

Summer 2021

THE FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON
SCHOOL OF NURSING
AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

foreFRONT

Three women, nurse researchers, are standing together outdoors in front of a building entrance. The woman on the left is wearing a green dress with a white floral pattern and black shoes. The woman in the middle is wearing a red top, a light-colored blazer, and light-colored pants. The woman on the right is wearing a blue dress with a white belt and high-heeled shoes. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

Asking What Matters

Nurse researchers team up
to implement age-friendly care in
CVS MinuteClinics across U.S.

foreFRONT

conTENTS



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About *Forefront*

This publication is produced for the alumni and friends of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. The *Forefront* mission is to inform readers about the school's excellence in nursing science, education and practice and how it impacts daily lives.

Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing

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On the Cover:

Anne Pohnert, Mary Dolansky and
Robin Hughes outside the Health
Education Campus of Case Western
Reserve and Cleveland Clinic.

Photo by Angelo Merendino.

dean's LETTER



To Alumni and Friends of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing,

As we begin a new academic year at Case Western Reserve University, our school of nursing is poised to continue its missions of scholastic excellence, clinical leadership, community engagement, and innovative scientific endeavors. The incoming Class of 2025 in our undergraduate program is our largest ever, with 140 BSN students!

We are now back on campus, with in-person classes and clinicals, indoor masking and 100% compliance with the university's vaccine verification process among students, faculty and staff. Our faculty and staff have prepared for the annual influx of students by refining lesson plans, updating clinical lab scenarios and finding research opportunities for students. We continue to monitor the changing backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it brings. The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing community's response has been remarkable, and you will learn more about those efforts throughout this issue.

The school of nursing has provided time, resources and critical insight in helping to shape the university's response. Working with our colleagues from across all schools and the college, Case Western Reserve has kept transmission rates at exceedingly low rates—with testing positivity rates at the end of spring semester at or below one-tenth of 1 percent on average. The path forward is still being laid at our feet, as Delta and other variants continue to create a changeable situation, but the university is moving ahead with a measured and responsive approach. I am so proud of our community and the enthusiastic embracing of public health measures to keep us safe on campus.

Throughout the pandemic, our faculty, staff and students have continued their service and care through efforts such as mobile patient visits (p. 11) and staffing vaccine clinics (p. 30). Our researchers also are exploring the pandemic's effects on mental, physical and emotional health (p. 10).

As we return to campus, I am thrilled to share that our BSN, MN, MSN and DNP programs have all achieved re-accreditation through 2031 (p. 13). In the latest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, our MSN, DNP and advanced practice specialty programs ranked in the top 15 schools in the country (p. 6). Academic community members achieved great successes (p. 4), with a collaborative group earning top marks at the 2021 annual conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS).

One of the groups recognized by MNRS is our featured story about the innovative partnership between the school, CVS MinuteClinic and the John A. Hartford Foundation (p. 16). This groundbreaking implementation study is transforming how age-friendly care is delivered at 1,100 retail clinics across the country.

In a first look at our new nurse anesthesia certificate program (p. 12), meet a few of our newest students eager to pursue a career as CRNAs. The program—led by Nurse Anesthesia Program Director Sonya Moore—is the first of its kind to unite five universities to diversify and grow the pool of future nurse anesthetists.

We have an exciting year ahead here at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, and we are thrilled to share it with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol M. Musil". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN

Dean and Edward J. and Louise Mellen Professor
 Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
 Case Western Reserve University

Recognizing recent achievements of our faculty, staff and students

honors and appointments



Siobhan Aaron

Postdoctoral fellow **Siobhan Aaron, PhD**, received a Dissertation Award from the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Palliative and End-of-Life Care Research Interest Group.



Megan Alder

Megan Alder, PhD, RN (GRS '21, nursing), received an honorable mention in the MNRS PhD Student Poster Competition for her poster, "Sleep Disturbance and Challenging Behaviors in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Caregiver Stress."



Patricia Beam

Clinical instructor **Patricia Beam, DNP, RN (NUR '15)**, received an Alpha Mu Research Grant for "Factors Influencing Nurses' Stress and Growth During the COVID-19 Pandemic."



Mary Dolansky

Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN (GRS '01, nursing), the Sarah Hirsch Professor of nursing, and **Anne Pohnert, Doctor of Nursing Practice student and director of quality at CVS Health, as well as Dolansky's CWRU team Megan Foradori, Robin Hughes, Brian Crick (CWR '99), Evelyn Duffy, DNP (NUR '04), and Nicholas Schiltz, PhD (GRS '13, epidemiology and biostatistics)**, were recognized with a MNRS Research Interest Group Outstanding Partnership Award for their work with the John A. Hartford Foundation and CVS MinuteClinic (see p. 16).



Faye Gary

Faye Gary, EdD, RN, the Medical Mutual of Ohio Kent W. Clapp Chair and Professor of Nursing, was selected for induction to Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing's International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. She also received the MNRS Senior Investigator Award from the Health of Diverse Populations Research Interest Group.



Stephanie Griggs

Assistant Professor **Stephanie Griggs, PhD, RN**, received the New Investigator Award from the MNRS Self Care Research Interest group. She also earned the Sage Best Faculty Paper Award from the MRNS and its journal, *Western Journal of Nursing Research*. In addition, Griggs won an American Academy of Sleep Medicine Foundation COVID-19 Relief Supplement and a separate Diversity Supplement for her study, "Sleep, Self-Management, and Glycemia in Emerging Adults with Type 1 Diabetes."



Heather K. Hardin

Assistant Professor **Heather K. Hardin, PhD, RN**, was selected by the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review to participate in its Early Career Reviewer Program.



Carolyn Harmon Still

Assistant Professor **Carolyn Harmon Still, PhD, RN (GRS '10, nursing; MGT '16)**, was selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in the Class of 2021. She also was elected to the MNRS Board of Directors as a member-at-large and earned a Mid-

Career Investigator Award from the Self Care Research Interest Group.



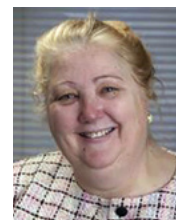
Jamie Hunsicker

Jamie Hunsicker, DNP, RN (NUR '20), received second place in the MNRS DNP Student Poster competition for her poster, "The Kenton Hardin County Family Bike Program."



Elliane Irani

Assistant Professor **Elliane Irani, PhD, RN**, received a Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing 2020 Small Grant for her research study, "Resourcefulness and Health Outcomes in Persons with Cardiovascular Disease and their Care Partners."



Susan Ludington

Susan Ludington, PhD, RN, the Carl W. and Margaret Davis Walter Professor of Pediatric Nursing, and her team received funding from the Think Big: 2021 Corporate Visiting Committee Seed Sprint Fund at Case Western Reserve University for interdisciplinary research to save newborn lives.



Atsadaporn "Papa" Niyomyart

PhD candidate **Atsadaporn "Papa" Niyomyart** received a FPB Alumni Research Award from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Alumni Association for the study, "The Relationships Among Knowledge and Mutuality in Patient-Caregiver Dyads, Patient's Self-Efficacy, and Heart Failure Self-Management in Thailand."



Julia O'Brien

Julia O'Brien, PhD, RN (CWR '14; GRS '21, nursing), received the inaugural Joyce M. Stielau Award from the school of nursing for early-career investigators. She also received a Dissertation Award from the MNRS Health of Diverse Populations Research Interest Group.

Instructor and KL2 clinical research



Grant Pignatiello

scholar **Grant Pignatiello, PhD, RN (CWR '13; GRS '18, nursing)**, received the Early Career Investigator Award from the MNRS Family Health Research Interest Group.

Associate Professor **Matthew Plow,**



Matthew Plow

PhD, received a 2020 Mentor-Based Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which will enable the funding of new FPB postdoctoral fellows.

Assistant Professor **Andrew Reimer,**



Andrew Reimer

PhD, RN (CWR '04; GRS '10, nursing), received a MNRS Mid-Career Investigator Award from the Health Systems, Policy and Informatics Research Interest Group.



Carol Savrin

Associate Professor **Carol Savrin, DNP, RN (NUR '01)**, was named the 2021 National Practitioner State Award for Excellence from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Nursing professor earns university's highest faculty honor

Faye Gary, EdD, RN, was shocked when Provost Ben Vinson III revealed she was the recipient of the institution's highest honor, Distinguished University Professor, which she received in August at Case Western Reserve's fall convocation.

"My first response was, 'Lord, have mercy. How could this be?'" she said.

It wasn't a shock to her colleagues and friends at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, who have witnessed the indomitable nurse researcher shape the field of psychiatric nursing. Gary's work has informed health policy related to child and adolescent mental health, health disparities and domestic violence.

"Faye, you have excelled in all of the areas that we deem and treasure as fundamental to the university—research, scholarship, teaching and service," Vinson said. "You are a model of the transformative citizen leader that we aspire to cultivate here at Case Western Reserve."

When nominating Gary—the Medical Mutual of Ohio Kent W. Clapp Endowed Chair and Professor of Nursing—for the honor, Dean Carol M. Musil cited her excellence in research, scholarship and impact on the university community.

Gary established the Provost Scholars Program, a partnership between East Cleveland City Schools and the university that creates opportunities



Photo by Matt Shiffier.

for East Cleveland students to become successful undergraduates.

"This groundbreaking program reflects Dr. Gary's vision, expertise, and commitment to dismantling systems that promote economic and health disparities," Musil wrote. "Her ability to leverage community resources to help vulnerable youth positively shape their futures has, and continues to have, positive effects on the university and East Cleveland communities."

Gary thanked Vinson, Musil and her colleagues, and said her work reflects her experiences and the vision and connections she's made at the university.

"I thank you for bringing me peace and acknowledging me in a way that is beyond my dreams."



Joachim Voss

Joachim Voss, PhD, RN, the Independence Foundation Professor in Nursing Education, received a CCI Research Foundation grant award for his COVID-19 pandemic-related study, "Testing the Applicability of a Toolkit for Relieving Healthcare Personnel Stress and Improving Their Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

In the ranks

Case Western Reserve’s health-related graduate and professional programs continued their prominence in this year’s *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, with Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing leading the charge. Three programs placed in the top 10 and four more in the top 15.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

#12 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

#13 Master of Nursing Science (MSN)

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

#5 DNP - Leadership Track

#7 MSN - Acute Gerontological Care

#8 MSN - Mental Health

#12 MSN - Family Care

#12 MSN - Primary Gerontological Care

New courses train nursing students for virtual care

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced the majority of meetings virtual, health care visits were no exception. But the traditional nursing curriculum has never accounted for telehealth care.

Enter the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, where, this spring, researchers developed a four-part course to develop nurses’ core competencies in telehealth, with modules on telepresence, remote assessments, COVID-19-specific disease information, and quality and safety of virtual care.

More than 400 prelicensure nursing students and several faculty members at the school completed the telehealth modules, as part of a Health Resources and Services Administration grant to Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN (GRS ’01, nursing), the Sarah C. Hirsch Professor at CWRU, to integrate more primary care competencies into baccalaureate nursing education.

Some BSN, MN and MSN students also participated in telehealth simulations, working with remote monitoring technology, such as pulse oximeters and blood pressure equipment. Plus, the course has been made available to practicing nurses more broadly.

The modules were developed by Associate Professor Carol Savrin, DNP, RN (NUR ’01); Doctor of Nursing Practice student Kathleen Szymanski; and Barb Tassell, a research associate at the school of nursing and an education consultant who is project manager for the telehealth course.





Alumni couple commits \$7.5 million to advance multidisciplinary research in neurodegenerative disease

For alumni John (MED '86) and Catherine (WRC '77, NUR '81) Seibyl, partnership goes beyond a bond to each other. Thanks to a transformative \$7.5 million commitment to Case Western Reserve University, it now extends to their respective schools in support of multidisciplinary research in neurodegenerative disease.

The gift, to be used collaboratively with the School of Medicine and the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, will substantially enhance the university's ability to—in the words of Catherine Seibyl—"create ripple effects" that benefit patient outcomes in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis.

At the core of the Seibyls' gift is the appeal of elevating joint research by the two schools that prepared them for their professional pursuits. Of the \$7.5 million commitment, \$2 million will support the Catherine Seibyl, BSN, MSN, MPH, Professorship in Nursing, Research and Caregiving while \$2 million will fund the John Seibyl, MD, Professorship in Neurodegenerative Research within the School of Medicine.

An additional \$2.5 million will support the John and Catherine Seibyl Fund for Neurodegeneration Innovation in Research, Care and Education, providing opportunities for multidisciplinary research and training in neurodegenerative diseases within the two schools to enhance understanding, promote education, and improve the care and treatment of afflicted persons and families.

Finally, \$1 million will be used to establish two endowed funds to support the training of the next generation of research scientists in brain health.

"For us, philanthropy is the art of recognizing in humanity an

essential connectedness which, in our giving, we raise up in the celebration of creating new possibilities," said Catherine Seibyl. "This gift affirms the past by laying plans for the future, making an investment in a future that can be as bright as it can be dark, can be as ebullient and joyous as tragic or absurd, but uncertainty notwithstanding, always recognizes that we interconnect as receivers and as givers."

For the two alumni—who were married on campus at Amasa Stone Chapel a week after John earned his degree—the gift exemplifies their shared commitment to lifting others.

After graduating from CWRU, John Seibyl joined Yale University's School of Medicine, eventually serving as chief of the Section of Nuclear Medicine and later co-founding the independent nonprofit Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders, as well as Molecular Neuroimaging LLC (now Invicro, a Konica-Minolta company). Catherine Seibyl worked as a pediatric nurse practitioner, oversaw the evaluation of residential treatment programs for veterans with mental illnesses and conducted epidemiological research.

"Through the generosity of John and Catherine Seibyl, Case Western Reserve University will have a significant impact on research related to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis—improving the lives of patients, their families and friends," said Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing), dean of the School of Nursing.

"At some point we might look back and consider, however immeasurable, whether we were fortunate enough to have done more benefit than harm, that the world might be slightly better by the light of our presence," said John Seibyl. "And, in the end, [we might] smile, knowing our work was good."

Executive training

School of nursing welcomes inaugural Senior Nurse Executive class

More than 20 senior nurse executives are furthering their educations at Case Western Reserve University after being selected for the inaugural class of the Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive program, a rigorous, yearlong training through the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy.

These new Coldiron Fellows, including three from Case Western Reserve, hold executive positions across the country, such as chief nursing officer and chair of emergency medical services.

"Together with our national partners we have created this unique program to empower nurse leaders to take the next step to change health care for all," said Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN (MGT '92), Distinguished University Professor and director of the leadership academy. "This fellowship program was a key component of Marian Shaughnessy's vision for our school of nursing."

The Shaughnessy academy was announced in June 2018 and supported by a \$5 million gift from Marian K. Shaughnessy, DNP, RN (NUR '85, '17), who died in February 2020, and her husband, Michael. The Coldiron program was made possible by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Coldiron of Aurora, Ohio.

This inaugural class will "fulfill Dr. Marian K. Shaughnessy's vision of empowering nurse leaders to become drivers of health care delivery and policy," said nursing school Dean Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing). "The Coldiron Fellows represent a dynamic group of nurse leaders from academia to the boardroom, who bring a diversity of opinion and experience to our new executive leadership program."



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Coldiron's gift created a yearlong training program for senior nurse executives.

Photos by Dan Milner.

'Empower executive nurse leaders'

Conceived by leaders at the academy, the university's Weatherhead School of Management and three national organizations—the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) and the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA)—the program is open to nurse executives with at least five years of experience at the most senior level in health services, public health and community-based organizations or systems, as well as professional, academic, governmental and policy organizations.

"Over the past year, nurses proved what we have always known: Nurses are key to solving the most pressing and urgent issues within the health care system and the communities that they serve," said ANA Chief Nursing Officer

Debbie Hatmaker. "We look forward to collaborating with our partners in providing these capable leaders rich and relevant curriculum."

AONL CEO Robyn Begley said: "This fellowship will provide a valuable experience for seasoned nurse executives, helping them to master the skills needed to meet the current and future challenges in any setting where they promote health or lead care delivery."

HFMA President and CEO Joseph J. Fifer said collaboration between nursing and finance leaders has never been more important than it is now.

"This program will facilitate collaborative working relationships for the benefit of the patients we serve," Fifer said. "HFMA is proud to be a partner in this innovative nurse executive leadership program."



The Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellows

- **Celeste Alfes**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Education, Simulation, and Innovation at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
- **Noreen Brennan**, chief nursing officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan in New York City
- **Garry Brydges**, chief nurse anesthetist at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and past president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- **Theresa Campo**, vice president of education and accreditation at the American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- **Natalia Cineas**, senior vice president and system chief nursing executive and co-chair of the Equity and Access Council for NYC Health + Hospitals in New York City
- **Angela K. Clark**, executive director of Undergraduate and Prelicensure Programs and assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing in Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Linzy Davenport**, chief nurse executive at Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center in Sacramento, California
- **Stuart Downs**, director of critical care services at Northside Hospital Gwinnett in Lawrenceville, Georgia
- **Benjamin Farber**, vice president of patient care and chief nursing officer at Eisenhower Health in Rancho Mirage, California
- **Paula Fessler**, chief nursing officer at WMCHealth flagship Westchester Medical Center, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and the Behavioral Health Center in Valhalla, New York, and MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York
- **Nicolette Fiore-Lopez**, chief nursing officer at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson, New York
- **Mary Joy Garcia-Dia**, president of the Philippine Nurses Association of America and program director for nursing informatics in the Information Technology Department and the Center for Professional Nursing Practice at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City
- **Joan Halpern**, vice president and chief nursing officer of New York-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital, New York City
- **Catrina Heffernan**, Institute of Technology Tralee (Munster Technological University), Ireland; coordinator of the International and Erasmus nursing program for nursing schools across Europe and the U.S.
- **Sara Kollman**, regional chief nursing officer/nurse executive for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado in Aurora, Colorado.
- **Kezia Lilly**, interim dean of the College of Nursing & Public Health at South University in Sparta, Missouri
- **Erik Martin**, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer for Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, and president-elect of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership
- **SuLynn Mester**, chief nursing officer at Childress Regional Medical Center in Childress, Texas
- **Sonya Moore**, assistant professor and director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
- **Joachim Voss**, Independence Foundation Professor in Nursing Education and program director of the PhD in Nursing program at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
- **Claire Zangerle**, chief nurse executive at Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh



Recent grant supports research into nurses' moral injury

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the dedication of nurses to patient care. But nurses' selfless natures can sometimes lead to a phenomenon called moral injury, in which they feel unable to provide adequate care.

So in May—15 months after the first COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States—the Ohio Nurses Foundation announced that Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN (MGT '92), the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, would lead a multi-university research team to collect data on and create interventions for moral injury in nursing.

The team includes Grant A. Pignatiello, PhD, RN (CWR '13; GRS '18, nursing), an instructor and KL2 scholar at CWRU; Minjin Kim, PhD, from University of Cincinnati; and Sharon Tucker, PhD, Dónal O'Mathúna, PhD, and Jin Jun, PhD, from The Ohio State University.

The team hopes its research findings will also encourage nurses to share their stories in a way that builds a strong professional bond among participants.

"Narrative nursing is a unique intervention that empowers nurses to share their collective experiences, building a strong professional bond among participants," Fitzpatrick said. "We will use this intervention to help Ohio nurses who cared for patients and families during the pandemic toward the goal of enhancing nurses' wellbeing and resilience."

*school***NEWS**

Pandemic compounds psychosocial issues for sexual, gender minorities

While many people globally and across the United States have experienced anxiety related to the COVID-19 pandemic at some level, those who identify as sexual or gender minorities (SGM) appear to have been disproportionately affected—both physically and mentally.

Those are among the findings by Scott Emory Moore, PhD, RN, assistant professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, and research partner Kelly Wierenga, PhD, RN, assistant professor at the Indiana University School of Nursing and a former postdoctoral fellow at CWRU.

Moore and Wierenga conducted an online survey of 1,380 adults in the United States—290 who identified as SGM and 1,090 who did not (cisgender heterosexual)—from March 23 to June 20, 2020.

"This paper basically codifies what a lot of people in the sex-gender minority community have been feeling."

Their research, which was published in the *Journal of Homosexuality*, found that SGM respondents experienced more frequent COVID-19-associated physical symptoms and depression and anxiety symptoms, as well as a significantly higher proportion of depression and anxiety scores exceeding the threshold for what would be of clinical concern.

"This paper basically codifies what a lot of people in the sex-gender minority community have been feeling," Moore said.

Three others contributed to the work: Dana Prince, PhD, an assistant professor at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU; Laura Janine Mintz, MD, PhD, an internal medicine/pediatrics physician at MetroHealth Medical System; and Braveheart Gillani, a graduate student at the Mandel School.



On-the-road vaccine delivery

Bag packed and a cooler with vials of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine stowed, Marie Grosh, DNP, RN (NUR '21), set off to visit patients throughout Cuyahoga County.

Once opened, a vial of vaccine must be used within two hours. Each vial contains five doses.

Grosh, an instructor at Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and a nurse practitioner who has built her independent practice over the last six years, sees six to 10 patients a day as a traveling house call primary care provider, assessing health and ailments but also protecting them against COVID-19.

"Most of my patients are over 65, and many are immunocompromised or are bedbound," Grosh said. At the start of Ohio's vaccine distribution, "there was no way to take them to a vaccination clinic or bring them a vaccine back in December."

Once the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrived—which didn't require deep-freeze cold storage or multiple doses, like other vaccines at the time—Grosh mobilized for her patients when the state approved home delivery by providers in June 2021.

Grosh said some of her patients declined receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for various reasons, one of which was the pause on its distribution in the spring.

But, she noted: "We have to remember that these checks and balances are in place for a reason. People become fearful with starts and stops, but that's the system working. The fact that the pause happened is a testament to the process working as intended."



Photo by Shelly Kelly.

New program helps students leap into nurse anesthesia careers

Critical care, cardiothoracic intensive care, pediatrics and trauma are just a few of the specialties 10 students bring to a new, innovative, one-year certificate program to jumpstart their nurse anesthesia education.

The pilot Leadership Excel and Achievement Program (LEAP), offered by Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and four affiliate institutions, was designed to engage a wider student pool and encourage underrepresented minority students to join the field of nurse anesthesia.

Intended for students whose current skills and qualifications don't align with accredited CRNA doctoral programs, the one-year LEAP certificate program equips them with the knowledge necessary to begin their studies to become CRNAs. Once completed, each student is automatically enrolled in one of five doctoral-level nurse anesthesia programs: Case Western Reserve, Columbia University, Medical University of South Carolina, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Arizona.

Based in Los Angeles, Marco Oliveros, RN, has been a nurse for eight years, primarily focused on cardiothoracic intensive care. The challenging nature of the field is part of what drew him to want to become a CRNA.

"It's the hardest advanced practice nursing program to get into and to finish," Oliveros said. "I've always enjoyed a challenge, its rich history, the autonomy, and I have not met a CRNA who is not happy with the choice they made."

Sonya D. Moore, DNP, CRNA (NUR '16), nurse anesthesia program director and assistant professor at the school of nursing, created LEAP to encourage and support nurses who have demonstrated

academic success and the motivation to enter the field. The response to the program was significant: More than 100 applicants vied for the 10 available pilot program spots.

"I believe the robust number of applicants is reflective of the competitiveness of traditional programs," Moore said. "LEAP is a way for nurses who want to become a nurse anesthetist, have a strong work ethic and passion for nursing, but who may benefit from a focused preparatory program."

Oludayo Akinboboye, RN, joins LEAP from Newburgh, New York, where he is a cardiac intensive care unit nurse. Having

worked in nursing for seven years, Akinboboye said what excites him most about his profession is helping people during a vulnerable time and seeing them improve through care.

"I know it can be nerve-racking for patients to be in the hospital, so I try to make them smile occasionally to take their mind off of their worries," he said. "I am pursuing the CRNA profession because I want to expand my critical thinking to the highest level. This will enable me to give culturally competent care while utilizing advanced knowledge to maintain the stability of a patient pre-, during- and post-op."

"I am pursuing the CRNA profession because I want to expand my critical thinking to the highest level. This will enable me to give culturally competent care while utilizing advanced knowledge to maintain the stability of a patient pre-, during- and post-op."

—LEAP Student Oludayo Akinboboye



Nursing programs receive 10-year accreditation renewal

The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's BSN, MN, MSN, DNP and post-master's APRN certificate programs have been re-accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for the next 10 years, through June 30, 2031.

CCNE's fall 2020 visit was conducted virtually, in keeping with pandemic safety procedures. For part of the program review, CCNE accreditation team members sat in on lectures, clinical simulations and took a virtual tour of the school.

"This was a success because of the tireless efforts of every faculty and staff member," said Dean Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing). "The expertise, care and creativity they bring to their daily work are what make FPB such an excellent school."



Photo by Roger Mastroianni.

SAVE THE DATE

Florence Cellar Conference Webinar Series

Thursday, Oct. 21 | Noon – 1:30 p.m. | Virtual Event

Join the University Center on Aging and Health (UCAH) for the final installment of the 2021 Florence Cellar Conference Webinar Series, which explores advancements in patient care for aging populations. Alumna Florence Cellar (NUR '39) spent 39 years at University Hospitals, starting as a staff nurse and rising to a leadership position in the Department of Nursing. She also worked at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing as an assistant professor of clinical nursing before retiring in 1977.

UCAH is an interdisciplinary point at CWRU for building and maintaining excellence in gerontological and geriatric research, education and practice. By 2050, the U.S. population aged 65+ is expected to reach 22% due to advancements in health care, science and knowledge. This shifting demographic makes the center's work increasingly important in society.

Register online at case.edu/nursing/cellar-conference.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

Oct. 21-24 | In-Person and Virtual Events

Reconnect with your alma mater—on campus or from wherever you're located—at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Case Western Reserve will offer a number of events and activities, and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing invites you to join us for events specifically for our school, including:

- Alumni Association Board Community Meeting and State of the School presentation from Dean Carol M. Musil
- Tour of the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic
- Alumni Awards and Grand Classes Dinner
- Interprofessional Forum on the Student Run Health Clinic
- A social gathering for all reunion years

See the full schedule and register online at case.edu/nursing/alumni/homecoming-reunion

Increasing COVID-19 cases within Northeast Ohio have prompted Case Western Reserve to resume its requirement that masks be worn indoors. In addition, only those who are fully vaccinated (two weeks past their final dose) should attend any campus event. Leaders continue to monitor pandemic developments and may need to adjust health protocols further as circumstances warrant. In-person is subject to change based on COVID-19 guidelines.

Thanking our community for a successful Day of Giving

When returning to on-campus learning, the health of the Case Western Reserve community is the university's No. 1 priority—and, thanks to the efforts of staff, faculty and administrators as well as the generosity of Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing donors, students have returned to their in-person lab work and clinical settings safely.

Donor support during the university's ninth annual Day of Giving raised more than \$50,000 for the school as well as its FPB Strong Together Fund, ensuring CWRU's nursing students learn in an environment in which they feel safe and productive. Their donations helped replenish the school's personal protective equipment supply—which was donated to local hospital systems and clinics at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic—as well as toward digital clinical simulations, technology innovations and applications, research support, and additional student financial assistance.

"Thank you for your support of our students and the generous gift of personal protective equipment," said Mary Franklin, DNP (WRC '80; NUR '86, '18), assistant professor and director of the midwifery and women's health nurse practitioner programs. "Your gifts allowed our students to continue their clinical education at a time when everything was so uncertain."

The support of alumni and friends was, and is, instrumental to students' overall experience—helping them become comfortable and confident with caring for patients from day one of their professional nursing careers.

Illustrating nursing's history

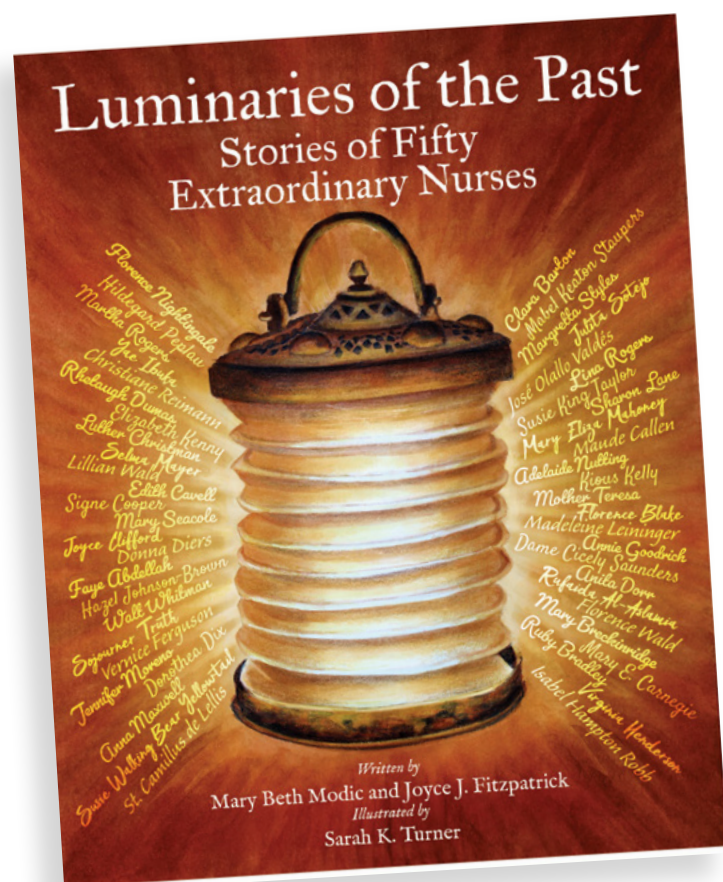
Two Case Western Reserve University alumni have written a new illustrated book on innovative nurses who had significant impact on health science and nursing practice. In *Luminaries of the Past: Stories of Fifty Extraordinary Nurses*, Mary Beth Modic, DNP (NUR '13), and Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN (MBA '92), share the stories of 50 women and men in nursing from the 16th century to the modern era.

Originally designed to introduce middle-school aged children to the work of extraordinary nurses, *Luminaries* is a rich resource of nursing history made possible by support from the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy at the university's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

"In middle school, students learn about famous physicians and scientists," said Modic, a clinical nurse specialist, when sharing her inspiration for the book. "Rarely, except for perhaps Florence Nightingale, are any nurses—whose advocacy and intellect changed the world—introduced as legendary people of note."

For Fitzpatrick, a Distinguished University Professor and former dean of the nursing school, the book isn't solely for young students.

"Nurses have, rightfully, received a lot of praise for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. But nurses have been advancing science and performing care for centuries," she said. "Nurses have always been heroes."



*school*NEWS



Rufaida Al Aslamia



Julita Sotejo



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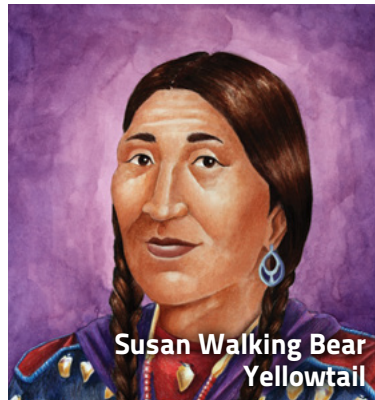
Mary Seacole



Anita Dorr



Lt. Sharon Lane



Susan Walking Bear
Yellowtail



Capt. Jennifer Moreno



Kious Kelly



Vernice Ferguson



Asking What Matters

CWRU nurse researchers team with CVS Health's MinuteClinic to implement revolutionary approach to geriatric care

Mary Dolansky found herself in the middle of a family health predicament. Years ago, her aging father-in-law, Robert, was battling the precarious edge of a heart condition, and Dolansky and her husband were torn with indecision. After all, Robert's heart medication, which made him dizzy and foggy-minded, cost \$1,000 per dose. He was attached to a machine and immobile for most of his days.

As the Sarah C. Hirsch Professor at Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Dolansky, PhD, RN (GRS '01, nursing), now faced an all-too-common personal dilemma that she'd entrenched herself in professionally through decades of research and practice in geriatrics: Who decides what is best in senior care? Them or me?

"He didn't necessarily want to have an extended life, but a better quality of life," Dolansky said. "Still, no one ever asked him, 'What matters to you?'"

BY MARK OPREA



Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing researchers are helping train thousands of CVS MinuteClinic nurses and nurse practitioners in evidence-based, age-friendly care. Image courtesy of CVS Health.

// It reflects a new paradigm of health care. Older adults and health care professionals working together to ensure evidence-based geriatric care. //

— Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN



Portraits by Angelo Merendino.

Dolansky's question is at the root of a revolutionary movement in gerontology and care for older adults being propagated by nurse researchers at Case Western Reserve. It's also a vital part of the "Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms" approach to chronic and ambulatory care for people ages 65 and up—an empathy-focused framework catalyzed by The John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF) and Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) that's now being implemented at 1,100 MinuteClinics—inside select CVS Pharmacy locations—and being taught virtually to over 3,300 nurse practitioners and 1,200 practical nurses nationwide.

The brainchild of a CVS-CWRU partnership, with advising from the IHI, the Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms implementation is funded by the JAHF through an initial one-year, \$945,000 planning grant followed by three-year, \$2.44 million grant. It's an initiative based on decades of evidence among three esteemed research organizations and dozens, if not hundreds, of experts in geriatrics.

"It reflects a new paradigm of health care," Dolansky said.

The 4Ms approach to care—"What Matters?" "Medication," "Mentation" and "Mobility"—could not come at a better time, it seems, in the world of American health care. Besides the obvious risks to aging adults during the Delta variant phase of COVID-19, the senior population is predicted to nearly double in size by 2035, according to U.S. Census data—from 49 million to 78 million—occupying about 24% of the population by 2060. Couple this with decades of unsolved elder abuse, over-prescribing, and the pandemic's amplification of nursing home vulnerability, and you get a perfect storm that beckons a clarified solution, said Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation, a philanthropic organization focused on improving older adult care.

One of the nation's leading experts on geriatric care and a former visiting professor at Case Western Reserve, Fulmer decided to face head-on the U.S.'s longstanding gap in senior care, abetted by her three decades of solutions research in elder abuse. In the fall of 2017, as a leading board member of the IHI, Fulmer and a panel of a dozen geriatrics experts reviewed 17 geriatric research models and selected 90 critical features. After an intensive review, national experts and IHI chiseled the array of concerns to just four "vital few." Then, the "elegant" 4Ms Framework was born, Fulmer said.

"If you want health care professionals to be reliable and effective in their work, you need a simple way of doing things," Fulmer said. "People just want simplicity out of complexity. Why not do the same for our care providers?"



FINANCE CENTER



Fulmer had her sights set high. She and IHI wanted to see the Age-Friendly 4Ms flourishing in 2,600 U.S. hospitals, nursing homes, private practices and care clinics by June 2023. Yet, what Fulmer lacked was a ready-to-go petri dish, one that could test out and install the 4Ms Framework and verify its reliability in any setting.

She was in luck: Dolansky and former Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Dean Mary Kerr were already partnering with CVS Health to pursue the possibilities of implementing academic-driven, evidence-based care into their nearly ubiquitous MinuteClinic locations (50% of Americans are within a 10-mile radius of one).

At CVS Health, MinuteClinic Chief Nurse Practitioner Angela Patterson, DNP, and Clinical Quality Director Anne Pohnert, FNP, were lit up by the idea of evolving MinuteClinic's quick, ambulatory care to a more in-depth, responsive brand of health care. Dolansky and Kerr then connected with Fulmer to gauge her interest in such a three-pronged collaboration. In September 2017, they all met with high hopes.

Dolansky felt the meeting was momentous. After all, she and the nursing school had been—just like Patterson and Pohnert—on a hunt for a “big initiative that would make a big impact in improving geriatric care” across the country.

“We were all like-minded, looking for ways to ensure quality care delivery with a focus on older adults,” she recalled. “It was an opportunity to have a national lab on how we get health care professionals to change their practice. And do it, this time, with evidence and a simple solution.”

COVID-19'S CALL TO ACTION

It was June of 2020 when Robin Hughes, a gerontology nurse practitioner and a project manager at Case Western Reserve, began spearheading what was the largest project launch in her nursing career to date. But the project started with a challenge nearly unimaginable just a few months earlier: The team would be setting up the 4Ms initiative in midst of the worst global pandemic in a century.

Their April start was pushed back to the summer, and the thousands of practitioners slated to absorb age-friendly workflows were now inundated with patients infected with COVID-19—especially those in upper age brackets. But with a JAHF planning grant to follow through on, Hughes and the team moved forward with a mix of both optimism and creativity.

“We knew it would be challenging and could possibly cause our project to temporarily be put on hold,” Hughes recalled. On top of a decreasing intake rate from patients ages 65 and above, Hughes also had to cancel all in-person meetings. “We knew we had to pivot a bit with the implementation plan.”

As the coronavirus swept the country, killing swaths of seniors in nursing homes and sending even more to intensive care units, Patterson and Pohnert knew, like others, that COVID-19 was a now-or-never call-to-action rather than a reason to call things off.

While businesses from Manhattan to Silicon Valley shifted to Zoom and Microsoft Teams as coworking tools, Hughes and her colleagues made a similar decision. Using the planning grant, Hughes and the professional development team, led by Professor Evelyn Duffy, DNP, RN (NUR '04), and



Robin Hughes

the technology development team, led by CWRU research computer programmer Brian Crick (CWR '99), created online learning modules and a virtual MinuteClinic, complete with a cast of exemplifying patients. Their goal: to train the 3,000-plus MinuteClinic providers in a world fraught with social-distancing concerns.

Using a simplified process chart created by the CWRU and MinuteClinic implementation team, the virtual clinic astutely prepared MinuteClinic caregivers in the step-by-step workflow of age-friendly care. The questions would've been familiar to practitioners, Hughes said, yet they were whittled down so MinuteClinic's 18-minute typical visit time wasn't too far breached. And they all pertain to the individual: Ask the patient "what makes life worth living" or "what makes tomorrow a really great day" (What Matters?); observe their gait, posture, reliance on the exam table or walls for balance (Mobility); check if they have any high-risk medications, such as opioids or tranquilizers, that may be hurting rather than improving their life (Medication); and assess for mood and memory (Mentation).

It's that last portion of the 4Ms that Hughes has noticed may be the most controversial—with both practitioners and patients alike.

"We try to say that [mentation is] not an indictment. But that [mood and memory], it's almost a fifth vital

sign," Hughes said. "We did have a couple of older adults interviewed who were hesitant about the 4Ms mentation assessment, but we use these encounters as an opportunity to teach healthy aging."

What Hughes and the evaluation team, led by Assistant Professor Nicholas Schiltz, PhD (GRS '13, epidemiology and biostatistics), discovered was expected by experts in geriatrics history. After all, Fulmer said, many Baby Boomers are accustomed to a "tell me what's wrong, and I'll give you a pill" type of approach to outpatient care. Throw on top of that COVID-era social isolation, poor dietary habits and a lack of exercise, and enlightening seniors on why the Age-Friendly 4Ms' holistic care model is beneficial can seem even more daunting.

Some practitioners also were hesitant to embrace the approach, Patterson said. Despite being encouraged to train, via monthly webinars and CWRU's virtual clinic software, several holdouts expressed worry that visits were too brief to allow in-depth personalization.

"A lot were like, 'How do I do one more thing? I'm really busy,'" Patterson said.

"It comes down to time," added Pohnert, who is also a Doctor of Nursing Practice student in Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's Practice Leadership Program. "Time is challenging."

The solution to practitioner doubts: Arm them with backup cheat-sheet laminated cards; revamp their EPIC record system with a 65-and-older 4Ms tab that includes tools to easily include mentation screening and identify high-risk medications; and reward repeat implementers with a badge of "Committed to Care Excellence."

"It's one thing to participate," Pohnert said. "It's another to be committed to the practice."

'AN EMPATHETIC APPROACH'

For the majority of his childhood growing up in upstate New York, Cory Adrian was close to his grandparents—they both lived down the street from him. "Dinner, coffee, cookies—I was spoiled," he said. Even when he relocated to Austin, Texas, to work as a medical surgical nurse, and then as a regional quality lead for MinuteClinic, he called them at least once a week.

At 31, Adrian is a practitioner of the 4Ms. Since last June, when he completed the virtual clinic training, Adrian has been steadily implementing what he now sees as "bridging a gap to primary care." While older adults aren't as excited by new care campaigns, Adrian still estimates about 90% of the age 65-plus patients he's seen are "very receptive."

A Team Effort

The academic-practice team is a cross-institutional effort to implement the Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms at CVS Health's MinuteClinic locations.

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Mary Dolansky, co-principal investigator

Robin Y. Hughes, project director

Evelyn Duffy	Jordan Charlton
Elizabeth Zimmerman	Jackson Fielder
Sherry Greenberg	Nicholas Schiltz
Barbara Tassell	Kellie Qua
Brian Crick	Klara Papp
Iлона Seaman	

CVS HEALTH MINUTECLINIC

Anne Pohnert, co-principal investigator

Sarah Ball	Richard Richards
Mary McCormack	April MacNeil
Lilia Pino	Kathleen Daily
Holly Kouts	Monica Beulke

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT

Leslie Pelton, senior director

Kedar Mate	Sumire Maki
Kevin Little	Quin Bottom-Johnson
Sherry Greenberg	

Even, he noted, those hesitant of delving deep into their own cognitive concerns for a Mentation assessment. Many of Adrian's patients have balked at the notion of taking a spontaneous PHQ-9 test to assess depression systems, or having to quickly draw a clock, or repeat a seemingly mundane array of randomized words ("banana," "sunrise," "chair"). So far, his solution to hesitancy seems in line with Fulmer's edict: "Leading into [the visit] with an empathetic approach."

And although Adrian's grandfather died recently, Adrian said this age-friendly focus still connects him to his grandfather.

"How would I want my grandparents cared for by the health care provider? That made me have a sweet spot for this," Adrian said.

Despite the suffering and disruption of COVID-19, Fulmer and her partners are confident that a pandemic-era silver lining will speed up a revolution in geriatric care.

Anne Pohnert



"The Age-Friendly 4Ms movement is here to stay," Fulmer declared.

As for Dolansky, who lost her father-in-law to heart failure shortly after his medication was stopped, the Age-Friendly 4Ms movement continues to be both practical and personal. She reflects on his final months from time to time, wondering how his end days would've been if he'd been treated differently.

"He was happy at the end of his life," Dolansky said. "Doing the things he wanted to do."


Seeing the wide-ranging and detrimental impacts of COVID-19 has only deepened her passion to advance the effective, efficient scientific implementation of evidence-based geriatric care into practice.

"It's a big wake-up call," Dolansky said. "Older adults deserve reliable, evidence-based quality care. Now probably more than ever."



Professor Joachim Voss





From Molecules to the Bedside

*How donor support is
shaping the field of nursing*

BY CAREY SKINNER MOSS

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the United States will need another 1.1 million nurses by 2022. But the shortage goes beyond the bedside. Nurse scientists are needed to develop and test interventions to improve patient health.


“Research is critical,” said Joachim Voss, PhD, RN, the director of the PhD program and the Independence Foundation Professor in Nursing Education at Case Western Reserve University’s Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. And so, he noted, “donor support is critical.”

Of particular interest to Voss is the new Derry Ann Moritz Scholarship—a unique opportunity for nursing school PhD candidates whose dissertations focus on palliative or end-of-life care. Moritz (NUR '58) established this scholarship in honor of her friend Barbara Daly, PhD, RN (NUR '72), a Case Western Reserve Distinguished University Professor Emerita and the Gertrude Perkins Oliva Professor Emerita of Oncology Nursing, whose life’s work has focused on addressing the challenges that come with treating critically and chronically ill patients.

“Palliative and end-of-life care don’t typically receive a lot of attention from funders,” Voss shared, “and when they do, support is often focused on a specific disease, such as cancer.”

While disease-specific research is important, the wide scope of the Moritz scholarship will allow for a greater variety of diseases and circumstances to be studied, which benefits patients and scientists alike, he said.

Photos by Annie O’Neill.



Professor Ronald L. Hickman Jr. with PhD alumna and mentee Julia O'Brien.



"Scholarship support enables more nurses to pursue their PhDs, and they can leave the school knowing they have contributed to meaningful research—and that they will have their choice of career opportunities.

OPENING DOORS

"We [as faculty] are not doing our jobs unless our graduates get jobs," Voss emphasized, "but a PhD is a key that opens many doors." Nurses with PhDs can apply their expertise as policy makers, design cutting-edge pharmaceutical supplies, become faculty members at nursing schools, or continue vital research.

For Julia O'Brien, PhD (CWR '14; GRS '21, nursing and advanced quantitative methodologies), the doors are open wide post-graduation.

O'Brien received the Joyce M. Stielau Award in spring 2021 for her research on sickle cell disease and social determinants of health. The late Joyce M. Stielau was a nurse anesthesiologist, devoted hospital volunteer and philanthropist. The research award she established enabled O'Brien to collect data from a larger sample size during the pandemic, in addition to offering a raffle for participants.

"Without awards like this, it would be difficult to complete these projects," said O'Brien. "When you're studying a less common disease, one that affects approximately 100,000 [Americans], finding resources can be difficult, especially as a graduate student. This support allows someone like me to move forward in my career and hopefully be able to give back one day to Case Western Reserve, to the nursing

profession and to the broader patient community."

O'Brien began her undergraduate studies at the nursing school with the intention of practicing in a clinical setting, but changed course because of the mentorship she received. "There were mentors at Case Western Reserve who were willing to take me under their wing—and not just to give me a job doing a little number crunching," she reflected. During a research retrospective, for example, faculty members took O'Brien to an outpatient clinic at University Hospitals to meet patients with sickle cell disease.

"It helped me understand where there were health disparities among this population, and that is part of what made me realize there was a lot of important work to be done," O'Brien remarked on the experience. "I certainly hope to be that person for students moving forward."

O'Brien is now pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, where she will build on the research supported by the Stielau award to study technology-related interventions for adults and adolescents with sickle cell disease. She hopes the impact of the resources will be applicable for many patients with chronic pain.

SOLVING TODAY'S MOST PRESSING ISSUES

The Stielau award and the Moritz scholarship are two of three new donor-funded opportunities available to PhD students.

The third—the Donna Algase Dissertation Award—grants funding for early-stage research in the field of eldercare.

“These young people, through the Algase, Moritz and Stielau gifts, can really make a meaningful impact on palliative care, on eldercare and on nursing science in general.”

— Ronald L Hickman Jr.

And that research is of particular importance now with a rapidly aging population.

As of 2019, 71 million Americans were over the age of 65—the highest number in the nation’s history. And with better and more accessible health care, that number is expected to continue rising and, along with it, the health care needs of this population.

“These young people, through the Algase, Moritz and Stielau gifts, can really make a meaningful impact on palliative care, on eldercare and on nursing science in general,” said Ronald L. Hickman Jr., PhD, RN (CWR ’00; NUR ’02, ’06, ’13; GRS ’08, nursing), the school’s associate dean of research and the Ruth M. Anderson Professor. Hickman was one of the influential mentors who steered O’Brien into research, and he later chaired O’Brien’s dissertation committee.

“Most times we think about nurses caring for people at the bedside,” he continued, “but there’s also a group of nurse scientists generating new knowledge that we all benefit from. Donna Algase is interested in understanding the molecular basis as well. So these awards are truly funding work from molecules to the bedside, which I think is fascinating.”

A 40-YEAR VICTORY

Donna L. (Muszynski) Algase, PhD (GRS ’88, nursing) has waited a long time for nursing science to be truly valued for its contributions to the field of medicine. “Nursing has always been kind of an underdog in a lot of ways,” she

commented. Algase’s work is in the area of dementia and behavioral problems, specifically the troubling issue of wandering.

“There is some research into wayfinding and how the brain operates to encode that information, but very little research has been done on the molecular basis of [wandering],” Algase said. She first started this research about 40 years ago and, even though she was awarded a grant to study the phenomenon, her theories were mocked by a pharmacologist she worked with. “It was insulting,” she said. “Not to me personally, but to nursing, period.”

Then last year she was approached by a pharmaceutical company to be a consultant. They secured the rights to sell a cardiac medication developed in Japan that, in some anecdotal reports, showed a decrease in wandering behavior for patients with dementia.

“This company looked me up after almost 10 years of retirement, and my work was still relevant. So it came full circle, from a pharmacologist dismissing my research to a pharmaceutical company contacting me 40 years later to help them evaluate this potential treatment. That was incredible to me,” she chuckled.

GIVING BACK TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Algase, like O’Brien, was inspired by the mentorship and leadership at CWRU. Even after joining the faculty at the University of Michigan, Algase maintained a close connection to her alma mater and received the nursing school’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 2004. “It felt like I never really left, in a fashion—that there was a part of me still there,” she said. “So when I had the good fortune to make this kind of donation, Case Western Reserve was certainly high on my list.”

Seventy percent of the school’s graduate-level students receive scholarship or fellowship assistance, with donor support proving vital in reducing barriers to access for students—especially at a time when the field is experiencing a declining trend in PhD training and nursing science.

“It’s a challenging time in nursing education, particularly at the doctoral level because of the shortage,” Algase continued. “The more support we can make available to attract students of all backgrounds to [the PhD] route, the better off we are. ... If they have a scientific mind, if they have an interest in caring, we need them.”

To learn more about the donors mentioned in this article or to apply for one of these awards, please visit case.edu/nursing or email fpbdevelopment@case.edu.

Hats off to the **Class of 2021**



Photos by Elizabeth Lundblad and Dan Milner.



The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Class of 2021 held onto their hats during the windy outdoor, on-campus commencement ceremonies May 29 and 30. With in-person attendance limited to graduates and select faculty and staff members, the ceremonies also were live streamed to family, friends and those new alumni unable to attend in person.

"Your new phase begins at what I believe is a golden era for nursing," said Dean Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing), during the graduate degree ceremony. "Our roles as health care providers and nurse scientists are rapidly being transformed to meet the demands of our nation's changing health care needs. Our alumni shape the nursing profession. I am confident that you as graduates of this program will continue that legacy."

alumniNEWS



inMEMORIAM

1940s



Mary Jeanne Mercer (NUR '45), 96, of Philippi, West Virginia, died Dec. 28, 2020. After spending a career as a registered nurse, Mercer continued

to care for others through years of volunteer service.



Betty E. Roy (NUR '49), 95, of Ravenna, Ohio, died Dec. 22, 2020. Roy began her nursing career at Cleveland's University Hospitals, then continued

to work as a registered nurse in Boston and Philadelphia after her husband entered the Navy.

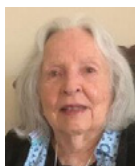
1950s



Kathryn L. Baker, (FSM '59; NUR '60, '77), 83, of Mayfield Heights, Ohio, died Dec. 20, 2020. Baker was a longtime nurse in University

Hospitals' surgical division and an instructor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Dorothy J. Brundage (FSM '50, NUR '53), 90, of Durham, North Carolina, died Nov. 15, 2020. During her career, Brundage joined the faculty at the Duke University School of Nursing, eventually serving as the school's interim dean from 1987 to 1991.



Holly Gier Campbell (NUR '53), 89, of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, died Oct. 2, 2020. After graduating from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing,

she and her husband served as missionaries in Morocco, Tunisia, France and the United Arab Emirates from 1955 to 1994.

Ramona Gladys Hamelynck (NUR '52), 92, of Hollywood, Florida, died Feb. 4. Hamelynck worked as a nurse for many years. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Leo, and their daughters and families.



Virginia Wilzbach Hansen (NUR '56), 93, of Calimesa, California, died Aug. 18, 2020. A U.S. Navy veteran, Hansen was

stationed at Mare Island in California during the Korean Conflict. She later worked as a nurse for U.S. companies overseas, and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Maria Parks Hjelmfelt (NUR '59), 84, of Columbia, Missouri, died Feb. 23. She worked as a nurse for many years and later received a doctorate in counseling psychology.



Nancy M. Katte (FSM '58, NUR '59), 84, of Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, died Jan. 29. Known as "Nurse Nancy" during her tenure as a school nurse in

Sonoma County, California, she went on to earn a license in public health nursing.



Martha L. Lady (NUR '52), 93, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, died Nov. 17, 2020. She traveled extensively, serving as a midwife and pastor, seeing patients from

rural Appalachia to overseas in Zambia.

Eloise B. Lindahl (NUR '52), 92, of Houston, Texas, died Jan. 19. Fluent in Thai, Lindahl assisted Thai immigrants integrating into the United States and regularly taught English as a Second Language classes.



Virginia Muschella (NUR '57), 100, of Wickliffe, Ohio, died Dec. 4, 2020. Muschella served in the United States Army Air

Corps from 1945 to 1946 in the Air Transport Unit. After earning her BSN, she was the school nurse for Wickliffe Elementary school until she retired in 1985.



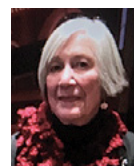
Joan M. Teckman (NUR '53), 91, of Oxford, Ohio, died Oct. 7, 2020. While at CWRU, Teckman received the Cushing-Robb prize for excellence

for the class of 1953. She went on to become a family nurse practitioner and a professor of nursing at Miami University, Indiana University and the University of Cincinnati.



M. Amelia Watkins (NUR '59), 81, of Hilliard, Ohio, died Dec. 6, 2019. Watkins worked as a registered nurse for many years in hospitals and local health departments.

1960s



Diana Young Barhyte (NUR '67), 80, of Euclid, Ohio, died Dec. 19, 2020. She had a dedicated nursing career and held several leadership roles

at Rush University College of Nursing in Chicago. After retiring, she moved back to Northeast Ohio and spent many years volunteering at Cleveland Clinic.



Mary Lou Block (NUR '68), 77, of Oelwein, Iowa, died March 26, 2019. During her career, she worked as a psychiatric nurse and as a director of nursing

education and hospital administration.

inMEMORIAM



Carol McCoy Clark (FSM '60, NUR '61), of Boulder, Colorado, died Oct. 16, 2020. After graduation, she worked as a nurse in Denver, Colorado, and was

the lead nurse on the kidney transplant team at Denver General Hospital.



Marilyn Taylor Dehmlow (NUR '64), 80, of Marietta, Ohio, died April 11. Dehmlow worked as a registered nurse in various capacities and

was the mother of six children.

Flora Nell Duke (NUR '60), died Dec. 1, 2020.



Patricia Prendergast Hanusz (NUR '63), 85, of Toledo, Ohio, died Jan. 3. While working at University Hospitals' neurosurgery and

intensive care units, Hanusz decided to go back to school at CWRU for her BSN. Here, she established friendships with socially conscious students and began a lifelong advocacy for those on society's margins.



Carol Lockhart (NUR '65), 78, of Tempe, Arizona, died Oct. 9, 2020. Lockhart was a distinguished alumna of the school of nursing and was a member of the dean's visiting committee. She was an advocate for public health for her entire career. In retirement, she was active in Tempe's innovative dementia-friendly city outreach program and volunteered with AARP on policy issues concerning seniors.



Joanne M. Marchione (NUR '61), 86, of Canton, Ohio, died Sept. 6, 2019. After continuing her graduate studies at the university, Marchione conducted research and taught nursing across the country before returning to teach at the University of Akron, where she retired after 25 years.

Mary Sue Rosenberger (NUR '64), 80, of Westerville, Ohio, died Oct. 4, 2020. Rosenberger cared for patients as a registered nurse in the United States and Vietnam. She also became an author, ordained minister and chaplain.



Elizabeth Moss St. John (NUR '61), 84, of Uniontown, Ohio, died Sept. 7, 2020. St. John spent her career as a nurse and nursing educator.

1970s

Nancy Eileen Funk (NUR '70), 71, of Cleveland, died Aug. 10, 2020.

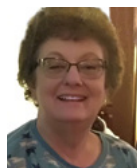
1980s

Kathleen D. Duda (NUR '80), 63, of Morehead City, North Carolina, died Nov. 30, 2020. Duda served many communities as a registered nurse and devoted her life to her family and volunteering.



Joyce Ann Ferrario (GRS '82, nursing), 75, of Auburn, California, died Jan. 23. After graduating from Case Western Reserve University

with her doctorate in gerontological nursing, Ferrario joined the faculty of Binghamton University's Decker School of Nursing, later serving as dean for 10 years. She established Decker's graduate program in gerontological nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.



Patricia Sheilds Flamino (NUR '88), 72, of Neshannock Township, Pennsylvania, died Oct. 23, 2020. After graduating from Penn State and

CWRU with degrees in psychiatric and gerontological nursing, Flamino served as a nursing director and administrator and taught at Youngstown State University.



Laura Hinkley (NUR '80), 63, of Euclid, Ohio, died Jan. 20. Hinkley was known for her talent for languages and music, and her commitment to family and friends.



Evelyn Marie Lutz (GRS '80, NUR '02), 86, of Elmira, New York, died Nov. 26, 2020. Born during the Great Depression, Lutz lived

simply while building her career as a nurse, educator and author. After she passed, Lutz—a modest millionaire—bequeathed nearly \$2 million to three institutions, including CWRU, to support nursing scholarship, research and library collections.



Mary Ittman Murrey (NUR '81; GRS '82, anthropology), 65, of Houston, Texas, died Dec. 3, 2020. After her time at the school of nursing,

Murray received a master's degree in medical anthropology and pursued her passions of writing, photography and activism.

M. Jane Suresky (NUR '88, '95) of Beachwood, Ohio, died April 23. A double alumna of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Suresky returned to her alma mater as an assistant professor and vital member of the nursing school community.

2000s

Jacqueline Tracy Hafner (NUR '08), of St. Petersburg, Florida, died Dec. 14, 2020.

2010s



Chelsea Rebecca Donelson (NUR '14), 30, of Gahanna, Ohio, died Nov. 2, 2020. Donelson worked as a NICU nurse at Nationwide Children's

Hospital in Columbus, where she impacted many lives.



Protecting Our Community

Nursing faculty and students step up to administer COVID-19 vaccines

After a year marked by loss and struggles relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rollout of vaccines offered many a sense of joy and relief—something faculty and students at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing witnessed firsthand.

Starting in March, about 120 nursing students from the BSN and MSN programs, alongside Case Western Reserve's medical and physician assistant students, administered more than 20,000 COVID-19 vaccines with the help of faculty members and community partners.

Across the city—including at Case Western Reserve's own vaccination clinic—as many as 20 CWRU students each day staffed vaccine sites, led in their efforts by School of Nursing Assistant Professor Jesse Honsky, DNP, RN (NUR '12, '17; GRS '12, public health), and instructor Shannon Wong, CNP, RN.

"There were smiles, laughter and tears," said Honsky. "It was an honor to share that experience with so many people and to provide them with some hope."

Forefront sat down with Honsky and Wong to ask them about their experiences.

How did this effort of leading nursing students in assisting with COVID-19 vaccinations come about?

Honsky: After the pandemic started, the local health departments reached out to us to talk about how we could partner and they could work with nursing students. Shannon had worked with both the city and county health departments in the fall of 2020, taking nursing students to flu vaccination clinics. She built a good relationship with both organizations, so when they were ready to start COVID-19 vaccinations, we were ready to help. During winter break, Shannon organized other

faculty to volunteer at COVID vaccination clinics so we would be prepared to take students.

Wong: We provided students with training on intake, education, drawing/preparing the vaccine, administering the vaccine, paperwork to chart that the vaccine was given, and monitoring patients after they were given the vaccine.

What was the most memorable moment of this vaccine effort for you?

Wong: We took a team of 14 nursing students and three faculty members to a community center clinic that was terribly busy. They set up a mobile unit of our students, who went to people needing the vaccine who had limited mobility. Our students had to adjust their training to accommodate the needs of the patients. They quickly worked together as a team, figuring out how to move the equipment to each person, track the people who had received the vaccine and complete the necessary paperwork. Our students stepped up to participate in a way that they were ready for, but hadn't had to do before.

What was it like to watch nursing students help during a global pandemic?

Honsky: The nursing students really rose to the challenge. They were eager to help out and adapted well. Early on in the vaccine drive, the vaccine supply was limited, so we often only had a few days' notice to organize some of the student volunteers—but they made it happen. We also had a number of students step up into leadership roles when working with their peers and students in other professions. I think this experience helped them understand the role and importance of nurses in public health.

—Alaina Bartel

Welcome Home.

CWRU Homecoming: Oct. 21-24

Join us for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend—Oct. 21-24—
as we recognize the accomplishments of our alumni award winners
and honor our special grand classes!

Congratulations to our 2021 Alumni Award Winners!



Distinguished Alumni Award
Susan J. Stocker, PhD, RN
(NUR '92)



Award for Excellence
Mary Joy Garcia-Dia, DNP, RN, FAAN
(NUR '15)



Young Alumni Award for Excellence
Shanina C. Knighton, PhD, RN
(GRS '17, nursing)

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus!
For more information on in-person and virtual events,
visit case.edu/homecoming.

Increasing COVID-19 cases within Northeast Ohio have prompted Case Western Reserve to resume its requirement that masks be worn indoors. In addition, only those who are fully vaccinated (two weeks past their final dose) should attend any in-person campus event. Leaders continue to monitor pandemic developments and may need to adjust health protocols further as circumstances warrant. In-person is subject to change based on COVID-19 guidelines.



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Strong Together

Your support can fund critical areas of importance to the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, such as:

- the Dean's COVID-19 Initiative Fund,
- a student support fund,
- research support for faculty and students,
- technology and simulation innovation, and
- enhanced community and public health programs.

Join fellow alumni and friends in supporting the School of Nursing with a gift at giving.case.edu/FPBStrong.