection and Transmission of AIDS/STDs), an innovative HIV prevention program for young Hispanic women attending college, FIU nursing researchers are taking the findings from their campus-based, peer-to-peer education program to students at other colleges and universities.

Nursing faculty members, Dr. Sandra Gracia Jones and Dr. Eric Fenkl, received a three-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration last year to expand their student-led HIV prevention programs. The grant proposal, which incorporated findings from Dr. Jones' previous research on HIV/STD prevention, was approved for a multi-site, multi-level prevention program for minority college students at urban public institutions.

Fueled by the outcomes from SENORITAS, Dr. Jones' well-publicized cornerstone for her student-led HIV prevention college initiatives, and the subsequent SALSA project (Student Awareness of the Link between Substance Abuse and AIDS/STDs), which included male students, the new grant allows these programs to continue empowering undergraduate nursing students to act as campus-based HIV and substance abuse/use student peer educators. The funding also supports research to survey 1,100 students at three institutions – FIU, Miami Dade College's Medical Campus and University of Massachusetts, Boston – to examine risk and protective factors, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to HIV, STDs and substance use/abuse. Drs. Jones and Fenkl will compare results of Hispanic to non-Hispanic students; heterosexual students to students identifying as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender); and students from the Southeast to those in the Northeast.

Dr. Jones has received nearly \$2 million in federal grants over the past decade to support HIV prevention efforts. "Early in my career as a clinical nurse specialist in immunology/infectious diseases, I spent countless hours at the bedsides of too many young people as they passed away," said Dr. Jones. "It was heartbreaking to see this happen all because they had not practiced safer sex, and ultimately this became my inspiration for the work I do today."

Dr. Fenkl has a diverse nursing background and a special interest in vulnerable populations with health disparities, including HIV-infected individuals and those in the later stages of AIDS. As co-principal investigator, Dr. Fenkl oversees the LGBT portion of the research. "I hope that my work with high-risk groups, including MSM (men who have sex with men), women and racial/ethnic minorities, will have broader applications," remarked Dr. Fenkl. "HPV-related cancer is the next sleeping giant among these groups because of similar at-risk behaviors. Applying the methods from this study to dramatically increase awareness, testing and vaccination for HIV/STD prevention will serve as a foundation to lower the incidence of future epidemics."



Alfredo Ardila, PhD

SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF BILINGUAL RESEARCH

Psychology Today reports that more than half the world is bilingual or multilingual. As many of us try learning a new language to better ourselves, others, like FIU Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD) professor Dr. Alfredo Ardila, are intent on addressing the issues and challenges that may face bilingual populations.

His most recent study, “Lexical Knowledge and Working Memory in Second-Generation Spanish/English Bilinguals,” takes a closer look at a growing segment of the U.S. population. “In the U.S. alone there are more than 45 million foreign-born people,” said Dr. Ardila. “Bilingualism of the second generation of immigrants represents one of the most important types of bilingualism, but little research has been done on this group.”

Dr. Ardila joined FIU’s CSD department in 2000 after 30 years as an educator in the field of psychology. Armed with his bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the National University of Colombia and PhD in Neuropsychology from Moscow State University in Russia, he has been fueling his interest in acquired communication disorders associated with brain pathology ever since. Over the course of his career, he has amassed an extensive body of research emphasizing the causality of bilingualism with aphasia, neuropsychological assessments, age-related cognitive changes and speech/language disturbances, among other areas.

The goal of his latest study was to analyze the lexicon, verbal working memory, grammar and reading/writing of L1 (first language - Spanish) and L2 (second, or learned, language - English) second-generation Spanish-English bilinguals in South Florida. The sample group comprised bilinguals (ages 19-54) born of native-Spanish speaking parents who were either born in the U.S. or moved here before the age of 10 from a Latin American country, and attended school primarily in English.

Dr. Ardila and his team found that second-generation bilinguals have more lexical knowledge and better working memory ability in their L2 (English) than in their L1 (Spanish). When comparing participants who were born in the U.S. to those born in a Latin American country, no differences in Spanish or English lexical knowledge were evident, and few statistical differences in working memory were observed. The findings of this research have been submitted for publication in the *International Journal of Bilingualism*.

“With 50-80 percent of the world’s population considered bilingual, examining bilingualism has important clinical value to better understand acquired language impairments,” Dr. Ardila commented. “I am excited to continue research and advance knowledge of bilingualism, which will be crucial in devising better therapies and learnings of communication disorders.”

S.T.A.R. CENTER, CUTTING-EDGE C.A.R.E. AND VIRTUAL VEHICLES

It has been a landmark year for simulation education at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, and a year of discovery and innovation for rehabilitation research and teaching. These milestones including a role in the largest and most comprehensive studies of simulation education in nursing would not have been possible without the College's exceptional teaching and research facilities, which are among the best in the country.

From the state-of-the-art mock hospital setting at the Simulation Teaching and Research Center (STAR Center), to the high-tech labs of the Center for Advanced Rehabilitation/Research and Education (CARE Unit) and Driving Simulation Lab, students and faculty from multiple disciplines work side-by-side to prepare graduates to quickly integrate into today's health care system, while encouraging advanced research.



STAR POWER SIMULATION TEACHING AND RESEARCH CENTER

The mock-hospital design of the College's STAR Center provides a functionally flexible laboratory for simulation education. The STAR Center now runs approximately 500 simulations annually, which facilitate "high tech and high touch" clinical learning experiences for students in all of the College's programs to learn and work together in real-life, real-time scenarios and settings.

Simulation Revelations: An Evidence-Based Milestone

This year marked the culmination of a three-year national research project involving the STAR Center. FIU Nursing was selected by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to participate in a landmark study to determine the optimal use of simulation in the nursing education curriculum.

Outcomes were analyzed from three BSN student groups: (1) traditional clinical training control group, (2) group with 25% simulated clinical training and (3) group with 50% simulated clinical training. The findings reported in a supplement to the *Journal of Nursing Regulation* indicate that there were no meaningful outcome differences in critical thinking, clinical competency, practice readiness and NCLEX pass rates between simulated and traditional clinical training. These results validate the College's continuing expansion of simulation pedagogy in the curriculum.

A Hub for Faculty Research Scholarships

The STAR Center was instrumental in recent efforts by faculty and staff to secure additional funding for nursing and health care research.

- A Florida Blue Foundation-Florida Health Care Simulation Alliance (FHSA) mini-grant on Nursing Bedside Leadership
- Grant-funded nurse anesthesia research, "The Effect of an Educational Intervention on Student Health Care Providers' Attitudes toward Interprofessional Health Care Teams, Communication and Handoffs"
- A Pocket Nurse scholarship allowed several FIU NWCNHS staff to attend the 2014 International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation & Learning Conference

Teaching Milestones & Program Innovation

The College continued to integrate simulation learning as a critical component of students' educational experiences throughout the past academic year.

- Master's nursing students are now completing clinical hours by participating in course simulation at the STAR Center.
- A faculty team known as the Simulation Teaching Unit (STU) has been created to support and implement clinical simulation at the STAR Center.
- Pre-simulation requirements and protocols were established to ensure students get the most out of simulation experiences.
- The program evolved to include an American Heart Association training site and a STAR Center mobile unit to provide off-campus training programs at various locations in the community.

A Community Resource

The STAR Center has become a go-to resource locally, nationally and internationally to illustrate the academic and pragmatic benefits of simulation education and training for health professions. The STAR Center gave 74 tours, welcoming domestic and foreign health care practitioners from several states, China, South America and Europe. The STAR Center also hosted numerous career day tours for local schools to generate interest and excitement in health care careers, and was a staging and learning site for local health fairs and disaster response simulations.



CUTTING EDGE C.A.R.E. CENTER FOR ADVANCED REHABILITATION/RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Center for Advanced Rehabilitation/Research and Education (CARE Unit) is active as a high-tech lab serving students and faculty across all of the College's disciplines. The CARE Unit embodies the interdisciplinary focused, evidence-based and holistic approach to patient care that lies at the heart of the College's mission and vision. This year, the College's faculty has made strides in several areas of research and product development.

Optical Imaging for Tissue Monitoring

In the U.S., 6.5 million patients suffer from chronic wounds and an excess of \$25 billion is spent annually for their treatment. The burden of clinical cost is growing rapidly due to the aging population and a rise in the incidence of diabetes. Through the development of a novel portable Near-Infrared Optical Scanner (NIROS), which the college's faculty demonstrated for the first time on human tissue, researchers will take a huge step forward in diagnostic imaging and establishing a clinical protocol for quantitatively measuring the progress of a wound in response to medical treatment. The clinical trial will be conducted with the College's nursing program this year.

Developing Robot-Assisted Rehabilitation Therapy

High-tech robotic devices are integrated into the high-touch field of physical therapy in this research project now underway at the CARE unit. The faculty members involved see potential for robot-assisted rehabilitation therapy as a solution to increase the quality of rehabilitation therapy while decreasing the per-capita cost in an era of growing demand for therapy among an aging population. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the real-time, simultaneous and propositional myoelectric control technique for stroke survivor upper limb rehabilitation therapy, and show its practical clinical application to increase quality and duration of primary rehabilitation. Launched in April 2014, the initial prototype will soon be introduced to all clinical faculty.

Neurological Activity Monitoring for Clinical Application

Brain network analysis based on functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data is of great clinical importance for understanding the mechanisms of neural diseases and brain activity. In this study, the analytic signal based network analysis approach was introduced to estimate the



VIRTUAL VEHICLES THE DRIVING SIMULATION LAB

After a three-year collaboration with the FIU College of Engineering & Computing, the NWCNHS launched the Driving Simulation Lab at the FIU Lehman Center for Transportation Research during the 2013-2014 academic year. This newest lab within the college's resource arsenal will offer new opportunities for interprofessional ventures in sponsored research, teaching and clinical services to the community.

connectivity and causality for fMRI data. Using analytic signals, the instantaneous phase information was extracted from fMRI time series in order to estimate connectivity and causal networks in the brain. The results show that the proposed method can be a useful tool to analyze functional brain networks in fMRI research.

Evaluating Post-Whiplash Eye, Trunk and Head Movement

Motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) are the most common cause of whiplash injuries, with up to 42 percent of individuals in MVAs experiencing a whiplash injury. One study taking place in the CARE unit's Human Performance Lab focuses on the eye, trunk and head movement of people with chronic neck pain due to MVA-whiplash. Participants engage in a series of tracking tasks that reproduce eye, torso and head movements required while driving (e.g., reading traffic signs, checking mirrors, watching for pedestrians crossing and/or incoming traffic at intersections). Head and trunk movement is captured with the Qualisys motion analysis system, and eye movement is recorded by the ASL mobile eye tracking system. The results will help researchers evaluate the risks of potential physical limitations and behavior changes of subjects driving with chronic whiplash, and design interventions to reduce pain and disability to facilitate a return to safe driving.





TODAY'S NON-TRADITIONAL ROAD TO FINDING **TOMORROW'S HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**

The Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) Medic-to-Nurse Program

Taking note of both the number of veterans returning home and the national shortage of registered civilian nurses that is expected to worsen in the next 20 years, the College launched a new baccalaureate nursing degree in January to help former military medics and corpsmen put their experience toward new mainstream and fast-tracked careers as nurses.

FIU's VBSN Medic-to-Nurse program is a special project funded jointly by the College and a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. It is designed to help recent veterans, reservists and National Guard members with military medical training and service experience qualify for advanced standing credit for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and licensure eligibility as a Registered Nurse (RN).

FIU's Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences is responding with inspired thinking and creative strategies to the growing nationwide demand for well-educated, highly skilled health care professionals. The College has found great success implementing pioneering programs to meet specific needs such as veterans' care, tap underutilized sources for qualified nurses and advocate for interprofessional collaborations.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Staff Sergeant Victor

Arvizu

spent 20 years as a U.S. Army combat medic serving from the Middle East to the South Pacific. Today, he is putting his two decades of experience toward fulfilling his dream of becoming

a nurse. With the help of the post-9/11 G.I. Bill, Victor registered for the Medic-to-Nurse program and is on track to graduate with his BSN in January 2015.

The Veterans Affairs

Nursing Academic Partnership

In June 2014, the College intensified its commitment to veteran care by collaborating with the Miami VA Health Care System (MVAHS) to implement the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP). With an \$8.2 million grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs, FIU was one of only three universities nationwide chosen this past academic year to launch the program.

VANAP is tailored to promote innovation in nursing education and practice as VA facilities and nursing schools work together to treat and care for the veteran patient population.

Over the next five years, more than 350 nursing students will receive specialized clinical training focused on veteran-related health care issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), chemical exposure, and major traumatic limb loss and rehabilitation. A nurse residency program with the MVAHS was also established aimed at nurse recruitment and retention for the VA hospital system.

Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Health Care Scholars

Founded in 2006, the Jonas Center's mission is to improve health care through nursing by making grants that advance scholarship, leadership and innovation, and collaborate on initiatives with other leaders in the nursing field, with a focus on fostering new partnerships across the philanthropic, business, policy and education sectors. The College is matching a \$40,000 grant to fund scholarships for five doctoral nursing students selected to be Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars and Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholars. These students will be conducting research on veteran-specific health issues over the next two years.

Developing Interprofessional Cultural Competence through Technology

A grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is endorsing the College's mission to reduce health disparities and improve the quality of care to diverse and underserved populations through innovation and a commitment to culturally competent and collaborative interdisciplinary practice. With the launch of the Technology Interprofessional Culturally Competent Education (T.I.P.C.E.) program, more than 900 family nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, athletic trainers and speech-language pathologists are being taught to function in technologically advanced, interprofessional health teams.

Students begin the three-semester program by engaging each other in clinical discussions through online self-learning modules, blogs and forums. Once the students acquire virtual knowledge on a subject, they test their experiences in simulated real-world practice scenarios to collaborate in interdisciplinary teams, providing discipline-specific care to simulated multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multigenerational patients and families. The final stage involves faculty using telemonitoring equipment during student clinical rotations to further advise the students on how to improve quality of care.





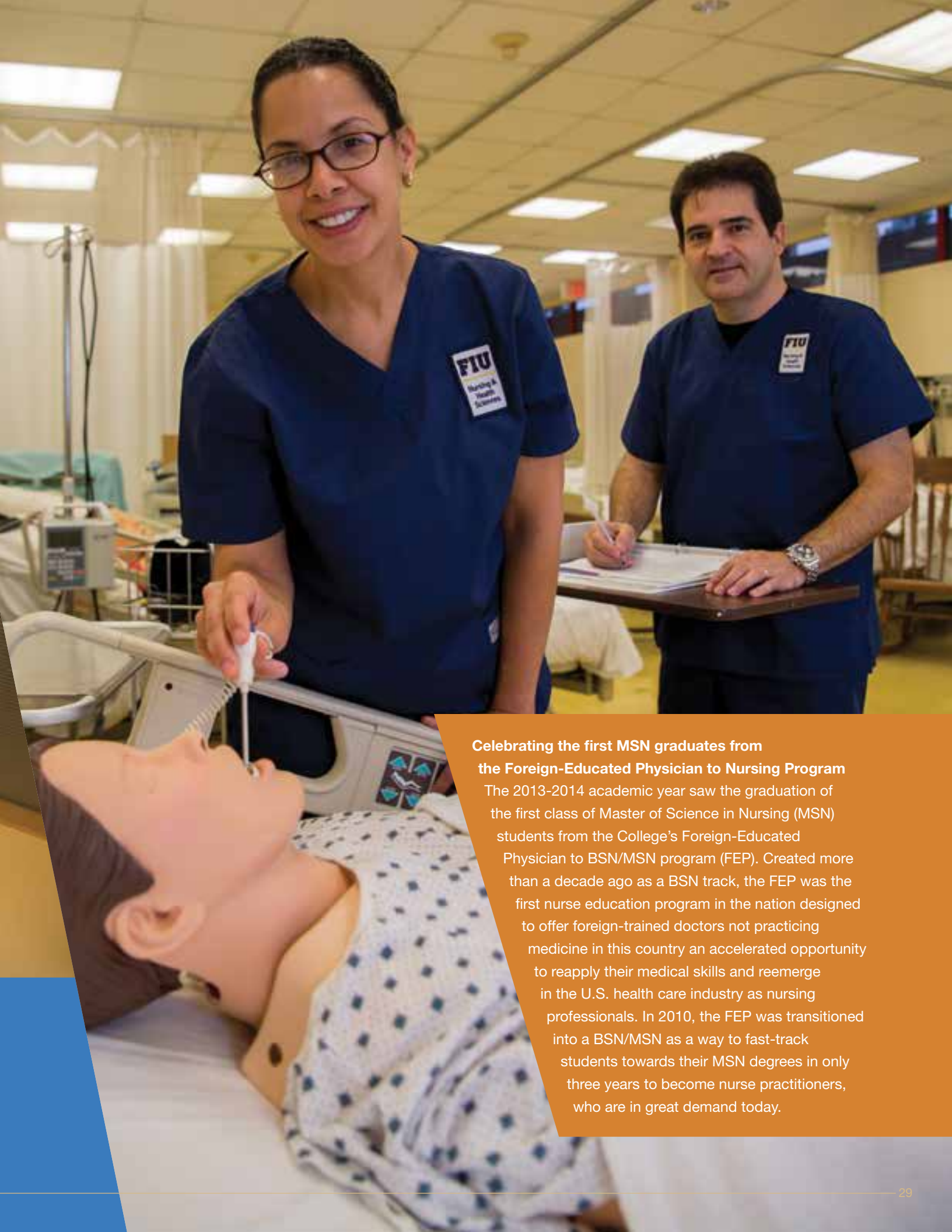
Nurse Anesthesia Veterans/Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) Medics

The College's Nurse Anesthesia Program has given admission preference to nurses who have served as military medics and corpsmen to become CRNAs. Students in the program are taught by College faculty who are supported by joint appointments with Sheridan Healthcorp and Miami Beach Anesthesiology Associates. Career and educational program advising to medics, pre-nursing and nursing service members who are interested in a career as CRNAs are offered as part of this initiative.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Isabel Barradas was an orthopedic surgeon and head of a hospital department for 25 years in her native Venezuela. She speaks three languages and since marrying an American and moving to South Florida more than a decade ago, is also a U.S. citizen. She is a shining example of South Florida's melting pot of foreign talent. She is also an example of the thousands of foreign-trained physicians who are finding new opportunities and career satisfaction in nursing.



Celebrating the first MSN graduates from the Foreign-Educated Physician to Nursing Program

The 2013-2014 academic year saw the graduation of the first class of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students from the College's Foreign-Educated Physician to BSN/MSN program (FEP). Created more than a decade ago as a BSN track, the FEP was the first nurse education program in the nation designed to offer foreign-trained doctors not practicing medicine in this country an accelerated opportunity to reapply their medical skills and reemerge in the U.S. health care industry as nursing professionals. In 2010, the FEP was transitioned into a BSN/MSN as a way to fast-track students towards their MSN degrees in only three years to become nurse practitioners, who are in great demand today.

Community Engagement

One of the ways the College furthers its mission to improve the quality of health care and foster academic excellence is through resourceful partnerships derived from community engagement initiatives. From coordinating global internships, to encouraging new generations of practitioners, to providing valuable services to the community, the students and faculty of the College embrace and live the philosophy of community engagement.



Occupational Therapy International Internships

Getting back to the job of living is the mantra of occupational therapists, as they help people of all ages break through limiting physical boundaries to restore skills for everyday activities. For students of the College's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (OT) program, this includes breaking down geographic boundaries as well.

To enhance fieldwork experiences for students, FIU's OT Department developed an international internship program aligning with the American Occupational Therapy Association's centennial vision to bolster a globally connected and diverse workforce. Under the new program, students were able to hone their skills abroad in:

- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- San Jose, Costa Rica
- Asturias, Spain
- Palencia, Spain
- Santiago, Chile
- Lima, Peru
- Nassau, Bahamas

Thanks to the new program, FIU OT students were able to act as ambassadors for the discipline, while gaining valuable global perspectives of the profession that they could integrate into practice.

Physical Therapy Academy at the Medical Academy for Science and Technology

FIU has been giving gifted students enriched learning opportunities and opening access to the University's world-class faculty through its involvement with Miami-Dade County's MAST (Medical Academy for Science and Technology) system – a collection of specialized magnet high schools where students choose to focus their studies in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

The College's Physical Therapy (PT) Department helped develop the Physical Therapy Strand at MAST Academy at Homestead (Fla.).

The PT Academy focuses on the science, research and latest developments in technology related to rehabilitative and restorative services. MAST @ Homestead students will study the human body, chemistry, physics, biomechanics, neuroanatomy, human growth and development,

manifestations of disease, examination techniques and therapeutic procedures. FIU Physical Therapy associate professor, Dr. Rose St. Prix, provided invaluable consultation, expertise and support in building the facility's laboratories, curriculum design, teacher preparation, and development of a pipeline for students to enroll at FIU.

Athletic Training – A Competitive Edge in Health Care

Like the patients they care for, the students and faculty of the college's Athletic Training department are always on the move, working to inspire and educate the next generation of athletic trainers.

• FIU/UHZ Sports Medicine High School Athletic Training Student Seminar

With participation in competitive high school sports on the rise, the College's Athletic Training (AT) Department and a local sports medicine practice welcomed high school students from all over Miami-Dade County for an interactive introduction to this dynamic profession.

Organized by Department Chair, Dr. Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, in concert with the UHZ Sports Medicine Institute, the annual event gave high school students an in-depth look at this high-demand health care specialty. In addition to presentations about the discipline and what's involved in an athletic training education program, high schoolers joined athletic trainers from the UHZ Sports Medicine and FIU Athletics, as well as AT students to participate in hands-on athletic training activities. Students learned both traditional treatments like turf toe and arch taping; participated in simulations of spine boarding in the STAR Center; and practiced wrapping and stretching techniques.

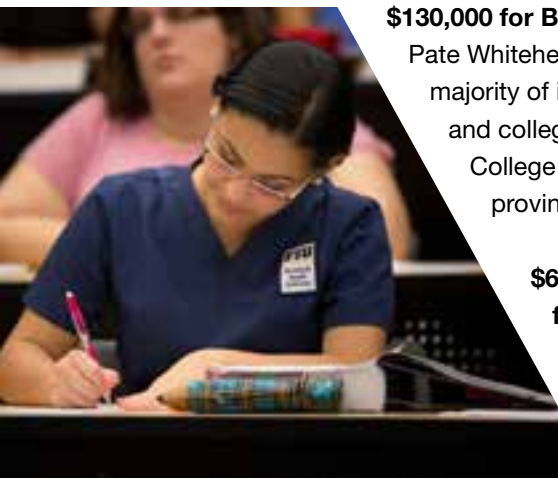
• Event Experiences – NASCAR Sprint Series and Miami Marathon

The College's Athletic Training Education program sets the bar high for their students and the next generation of athletic trainers. Students were on hand manning aid stations at the 2013 NASCAR Championship race at Homestead-Miami Speedway and 2014 Miami Marathon in downtown Miami, treating orthopedic injuries and providing first aid care. In addition to providing much-needed support services at these major community events, AT students get the opportunity to experience the interdisciplinary coordination of health care providers with other professionals, test their skills in a fast-paced environment and get their feet wet in a non-traditional healthcare setting.

FUELING THE FUTURE

Fueled by intellect and driven by innovation and caring, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences is making a real difference in the way health care is taught and practiced in South Florida, and influencing best practices across the country and in other parts of the world. This success would not be possible without the generous support of the College's many partners along the way.

A groundswell of support is propelling the College forward like never before. These individuals and organizations are helping transform short-term and long-term plans into measurable achievements. In addition to the \$10 million Wertheim family gift, here is an update on recent contributions from the 2013-2014 academic year.



\$130,000 for BSN Scholarships from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation is dedicated to supporting women's causes and devotes the majority of its resources to scholarship programs for deserving female students in schools and colleges across nine Southeastern states. The Foundation renewed its support to the College with a gift of \$130,000 for undergraduate nursing (BSN) scholarships to students proving outstanding academic achievement and high unmet financial need.

\$60,000 Gift for Faculty and Student Nursing Scholarships from the Florman Family Foundation

The Florman Family Foundation continues its long-time support of the College with a gift funding faculty scholarships as well as student scholarships. Thirty thousand dollars of the Foundation's gift, along with \$20,000 match from the Florida Blue Foundation, was directed to fund scholarship awards for nursing faculty members pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing.

The additional \$30,000 of the gift was matched by donors to provide two-year scholarships for nursing students at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.



A \$150,000 Gift from the Hugoton Foundation and Joan K. Stout, RN to Advance Clinical Nursing Care. This gift will enhance the Wallace Gilroy Endowed Research Fund, established in 2009, which supports research and teaching initiatives of nurse scholars, practitioners and educators who are focused on improving clinical practice and competencies of nursing care provided at the patient bedside. Grants awarded from this fund will be used to aid research faculty and attract additional research grants for studies addressing the overarching goal of improving clinical nursing care.



\$4 Million Planned Gift from Prentiss Lee Faulconer, Jr. and his wife Diane Ramy Faulconer

Through the Prentiss Lee Faulconer, Jr. and Diane Ramy Faulconer Endowment Fund, interest yielded from the seven-figure investment will be used to award scholarships for graduate students in disciplines that reflect their respective careers in the fields of business and nursing. For Diane – an FIU alumna whose more than 30 years in the nursing field spanned leadership positions in practice, nursing service management, consulting and health care operations – the gift is not merely about financial support for the academic and professional success of students pursuing a career in advanced practice nursing.


“This gift should constantly remind and encourage recipients that they need to take their hard-earned nursing knowledge and skill set and share it with others to benefit society—be it through community service, workplace mentorship, research, civic and organizational leadership, or patient advocacy,” said Mrs. Faulconer.

Helene Fuld Health Trust Gift for Accelerated Nursing Student Scholarships

The nation's largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing education has made a substantial \$650,000 gift to support students enrolled in one of the College's three accelerated nursing programs: 1) the award-winning and nation's first Foreign-Educated Physicians BSN/MSN program; 2) the VBSN Medic-to-Nurse program – one of only nine programs in the country established under the federal Veterans' Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing initiative; and 3) the Accelerated BSN option for students seeking a nursing career for their second degree, which will launch in January 2015.

The gift will be fulfilled over a three-year period, addressing both short-term and long-term financial objectives. Immediate support will come from a \$75,000 gift to begin awarding scholarships in the Fall 2014 semester. Another \$75,000 from the first installment will be used to establish the Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Endowment for Accelerated BSN Students. Monies generated by the endowment will be used to continue scholarship awards from the Trust in perpetuity. Half of subsequent annual payments of the gift will support the endowment.





William Gutierrez Physical Therapy Scholarship Endowment

Physical therapists teach patients how to prevent or manage their condition so that they will achieve long-term health benefits. At the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, one patient is turning the tables to ensure the long-term success of physical therapists to come.

Avid FIU benefactor, Theodore “Ted” Spak, Esq., expanded his generous support of the University after an enlightening introduction to physical therapy. His positive rehabilitation experience with FIU Exercise Science alumnus and founder of Dade Physical Therapy practice, William Gutierrez, compelled him to establish a scholarship endowment in William’s honor. Beginning in 2013, Mr. Spak gave more than \$103,000 to establish the William Gutierrez Physical Therapy Scholarship Endowment to help provide financial assistance for future FIU Doctor of Physical Therapy students. William and his wife, Lucy, also contributed a \$2,000 gift that was matched by FIU Foundation to supplement the 2013-2014 scholarship disbursements of the endowment.





The faculty and staff of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences have made possible the many recent strides in program excellence this past academic year. Through them, we are able to provide students with high quality academic health programs that address the culturally diverse health care needs of South Florida and the nation. These professionals embody the mission, vision and values of the College in everything they do and with every student they support.

We are fueled by intellect; driven by innovation and caring.



**Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences**

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