

Nursing

Generic BSN
Accelerated BSN
Foreign MD-to-BSN/MSN
VBNS Medic-to-BSN

MSN: Adult NP
MSN: Child NP
MSN: Family NP
MSN: Psychiatric and
Mental Health

Nurse Anesthetist
Nursing Education
RN-to-MSN

PhD
BSN-to-PhD
BSN-to-DNP

Health Sciences

Athletic Training
Communication Sciences
and Disorders

Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Health Services Administration



Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Giving

2013-2014

A Report to the Community

Fueled by intellect and driven by innovation and caring, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences is making a real difference in the way health care is taught and practiced in South Florida, and influencing best practices across the country and in other parts of the world. This success would not be possible without the generous support of our many partners along the way. In fact, a recent groundswell of support is propelling the College forward like never before, as documented throughout this newsletter. These individuals and organizations are helping us transform short-term and long-term plans into measurable achievements and ensuring increased access for our students who have financial need.

When I arrived at the College of Nursing & Health Sciences in 2011 as the new dean, FIU was in the midst of its “Worlds Ahead” campaign. This initiative signaled a bold era for the university. It is characterized by a renewed focus on quality academic programs, the expansion of scientific inquiry and discovery, innovation, technological sophistication, and community engagement to address the needs of a highly diverse society.

We have since embarked on ambitious five and ten-year strategic business plans for the College, focused on strategic

priorities in keeping with highly ranked health care schools and colleges. This strategic plan, which is available on our website, sets clear objectives to:

- Develop and execute outstanding educational programs
- Hire, develop, and retain excellent faculty and staff
- Increase research and scholarly productivity
- Optimize professional licensure and certification at graduation
- Maintain fiscal sustainability
- Develop faculty practice
- Enhance faculty, staff and student community engagement
- Expand global initiatives; and
- Increase operational efficiency and effectiveness

We have made tremendous strides already, many of which were made possible by last year's transformational \$10 million naming gift from the Wertheim family. This gift established endowed faculty chairs, student scholarships, and incentive programs for faculty recruitment, enhancement and teaching innovation. All are vital to our mission and to strengthening our standing as a top national academic and research institution.



As you read this newsletter to learn more about the individuals and organizations that have invested in our College over the past academic year, I encourage you to consider how you too can commit and contribute towards shaping the future of the College.

Best,

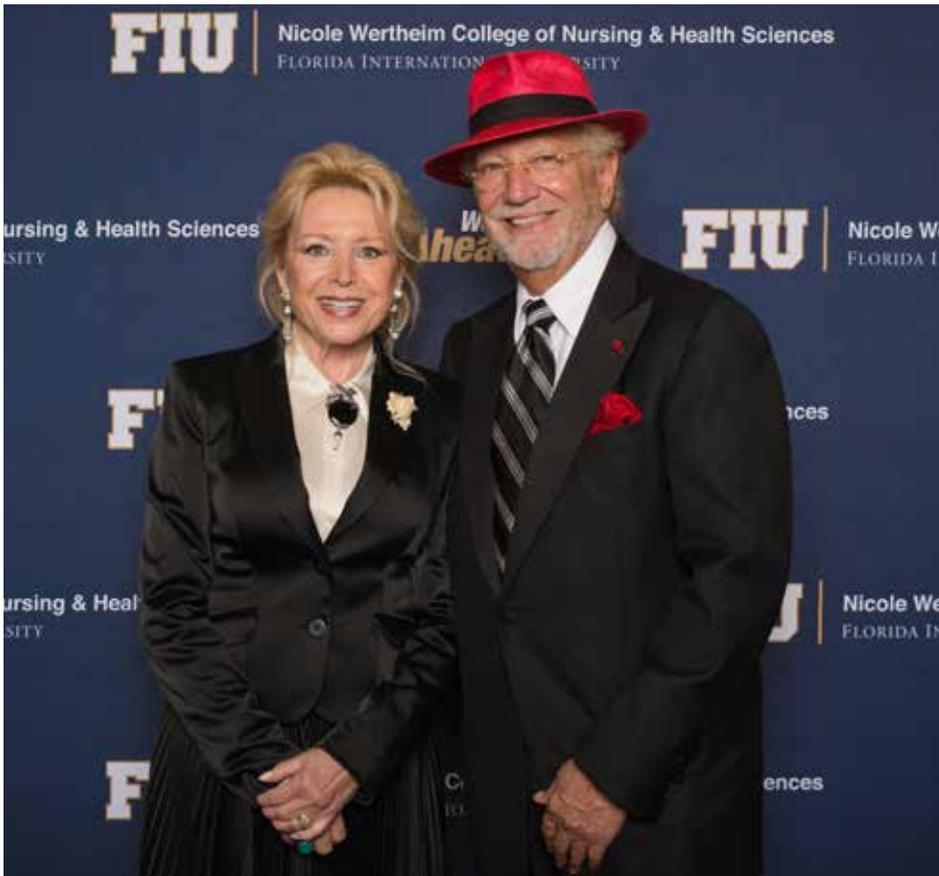
Ora L. Strickland,
PhD, DSc (Hon), RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

*Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences
Florida International University*

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Wertheim

A STORY OF PERSEVERANCE AND GENEROSITY



Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim at FIU Nursing's 30th Anniversary Nightingala event.

At Florida International University (FIU), the Wertheim Family—Herbert (patriarch), Nicole (matriarch) and daughters Erica and Vanessa – have made an indelible mark on thousands of students who have graduated over the past quarter century.

Signs of their generosity are evident throughout the campus – the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, the Wertheim Concert Hall, the Wertheim Plant Research and Teaching Conservatory and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. And now, after a transformative gift of \$10 million last September, the future graduates of FIU nursing, physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, athletic training and health services administration programs will proudly claim the

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences as their alma mater.

The gift was made by Dr. Wertheim in support of the College's ambitious strategic and leadership plans to celebrate his 44th wedding anniversary by endowing the College in his wife's honor. It is the very latest in a prolific legacy of support for FIU from a man known for his ability to rise above challenges, persevere and impact the lives of many others along the way.

TENACITY THROUGH TURBULENCE

Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim is a scientist, clinician, entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader whose enduring discoveries and

contributions have touched millions. Born in Philadelphia in 1939 to German immigrants, Herbert was five years old when his family moved to open a bakery in Hollywood, Florida. A tumultuous youth ultimately put him on the path to greatness when he enlisted with the U.S. Navy at the age of 16 to gain some structure. He thrived while in the Navy, attending aviation electronics school and guided missile school.

Upon his discharge in 1960 and armed with a GED, he attended Brevard Community College near Cape Canaveral as a full-time student to study engineering and pre-med, supporting himself by working the night shift for General Dynamics and NASA. He eventually graduated from the University of Florida where he studied electrical engineering.

FINDING A PURPOSE AND A VISION

While at NASA, he helped design vision and neurological instrumentation systems. His interest in this field led him to the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn., where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in optical engineering and a Doctor of Optometry in association with the University of Tennessee Medical School.

Dr. Wertheim had a clinical practice for more than 12 years while also conducting research in visual neurology. His research teams have made significant breakthroughs in dyslexia treatment, macular degeneration and Parkinson's disease treatment. He is recognized for his work to stress that UV light was the principal cause of cataracts and retinal and macular deterioration.

To supplement his practice, he started an ophthalmic instruments manufacturing company called Universal Labs, which he later sold. He then started a consulting and research company called Brain Power Incorporated – a.k.a. BPI – which is today the world’s largest manufacturer of ophthalmic instruments and chemicals. Holding more than 100 patents and trademarks, his inventions of therapeutic tints, UV absorbers for eyeglasses, and more than 4,000 other products sold in 100 countries have helped millions retain their eyesight.

Dr. Wertheim and his wife Nicole married in 1969 and a few years later welcomed daughters Erica and Vanessa. At one point, each worked alongside their father at BPI before striking out on their own – Erica as an entrepreneur in the fashion industry, and Vanessa is pursuit of a PhD in Nursing.

GIVING BACK TO PAY IT FORWARD

Herbert and Nicole have been active in service to the community since 1967 and made substantial contributions to many charitable organizations and to Florida International University. In 1977 they established the Wertheim Family Foundation, a non-profit that has been involved with supporting the American Red Cross, Zoo Miami’s Koala and Asian River Life exhibits, the Whitney Museum and Wheelchair Sports Association, among many others.

Dr. Wertheim has been a member of the FIU Board of Trustees since its establishment in 2000 and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Board member of the FIU Foundation from 1988 through 2001.

He also served as chairman and vice chair of The Campaign for FIU, which raised more than \$200 million for scholarships, endowments, and facilities.

In 2011, Dr. Wertheim was inducted as a member of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. He said his support of FIU mirrors the Association’s mission to provide scholarship assistance to deserving young people who have demonstrated integrity, determination in overcoming adversity, academic potential and the personal aspiration to make a unique contribution to society.

Nationally Renowned Nursing Professor Named to College’s First Endowed Chair



*JoAnne M. Youngblut, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Wertheim Endowed Chair*

In April, the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Endowed Chair in Prevention & Family Health was awarded to distinguished nursing professor **JoAnne M. Youngblut, PhD, RN, FAAN**. This was the first endowed chair to be awarded in the College’s history.

The generosity from the Wertheim family signifies a lasting impact on the students of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, as well as the College’s faculty and staff. As a part of the historic \$10 million gift, three endowed chairs were created to be awarded to outstanding faculty members: – **1)** the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Endowed Chair in Prevention and Family Health; **2)** the Vanessa Von Wertheim Endowed Chair in Pain Management and Palliative Care; and **3)** the Erica Wertheim Zohar Endowed Chair in Community Mental Health. These endowed chairs will provide permanent support for research, involvement of graduate students, travel and equipment.

Diane Ramy Faulconer

Planned Gift Benefiting Graduate Nursing Scholarships



Diane Ramy and Prentiss Lee Faulconer

We plan throughout our lives to shape our future – from education to careers to retirement. And we plan for the future of our loved ones through estate planning. We can also plan to shape the future of our society as a whole through planned gifts. That is what prompted Prentiss Lee Faulconer, Jr. and his wife Diane – an FIU alumna – to proffer more than \$4 million in a planned gift to FIU that will benefit future students from the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the College of Business.

Through the *Prentiss Lee Faulconer, Jr. and Diane Ramy Faulconer Endowment Fund*, interest yielded from the generous investment will be used to award scholarships for graduate students in disciplines that reflected their respective life's work in the fields of business and nursing.

For Diane – whose 30 years in the nursing field spanned leadership positions in practice, nursing service management, consulting and healthcare operations – the gift is not merely about financially supporting the academic and professional success of students pursuing a career in advanced practice nursing. “This gift should constantly remind and encourage recipients that they need to take their hard-earned nursing knowledge and skill set and share it with others to benefit society – be it through community service, workplace mentorship, research, civic and organizational leadership, or patient advocacy,” said Mrs. Faulconer.

Diane was an executive management consultant with Ernst & Young. Lee, a business graduate from Marshall University, was at one time the country's youngest chief financial officer (CFO) when he took the position at Miami Beach's Mt. Sinai Medical Center at age 31. He served as CFO for many other health care organizations including Broward Health and Lakeland Regional Medical Center, before forming and becoming CEO of Omega Healthcare System, a financial software program company. As a CPA, he enjoyed a successful career in senior financial management and consulting until his passing in November 2013.

When making plans for their estates, Lee and Diane chose to create a living trust to underwrite the endowment fund. According to Diane, they were influenced by the actions of Warren Buffet and others who have set an example of giving back to the community. “Lee was a futurist. He saw this planned gift as a way to keep our dedication and passion for our chosen professions alive and thriving through others,” remarked Mrs. Faulconer. “Without outside support for our academic institutions, there is no way that students and professions can evolve. I hope that our contribution motivates many others to consider the lasting benefits of planned giving and the positive impact it will have on the countless students and professionals who can live bright and fulfilling futures – thanks to your foresight in generosity.”

Helene Fuld Health Trust

\$650,000 for Nursing Scholarships

The Helene Fuld Health Trust – the nation’s largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education – made quite the first impression with its first-ever gift to the College. A \$650,000 gift will be used to support students enrolled in one of the College’s three accelerated nursing programs: (1) the award-winning and nation’s first Foreign-Educated Physicians BSN/MSN program; (2) the Medic-to-BSN program – one of only nine programs in the country established under the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration’s Veterans’ Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing initiative; and (3) the Accelerated BSN option for students seeking a nursing career for their second degree, which will launch in January 2015.

The gift will be fulfilled over a three-year period, addressing short-term and long-term financial objectives. Half of the gift will be used to fund scholarships, which will start to be awarded with the fall 2014 semester. The other half of the gift will help establish the Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Endowment for Accelerated BSN Students. Monies generated by the endowment will be used to continue scholarship awards from the Trust in perpetuity.

“The magnitude of this gift from the Helene Fuld Health Trust will make a real difference in Florida International University’s ability to open doors for more promising students to enter our programs and fulfill their dreams to become nurses,” said Dean Ora Strickland.

About the Donor

In 1935, Dr. Leonhard Felix Fuld, a public health advocate and philanthropist, and his sister, Florentine, created a foundation in honor of the memory of their mother, Helene Shwab Fuld. In 1969, the foundation was converted to the Helene Fuld Health Trust, with HSBC Bank USA serving as corporate trustee. The mission of the Trust is to support and promote the health, welfare and education of nursing students, with the first priority to provide financial aid to nursing students. The Trust will continue to award grants to leading nursing schools and other organizations which undertake innovative programs designed to develop and expand the professional and leadership skills of nursing students, faculty, and administration.

Florman Family Foundation, Inc.

\$60,000 for Faculty and Student Nursing Scholarships

The Florman Family Foundation continues its long-time support of the College with a gift funding faculty scholarships as well as student scholarships. Thirty thousand dollars of the Foundation’s gift, along with a \$20,000 match from the Florida Blue Foundation, will be used to fund scholarship awards for nursing faculty members who are pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing. The additional \$30,000 of the gift will be matched by donors to provide two-year scholarships for nursing students at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels.

“Now more than ever, the strength of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences nursing programs, and the capacity to increase future enrollment, depends on the College’s ability to attract and retain doctorally-prepared faculty who will focus on research to generate new knowledge in the field,” said Dean Ora Strickland. “The continued support of the Florman Family Foundation each year brings us closer to our ultimate strategic goal of having 100 percent of faculty members doctorally-prepared.”

About the Donor

Marv and Betty Florman were committed to supporting the community that meant so much to them. Since their passing, the trustees of the Florman Family Foundation have continued to follow through on funding programs and organizations that were important to Marv and Betty, including many in education, social welfare, nursing and the arts.

Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation **\$130,000 for Nursing BSN Scholarships**

The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation is dedicated to supporting women's causes and devotes the majority of its resources to scholarship programs for deserving female students in schools and colleges across nine Southeastern states. The Foundation takes a special interest in health education, and this year marks the fifth anniversary of their support for the College. More than doubling their gift from last year, the Foundation has now committed \$130,000 to nursing scholarships for the 2014-15 school year for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students proving outstanding academic achievement and high unmet financial need.

"Through the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation's generosity, exceptional young women who have a desire to become nurses are able to achieve their academic ambitions and professional dreams when otherwise it might not have been financially possible," said Dean Ora Strickland. "We are grateful for their continued support of our outstanding students."

About the Donor

The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation was provided for by Conkey Pate Whitehead as a memorial to his mother. Based in Georgia, the Foundation was chartered in 1946 for the aid and benefit of poor and needy Christian girls and women in nine specified states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. More than 200 institutions participate annually in the scholarship program.

Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation **\$25,000 for Graduate Nursing Scholarships**

The Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation has provided a gift of \$25,000 to support the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Nursing Scholarship Fund. Through the fund, five nursing students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program will each receive a \$5,000, one-year scholarship to help with the cost of their nursing education at FIU.

FIU's MSN program is designed to prepare professional nurses for roles as nurse practitioners specializing in the care of children, older adults, and families through clinical concentrations in Child Health Nursing, Adult Gerontology Nursing, Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Anesthesiology Nursing and Family Health Nursing. This award renews the Foundation's long-time support of FIU's nursing students in giving financial assistance, including the complementary Dr. John T. Macdonald-Frederick Poppe Nursing Scholarship Fund for undergraduates.

"For more than three decades, we have seen the College prepare thousands of nursing practitioners and leaders to deliver outstanding care and act as health advocates for countless patients throughout South Florida," said Kim Greene, LCSW, Executive Director for the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation. "We are proud to continue supporting the College in its efforts to care for and serve the residents in our communities."

About the Donor: The Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation, Inc., is a private grant-making foundation, supporting projects and programs designed to improve, preserve or restore the health and health care of the people in Miami-Dade County.

Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare \$40,000 for Doctoral Nursing Scholarships

The Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare plays a critical role in stemming the shortage of qualified nurses and preparing future generations of health professionals to meet the challenges of America's evolving healthcare system. Through a \$40,000 grant that will be matched in full by additional donors to the College, the Jonas Center will fund the scholarships of five exceptional doctoral nursing students selected to be Jonas Veterans Healthcare and Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars. These nursing students will be conducting research over the next two years on veterans' health issues.

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Jonas Scholars join nearly 600 future nurse educators and leaders at 110 schools around the nation backed by Jonas Center programs.

"Supporting excellent academic institutions like the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences takes us one step closer to achieving our goal of preparing a workforce that is trained in veteran-specific health care needs and ultimately, improving the quality of care these heroes receive," said Barbara and Donald Jonas, founders of the Jonas Center.

About the Donor

The Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, established in 2006 by Barbara and Donald Jonas, is dedicated to improving healthcare by advancing nursing scholarship, leadership and innovation. Its two



Back Row (L-R): Phillip Dlugasch - Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar; Paula Bellino - Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar; Dr. Vicky Framil - NWCNHS Nursing Faculty; Dr. Sal Barbera - Director of the BHSA Program; Million Mesfun - Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar; Beverly Fray - Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar; Aleksandr Kaipov - Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar.

Front Row (L-R): David Hildreth, Jr. - VBSN Program Coordinator; Dr. Helen Cornely, NWCNHS Associate Dean of Administration; Claire Monzeglio, Chief Nurse Acute Care, Miami VA; Dr. Sharon Simon, Director, Undergraduate Nursing; Marcia Lysaght, Associate Director of Patient Care Services, Miami VA; Deborah Clarke, Chief Nurse - Surgery, Miami VA.

main programs are the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program, which aims to address the dire shortage of nursing faculty by preparing nurses with doctoral degrees to step into this critical role, and the Jonas Veterans Healthcare Program, which seeks to improve the health of veterans by supporting doctoral-level nursing candidates committed to advancing veterans' healthcare. These programs currently support more than 600 doctoral scholars nationwide, with a goal to support 1,000 Scholars by 2016.

Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation

\$20,000 for Nursing Scholarships

The Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation has been a consistent donor to the College for more than 15 years, helping countless FIU students achieve their dreams to study nursing throughout that time. To date, the Foundation has donated in the vicinity of \$500,000 for scholarships awarded to our undergraduate and graduate nursing students. "We believe that FIU Nursing is among the finer nursing programs in the United States and we are pleased to be a funder for them and their students," said Managing Trustee Erik Joh.

About the Donor: The Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation was founded in 1991 with the primary purpose of providing medical care and educational opportunities such as nursing scholarships for those who cannot otherwise afford them.

Florida Blue Foundation

\$55,000 Grant for Nursing Simulation Bedside Nursing Leadership Project



Simulation-based clinical training at the College's STAR Center.

A leader in Florida healthcare, Florida Blue is continuing its support of the College with a gift of \$55,000 towards the development and pilot testing of an innovative Simulation-based Bedside Leadership Modules (SBLM) project. This project is designed to merge leadership and clinical skills through innovative classroom teaching strategies and performance evaluations of simulation scenarios.

The project's objective is to support patient involvement in care through enhanced leadership skills and strategies in nursing practice and settings. This will help undergraduate nursing students to more effectively apply coaching,

empathy and critical thinking skills at the bedside; learn and demonstrate professional communication and listening skills with patients; develop leadership skills that enhance interprofessional interactions and caregiving; and demonstrate interdisciplinary team building, collaboration and delegation.

“Clinical leadership competencies are key to providing safe and effective care, and projects like the Simulation-based Bedside Leadership Modules allow students to learn and apply these concepts in a safe simulation scenario,” said Dean Ora Strickland. “Thanks to the gift from Florida Blue for making this possible, the project will help ensure our students’ success in practice.”

About the Donor: Florida Blue, Florida's Blue Cross and Blue Shield company, is a leader in Florida's healthcare industry. Its mission is to help people and communities achieve better health. Florida Blue has approximately four million healthcare members and serves 15.5 million people in 16 states through its affiliated companies. Florida Blue is a not-for-profit, policyholder-owned, tax-paying mutual company. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., it is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies.

Florence Bayuk Educational Trust

\$50,000 for Nursing Scholarships

The Florence Bayuk Educational Trust has supported the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences for more than 20 years. For the 2013-2014 academic year, the trust provided a gift for \$50,000 to fund scholarships for nursing students.

About the Donor

Founded by Florence Bayuk, a former British nurse, the Florence Bayuk Educational Trust aims to support institutions offering four-year programs that advance law, medicine and economics education.

Mrs. Vera Cooper

Stock Gift for Faculty Enhancement

A retired registered nurse and donor to the College for the past five years, Mrs. Vera Cooper's gift is directed to support professional development and faculty workshops, research projects, and awards to faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching and research.

Peacock Foundation, Inc.

\$50,000 for Undergraduate Nursing Scholarships

Peacock Foundation, Inc. provided a second gift of \$50,000 to the College of Nursing & Health Sciences. Ten undergraduate nursing students have received scholarships of \$5,000 to complete their degrees. Each recipient completed at least fifty hours of community service in a local health care agency to benefit underserved patients. “We are pleased to continue our support of the nursing students of FIU. These future nursing professionals will achieve self-sufficiency through helping others,” said Joëlle Allen, Executive Director.

About the Donor

Founded in 1947, Peacock Foundation, Inc.’s mission is to enhance and promote the good health and well-being of children and families through grants to eligible nonprofit organizations primarily in Miami-Dade County.

Fidelity Investments

\$5,000 for Graduate Nursing Student Scholarship

As a new donor to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Fidelity Investments generously gave \$5,000 to fund scholarships supporting students enrolled in our graduate nursing programs. “We have a business and personal relationship with Dr. Wertheim, and we are excited to support the mission of the College,” said Peter Rushton, Vice President and Relationship Manager of Fidelity Family Office Services.

About the Donor: Fidelity Investments is among the most diversified financial services companies in the world, offering a full range of product solutions for individual investors, employers, institutions and intermediaries. Its fundamental mission is to help customers and clients achieve their financial objectives.

Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation

\$15,000 for Faculty Development and Enhancement

A donor for the College for the past four years, the Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation provides grants to support faculty enhancement. These funds are used to support professional development faculty workshops, research projects, and awards to faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching and research. “FIU’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences education programs are important to our community in helping meet critical healthcare demands,” said trustee Leslie Buchanan.

About the Donor: Since 1963, the Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, Inc. (DDF) has assisted organizations in achieving charitable goals and improving the community. The areas of concentration have been cultural, educational, health and human services, and youth activities. DDF may choose the states and communities in which it provides grants. Historically, most grants have been in Miami-Dade County, Florida, Monterey Peninsula, California and North Carolina.

Joan K. Stout, RN - Hugoton Foundation

Wallace Gilroy Endowed Nursing Research Fund

Adding to a longstanding generous commitment to enhance the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, its faculty and overall academic offerings, a generous \$150,000 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 and attract additional research grants for studies addressing the overarching goal of improving clinical nursing care.

For many years, Joan K. Stout, RN and the Hugoton Foundation have played a significant role in promoting universities and colleges to become leaders in health care. Ms. Stout is President and Managing Director of the Hugoton Foundation,

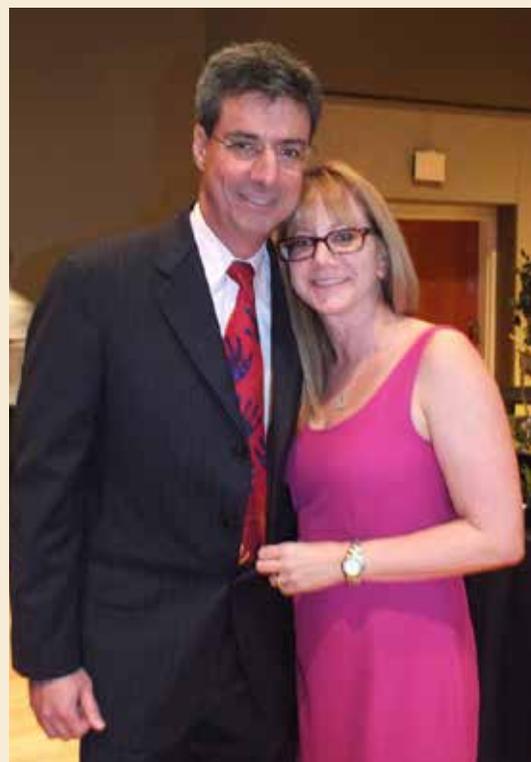
a charitable organization that supports nursing programs around the country through financial donations and gifts that advance educational initiatives and resources. Prior gifts to the College include naming of the 60-person Joan K. Stout, RN Classroom; a “Harvey” cardiac simulator – FIU Nursing was the first in the nation to make use of such equipment in nursing education; the Joan K. Stout, RN Cardiovascular Nursing Scholarship; and equipment for the Basic Skills Nursing laboratory.

Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation

Pediatric Nursing Student Scholarships / New Externship Program

For many years, The Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation has generously provided annual gifts for \$1,000 scholarships for students to support their pediatric nursing career goals. This past academic year, the Foundation launched a nursing externship program which gave a graduate nursing student the unique learning opportunity to treat a home-bound child afflicted by terminal genetic brain diseases and collaborate with the family on the plan of care. “We strongly believe in the importance of preparing nurses for in-home care, where many children with fatal genetic diseases need to be cared for continuously,” said Kevin Romer. “Having a nurse with the right training and compassion in the home just a few hours a week can be life changing.”

About the Donor: Inspired by the strength of Mathew Romer, who lost his eight-year battle with Tay-Sachs disease in 2003, The Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation (MFRF) was founded in South Florida 15 years ago by parents Kevin and Lisajane with a mission to promote and lead critical awareness, testing, counseling, and research initiatives that hold promise for the prevention and eventual cure of fatal children’s genetic diseases of the brain.



Kevin and Lisajane Romer

The Beren Foundation

\$10,000 Gift for the Mary Jo Garrity Memorial Scholarship

Since 2012, The Beren Foundation has supported the College with the Mary Jo Garrity Memorial Scholarship. Founded by Mark P. Garrity in loving memory of his wife – Class of 1994 occupational therapy alumna Mary Jo – the biannual scholarship is awarded to a full-time master’s occupational therapy student over a two-year period. “We founded the Mary Jo Garrity Memorial Scholarship to serve as an ongoing legacy to Mary Jo, whose passion and drive for improving the lives of the children she worked with was only surpassed by her love and care for them,” said Mark Garrity. “She continues to inspire us as we look forward to continuing to help pave the way for future professionals who share in her passion for many more years to come.”



Mary Jo Garrity (front row, third from the right) and the graduating class of 1994 on the very first day of the program.

Mr. Ted Spak

William Gutierrez Physical Therapy Scholarship Endowment

FIU benefactor and avid supporter Theodore “Ted” Spak has expanded his generous support of the University. His positive rehabilitation experience with FIU Exercise Science alumnus William Gutierrez compelled Mr. Spak to establish a scholarship endowment in his honor. Mr. Spak’s initial contribution was matched by the FIU Foundation, and today the endowment stands at more than \$103,000. William and his wife Lucy gave a gift of \$2,000 that was also matched by FIU Foundation to supplement the 2013-14 scholarship disbursements by another \$4,000.

About the Donor

Theodore “Ted” Spak is a retired lawyer and businessman. The Spak family has a long history of leadership and generosity with FIU. Their contributions have been many and range from donating an art collection to the Frost Art Museum to helping establish the Albert Morrison Jr. Scholarship Endowment which supports students in the School of Accounting. Ted Spak served on the FIU Foundation from 1984 to 2009.

Healthcare Clinic at Select Walgreens

\$5,000 for Graduate Nursing Program Scholarship

Walgreens supports a variety of initiatives to help prepare highly skilled advanced practice nurses to provide primary care in non-traditional settings and address the healthcare needs of a diversified population.

This year, the company donated \$5,000 to the College through its Healthcare Clinic at Select Walgreens unit to provide nurse practitioner students the chance to gain unique, retail-based clinical practicum experience at their clinics.

“Students and faculty are looking for quality healthcare locations to provide clinical experiences and patients are seeking quality, retail healthcare locations as an option for their healthcare needs,” said Heidi Wold, MSN, ANP-BC, vice president of operations, Walgreens Healthcare Clinics.

About the Donor

As the nation’s largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2013 sales of \$72 billion, Walgreens’ vision is to be the first choice in health and daily living for everyone in America, and beyond. Each day, Walgreens provides more than 6 million customers the most convenient, multichannel access to consumer goods and services and trusted, cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services and advice in communities across America.

Donor *Spotlights*

Dr. Kathleen Blais

Planned Gift for Faculty Enhancement



In the words of Professor Emerita Kathleen Blais, EdD, RN, “Nursing is what I am. I am passionate about promoting nursing among our students

and faculty, and to the community at large.” No doubt it was this passion that inspired Dr. Blais, a long-time faculty member at the College, to announce a planned gift for faculty enhancement. Her legacy will continue to support future generations, providing much-needed additional support to junior faculty to establish their careers. This may include resources needed to develop their programs of research or to enhance their teaching abilities, as it can be a challenge for junior faculty to achieve these milestones prior to securing grants. Her experiences as a student and respected university faculty member have given Dr. Blais a unique perspective on the value of such support in the development of faculty and future leaders for the College.

As a 1974 Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduate from FIU who then joined the faculty as a Visiting Instructor in 1983, Dr. Blais has been

a part of the College’s transformation since the beginning and remained a dedicated supporter along the way. Over the years, Dr. Blais has contributed annual gifts towards faculty development and also joined in commemorating the new building in 2010 with a financial gift. Throughout her career trajectory at FIU, Dr. Blais has also served as Department Chair for the Adult/Gerontological Nursing program, as Program Director of the Broward RN-BSN completion program, Associate Director of Undergraduate Nursing Programs and Director of Academic Programs – a position she relinquished to serve as Vice-Chair of FIU’s Faculty Senate. Dr. Blais retired in 2010, but continues to teach in the undergraduate nursing program on a part-time basis. She continues her scholarly writing, presently completing the 7th edition of her text, *Professional Nursing Practice: Concepts and Perspectives*.

A Plan for Giving

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 enable 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 more than \$42 million in unmet financial need, the opportunities to contribute to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences through planned giving are many, including:

- Endowed faculty or deans chairs
- Endowed centers of excellence and/or academic departments
- Research endowments
- Unrestricted endowed funds
- Endowed scholarships

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

For more information on planned giving, contact Steven Schwartz, Director of Estate and Planned Giving, slschwar@fiu.edu | 305-348-2448 OR Kim English, NWCNHS Director of Development, kenglish@fiu.edu | 305-348-1336.

Ignite Campaign

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences faculty and staff committed more than \$25,000 in donations and pledges this past academic year through the university’s annual Ignite campaign. “Our employees are not only making contributions to our students and programs as exemplified by their hard work, but also show their dedication and commitment through their financial support,” said Dr. Ora Strickland, Dean of the College.

Alumni *Update*

Mayor Barbara M. Sharief, MSN, ARNP, Torch Award Winner



(L-R): FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg; Torch Award Recipient, The Honorable Barbara Sharief ('97 BSN, '00 MSN); Gonzalo Acevedo, past president, FIU Alumni Association Board; and Duane Wiles, Associate VP of Alumni Relations and Exec. Dir., FIU Alumni Association.

The Florida International University Torch Awards are the highest honor conferred by the university to a graduate. The recipients are leaders who exemplify the best of the university and serve as an inspiration to all. This year, the College's very own Barbara Sharief was honored with this distinguished alumni award for her over 20 years of experience in the specialized field pertaining to complex medical issues of children.

Sharief is the President and Director of Nursing at South Florida Pediatric

Homecare, Inc. (SFPH), a company she established in 2001. The company currently employs approximately 600 professionals in South Florida and is considered one of the top home health care agencies in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties for the care of medically complex children and adults.

Sharief obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner degree from FIU. She graduated from Jackson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and obtained an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing from Miami Dade College. She is one of the youngest persons to have passed the Registered Nurse (RN) boards in the State of Florida.

In 2009, she was elected to the Miramar City Commission, where she served as Vice-Mayor in 2010. In November 2010, Sharief was elected to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners for the Commission District 8 seat; and in 2013, she was elected Mayor of Broward County – the first African-American woman to hold that office.

Meet your Alumni Chapter Board



Top row (L-R): Laurie Kirchmier, Frank Guido-Sannz

Middle row (L-R): Marangela Obispo, Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, Chelsea Kalika

Bottom row (L-R): Kelly Butler, Suba Ballout, Jenny Millet

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has started an alumni chapter to engage the many thousands of graduates from across our Nursing, Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Communication Sciences & Disorders and Health Sciences programs. Their important work helps us reconnect with one another.

In Remembrance

The FIU Nursing family mourns the passing of Dr. Rosebud Lightbourn Foster and Dr. Margaret Hamilton, two educators who made a lasting impact with many.



Dr. Foster
1934 – 2014

Dr. Foster was one of the founders of the FIU School of Nursing. She was a highly acclaimed, respected and beloved leader in a wide range of academic, community and government circles state and nationwide, championing the delivery of quality health care to underserved populations.



Dr. Hamilton
1944 – 2014

Dr. Hamilton joined the FIU Nursing faculty in 2000, at one point serving as director for the undergraduate nursing programs. She served her country proudly as a U.S Army nurse in Vietnam, imparting her experiences and the virtues and honor of nursing practice in the military to her students.

Their legacies will forever be engrained in the mission and vision of our College.

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The Wertheim Family Visit to the STAR Center

Activities to mark the \$10 million gift to endow FIU's Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences included a Wertheim family tour of the remarkable Simulation Teaching and Research Center – a.k.a., the STAR Center. The 16,000 sq. ft. simulated hospital serves the College's health care students and also local professionals by providing replicated real-world care and practice experiences achieved through functionally flexible laboratories, advanced simulation equipment, digital imaging systems, closed circuit monitoring and web-based technologies.



Vanessa with preemie patient simulator.



Erica (left) and Vanessa (right) with adult patient simulator.



The Wertheim Family (L-R: Dr. Herbert Wertheim, Erica, Nicole, Vanessa) pose for a family portrait in front of the STAR Center.

Ensure a secure future for the faculty and students at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. 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>.**