On September 25, 2013, the College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University (FIU) celebrated a historic milestone with a $10 million gift and the renaming of the college to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

Long-time university benefactors Dr. Herbert Wertheim and his wife Nicole marked their 44th wedding anniversary in May. Dr. Wertheim celebrated their union and his confidence in the college’s strategic and business plans by endowing the College of Nursing & Health Sciences in her honor.

FIU is already home to the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, and now it is also home to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. This gift is not only a testament to the Wertheim’s generosity; it reflects the family’s commitment to preventive care and the belief that the best health care is delivered when doctors and nurses work together.

The $10 million gift from the Wertheims is coming at a pivotal time in the college’s history. It will serve to propel the college to prominence among magnet nursing and health sciences colleges that draw world-class faculty, researchers, students, and others for positive transformation of regional, national, and global health.

“This gift is a tremendous opportunity for us to further increase the quality and breadth of the college, and change the way health care is not only practiced, but taught to future generations of nurses and health practitioners,” said Dr. Ora L. Strickland, Dean of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. “It’s an amazing legacy created by an amazing couple.”

The Wertheim’s generosity, commitment and inspiring vision serves as a catalyst to enrich the college’s academic and research programs, accelerating its path to a top national academic reputation and research ranking by:

- Stimulating cross-disciplinary research addressing major health issues facing the nation, particularly South Florida communities;
- Emphasizing research that focuses on prevention of age-related morbidity and health disparities;

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Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim join via satellite as FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg announces the $10 million gift for the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences.
Transfer-related patient falls are unwelcome occurrences that both patient and health care professionals deal with. In addition to the potential for patient injury, such a fall can also lead to painful musculoskeletal injuries for the staff member involved as they maneuver to prevent serious harm coming to the patient.

Through Dr. Vieira’s Patient Fall and Staff Injury research process, teams will review records from seven South Florida hospitals of patient falls and the ensuing musculoskeletal injuries suffered by nurses and nurse aides. The research team will calculate the rates of transfer-related patient falls, interview nurses and nurse aides who have been injured due to

The findings from Dr. Vieira’s study will be used to design interventions that will help reduce transfer-related patient falls, contributing to safer hospital environments for patients and lowering the incidence of injuries for care providers.

With more than 40 million persons age 65 and older, baby boomers have become the nation’s fastest growing population group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This demographic evolution acutely emphasizes the need to educate a health care workforce that can understand and meet the specific care needs of a graying patient base. FIU Nursing Associate Professor Dr. Ellen Brown, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing recognized for her innovative approaches to geriatric nursing care practice, has developed an education platform to address this demand.

As an executive committee member of the Miami Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC), a consortium of organizations that work together to coordinate and provide interdisciplinary geriatric continuing education for professionals who serve the elderly in central and southeast Florida, Dr. Brown created the AGE Scholars Program. This original, individualized program is designed to teach future health practitioners the various aspects of elderly care. It offers selected faculty participants from partner institutions the opportunity for 160 hours of targeted training from a menu of geriatric learning opportunities and a one-to-one mentored career development experience with expert geriatric faculty. Each participant’s program is tailored to meet the individual’s desired educational goal, which might include acquiring grant-writing skills, producing geriatric articles for publication, creating geriatric training curricula, or initiating a course/program in geriatrics, among others.

Launched in 2011, the program is an integral feature of MAGEC’s five-year federally-funded education project for geriatric professionals made possible by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.
Assistant Dean leads charge to lower incidence of HIV among black men

On the heels of his participation with the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) landmark “Brother’s Study,” which found an alarming HIV incidence rate among black men who have sex with men (BMSM), Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs and Health Policy, has embarked as Protocol Co-Chair on HPTN 073 – a study directed at measuring the efficacy towards drug-based HIV prevention measures among the BMSM community.

This vanguard $8 million dollar study is sponsored and funded by the Division of AIDS, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health. With the BMSM community making up nearly 30 percent of all new HIV infections in the country, HPTN 073 represents an investment in combating HIV and other conditions affecting a population that has habitually been underrepresented in HIV research trials.

This demonstration study is designed to see if BMSM are willing to use Truvada®, a daily pill approved by the FDA for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a new HIV prevention method in which people who are HIV-negative take an HIV treatment antiretroviral drug daily to reduce their risk of becoming HIV-infected.

HPTN 073 will enroll a total of 225 HIV-negative BMSM in Los Angeles, Calif., Chapel Hill, N.C., and Washington, D.C. to gather feedback about the experience from the men who elect to use PrEP, as well as those who do not. HPTN 073 is a follow-up effort to Dr. Fields’ involvement with HPTN 061 – a.k.a. “The Brother’s Study” – which concluded in July 2012. This large multi-site study involving more than 1,500 participants from the BMSM community in six U.S. cities was the first of its kind to determine the rate of new HIV infection among such a large prospective cohort.

Evaluating outcomes of sensor-assisted knee surgery

FIU Physical Therapy professors Dr. Mark Rossi and Dr. Denis Brunt are putting research in motion at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Human Performance Lab to address safety and performance issues after knee surgery.

The professors are collaborating with Dr. Martin Roche – an orthopedic surgeon at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. – to evaluate the potential benefits of engaging the OrthoSensor™ Knee Balancer (OSKB) sensor-assisted orthopedic surgical device for knee joint replacement surgeries.

OSKB, which has received 501(k) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, is an intelligent instrument that harnesses the latest innovations in sensors, microelectronics, and wireless communication to assist surgeons performing soft tissue balancing during a knee implant. Replacing the standard tibial spacer block typically used by surgeons, OSKB wirelessly transmits key information to a graphic display, enabling them to visualize and quantify joint balance and load distribution through a full range of motion.

Dr. Roche, who currently uses these sensors and will be gathering research data for the study, will perform knee balancing surgery using traditional blocks on one group of patients, and the OSKB on another group.

Prior to surgery and six weeks after surgery, Drs. Rossi and Brunt’s team will assess the general mobility of patients, including how they stand, walk and squat, using the GaitRite gait analysis system and portable force plates of the Human Performance Lab located in the college’s Center for Advanced Rehabilitation/Research and Education, or CARE Unit. They will also test knee extensor and entire lower limb force production using a horizontal leg press. Patients will be questioned on perceived abilities, pain and surgery expectations.

The goal of the study is to determine if patients whose knees are balanced through the use of computer and sensors function at superior levels and experience less pain during the recovery process compared to patients whose knees were balanced using the traditional block approach.
The October 2013 issue of Pediatrics, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, has published the findings from a groundbreaking study conducted by nationally esteemed nurse researchers and FIU Nursing faculty members Dr. JoAnne Youngblut and Dr. Dorothy Brooten on the effects of a child’s death on family functioning.

The R01-class study entitled, “Parent health and functioning 13 months after infant or child NICU/PICU death,” was funded by a $2.15 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Nursing Research. For five years, Dr. Youngblut and Dr. Brooten’s research team examined how the health and functioning of a group of 249 Hispanic, black and white parents changed after the death of an infant or child in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU).

According to the research, approximately one-third of parents who experience the death of an infant go on to suffer from clinical depression or clinical post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) more than a year after the event. The study found that the significant stress effects on the health of the participants, including cases of hospitalizations, cancer onset, mental illness and other health risks, varied among participants.

Both professors contend the findings will help health care providers better understand the potential impact on parents’ health after such losses. It will also help them identify those at greatest health risk to target them for early intervention with support that is both culturally appropriate and acceptable.

Dr. Youngblut and Dr. Brooten are currently involved with a second, $2.5 million funded NIH R01 study on “Children’s Responses to Sibling Death in NICU/PICU in 3 Racial/Ethnic Groups.” Building from the parent study, they seek to understand the impact of the loss of a sibling among living siblings who have lost a playmate, friend, peer and confidante.

FIU Nursing is launching a new nursing degree to help medically trained military veterans rejoin the civilian workforce as nurses beginning in 2014. The FIU Medic-to-Nurse program is designed for U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen to receive their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and Registered Nurse (RN) license in approximately 18 months to quickly transition their health care skills from military to mainstream settings.

FIU received a $1.3 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to establish the program, and is one of nine universities nationwide receiving funds under the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention: Veterans’ Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing program.

In addition to creating an accelerated, three-semester curriculum, the FIU Medic-to-Nurse program will address the underlying challenges of translating military training into civilian learning and application to make it easier to find mainstream health care jobs. Assistance programs and counselors will help students cope with their return to the classroom, and ex-military nursing faculty working in the program can relate with their students to acclimate them to a new style of learning.

For more on the program, visit: http://cnhs.fiu.edu/MedictoNurse
Federal grant supports mission for interprofessional, culturally competent education

A recent $341,000 grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is endorsing the college's mission to reduce health disparities and improve the quality of care to diverse and underserved populations through innovation and a commitment to culturally competent and collaborative interdisciplinary practice.

The funds were used to launch the Technology Interprofessional Culturally Competent Education (T.I.P.C.E.) program last summer. This three-year project will educate more than 900 family nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, athletic trainers and speech-language pathologists to function in technologically advanced, interprofessional health teams.

The college's grant team of Associate Dean Helen Z. Cornely, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor Maria (Maite) Garrido and Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Lucie Dlugasch designed and developed the curriculum, which includes a virtual platform serving as the central hub for all computer-based activities and communications between the team, faculty and students across disciplines.

Students begin the three-semester program by engaging each other in clinical discussions through online self-learning modules, blogs and forums. Once the students acquire virtual knowledge on a subject, they test their experiences in simulated real-world practice scenarios to collaborate in interdisciplinary teams, providing discipline-specific care of simulated multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-generational patients and families. The final stage involves faculty using telemonitoring equipment during student clinical rotations to further advise the students on how to improve quality of care.

A Fair to Remember

Nearly 125 FIU Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy (OT), and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) students networked, and in some cases interviewed, with potential future employers at the Health Sciences Job Fair and Research Day held on August 2, 2013.

Some students landed jobs with participating companies while others noted that the fair encouraged them to strive harder to find employment opportunities. Among the 31 companies that attended the fair were Holy Cross Hospital, Miami Children's Hospital, Memorial Health Care, NCH Healthcare System, and North Shore Medical Center. Participants were pleased with the student turnout and especially enjoyed the venue, the Frost Art Museum.

The Health Sciences Job Fair began as an annual effort to assist Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates hunt for employment opportunities. This is the first year the college expanded the job fair to include students from the OT and SLP programs. The job fair was followed by a Research Day event, which included student poster presentations and awards.

STAR on Wheels

Powered by portable capabilities such as a wireless high fidelity human patient simulator and audio/visual system just like the one in the Simulation Teaching and Research Center – a.k.a. STAR Center – the STAR Center Mobile Unit is ready to take the college's hard work on the road! The specially modified vehicle capable of carrying two full-size patient simulators along with associated computer equipment will travel around the state to deliver clinical simulation education seminars to health care providers wherever the need exists as part of the STARBrite Project – Bringing Real-world Instruction to Today's Education for Health Care Providers.
Nursing Professor JoAnne Youngblut, PhD, RN, FAAN, was named 2013 Nurse of the Year in the Clinical & Academic Education category by the March of Dimes Miami chapter. She was honored from among 25 finalists for her groundbreaking research in the area of child illness/death and the impact on the family dynamic.

Dr. Youngblut is a renowned nurse researcher who has spearheaded a growing body of nationally funded work studying how child trauma, dying and death physically and behaviorally affects families as individuals and as a unit. Her most recent NIH-funded R01 research, “Death in the PICU/NICU: Parent & Family Functioning,” was published in the American Academy of Pediatrics’ journal, Pediatrics. Applications of this research will help health care providers understand the varying impact on parents’ health and well-being after the loss of an infant or child to determine the best interventions.

The March of Dimes Nurse of the Year program celebrates the extraordinary contributions in patient care, compassion and service of nursing professionals, and how they play a critical role in advancing the mission of health care providers, educators, researchers, fundraisers, volunteers, and advisors.

Occupational Therapy faculty members Dr. Amy Paul-Ward and Dr. Elise Bloch were awarded a $1.25 million training grant from the U.S. Department of Education for their program POPS: Preparing Occupational Therapists for Practice in Schools.

Occupational Therapy Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Hector Huerta’s abstract for a poster presentation titled, “An Interprofessional Education Program of Virtual and Simulated Learning Activities for Allied Health Students,” was accepted for dissemination at the Annual Conference for the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions this past October. Dr. Huerta has also assumed additional responsibilities in his role as Interprofessional Coordinator for the college’s TIPCE (Technology Interprofessional Culturally Competent Education) grant team.

Dr. Daniel Little, a clinical assistant professor with the Foreign-Educated Physician to Nursing program, was selected to be a site visitor for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the official accreditation agency of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The Athletic Training (AT) program welcomes back two of its master’s graduates as brand new faculty members: Alicia Montalvo and Charlie Holliday.

Ms. Montalvo rejoins FIU AT as an assistant professor. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Public Health (with a minor in nutrition) from the University of Pennsylvania and a Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology degree from Penn State University. She will bring a research focus to the program, continuing upon her prior research studies examining injury epidemiology, the validation of a tri-axial accelerometer, and the efficacy of kinesiotaping.

Ms. Holliday returns as a clinical instructor, serving as a preceptor for AT students and athletic trainer for FIU Recreation Services’ Intramural and Club Sports programs. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from Florida State University.

Dr. Maria Olenick, Director of the Foreign-Educated Physician to Nursing program, presented on the topic, “Successful Implementation of IPE into Healthcare Education Programs,” at the Collaborating Across Borders Interprofessional Education Conference in Vancouver, Canada this past June.

Physical Therapy Associate Professor Dr. Marilys Randolph served as a delegate on the American Physical Therapy Association House of Delegates (HOD) this past June in Salt Lake City, Utah. The HOD is the association’s highest policy-making body, with delegates making decisions on issues that may have far-reaching implications for the association and for the profession.
Five of our AT students were awarded competitive, national internships during this past summer with the following organizations:

**FIU Athletic Training students and Iota Tau Alpha honor society members Kelly Butler and Tiffany Morton joined Athletic Training chair Dr. Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo to present at the third annual Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Community Healthcare Conference: How to Become a Health Professional. The conference provided an opportunity to educate high school youth on various health professions, including the dynamic career of an athletic trainer, for which Tiffany and Kelly got participants involved by showing them how to spine board, tape, and apply a splint.**

“Our experience in Monte Plata has provided us with the opportunity to become well-rounded clinicians. Words cannot express how grateful we are to the entire clinic staff for taking us under their wings and sharing their knowledge and experience with us.”

**Sean Folan**
Chicago Cubs Major League Baseball (MLB) team

**Tiffany Hardison**
Athletes’ Performance integrated performance training, nutrition, and physical therapy specialists for professional athletes

**Erin Harrelson**
VSI Tampa Bay FC United Soccer Leagues team

**Lindsay Maiony**
World Endeavors (Chile) immersion internship in a hospital-based setting for patient recovering from neurological damage and/or disorders

This past summer, three graduate nursing students accompanied Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Lucie Dlugasch on the annual ProjectHOPE mission. The students are given a service-learning / global health experience by working hand-in-hand with medical professionals from the U.S. military and the ProjectHOPE non-profit group to provide critical care and assistance to patients in underdeveloped countries.

This year’s mission took Family Nurse Practitioner students Bilqis Muzaffarr, Kristina Madan and Adult Nurse Practitioner student Josue Toro to the Dominican Republic’s Monte Plata Clinic. During their visit, the students worked closely with skilled physicians, pediatricians and OBGYNs to provide effective nurse practitioner care in a rural community with limited resources.

**Kasey Richardson**
Winston-Salem Dash minor league baseball team and farm team to MLB’s Chicago White Sox

FIU master’s Occupational Therapy (MSOT) students are making a name for themselves by showcasing their prominent research activity within the profession. Research conducted by MSOT students Jaime Eggenberger, Erin Knight, Betty Ng, Jacqueline Achen, Evelyn Loyola, and Maria Rincón in conjunction with FIU OT faculty has been accepted for publication in the premier professional journal, American Journal of Occupational Therapy. Student Tara Riley collaborated with Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Alma Abdel-Moty on the abstract, “Fieldwork in Trinidad: Reflections of an International Student,” which was accepted as an oral presentation for the Caribbean Association of Occupational Therapy Scientific Conference held November 2013 in the Cayman Islands.
The Nightingala Celebration for the 30th Anniversary of Nursing at FIU

Nearly 400 alumni, current and former faculty, and distinguished friends of FIU’s College of Nursing & Health Sciences came together on October 19, 2013 at the Nightingala celebration to commemorate two momentous occasions: the $10 million gift and renaming of the college to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, and the 30th Anniversary of the Nursing Program.

Dr. Kathleen Blais (background at podium) with distinguished alumni (L-R): Ms. Barbara Sharief; Dr. Jean Hannan, Dr. J. Craig Phillips, Dr. Tony Umadhay, Dr. Grisel Fernandez-Bravo and Ms. Maria Suarez.

Dr. Herbert Wertheim demonstrated his commitment and confidence in the FIU College of Nursing & Health Science’s visionary strategic and business plans by commemorating his wife and their 44th wedding anniversary with a $10 million endowment to FIU to name the college in her honor. This gift stands as the Wertheim family’s commitment to preventive care and the belief that the best healthcare is delivered when doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals work collaboratively.

From left to right: Dr. Herbert Wertheim, Erica Wertheim Zohar, Vanessa Von Wertheim, Nicole Wertheim, President Mark B. Rosenberg and Dean Ora Strickland.

FIU Nursing alumna and Professor Emerita Dr. Kathleen Blais fittingly paid tribute to a group outstanding alumni for their professional and personal contributions that are a reflection of the nursing program.

Dr. Kathleen Blais (background at podium) with distinguished alumni (L-R): Ms. Barbara Sharief; Dr. Jean Hannan, Dr. J. Craig Phillips, Dr. Tony Umadhay, Dr. Grisel Fernandez-Bravo and Ms. Maria Suarez.
The formal affair was held at Jungle Island, with everyone dressed to the nines and dancing the night away well into the morning. Special thanks to the following sponsors for their support of a fabulous evening for all in attendance. The event raised funds for scholarships for students enrolled in all programs of the college.

Special Thanks to our Generous Host of the Evening

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Table Hosts, Underwriters and Scholarship Contributors:

Barry University College of Health Sciences Anesthesiology Programs, Broward Health, FIU Advancement, FIU Alumni Association, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc., Memorial Healthcare System, Memorial Hospital West, Miami Beach Anesthesiology Associates, Miami-Dade College of Nursing, Dr. Dana Sherman, South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association, Mayi de la Vega, American Data Bank, Dr. Kathleen Blais, Dr. Ellen Brown, Stephen Burns, Kelly Butler, Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Elsevier, Belen Grand, Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation, rbb Public Relations, U18 Sports Medicine
A generous gift from the Hugoton Foundation and Joan K. Stout, RN will increase the Wallace Gilroy Endowed Research Fund for Competent Clinical Nursing Care. Established in 2009, the fund supports research and teaching initiatives of nurse scholars, practitioners and educators who are focused on improving clinical practice and competencies of nursing care provided at the patient bedside. Grants awarded from this fund will be used to aid research faculty in addressing the overarching goal of improving clinical nursing care.

The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation has awarded a first-time grant to the College that furthers our mission to prepare diverse health care professionals in the delivery of culturally-competent care through interprofessional collaboration. The grant is being used to develop simulation scenarios involving students from various health disciplines in the delivery of care to patients with limited English language proficiency.

More than 75 nursing, occupational therapy and medical school students have participated in the simulations, which have successfully demonstrated how communication barriers greatly impact the quality of care, and the need to better understand other cultures and the proper ways to approach a patient who does not speak the common language. The Foundation, a new supporter of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, is dedicated to improving the health of the public by advancing the education and training of health professionals in the care of underserved populations through interprofessional education and teamwork, along with new curriculum content and models for clinical education.

The Florman Family Foundation continues its long-time support of the college with a gift funding faculty development as well as student scholarships. One portion of the Foundation’s gift, along with a match from Florida Blue Foundation, will be used to fund scholarship awards for nursing faculty members who are pursuing a doctoral degree in Nursing. The other portion of the Florman Family Foundation gift will benefit scholarships for nursing students at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels. These funds will be matched by funds raised by the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Nightingala and additional donors.
Even in retirement, Professor Emerita Dr. Luz Porter is still putting students first. A long-time nursing professor and founding director of the graduate and doctoral nursing programs at FIU, Dr. Porter has spent more than two decades guiding thousands of students in their academic pursuits, and continues to advise them still as a member of several Dissertation Committees. Now, she is taking her commitment to students one step further with a gift to establish the Dr. Luz Porter Endowed Graduate Nursing Fund.

The endowment will financially support students enrolled in the PhD in Nursing program by providing them with research and scholarship stipends. “During my time directing the graduate program, I noticed how students really struggled to obtain the financial support they need to make an impact with their research, particularly when it comes to data collection and statistical analysis,” Porter said. “Typically they don’t have more than $500 to complete the research – and that’s not nearly enough.”

It was that realization that led Dr. Porter to make the gift. The endowment funds will serve to support students completing their dissertation or capstone projects, which she said can typically cost up to $2,500 in data collection and consulting staff fees.

Dr. Porter has been involved with FIU Nursing almost since its inception. In her 20-plus years at FIU, she helped develop the master’s program for nurse practitioners, followed by the PhD in Nursing. During her tenure, she served in a number of roles from coordinator to associate dean and director of the graduate and PhD nursing programs, before retiring as a Professor Emerita in May 2010. But Dr. Porter, who now mentors graduate nursing students completing research projects, feels her work with the school is far from complete.

“As long as I can, I will continue to support the graduate and doctorate nursing programs at FIU,” said Porter. “I know from experience that every little bit helps.”

On August 5, 2013, the College of Nursing & Health Science’s graduated its first class of students from the Foreign-Educated Physician to BSN/MSN program. Among them was Marie Jussome, whose journey to achieve her Master of Science in Nursing degree was fraught with hardship, but ended in contemplative triumph.

Marie's compelling story was featured in a Miami Herald article. Marie and her husband, Pierre Alix Laroche, were both doctors in their native Haiti. Her husband was killed in the catastrophic 2010 Haiti earthquake while teaching a nursing class.

Even though the tragic event left her grief-stricken, Marie couldn't hesitate to assume the role as primary provider for her three daughters.

She moved to Miami and immediately sought an education in the nursing field in memory of her husband, who managed a family clinic in Haiti. By the fall of 2010, Marie had enrolled in FIU’s Foreign-Educated Physician to BSN/MSN program – an award-winning, fast-track nursing education curriculum transforming foreign-trained doctors not practicing in this country into nurse practitioners.

As a pediatrician in Haiti, Marie was proud to continue in a healthcare field that she loved and one she knew would grant her the opportunity to provide for her daughters. Marie’s studies gave her the courage and strength to persevere in the aftermath of her husband’s death. As she strived for success, Marie helped others by volunteering her spare time to mentor and tutor students at the Center for Academic Success.

Now that Marie has graduated, she plans to continue helping others through clinical work while pursuing her Doctor of Nursing post-graduate degree at FIU.
Planning a Legacy for the Future

Planned giving is an advantageous way to provide a future and ongoing gift to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences through your financial and estate plans.

The concept of planned giving is gaining popularity as a means to enables philanthropic individuals to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. The university welcomes gifts made through different planned giving arrangements such as bequests or charitable trusts. With this type of donation, you can:

- Give without affecting your income
- Provide yourself added income
- Protect your heirs
- Receive charitable income and/or gift or estate tax deductions
- Leave a legacy for FIU

With more than $42 million in unmet financial need across our Nursing, Athletic Training, Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Health Services Administration programs, a donation to our college from your estate plans will go a long way in our mission to transform healthcare in South Florida and beyond through education.

At the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, current priorities that can be funded through planned giving include support for:

- Endowed faculty or deans chairs
- Endowed centers of excellence and/or academic departments
- Research endowments
- Unrestricted endowed funds
- Endowed scholarships for nursing and health sciences students

Your generous gift to the college will create a legacy for our students today and for generations to come.

For more information on planned giving, visit:
http://advancement.fiu.edu/the-power-of-philanthropy/
or contact Kim English,
Director of Development,
Nicole Wertheim College of
Nursing & Health Sciences
kenglish@fiu.edu or 305-348-1336

Ensure a secure future for the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences and its students. By making a planned gift you can leave a legacy AND save taxes, provide added personal income, preserve your assets and protect your family.
For more information please contact Steven Schwartz: FIU Office of Estate and Planned Giving @ 305-348-2448, slschar@fiu.edu or visit http://advancement.fiu.edu/plannedgiving.