



FRIENDS,

It's been another busy year in the UAMS College of Nursing. Although life still doesn't look exactly as it did before the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen signs that give us hope for the future. It was a pleasure to gather in May for our first in-person commencement ceremonies in three years, honoring about 200 students who persevered in the face of unprecedented challenges.

In the 2022-23 academic year, we've welcomed another group of students who will make an impact on health care not only in Arkansas but also around the nation and the world. The kindness and compassion of these students will touch the lives of countless patients and families in the years to come.

These students are following in the footsteps of distinguished alumni who have gone on to serve as leaders in their fields. In this issue, you'll hear a few of those alumni share how their background in nursing provided a foundation for their efforts in public service.

Nurses have an important role in every type of health care setting, and the continuing shortage in the workforce makes it more important than ever that we educate the next generation of professionals. The College of Nursing is proud to do its part to ensure that the future of patient care is a bright one.

Thank you for all that you do to support this college and its academic mission.

Sincerely,
Patricia A. Cowan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
UAMS College of Nursing Dean



GREETINGS,

The last three years have tested the resilience of professionals throughout the health care system, including at UAMS. While the COVID-19 pandemic presented a myriad of challenges, UAMS has shown its strength and resolve, continuing to provide high-quality care for the people of Arkansas. I am grateful to be a part of this team.

Many of our students began their clinical education in the midst of the pandemic. Facing the most difficult public health emergency that we have seen in decades, these students are putting their focus and their passion into improving the lives of others. They have a promising future as leaders in health care and in their communities.

Training health care professionals is a monumental responsibility, and the College of Nursing has continued to show its commitment to excellence. U.S. News and World Report's latest ranking of the nation's best Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs included UAMS in a tie for 67th out of 681 schools. It was the only school in Arkansas to rank in the Top 100.

I would like to thank Dean Cowan and the College of Nursing faculty for all that they do to put our students on a path to success.

Sincerely,
Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA
Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

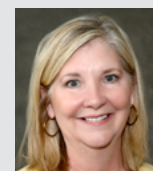
ALUMNI REFLECT ON INFLUENCE OF NURSING EDUCATION

The UAMS College of Nursing for decades has prepared students for leadership roles in the medical field and in other areas of public service. We asked a few of these alumni about the influence their nursing education has had on their careers.



"Everything I've needed to know in the Legislature, I learned in nursing school! My approach to every issue utilizes the same thought process I learned almost 50 years ago at UAMS. Whether patients or constituents, my actions are the same — listening, gathering data, identifying gaps and determining a plan to solve those issues, while utilizing a team approach for problem-solving. My nursing education has proved invaluable as a nurse practitioner and an Arkansas legislator."

Denise Garner, RNP,
Member of the Arkansas House of Representatives



"My Ph.D. readied me to pursue my passion of preventing the progression of heart disease. I've had the opportunity to take leadership roles in a number of professional organizations, including as director of the Academy of Clinical Research and Scholarship. As a nurse, I work to advocate for those who are vulnerable and marginalized. It's an honor to have a role in mentoring the next generation of nurses and in giving a voice to the challenges people experience because of heart disease."

Patricia Crane, Ph.D., RN,
Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor in Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte



"I am a proud graduate of the BSN program (1969) and the first class of the MNSc (1973) at UAMS. These programs established a solid foundation for the rest of my career. As nursing graduates, we were expected to serve our communities and be leaders in health care. I was fortunate to serve as an Army Nurse Corps Officer during Vietnam, as chair of the Department of Medical & Surgical Nursing at the University of Colorado, as dean of the College of Nursing and university distinguished professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and as a member of national and international organizations. Perhaps the most important milestone was that I met my wife, Sarah Carter, M.D., while in my BSN program. Together, we built rich careers of service, practice and scholarship."

Michael Carter, DNSc, DNP,
Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Tracie Harrison Invested in Alice An-Loh Sun Chair in Geriatric Nursing

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine invested Tracie C. Harrison, Ph.D., RN, a professor in the UAMS College of Nursing, in the Alice An-Loh Sun Chair in Geriatric Nursing during a Sept. 29 ceremony.

"It is my pleasure to be at UAMS, and I am more than proud to be in Arkansas," said Harrison. **"One of the reasons why I'm here is because of the encouragement of Dr. Claudia Beverly and the belief in the work that I am doing. I'm certain we are going to solve some problems, and we are going to do great work."**

Building on more than 25 years of professional nursing experience as a bedside and community clinician, practitioner, educator and researcher, Harrison is an expert on aging with mobility and sensory limitations among diverse and vulnerable populations. Harrison joined UAMS in May.

Harrison is the inaugural recipient of the endowed chair, which previously was an endowed professorship held by **Pao-Feng Tsai, Ph.D., RN.**

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PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES AWARDS TO ADDRESS SUICIDE, FOOD INSECURITY AMONG OLDER ADULTS

A partnership involving the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Nursing, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Centers on Aging, and the Arkansas Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence has received a total of \$550,000 in awards for programs that address food insecurity and suicide among older adults.

The recipients are collaborating in an effort known as the Arkansas Nurse-Led Academic Community Partnership, with a goal of identifying high rates of risk for food insecurity, suicide and social isolation in the state, particularly among marginalized older adults. The community partnership draws on support from the UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation, UAMS AR ConnectNow, and the Area Agencies on Aging senior centers and Meals on Wheels.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) awarded the partnership a \$450,000 grant for a program that benefits older adults. Nurse leaders will train clinicians, students, and community volunteers making daily food deliveries or working in congregate settings to identify food insecurity and suicide risk and to lead older adults

to resources for in-home or community assistance. The program also integrates technology to decrease social isolation and increase access to food and mental health services.

Melodee Harris, Ph.D., CNP, associate professor in the UAMS College of Nursing and co-director of the Arkansas Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, and Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, Ph.D., APRN, assistant professor in the UAMS College of Medicine, director of the UAMS Centers on Aging and Murphy Endowed Chair for Rural Aging Leadership and Policy, lead the project.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen the community partnership to receive a Promise Award, which is a \$100,000 cash award under its Mission Daybreak program. The Mission Daybreak program seeks innovative solutions to reduce the number of suicides among veterans.

The award will allow the community partnership to customize its innovative food insecurity and suicide programs to meet the needs of veterans in rural areas.



"The recipients are collaborating in an effort known as the Arkansas Nurse-Led Academic Community Partnership, with a goal of identifying high rates of risk for food insecurity, suicide and social isolation in the state, particularly among marginalized older adults."



UAMS INTRODUCES ACCELERATED BSN PROGRAM, NORTHWEST ARKANSAS SIMULATION CENTER

A new class of nursing students is experiencing real-world scenarios in a new simulation center on the Fayetteville campus of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). All UAMS students in Northwest Arkansas will eventually use the center.

UAMS' new accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is a 15-month program designed to quickly transition those outside the profession into nursing. It is open to applicants with a bachelor's or higher degree in any field and requires prerequisite grounding in health sciences such as anatomy, physiology, chemistry and microbiology. The first class of students started the program in June 2022 and will graduate in August 2023.

"There is a critical need to educate additional registered nurses (RNs) to address current and future nursing workforce

shortages," said Patricia Cowan, Ph.D., RN, dean and professor of the UAMS College of Nursing. **"Challenges in recruiting and retaining nurses in all areas of hospital care have intensified since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even after resolution of the pandemic, the shortage of RNs regionally and in Arkansas will intensify in the coming years. The accelerated BSN program is projected to provide hundreds of nurses over a 10-year period."**

The UAMS College of Nursing will continue to offer its traditional BSN program on the Little Rock campus.

The 3,400-square-foot simulation center will provide a state-of-the-art training space for students in all of the UAMS education programs in Northwest Arkansas, according to Jay Gandy, Ph.D.,

associate provost of the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus.

Features of the simulation center include:

- 12 "patient" beds
- Multiple high-fidelity manikins to simulate medical emergencies in a full range of ages
- Low-fidelity task trainers for high-frequency skills training, such as intubating and birthing
- Medication preparation room with fingerprint-activated Pyxis medication access system
- Interactive video connections to ensure maximal education across academic settings and to rural sites
- Control rooms separated by one-way glass
- Debriefing conference rooms
- Digital health units

Tracie Harrison Invested continued



She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Texas at Austin, and her Master of Science in Nursing from Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi.

Harrison has more than 70 publications on how severe, permanent limitations affect people's lives. She has had involvement in policy analysis and made recommendations at the state and federal levels on functional and sensory change with age. She is the founding director of the Center for Excellence in Aging Services and Long-Term Care at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.

FAST FACTS: UAMS COLLEGE OF NURSING



ABOUT THE COLLEGE

- Established in **1953**.
- Member of the **Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence**, dedicated to optimal health and quality of life for older adults and the highest level of commitment to the field of gerontological nursing.



OUR STUDENTS

- 221** graduates in 2021-22 academic year: BSN—125; RN to BSN—24; MNSc—32; BSN to DNP—17; Post-masters DNP—9; Ph.D.—3; Post-Master's Completion —11
- 482** students currently enrolled.
- 5,540** students have earned a BSN degree.
- 2,084** students have earned their MNSc degree.
- 80** students have earned their Ph.D. in nursing.
- 133** students have earned their DNP degree.
- 91.8%** NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate; National pass rate — 88.1%
- 100%** cumulative Nurse Practitioner Certification pass rate.



OUR FACULTY

59 faculty.

Faculty members practice in pediatrics, primary care, gerontology and psychiatric and mental health.

Seven extramurally funded grants

Research focus areas: cardiovascular, cancer, gerontology and mental health and addiction



COST OF EDUCATION

The average yearly tuition for Arkansas residents, assuming full-time study, was:

BSN program: \$9,540.

ABSN program: \$12,600.

MNSc program: \$11,664.

BSN to DNP: \$11,664.

Post-Master's DNP program: \$9,720.

CRNA program (Nurse Anesthesia): \$22,539.



SCHOLARSHIPS:

2021-2022

- 83** students received scholarships.
- 98** scholarships awarded.
- \$312,850:** Total amount of scholarships awarded.

2022-2023

- 94** students received scholarships.
- 112** scholarships awarded.
- \$250,800:** Total amount of scholarships awarded.

THREE FACULTY MEMBERS CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



Three faculty members from the UAMS College of Nursing have been selected to take part in programs designed to hone their abilities as leaders in nursing education.

Fermin Renteria, DNP, APRN, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, was named to the 2022-23 class of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing (ELAN) program. The one-year fellowship is designed to improve the leadership skills of aspiring deans and senior faculty members.

“Several of my colleagues are fellows in the ELAN program, and I see the tremendous impact it has had on their leadership skills,” said Renteria, the director of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program on the Little Rock campus. **“I am honored to have been selected and thankful to the College of Nursing for sponsoring my participation.”**



Teresa Whited, DNP, APRN, associate professor and associate dean for academic programs in the College of Nursing, was selected to attend the 2022-23 AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program. Whited previously completed the ELAN program. The AACN-Wharton program is designed to hone participants' skills in negotiation, leadership and influencing others.



“I am very excited and honored to be chosen for the Wharton Executive Leadership Program,” Whited said. **“This is a wonderful opportunity that will help me grow and give back to the college in a stronger way.”**

Elizabeth Riley, DNP, APRN, clinical associate professor in the College of Nursing, has been selected as a fellow of the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education.

“I feel humbled and honored to have been selected as a fellow of the academy,” Riley said. **“It is truly my greatest career achievement, and it will provide me with a unique platform to continue pursuing my passion for disseminating the best educational practices. I look forward to using this opportunity to network with expert nurse educators at the national level.”**

The Academy of Nursing Education works to promote excellence in nursing education using the knowledge of those who have contributed to the profession in significant ways. Fellows are expected to provide visionary leadership and serve as mentors for young or aspiring educators.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).
- Accelerated BSN programs: RN to BSN and RN to BSN/ MNSc.
- Advanced nursing practice degree programs at the master's and doctoral levels.
- The first College of Nursing in Arkansas to offer nurse practitioner specialty programs in acute care pediatrics nurse practitioner, primary care pediatric nurse practitioner and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

- The first College of Nursing in Arkansas to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia.
- The only College of Nursing in Arkansas to offer a research doctoral program (Ph.D. in Nursing Science).

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing program ranked 67th in nation by U.S. News and World Report.

- Master of Nursing Science program ranked 61st in nation by U.S. News and World Report.

- Doctor of Nursing Practice program ranked 62nd in nation by U.S. News and World Report.



College of Nursing

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