More than concrete blocks, rebar, and drywall are needed to help realize the new CNHS building on University Park campus. As the 5-story, 2-wing structure rises on the landscape, efforts continue to ensure that it will be outfitted with the latest technology, equipment and fixtures that will make the College one of the most advanced health care education facilities in Florida. To that end, the Hugoton Foundation, Gaumard Scientific and Sheridan Healthcorp are the latest entities to generously donate equipment and funds for the new building.

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Blue Cross Blue Shield, HCA Commit Up To $470K For Tampa Foreign MD-RN Program

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) and Largo Medical Center (LMC) – part of Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) West Florida Division – have committed financial support to continue providing the CNHS award-winning Foreign-Educated Physician to Nursing Program (FEPN) in Florida’s Tampa Bay region.

FIU’s nationally acclaimed program – a specialized, 5-semester BSN curriculum that transforms foreign-educated doctors into nurses – was launched in Miami in 2002 as a unique solution to the nursing shortage, for which it won a Recognition of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Labor. Since then, more than 300 FEPN graduates have joined South Florida’s health care workforce. Through live videoconferencing, the program was expanded to the Tampa Bay area in January 2007, with the first students graduating in August 2008 [see Amazing Students section].

Paula Delpech, Director of the FEPN, explained the importance of this new funding. “We knew we were sitting on a gold mine of opportunity with the program in Tampa. We have a diverse candidate pool to choose from. We have the technological and academic structure in place to deliver the program. We have hospitals coming to us to help fill their nursing workforce shortages. And we have a track record of success, with five years’ worth of graduates integrating quickly and effectively as nurses in health care facilities,” she said. “What we did not have were the financial resources to ensure the program’s existence in the region, until now.”

BCBSF is contributing $250,000 to cover program costs under its Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida – a philanthropic arm that supports community-based solutions that enhance access to quality health-related services for the uninsured and underserved in Florida. This will help recruit additional professors and adjunct faculty to accommodate expansion of the program.

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Fed Grants Funds For Much-Needed Student Scholarships

CNHS students are receiving much needed support for their college educations, courtesy the federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). HRSA has awarded $883,225 in Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) to the CNHS – the largest funding amount received by the College from this federal program. SDS scholarships are given to full-time, financially needy students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in health professions and nursing programs. Funds will assist students in the Undergraduate Nursing, Graduate Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Language Pathology programs.

New CNHS Building Receives $625K In Gifts

Hugoton Foundation, Gaumard Scientific and Sheridan Healthcorp Donate Equipment, Funds

More than concrete blocks, rebar, and drywall are needed to help realize the new CNHS building on University Park campus. As the 5-story, 2-wing structure rises on the landscape, efforts continue to ensure that it will be outfitted with the latest technology, equipment and fixtures that will make the College one of the most advanced health care education facilities in Florida. To that end, the Hugoton Foundation, Gaumard Scientific and Sheridan Healthcorp are the latest entities to generously donate equipment and funds for the new building.

Continued on page 2
New CNHS Building to Be First LEED Certified at FIU

As construction continues on the new CNHS building on University Park campus, project leaders and college officials announced that the new facility has been LEED registered, and all steps are being taken to achieve LEED certification. When the process is completed and approved, the new CNHS building will be the first LEED-certified building in the University’s history.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of sustainable green building and development practices. The construction of FIU’s first LEED-building follows in step with the growing number of government institutions nationwide that are adopting LEED certification for publicly owned and funded buildings. A LEED Certification Team has been appointed to prepare and guide the University through the administrative stages of the certification process.

“This new building will not only be one of the most advanced and dynamic health care education and research facilities in the region, but also a successful example of the University’s growing commitment towards environmental awareness and preservation,” commented Dr. Divina Grossman, Dean of the College.

Among the design “eco-highlights” of the new CNHS building will be the unique “green” roof over the second floor corridor. Low-maintenance grass and vegetation will be planted on the roof, which will only be sustained from natural rainwater. In addition to its aesthetics, the grass roof will serve to insulate the corridor below, and help absorb the heat and ultraviolet effects of the sun’s rays from hitting the building directly. Other design features that will help lower energy consumption are occupancy sensor lighting in all classrooms and offices, and sunrise/sunset timers and sensors to manage landscape, building exterior and lobby lighting operations.

To view real-time construction progress, visit http://nursecam.fiu.edu

New Building Notes
• Construction began on August 6, 2008. The building foundations are in place, with structural support columns visibly on their way up.
• Two separate construction crews are working simultaneously to accelerate the completion of the 2-wing structure in time for a December 2009 opening.
• The new building is expected to be “topped off” – a construction phrase describing the moment when the top floor of the building is finally covered by the roof – in February 2009.
FIU Provides Disaster Basic Skills Refresher

This past summer the CNHS provided disaster basic skills workshops for about 100 nurses from the Miami-Dade County Health Department (some attendees pictured above). These workshops served to help refresh the acute care skills of public health nurses who have to respond to hurricanes or other disaster events that involve direct patient care. CNHS faculty members Dr. Lourdes Lizardo and Dr. Yvonne Parchment delivered the content in the classroom as well as the hands-on demonstration and skills training at the Basic Nursing Skills Lab. Basic nursing procedures and techniques such as administration of medications, inserting Foley catheters and starting intravenous lines were included in the content of the refresher course.

Nursing Faculty Present in Record Number at International Nursing Research Congress

FIU nursing faculty members presented five papers at the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society’s International Nursing Research Congress in Singapore this past July. It was the largest participation from FIU nursing faculty to-date at this prestigious conference. CNHS faculty members Dr. Dorothy Brooten, Dr. JoAnne Youngblut, Dr. Sandra Lobar, Dr. Luz Porter, Dr. Kathy Blais, Professor Laura Hernandez and PhD nursing student Jean Hannan presented on a variety of topics. The five presentations covered: pregnancy among various races, healthy living to reduce children asthma episodes, intervention studies, parent and family function after a preschooler’s head trauma, and grandparent function after the death of a grandchild.

FEPN Program to Continue in Tampa

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LMC is donating $11,000 per student in scholarship assistance for up to 20 students. These long-distance students will partake in interactive, live videoconferencing classroom sessions with their counterparts on FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus in Miami, Fla. (where the program is headquartered), and conduct their clinical instructions at the facility. Upon graduation, they will enter into multi-year work commitments with the hospital. This new student cohort will start the program in 2009.

Delpech added that the investment both organizations are making in the FEPN goes far beyond dollar figures. “They are investing in a program that will directly and immediately impact the quality and quantity of the nursing workforce, and has long-term value for them as health care providers. Our graduates will become exceptional and essential health care professionals serving the Tampa community, and we thank Blue Cross and Largo Medical Center for their support and commitment.”

Partnership with Florida Memorial University Cultivates Diversity

FIU – a Hispanic-serving university, and Florida Memorial University – an historically black university, forged a unique partnership at the 2008 Minority Health Disparities Summit in Tampa, Fla. to increase diversity in nursing. On August 14, the CNHS and Florida Memorial finalized an agreement to collaborate on academic programs for select honor students at Florida Memorial to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology or Nursing, or pursue a dual-degree in both disciplines. This partnership is the inaugural project of the Florida Alliance for Health Professions Diversity, which was formed to help develop higher education collaborations that will foster diversity in health professions. The Alliance and partnership were spurred on by former U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan, who chaired the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in Healthcare Workforce. The Commission recommended increasing the number of minority health professionals is key to eliminating health care disparities among minority and underserved populations. The universities will collaborate on faculty and curriculum development, with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida providing scholarship funding for the Florida Memorial students in this program.

CCNE Accreditation for CNHS Nursing Programs

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) has granted accreditation for a term of five years to the CNHS Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing programs. The CCNE is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as an autonomous accrediting agency, which ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education programs.

Athletic Training Program Strengthens Reputation of Excellence

CNHS’ Athletic Training (AT) program is batting 1000 (3-for-3) on first-time pass rates of its graduates taking the Board of Certification exam to become a Certified Athletic Trainer. The young AT program joined the CNHS in May 2007 and has a current student enrollment of 30.

AT program faculty and students also had a strong presence at the Southeastern Athletic Trainers 33rd Annual Members Meeting and Clinical Symposium in Franklin, Tenn., this past spring. AT Director Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, professors Dr. Brady Tripp and Michelle Odai, and six AT students presented papers and posters.
The CNHS has announced the following appointments within the master’s Anesthesiology Nursing Program: Jeffrey Groom, PhD, CRNA – Director; Juan Gonzalez, MS, CRNA – Assistant Director; and Vince Gonzalez, MS, CRNA – Clinical Coordinator.

Juan E. Gonzalez, MS, CRNA, Assistant Director of the Anesthesiology Nursing Program, was the recipient of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist Foundation’s 2008 Doctoral Fellowship Award. This national award will help support Prof. Gonzalez’s completion of his dissertation, which is focused on utilizing a patient simulation-based training intervention to improve the execution of advanced life support skills in nurse anesthesia practice.

Assistant Nursing Professor Florence Keane, DNSc, was one of 12 candidates nationwide to be selected as a Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Research Scholar for Summer 2008. The Institute is recognized for its focus on disseminating best practices to nursing students, faculty, practicing nurses, and policy makers to shape the quality of nursing care to older adults by assuring geriatric competency of America’s nurses.

Congratulations to the following Occupational Therapy Department faculty for their recent achievements: Department Chairperson Alma Abdel-Moty, DrOT, MS, OTR/L, was the recipient of the University’s 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award. Assistant Professor Amy Paul-Ward, PhD, was one of only 15 recipients to be granted a 2008 Faculty Research Award from the University for her project entitled, Finding Their Voices: Using Photovoice to Identify Adolescent Perspectives on Successful Transitions to Adulthood. She also received a distinguished appointment to serve on the editorial board of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Associate Nursing Professor Sandra Gracia Jones, PhD, RN-BC, ACRN, ARNP, FAAN, presented a summary of her research study, Safe Sex Practices in Male Viagra Users for The AIDS Institute’s United States Conference on AIDS in September. Dr. Jones will also participate on the national steering committee for the annual National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and The AIDS Institute.

Clinical Assistant Nursing Professor Katherine Chadwell MS, MSN, APRN-BC, ARNP, obtained national certification as a Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, making her the first CNHS faculty member in this specialty.

Athletic Training Program Director Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo can now add the PhD designation to her name after successfully defended her dissertation, Continuing Professional Education in Athletic Training: Is Knowledge Acquired and Retained? at the University of Miami (Fla.). Her PhD was earned in exercise physiology and educational research.

Yvonne Parchment, BSN, MSN, EdD, and Carol “Pat” Patsdaughter, PhD, MSN, Clinical Associate Nursing Professor and Clinical Nursing Professor, respectively, passed the National League for Nursing’s Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) Examination. They join Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Sherry Pontious, PhD, RN, CNE, in achieving this distinction.

Nursing Professor Luz S. Porter, PhD, RN/ARNP, FNP, FAAN, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) at the AANP National Conference in Baltimore, Md. this past July.

The Journal of Science for Technology and Humanities has appointed Nursing Professor Dorothy Brooten, PhD, RN, FAAN, to serve as a member of its editorial board.

Marie-Luise Friedemann, PhD, RN, who retired from the CNHS faculty at the end of Summer 2008, has been named Professor Emerita of Nursing by the University. This appointment recognizes her many valued contributions as a faculty member, her scholarly accomplishments in family nursing and family caregiving, and particularly the development of her Assessment of Strategies in Families research instrument.
**New Hires:**

**Dr. Anahid Kulwicki**
Director of Nursing Graduate & PhD Programs

Dr. Kulwicki earned her Doctor of Nursing Science and Master of Science in Nursing from Indiana University, and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the American University in Lebanon. She was most recently the Deputy Director of the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services and was a tenured Full Professor at Oakland University in Michigan. Dr. Kulwicki is a nationally recognized scholar, accomplished author, and public health leader in the areas of Arab-American health, community health and cultural competency.

**Marilys Randolph, PhD, PT**
Associate Professor, Physical Therapy

Dr. Randolph received her PhD in Physiology from Howard University and her Master of Science in Cardiopulmonary Therapy from New York University. She joined the FIU faculty after her years of service as chair of the physical therapy department at Hampton University in Virginia.

**Dennis McCarthy, PhD, MEd, OTR/L**
Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy

Dr. McCarthy earned his PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Florida, his Master of Education from Florida Atlantic University and his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from FIU. He was most recently a Research Assistant Professor in Occupational Therapy for the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, where he was also project co-director and research coordinator for the National Older Driver Research and Training Center.

**Debra Renna, MSN, CCRN**
Clinical Assistant Nursing Professor

Prof. Renna received her Bachelor and Master nursing degrees from Nova Southeastern University. She has more than 20 years experience as a critical care nurse and administrative nursing supervisor. Prof. Renna was a nursing instructor at Keiser University before joining the CNHS faculty.

**Lindsey Wilkins, MSN, ARNP**
Clinical Assistant Nursing Professor

Prof. Wilkins received both her Bachelor and Master nursing degrees from FIU. She has experience as a clinical nurse specialist, serving at Memorial Hospital in Hollywood, Fla. Prof. Wilkins was also a nurse manager and clinical educator for Tenet Health Systems. She rejoined FIU in 2005 as a clinical adjunct faculty member for the Generic BSN and Foreign-Educated Physician to Nurses programs.
Amazing Students

Accolades For PhD Nursing Students

Congratulations to our PhD nursing students Dawn Hawthorne and Jean Hannan for their recent achievements. Dawn received a grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research to supplement her dissertation work of adding a “spirituality scale” to Nursing Professors Dr. JoAnne Youngblut and Dr. Dorothy Brooten’s R01 research study, Death in the PICUNICU. Jean will be receiving a Florida Nurses Foundation Research Grant for her research focused on telephone follow-up to low income minority first-time mothers by advanced practice nurses. She will be examining maternal, infant and health service use outcomes of a clinical trial.

OT Students Get Seniors “Fit to Drive”

Students from FIU’s Occupational Therapy (OT) department helped perform screenings at Miami’s first-ever CarFit event, held September 20 at FIU’s University Park campus. Developed and sponsored by the AARP, AAA and AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association), CarFit is a national safety program that helps seniors (ages 55 and over) find the perfect “fit” in their vehicles to improve their driving, ensure their safety, and increase their mobility throughout the community. Under the direction of OT faculty members Dr. Alma Abdel-Moaty, Dr. Mirtha Whaley and Dr. Dennis McCarthy, the student volunteers performed a 12-point checklist that focused on key areas of the drivers’ “fits” including appropriate foot positioning for the gas and brake pedals, proper adjustment of side- and rear-view mirrors, optimal driver’s seat positioning and the correct use and placement of seatbelts.

CNHS Celebrates First MD-RN Tampa Graduates

The CNHS held a special recognition ceremony on August 16 for the first-ever Tampa area graduates from the award-winning Foreign-Educated Physician to Nursing Program (FEPN). The nine graduates, who entered the program in January 2007, were able to participate through long-distance learning equipment and curricula connecting FIU’s Biscayne Bay campus in Miami to classroom facilities in St. Petersburg’s Largo Medical Center. All students were recruited from and reside in the Tampa Bay area, and will join the nursing staff of four area hospitals upon RN certification. They represent diverse cultural heritages, including Colombia, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Cuba, Russia and Bulgaria, and join the 32 other students graduating from the Miami cohort.
Jo Ann Nieves, MSN, CPN, ARNP-BC
1995 MSN Graduate
Jo Ann Nieves has been specializing in the care of children with cardiac conditions for more than 30 years. In her two decades at Miami Children’s Hospital, she has served as a nurse clinician in cardiology, cardiovascular surgery and as a nurse practitioner in the Cardiac ICU. Since graduating with her BSN from the University of Illinois in 1978 and from FIU in 1995 with her MSN in Advanced Child Health Nursing, Jo Ann has become an accomplished speaker, author and researcher on the topic, serving as a Principal and Co-Investigator over 30 times. She is the Treasurer of the Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Nurses, for which she was also Secretary. Jo Ann was the Chairperson of the Nursing Program Committee at the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2005. Nieves sits on the American Hospital Association’s Council on Cardiovascular Nurses and Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young, and is a co-founding member of the Southeast Pediatric Cardiovascular Society.

Thomas Perron, MS, Psych NP
1999 BSN Graduate
Thomas Perron pursued his interest in psychiatric nursing after graduating from FIU by working as a staff nurse at the New York State Psychiatric Institute on the General Clinical Research Unit. Here he delivered care for patients with eating disorders, affective disorders and substance abuse addictions. Since obtaining his MSN in 2007 from Columbia University (New York) and becoming a nurse practitioner, Thomas has provided primary psychiatric care in a not-for-profit nurse practitioner managed group practice, served as a psychiatric consultant to Covenant House – the nation’s largest adolescent care agency serving homeless, runaway and at-risk youth, and is a supervisor of candidates for Columbia’s Nurse Practitioner program. He recently joined the Psychiatry Department at NYU Langone Medical Center as Coordinator of the ECT program.

Kevin Pittman, CRNA, ARNP
2006 MSN Graduate
Kevin Pittman, whose academic, professional and charitable pursuits have led him all over the globe, has been an outstanding ambassador for FIU’s acclaimed Anesthesiology Nursing Program. After graduating with a BSN from Texas Woman’s University in 1994, Kevin worked as a cardiovascular med surg nurse for two Houston-area hospitals, was a legal nurse consultant intern for New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation and then-Attorney General George Pataki’s Health Care Fraud Division from 2002-2003, and came to Miami in 2004 to enroll at FIU. He has long been involved in community service, including volunteering for the Leukemia Society, Diabetes Foundation, and Camp Buckaroo Cerebral Palsy Children’s Center. Armed with his 2006 MSN degree, in June 2008 Kevin joined Lions Club International on a week-long medical surgery mission to the Palawan province of the Philippines. The medical team tended the needs of 5,375 underprivileged residents, performing medical check-ups, dental extractions, eye exams, cataract surgeries and other simple surgeries. He helped celebrate “Christmas in June” at the Palawan Children’s Joy Orphanage, giving out gifts of school supplies, T-shirts, uniforms, toys, candies and cookies. And he capped his trip speaking with nursing students at Palawan State University about multicultural nursing in America.

Carolyn Zaumeyer, MSN, ARNP
1993 MSN Graduate
Considering herself part nurse practitioner, part entrepreneur, Carolyn Zaumeyer has parlayed her education and nursing experience into a prestigious public speaking and writing career. After graduating from FIU, Zaumeyer worked at several health clinics, and was an Associate Nursing Professor at the University. Carolyn moved from the classroom to the stage, combining her experiences of managing her own practice with her natural charisma, for professional presentations that help guide nurse practitioners to start their own independent practice. She has been sharing her knowledge of entrepreneurship and nursing for the past 11 years through group speaking engagements, seminar presentations, and her books: How to Start an Independent Practice: The Nurse Practitioner’s Guide to Success and The Nurse Practitioner as Entrepreneur: How to Establish and Operate an Independent Practice. Carolyn is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse Practitioners and American Nurses Association.
On April 10, 2008, the CNHS held a groundbreaking ceremony on University Park campus for its new building, scheduled to open in December 2009. The new building will be one of the most advanced health care education facilities in Florida and will become the gateway for the University's Academic Health Sciences Complex. CNHS alumni and students were among the more than 150 guests who helped mark the occasion. Guests were treated to an outdoor gallery of historic nursing photos; they signed bricks for the building's foundation; and they attended a private reception that preceded special addresses from CNHS Dean Dr. Divina Grossman, FIU President Dr. Modesto Maidique, other University dignitaries and lead architect, Yann Weymouth of HOK. The festivities capped off with a ceremonial groundbreaking on the exact site where construction of the new building began this summer.

(Top photos show: (L–R) CNHS Dean Dr. Divina Grossman, FIU Provost Dr. Ronald Berkman, FIU President Dr. Modesto Maidique, HOK Lead Architect Yann Weymouth and FIU Trustee Al Dotson address guests before ceremonial groundbreaking.)

(FIU nursing alumna Margarita Ollet, Vice President for Managed Care, Health Choice Network.

HOK's Yann Weymouth chats with CNHS students about the new building.)

(Photos show: Dean Grossman and CNHS students get ready to break ground.

Guests leaving autographs and well wishes on concrete blocks for the building’s foundation.)

(Photos show: (L–R) Dr. Omar Pasalodos, Health Foundation of South Florida Board Member with FIU nursing alumnae Darlene Boytell-Perez, FIU Nursing Development Council Chairperson, and Byung Park.

(L – R) Dr. Jacquelyn Hartley, Former Director of the FIU School of Nursing with FIU Associate Nursing Professor and nursing alumna Dr. Kathy Blais.

Dean Grossman with FIU nursing alumnus Jose Sotomayor, Founder and CEO of Infusion Technologies Health Services.

Contact the Office of Development to inquire about giving opportunities for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences
305-348-1336 or kenglish@fiu.edu

To view real-time construction progress, log on to http://nursecam.fiu.edu; and for more information, visit http://cnhs.fiu.edu)