

SUMMER 2022

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

*fore*FRONT



A new home for nurse leaders

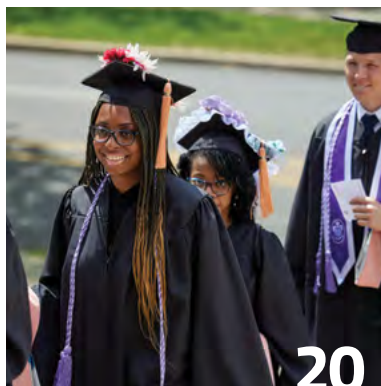
Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy
takes its place at the Health Education Campus

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foreFRONT

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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:

Faculty members **Sonya D. Moore** (left) and **Molly J. Jackson** (right) expanded their experience as participants in the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy. Now, they stand in the academy's new home with its inaugural director, **Joyce J. Fitzpatrick** (center).

Photo by Roger Mastroianni.

dean's LETTER



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

As we completed the academic year, I found myself thinking back to the trajectory of the past 27 months. Each of us has had our own unique experience with the pandemic, whether working on the front lines, battling illness, caring for family and friends, leading a hospital, volunteering, homeschooling children or otherwise living life with the backdrop of COVID-19. Whatever our story, we as nurses have shown incredible strength and commitment.

As our newest class enters the workforce (see their commencement and pinning celebrations on p. 20), I am struck by the hundreds of talented new graduates—BSN, MN, MSN, DNP, PhD—all prepared in the legacy of Frances Payne Bolton to be nurse leaders and join our alumni ranks. When I attended the BSN capstone presentations in late April, it was clear that our graduates are well prepared to make significant contributions that will improve the health of individuals and communities.

I invite you to hear from a few of these outstanding new alumni as they share their memories from their time on (and off) campus and their plans for the future (p. 22). Plus, you can meet recent grad Alec Winpenny, who gained extensive clinical experience through our program and through his leadership in the university's Emergency Medical Service (p. 26). What Alec learned in his experiences on campus is what we seek to instill in all of our students: a commitment to leadership and service.

That commitment is now visible inside our halls daily, as the Marian K. Shaughnessy Leadership Academy opened its new home on the Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic Health Education Campus last month (see p. 12). It is exciting to have a physical location dedicated to the outstanding leadership lessons this academy provides, and we are grateful to all who supported us in this initiative.

Our students and faculty proved the power of their leadership at various levels in recent months, as several members of our community were honored at the 2022 annual conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, among other honors (p. 4), and two of our students attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Student Policy Summit (read their insights on p. 11).

Our continued excellence in research can be seen in our latest investigations into sleep and circadian biology, as our nurse scientists examine how sleep impacts the lives and well-being of vulnerable populations (see p. 8).

I take great pride in the work accomplished by our community, but as we begin to see some return to "normalcy" in our daily lives and our nursing careers—albeit with many precautions—I am even more honored to be at the helm of a school that produces leaders who make meaningful impact every single day.

Thank you for all that you do, and for your continued support of Case Western Reserve.

Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)

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

honors and awards

Recent awards and recognition for students and faculty at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing



Bader G. Alreshidi

Bader G. Alreshidi, PhD, RN (GRS '22, nursing), received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's Dissertation Award from the Acute and Critical Care Across the Lifespan Research & Implementation Interest Group.

Lisa Brannack, a PhD student, received the Donna Algase Dissertation Award from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing for her study, "Developing and Testing of an Instrument to Measure Core Values."



Christine Horvat Davey

Christine Horvat Davey, PhD, RN (GRS '19, nursing), instructor, received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's New Investigator Award from the Self Care Research & Implementation Interest Group.



Stephanie Griggs

Stephanie Griggs, PhD, RN, assistant professor, received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's New Investigator Award from the Health Promoting Behaviors Across the Lifespan Research & Implementation Interest Group.



Ronald L. Hickman Jr.

Ronald L. Hickman Jr., PhD, RN (CWR '00; NUR '02, '06, '13; GRS '08, nursing), associate dean for research and the Ruth M. Anderson Professor of Nursing, received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's Senior Nurse Scientist Award from the Gerontological Nursing Science Research & Implementation Interest Group.



Elliane Irani

Elliane Irani, PhD, RN, assistant professor, received two Midwest Nursing Research Society awards: the New Investigator Award from the Gerontological Nursing Science Research & Implementation Interest Group, and the New/Early Investigator Award from the Family Health Research & Implementation Interest Group.



Cheryl M. Killion

Cheryl M. Killion, PhD, RN, associate professor, received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's Senior Nurse Investigator Award from the Health of Diverse Populations Research & Implementation Interest Group.



Noa Kraus

Noa Kraus, a rising senior, received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's Undergraduate Research Award from the Acute and Critical Care Across the Lifespan Research & Implementation Interest Group.



Sonya D. Moore

Sonya D. Moore (GRS '16, nursing), assistant professor, was named 2022 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist of the Year by the Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists.



Carolyn Harmon Still

Carolyn Harmon Still, PhD (GRS '10, nursing; MGT '16), assistant professor, was awarded an R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Nursing Research for her study, "Self-Management and Resilience Trajectories in African-American Adults with Hypertension."



Nathaniel Schreiner

Nathaniel Schreiner (GRS '17, nursing), assistant professor, was named a winner of Case Western Reserve University's 2022 John S. Diekhoff Award for Distinguished Graduate Teaching.

Emily Tsivitse (NUR '18), a PhD student, received the Joyce M. Stielau Award from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing for her study, "Implementing the Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms: Identification of Barriers and Facilitators and Aligning Strategies."

RANKINGS REPORT

Case Western Reserve University'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 demonstrating its lasting renown.

The overall Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree improved from 13th to 11th in the country, while the program's acute gerontological care and nurse midwifery specialties held their positions at No. 7 and No. 21, respectively. Within the rankings, the school improved in areas such as undergraduate GPA for incoming MSN students, student-to-faculty ratios, research grants, peer assessment scores and more. These rankings come on the heels of *U.S. News'* fall release of its inaugural Bachelor of Science in Nursing program rankings, where Case Western Reserve appears at No. 10 in the country.

"We are proud to have the outstanding efforts of our faculty, staff and students recognized as contributors to the top nursing science and education in the country," said **Carol Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)**, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing dean and the Edward J. and Louise Mellen Professor.

Degree Programs




#11 **#15**

Master of
Nursing Science
(MSN)

Doctor of
Nursing Practice
(DNP)

Specialty Programs



#7 **#21**

MSN
Acute
Gerontological
Care

MSN
Nurse
Midwifery

Cheers to 50 years

The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing research doctoral program will celebrate its 50-year anniversary this fall. To mark this momentous milestone, the nursing school will host three virtual events.

Open to all alumni, these events will focus on the PhD program's past, present and future. Alumni will receive invitations this fall, but mark your calendars now for the following dates and times:

Sept. 14 at noon: Celebrating 50 Years of PhD Accomplishments

Oct. 12 at noon: PhD Education Today and Tomorrow

Nov. 16 at noon: Opportunities and Future Horizons: Where do we need to go?



Nursing faculty publish new research



Ronald L. Hickman Jr.



Stephanie Griggs



Grant Pignatiello

Ronald L. Hickman Jr., PhD, RN (CWR '00; NUR '02, '06, '13; GRS '08, nursing), associate dean for research and the Ruth M. Anderson Professor of Nursing; **Stephanie Griggs, PhD, RN**, assistant professor; and **Grant Pignatiello, PhD, RN (CWR '13, GRS, '18, nursing)**, instructor, co-published "Feeling anxious about catching COVID: Facilitators and barriers of sleep health among young adults with type 1 diabetes" in the January issue of *Behavioral Sleep Medicine*.

Griggs and Hickman also co-published "A systematic review of sleep deprivation and neurobehavioral function in young adults" in *Applied Nursing Research* in February, and collaborated with Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing biostatistician **Seunghye Margevicius, PhD (NUR '01; GRS '06, nursing; GRS '18, epidemiology and biostatistics)**, to publish "Variations in sleep characteristics and glucose regulation in young adults with type 1 diabetes" in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*.



Joachim Voss



Celeste Alfes



Sonya D. Moore

Joachim Voss, PhD, RN, the Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing Education; **Celeste Alfes, DNP, RN (GRS '10, nursing; MGT '21)**, professor and associate dean for academic affairs; and **Sonya D. Moore, DNP (GRS '16, nursing)**, assistant professor, co-published "Why mentoring matters for new graduates transitioning to practice: Implications for nurse leaders" in February's issue of *Nurse Leader*.



Grant O'Connell

Voss co-wrote "Working status and seasonal meteorological conditions predict physical activity levels in people living with HIV," which was published in *AIDS Care*. He and **Grant O'Connell, PhD**, assistant professor, co-published "Diagnostic accuracy of blood biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease and amnesic mild cognitive impairment: A meta-analysis" in *Ageing Research Reviews* last year.

Alfes also published "Merging cyberspace and classroom space: Student Preferences versus faculty practice" in the November issue of *Minority Nurse: Nursing Innovation Special Issue*.



Amy Y. Zhang

Moore co-authored "How can the nursing profession reduce sexual and gender minority related health disparities: Recommendations from the National Nursing LGBTQ Health Summit," which appeared last year in *Nursing Outlook*, as well as "Exposure to intimate partner violence and children's physiological functioning: A systematic review of the literature," which was published in *Journal of Family Violence* in February. **Moore** also co-published "Excess cancer prevalence in men with HIV: A nationwide analysis of Medicaid data" in *Cancer* with **Nicholas K. Schiltz, PhD (GRS '13, epidemiology and biostatistics)**, assistant professor, and "Socioeconomic correlates of health outcomes and mental health disparity in a sample of cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic" in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* with **Amy Y. Zhang, PhD**, associate professor.

Zhang also co-authored "Associations among irritability, high-sensitivity c-reactive protein/interleukin-6, and depression in patients with early-stage breast cancer undergoing chemotherapy: A prospective study" which appeared in the *Journal of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry* in September.



Heather K. Hardin

Assistant Professor **Heather K. Hardin, PhD, RN**; Associate Professor **Cheryl M. Killion, PhD, RN**; and **Moore** published "Strategies to engage systematically marginalized youth and their families in research using high-tech methods" in *Advances in Nursing Science* in February.

Hardin also co-authored "Mental health comorbidity and youth onset type 2 diabetes: A systematic review of the literature" in the *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine*.



Faye Gary



Carolyn Harmon Still



Latina Brooks

Faye Gary, EdD, the Medical Mutual of Ohio Kent W. Clapp Professor of Nursing; **Carolyn Harmon Still, PhD (GRS '10, nursing; MGT '16)**, assistant professor, and **Latina Brooks, PhD (CWR '93,**

'95; NUR '98; GRS '02, nursing), assistant professor, co-authored "Medical mistrust among Black women in America" in *The Journal of the National Black Nurses Association* last year.

Still also co-published "Challenges to dietary hypertension self-management as described by a sample of African American older adults" in *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing* in January, and, with Margevicius, "A pilot study evaluating the effects of a technology-based and positive psychological training intervention on blood pressure in African Americans with hypertension" in the *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health* last year. Still co-published "Secondary stroke risk reduction in Black adults: A systematic review" in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, and "Is medication adherence predictive of cardiovascular outcomes and blood pressure control? The Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT)" in the *American Journal of Hypertension*, as well as "SPRINT Revisited: Updated results and implications" in a later issue of the same journal.



Evanne Juratovac

Assistant Professor **Evanne Juratovac, PhD, RN (NUR '88; GRS '09, nursing)**, published "Integrative management of disordered cognition" in *Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing: Integrating Psychotherapy, Psychopharmacology, and Complementary and Alternative Approaches Across the Life Span*.



Christine Horvat Davey

Instructor **Christine Horvat Davey, PhD, RN (GRS, '19, nursing)**, co-published "Comparison of diet, muscle strength, steps per day and symptoms in people with HIV and HIV-negative peers" in *Research in Nursing & Health*.



Deborah Lindell

Deborah Lindell, PhD (GRS '03, nursing), the Marvin E. and Ruth Durr Denekas Professor of Nursing, published "Approval and accreditation of nursing education programs" in the June issue of *American Nurse Journal*.



Beverly Capper



Donna Dowling

Instructor **Beverly Capper, DNP (NUR '20)**, and Professor **Donna Dowling, PhD, RN (NUR '69)**, co-authored "Mothers' decision making concerning safe sleep for preterm infants: What are the deciding factors?" in *Advances in Neonatal Care*.



Valerie Boebel Toly

Valerie Boebel Toly, PhD, RN (NUR '90; GRS '09, nursing), associate professor and the Arline H. and Curtis F. Garvin Professor of Nursing, co-authored "The link between executive function, socio-emotional functioning and health-related quality of life in children and adolescents with mild to moderate chronic kidney disease" in *Child: Care, Health and Development*.



Jaclene Zauszniewski



Carol Musil

Toly collaborated with **Jaclene Zauszniewski, PhD, RN-BC (NUR '89; GRS '92, nursing)**, the Kate Hanna Harvey Professor in Community Health Nursing, and **Carol Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)**, dean and the Edward J. and

Louise Mellen Professor of Nursing, to publish "Resourcefulness intervention efficacy for parent caregivers of technology-dependent children: A randomized trial" in the *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.



Mary Dolansky

Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN (GRS '01, nursing), co-authored "Preparing RNs for expanding roles in primary care," which appeared in *American Nurse Journal*, and "Health literacy, cognitive function, and mortality in patients with heart failure" in *The Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*.



Susan Mazanec

Susan Mazanec, PhD, RN (NUR '82; GRS '09, nursing), published "Development and implementation of an advanced practitioner-led survivorship clinic for patients status post allogeneic transplant" in the *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology*, and co-authored "Factors associated with symptom distress in women with breast cancer prior to initiation of chemotherapy," which was published in *Applied Nursing Research*.



The science of sleep

Better sleep could save lives, improve care for the sick and prevent chronic disease

Over the last decade, clinicians, scientists and the public have begun to realize precisely how connected sleep is to human health—discovering a relatively new area ripe for extensive research.

“Sleep is a process that helps us restore, but it actually impacts us at a cellular and biological level,” said **Ron Hickman Jr., PhD, RN (CWR ’00; NUR ’02, ’06, ’13; GRS ’08, nursing)**, associate dean for research and the Ruth M. Anderson Professor of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University’s Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. “We’re learning more about how sleep and our circadian biology affect our health, neural pathways and even how cells function.”



Ronald L. Hickman Jr.

And now, advances in technology allow researchers to study sleep in innovative ways. Gone are the days of needing to do sleep studies exclusively in laboratory settings. Instead, patients wear devices and sensors that accurately track their sleep patterns and biological markers in their home environments.

“It’s a relatively new frontier,” said Hickman. “We are now able to get moment-by-moment data.”

And that data, he said, will provide better insights into sleep health, potentially predicting—or even preventing—serious health conditions.

SLEEP STUDIES

With an eye on the emerging scientific interest in sleep research, Hickman and other faculty members have launched research programs to explore the relationship between sleep and fatigue. **Grant Pignatiello, PhD, RN (CWR ’13; GRS ’18,**

nursing), for example, recently studied how poor sleep affects the decision-making abilities of family members of intensive care unit (ICU) patients—individuals who are “often too sick to make decisions about their care,” said Pignatiello, who is also an instructor at the nursing school, “and rely on family members or loved ones to make choices for them.” And those family members, he said, are susceptible to prolonged states of anxiety, depression and acute stress.



Grant Pignatiello

In his study, Pignatiello and his team used wrist sensors to measure sleep quality. Then, they measured their subjects’ decision fatigue a few days later. They found poorer sleep was associated with higher levels of decision fatigue, which could impair these “surrogate decision-makers’” ability to make necessary—and sometimes irreversible—healthcare choices. For example, they may make decisions that don’t align with the patient’s values, delay making decisions until no options remain or avoid the responsibility altogether by deferring it to others.

His team’s research looks to reduce the decision-makers’ burden through interventions, such as FAMCOPE-ICU, a tablet-based application in its final stages of design that could provide customized coping and emotion-regulation strategies.

While Pignatiello focused on sleep as the key to sound decision-making, other researchers at the nursing school are curious about the sleep health of those with chronic conditions.

“Forty percent of people struggle with sleep problems—a number that jumps to 75% for older people with HIV,” said **Christine Horvat Davey, PhD, RN (GRS ’19, nursing)**, a National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) K23 postdoctoral fellow at the university. “Poor sleep quality is associated with

facultyNEWS

increased depression, cancer and cardiometabolic diseases, and it's one of the most commonly reported symptoms for aging people with HIV."

So with a three-year, K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award from NINR, Horvat Davey is investigating the effects of multimodal interventions, such as exercise, on the sleep quality—and, in turn, overall quality of life—of aging people with HIV.

CWRU researchers' efforts gained momentum in 2020 when **Stephanie Griggs, PhD, RN**, joined the nursing school faculty as an assistant professor. Griggs has spent years studying the role of sleep and circadian systems in people with Type 1 diabetes, and now is doing so with a grant from the NINR. Through her research and collaboration, Griggs is helping catalyze sleep research by identifying ways her colleagues can incorporate such studies into their own work.

"We all may study different populations and areas, but there's commonality," said Griggs. "That's the best part of science—putting different minds and techniques together and figuring out a stronger way to address these problems," Griggs said.

But what really moved the nursing school's sleep research to the next level was when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) unveiled its Sleep Research Plan in 2021. Through this program, the NIH provides funding opportunities that align with its strategic goals, which are intended to show how sleep and circadian science can advance medicine and promote public health.

Responding to the NIH's Sleep Research Plan, the school's faculty members are positioning themselves to meaningfully contribute to advancing sleep and circadian science, including expanding research programs to explore the sleep quality of people impacted by social determinants of health. "We don't know how certain socially vulnerable populations might experience sleep health disparities, so faculty have begun to address the pressing need to understand how social determinants impact sleep quality and potentially contribute to health disparities," said Hickman.

That's where assistant professor **Elliane Irani, PhD, RN**, comes in.



Christine Horvat Davey



Stephanie Griggs

As an expert in the dyadic relationships between patients and caregivers, Irani knows that caregivers take on an inordinate amount of stress that can lead to them neglecting their own needs. "They put their health in the background, and don't pay as much attention to it until it's too late to do something about it," said Irani. That includes their sleep quality.

And then, the gap: According to the National Alliance for Caregiving and the American Association of Retired Persons, nearly one in four Black adults—approximately 7.2 million—serve as caregivers to an adult family member or friend. Compared with white caregivers, they are less likely to report being in excellent or very good health, and more likely to provide more high-intensity care with limited support.

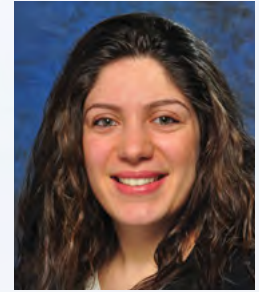
When considered together, the stress of caregiving and the lack of quality sleep compounds the risk for serious disease. Irani wanted to narrow the focus on an especially vulnerable population: Black Americans, who are disproportionately affected by cardiovascular disease and report sleeping less than other groups, Irani said.

With funding from the NIH, Irani hopes to find ways to narrow this gap by examining the social determinants of sleep health and cardiovascular risk among African American family caregivers. Using wearable devices and sleep diaries, caregivers in Irani's study will provide information about their sleep habits and daily experiences. Irani will focus on understanding how caregivers' access to healthcare, their experience with racial discrimination and the support they receive from their neighborhoods and communities play a role in their health outcomes.

"We're trying to understand what caregivers think they need to maintain their health and engage in healthy behaviors that would decrease their risk for stress and cardiovascular disease," said Irani.

Because, ultimately, better health for caregivers means better health for those in their care.

This commitment to sleep and circadian biology from the NIH and sleep centers and institutes across the country "has significant implications for public health," Hickman said. "It's a relatively new area of investment, and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing wants to be a major player in that space. ■



Elliane Irani

—Lauren Marchaza

Inspiring young minds

Students share nursing knowledge with refugee children

Last spring, **Angela Cho (CWR '22)** and **Madeline Miltenberger (CWR '22)** entered the Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy on Cleveland's near west side, where more than a dozen children—all refugees and immigrants—eagerly awaited them.

These young students, who are members of The Refugee Response's Youth Mentoring Program, attend the academy as they develop their English language skills. After hearing of the students' interest in the nursing and medical fields, their program director reached out to Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing to arrange a presentation that would give them a preview into the world of nursing from a student's perspective.

Cho and Miltenberger designed a two-day presentation

that covered everything from the role of nurses in society to using a stethoscope. **Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN (MGT '92)**, a Distinguished University Professor and the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing, joined for part of their presentation to talk about nurses throughout history—and to share with each student a copy of her book, *Luminaries of the Past: Stories of Fifty Extraordinary Nurses*.

"We wanted them to see that nurses don't work solely in a hospital but can also make an impact on communities to improve the health of people," said Cho and Miltenberger in an email to *Forefront*. "There is no one path of becoming a nurse—they come from different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives." ■

—Lauren Marchaza

Angela Cho (second from left) and **Madeline Miltenberger (fourth from left)** shared their nursing expertise with students of The Refugee Response Youth Mentoring Program at the Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy.



Insights from the capitol

Two from CWRU share takeaways from a national policy summit

In March, **Takiyah Smith (NUR '19)**, a Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice student, and **Nikisha Bailey, DNP (NUR '22)**, attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Student Policy Summit, a two-day conference held in Washington, D.C., for nursing students of AACN member institutions.

Fresh from their experience, for which travel was supported through Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Alumni Association's Students, Alumni Growth, Education and Engagement Fund, Smith and Bailey shared their conference highlights with *Forefront*.

The AACN Student Policy Summit is an excellent opportunity to learn more about advocacy and engage in the policy arena. [Though] we did not have the opportunity to engage with elected officials on the hill this year [due to COVID-19 and security precautions], the impactful speakers who presented made up for that deficit. It was terrific to see nurses who have made meaningful contributions locally and globally, proving that we are well-positioned to advocate on issues that matter to us and the communities we serve. In addition, I appreciated that a diverse student body was in attendance—from different backgrounds and at different points in their nursing journey. The ability to network with a diverse group of nursing peers and build my professional network was invaluable.

There was something for everyone to take away. I plan to apply for the student AACN policy internship this year to expand on some of the advocacy skills I have learned to engage in the policy process. I loved that we could engage with the speakers and AACN staff, who also have a wealth of knowledge and experience. I spoke with them regarding possibly offering a more extensive experience to nurses who are unfamiliar with the health policy arena, but who are passionate and committed to making a difference. We discussed developing a health policy fellowship program specifically for nurses who are minorities. I left the summit feeling so inspired and encouraged to make a difference.

—**Nikisha Bailey, DNP (NUR '22)**

As a sexual assault nurse examiner in Ohio hospitals, I learned how to become a better advocate at the AACN conference. Throughout the conference, I learned how nursing is a career that can lead to other opportunities in nontraditional realms that need more of our voices. I have given proponent testimonies in the past for Ohio House Bill 3 (see sidebar below), making strangulation in domestic violence a felony in the state, and Ohio House Bill 390, requiring testing of rape kits for human trafficking victims.

As I continue these advocacy efforts, I will take what I learned on how to prepare testimonies better and develop a relationship with legislators. The power of a story can change the opinions of many. While statistics may be moving to some, stories of a nurse's experience may be compelling for representatives and senators to push bills forward. The more nurses come together with a unified voice, the better we can help patients. ■

—**Takiyah Smith (NUR '19)**

ACTIVISM AT THE STATEHOUSE

Ohio is one of only two states that do not recognize strangulation as a felony offense. So last fall, **Takiyah Smith (NUR '19)**, a psychiatric nurse and sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) registered nurse at hospitals in Cleveland and Akron, headed to Columbus to testify as a proponent of Ohio House Bill 3 (HB 3), which sought to make strangulation a felony in Ohio. HB 3 is also known as Aisha's Law, named for Aisha Fraser, a sixth-grade teacher in Shaker Heights who was murdered by her ex-husband in November 2018.



Takiyah Smith

"Strangulation is more than choking, it is restricting blood and airflow to the brain," Smith said. "It can result in death, which we saw for Aisha Fraser."

The Ohio House passed HB3 just days later. Smith, who had never before testified for congressional legislation, said she did so to raise awareness for her patients. She is now doing the same for Ohio Senate Bill 90, the senate equivalent of HB 3.

Smith said it is important for nurses to get involved in the policy- and law-making process.

"According to Gallup polls, nursing has been the most trusted profession among American adults for 20 years straight," she said. "Nurses underestimate the power we have raising awareness of unjust laws that impact patients. I think it is important to use our voices outside our occupation." ■

—**Elizabeth Lundblad**

A new home for nurse leaders





Growing leadership academy takes its place at the university's Health Education Campus

BY CAREY SKINNER MOSS

Marian K. Shaughnessy, DNP (NUR '85, '17), had long wanted to do something for the field of nursing that had never been done before.

The Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing double alumna envisioned an academy that would empower nurses in every sector by convening the field's national and international leaders for continuing education, scholarship and research focused on the science of nurse leadership.

"Now more than ever, nurses must seize the opportunity to be not just facilitators of healthcare, but rather leaders in their own right," Shaughnessy wrote in 2012. "They will be the agents of change responsible for providing others with a lighted path for positive changes in the nursing field."

Kate Shaughnessy Biggar, Anne Shaughnessy Marchetto and Michael Shaughnessy pose near the portrait of Marian K. Shaughnessy.

Photos by Roger Mastroianni and Dan Milner
Portrait painting by Steven Seward



The new doors of the academy await students in the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion on the Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic Health Education Campus.

Those words, penned for a doctoral course taught by **Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN (MGT '92)**, the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing, provided a foundation for the academy they would develop together over the coming years.

Shaughnessy continued to pursue her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, even when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2015. "Marian never let it slow her down," recalled her husband, Michael Shaughnessy. "Whatever she did, she gave 110%. It was a thrill to watch and be around her."

In 2017, Marian graduated with her doctorate, and by 2018, the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy was established, thanks to a \$5 million gift from the Shaughnessys.



"There is so much that goes on at the executive level that we can get buried in the work and miss what's really happening in the field. Collaborating among the different fellowships gives us the opportunity to share, witness and even create change—which is the part I enjoy the most."

—Sonya D. Moore, DNP (NUR '16)

“Marian recognized that we have a responsibility to teach nurses at all levels to fully embrace the leadership opportunities they already have,” said Fitzpatrick, the academy’s inaugural director. “Nurses can change the world of healthcare—but first we need to present ourselves as leaders.”

Marian died in February 2020, and one year later, her family donated \$2.5 million in her honor to establish a permanent home for the academy at the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic.

Michael Shaughnessy has continued his late wife’s work by raising funds and awareness for the academy, which he considers his full-time job.

“We belong here,” said Shaughnessy of the new space, housed in the same facility as some of the university’s other health-related programs. “Now the academy is not only in the same building as the nursing school, but the fellows and students are among their peers in the medical and dental schools. That’s how it should be, and it’s an exciting step.”

“FORWARD THINKING, INCLUSIVE AND, MOST OF ALL, COLLABORATIVE”

At the grand opening in May, dozens of nurse leaders and advocates from across the country gathered on the third floor of the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion.

A portrait of the academy’s namesake, unveiled that evening, welcomes guests at the entrance. Meeting spaces and offices are separated by frosted glass walls, allowing light from the floor-to-ceiling windows to filter through.



“So we are asking, ‘What can we do to better prepare students for the realities of working in a hospital? And we’re having these conversations to develop curricula and onboarding systems that bridge the gap between training and practice—and hopefully reduce turnover.’”

—Molly J. Jackson, DNP (NUR '10, '15)



A sleek and contemporary lobby welcomes students to the new academy.

“Marian recognized that we have a responsibility to teach nurses at all levels to fully embrace the leadership opportunities they already have.”

—Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN
(MGT '92)



Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing), dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and Edward J. and Louise Mellen Professor of Nursing, remarked that the space reflected Shaughnessy's vision: “forward thinking, inclusive and, most of all, collaborative.

“Marian understood,” she continued, “that nurse leaders grow and thrive when given the opportunity to share ideas and solve problems—together.”

For the academy's fellows and scholars, who hail from across the United States to Canada and to Saudi Arabia, that sense of community is precisely what drew them to the program.

Sonya D. Moore, DNP (NUR '16), director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program and assistant professor at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, was an inaugural member of the academy's flagship program: the Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellowship.

“The Coldiron Fellowship afforded me the opportunity to meet people I probably would never have met otherwise, to exchange ideas and hear what's going on nationally and internationally,” said Moore. “There is so much that goes on at the executive level that we can get buried in the work and miss what's really happening in the field. Collaborating among the different fellowships gives us the opportunity to share, witness and even create change—which is the part I enjoy the most.”

A member of the Samuel H. and Maria Miller Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship cohort, **Molly J. Jackson, DNP (NUR '10, '15)**, is using her newly expanded network to strengthen partnerships between nurses in academia and in hospital systems.

“Our clinical partners face many challenges due to nursing shortages and high patient acuity, exacerbated by the pandemic,” said Jackson, who is director of the Graduate Entry

Nursing Program and an assistant professor at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. “New graduates are especially vulnerable to physical and emotional stress as a result. On the academic side, we are partnering with practice educators to help better prepare our graduates for the realities of practice. We want to develop curricula and clinical experiences that help bridge the gap as they enter the workforce—and hopefully reduce turnover.”

The academy has attracted nurse executives from beyond Cleveland with many different goals for their time in the program, including **Joan O'Hanlon Curry, RN**, administrative director of Pediatric Clinical Services at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital in Houston.

O'Hanlon Curry is eager to capitalize on the collective power of nurses worldwide to make meaningful policy changes that support research and education on disease prevention.

“We know that diseases such as



Joan O'Hanlon Curry

Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy



On May 5, the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Above: Rear Admiral Aisha K. Mix and Melvin Smith, PhD, professor in the Department of Organizational Behavior and faculty director of Executive Education at Weatherhead School of Management, explore the academy space after the ribbon cutting with Anthony Marchetto and Jack Turben.

Left: Dean Musil welcomes friends and supporters to the opening event at the academy.



Dean Musil, Kate Shaughnessy Biggar, Michael Shaughnessy, Anne Shaughnessy Marchetto and Joyce Fitzpatrick officially open the academy during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

diabetes and kidney failure can be traced back to diet and exercise, smoking and other factors," said O'Hanlon Curry. "We need to focus prevention efforts in kids, when they can set healthy habits for adulthood. This needs to be done at the policy level, and already with the Coldiron Fellowship, I've met new colleagues who can be partners in influencing these changes."

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

As Marian Shaughnessy outlined in her letter, nurses have the ability to be agents of change—but they must first be put in positions of influence.

A 2020 study by the World Health Organization showed that nurses account for approximately 59% of the international healthcare workforce and deliver the majority of primary healthcare around the globe. Yet they hold only 4% of board seats in hospitals and other health systems.

The report went on to state: "An investment in nursing leadership is needed to ensure nurses have a seat at the table where health policy and practice decisions are made."

The Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy aims to address this issue—starting with its own board members.

The Frances Payne Bolton Advisory Board, formed expressly for the academy, comprises nursing school faculty and staff members who guide the program's advancement. There are also two student representatives on the board—one each from the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Nurses Associations—who provide recommendations based on the student experience, and also receive invaluable leadership training.

Now, the board has a room dedicated to these discussions within the Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy—a modern

space that is only a 10-minute walk from the university's main campus and Cleveland's University Circle Neighborhood. When the group's external counterpart, the Global Advisory Board, gathers in Cleveland, they will use the same space.

The Global Advisory Board brings experts from outside of the nursing school to aid in the Shaughnessy Academy's growth. One of its newest members, Rear Admiral **Aisha K. Mix, DNP (NUR '14)**, hopes to increase diversity at the executive level to engage younger generations of nurses. She also looks forward to adding a public health perspective to the conversation.

As chief nurse officer of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, Mix advises the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the recruitment, deployment and career development



Aisha K. Mix

of nurse professionals, and oversees 4,500 Commissioned Corps and civilian nurses.

She started the role at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic when practitioners were forced to work with extremely scarce resources.

“COVID-19 has taken an immense physical and emotional toll on our workforce,” said Mix. “Nurses are often the MacGyvers of the healthcare system—we are expected to fix things quickly and move on, never letting anything fall by the wayside. What we as nurses are learning now is to use our voice and not suffer in silence for the benefit of others.

“It’s been a reminder that nurses are leaders at every level,” she continued, “and especially for those of us at an executive level, we have a responsibility to impact change and an opportunity to carry the voices of so many.”

Award-winning photographer and filmmaker Carolyn Jones has spent the past decade of her career highlighting the vital role nurses

play in the American healthcare system. Now, she’s bringing her unique expertise and viewpoint to the Shaughnessy Academy’s Global Advisory Board.

“My goal is to help bridge this divide between what the public thinks nurses can do, and what they are actually capable of doing,” said Jones. “I also want to offer a kind of mirror for the profession, to tell nurses, ‘in case you’ve forgotten, take a closer look at yourselves, because you’re extraordinary.’ As patients we often remember the qualities that make nurses good at what they do, we remember how nurses make us feel, but we don’t always remember their names. It’s heartbreaking—and that’s where the media has to come in, to shine a brighter light on the profession.”



Carolyn Jones

A FAMILY EFFORT

Awareness and recognition are also on Michael Shaughnessy’s radar, who promised Marian before she died that he would carry on her work with the academy. He recalled a trip to London during which Marian insisted on a visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum.

“You could see the enthusiasm in Marian’s eyes walking through the museum,” said Michael of his late wife, who had long been inspired by the renowned nursing pioneer. “Nightingale set the world of nursing on fire. That’s the kind of impact Marian wanted to have.”

Two years after her death, Michael—joined by both of their daughters—has kept his promise to Marian and kept her legacy alive.

“At no point in my life or career did I think I would be working in the medical field in any capacity,” said Anne Shaughnessy Marchetto, the Shaughnessys’ eldest daughter, who also serves on the Global Advisory Board. “But working alongside my mom’s colleagues and seeing them carry her vision forward has been a very rewarding and eye-opening experience.”

Marchetto’s sister, Kate Shaughnessy Biggar, shared that Mother’s Day has been a difficult holiday since her mom died, but that the grand opening of the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy, just three days before the holiday, was the “perfect way to celebrate her this year.”

“To say the experience was special falls so short of what it really meant for me and my family,” said Biggar. “We have been really overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from family friends, colleagues, fellow students and others. It is incredible to see a rallying cry for empowering nurse leaders.” ■



Rites of passage

Class of 2022 celebrates the first “normal” commencement in two years

On May 13, members of Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing’s Class of 2022 were officially welcomed as new nurses during the pinning ceremony at Case Western Reserve University’s Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center. Each graduate proudly donned a pin—fastened to their lapel by their chosen pinner—which nurses wear to identify the school of nursing from which they graduated.

Two days later, students receiving their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees listened to university leadership, including President Eric W. Kaler and Cleveland mayor Justin Bibb (LAW ’18, MGT ’18), during the morning convocation before receiving their diplomas during the Undergraduate Studies ceremony.

And that afternoon, graduate and doctoral students gathered at the University Circle United Methodist Church for the diploma ceremony. Dean **Carol Musil, PhD, RN (NUR ’79; GRS ’91, nursing)**, congratulated the new graduates, saying: “Frances Payne Bolton alumni shape the nursing profession. They are known worldwide for their innovation and excellence. And now, we look forward to watching you shape the nursing profession and continue that legacy.”

Michelle Acorn, DNP, chief nurse of the International Council of Nurses, delivered commencement remarks and shared invaluable advice she’s gathered over years of experience. “Don’t just focus on one area or sector,” she said. “Continue to be a student of life; expand your horizons and push the limits of your comfort zone as a lifelong learner.” ■

—Lauren Marchaza





Say *yes*

The voice for nearly 28 million nurses around the world speaks to the Class of 2022

Like many of her peers, Michelle Acorn, DNP, expected to spend her nursing career working directly with patients.

Now, nearly 35 years after she began practicing, Acorn is instead providing strategic guidance to advance nursing and health policy around the globe as the inaugural chief nurse for the International Council of Nurses—a federation comprising more than 130 national nursing associations.

“I really had no desire to be in executive leadership at the start of my career,” said Acorn, who assumed the post in May 2021. “But I’ve gone from bedside to classroom to boardroom to civil service—and now to the world stage. I never anticipated that journey.”

The experience of pioneering a role isn’t new to Acorn. She created the first emergency nurse practitioner position at Lakeridge Health—the regional hospital system near Toronto where she worked for nearly 30 years. She was also the first Doctor of Nursing Practice-prepared faculty member at the University of Toronto, and an inaugural fellow of the Canadian Academy of Nursing.

In 2018, Acorn left Lakeridge Health and became the provincial chief nursing officer of Ontario, Canada’s largest province. She had an opportunity to retire within a few years, but decided to “rededicate” herself to the profession. “I realized that, if we as nurses don’t speak up and lead,” she recalled, “who will?”

So when she had the chance to join Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing’s Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy, she said yes. In 2020 she became a member of the first cohort of Samuel H. and Maria Miller Foundation Executive Leadership Post-Doctoral Fellows.

When Acorn came to Cleveland in May to deliver Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing’s commencement address, it was one year after she completed the Miller Fellowship—but her first time stepping foot on the Case Western Reserve University campus.

“It was incredible to finally be there in person,” she remarked. “Even though I wasn’t graduating, I felt I was also celebrating my milestones with the university. It was really special to share that with the students and to connect with them.”



Michelle Acorn delivers remarks at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing commencement ceremony.

Acorn’s main advice to the graduates? Learn to say yes—even to opportunities that scare you.

“Imposter syndrome is very real for so many of us, whether we’re at the start of our career or well-seasoned,” she said in her address. “Some of the confidence will come with experience, but much of it will come from stretching your wings and stepping out of your comfort zone.”

Particularly now that she’s the voice for nearly 28 million nurses around the world, “I need to practice what I preach,” Acorn remarked in an interview. “That’s also why I still seek out educational opportunities, so I can learn from others and give back to the profession.”

Another trip to Case Western Reserve is likely to be in Acorn’s future, now that she has joined the Shaughnessy Academy’s Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellowship and serves as a mentor for the second cohort of Miller Fellows.

“As you grow and learn and continue throughout your career,” Acorn remarked to the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Class of 2022, “remember what it was like when you were a student and how thirsty you were to learn, how you cherished meaningful preceptors. And then, be that person for somebody else. Be that person even if you think you don’t have a lot to offer—I assure you, you do.” ■

—Carey Skinner Moss



Reflections from our newest alumni

Nearly 600 Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing students received diplomas this spring, joining a network of more than 8,000 active alumni around the globe.

Before they left campus as graduates, *Forefront* asked students to share their favorite campus memories, their career plans and their advice for the next generation of nursing leaders at Case Western Reserve University. ■



"Select a topic you are passionate about early on and follow it throughout the program. When applying what you learn to a subject you are invested in, the process may still be difficult, but it is so much more rewarding!"



—**Laura Calcagni**, a DNP alumna who is continuing her career as a nurse educator at Youngstown State University and building on her doctoral research study



"My advice: The first step toward success is to be enthusiastic about what you do."



—**Nader Alnomasy**, a PhD grad who is now a fellow in the Miller Foundation System Chief Nurse Executive Post-Doctoral Program in Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy



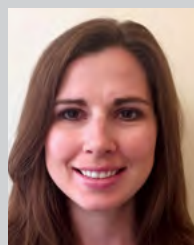
"Nursing opens the door to endless career paths. Most importantly, it teaches you to put patients at the center of everything you do."



—**Dante Grecco**, a BSN alumnus who next will attend Johns Hopkins University to study biochemistry



"My favorite clinical experience was my intrapartum rotation. It is here that I was able to take classroom content and apply fully. Promoting a physiologic birth and advocating for women when they are most vulnerable is an honor."



—**Wendy Schwochow**, an MSN alumna who intends to become licensed as a Certified Nurse Midwife and serve her local community



“My favorite clinical rotation was my senior practicum on a pediatric hematology/oncology unit at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies [& Children’s Hospital]! ... My preceptor was spectacular, and I was challenged in a lot of ways that are going to prepare me well for stepping into the RN role.”

—**Emily Todd**, a BSN graduate who is planning to move to New York and work as an oncology nurse



“My advice for incoming students: Don’t be afraid to mess up. Take every opportunity to learn that comes your way, and if you don’t get something right the first try, there’s always another chance.”

—**Kaylee Espeland**, a BSN grad who plans to become a behavioral health RN in Washington, D.C., and eventually pursue a master’s in healthcare policy



“New students at CWRU: Keep pushing.”

—**Murad Akjah**, an MSN graduate who intends to work as a nurse practitioner



“My favorite clinical rotation has to be in the Trauma ICU at MetroHealth Medical Center, which is a Level 1 trauma center. It was really my first time seeing such severe life-threatening injuries, and helping make my patients feel better definitely reaffirmed my dedication for nursing. It ... opened my eyes to the possibilities in the ICU setting.”

—**David Li**, a BSN graduate who next will work in Cleveland Clinic’s Cardiovascular ICU

Class Notes

Sandy Petrovic (NUR '79), advisor and tutor in the Thrive Learning Center at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio, co-wrote the book *Expect a Miracle: Understanding and Living with Autism* (AAPC Publishing) with her adult son, David, who was diagnosed with autism as a toddler. The authors alternate the writing to share, in their own voices, the challenges and victories of life with autism from diagnosis to young adulthood.

Laura Tycon Moreines, RN (CWR '10), a PhD in nursing student at New York University and a nurse practitioner for Yale New Haven Health, was named a 2021 Emerging Leader by the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation, an honor designed to celebrate and encourage early-career hospice and palliative nurses.

Reanna Pickerign (NUR '16) was featured in the January/February issue of *Simply Hers* magazine, highlighting rural frontline healthcare workers. The story details Pickerign's journey to become a certified family nurse practitioner at Hillsdale Health and Wellness, a walk-in clinic in Hillsdale, Michigan, where she has worked for six years. She also is a preceptor for nurse-practitioner and midwifery students at University of Michigan School of Nursing.

Jocelyn L. Sherman (NUR '17), a pediatric nurse practitioner, started a new position at Nationwide Children's Hospital's Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Clinic in Columbus, Ohio.

In Memoriam

Death notices submitted between Sept. 16, 2021, and May 26, 2022.

Alice Garfield Byrne (FSM '42, NUR '44) of West Bend, Wisconsin, died Sept. 25. In her 100 years, she served as a nurse in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, worked as a nurse in Chicago for more than two decades and was a lifelong advocate for mental health.

Donna Jean Bricker (NUR '46) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, died April 21. Bricker was driven to become a nurse after the death of her younger sister at age 16, and earned degrees from Ohio Wesleyan and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Barbara Auld Jones (NUR '47) died Oct. 21 in Amelia Island, Florida. She loved golfing, exercising, playing bridge and volunteering with the Baptist Medical Center, the Barnabas Center and the American Cancer Society.

Ann Stankunas Reilley (NUR '47) died Nov. 7 in Watervliet, New York. She spent her career as a registered nurse at St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady. Reilley was known for providing compassionate care to her patients and friends alike.

Verna Brown Kness (NUR '48) of Poland, Ohio, died Jan. 7. During her career, Kness was head of nursing at University Hospitals in Cleveland and worked with the Cadet Nursing Corps. She served 20 years with the American Red Cross, 35 years with Hospice of the Valley and volunteered as a nurse with the Youngstown Youth Orchestra.

Elizabeth Wolff Elliott (NUR '49) of Washington Township, Ohio, died Aug. 24. After her first position as an operating room nurse at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Magee Womens Hospital, she became the operating room supervisor at Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh. Elliott was on the faculty at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, and was an assistant professor at the Ohio State University College of Nursing.

Nancy Goosetrey Coyne (NUR '54) of Whitesboro, New York, died Feb. 28. Coyne was a nurse at Faxton Hospital in New York and later accepted a position as a teacher's assistant with the Whitesboro school system before retiring in 1985. She was married to her husband, Vincent, for 68 years, and enjoyed gardening, cooking, traveling and entertaining family and friends.

Nancy White Marrer (NUR '54) of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, died Aug. 26. She taught psychiatric nursing at Christ Hospital School of Nursing and Health Sciences in Cincinnati until retiring in 1995, when she and her husband, Albert, moved to South Carolina. Marrer was an ordained deacon and leader of the Deborah Women's Circle at First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach.

Marjorie L. Lindberg (NUR '55) of Dover, Ohio, died Aug. 23.

Barbara McCray Boone (NUR '57) died March 18 in Greenville, South Carolina. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother whose practical, compassionate and service-minded nature made her an ideal nurse.

Patricia A. Ferris (NUR '58) of Cupertino, California, died Feb. 22, 2020.

Laura John Nosek (NUR '61, '81; GRS '86, nursing) of Auburn Township, Ohio, died Dec. 1. She most recently served as chief nursing officer and nurse educator director at University Hospitals in Cleveland, and assistant professor of nursing at Case Western Reserve University. Nosek belonged to numerous organizations, including the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing, the American Association of Nurse Executives and the alumni associations for both Case Western Reserve and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

alumniNEWS

Mae Nitzsche Mumaw (NUR '62) died Sept. 25 in Medina, Ohio. Mumaw worked as the school nurse for Holmes County schools before becoming director of nursing for Castle Nursing Home and, eventually, a Head Start teacher.

Ann Jenkins Farmer (NUR '63, '81) of Hudson, Ohio, died May 10. Farmer worked at University Hospitals and taught at St. Luke's Hospital. She was a school nurse for Shaker Heights Schools and held a clinical faculty appointment at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, where she also served on the Alumni Association Committee.

Diana Dawes Harsa (NUR '63) of Sherwood, Arkansas, died Jan. 24. She loved traveling, cooking, painting and the beaches of the Florida panhandle. Harsa was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Richard Joseph Harsa (MED '61).

Patricia Thomas Hohman (NUR '64) of North Bethesda, Maryland, died Dec. 24. Hohman was a research nurse within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and administered the first shingles vaccine to a doctor at the National Institutes of Health during the human trial phase. She loved reading, dog walking and traveling, and never missed the opportunity to go on a church-organized trip abroad.

Dorothy Alston Hoppes (NUR '64) died Oct. 16 at her home in Canton, Ohio. She worked as a nurse at University Hospitals in Cleveland and later as the office manager for her husband, William Hoppes (MED '65).

Kay Hills Terrill (NUR '64) of Plano, Texas, died Nov. 28, 2020. Terrill worked as a nurse in both the hospital setting and in doctors' offices, and was an accomplished pianist. She and her husband, Chris (CIT '63; GRS '67, astronomy), obtained private pilot licenses in 1968 and flew themselves on many trips.

Margaret Wilson Banks (NUR '67, '71) of University Heights, Ohio, died March 15, 2021.

Marilyn J. Miller (NUR '61) of Rockford, Illinois, died Nov. 27. She served as a medical-surgical nursing instructor, coordinator of instruction and acting director of nursing, and taught in three hospitals in Rockford for 37 years.

Barbara Witchie Schilling (NUR '63) died Oct. 15 at her home in Zanesville, Ohio. After working as a public health nurse in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, she moved back to Zanesville and became an associate professor of psychiatric nursing at Ohio University's branch campuses. Schilling retired from Ohio University in 2003 as an emeritus professor.

Judith Rose Pugsley (NUR '69) of Rocky River, Ohio, died May 5. After graduating from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, she earned a master's degree in early childhood education from Cleveland State University. Pugsley worked as a nurse at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and for the Visiting Nurses Association.

Mara M. Baun (NUR '70) of Missouri, Texas, died March 14. As the Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Baun devoted the last 15 years of her career to championing the doctoral program at Texas' Cizik School of Nursing before retiring in 2015. A pioneering nurse scientist, Baun also served for 19 years on the faculty of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she was the director of its Nursing Research Center.

Janet Gottschalk (NUR '71) died Jan. 18 in Ambler, Pennsylvania. An active Catholic missionary, Gottschalk dedicated her life to social justice and public health. She received her PhD in public health from the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health in 1976, and was the first religious sister to represent the Medical Mission Sisters at the United Nations in New York. She published two books, had 11 academic appointments and wrote dozens of articles on issues in public health and social justice. In 2004, she received the Ruth B. Freeman Distinguished Career Award from the Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association, the organization's highest award.

A. Barbara Coyne (NUR '83) of Highland Park, Pennsylvania, died Nov. 9. During her career, she worked with Sen. John Heinz to establish the Community Gerontology Center at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Braddock Hospital. Coyne served as associate dean at Duquesne University School of Nursing as well as division chair and professor of nursing at LaRoche University. She also taught at Rutgers University, Carlow University and Loyola University.

Marilyn Jean Musacchio (GRS '93, nursing) of Louisville, Kentucky, died Dec. 17. Musacchio was an associate professor and director of the nurse midwifery program at the University of Alabama Birmingham before becoming tenured professor and dean of the College of Nursing at Tennessee Tech University until 2005. She served in the military for 27 years, and received several awards for innovative nursing education and contributions to maternal and child health.

Julie Andrea Morgan (NUR '96) of San Francisco died Nov. 29. Morgan served on the board of directors for Breast Cancer Action and was passionate about nature and environmental health. She worked as a registered nurse at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio State University and University of California – San Francisco for more than 15 years.

Shelley McKay (CWR '99) of Ashtabula, Ohio, died May 7. After working many years in healthcare, she retired from Lake Home Health Care in Mentor, Ohio.

A passion for patient care

Alumnus found path to nursing as an emergency medical technician

Alec Winpenny (CWR '22) was on a gap year after high school when he earned his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification—and solidified his career path as a nurse.

“After providing direct care as an EMT, I realized that I truly enjoyed working with patients,” he said. “That made me want to go to nursing school and, ultimately, led to Case Western Reserve University.”

Winpenny was drawn to Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing because of its commitment to early exposure to clinical experiences—as soon as within the first few months a first-year student arrives in Cleveland. This early access is “rare,” he said, and CWRU is distinctive in the number of clinical rotations and opportunities it provides to students.

During his time on campus, Winpenny expanded his skills in various intensive care units at Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, including a pediatrics rotation in a neonatal step-down unit at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital.

Winpenny also grew his patient care experience through his work as an EMT on campus, serving with CWRU Emergency Medical Service (EMS) since his first year. This student-run organization provides free, first responder emergency medical assistance to Case Western Reserve University students, faculty, staff and guests.

“It was a welcoming and guiding experience that I needed my first year,” Winpenny recalled fondly. “My foundation of nursing knowledge was accelerated by my experience in EMS. Doing basic patient assessments, taking vital signs and talking to patients—all of these [core nursing learnings] were skills that my mentors in CWRU EMS were teaching me too.”

As the quality assurance and safety director for CWRU EMS, Winpenny helped keep the organization running smoothly by assessing trends and recommending interventions to improve quality, patient care and safety,



Alec Winpenny

such as monitoring call volume to ensure their providers had adequate equipment. Winpenny said this level of responsibility helped him become a better, more mature leader—as did his education and experience at the nursing school.

“Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing really pushes its students to be the best possible nurses they can be,” said Winpenny. “With CWRU EMS, I could apply these teachings directly to my role in operations and prehospital patient care. The two meshed well together, and it has helped form who I am as a provider today.”

Indeed, that experience has served him well: Winpenny graduated from Case Western Reserve University in May, and has accepted a position as a registered nurse at the medical intensive care unit of The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

—Elizabeth Lundblad



Home. Again.

Join Us for Homecoming Oct. 6-9

Come back to Case Western Reserve and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing this fall for multiple opportunities to connect, engage and share our progress. During homecoming and reunion weekend, we'll also recognize alumni achievements, honor special grand classes and celebrate time-honored traditions through a mix of in-person and online events.

Please plan to join us Oct. 6-9!

Visit case.edu/homecoming for more information. To make a reunion gift, please visit case.edu/nursing/giving.

Individuals attending Case Western Reserve events are expected to be fully vaccinated. Masks are not required, but we respect the choices of those who elect to wear them. Campus leaders continue to monitor pandemic developments and will adjust health protocols as circumstances warrant. The university will provide updates for all major events this fall.



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