Nurse-led Clinics Expand Practice
Academic Programs Thrive
Acute Care and Psych
FROM THE DEAN

Transitions and changes

It was an honor to be asked to assume the role of Interim Dean of the College of Nursing, for my history with the College reaches back 49 years! In 1968 I arrived with my husband from New York City, after both of us graduated from NYU, I with a master’s degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and he from medical school.

I joined the CU School of Nursing as an instructor in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, so very fortunate to become part of a highly professional and innovative faculty team led by Dorothy Gregg. In between raising a family, I continued to work off and on with CU faculty: Dr. Elda Popiel in the Division of Continuing Education coordinating nursing CE Mental Health programs, and Dr. Eunice Blair in Nursing Administration. Dr. Blair, an outstanding mentor, guided me on grant writing that generated funding for a new MS in Nursing/MBA joint program. She served as my dissertation co-chair and as a leader in nursing administration, influencing the next three decades of my career.

These experiences led to directing the nursing program at the Community College of Denver, then serving as a nursing director at the University of Colorado Hospital for 24 years. How fortunate that I now have the opportunity to give back to the College of Nursing though my position as Interim Dean, contributing support to an outstanding faculty and staff in this transition period!

Many forces in the academic environment stimulate ongoing change within the College of Nursing. Faculty and staff are rising to meet these challenges by continued excellence and innovation in practice, research and education. Faculty are generating funded grants for research projects, revising curriculum and expanding nurse-led practice sites, all exemplary accomplishments. The College is well-positioned to recruit a future permanent Dean!

Warm Regards,

Mary Krugman, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Interim Dean
College of Nursing

Mary Krugman, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Interim Dean
College of Nursing
Nurse-led clinics expand practice

The College of Nursing's nurse-managed clinics have experienced much growth in the past two years. In 2016, the College opened the Campus Health Center and CU Healthcare Partners at Belleview Point clinics. In 2017, the Center for Midwifery expanded its practice in the northern area of metro-Denver to Longmont, Boulder, and Carbon Valley, in addition to the Aurora, Lone Tree, and Lowry locations.

Another initiative developing for CON Community and Clinical Affairs is a collaboration with memory care centers and post-stroke programs. "These projects are funded by the federal government and are available throughout Colorado for the purpose of encouraging practice improvements," says Assistant Professor and Executive Director of Faculty Practice Pam Jones, PhD. "We are in the initial stages of developing engagements with memory care centers along the front range where our providers will serve as primary care providers in those centers. Planning has commenced for the development of a post-stroke program to support patients and families adjusting after hospital discharge. We have started collaborating with CU Medicine on a number of projects that range from large scope initiatives to individual provider collaborations for the provision of integrated behavioral health in a primary care setting."

According to Associate Dean of Clinical and Community Affairs Amy Barton, PhD, RN, FAAN, the College's nurse-led clinical enterprises have four goals:

1) enhance the patients’ experience of care through team collaboration to create effective and efficient processes; 2) optimize health through evidence-based assessment to facilitate interprofessional care; 3) maintain sustainable cost through efficient processes, effective clinical practice management, strategic marketing, and exploration of progressive reimbursement models; 4) improve care team satisfaction through a culture of positivity and inclusivity and involvement in the College of Nursing.

Integrated Primary Care:
- Bellevue Point Integrated Primary Care
- Sheridan Health Services (FQHC & School Based Clinic)
Convenient Care
- Campus Health Center (For campus students, staff & faculty)
Women’s Health:
- Center for Midwifery Clinic Site
- Longs Peak Hospital (CFM Delivery Site)
- UC Health Hospital (CFM & UNM Delivery Site)
- University Nurse Midwives Clinic Site
Academic programs grow, support local health care needs

ACUTE CARE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS THRIVE

The CU College of Nursing acute care nurse practitioner programs are thriving after their first few years of implementation. The Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (PACNP) program began in 2014 as a post-graduate certificate (PGC) program, and now a Master of Science (MS) degree is available for the specialty option. "The first cohort of MS students started the PACNP core courses in January 2017 and will graduate in August 2018. There will be nine students who graduate next August," says Assistant Professor Jennifer Disabato, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC, AC, who serves as the Specialty Director for acute care pediatrics. So far, there are 21 alumni of the PGC program, and several of them are graduates of the pediatric primary care master's degree program who returned to the CON to earn their certification in acute care. "It was important to add the acute care pediatrics certificate program because there is a large contingent of primary care prepared PNP providers locally, and in particular working for our campus partner, Children's Hospital Colorado — one of the top 10 children's hospital in the country," says Disabato. "The growing population in the Denver metro area means that there will be more children requiring acute, urgent and emergent care, and the CON has always been a leader in meeting workforce needs as the initiator of the first PNP program in the country."

The College's other acute care program in adult-gerontology has also seen growth since its inception. "The PGC is gaining popularity and we are receiving applications from Texas, New Mexico, Florida, and even a student on a U.S. military base in Japan," says Associate Professor and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Specialty Director Laura Rosenthal, DNP, ACNP, FAANP. One student graduated with an MS degree from the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program in May 2017 and another cohort who started in 2015 will graduate in May 2018. "The need for practitioners in acute care is increasing. Although efforts are largely put forth in the areas of primary care, we still need to care for increasingly sick individuals. With the limits on residency hours and the shortage of physicians, nurse practitioners are in demand to fill these roles," Rosenthal says.

ENDOWMENT BOOSTS PSYCHIATRIC NURSING

Since Endowed Chair and Professor of Psychiatric Nursing Michael Rice, PhD, APRN, FAAN, began his work at the CU College of Nursing in 2013, the psychiatric nursing program has flourished on the master's and doctoral degree levels. As well, students in the program provide behavioral health services for more than 4,000 Coloradans per semester during their clinical training, totaling more than 16,000 patients seen so far.

"The program, PhD, DNP and master's, is now a regional asset serving Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico," says Rice, who serves as the co-Specialty Director of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program, which enrolls 68 Colorado students. Students from the University of Wyoming and the University of New Mexico also take didactic courses in the program. "We also now have had PhD and DNP students, two students have been grant funded for the WIN\STT dissertation Award and the NIDAA\AACN Medication Assisted Treatment programs, one PhD student awarded the Nurse Educational Foundation Grant, the first Post-Doctoral Fellow in the College of Nursing specializing in Precision

Psychiatric Mental Health Care focusing on genetics, five endowment fellows, currently five SAMSHA fellows (more than any school in the country), and we have grants totaling several millions."

Rice says the endowment bolsters presence of psychiatric mental health nursing in the state of Colorado and beyond: "The endowment has energized the program into a national model of collaboration and cutting edge knowledge in the field of psychiatric nursing." Five students were awarded endowment fellowships this year: Kristiana Avery, Baillie Cronin, Rosa Cruz-Kauffman, Britt Ritchie, and Aimee Techau. Rice says the goals of the program are "to sponsor the brightest of our students through the terminal degrees and their commitment to spend the first year in Colorado."
Krause-Parello named AAN Edge Runner

Director of Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors (C-P.A.W.W) and Associate Professor Cheryl Krause-Parello, PhD, RN, FAAN, was recognized as an Edge Runner for her groundbreaking model of care to improve veteran health at the American Academy of Nursing 2017 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. The Edge Runner program recognizes nurses who have designed innovative models of care and interventions which improve patient health, lower costs and influence policy.

Krause-Parello says she sees the value in this recognition to help promote the C-P.A.W.W. research initiative and establish her team's position as the foremost authority on canine-assisted interventions and advocate for veterans' health: “By being named an Edge Runner I am now better positioned to influence public policy on the value of canine assistance to improve the health of our nation's heroes at the national, state, and local levels. It is C-P.A.W.W.'s charge to provide the evidence to support change in policy so that service dogs are a reimbursable medical expense for veterans with PTSD.”

C-P.A.W.W. is busy with several funded research projects. “One of the innovative research projects, funded by the International Society for Anthrozoology/Waltham Collaborative Research Award, we are conducting involves veterans walking shelter dogs,” says Krause-Parello. “We started the research in Fort Collins at Animal House Rescue and Grooming and now we are at Maxfund here in Denver. In this study we are measuring heart rate variability and stress biomarkers in veterans who self-identify with and without PTSD. What makes this project really innovative is that we are also measuring heart rate variability in the dogs when they’re walking with the veteran.”

The veterans in this study walk with a shelter dog for four weeks and then they’re paired with a human walker for four weeks. Krause-Parello says she hopes to find significant stress reductions in both the veterans and the dogs. She anticipates using the outcomes of this study to develop a nationwide veteran-led dog walking program at more shelters. “At the end of the research project the veterans have an opportunity to adopt and rescue a shelter dog at no cost and provide the pup with his or her forever home,” she says.

Another C-P.A.W.W. project, funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), being conducted across the United States, is the Veterans Action League (VAL). VAL units have been formed in six states: CA, FL, NY, OH, PA, and TX. Each VAL Unit is led by a local veteran and university-based researcher. Krause-Parello says VAL Units are uncovering “ways that veterans want to seek health care information and how they can best position themselves to be engaged in research that’s meaningful to them.” This project has gained the attention of the VA in Washington, D.C.

C-P.A.W.W. is actively engaged in efforts to protect veterans from suicide. Current statistics report that 20 veterans are dying by suicide each day. “One veteran’s life to suicide is one too many,” says Krause-Parello. She and her team have been working for the past three years on a PCORI funded Veterans Suicide Protection project. The team is working with veterans, veterans’ friends and family, and service providers to uncover what interventions protect veterans from suicide.

To learn more about these projects and to support the C-P.A.W.W. initiative please visit nursing.ucdenver.edu/CPA WW or facebook.com/CPAWWinitiative, or contact us at CPAWW@ucdenver.edu or 303-724-8282.
Six questions for **Sarah Thompson**

**What accomplishments are you most proud of from your time at the CON?**
A dean facilitates the work of faculty, staff, and students — where ideas and passion meet resources. There are so many positives, one couldn’t begin to name them all. I'm very proud of the hard work of faculty, staff, and students. The practice mission has grown exponentially. The CON now has a number of highly successful midwifery practices and clinics, a clinic at CU Anschutz, and one at Belleview Point. The revenue growth has allowed the expansion of nurse-managed clinics and personnel, giving more providers the opportunity to be the nurse everyone looks to first. Also, the CON staff work very hard to create new workflow processes that make information more accessible, user-friendly, and efficient for the College as a whole — the clinical placement team is a great example. As for faculty, in a time of faculty shortage, we have hired a number of talented faculty, many who bring strong work experience or who have just emerged from post-doctoral training programs. Our junior faculty have acquired several grants; they are our future with strong research foci. The research faculty are doing outstanding and important work. I’m also amazed at how quickly faculty came together to make the nursing program at the South Denver location a reality. Students in that area are pleased to acquire an education closer to home with smaller classes and greater cohesion among them. The CON is the success of the South Denver location. I’m also proud of the psychiatric nursing program’s accomplishments. We filled the Endowed Chair position in 2013 with Dr. Michael Rice, and he and Dr. Mary Weber have grown the CU program into a regional program, creating a workforce desperately needed for mental health services in Colorado and surrounding states. Finally, during my time as Dean, the College had 2-3 new members of the Academy per year, two of Lee Ford’s legacy and recognition of our roots.

**Tell us a bit about your new position.**
Health care is growing along the Front Range as the population increases. There are needs across the state and region, and I’m assessing how CU Denver|Anschutz education programs can help meet workforce needs. I'm looking to see if there are opportunities to think differently about the workforce of the future and how we might prepare students differently. I have been on a listening tour for CU Denver|Anschutz and the South Denver location, as well as hospital human resources, hospital systems, and community stakeholders to review workforce data. The position speaks to my strengths: vision, futuristic thinking, innovation, broad organizational perspective, and facilitation. It’s an opportunity for me to think of health care more broadly than one profession or traditional degree programs.

**What do you foresee in the future for health science education and health professionals in Colorado and beyond?**
We’re going to keep many of the traditional professionals such as nurses, physicians, physical therapists, etc., but roles, responsibilities, and work setting will change, and teamwork will increase. There will be new training in innovation, design thinking, and the emerging virtual world. There will be more wearable devices that inform us about our health and an exploding use of technology interfacing with people, but we also have to think about how to keep the human touch in health care.

**Do you have a message for CU nursing alumni?**
During my deanship, a number of alumni received awards. For example, Toni Standley who won the 2015 Magnet Nurse of the Year® Award for Structural Empowerment, and Kristiana Avery who won the competitive Sigma Theta Tau International/ Western Institute of Nursing Research Grant in 2017. I'm so proud of our outstanding alumni and their excellent work as top-quality practicing nurses.

**Is there anything else you’d like us to know?**
Being a dean is a humbling experience. You have the opportunity to stand in awe of what faculty, staff, and students accomplish. One is filled with excitement and pride.
Approximately 46% (21 million) of older women in the U.S. have low bone mass, a condition that increases the risk of fracture, disability, and death, but may also be reversible. Exercise is recommended to maintain bone health in women, but the benefits of exercise may be limited by low levels of sex hormones after menopause.

A new R01 project, “DHEA Augmentation of Musculoskeletal Adaptations to Exercise in Older Women,” led by CU College of Nursing Associate Professor Kathy Jankowski, PhD, FACSM, will attempt to show whether dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) will provide estrogenic and androgenic hormonal responses that will enhance the benefits of exercise on bone and muscle in postmenopausal women. “This research has high impact and importance for women, who have a longer life expectancy than men, and are more prone to health issues arising from lower bone mineral density,” Jankowski says. The project is federally funded for a five-year period of study at $600,000 per year.

Exercise is recommended for postmenopausal women to maintain or increase areal bone mineral density, to improve muscular fitness and balance, and ultimately to prevent fractures. During exercise, joint-reaction and ground-reaction forces contribute to strain signals that are transduced via a mechanostat to osteocytes, causing region-specific adaptations in bone tissue. However, age-related declines in anabolic adrenal, gonadal, and somatotropic hormones may blunt this and other musculoskeletal adaptations. DHEA is the major source of estrogen and testosterone in postmenopausal women, but adrenal DHEA production declines with age. Jankowski’s research project proposes that DHEA therapy, by providing androgenic and estrogenic hormonal support, will augment the effects of bone-loading exercise on areal bone mineral density and fat free mass in women with low areal bone mineral density (i.e., osteopenia). This population is the focus because low area bone mineral density, an indicator of fracture risk, could be corrected with hormonal treatment.

"There only a few anabolic hormonal therapies approved to increase bone density in women, and these are typically prescribed only for women with osteoporosis," Jankowski says. “DHEA has the advantage of providing anabolic effects on bone, and is well-tolerated in postmenopausal women. Exercise is the only therapy that provides benefits to muscle and bone. I am looking forward to discovering whether combining exercise with DHEA provides benefits to muscle and bone that exceed that of either DHEA or exercise alone.”

Jankowski’s study will measure changes in bone architecture in addition to bone density. “Small changes in bone architecture can have profound effects on bone strength,” she says. “It is currently not known if DHEA has beneficial effects on bone architecture.”
The College of Nursing held the annual Alumni Reunion and Awards Ceremony on Sept. 29, 2017. Students and alumni enjoyed brunch with Interim Dean Mary Krugman. After brunch, the group gathered for conversations in nursing with PhD student Kristiana Avery and Associate Dean of Clinical and Community Affairs Amy Barton, followed by an awards ceremony to honor outstanding alumni, faculty, and staff. Finally, the festivities closed with a barbecue dinner and games.
& Awards Ceremony

Kristiana Avery, MS ’10, gave a presentation about her dissertation research on genetic biomarkers.

Carol Harvey, MS ’83, and Mary McMahon, MS ’84, pose with props at the photo booth.

Interim Dean Mary Krugman (left) commences the student and alumni panel at brunch.

Rising Star: Sarah Ferrin BS ’15; Pathfinders: Amanda Nenaber, DNP ’14, MS ’11; Lifetime Achievement: Marilyn Ray, PhD, MS ’69, BS ’68; Distinguished Alumni: Carol Harvey, MS ’83

Not pictured: Innovation in Practice Award: Sharon Sables-Baus; Rising Star Faculty Award: Cate Campisi; 5 Years of Service: Michele Wilcoxen, Francisco Arismendi, Luis Iglesias, Natasha Smith-Holmquist; 10 Years of Service: Holly Vause, Jane Kass-Wolff, Laura Rosenthal, Pamela Prag, Jennifer Disabato, Kathy Ross, Adrienne Wolf; 15 Years of Service: Edith Butts.
Adult-gerontology students got a lesson in holistic self-care today. After a presentation from C-P.A.W.W., students participated in a quick yoga lesson complete with essential oil aromatherapy and guided meditation.

We’d be lost without this woman. Our students don’t always understand the behind the scenes here at the CON, but all I can say is if you go to school here Cindy Walker is your hero. Congratulations to a great colleague and friend.

This is how we do PhD advising here at CUI. PhD Student Kaitlin Schmitz and her advisor Dr. Scott Harpin discuss dissertation options atop Torreys Peak, 8/7/17.

#braggingrights, We have a pretty amazing Dean! Yesterday she completed the #coppertriangle. It was a difficult bike ride, but she persisted! #bethenurse #nurses

facebook.com/cucollegeofnursing is a public web page. You don’t have to join Facebook to check it out.
PhD student Ann Wislowski was recently awarded three university scholarships to fund her doctoral education, more than any other student in her cohort. Wislowski received the University of Colorado Gertrude Kahmeyer Hembree Nursing Endowment, the University of Colorado Joanne Duke Hess Nursing PhD Scholarship Endowment, and the University of Colorado Loretta Ford Fellowship. Because she left her job to pursue her nursing PhD full time, the three scholarships will go far in offsetting the cost of her education and easing the strain of her student loans.

Wislowski received her BSN and MSN from the University of Pennsylvania. After years working as a nurse educator, she felt that pursuing a PhD was the next logical step in her own education and in exploring her fascination with high altitude physiology and genomics. She was attracted to the University of Colorado specifically for its hybrid-format nursing PhD program and the privilege to work with Dr. Robert Roach, PhD, at the School of Medicine’s Altitude Research Center. Wislowski hopes to establish herself as an independent researcher on the effects of high altitude on the human body: “Specifically, I would like to study the effects of high altitude on women. I hope to continue to teach along with my research, as my students energize me and push me immeasurably.” Her goal is to provide improved education on high altitude illnesses to nurses and nursing students in the future.

“Establishing your worthiness as a scholarship recipient starts with understanding the donors’ expectations, and then providing evidence that you’ll not only meet them, but exceed them.” She also suggests that students stay positive and focused in their essays, look everywhere for possible sources of funding, and apply even if they don’t think they will be chosen.

Wislowski considers herself very fortunate that the College of Nursing has so many generous donors who make such a variety of scholarship opportunities possible. She adds, “I have had an overwhelmingly positive experience so far at CON. Without exception, all the faculty have been approachable and genuinely supportive in guiding my cohort through the PhD program. Thank you all. And I would like to thank Dr. Catherine Jankowski, my advisor, who keeps me out of trouble.”

I would like to make a gift to the College of Nursing.

Designations: ☐ College of Nursing (0221164) ☐ College of Nursing Scholarship Fund (0221321) ☐ College of Nursing Alumni Association S. Clare Sandekian Scholarship Fund (0222604) ☐ Touched by a Nurse Endowment* (0254185) ☐ Jean Watson, PhD Endowed Chair in Caring Science Fund** (0250092) ☐ Loretta C. Ford Nurse Practitioner Endowed Fund ** (0205106) ☐ Nursing Archives and History Center Fund (0221252) ☐ Other ________________

Give Now: ☐ A check for the full amount of $________________ is enclosed (made payable to the University of Colorado Foundation) ☐ Charge the full amount of $________________ to my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Name as it appears on the card (please print)________________________ Title (if applicable)________________________

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Following the annual Scholarship Luncheon on Sept. 12, students gathered on Sept. 15 to write thank-you notes to donors who contribute to CU College of Nursing scholarship funds.
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In Memoriam: Faculty & Staff

Terry Biddinger
Terry Biddinger served as the Director of External Relations at the CU College of Nursing from 2005 until her retirement in 2012. She passed away on April 24, 2017 following months of declining health. She was born December 18, 1937 in Mason City, Iowa, the oldest daughter of Mary Catherine (Farrell) and Murray Finley. She moved to Denver over 40 years ago with her late husband Dr. John Biddinger but never lost her love for her native Iowa. A devoted mother, professional, and community volunteer, she played instrumental roles with numerous institutions and organizations including Cherry Creek School District, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Central City Opera Guild, Denver Lyric Opera Guild, Friends of Nursing, Institute for Children’s Mental Disorders, Institute for International Education, Mental Health America of Colorado, St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, University of Denver Humanities Institute and Lamont School of Music, Denver Art Museum, Littleton Public Schools, Bright by Three (formerly Bright Beginnings), Archdiocese of Denver, and the University of Colorado Chancellor’s Office, School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, Center for Ethics and Humanities, School of Business, and Department of Endocrinology. Recognizing her many contributions she was awarded the Joseph Addison Seawell Award from the University of Colorado in 2007.

Michael Galbraith
Michael Galbraith, PhD, RN, was a CU College of Nursing Associate Professor prior to his death on January 16, 2017. As nurse, scholar teacher, and researcher Michael influenced and improved the lives of many in his roles as a clinical nurse in urology, psychiatric/mental health, and home health; professor of nursing designing and teaching courses that included psych mental health, Community Mental Health Nursing, Nursing Research, and Health Psychology; and mentor/academic advisors to many masters and doctoral students on their thesis and dissertation. Michael's research on the effect of sex role identity on quality of life for men with prostate cancer and health-related quality of life for prostate cancer patients and their wives was funded by the National Institute of Health. He is a published author on more than twenty scholarly articles. As a leader in the professional community he has served and/or chaired committees including curriculum, research, the University Institutional Review Board and belonged to professional organizations such as the American Psychological Association, American Association of University Professors, and Sigma Theta Tau, National Honor Society for Nurses. Volunteer activities included Board of Directors for the American Assembly for Men in Nursing, Board member for the Inland Empire California Red Cross, and the Research and Scientific Advisory Board for the Oncology Nursing Society.

Roger Reeves
Roger Reeves, MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, taught in the CU College of Nursing Health Care Informatics program before he passed away on May 19, 2017. Born in Olympia, Washington, Roger lived most of his life in the Northwest and Southwest U.S. working as a clinical systems analyst and informatics instructor. As a Board Certified Informatics Nurse, Roger generously shared his enthusiasm for teaching with his students. He was beloved by his students and faculty. During his free time, Roger enjoyed exploring the outdoors and camping by the closest scenic creek with his dog. "We were so blessed to have had Roger as part of our College and as part of our lives. Indeed, he touched many people. The outpouring of love and memories has been astounding. The College of Nursing is a better community because of Roger; may he rest in peace and know in his eternal spirit that he will live forever in the legacy of our College," said Sarah Thompson, PhD, RN, FAAN. "Roger was an incredible colleague," said Associate Professor Scott Harpin, PhD, MPH, RN. "Every interaction with him was pleasant, warm, and professional. His smile made the hallway and our College a much better place. Rest in peace, friend."
can improve mental health care and mental illness and seek treatment, we understand how parents perceive change their future. If we can better and treating mental illness, it could the treacherous roads of identifying child’s advocate in maneuvering can more effectively serve as their treatment for children. “If [parents] impact in securing mental health care Her dissertation will focus on parental Center, “ she says.

Scholarship awards $6,000 to one doctoral student in nursing education or administration annually. LeClaire, whose doctoral focus is Health Care Systems Research, says she will use these funds for tuition and to offset costs associated with her dissertation project, such as transcription of interviews, the interviewing process with participants, and programs for statistical analysis. “I am very grateful to have received this award and appreciative of the support of those who wrote letters of recommendation from CU College of Nursing and the Eating Recovery Programs for statistical analysis. “I have been part of the Centura system since 1991 in a variety of leadership roles. Her accomplishments during her tenure are many, including: Implementation of care coordination across ambulatory and acute settings, leading the framework and practice development for population health, establishing the nursing executive residency, leading the nursing team to Magnet® designation and redesignation, and achieving high nursing, physician and patient satisfaction. Prior to that, Pappas worked at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon. Originally from Canton, Georgia, Pappas looks forward to returning to her roots and being a part of the Emory Healthcare leadership team.”

1980s

Andrea LeClaire, BS ’85, PhD(c), MSHA, RN, NEA-BC, has been awarded the Eleanor C. Lamberty Scholarship from Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. The competitive Lamberty Scholarship awards $6,000 to one doctoral student in nursing education or administration annually.

LeClaire, whose doctoral focus is Health Care Systems Research, says she will use these funds for tuition and to offset costs associated with her dissertation project, such as transcription of interviews, the interviewing process with participants, and programs for statistical analysis. “I am very grateful to have received this award and appreciative of the support of those who wrote letters of recommendation from CU College of Nursing and the Eating Recovery Center,” she says.

Her dissertation will focus on parental impact in securing mental health care treatment for children. “If [parents] can more effectively serve as their child’s advocate in maneuvering the treacherous roads of identifying and treating mental illness, it could change their future. If we can better understand how parents perceive mental illness and seek treatment, we can improve mental health care and make a difference,” LeClaire says. “The focus of my dissertation is to examine parents’ beliefs and attitudes about seeking mental health care. Research focused specifically on this topic is unique and defines the foundation for continued research and improved mental health screening in pediatric populations.”

2000s

Sharon Pappas, PhD ’07, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, has been appointed as the Chief Nurse Executive for Emory Healthcare in Atlanta. Dr. Pappas has also been given Commission on Magnet® Recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Emory Healthcare released this message regarding her appointment as CNO: “After a thorough national search, Sharon H. Pappas, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, has been named the chief nurse executive (CNE) for Emory Healthcare. She will join the Emory team on Nov. 14, 2016.

Pappas comes to Emory from Centura Health in Denver, Colorado, where she currently serves as the system’s chief nurse executive and the chief nursing officer for Porter Adventist Hospital, one of the health system’s hospitals. Centura comprises 15 hospitals, 12 hospital affiliates, ambulatory practices, home care and urgent care. In her role as CNE, Pappas oversees the nursing practice, education, informatics, research and operations for more than 5,500 nurses.

“Sharon has the ideal background, leadership and vision to propel the Emory Healthcare nursing practice forward,” says Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, president, CEO and chairman of the board for Emory Healthcare. “Her experience in nursing leadership, operations management and innovation match the needs and direction of our organization’s nursing structure. We are pleased she is joining our team.”

Pappas received her BSN from the Medical College of Georgia, her MSN from Georgia College and her PhD in nursing from the University of Colorado.

Avery is an alumna of the CU College of Nursing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) master’s degree program, and she continues to work with PMHNP faculty at CU as a doctoral student.

Currently enrolled in her second year of doctoral studies, Avery plans to graduate with the biobehavioral focus PhD track in December 2018. The Sigma Theta Tau International Research Grant award will fund her will dissertation study: “Calcium Channel Genetic Biomarkers in the Assessment of Mood Disorders.”

Kristiana Avery, MS ’10, APRN, PMHNP-BC, current PhD student, competed against doctoral students from across the Western region to be awarded $10,000 for the Sigma Theta Tau International/Western Institute of Nursing Research Grant. Her winning project will explore the diagnostic abilities of genetic allele variants in CACNA1C, the gene that encodes for calcium channels.
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