

FALL/WINTER 2022

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

# *fore*FRONT

A close-up portrait of a woman with a warm smile, wearing a teal scrub cap with a floral pattern and light blue scrubs. She is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred clinical setting.

## Taking the LEAP

New program aims to increase diversity  
among nurse anesthetists



# 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.

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#### On the cover:

Mya Williams, a LEAP student, poses in the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion at the Health Education Campus. Learn more about Williams and LEAP on p. 16.

Photo by Angelo Merendino.

## dean's LETTER



### To Alumni and Friends of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing:

As the end of 2022 nears, I have spent significant time reflecting on our 99th year at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. One that is potentially among our most impressive to date. Our Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was ranked fifth in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report* (p. 4), we just admitted the largest Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Nursing classes in the school's history (p. 8) and we saw our graduates pass their exams at rates more than 10% higher than the national average (p. 5).

Frances Payne Bolton once said that the school should be "free at all times in the future to engage in other experiments, to cooperate with hospitals in these efforts." This spirit of innovative collaboration has remained one of the hallmarks of the school that now bears her name. We proudly carry on that tradition in our latest partnership with Summa Health that will empower nurse leaders to enhance their leadership skills and find their seats at the table (p. 7).

Taking an experimental approach to education was one of the key conditions of Bolton's 1923 gift of \$500,000 to endow the school—the largest ever at the time for a university school of nursing. Earlier this year, we announced another transformative gift from alumna **Cheryl E. McRae-Bergeron, DNP (NUR '94)**, which will create life-changing opportunities for our nurse anesthetist students as they prepare to deliver care in this critical field (p. 26).

As we embark on our 100th year as the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, we do so with gratitude for your continued support of our school, students, staff and faculty. We hope you will join us for our centennial gala (p. 27) and other events we have in store. Together, we look forward to accomplishing and celebrating many things in the milestone year ahead.

With deep appreciation,

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

**Carol 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

# STATE SCHOOL OF THE SCHOOL

The data behind the success of Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing

## *U.S. News & World Report Rankings*

### Best Colleges Rankings 2023\*

#### DEGREE PROGRAMS



#5  
BSN

### Best Grad Schools 2023\*\*

#### DEGREE PROGRAMS



#11  
MSN

#15  
DNP



#### SPECIALTIES



#7  
MSN  
Acute  
Gerontological  
Care

\*Rankings released Sept. 12, 2022

\*\*Rankings released March 29, 2022





## Diversity and Representation

All numbers reflect self-reported responses.

### Underrepresented Minorities (All Programs)

2018 = 12%

2019 = 14%

2020 = 15%

2021 = 16%

2022 = 19%

### Representation of Men (All Programs)

14%

### Total Program Enrollment

BSN = 433

MN = 53

MSN = 103

DNP = 173

PhD = 33

## Professional Exam Results

93.9%

2022 NCLEX pass rate average  
(Reflects first-try results)

VS.

82.4%

national average

## MSN Advanced Practice Nursing 2021 Pass Rates

Advanced Practice Nursing certification exam results are officially released in February/March of the following year. These numbers reflect the passage rates of students who sat for the exams in 2021.

### Nurse Practitioners

Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner = 100%

Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner = 100%

Family Nurse Practitioner Nurse Practitioner = 95%

Family Systems Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner = 100%

Women's Health Nurse Practitioner = 100%

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Acute Care = 100%

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care = 86%

Nurse Anesthesia 100%

Nurse Midwifery 100%

## Faculty Scholarship

5,077  
citations

117  
publications

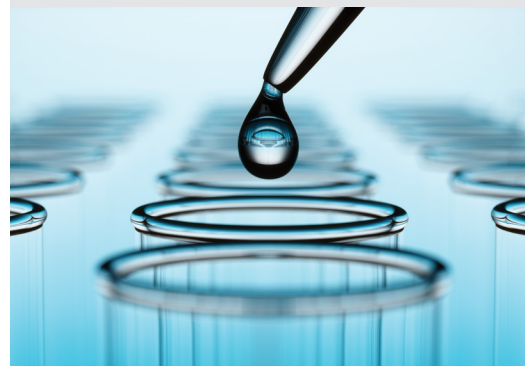
32  
awards or honors

50  
funded research projects

5  
grant review panelists

## NIH\* funding

\$5M+



\*National Institutes of Health

## Faculty make headlines

Over the last several months, national media has sought out Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing faculty members to weigh in on the latest news. Here are just some of the highlights from their recent media mentions.



“We need [nurses] to have the skill set of being a leader, standing up, being at the table and when they’re at the table: having ideas, being creative, and knowing how to test them. And having the technical skills to use the technology is probably where most of the solutions will be for the future.”

—Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN (GRS '01, nursing), the Sarah C. Hirsh Professor, to *Daily Nurse*

“If you’re feeling more emotionally overwhelmed or burdened by life, that could be a sign that your inner resources are depleted, and you may be at a greater risk (of decision fatigue) as a result of that.”

—Grant Pignatiello, PhD, RN (CWR '13; GRS '18, nursing), instructor and KL2 scholar, to *CNN*



“[Children should wear masks when they’re] around a lot of children and are in closed settings [where they’re likely to] acquire or transmit germs through play as they interact with their peers and commonly touched items.”

—Shanina Knighton, PhD, RN (GRS '17, nursing), research associate and adjunct associate professor, to *Fox News* on when children should continue to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19

“Traditionally, women have been socialized into the caregiving role. However, in contemporary society, as women assume other roles in terms of work and family, male caregivers have stepped up and helped out with providing care and other needs. It’s very important for oncology nurses to recognize ... that they, like women who are caregivers, will need to be educated, trained and supported in their role.”

—Susan Mazanec, PhD, RN (NUR '82; GRS '09, nursing), associate professor, in *Cure*





# Cultivating executives

Summa Health partnership develops and prepares nurse leaders

**N**ine nurse leaders started the fall semester as part of a partnership—the first of its kind at Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Summa Health, a large hospital system in Northeast Ohio, and the School of Nursing have come together to form a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Executive Leadership Track.

The three-year, part-time aims to help hospital-based nurses to enhance leadership skills without having to leave their full-time positions. The goal of this hybrid learning program is to prepare students to pursue executive-level positions within nursing and healthcare—and excel once they are in them.



Dean Carol Musil

“This collaboration,” said **Dean Carol Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)**, “expands learning opportunities for current nurse executives while also preparing new nurse leaders to be involved in the design, planning, management and delivery of care, and in the development and implementation of health policy at all levels.”

Supported by the Samuel and Maria Miller Foundation

and the Summa Foundation, the program comes at a time of rising demand for nurse leaders and registered nurses. A recent survey by the American Organization for Nursing Leadership found that 45% of chief nurse officers and nurse executives reported staffing shortages as their biggest new challenge.



Joyce Fitzpatrick

“Together with our hospital partner, Summa Health, we launched this program to empower nurse leaders with a diversity of perspectives and experience from academic settings to the boardroom,” said **Joyce Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN (MGT '92)**, the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing at the nursing school and director of the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy.

“We are committed to providing our nurses with access to programs that offer advanced education and opportunities to grow as leaders,” said Penelope Gorsuch, senior vice president and chief nursing executive for Summa Health. “We’re pleased to be able to partner with Case Western Reserve University and look forward to our continued collaboration in the future.” ■



## First-year firsts

### Highlights on our newest additions

This year, Case Western Reserve University admitted its second-largest class of first-year students—individuals who, collectively, are the most diverse and academically qualified in the university's history.

The interest in nursing among incoming undergraduate students at Case Western Reserve has more than doubled in the last 10 years. Indeed, this fall, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing welcomed what is anticipated to be the nursing school's largest Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) class in the school's history.

Shortly after classes began, faculty and staff gathered at the annual Stethoscope Ceremony to initiate first-years to the nursing profession. **Beverly Capper**, assistant professor and director of the BSN program, opened the event, and Dean **Carol Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)**, delivered remarks before presenting each student with a stethoscope.

Received just in time for their first clinical rotations, the stethoscope serves as a symbol of the connection between nurse and patient, their new role and responsibilities as a student nurse, and a reminder of the high standards they are expected to uphold at Case Western Reserve University.

The ceremony concluded, as it does each year, with students and faculty reciting an adapted version of The Nightingale Pledge, a version of the Hippocratic Oath named in honor of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. ■



(Pictured) First-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing students celebrate at the Stethoscope Ceremony in September.



## Summer wisely spent

### BSN students share their practical work experiences

**F**or 10 weeks this summer, fourth-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student **Clara Ahn** spent her days at Cleveland Clinic's Main Campus as a nurse associate extern, scrubbing into the vascular operating room and gaining experience circulating through emergency department, intensive care unit and transplant units.

"Have a positive attitude and learn to say 'yes' to the opportunities given to you."

—Clara Ahn

The experience at Cleveland Clinic was one of many valuable, real-world educational opportunities that Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing students completed over summer break. CWRU has "one of the few nursing programs that offers an operating room clinical rotation," she said. Because of this, Ahn felt prepared for her externship with "a foundation of knowledge."

Across the country in San Francisco, third-year BSN student **Rachel Shen** interned with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a commissioned officer of the United States Public Health Service.

Shen's internship set her to work at the Region 9 Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement, where she assisted in the reconsideration process for CMS innovation models to improve payment and service delivery.

She said the highlight of her



Clara Ahn



Rachel Shen

experience was meeting nurse officers, who opened her eyes to the various paths she could take in her own career.

"A nurse practitioner in the Bureau of Prisons who advocated for her patients, a nurse who worked in Indian Health Services who described the difficulty of working in such an under-resourced area—yet the joy of being able to change things for the better," she recalled. "And a nurse who worked in the Yosemite National Park medical clinic who woke up to breathtaking views of Yosemite Valley every morning."

With these new ideas of what nurses can do "beyond the bedside," Shen is excited for what's ahead.

"Be open to anything, and don't be scared of things you don't know!"

—Rachel Shen

Both Ahn and Shen came away from their summer work experiences with more practical knowledge, new contacts in their professional networks and inspiration for their futures.

Their advice to other students planning their own internships and externships?

"Be open to anything, and don't be scared of things you don't know!" said Shen.

"Take notes, be actively engaged, ask questions," said Ahn. "Have a positive attitude and learn to say 'yes' to the opportunities given to you." ■

## Professional accolades

Recent awards and appointments earned by Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing faculty



Ronald L. Hickman Jr.

**Ronald Hickman Jr., PhD, RN (CWR '00; NUR '02, '06, '13; GRS '08, nursing)**, associate professor and associate dean for research, was named editor-in-chief of the academic journal *Applied Nursing Research*.



Cheryl Killion

**Cheryl Killion, PhD, RN**, associate professor, has been selected as the 2022-2023 National Academy of Medicine Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence, a yearlong immersion experience during which

she will leverage her expertise and play a prominent role in health policy at the federal level, while engaging in interprofessional collaboration with scholars at the academy.



Nathaniel Schreiner

**Nathaniel Schreiner, PhD, RN (GRS '17, nursing)**, assistant professor, won Case Western Reserve University's John S. Diekhoff Award for Graduate Teaching, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the education of graduate students through

advising and classroom teaching.



Carolyn Harmon Still

**Carolyn Harmon Still, PhD (GRS '10, nursing; MGT '17)**, associate professor, was selected to serve on Case Western Reserve's Faculty Strategy Group (Engineering, Physical and Natural Sciences,

Health Sciences and Applied Social Sciences). This group will advise Michael Oakes, the university's new senior vice president for research and technology management, on campus strengths and untapped potential.

## Four fellows

The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) selected 250 distinguished nurse leaders to be inducted into the 2022 Class of Fellows—with four Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing assistant professors among them. The inductees were recognized for their significant contributions to health and healthcare at the AAN's annual Health Policy Conference in October in Washington, D.C.

- Stephanie Griggs, PhD, RN
- Scott Moore, PhD
- Sonya D. Moore, DNP (NUR '16)
- Andrew Reimer, PhD, RN (NUR '04, GRS '10, nursing)

In addition, the following past faculty, fellows, students and colleagues from the School of Nursing were inducted:

- Kenneth David Bailey, PhD, RN
- Beverly Bokovitz, DNP, RN (NUR '00)
- Carolyn Curtis, RN
- Martha Dawson, DNP (NUR '10)
- Deborah Dillon, DNP, RN (NUR '15)
- Stuart Downs, DNP, RN (CERT '21)
- Nicolette Fiore-Lopez, PhD, RN (CERT '21)
- Carolyn Jones
- Jen-Jiuan Liaw, PhD, RN (NUR '94)
- Erik Martin, DNP, RN (CERT '21)
- Aisha Mix, DNP, RN (NUR '14)
- Joan O'Hanlon Curry, RN
- Beth Oliver, DNP, RN (NUR '12)
- Mary Anne Schultz, PhD (NUR '84)
- Deborah Small, DNP, RN (NUR '15)
- Bing Xiang Yang, PhD, RN





## Nurses as a solution

Faculty collaborate to broaden APRNs' scope of care

As the demand for healthcare in the United States continues to rise, a promising approach to meet that demand is to allow more advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to provide primary care, just like physicians.

While some states have already embraced this approach, many have not—or they have coupled it with a requirement of burdensome physician collaboration or supervision. Two Distinguished University Professors from Case Western Reserve University have joined forces to change that.

Last June, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's **Joyce Fitzpatrick (MGT '92)**, the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing, and the School of Law's Max Mehlman, the Arthur E. Petersilge Professor of Law and co-director of the Law Medicine Center, received a \$400,000 grant from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation to further their work toward broadening APRNs' scope of practice. Through the grant, the faculty members are conducting empirical research on the impact of this concept on healthcare costs and patient access to—and quality of—care.

In addition, Mehlman and Fitzpatrick are researching and preparing white papers in support of the initiative and planning a workshop for the spring of 2023. Together, the research and workshop will help prepare advocacy groups to convince state legislatures to give APRNs—who have earned at least a master's degree—the same full scope of practice in primary care as physicians. ■



Joyce Fitzpatrick



Max Mehlman

## Research in print

### A look at faculty members' latest publications



Hannoud Al Moghrabi

**Hannoud Al Moghrabi, DNP (NUR '12, '18)**, instructor, will publish "Comprehensive Analyses of Waterbirth Benefits for Mothers and Newborns" in the forthcoming issue of *BioMed Research International Journal*.

**Nicholas K. Schiltz, PhD (GRS '13, epidemiology and biostatistics)**, assistant professor, co-published "Comparing the association between multiple chronic conditions, multimorbidity, frailty, and survival among older cancer patients" in the July issue of *Journal of Geriatric Oncology*, as well as "Sociodemographic and clinical factors associated with receipt of biomarker testing in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer" in *Cancer Medicine*.



Susan Mazanec

Schiltz co-wrote "Clustering of Social Determinants of Health Among Patients," which appeared in *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*.



Joachim Voss

He also collaborated with **Susan Mazanec, PhD, RN (NUR '82; GRS '09, nursing)**, associate professor, and **Joachim Voss, PhD, RN**, the Independence

Foundation Professor of Nursing Education, to publish "Development of a Pictorial Patient Education Handout on Tracheostomy Care: A Mixed-Method Study" in *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.

Separately, Mazanec co-published "Anxiety and PTSD symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic in women with breast cancer" in *Oncology Nursing Forum* in May.

Voss additionally co-published "Information Overload in Patient Education: A Wilsonian Concept Analysis" in *Nursing Science Quarterly* in July.

**Elizabeth G. Damato, PhD**, associate professor, and **Seunghee Margevicius, PhD (NUR '01; GRS '06, nursing; GRS '18, epidemiology and biostatistics)**, published "Increased serum levels of proinflammatory cytokines are accompanied by fatigue in military T-6A Texan II instructor pilots" in the April issue of *Frontiers in Physiology*. They also co-authored "Characterizing the dose response of hyperoxia with brain perfusion" in *Aerospace Medicine & Human Performance* in June.



Elliane Irani

That same month, Margevicius co-published "Examining how congruence in and satisfaction with dyadic care type appraisal contribute to quality of life in heart failure care dyads" in the *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing* with Assistant Professor **Elliane Irani, PhD, RN**.

Irani also published "Understanding and optimizing family caregiver participation in dyadic research" in *Nursing Research* in July.



Carol Musil

Dean **Carol Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)**, Edward J. and Louise Mellen Professor of Nursing, co-published "Supporting grandchildren's remote instruction during COVID-19: Experiences of custodial grandmothers" in *Psychology in the Schools* in April.

In addition, Musil co-published "Self-reported Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Custodial Grandmothers: Frequencies, Patterns, and Correlates" in *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*.



Evelyn Duffy

**Evelyn Duffy, DNP, RN (NUR '04)**, the Florence Cellar Professor of Gerontological Nursing, published the chapter "The Aging Population" in the third edition of *Health Policy and Advanced Practice Nursing*.



Mary Dolansky

Duffy also co-published "A quality improvement approach to develop an educational initiative for an age-friendly health system" in *Geriatric Nursing* with **Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN (GRS '01, nursing)**, **Anne M. Pohnert (NUR '22)** and instructor **Elizabeth Zimmermann, DNP, RN (NUR '14)**.



Anne M. Pohnert



# researchNEWS



Mary Franklin

*Quality and Safety Education for Nurses* in April.

**Mary Franklin, DNP, RN (NUR '80, '86, '18)**, assistant professor, published "Humanizing task trainers to inform patient-centered care" in *Quality and Safety Education for Nurses* in April.



Molly Jackson

**Molly Jackson, DNP, RN (NUR '10, '15)**, assistant professor, published "Enhancing the student experience: A mixed methods approach" in the *Journal of Nursing Education* in May.

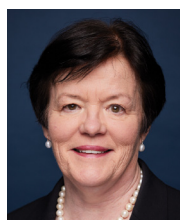


Rebecca Patton

was released this summer. This new version contains Patton's chapter, "Taking actions, expanding horizons."

The third edition of *Nurses Making Policy: From Bedside to Boardroom*, co-written by **Rebecca Patton, DNP, RN (NUR '98, '17)**,

assistant professor,



Mary Quinn Griffin

and assistant dean for academic affairs, and **Joyce Fitzpatrick PhD,**

**Mary Quinn Griffin, PhD, RN (NUR '93; GRS '01, nursing)**, the May L. Wykle Professor, **Celeste Alfes, DNP, RN (NUR '10, MGT '21)**, professor



Celeste Alfes

**RN (MGT '92)**, the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing and a Distinguished University Professor, co-published "Incorporating climate change into Doctor of Nursing Practice curricula" in *Journal of Professional Nursing*.



Joyce Fitzpatrick



Amy Zhang

patients and nurses in the oncology ward at Princess Marina Hospital, in Gaborone, Botswana," which was published in *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing* in April.

**Amy Zhang, PhD,** co-wrote "The acceptability and feasibility of routine use of validated cancer symptom assessment instruments among

## Nurse innovators

As Case Western Reserve University held its inaugural Innovation Week in September, members of the campus community came together for panel discussions on topics such as venture capital funding, research investments, on-campus entrepreneurship resources and more. Plus, 30 faculty members were honored for their impressive records of research and entrepreneurship—including three from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing:

### Faculty Innovator Award Shanina Knighton, PhD, RN (GRS '17, nursing)

*Research associate and adjunct associate professor*

**Innovation in Education Award  
Sonya Moore, DNP (NUR '16)**  
*Assistant professor of nursing and director of the nurse anesthesia program*

**Impact Through Innovation Award  
Jaclene Zauszniewski, PhD, RN  
(NUR '89; GRS '92, nursing)**  
*Catherine Seibyl Professor in Nursing, Research and Caregiving*



(Pictured) Shanina Knighton, Sonya Moore and Jaclene Zauszniewski receiving their Innovation Awards in September.



## Combating cancer from all angles

Through wide-ranging studies, researchers aim to improve survivorship and quality of life for cancer patients and caregivers

In treating cancer, nurses care for the entire patient. At Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, this same spirit informs how nurse scientists approach oncology-related research—from the pain patients experience to the stress their caregivers face.



Ronald L. Hickman Jr.

"Cancer is broad, so our focus must be, too," said **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. "The new knowledge we discover directly contributes to effective and equitable cancer care around the world."

Many School of Nursing faculty conduct oncology-related research with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), continuing a legacy of discovery and knowledge creation that has been characteristic of the institution since its inception.

### CARING ABOUT CAREGIVERS

As the Gertrude Perkins Oliva Professor in Oncology—one of the only dedicated oncology professorships at a nursing school in the U.S.—**Sara L. Douglas, PhD, RN**, understands the critical importance that caregivers, and their own wellbeing, can have in the treatment outcomes of cancer patients.



Sara L. Douglas

Douglas recently published findings from a four-year, \$2.3 million National Institute of Nursing Research study that found ways to integrate distance caregivers into the treatment of their family members.

A combination of methods—including having caregivers attend oncology appointments by videoconference and receive one-on-one coaching sessions from health professionals—can reduce the stress and anxiety that stems from a lack of information about a patient's diagnosis and treatment, Douglas' research team found.



Susan Mazanec

Caregivers are also at the center of research by **Susan R. Mazanec, PhD, RN (NUR '82; GRS '09, nursing)**. The associate professor of nursing is testing ways to support family caregivers helping patients with multiple cancer-related symptoms during treatment.

In Mazanec's ongoing NCI-funded study, caregivers—who often use a variety of devices and techniques to manage symptoms—receive a combination of support, education and technical skills training.



The aim is to strengthen the family caregivers' abilities and confidence, as well as improve their emotional and physical health—which may also provide better outcomes for patients.

"We rely a great deal on caregivers to assist in care of patients at home," said Mazanec. "Family caregivers need their own forms of support because their work can be very complex and difficult."

Now in its fourth year, the study received a NIH MERIT Award—a recognition given to exceptional early-stage investigators that provides funding for two additional years. The extension allows Mazanec to further explore how social and economic conditions influence the effectiveness of the intervention.

## COLLABORATION IN ACTION



Amy Zhang

Mazanec's team, which includes physicians, a biostatistician, a medical economist and others, is indicative of the collaborative nature of the nursing school's cancer-related studies. Research by **Amy Y. Zhang, PhD**, a faculty member at both CWRU's medical and nursing schools, is no exception.

In her recent work, Zhang looks at how biological and psychological factors affect patient mental well-being. Her studies have connected inflammation in cancer patients to the depression they experience. She has also identified how irritability in patients correlates with specific biomarkers—and developed a scale to measure the phenomenon.

"Patient biological data can help predict how irritability can influence depression during different stages of treatment," said Zhang. "This data may help us intervene earlier and more effectively."



Chao-Pin Hsiao

Along with Zhang and Douglas, Associate Professor **Chao-Pin Hsiao, PhD, RN**, is a member of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, a research consortium among Case Western Reserve, Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals that is one of only 53 in the U.S. earning NCI designation.

Supported by an NIH award, Hsiao's latest research investigates how chemotherapy impacts

"We don't just look at cells in a tumor. We look at the tumor in the person who is in a family, in a community, in a city."

—Maura McCall, PhD, RN

mitochondrial bioenergetics—key to multiple basic cellular processes—and cancer-related fatigue symptoms in breast cancer patients.

"The results may enable us to discover biomarkers, identify therapeutic agents and support the design of nonpharmacological interventions," said Hsiao. "We also may be able to initiate precision symptom management to improve cancer-related fatigue."

## NEW ADDITIONS

Even with all of this research, the portfolio of cancer-related research at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing is growing.



Monica Wagner

Recently appointed Assistant Professor **Monica Wagner, PhD**, has been awarded an NIH grant to explore how environmental and behavioral factors can affect genetic expressions in patients experiencing pain related to head and neck cancers. Looking for common genetic patterns, Wagner is seeking to establish characteristics of patients, or phenotypes, that could provide paths for treating those more likely to experience pain.

"The biology behind pain is so vast," said Wagner. "Pinpointing patient phenotypes could allow us to intervene to lessen or avoid its development."



Maura McCall

Postdoctoral fellow **Maura McCall, PhD, RN**, who joined the nursing school last summer, examines how environmental and biological factors influence how faithfully patients take medications known as aromatase inhibitors, a class of drugs treating breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

By gleaning a fuller picture of patient health from inside and outside the body, McCall hopes to pinpoint interventions to improve medication adherence.

"Nurses approach research questions in a unique way," said McCall. "In search of answers, we're trained to consider the social, biological, psychological and spiritual all together."

"We don't just look at cells in a tumor," she added. "We look at the tumor in the person who is in a family, in a community, in a city." ■

—Daniel Robison

# Taking the LEAP

A new program to increase the number and diversity of nurse anesthetists provides a launchpad for aspiring CRNAs

BY DANIEL ROBISON

**T**ravel nurse **Mya Williams, RN**, had applied to half a dozen nursing anesthesia programs, advancing to final-round interviews multiple times.

Yet even after years of building her credentials and qualifications, Williams couldn't gain admission to one of the limited number of highly competitive advanced degree programs for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA).

"You start to believe it's a sign to not pursue this career," said Williams.

A mentor told her about a different approach: a new program at Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, known as the Leadership Excel and Achievement Program (LEAP). The one-year preparatory program is designed as an introduction to content in a traditional three-year CRNA doctoral program, including chemistry, physiology and pathophysiology, and preparing scholarly work.

"It provides opportunity for nurses deserving

of a chance to prove themselves," said Williams, who enrolled as a member of LEAP's first cohort in 2021.

Upon completing the LEAP certificate, Williams gained admission into one of the program's 11 partnering CRNA programs around the country. Her first choice was close to her Cleveland home—at Case Western Reserve University, where she is in her first year.

"The program prepared me for the rigors of graduate school," said Williams, who has started her clinical rotations at Summa Health in Akron. "It's provided a foundation for my next career—and the confidence and hope to get there."

## MEETING THE NEED

Demand for CRNAs will increase by nearly 50% by the end of the decade, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Now in its second year, LEAP has attracted positive attention for demonstrating an inventive way forward for a field that's in need of thousands of new professionals,





Mya Williams



but with relatively few doctoral programs to train them.

The field also needs more diversity in its ranks. Only 11% of nurse anesthetists are people of color, according to the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program.

LEAP aims to create a more equitable CRNA workforce, said **Sonya D. Moore, DNP, CRNA (GRS '16, nursing)**, director of LEAP and the nurse anesthesia Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Like Williams, many students joining LEAP have been denied entry into doctoral programs—despite stellar resumes, qualifications and recommendations, Moore said. Several are from communities that are underrepresented in the CRNA field.

“We have interviewed students for LEAP and think ‘Why are they not in CRNA programs?’” Moore said. “Even with competitive applicant pools, we can’t understand why they are not accepted.”

But, Moore, also an assistant professor of nursing, continued, “It’s through no malicious intent that advanced nursing programs end up with classes that often look the same, and this creates a lack of diversity in the field, year after year.”

While there are similar preparatory programs for medical-school hopefuls, LEAP is the only one of its kind for qualified nurses who aspire to become CRNAs and are seeking another route into an accredited program.

“It’s a very well sought-out profession—really drawing the cream of the crop of nurses,” said **Kimberly Rodriguez, DNP, CRNA**, LEAP’s faculty coordinator. “We are providing another on-ramp for nurses who



“It’s through no malicious intent that advanced nursing programs end up with classes that often look the same, and this creates a lack of diversity in the field, year after year.”

—Sonya D. Moore

have shown they have what it takes to enter the field.”

The program is proving to be a success. In the first pilot year, all nine students earned the one-year certificate and are enrolled in CRNA programs around the country. Enrollment in its second cohort more than doubled. Hundreds of nurses have applied to join each year.

What’s more, the program also expanded its coalition of partner institutions, including Columbia University, Emory University, the Medical University of South Carolina and University of Arizona. Each agrees to accept two LEAP students each year. (Students must meet the requirements of all partner CRNA programs to gain admission to LEAP.)

“There is a lot of weight on our

shoulders as the first class,” said Williams, “but we are honored to help Dr. Moore’s dream become a reality.”

## REPAYING OPPORTUNITY IN KIND

Growing up in East Cleveland, Moore was attracted to nursing anesthesia after shadowing a CRNA through a high school STEM program.

“When I looked at medical professions, nursing and anesthesia seemed to be the best of all worlds,” said Moore, “combining science, technology and the human aspect of caring.”

Still, if not for influential mentors along the way, key opportunities may have not been available to her. Throughout her education, Moore was often the only minority in her advanced nursing courses. In her career as a CRNA and as a faculty member, Moore continually noticed an unacceptable homogeneity in the field.

“It’s important to make diverse individuals aware of the profession,” she said. “As a nursing leader, I knew I needed to put myself out there to help others be successful.”

This message resonated with **Earl Pirante, RN**, a cardiothoracic intensive care nurse at University of Chicago Medical Center, who learned of LEAP from Moore during her presentation at a virtual conference.

Originally from the Philippines, Pirante worked as an intensive care (ICU) nurse in the capital city of Manila and in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates—hoping to build experience to work in the U.S. and, eventually, to earn an advanced nursing degree.

“Because of immigration issues, there weren’t enough visas, so I waited for 10 long years,” said Pirante, who



moved to the U.S. in 2018 with his wife (also a nurse) and their young daughter. “For me to become a nurse anesthetist, it’s my family’s dream, too.”

Even with a decade-plus of ICU experience, multiple advanced certifications and graduate electives to bolster his qualifications, Pirante knew gaining admission into a CRNA program would be difficult, given that his education and professional experiences largely took place outside of the U.S. This past summer, he joined LEAP’s second cohort.

“The program is giving me—an immigrant, a minority—a chance,” he said. “The professors recognize the cultural competency I bring to my work that helps me better understand patient perspectives and the care they need.”

Now in his first year at Columbia, **Marco Oliveros, RN**, often looks back at lecture notes taken in his LEAP classes—particularly in anesthesia pharmacology. (Like anesthesiologists, CRNAs can order diagnostic tests and prescribe medicine, though must work under the supervision of a board-certified physician in some states.)

“I would do it over again, in a heartbeat,” said Oliveros, originally from the Philippines. “I have not met a CRNA unhappy with the career choice they made.”

## LOVING THE WORK

Most LEAP students are nurses living and working throughout the U.S. Classes and didactics are mostly held online.

“It’s already making me a better nurse in the ICU,” said **Khadijat Badejo, RN**, a LEAP student who works at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. “It’s allowing me to be more knowledgeable of the pathology in my patients and have a deeper understanding of their treatments. I am building off the knowledge I already have.”

LEAP cohorts also meet in person. Toward the end of the academic year, a skills-training and patient simulation workshop will bring students together at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

Mentorship and professional socialization are also an emphasis of the program. In early spring 2023, the LEAP cohort will gather at the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Mid-Year Assembly to network with leaders in the field.

“Becoming a CRNA changes your life,” said Moore. “With the security and autonomy the career provides, the trajectory of families and communities can be changed—another reason why it’s important to help the profession reflect the wider world.”

She added, “And when you love the work you do, you thrive—and have a duty to lift up others, too.” ■

## NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR A NEW MODEL

LEAP has attracted an array of support from national organizations.

“The program is extremely unique,” said Tim Jones, DNP, CRNA, vice president of academic affairs at NorthStar Anesthesia PA, an anesthesia management company based out of Irving, Texas, with staff at more than 220 clinical sites and hospitals.

“I think LEAP could become a national model, and there’s no doubt in my mind there’s a need for it to grow our field,” said Jones, who meets with CRNA program faculty and administrators around the country and visited Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing in 2021.

In addition to monetary support for LEAP, NorthStar Anesthesia in New York has reached out directly to its students with hopes of recruiting them after they graduate from CRNA programs.

North American Partners in Anesthesia, a provider of anesthesia services at more than 500 clinical sites, sponsored LEAP for its mission to create equitable access for students, said Tesha Nesbit, director of diversity, equity and inclusion and corporate social responsibility.

“The synergy that we can drive to make it possible for a multicultural student cohort to thrive in their education cannot be underestimated or over-valued,” said Nesbit.

The National Association of Nurse Anesthesiology has provided direct and in-kind support to LEAP, including creating networking opportunities for students and fundraising at its national meetings. APEX Anesthesia Review, a company based in Richmond, Virginia, also has helped fund LEAP.

“LEAP allows future nurse anesthetists to realize their dream,” said John Preston, DNSc, CRNA, CEO of National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists, which has sponsored the program. “That is an incredible opportunity for all involved and are proud to support.”



# Reunited at home

Alumni gather on campus to celebrate, reconnect and learn

Every fall, Homecoming and Reunion Weekend attracts alumni from near and far to the campus of Case Western Reserve. This year, from Oct. 6 to 9, the university held its first full-fledged homecoming event since 2019. Attendees joined more than 100 virtual and in-person events that included an opening night “Blue Bash” celebration, a pregame party and a free concert.

Throughout the weekend, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing held various events, including continuing education courses for in-person and virtual audiences and a wine and cheese social. On Friday, Dean **Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN (NUR '79; GRS '91, nursing)**, delivered the State of the School presentation.

Pictured here are just some of the memories we captured during the weekend’s festivities.









## Reunited at home

# Award-winning alumni

## School of Nursing honors nurses of outstanding achievement

**D**uring Homecoming and Reunion Weekend in October, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing recognized three alumnae for their outstanding contributions to the field of nursing. Read on to learn about these inspiring award winners.



(From left) Sonya Moore, Carol Musil, Zeyana Amur Al Ismaili, Jaclene Zauszniewski and Erica Cheung.



Faye Gary



(From left) Latina Brooks and Germaine Nelson



(From left) Jaclene Zauszniewski, Evelina DiFranco, Kari Zimmerman, Patricia McDonald, Dedra Hanna Adams and Nancy Gorenshek

Photos by Anthony Gray

### AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

*Recognizes alumni who demonstrate outstanding leadership and achievement in nursing and have made a significant contribution in nursing or related areas of healthcare.*



#### **Sonya Moore, DNP (NUR '16),**

*Assistant professor, nurse anesthesia program director, director of the Leadership Excel and Achievement Program*

Moore's leadership is rooted in her two decades of experience as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). In addition to providing anesthesia at major medical centers, community and critical access hospitals, she has directed Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's nurse anesthesia program for almost a decade. She founded and directs the Leadership Excel and Achievement Program (see p. 16), which aims to increase diversity in the field of nurse anesthetists.

Moore shines in leadership roles at the nursing school, the university and beyond. She served two terms as chair of the nursing faculty committee, was inaugural co-chair of the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy, chair of the nursing school's budget committee and a member of the Case Western Reserve University Faculty Senate Finance Committee. She is also vice president of the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses and co-chairperson of PGP Next Level Foundation.

This award is just one of many Moore has recently received: In the last year, she was named as the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Advocate of the Year and the Ohio State Nurse Anesthetists Association CRNA of the Year. She also earned the Case Western Reserve University Innovation in Education Award.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

*Recognizes alumni who have demonstrated continuous, outstanding, creative and exemplary contributions to the disciplines of nursing and healthcare or have made noteworthy contributions in related fields throughout their careers.*



**Jaclene A. Zauszniewski, PhD, RN (NUR '89; GRS '92, nursing),**  
*Catherine Seibyll Professor in Nursing, Research and Caregiving*

Zauszniewski is celebrating nearly 50 years in the nursing field, 30 of which she has spent as a faculty member at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. An internationally renowned senior nurse scientist, her diverse educational

background spans psychological, theological and nursing sciences.

In those three decades, Zauszniewski has accomplished much: She's led or co-led 60 grants totaling nearly \$30 million; authored over 200 publications; presented over 230 papers and posters; and developed trademarked training interventions that have been translated into 12 languages. The Distinguished Alumni Award is only the latest bestowed on this alumna—she has received five university, national and international awards in as many years.

## YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



*Recognizes outstanding achievement and significant contributions in nursing or related areas of healthcare by alumni early in their careers after graduation from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.*

**Zeyana Amur Al Ismaili, RN (NUR '15),** *Doctor of Nursing Practice and PhD program candidate, assistant lecturer*

Having graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in pediatrics in 2015, Al Ismaili found distinction in her home country of Oman as its first certified nurse practitioner. But she realized she wasn't yet done, and returned to Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing four years later to help broaden care opportunities in Oman.

Through the dual-degree DNP/PhD program, Al Ismaili is studying adolescent reproductive health and exploring cultural, Islamic and political strategies to introduce adolescent reproductive health in the Omani school health system. She is actively involved in nursing and professional groups, serving as chair of the PhD Student Nurses Association and a member of Graduate Student Council, the Omani Nursing Association and Sigma Theta Tau.

***Want to get involved with the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Alumni Association? Contact the alumni office at [fpbalumni@case.edu](mailto:fpbalumni@case.edu).***

## Class notes

**Caitlin W. Brennan, PhD (NUR '11),** joined Care Dimensions, the largest hospice and palliative care provider to adults and children in Massachusetts. Brennan is director of research, a role in which she conducts research initiatives that lead to improved quality of care and coordinates the organization's hospice nurse residency program.

**LaTonya Carroll, DNP (NUR '12, '15),** was inducted to the International Association of Addictions Nursing's 2022 Class of Fellows of the International Association of Addictions Nursing in October.

**Debra L. Dillon, DNP (NUR '15),** was inducted as a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in June and the American Academy of Nursing in October.

**Allison Sayre, DNP, RN (NUR '15),** was nominated for The Future of Nursing West Virginia's 2022 Nurse Excellence award, which honors nurses who empower their communities, advance nursing and lead change in their profession and communities.

**Patty Shipley (NUR '01)** retired after a career as an occupational nurse practitioner at organizations such as University Hospitals and the Ford Motor Co.

**Susan J. Stocker, PhD (NUR '92),** was inducted into the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing's Academy of Associate Degree Nursing, which recognizes nursing professionals for their remarkable contributions as role models for student and faculty colleagues and as advocates for associate degree nursing education.

**Gail Neustadt (FSM '66)** published *Traveling Our Road*—a book that helps children understand Alzheimer's disease—under her pen name, Dylan Weiss.

## In memoriam

*Death notices received between May 27 and Oct. 29, 2022.*

**Elizabeth Ryan Adams (NUR '48, '75)** of Cleveland died Oct. 27. Adams served in various roles at the Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, including assistant professor, assistant dean, coordinator for the Doctor of Nursing Program and chair of the Community Health Nursing program.

**Beth Ann Gist (NUR '07)** of Asheville, North Carolina, died Sept. 5. After earning a Master of Science in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, Gist went on to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Vanderbilt University in 2013. Gist was dedicated to the care of women throughout her career, and most recently worked at Buncombe County Health Department and Mountain Area Pregnancy Services.

**Barbara Hacker (NUR '82)** of Dover, Tennessee, died Sept. 17. Hacker retired after a long career at the Nashville Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She enjoyed her enjoyed working, watching musicals and reading.

**Sue C. Irvin (NUR '61)** of Jamestown, Ohio, died Aug. 5. During her career, Irvin worked for Greene and Montgomery County health departments and the Ohio Veterans' Children's Home in Xenia. She was an active member of Evangelical United Methodist Church, serving in various positions, including chair and secretary of the ad council.

**Lorita D. Jenab (NUR '54)** of Morgantown, West Virginia, died June 12. Jenab chaired the nursing department at Alderson Broaddus University before being appointed dean of the School of Nursing at West Virginia University, a position she held for 24 years. During that time, the number of graduates in the undergraduate nursing program increased five-fold, the Master of Science of Nursing program was created, and she organized leaders of the state's nursing schools to form the Association of Deans and Directors of Nursing Education, which coordinates education efforts throughout West Virginia.

**Marlene Kramer (NUR '58)** of Apache Junction, Arizona, died May 30. After earning her Master of Science in Nursing from what is now Case Western Reserve University, Kramer went on to obtain her PhD at Stanford University. She published *Reality Shock: Why Nurses Leave Nursing* in 1975, and soon became well-known for her dedication to students and the nursing profession. Kramer served as associate dean for undergraduate studies at University of California School of Nursing in San Francisco and dean of University of Connecticut School of Nursing. She has been honored as an outstanding alumna by both St. Louis University and Case Western Reserve.

**Cathleen Marsh McCleery (NUR '47)** of Galloway, Ohio, died July 24. McCleery served in the Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II before coming to Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing to earn her Master of Science in Nursing. She was also a Girl Scout leader, volunteered with Meals on Wheels and led an award-winning recycling program.

**Norma Stiles Nabut (NUR '59)** of Greenville, North Carolina, died June 4. Nabut spent her career in nursing administration—specifically home health and hospice—and later, as a child and family therapist at a nonprofit crisis counseling center, where she also served as director of development.

**Janice Kistler Puffenberger (NUR '46)** of Dunnellon, Florida, died June 24. After graduating from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, she served as a WWII Cadet Nurse while attending Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. She spent her war commitment at Hines Veterans Hospital in Chicago following the end of WWII. Later in life, Puffenberger was active in many social justice issues, and was a competitive swimmer until the age of 79, winning three gold medals, two silver and one bronze in the Senior Olympic Games.

**Gloria G. Garcia (NUR '96)** of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died Feb. 19. Garcia spent the majority of her career as a nurse and nurse anesthetist in the U.S. Army and in hospitals in Tampa, Cincinnati, Denver and Santa Fe. In her later years, she worked for private physicians, taught nursing at Northern New Mexico College and became a traveling nurse, eventually returning to school at Case Western Reserve University to earn her Master of Science in Nursing.

**Phyllis Robb Husted (NUR '47)** of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died April 20. Husted came to Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at the start of World War II and lived out the majority of her life in Ann Arbor with her husband, David.

**Eric W. Johnson (NUR '76)** of Strongsville, Ohio, died March 29. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a pararescue and was a member of Mensa and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



## “Legacies worth honoring”

### Alumnae remember peers with memorial scholarship fund

**W**hen two beloved Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing graduates—**Laura J. Nosek, PhD, RN (NUR '61, '81; GRS '86, nursing)** and **Ann Farmer (NUR '63, '81)**—died within six months of each other, their fellow alumni began searching for a way to honor their legacies.

**Karen Hogan, DNP, RN (NUR '83)**, president-elect of the School of Nursing's Alumni Association Board, and **Paula Forsythe, RN (NUR '64, '82)**, the board's operations director, wanted to create something that would have a lasting impact on the school while paying tribute to all alumni who have passed.

Thus, the idea for the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund was conceived.

Recently, *Forefront* asked these two alumni leaders to share why this fund is meaningful to them.

#### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO ESTABLISH THIS MEMORIAL FUND?

**Hogan:** These [alumni] are the people who fed me professionally, who trained me to be a thinker and to treat patients holistically. When my mentor, Laura Nosek, died last year, I decided we needed a way to remember their names and to recognize their contributions to nursing.

**Forsythe:** In creating this fund, we pay tribute to the alumni who have preceded us while also empowering future generations of nurses. All of our alumni, including Laura and Ann, leave legacies worth honoring.

#### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ALUMNI TO STAY INVOLVED WITH CWRU?

**Hogan:** With the current state of the nursing profession, we have to retain nurses, and that starts at [CWRU]. Together we can invest in the next generation—not only with scholarship support, but by mentoring students and new graduates. I am who I am today because of my alma mater, in more ways than one.

**Forsythe:** My mentors at the nursing school taught me to think for myself and problem solve. By modeling leadership, they promoted a sense of confidence that has allowed me to take risks and make positive changes. Those lessons instilled an appreciation for learning and engendered a desire to give back to the school that has done so much for all of us.



(From left) Karen Hogan and Paula Forsythe

There's a quote from author John Lancaster Spalding: "That the better self shall prevail and each generation introduce its successor to a higher plane of life." That's why I stay involved—so each generation can have an easier road and take the profession even further. ■

*If you are interested in contributing to this fund or have a name to add to our alumni memorial list, please contact Sara Schoonmaker, assistant director of special giving and stewardship, at 216.368.4416 or [sara.schoonmaker@case.edu](mailto:sara.schoonmaker@case.edu).*

## A gift for a **growing field**

Alumna's \$5.5 million commitment provides support to nurse anesthetist students

**W**hen Case Western Reserve University alumna **Cheryl E. McRae-Bergeron, DNP (NUR '94)**, stumbled across a Case Western Reserve University doctorate program ad in the *American Journal of Nursing* 25 years ago, the Georgia native thought, "I'll never be able to do that."

After all, it had taken her four years to earn her associate's degree and even longer to secure a collection of bachelor's and master's degrees, including her certification as a registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), from five other institutions. The more she considered the opportunity, however, the more determined she was to try.

"People look at a glass and maybe see it half empty. I look at it and think 'If I can get it just a little bit more, I might get it all the way full.'"

—Cheryl E. McRae-Bergeron

Already a decorated Air Force colonel, having completed assignments in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Hawaii and Virginia, McRae-Bergeron knew she needed a doctoral degree to earn the leadership roles she desired.



**Cheryl E. McRae-Bergeron**

Two years later, having earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, McRae-Bergeron was appointed, as a reservist, as the chief of medical operations for the Pacific Air Command, a position she held until she retired in 2002.

"People look at a glass and maybe see it half empty," she said. "I look at it and think 'If I can get it just a little bit more, I might get it all the way full.'"

Now retired and living with her husband in Texas, McRae-Bergeron wanted to make a grand gesture that would allow others like her "get [their] glasses all the way full."

Through a transformative \$5.5 million estate commitment to the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, McRae-Bergeron's legacy will ensure

that generations of nursing students can follow her path into this growing field. The Dr. Cheryl E. McRae-Bergeron Endowed Scholarship Fund will support at least one full-tuition scholarship annually to a student pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice in the school's three-year nurse anesthesia program, which will allow them to sit for the CRNA examination.

"Nursing has been my life's passion—especially in my work as a CRNA," said McRae-Bergeron. "Having studied and worked in many different environments, I know what the school did for me—providing me the confidence I needed to elevate my career—and have no doubt their exceptional faculty and staff will continue investing in creating nurse leaders and highly qualified CRNAs." ■

—Anthony Fossaceca



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