Nursing is about more than healing. It’s about standing up for our patients’ needs, being their voice in the healthcare system.

From the Dean’s Desk

Fall is a wonderful time of year and, in the academic world, a time of new beginnings. We have much to celebrate in the College of Nursing and Health, as you will find in the pages of this edition of the college magazine:

—Our disaster program will soon be available for college credit at both the graduate and undergraduate level. We have already been able to disseminate this much-needed knowledge to participants in eight states.

—Our faculty are more productive than ever. Through their efforts, we secured nearly $2 million in federal funding in an 18-month period. We have also been very fortunate to secure much-needed scholarship dollars to support our students at all levels during the Rise.Shine. Campaign as alumni and friends partner with us financially.

—After a successful accreditation visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and a positive review by the Ohio Board of Nursing, we are well positioned to continue producing outstanding nursing graduates, well versed in the art and science of nursing and ready to enter professional practice as Wright State University graduates.

We have several new players in the college whom we have highlighted here. And the college continues to grow and prosper due to our many community partnerships. I have been a nurse for nearly 39 years, and as I think about the communities where I have lived and practiced, I can easily say the community support in the Miami Valley region is matched by none! New and continuing projects are in place to support our students in so many ways, thanks to the significant support of our community partners. We would not have realized the many positive outcomes we have achieved in the last four years without these dedicated partnerships.

I would like to issue a reminder for the 2015–16 Cameos of Caring event to be held at the Benjamin & Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center on February 27, 2016, at 6 p.m. We are already working on our silent auction, and our own Dr. Bill Rickert, a beloved fixture at Wright State University, will be acting as master of ceremonies. Black tie is encouraged but optional; a good time is guaranteed! Hope to see you there.

But why are we really here? Why is our work important? We exist because we are meeting a national, regional, and local need to produce highly trained professionals who will positively impact the healthcare needs of our communities. In an aging society, nurses are needed more than ever; and the deficit continues to grow. The Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health has a rich history of service, research, practice, and teaching, and continues to lead the region in transformational pedagogy and innovative approaches to problem solving. We exist for you, the community, and for the promotion of your health and well-being.

Rosalie O’Dell Mainous
Ph.D., APRN, NNP-BC, FAANP
Dean, Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health
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Four Institutions Combine to Educate Nursing, Medical, and Pharmacy Students in Innovative New Program

By Sarah Olsen

Wright State University nursing students now have an opportunity to work alongside medical and pharmacy students as well as Kettering Medical Center staff in the new Interprofessional Dedicated Education Unit (IDEU) program designed to give students from different disciplines real-world clinical practice.

The project involves the Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health (CONH), the Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine, Cedarville University School of Pharmacy, and Kettering Medical Center. It was launched as a pilot project during the 2015 Spring Semester and is continuing in the Fall Semester. The IDEU is located in the hospital’s trauma unit.

CONH Dean Rosalie Mainous, Ph.D., APRN, NNP-BC, FAANP, said she is excited to have “the opportunity to work with Kettering Medical Center. They’ve been a tremendous partner.”

Mainous hopes that the IDEU will give the patients in the Dayton region a better experience.

Kettering personnel, including trauma nurses, surgeons, and staff pharmacists, have been trained as clinician educators and teach and mentor the students. They evaluate and have an active role with the students.

The IDEU project integrates two concepts: a Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) and Interprofessional Education (IPE). The DEU is a dedicated unit of staff to create a learning environment where students maximize their clinical experience and the staff are empowered in their teaching role. The IPE is focused on bringing multiple disciplines together as a team to learn from and with each other.

“It brings together the best of two educational strategies—the dedication of a unit to support our nursing students with well-trained preceptors and the addition of an interprofessional teaching/learning environment that’s critical to the success of the health professions,” said Mainous, who developed the IDEU model locally.

“When these two concepts come together, everyone wins, especially the patients we serve,” said Cheryl Waker, Ph.D., nurse researcher for the Kettering Health Network, who collaborated with leaders from Wright State and Cedarville University to design a study of the concept. “With the IDEU, we anticipate developing higher functioning clinical teams who deliver great care, which will improve patient quality outcomes.”

In order to participate in this program, nursing students must have senior status, take the senior capstone course, and have at least a 3.0 GPA. Cedarville Pharm.D. students must be in their final year of clinical rotations and medical students must be taking a surgical elective.

The nursing 10-credit course requires 200 hours at the hospital, 24 hours in the simulation lab, and class once a week for two hours over the course of the semester.

The students must meet their specific course requirements in addition to interprofessional activities.

Nursing students work throughout the semester and are assigned and supervised by a clinician educator or preceptor.
The IDEU concept includes a rotation through the emergency department so students can see the continuity of care.

Pharmacy and medical students work one-month rotations. All of the students work as a team and participate in grand rounds and interprofessional exercises. Each week, the team is led by a different member of the faculty—one week from medicine, then nursing, then pharmacy.

All students within the three different disciplines work in the Kettering Medical Center trauma unit. The trauma unit requires a high level of interprofessional assessment, management discussion, and collaboration. Learning activities include trauma rounds, case reviews, treatment options, simulation scenarios, and review of trauma studies, Waker said.

“I worked with all types of patients with different traumas. I continued to improve my communication with the trauma team,” said an IDEU student participant. “Every week, I feel like I am becoming more of a nurse and more confident in my skills.”

All three disciplines overlap and work together, especially on interdisciplinary days.

One IDEU student participant said, “I have learned a lot about teamwork...It has given me a new outlook on all the work that goes through on the different sides to provide safe, excellent care in order to get the patient back to a healthy state. I will continue to work on my collaboration with the healthcare team in hopes of improving my role as a nurse and providing the best care possible to my patients.”

The Kettering Medical Center staff and Wright State faculty said the program has already made a difference in the confidence and work of the students.

In the beginning of the program, Douglas Paul, D.O., director of the trauma program at the Kettering Medical Center and associate professor at Wright State's Boonshoft School of Medicine, noticed how initially uncertain the students felt in their roles and were naïve about how to be a successful clinician. In time, he saw how students were able to distinguish the most important information from patients and how to be successful during their rounds.

“You’re helping to be a better patient advocate,” Paul said. Cedarville pharmacy students are eager to continue to participate and learn alongside Wright State students and Kettering medical staff.

Aleda Chen, Pharm.D., Ph.D., the vice chair and assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Cedarville University, said, “The pharmacy students bring their clinical knowledge about medications and their skills in managing medication therapy to the team to assist in providing optimal therapeutic outcomes.”

Participating students gain experience and knowledge.

Nursing students on the IDEU have the advantage of being immersed in their clinical experience with a clinician educator, interacting closely with other disciplines, and participating in the unit’s staff meetings and principal investigator’s initiatives.

“The experience gives the student a chance to see what it would be like to work on a particular unit, as well as the employer to see which students would make great potential employees,” Waker said.

This is the first time Kettering Medical Center, Wright State, and Cedarville University have collaborated.

Students participating during the Fall Semester are experiencing a few changes. Pharmacy students’ participation will expand from one day a week to five. Students will have more time in the emergency room.

“I hope the core research team that we created will continue to test innovative ideas and programs that will improve the healthcare of our community,” Waker said.
Sitting in a car demolished by a tornado, an injured woman screams for help for her unresponsive sister. Outside the car it’s chaos. Buildings have been wiped out. Debris is scattered throughout the area.

A handful of survivors sit on the ground, too injured to move. A woman with an apparent head injury roams aimlessly, picking up objects.

Nurses and paramedics rush into the area and triage the wounded, applying tourniquets and dressing injuries. One paramedic assesses a survivor whose shirt is soaked with blood. A team of nurses uses a long steel pole to leverage a fallen telephone pole off a victim.

With no gurney available, volunteers strap another survivor to a wooden door, which had been blown off its hinges, and carry her to a staging area, where her injuries are further assessed before she is transported to a hospital.
Another group of nurses loads a survivor into a helicopter only to be told the weather is too severe to take off safely. They regroup and carry their gurney to a pickup instead.

These were scenes simulating a response to a tornado during a weeklong training program offered by Wright State University’s National Disaster Health Consortium (NDHC), an interprofessional program designed to standardize disaster preparedness, response, and recovery training.

It was the consortium’s third live training exercise at Wright State’s National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR) at Calamityville in Fairborn. The next round of exercises took place in October.

NDHC is designed for civilian and military healthcare professionals, including nurses, physicians, police officers, EMTs, and firefighters. Participants receive continuing education credit, a certificate from NDHC, and Advanced Disaster Life Support certification.

The program has attracted participants from around Ohio, New York, Kansas, Missouri, Florida, Maryland, and Nebraska and continues to develop a national reputation.

It is presented by the College of Nursing and Health and operated by the college’s Nursing Institute of West Central Ohio in collaboration with NCMR.

Instructors include faculty from the College of Nursing and Health, Wright State’s Boonshoft School of Medicine, retired military personnel, instructors from NCMR, and personnel from the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and its Medical Center.

The program was created to help meet the goal of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21, which calls for the creation of a common body of knowledge about disaster preparedness and training that crosses the civilian, military, and humanitarian experience.

This knowledge will better allow “disasters workers—whether they come from civilian, military, wherever—to work together,” said Dan Kirkpatrick, RN, NDHC instructor.

History shows that the United States must be better prepared for disaster response and recovery, said Sherry Farra, Ph.D., RN, NDHC Curriculum Director and assistant professor of nursing.

“That’s our goal: to help people work together to have the best response possible in the event of a disaster. And unfortunately that’s not always been well done,” she said.

Tami Ashbridge, a registered nurse and healthcare risk manager at the Wright-Patterson Medical Center, participated in the NDHC last spring. She praised the knowledge and experience of the instructors.

“They were truly subject matter experts in all areas of medical disaster and emergency management,” said Ashbridge, who also serves on the NDHC advisory panel and co-wrote a module on ethics and law for the program.

“They were able to draw upon personal experiences, training, and knowledge to ensure that the training and exercise experience was relevant, realistic, and engaging.”

**IMMERSIVE TRAINING**

NDHC includes online coursework, classroom lessons, and immersive training sessions held over four days, two days of which are at Calamityville, a 52-acre disaster training zone featuring concrete passageway-filled buildings, silos, tunnels, ponds, cliffs, and wooded areas.

Participants learn the latest techniques in first aid, how to extricate someone from a car or collapsed building, and how to load survivors safely into a helicopter, a pickup truck, a gator, and a bus configured to carry survivors.
Many of the updated first aid techniques—including applying tourniquets and treating burns—were learned during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kirkpatrick said. He emphasized that nursing and medical students do not receive first aid training while in school. And most practicing nurses and doctors are accustomed to working in sterile environments with readily available medical supplies.

But that won’t always be the case in an emergency. So NDHC participants learn how to clean and dress wounds without tape and gauze along with what they should keep in a first aid kit.

The program also covers proper ways to communicate over handheld radios and how to communicate and disperse assistance by training in NCMR’s state-of-the-art emergency operations center.

In addition, participants travel to the Dayton VA Medical Center to learn how to evacuate a hospital during an emergency.

One classroom session focuses on ethical issues in disasters. Participants are given an ethical situation and as a group must decide how they would handle it during a disaster. In one exercise, a group of people has been exposed to something causing respiratory problems. However, there are not enough ventilators for all of the survivors. So NDHC participants must decide who receives one and who does not.

Prior to the live training exercises, participants take online courses covering topics like the history of disasters, emergency management for healthcare organizations, and leadership during disasters.

Ashbridge said the history course shows how communities and institutions have not done enough to learn from previous emergencies. “This program is exciting because it’s a way to learn and grow from all those bad past experiences to help us do better in the future,” she said.

‘Nothing Goes Smoothly’

On the final day of training at Calamityville, participants go through a simulated exercise in which a massive tornado has devastated a fictional town. The exercise brings together everything participants have learned over the last four days: triage, first aid, and recovery, sheltering, transportation, and emergency response coordination.

A live training exercise last May included 38 participants, more than 20 CONH students posing as survivors, 10 instructors, and 10 evaluators observing how participants responded during the scenarios.
The exercise was meticulously planned and purposely designed to throw challenges and obstacles at participants. Volunteers were moulaged with makeup and fake blood to mimic various injuries. One survivor was instructed to wander around and pick up the first aid kits used by the nurses and paramedics.

Participants had to search for, assess, triage, and treat 10 tornado victims with various injuries, before moving them to a transport collection area. Extra supplies were not available, they were told when they called the emergency operations center, so they had to treat survivors with what they had on hand.

The exercise was designed to be stressful and challenging, said Jeff Gaylor, the lead paramedic in Wright-Patterson Medical Center’s emergency department and an NDHC instructor. “We want to mimic real life as much as possible, and nothing about a disaster zone—a tornado or natural disaster—nothing goes smoothly,” he said. “So if we can present them with unique problems here that they might encounter in the real world it gives them an opportunity to solve it without any consequences.”

Ashbridge said the exercises gave participants valuable hands-on training. “The simulated disaster areas and stories shared through the past experiences of the instructors made it easy to imagine performing the skills learned in a true event,” she said.

In an exercise called “surge,” participants set up a temporary care center after the town’s hospital was overwhelmed with survivors.

In the shelter scenario, nurses assessed a woman with dementia who can’t remember how she got there, while another survivor had a head injury. Participants learn Red Cross shelter rules (no smoking or drinking, for instance), how to properly fill out paperwork, and why they need to separate men from women.

Farra described the shelter training as one of the most important lessons NDHC participants receive. “We train the participants on how to be a shelter worker, how to assess survivors, how to identify people that have special needs within the shelter,” she said. “It’s really a critical part.”

Kevin Mollenhauer, a registered nurse, participated in the first NDHC live training program and returned to assist with two additional exercises. He said the first aid tornado exercise was his favorite because it “ties everything together.”

He said it is invaluable to have a safe environment in which to learn and practice. “And you’ve got a great selection of instructors here,” he said.

**Learn More**

More information about the National Disaster Health Consortium, including registration details, is available at wright.edu/ndhc or by calling (937) 775-3572.
The tiniest detail is represented. Blueprints were used to precisely capture the hallways and stairways. Modeling was used to reproduce the cribs and intravenous pumps. Even the textures of the walls are exact.

It’s the neonatology intensive care unit at Cincinnati Children’s Health Medical Center. And it has been reconstructed in the world of virtual reality for a unique research project being led by Wright State University’s Sherry Farra, Ph.D., RN, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health.

Virtual reality is a computer-simulated environment that can replicate physical presence in places found in the real world or imagined worlds. It can recreate sensory experiences, including virtual sight, sound, and touch.

Farra and fellow researchers are studying whether virtual reality training can be an effective and alternative way to prepare people to evacuate newborns from an intensive care unit during an emergency.

“If we can build a simulation where people can go and practice these skills, everybody can practice these skills in a lifelike environment and we can improve response in disaster situations,” Farra said.

With their fragile patient populations, hospitals are very vulnerable in disasters. For example, in May 2013, a tornado ripped through the Moore Medical Center in Oklahoma, forcing the hospital to move 30 patients.

“Disaster events are high risk, but low volume; they don’t happen often, but when they do, there is a lot of risk involved,” Farra said. “Both the Joint Commission accrediting organization and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require staff training to respond to a disaster.”

Farra received a three-year grant of more than $730,000 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

She is collaborating with researchers from the University of Cincinnati and Miami University and with physicians and staff at Cincinnati Children’s Health Medical Center. The hospital has a large neonatology department and a 55-bed Level IV newborn intensive care unit (NICU).

Traditionally, training is done through live exercises, with the staff conducting pretend evacuations. It can be costly and usually involves only a small fraction of the staff, who happen to be working at the time. Virtual reality would enable the entire staff to be trained.

“There are not that many studies that have looked at the psychomotor skill of preparing a baby for transport,” Farra said. “Nurses have to prepare the baby, use evacuation baskets, go in the right direction, take the right equipment. They need to practice all of those skills.”

Farra said there is not a lot of information in the literature about how to build a virtual reality simulation. She herself had to develop the storyboards, which identify images that are displayed in sequence for the purpose of visualizing an actual event.

“What does the healthcare staff need to learn? How do you build challenges?” she said. “You have content experts. You have education experts. You have simulation experts. And there is this whole psychology of gaming. There is a lot of interprofessional response needed.”

Actually building the virtual reality scenarios is Eric Hodgson, director of the Smale Interactive Visualization Center at Miami University. Hodgson conducts applied research related to immersive virtual reality and motion tracking.

Hodgson said the level of immersion and interactivity is great.

“We went to a lot of effort to take pictures of the walls and the signage just to make it a very familiar environment,” he said.

The disaster scenarios include a fire, an explosion, and a tornado. The first scenario is a horizontal evacuation (one floor), the second is a vertical (multiple floors), the third is a vertical evacuation with two babies, one of whom requires ventilation in a stairway. The fourth scenario is even more complex.

“The scenarios get increasingly difficult,” Farra said. Participants will wear a visor-like, head-mounted display and use hand controllers to manipulate, interact with, and move around in the environment and go through an evacuation procedure.

Newborns in intensive care are fragile and vulnerable.
“They are very low weight, they are at risk for hypothermia, and a lot of times they have respiratory and fluid needs,” Farra said. “If the baby is supposed to be hand ventilated on the stairway during an evacuation exercise, with the use of neonatal simulators we can actually document if the neonates have been ventilated at the appropriate rates.”

Farra will measure the outcomes of her research by holding an exercise prior to and then after the training to see if there is an improvement in performance. The performance will be compared to that of a control group that will undergo traditional training, not virtual reality.

“In virtual reality, there’s no place to hide; every movement is tracked,” she said. “It gives the participant immediate feedback.”

Some studies suggest that people retain information longer if they practice using virtual reality.

“That has to do with that whole theory of situated cognition—you learn it and then you do it,” Farra said. “Because nursing is a practice profession, we build on that learning by doing. In the virtual environment, the participant is actually doing things.”

The study will take more than a year. Sherrill Smith, Ph.D., RN, from the College of Nursing and Health and Farra also recently received a grant from the National League for Nursing to continue virtual reality research that involves students using controllers to decontaminate a site.

Farra said it is becoming more economical to produce virtual reality simulations.

“I think there is a lot of opportunity for training,” she said. “There is a huge movement to put education online and make it accessible.”

Farra grew up in Michigan and got her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Wayne State University. She obtained her master’s degree at Wright State as a clinical nurse specialist in adult health and her Ph.D. in nursing with a focus on scholarship of teaching and learning from the University of Cincinnati.

Farra became interested in virtual reality when she started playing video games with her son.

“T’m good at it,” she said. “T’m a kinetic learner so it makes really good sense that I do well in virtual simulation. Someone who is predominantly an auditory learner, I’m not so sure if they would like it as well.”

Farra’s doctoral dissertation examined the effects of triage training on nursing students in Second Life, an online virtual world. Her study found that students who trained in Second Life retained information longer when compared to those who went through traditional learning methods.

Dean Mainous, an expert in newborn care, is a consultant on the grant. “Dr. Farra’s leadership in this arena means that in the future, we will save babies’ lives,” said Mainous. “You can’t measure that kind of impact.”

Farra is the curriculum director of CONH’s National Disaster Health Consortium, an innovative disaster preparedness program for nurses, other healthcare professionals, and first responders. Participants learn basic disaster life support, disaster leadership principles, first aid, how to provide psychological support, and how to prioritize injuries.

In addition to teaching at Wright State, Farra is a research consultant to the chief nurse of the American Red Cross and serves as a Red Cross regional nurse leader for the Dayton and Cincinnati regions and on the Clinton County chapter’s board of directors.

Farra feels that with the knowledge and expertise at the university, there is a golden opportunity for it to become a pioneer in virtual reality research.

“I’d like to see Wright State be a leader,” she said.
Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health graduates are making an impact across the country.

**Ohio**: 5,089 working in 82 counties

**Florida**: 160

**Remaining States**: 159

**Top 10 Ohio Counties for CONH Alumni**

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<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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Our alumni live and work throughout Ohio...and in all 50 states! Take a closer look at where you can find Wright State nurses.

Alumni, stay connected by joining the College of Nursing and Health Alumni Society. For more information, visit nursing.wright.edu/connect.
John Cutcliffe, Ph.D., RN, is passionate about research and learning. He’s spent much of his nursing career conducting his own studies and supporting others in their research goals.

“The idea of generating new knowledge to me is exciting,” he said. “The idea of discovery is exciting. The idea of advancing one’s discipline’s knowledge base is phenomenally exciting.”

Cutcliffe has brought his enthusiasm for research to Wright State University’s College of Nursing and Health as the first Bertram C. and Lovetta R. Blanke Endowed Chair for Nursing Research and director of the Center for Nursing Research.

He wants to help create a culture of inquiry in the college and nurture a new generation of researchers among junior faculty and undergraduate and graduate students. With a long record of scholarly success, Cutcliffe has the background and experience to lead a renewed focus on research.

His scholarship focuses on hope, suicide, clinical supervision, and psychiatric and mental health nursing and mental healthcare.

Cutcliffe has held academic and research positions in England, Northern Ireland, Canada, and the United States. He was recognized by the Canadian federal government and cited as one of the “Top 20 Research Leaders of Tomorrow” for his work on hope and suicidology. He has published more than 290 papers and chapters and 11 books, and his work has been translated in seven languages and cited more than 4,000 times.

He initially researched the concept of hope among terminally ill HIV individuals, then shifted to looking at what role hope has in bereavement. As a mental health nurse, he sought to better understand how he can help patients become more hopeful and process grief in a healthier way. This was followed by a focus on suicide.

While he worked at universities in Canada and at Maine, Cutcliffe co-led a research project examining high risk of suicide in the first 28 days after patients are discharged from a psychiatric hospital. Researchers found that in-patient care of suicidal people was not very good, not very helpful, that clients have little if any say in when they’re discharged.” As a result, some patients leave the hospital more hopeless than when they arrived.

Cutcliffe and the other researchers showed that healthcare providers and hospitals need to improve in-patient care they provide to patients considering suicide. They must also work to help patients transition to leaving the hospital and give clients more of voice about when they are discharged.

Researchers also identified a host of easy and inexpensive follow-up actions hospitals can take with patients who have been discharged, including sending postcards and letters.

“There’s a good body of evidence that shows those simple measures have an effect and keep people alive,” Cutcliffe said.

Cutcliffe is originally from Leeds in Yorkshire, England. He grew up playing soccer and even tried out for the professional club in Bradford, Yorkshire, when he was 16. He remains an avid sports fan and since coming to North America has closely followed hockey, baseball, and American football. He’s also a mountaineer and has climbed on every continent but Antarctica.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in nursing and Ph.D. from Sheffield University in South Yorkshire, England. After working as a mental health nurse in England, he started teaching, first as an RPN working with junior nurses, then as a guest lecturer at Nottingham University.

“I found that challenging but rewarding,” he said. “It grew from there.”

As someone who loves to travel, he has sought opportunities to live and work abroad to immerse himself in different cultures. Experiencing cultures outside your comfort zone broadens your mind and can help eliminate ignorance and xenophobia, he said.

“I believe we are all in this together in this experiment that is humankind,” he said. “And I think it is an experiment that is helped if you can break down some of the fears of otherness.”

As both the Blanke Endowed Chair for Nursing Research and director of nursing research, Cutcliffe is responsible for facilitating, supporting, and driving the college’s research activity.
Cutcliffe’s goal is to create a culture of inquiry within the college and move the institution toward a renewed focus on scholarship. He wants the college to embrace an atmosphere in which "all of your faculty who are research active regard that as de rigueur—a normal—as just part of their everyday work."

“It hasn’t been the raison d’être—or reason for being—of research," he said of research, "and thus it takes, quite dramatic in some ways, but a rudimentary change in your everyday thinking of the core business of your college."

Cutcliffe and CONH can undertake a number of concrete steps to achieve this goal, including giving course relief for faculty members to conduct research projects, providing support from graduate students, and implementing a formal internal review process for scholarly papers, research proposals, and grant applications.

CONH will also launch a new website for the Center for Nursing Research this fall and plans to create a new distinguished lecture series. Over the summer, some research-focused faculty members moved to the third floor of University Hall to help foster a purposeful atmosphere of camaraderie around their research.

Cutcliffe is especially interested in capacity building, or nurturing junior faculty members and students who are interested in exploring research opportunities. For Cutcliffe, cultivating new scholars is one way to be a good citizen and good member of the nursing field.

“It’s not only a duty, but it would be irresponsible if I didn’t facilitate that next generation of scholars,” he said.

He said he wants to know that in “my twilight years when I get infirmed I’d be cared for by nurses who know what they’re doing and that there’s been advancements in the science of nursing. So that means we need researchers.”

Cutcliffe also plans to get more undergraduate students involved in research—something, he acknowledges, most nursing students at the baccalaureate level are not asked to do.

The idea, he said, is to sow “seeds of wonderment around research and the notion of knowledge generation” by providing hands-on research opportunities for undergraduates.

“Students ought to be active participants in as much of the active research process as you can," he said. “In my opinion, that’s a very effective way of building that sense of awe when they’re involved.”

The Blanke Endowed Chair is Cutcliffe’s third endowed research position. He previously held an endowed chair at the University of Texas and the University of Maine.

He also has served as associate dean of nursing at Stenberg College in Vancouver and was chair of nursing at the University of Northern British Columbia.

He currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa, University of Coimbra in Portugal, and the University of Malta.
For Anna Monnett, nursing isn’t just a job. It’s a calling.
“Work is love made visible,” she said. “And there really is no better work than this . . . There is nobody who gets away without interacting with a nurse. We are critical to the fabric of society. I have a strong interest in making sure there are qualified people coming behind me.”

Monnett’s desire to give back ties into the values she learned at Wright State—community, diversity, service, and faithfulness. Monnett has taken the directive to serve seriously. She has spent her entire career at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where she values its mission-driven purpose.

Monnett is also an active and consistent donor to the College of Nursing and Health. When asked why she chooses to give back to the college she graduated from first in 1983 with her bachelor’s and then in 1987 with her master’s, Monnett’s answer is simple.
“It’s what Wright State did for me,” she said. “I would really encourage everybody to pay it forward and reinvest in the people that are coming behind you.”

In 2004, Monnett was honored as a Distinguished Alumna of the College of Nursing and Health. This year, Monnett has endowed a new scholarship that will help highly qualified nursing students overcome the challenges of the program.
“You know, in that third year, money gets tight. You’re going to classes, and doing clinicals, and it doesn’t leave much time for working,” she said. “If I could endow a scholarship that could help students get over that hump, then, well, I was going to.”

Monnett started working at the Dayton VA Medical Center right after she graduated with her BSN. More than 30 years later Monnett is still there, now as chief nurse executive and associate director for patient care services. Over the course of her career, she has witnessed changes both in the medical industry and at Wright State.
“I love that my little school has grown into this regional force,” said Monnett. “I’m proud of my school.”

When Monnett first graduated from Wright State in 1983, the university had fewer than 13,000 students. Today, the university has more than 17,000 students from 69 countries. The College of Nursing and Health has more than 1,000 enrolled students.
“When I went to Wright State, I was the first in my family to go college,” she said. “I was impressed by the focus on community health, and the diversity at Wright State was amazing.”

Monnett found herself in classes with students from all walks of life, and the experience has motivated her work at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

“For the first time, I was in class with veterans, with government workers, with nurses returning to school,” she said. “There was a man in my class who drove a truck with straw every day!”

The biggest change Monnett has seen in the healthcare field is the focus on patient-centered care—an approach Monnett says she has already observed in the students and graduates coming from Wright State to work at the Dayton VA. When she moved into a leadership position, she was soon part of interviewing and hiring Wright State graduates. She has been consistently impressed with the graduates coming from the College of Nursing and Health.

“It’s still about community and diversity and service and faithfulness,” said Monnett, “The important change [in healthcare] is a movement towards patient-centered care. It’s not just a medical model anymore.”

Monnett’s service has continued in other arenas beyond Wright State. She represents Veterans Integrated Service Network 10 on the National Nurse Executive Council and co-chairs the VISM 10 Strategic Planning and Analysis Council, serves on the Regional Nurse Professional Standards Board, and is a member of the National SimLearn Steering Committee. She also serves on the Academic and Strategic Planning Board at the College of Nursing and Health, as well as an advisory board member for the Department of Nursing at Miami University.

“Nursing as a profession has this tradition. It’s a tradition of service, a tradition of collaboration, a tradition of leadership,” she said. “We are leaders. We lead teams. We lead organizations.”

Visible

“I love that my little school has grown into this regional force. I’m proud of my school.”

HOW TO GIVE

The College of Nursing and Health is grateful for the support and commitment of its alumni, faculty, and friends. It is through these gracious donations that the college is able to succeed in its community mission of delivering quality education to the region’s future and professional nurses.

There are many ways you can give to the college. We can apply your gift where it is most needed, or you can name a specific program, scholarship, or fund you wish to support.

For more information, please contact:
Bill Bigham
Director of Development
(937) 775-3694
bill.bigham@wright.edu.
We have a longstanding partnership with Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing,” said Peggy Mark, M.B.A., BSN, chief learning officer at Premier Health. It dates back to 1984 when Miami Valley Hospital, now the flagship of Premier Health, closed its diploma program and combined it with Wright State’s nursing program. In fact, that’s how the Wright State–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health got its name.

“We love having Wright State nursing students for clinical rotations, as well as graduates as new employees,” said Mark, who earned her BSN from Wright State. Trish Wackler, MSN, M.H.A., RN, director of clinical education at Premier Health, readily agreed. She oversees the clinical rotations of nursing students who are placed in every hospital in the Premier Health network.

Premier Health is partnering with Wright State to enhance the capstone experience for senior nursing students during their final semester. Premier Health will try to accommodate the student nurse’s area of interest when appropriate and place them in a suitable unit so they can begin to work with the people who may become their teammates in the future.

“The socialization piece is very important as students transition into the nursing profession,” said Wackler. “Having social support is really important to their success.”

“As they come into their final experience in school, we can begin to think about how they become employed at Premier Health as a nurse,” Mark explained. “Now it will be more seamless as they move from student to employee.”
**Nurse Residency Program**

Premier Health recently implemented a nurse residency program for new graduate registered nurses. Nurse graduates are often overwhelmed in their first year of employment and may lack confidence as they transition into a new and challenging work environment. According to Wackler, these feelings often cause a new nurse to leave a position or even the nursing profession.

“Nurse residency programs have been shown to improve nursing retention, patient safety, and quality in nursing care,” she said.

The first nursing residency cohort includes 100 nurses, many of whom graduated from Wright State. The one-year program includes a minimum of 420 clinical hours and validation on 100 percent of their competencies. Wright State student nurses will be exposed to the competencies of the RN residency during their capstone semester, which will help socialize them into Premier Health more quickly.

Research has demonstrated that nurses who can go through a defined residency program have a higher level of confidence as they move into their practice and can demonstrate competencies in many areas.

“We want to attract the best employees and have them stay here,” said Mark. “It serves our region to be able to keep nurses here in solid and stable employment situations.”

“Everyone from the college of nursing has been proactively thinking outside the box to find ways to best serve students and the community,” she noted. “It has been a true partnership approach to working together.”

**Online RN-BSN Partnership**

Wright State and Premier Health have announced a “preferred partnership status” for a new online RN-BSN scholarship program to further the education of the Premier Health nursing workforce. The agreement assists Premier Health nurses to take classes in the online RN-BSN Completion program at Wright State.

The RN-BSN Completion program is designed for registered nurses who have an associate degree or diploma in nursing to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Students may complete the program in as little as 15 months.

Effective fall 2015, the program is intended for benefit-eligible Premier Health nursing employees who have successfully completed their introductory employment period. The scholarship is an additional benefit for Premier Health staff who have already been approved for the organization’s enhanced tuition assistance program.

Wright State will provide Premier Health nurses with additional scholarship assistance to pay for classes in the RN-BSN Completion program.

Syl Trepanier, D.N.P., Premier Health system vice president and chief nursing officer, said, “We’re excited about our partnership with Wright State University. We believe that the culture of service excellence that is the hallmark of the Premier Health nursing staff, coupled with merits of Wright State’s outstanding academic traditions, will not only serve our respective institutions well, but, more importantly, will enable us to better serve the healthcare needs of the people of southwest Ohio while advancing the nursing profession.”

“We are happy to be a part of this incredible opportunity,” said College of Nursing and Health Dean Rosalie Mainous, Ph.D. “Nursing as a profession is rapidly changing, and our RN-BSN program has been designed so that graduates will be prepared for leadership roles in the evolving healthcare landscape.”

“Our partnership validates our commitment to strengthen the future nursing workforce for our region. The online program and curriculum is perfect for the working nurse,” said Ann Stalter, Ph.D., Wright State associate professor and director of the RN-BSN Completion program.

The RN-BSN Completion program focuses on developing nurses’ leadership skills and giving nurses the tools and knowledge to help consumers navigate a complex healthcare system. The program includes a complete redesign and upgrade of online courses that emphasize interactivity and community among students. Wright State nursing faculty have even developed a learning community for Premier Health nurses, which provides partial support for students in the program.

The objective of the scholarship program is to help to defray out-of-pocket expenses for Premier Health employees who are either pursuing a nursing degree from Wright State, or who are taking approved prerequisite courses for the university’s RN-BSN Completion program. The scholarship applies to tuition only and is applicable after an employee utilizes the Premier Health enhanced tuition assistance program for the calendar year.

“As our industry changes, nursing roles are going to become different and shift and evolve,” Mark said. “Having collaborative partners like Wright State is going to be essential to be able to meet the demands of our communities.”
People and dogs. These are the two driving forces in the life of nursing student Brittany Clark, who has a passion for caring for both patients and canines.

Clark, a senior nursing major in the College of Nursing and Health, has been working with 4 Paws Abilities for four years and is currently working with her 10th service dog, Rye.

4 Paws for Abilities is a nonprofit organization that enriches the lives of children or veterans with disabilities by training and placing them with task-trained service dogs, helps with animal rescue, and educates the public on the use of service dogs. The CONH is now partnering with the Office of Disability Services to sponsor 4 PAWS.

Growing up in Bryan, Ohio, Clark wanted to pursue a career as a veterinarian but did not want to euthanize animals. Her parents, who worked in automotive industry, encouraged her to pursue a job that would always be needed.

The answer became clear.

With a caring heart to help others, Clark came to Wright State pursuing pre-med. She later changed her focus to nursing because nurses are often able to spend more time getting to know their patients.

In her second semester at Wright State and the first year 4 Paws was on campus, Clark immediately became involved. Clark served for two years as vice president and two years as president of the organization.

There were a few unique features that drew Clark to Wright State.

After living in a small farm town, Wright State “feels like a community to me. I’ve been to a ton of other schools that were divided by four-lane streets,” Clark said. “Wright State is a hidden gem.”

Wright State is believed to be the first university in the
United States with a dog park for service dogs.

The Wright State Wingerd Service Dog Park “is a great resource not only for the 4 Paws Wright State members but also for the students who use service dogs. It’s the only place our dogs can run off leash,” Clark said.

She takes her service dogs to the dog park at least once a week. Rye loves to run and play with tennis balls.

“I’ve learned a lot about animals and myself as a leader,” Clark said. “It has made me more open to uncomfortable situations and learning new things.”

Clark specifically likes to take her service dogs to the zoo. “It’s a great way for the dogs to meet kids and the zoo animals act completely different when they see a dog. You’ll see the monkeys and big cats . . . will run up to the glass to see the dogs. We usually end up with families following us around the zoo as they get to see the animals like they never have before,” said Clark.

4 Paws takes puppies to prison to get trained for basic obedience skills by trusted prisoners before being partnered with a volunteer such as Clark, for social skills and additional training.

The 4 Paws organization observes each dog’s personality and skills to determine the type of service in which to train them. They train dogs in search and rescue, seizure alert, diabetic alert, food allergies, mobility assistance, autism assistance, hearing assistance, Down’s syndrome assistance, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or drug exposure, behavioral disruption (a dog may disrupt someone who is hurting themselves), or are trained for multiple needs.

“One of my dogs was given to an autistic child who ran away a lot. The dog was tethered together with a belt to the boy in public so the boy wouldn’t run away,” said Clark.

Many of the students who volunteer in 4 Paws may never see their dogs after their training is complete.

“They become a big part of your life, but you have to give them up. We don’t need them like other people do,” Clark said. She will miss working with the dogs and meeting the families that her service dogs get sent to and the 4 Paws family. Clark has had a service dog throughout her college experience.

“They are with us through everything, when we walk at graduation, when I got engaged, all the worrying and studying for big exams. They become a huge part of your life,” she said.

4 Paws has “taught me a lot about service dogs, people, and myself and I’m grateful to have been a part of it,” Clark said.

4 Paws uses specific breeds for training, including papillons, golden retrievers, golden and black labs, and golden doodles. At least 80 dogs have been through Wright State’s 4 Paws since the program started in 2012.

Clark said about 50 percent of the dogs graduate or successfully meet the expectations for their service of training. Dogs who do not pass are put up for adoption or are used for breeding for 4 Paws.

She said the opportunity to work with the dogs has enabled her to meet many children with disabilities and learn how to best interact with them.

“It would be great for patients as it may help them feel better and give them a little animal therapy and a break from the hospital world,” Clark said.

“Nursing is about helping other people and being empathetic . . . The CONH is a perfect match and makes a lot of sense to partner with us [4 Paws] in that way,” said Clark. “It’s good for the CONH because we’re trying to help people’s lives, and it’s good to back it up by supporting an organization that helps people.”

Clark currently works at the Kettering Medical Center and plans on furthering her education in medical school for labor and delivery or critical care. She also wants to open a no-kill animal shelter.

For more information about 4 Paws for Abilities, visit http://4pawsforability.org/.
The College of Nursing and Health Alumni Society held its semi-annual wine tasting event August 20 at the Dayton Racquet Club. Attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, fine wines, and a magnificent view from atop the Kettering Tower, Dayton’s tallest building.

Anne Russell, associate professor and director of CONH’s Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist concentration, served as the “celebrity” bartender for the evening. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships for College of Nursing and Health students.

The College of Nursing and Health Alumni Society focuses on recruiting and retaining nursing students, faculty, and administrators and working in an advisory capacity with the College of Nursing and Health to help provide a supportive and productive environment in which nursing students can study, teach, and develop as individuals.

Misty Richmond, Ph.D., P.M.H., NP-BC, was appointed the director of psychiatric-mental health practitioner concentration in the CONH. She now advises students in that concentration until their graduation. She also develops clinical placements and helps prepare students for their national certification exams. In addition to her teaching experience, Richmond is a psychiatric nurse practitioner herself and has worked in hospital settings for over 25 years.

Barbara Fowler, Ph.D., RN, PHCNS-BC, was selected to serve as the CONH’s Faculty Equity Fellow. In this role, she will support the Wright State vision of inclusive excellence and innovation by increasing the diversity and success of its talented faculty. A professor in the CONH, Fowler has a passion for working with and learning from diverse communities. She has been on faculty in the College of Nursing and Health since 1988.

Denise Porter, M.B.A., CMPE, is the new business manager and diversity officer for the college. She began working for Wright State in 2004 in the Boonshoft School of Medicine. She enjoys working behind the scenes to help faculty, staff, and students be successful in their pursuits within the college. Porter graduated from Kentucky Christian College with her bachelor’s and from Wright State for her MBA. She is also a Certified Medical Practice Executive through the Medical Group Management Association.
The College of Nursing and Health went through a lengthy reaccreditation process with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The CCNE Board of Commissioners again granted full accreditation status to the CONH’s programs for 10 years— the maximum period possible.

CONH was well represented at the 2015 Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference. Five faculty members—Sherry Farra, Tara Konicki, Yi-Hui Lee, Sherrill Smith, and Deborah Ulrich—and five students—Camilla Brewer, Charlene Dusing, Eva Fried, Lisa Jasin, and Jennifer Wiedel—all presented their research at the event. In addition, Charlene Dusing, a student in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care program, was awarded an honorable mention in the master’s student competition.

Sherrill Smith, Ph.D., RN, CNE, assistant dean of undergraduate programs, was awarded a grant of more than $900,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration to facilitate an accelerated BSN degree program for veterans and active duty military personnel. The Veteran’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (WSU-VBSN) program will begin in 2016. The grant will fund the first three years of the program and allow the college to acquire additional lab equipment.

Deborah Ulrich, Ph.D., RN, associate dean for undergraduate programs, has been selected by the National League of Nursing to be in its 2015 Class of Fellows. Fellows are chosen based on their innovative teaching and learning strategies, nursing education research, faculty development, academic leadership, and community partnerships.

Giving back to the College of Nursing and Health allows us to train the nurses of tomorrow. Our donors fund scholarships to ease the financial burden of hard-working students, endowed positions to attract top-quality faculty, and cutting-edge equipment to stock our teaching laboratories.

An increasing number of our financial supporters are naming the university in their will or trust. Such deferred gifts are extremely meaningful, will have no or minimal impact on your current finances, and can be designated to the College of Nursing and Health.

If you’d like to discuss designing a planned gift, please contact Bill Bigham at (937) 775-3694 or bill.bigham@wright.edu.

The Robert A. and Veronica B. Sweeney Family Scholarship

ROBERT J. SWEENEY sees the impact Wright State University graduates have on their communities every day in his role as the university’s executive vice president for planning and secretary to the Board of Trustees. But Wright State’s nursing alumni have had a personal impact on Sweeney by touching the lives of his family.

“My father had medical challenges throughout his life,” said Sweeney. “The one constant was the quality of care he received from Wright State’s nursing students and graduates.”

Sweeney, along with his brother and his three sisters, decided to honor the memory of their late parents by endowing a CONH scholarship in their names. The Robert A. and Veronica B. Sweeney Family Scholarship will support senior-level nursing students who have demonstrated community involvement.

“My parents realized that college requires a real financial commitment and they would have wanted to lessen that burden,” said Sweeney. “They had a great respect for higher education and its ability to transform the lives of an individual and their future.”
COMING IN 2016 TO WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Veteran’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (WSU-VBSN)

The WSU-VBSN program is an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program developed for veterans and active duty personnel from the Air Force, Army, and Navy who have completed training as a medic or corpsman. The program is designed to recognize the healthcare training of military personnel so they can achieve their BSN.

Why Wright State University?

Wright State University has been ranked as a military-friendly school for six consecutive years by GI Jobs and Military Advanced Education. We’re home to more than 1,000 veteran and military-affiliated students, ROTC cadets, guardsmen, and reservists. Our new, state-of-the-art Veteran and Military Center employs full-time staff and student veterans who provide student support, including help with GI Bill benefits. Wright State is located near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Dayton VA Medical Center.

Program Highlights

• Opportunities to obtain college credit for military training and experience
• Accelerated program allows completion of nursing sequence in shorter time than traditional pre-licensure BSN program*
• Full-time WSU-VBSN advisor on-site that understands the unique needs of veterans
• Full-time student success coordinator and tutors available for academic assistance
• Faculty trained to understand the unique veteran student population
• Option to pursue disaster certification in conjunction with Wright State’s National Center for Medical Readiness

*Assumes completion of all required prerequisites for the nursing program

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Sherrill Smith at sherrill.smith@wright.edu or call (937) 775-2665

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nursing.wright.edu/veteran