Making PALS at St. Camillus

Physical Activity for Life for Seniors, a program to keep seniors active
Dear Marquette College of Nursing alumni and friends,

Preparing the next generation of Marquette Nurses is important work, and it is critical to our future workforce that we get it right. I have heard time and again throughout the last two years from those of you who are, or have had the care of, Marquette Nurses, that we are getting it right!

Wisconsin and the nation continue to face an impending shortage of nurses. Nearly 20 percent of the Wisconsin nursing workforce plans to leave direct patient care within the next decade, according to the Wisconsin Center for Nursing. In addition, a nursing faculty shortage means intense competition for strong teacher-scholars who understand the values that are the foundation of the Marquette Nurse. Combined with a population living longer than ever before, it’s clear the Marquette nursing mission of ensuring holistic, individualized and coordinated care is more important than ever.

Over the past decade, the College of Nursing has increased the size of our undergraduate nursing class to help meet workforce demand, without losing our focus on individual students. We have hired highly competent, mission-driven faculty members to ensure we continue to achieve quality outcomes and develop compassionate nurses.

Ensuring our curriculum stays cutting edge assures our students receive the experiential learning experiences that will prepare them for a smooth transition to practice upon graduation. We have expanded our simulated clinical experiences and clinical placement sites to allow students at all levels to experience invaluable hands-on practical opportunities.

In addition to growing our undergraduate class, we are also launching new programs to meet growing demand. In fall 2018, the College of Nursing launched the first doctorate-level Nurse Anesthesia program in Wisconsin. Nurse anesthetists are in high demand, especially in rural areas of the country. We are proud to be a part of the solution of increasing health care access in underserved areas.

We also added an interdisciplinary Health Care Data Analytics program with a master of science degree to fill a critical skills gap by providing education to students in applied statistics and computer science methods specifically focused in the health care context.

At the same time, we are working to increase access to a Marquette nursing degree through hybrid programs, such as our Direct Entry Master of Science program, which was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top online/hybrid nursing graduate programs in the country after only three years in existence — a testament to the academic rigor of the program and the quality of student outcomes. Only 120 online nursing graduate programs, out of the thousands available throughout the country, are ranked on the U.S. News list, making our programs part of a very elite group.

You can read about these achievements and the incredible accomplishments of our alumni in the following pages of our college magazine. I am proud that, with the strong support of our partners, colleagues, and alumni, we are giving more individuals the chance to join our ranks and positively impact even greater numbers of patients and health systems. Those of you who give time, talent or treasure are making sure the Marquette Nurse will continue to thrive, and we, along with our students, appreciate it!

Marquette Blessings!

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC
Dean and Professor, College of Nursing
Using Health Care Data to Enhance Care
Health data analysts serve as translators and team members.

Data is one of the most valuable, longest-lasting assets in health care organizations. Professionals with advanced analytics skills are needed to keep pace with the ever-expanding volume of clinical and operational data.

New data mining techniques allow for more automated investigation of hidden connections in huge data sets. Adaptive, intelligent computer models exposed to new data can reliably predict the impact of interventions and treatments, but human understanding is required for context.

Skilled data scientists explore and evaluate results for meaningful patterns and trends. They work together with researchers and health care professionals to focus on problems and solutions, telling a story with data that can have an important impact on the treatment of patients.

What is the best way to identify trends in care delivery that lead to the most cost-effective, successful approaches for desired patient outcomes? The answer lies with having the right people on the team, working together in a patient-centric environment. Rose Giannini, nurse informaticist at Aurora Health Care and a College of Nursing clinical instructor, explains that she “works as a translator between the nursing staff and the technology staff to improve systems and ensure we are effectively managing our clinical data.”

It’s never been more important to form interprofessional teams to collaborate on solutions in the health professions. Marquette’s new Master of Science in Health Care Data Analytics program is helping fill a critical skills gap by training students in applied statistics and computer science methods specifically based in the health care context.

Students in the program may already be working in a clinical setting and wish to explore options beyond care delivery. Others may be recent graduates from a variety of fields who are drawn to health care industry technology. Students with a computer science degree can thrive as a project team member and find new ways to apply their IT expertise in the health care arena.

Because of the real-world insight incorporated into the curriculum by Giannini and fellow clinical instructors, this program is designed to be relevant and always adaptable to the quickly changing health data landscape.

Marquette’s new interdisciplinary graduate program prepares students to be successful in a wide variety of health technology settings. Find out more at bulletin.marquette.edu/grad/programs/healthcaredataanalytics.

— Andrea Price

Matchmakers
Speed networking introduces students to experienced alumni.

Nursing students face such a wide and diverse set of career options that any advice and encouragement from seasoned nurses is invaluable. Facilitating these connections was the impetus behind the two-hour Alumni + Student Speed Networking event.

At the event, students had 20 minutes to talk to professionals in a specific field before rotating to another specialty. Erin Brauer, Nurs ’15, who works in the neonatal ICU of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, was game to answer questions ranging from the prosaic, “How should I organize my resume?” to the personal, “How do you help a family that’s suffering?”

“These students are under so much stress,” says Brauer. “I think it helped knowing that we were all in their shoes once, and we found our way.”

The program, which will be an annual event moving forward, led to opportunities for students to shadow nurses in different fields and follow up with alumni for further counsel. Elise Battle, Nurs ’18, connected with Brauer during the event and emailed after graduation to ask for advice on finding a job. Brauer introduced her to a recruiter for Children’s, which ultimately led to a position. “Erin lifted me up when I was struggling,” says Battle. “That support meant more to me than anything.”

— Jennifer Anderson
A Need Fulfilled

College of Nursing launches new D.N.P. program in nurse anesthesia.

With the launch of Southeastern Wisconsin’s first doctorate-level program in nurse anesthesia, the College of Nursing aims to help fill a significant need for access to anesthesia services in both urban and rural areas.

The program admitted its first cohort this fall. The 10 students selected came from among 116 applicants seeking education and training as an advanced practice nurse within the specialty area of anesthesia. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the nurse anesthesia specialty is on track to grow 16 percent — more rapidly than the average profession — from 2016 to 2026. Today, there are just over 50,000 nurse anesthetists in the United States and Puerto Rico, delivering more than 43,000,000 anesthetics (sessions of anesthesia) in a year.

“Nurse anesthesia programs are historically competitive, and the volume of applicants we received speaks to that,” says Dr. Lisa Thiemann, program director and clinical associate professor of nursing. “It also speaks to the excitement that local nurses and nurses around the country have for Marquette opening a program. We did receive applications from all over the U.S., but almost 70 percent were from Wisconsin and three are from out of state, with a diversity of clinical experience, ethnicity and gender.

“Many graduates of nurse anesthesia programs stay where they do their clinical rotations, and that is our hope, that they provide services to the immediately surrounding communities,” Thiemann says. “But we also know that Wisconsin has many rural areas that need access to these services, and we want them to be successful in serving this need more broadly for the state as well.”

Lauren Brown, a Honolulu native who applied to the program after more than two years working in a surgical trauma intensive care unit, says her attraction to the field of nursing anesthesia stems from her one-on-one patient care experience, the autonomy of practice and the challenges of the role.

“I was attracted to Marquette specifically because of the Jesuit education aspect, the strength of the nursing program and, once I interviewed, the strength and leadership of the faculty,” Brown says. “The constant communication with faculty and their dedication to highest academic standards have exceeded my expectations thus far.”

— Paula Wheeler
Supplying the Demand

With nearly 200 students enrolled this fall, Marquette’s freshman nursing class is its biggest ever, part of a trend that has seen more prospective students selecting Marquette as their top choice. Freshman enrollment doubled from 95 students in 2009 to 193 in 2018, up over 30 percent from 2017. Graduate students also increased to 505 this fall, up 26 percent over 2017. Higher graduate student numbers are due in part to the addition of a direct entry M.S.N. Pleasant Prairie, Wis., location and an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program in Indianapolis.

The Marquette nursing program’s reputation for quality instruction and strong outcomes has traditionally attracted significantly more applications than available seats and an increase in highly educated nurses is good news for the nursing shortage. “We are committed to continuing the high-quality, individualized, holistic nursing education that leads to the Marquette Nurse,” says Dean Janet Wessel Krejci. To achieve this, the college has added qualified faculty who deliver a unique but consistent student experience across more sections of courses in expanded clinical locations. Ongoing faculty development assures “perspective changing” experiences in classroom-based, hybrid and online classes and streaming opportunities meet the varying needs and learning preferences of students. The college has also expanded its simulation labs to offer enhanced hands-on training opportunities.

“We are focused on, and committed to, the individual student no matter what our class numbers,” says Krejci. “We look forward to more Marquette-prepared nurses to compassionately care for the whole person and become leaders in our health care systems.”

— Kaley Rohlinger, editorial intern

A Visit from the Professor

D.C. health care policy leader brings expertise to Marquette, Georgetown.

A veteran public policy expert with 15 years of experience on Capitol Hill, Lisa Grabert began her new role as a visiting research professor in the College of Nursing in fall of 2018. Running for the 2018–19 academic year, Grabert will be splitting her time between Milwaukee and Washington, D.C., where she is serving as a policy director for the American Hospital Association and helping the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services develop value-based purchasing processes.

“Lisa has a demonstrated ability to successfully understand complex issues and create bipartisan health care legislation that has been signed into law,” says Dr. Janet Wessel Krejci, dean of the College of Nursing. “Her perspective as someone who has actually drafted the health care policies that our students see play out for their patients at the bedside is invaluable.”

While on campus, Grabert is teaching a graduate course in health policy. The first half of the course covers the basic financing model for the U.S. health care system, while the second half covers cross-program issues, including socioeconomic factors and disparities, workforce and medical education, quality and patient safety, medical innovation and payment reform.

“This comprehensive perspective helps students understand how to successfully advocate for both their patients and themselves as caregivers operating within the complex U.S. health care system,” she explains.

Grabert’s joint appointment is funded by the Institute for Critical Care, a nonprofit that supports health policy research. Her research focuses on the settings of care that Medicare patients experience after they have been discharged from a major medical event in the hospital. Local hospital systems and health care leaders are also seeking Grabert’s insights to help navigate the ever-changing world of health care policy.

“Approximately 60 percent of Medicare patients need some sort of specialized care once they are discharged from a hospital, and there are a lot of options for patients to navigate, including home health, skilled nursing facilities, and rehabilitation and long-term care hospitals,” Grabert says.

For Grabert, the best part of her new foray into higher education is teaching. “One of the many things I have come to appreciate about Marquette’s teaching mission is its foundation in Jesuit, Catholic pedagogy. I’m constantly asking myself and my students, ‘What is the best outcome?’ ‘What if?’ ‘What next?’ The Marquette way is to always strive to learn more and do more, and that really resonates with my personal philosophy.”

— Lynn C. Sheka, Comm ‘09, Grad ‘15
On the Great Wall during President Obama’s trip to China

In Midway Atoll

Walking the White House portico

Nurse to the First Family

White House Nurse Kristin Stoniecki

By Guy Fiorita

Kristin Stoniecki, Nurs ’07, was 30 years old when she had her first job interview, but it was worth the wait. “Up until that time the Navy appointed all of my assignments. I didn’t have to interview. Considering the first was at the White House, it was pretty intimidating,” she says. Conducted by the president’s chief physician and the White House Medical Unit, the interviewing process took two full days. When it was over, Stoniecki had completed the first hurdle on her way to becoming an official White House nurse.

Stoniecki transferred to Marquette her sophomore year from Loyola University Chicago. While an undergraduate, she competed as a pole vaulter and was a member of Navy ROTC. Her younger sister, Amy Timm, Bus Ad ’08, and brother Bryan are also in the Navy, and all three are now lieutenant commanders. “Marquette’s focus on leadership and ethics, community-based health care and cultural diversi- ty helped prepare me for many of the assignments I’ve had as a Navy nurse.” Those assignments include deployment in Kuwait and Afghanistan and an overseas assignment to Yokosuka, Japan.

After receiving word she had been selected, Stoniecki was soon off to an intensive survival training course followed by the Air Force Flight Nursing School where she learned how to take care of patients in the air and the effects of altitude on the body. Once she “got her wings,” she reported to the White House to start. Finally, because part of her job would be to look after the president, vice president and the members of the first and second families onboard Marine One and Two, she needed to complete a course on how to care for patients in the back of a helicopter. “It was intense, but I really learned a lot.”

For the next three years, Stoniecki formed part of the White House Medical Unit. She was one of a group of eight nurses (two from the Navy, three from the Army and three from the Air Force) that provided 24/7 sick call and emergency care for the president, vice president and the members of the first and second families.

Much of her time she spent on the road. With President Obama she traveled to China, Laos, Spain, Poland, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Alaska, Peru, among other locales. She was on his last foreign swing and President Trump’s first. “Most of the time I traveled with Air Force One and provided care for the president and travel team both in the air and on the ground,” she says.

Other times, she was part of the advance party arriving up to two weeks before the president. Once on the ground, she would work with the embassy team, Secret Service, military and White House stuff to coordinate the general health care and develop an emergency plan for the president’s visit. “We had to know the available facilities best suited for any particular need. Together, we would do walk-throughs at local hospitals and clinics and use the information to create an emergency plan.”

Stoniecki’s stint ended in March 2018. She was senior nurse when she left. Looking back on her time at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Stoniecki says the best thing is knowing that she is part of history. “I had the opportunity to take part in events like Pope Francis’ visit to the White House, President Obama’s visit to Midway Atoll and President Trump’s visit to Israel and Saudi Arabia. I got to see them in a different light, as human beings. There were times when they could sit back and joke around a little. That was really enjoyable. From my first day to my last, every time I walked through the gate with my Marquette lanyard around my neck holding my badge, I would think to myself, ‘I can’t believe I work here!’”
Caring for the Future

Celebrating 25 years of Marquette’s Nurse Midwifery program.

By Allison Dikanovic, Arts ’17

A mid piles of papers on the desk of Dr. Lisa Hanson’s corner office in Emory T. Clark Hall, there are two photos that have been on the wall for quite a while. One is of a white-haired woman named Lois Olsen; the other is a group shot of six women of different ages but with similar expressions of joy and pride — the inaugural class of Marquette University nurse midwifery students.

As the program celebrates its 25th anniversary, it is clear that those students have inspired a legacy of women empowering women, both professionally and clinically.

If Hanson had never met her mentor, Olsen, who was the first certified nurse midwife to practice in the state of Wisconsin, those six women never would have been photographed together. Hanson never would have become a midwife in the first place, much less gone on to co-found the Nurse Midwifery program alongside Drs. Leona Vandervusse and Kathryn Harrod at Marquette.

“Sometimes in your life, you meet someone who gives you a piece to the puzzle,” Hanson says of Olsen.

Back when she was a newly graduated labor and delivery nurse, Hanson said she felt frustrated by the way women experienced births in hospitals. “I saw that women weren’t really partners in the experience, and I thought, ‘There has to be a better way,’” she says.
That's when Olsen recognized Hanson's potential to become a midwife, something Hanson didn't yet see in herself. Nurse midwives are licensed, independent health care providers with prescriptive authority who care for women throughout their entire lifespan, including before, during and after they give birth. The vast majority of nurse midwifery practice in a hospital setting, where most women choose to deliver their babies. However, apart from physicians and other primary care providers, nurse midwives have a specific philosophy of care that is central to the way they practice.

"Midwife means 'with woman,'" Hanson explains, "and it is rooted in two main concepts: Listen to women, and birth is normal until proven otherwise."

"The best approach is to trust the process and to trust the woman's body," she says. "We value the idea that birth is normal, and normal birth should be supported, rather than birth is a potential problem that needs to be intervened to prevent problems."

This means that nurse midwives look to provide women with options and alternatives throughout their birth experiences, often opting for lower-tech, evidence-based solutions that best fit the needs of each individual woman and her family. A simple example could be giving a healthy woman the choice of eating and drinking a normal diet and being able to walk the halls while in labor, rather than being induced and receiving an IV and fetal monitor. These kinds of changes result in lower rates of cesarean sections and birth complications for women under the care of a nurse midwife.

Hanson, VandeVusse and Harrod started the Marquette Nurse Midwifery program in 1993 with the support of nursing deans from across Wisconsin. Because of the university's academic rigor and Jesuit value of cura personalis — which aligns directly with the midwifery philosophy of care — it was deemed the best fit to host the program at a time when advanced practice nursing was gaining a lot of momentum. It is still the only nurse midwifery program in the state. Each year, because of women like those smiling in the photos, a class of patients who hold a variety of identities and that women who enter the field will better represent the population of women receiving nurse midwifery care.

The Nurse Midwifery program is unique on an academic level. It is one of only a few such programs in the country. But as aspects of the program evolve, the educators and directors remain steadfast in their vision and mission of serving women.

"I think the most cutting-edge notion is to put the woman at the center of her own care, in every aspect, to give her voice," — Dr. Lisa Hanson

Before probiotics were considered a mainstream form of prevention in healthcare, Hanson and VandeVusse began studying how they could help pregnant women avoid this infection and the need to subject their newborn babies to antibiotics in the first place.

"The women found that a prenatal probiotic intervention shows promise of not only reducing risk of group B colonization, but also of improving gastrointestinal health and reducing medical costs for pregnant women. This groundbreaking research has recently earned Hanson and VandeVusse a major federal grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund a double-blind randomized trial on healthy adult pregnant women at Aurora Sinai Medical Center to further test this approach in what is considered the gold standard of research.

Hanson has a strong vision for the future of the program she helped launch. She hopes that the program will become more diverse, prepare students to care for patients who hold a variety of identities, and that women who enter the field will better represent the population of women receiving nurse midwifery care.

"People say to me, 'Is it too late to become a midwife?' " said Hanson. "I say, 'midwives have always cared for vulnerable populations and those who are underserved. They're always looking for social justice and health equities. It's always been part of the midwifery practice.'"

"Diversity always is forefront for me," Robinson says. "If we're trying to diversify this profession, we need more educators who look like the students we're trying to recruit."

Serving the Underserved

Dr. Karen Robinson’s life took a turn when she met a different woman from that photo of the first class in Hanson’s office.

Witnessing Beth Garcia’s work as a nurse midwife she thought, “This is how it should be.”

Garcia, Grad ‘96, convinced Robinson to return to school to become a nurse midwife. After already earning her bachelor’s degree in nursing at Marquette, Robinson, Nurs ‘97, Grad ‘01, ’10, returned to Marquette to become a certified nurse midwife. She has since earned her doctorate and is now a professor in the program.

Midwifery has been practiced for thousands of years, with references as far back as ancient Egypt, the Bible and medieval Europe. Robinson traces the modern nurse midwifery practice back to the tradition of “granny midwives” in the South, when African American grandmothers cared for women giving birth who weren't allowed to go to hospitals. “Midwives have always cared for vulnerable populations and those who are underserved,” she says. “That’s one reason why I think the model of midwifery fits so well with the mission of our college and the mission of the university as a whole, fighting for social justice and health equities.

“Diversity always is forefront for me,” Robinson says. “If we’re trying to diversify this profession, we need more educators who look like the students we’re trying to recruit.”
Corrine Ebmeier, Nurs ’60, Grad ’62 (master’s in nursing), former associate professor of nursing from 1972–1993, works under the guidance of nursing doctoral student Jeanne Hlebichuk.

Making PALS
at St. Camillus

Marquette partnership provides life-enriching physical activities program for seniors.

By Erik Gunn

It seems like the simplest of exercise programs. A circuit of stations. Equipment as ordinary as chairs and steps, hand weights and, perhaps the most exotic of all, weighted medicine balls. The routine is intentionally designed to improve physical function — one minute of activity at each of the 10 stations. A typical session lasts 40 minutes, or four circuits.

It’s called PALS — Physical Activity for Life for Seniors. And for the participants — people ranging from their 60s into their 90s — it has proven itself to be an important tool in stimulating a more active way of living, promoting better health and greater independence, says Dr. Kimberlee Gretebeck, associate professor of nursing and interim associate dean for research in the College of Nursing.

Among its many benefits, she notes, is that it is designed to include participants who may have limited disabilities. “People who join physical activity programs are usually people who are already active,” Gretebeck says. “The people we need to reach aren’t already active.”

Gretebeck has been studying the benefits of PALS for more than 10 years and is helping develop new ways to offer the program to broader groups of older people, including residents of rural Wisconsin and African American city dwellers in Madison and Milwaukee.

Now PALS is the leading edge of a new partnership between Marquette and St. Camillus Life Plan Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. The cooperative arrangement is part of the university’s “Catholic, Jesuit mission to be in partnership with the Milwaukee community,”
actively addressing social inequities and pursuing justice,” says Dr. Dan Bergen, Grad ’10, executive director of Marquette’s Office of Community Engagement. The College of Nursing’s partnership with St. Camillus, of which PALS is just one part, is being made possible by a $5,000 grant from the Office of Community Engagement, offered to university entities proposing collaborative programs for the 2019 fiscal year.

Patricia Schroeder, Nurs ’75, Grad ’78, ’97, director for strategic initiatives and clinical assistant professor of nursing and a board of directors member of St. Camillus, saw it as a natural fit between the two institutions, which, although part of different orders, have become so aligned that St. Camillus residents include a large community of retired Jesuits. Together, they implemented the PALS program at St. Camillus, a new setting for the program, and trained two St. Camillus leaders to deliver the program, which is also a new approach, Gretebeck says.

“We are receiving a physical activity program to help the overall well-being of the residents who live here,” explains Bridget McNair, director of research and life enrichment for St. Camillus. “It’s a new physical activity program that focuses on functional fitness and allowing people to complete daily tasks as independently as possible.”

The program is being piloted with two groups, one consisting of current St. Camillus residents and the other of future residents. Throughout PALS’ history, research has been an important part of developing the program, Gretebeck points out. That is no different here, where the focus is on training staff at the facility to lead the PALS program for participants.

At St. Camillus, PALS has begun with a research program to evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of PALS. The research, in turn, creates opportunities for College of Nursing students, from undergrads through doctoral candidates, to spend time working in and with St. Camillus as well.

The relationship between the two institutions goes much further, however. As the PALS program is implemented, Dr. Abiola Keller, H Sc ’01, assistant professor of nursing, is researching the social supports PALS participants need in order to remain more physically active once the initial 10-week PALS program ends. Another colleague Dr. Abir Bekhet, associate professor of nursing, is conducting research to see how positive thinking may foster greater resiliency and better outcomes among the participants. The two institutions also decided to conduct a formal assessment for both St. Camillus and the College of Nursing to identify areas in which they can meet each other’s needs. That effort is being led by Dr. Stacy Barnes, Grad ’15, adjunct assistant professor of nursing, in collaboration with St. Camillus counterparts.

That is just in its early stages. “Part of this exploration is trying to figure out what makes sense for future projects working together,” says Barnes. While St. Camillus may be seeking to answer questions about staff learning and development opportunities, Marquette is looking at potential research projects and opportunities for nursing students to experience rotations that expose them to older adults with varying levels of physical and cognitive functioning. “Once we identify some themes in the areas of need, we can strategize together about what resources we each have and what could we jointly do to improve things,” Barnes says.

Schroeder sees in the nascent collaboration the potential for even further-ranging partnership opportunities between the university and St. Camillus, possibly extending to several other Marquette colleges someday. But a critical element to the relationship, she says, is that both Marquette and St. Camillus have been equal partners from the start.

“Neither the team at St. Camillus nor the team at the College of Nursing work independently of each other,” Schroeder says. “We’re really working hand-in-glove together. That’s what a partnership is supposed to be.”

To make a gift in support of scholarship aid, contact Emily Carroll at 414.288.8484 or emily.carroll@marquette.edu.
Alumni Perspective

Back for Their Future

When Terry Tobin, clinical associate professor in the College of Nursing, talks about her undergraduate students, her eyes sparkle and her words flow animatedly, passionately. “In Primary Health Care: Concepts, my focus is health care and international health,” she says. “There is so much diversity in the class. We talk about cultures and what health care is like in different students’ countries. We talk a lot about infant health around the world. They get a broad perspective.”

It’s clear Tobin, who in 2018 celebrated her 50th year of teaching at Marquette, is an advocate for her students, in turn, encouraging them to be advocates for their future patients.

Through the years, Tobin, Nurs ’61, Grad ’68, has brought her expertise as a working nurse — in Milwaukee’s St. Joseph Hospital’s labor and delivery units — to her students, even abandoning her 2005 retirement to return to Marquette and focus on students training to enter an industry whose fast pace and steadily evolving nature require her to “be constantly learning.” And that’s just fine with her. A Milwaukee native who says she knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a nurse, she seems to have found little in the world of nursing education to rattle her. She remembers the first time she used PowerPoint in the classroom, when laptops became the norm for students, and when simulation labs supplemented clinical hours spent with patients. She even remembers back to the retirement of the nurse’s uniform cap, to which she gives an emphatic thumbs-up.

In the early 1980s, Tobin spread her professional and personal wings by moving to California to pursue a master of public health degree at University of California, Berkeley. “My whole world changed. There was so much diversity and so many students had traveled the world,” she says. It all gave Tobin the desire to open up her own world by traveling. That led to tours of Switzerland and England, and the opportunity to “see different health coxises” in Southeast Asia and India, she says. With each journey, she returned with a wider life perspective to share with students and to inform her own teaching. “I’ll go out of my way to make sure my students learn things,” she says and yet believes that in class, she learns “more than they do.”

It was the College of Nursing Dean Janet Wessel Kreji who urged Tobin back from retirement, knowing that Tobin’s limitless curiosity and belief that learning is transformational make her an integral part of Jesuit education. “She has very high standards for making sure nurses leave Marquette equipped to make a difference and help the patient feel empowered,” says Kreji.

That was certainly the case with Derek Elhardt, Nurs ’96, an epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Having Tobin as a teacher changed his life. “She has been my professional mentor since graduation. Without her, I would not have gotten into public health, moved to the Middle East where I met my wife, or joined CDC.”

Tobin sums up her philosophy on life and teaching with a quote by the late mathematician pioneer Grace Hopper who fought against giant odds to become a Navy reservist. “A ship in port is safe, but that’s not what ships are built for.” For Tobin, taking risks and even failing are an inherent part of the learning process, a conviction she continues to act upon today.

— Ann Christenson, C,IPA ’90

Cara Personalis Personified Through $1 Million Gift

Marquette runs in Barbara Regan’s family. She and her late husband, Michael Regan, M.D., Med ’59, are both alumni, as is Mike’s father, uncle and brother. Their daughter, MaryNell Regan, Law ’94, continued the family tradition. So when Barbara decided to leave an endowed gift in her will, she knew it should go back to the institution that held such significance to her entire family. That endowment, a $1 million donation to the College of Nursing, will be used to fund scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.

As a student, Barbara (Zemlicka), Nurs ’59, appreciated learning not just practical nursing skills, but the importance of developing cara personalis when helping patients. In fact, that quality is what first attracted her to Mike. The two met as students working in the delivery room at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Milwaukee, helping a patient struggling through labor. “I was so taken with how he stayed with the patient and talked to her and prayed with her,” she says. “I just hadn’t seen that before in medical students.”

That dedication to others transformed the couple’s lives. They married in 1960 and, that same year, left Milwaukee for the Carolinas, where Mike collected data on polio for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Barbara administered vaccinations. Their careers took them from Missouri to California to Oregon, but the purpose for their work never wavered. Barbara hopes her gift will allow future nursing students to similarly embrace their call to serve. “It’s really a lifelong commitment.”

Now with the Regan Family Endowment Fund that commitment will continue long into the future.

— Claire Nowak, Comm ’16

Navigating the Health Care System

On September 12, 2018, an estimated 50 alumni from the College of Nursing gathered in Chicago with Marquette faculty members for a dialogue on how best to navigate the health care system. The networking event and program, Health Care Today — From Politics to Patient Care, tackled government regulations, reimbursement systems and their impact on patient care. Dean Janet Wessel Kreji engaged the audience with a discussion about preparing students to advocate for patients in a complex health care system. Also in attendance were professors Lisa Grabert and Dr. Abiola Keller, H Sci ’01, both of whom spoke about aspects of self-advocacy. “It was an opportunity to showcase the college and have the dean address those in the Chicago region,” says Emily Carroll, Comm ’04, director of development for the College of Nursing. Mary and Steve Tardella, parents of Kathleen Tardella, Nurs ’16, sponsored the event, which Carroll calls “a rally around the college.”

— Leah Harris, Comm ’18

25 Years and Counting

Marquette’s Nurse Practitioner program recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. As essential providers of primary and acute care in underserved areas, nurse practitioners practice autonomously in areas as diverse as specialty clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home care, hospice/palliative care and in hospitals. Since it was launched, the program has pioneered many areas of study and introduced the first Nurse Practitioner master’s programs in Milwaukee and the first Adult Gerontology, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program in Wisconsin. “Our programs are focused on specific age groups and are known to create nurse practitioners with great depth of knowledge in their specific areas,” says Dr. Christine Shum, Nurs ’72, assistant dean for graduate programs and clinical associate professor.

— Leah Harris, Comm ’18
Notable Scholarly Accomplishments

Prominent honors, grants, publications and presentations from the 2017–2018 academic year

AWARDS AND HONORS

Susan Breakwell, D.N.P., PHNA-BC, Institute for Palliative and End of Life Care Director, clinical associate professor
Named one of the 50 Top Nurse Practitioner Professors, nursenursepractitionerschools.com, May 2018.

Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal, Ph.D., research assistant professor
Awarded the Way Klingler Teaching Enhancement Award, Marquette University, January 2018.

Jill Guttormson, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor

GRANTS

Abir Bekhet, Ph.D., RN, HSMI, assistant professor
$5,000, “Escalation: Raising the College Students’ Awareness of Warning Signs of Abusive Relationships,” Marquette University $3,000, “Psychometric Properties of the Arabic Version of the Positive Thinking Skills Scale (AP-TSSS) among First-generation Middle Eastern Immigrants,” International Research Award, Marquette University.
$2,000, “Pre-death Grief, Resourcefulness and Perceived Stress among Caregivers of Patients with Dementia,” Waukesha Community Foundation Fund.
$5,000, “The Mediating Effects of Positive Cognitions on Dementia Caregivers’ Burden and Their Caregivers’ Behavior Problems;” Delta Gamma at large.
$1,000, “Mediating Effects of Social Support and Positive Thinking on the Relationship Between Self-esteem and Resilience Among Undergraduate Students;” Social Innovation Award, Marquette University and the College of Nursing.

Ruth Ann Belknap, Ph.D., RN, professor
See entry for Dr. Kristin Haglund.

Mariliny Bratt, Ph.D., RN, associate professor
$2,000, “Toward Quality Precipitator: A Dyad Study,” Wisconsin Nurses Foundation.

Dora Clayton-Jones, Ph.D., RN, CPNP-PC, assistant professor
$2,500, “Perspectives of Emerging Adults Living with Sickle Cell Disease Living in a Community-Based Participatory Approach,” College of Nursing Frenn Award, Marquette University.

Kristin Haglund, Ph.D., PNP, FNPs, APRN, associate professor
Awarded the Community Engaged Research Partnership Award, Marquette University, October 2017.
Awarded the Nurse Researcher of the Year award, Delta Gamma At Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, September 2017.

Liana Hanson, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM, professor
Awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award, American College of Nurse-Midwives, May 2018.

Christine Schindler, Ph.D., RN, CPNP, ACNP, WCC, clinical assistant professor
Selected as Expert Clinician in the Department of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin, April 2018.
Selected as Expert Teacher in the Department of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin, July 2017 and April 2018.

Kathryn Schroeter, Ph.D., RN, CNE, CNOR, clinical associate professor
Appointed to the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board, 2017-2020.

Aimee Woda, Ph.D., RN, BC, assistant professor
Received the Nursing Research and Innovations Award, Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, 2018.

Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal, Ph.D., research assistant professor
See entry for Dr. Kristin Haglund, Dr. Lisa Hanson, Dr. Norah Johnson, and Dr. Aimee Woda.

Kimberlee Gretebeck, Ph.D., RN, associate professor and interim associate dean for research
$400,000, “National Dissemination of the Physical Activity for Life for Seniors (PALS) Program;” Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.
$85,000, “Beneficial Bites for a Healthy Life;” Helen Bader Foundation.
$438,600, “Diet and Exercise Trial to Improve Insulin Resistance, Increase Cerebral Blood Flow, Alter Metabolic Biomarkers, and Decrease Alzheimer’s Disease Risk;” NIH.
$3,018, “Physical Activity for Life for Seniors (PALS);” Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.
$193,000, “Adapting the Physical Activity for Life for Seniors (PALS) Program for Older African Americans,” University of Wisconsin CTSAs.

Jill Guttormson, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor
$25,000, “A Randomized Controlled Trial of an iPad for Patient Communication during Mechanical Ventilation;” CTIS.
$4,424, “Pads for Patient Communication during Mechanical Ventilation: A Descriptive Study,” Marquette University.

Kristin Haglund, Ph.D., PNP, FNPs, APRN, associate professor
$34,460, “Changing Responses to Dating Violence Precursor Behaviors: An Action Research Project for Girls of Color and Their Partners;” Center for Gender and Sexualities Studies Women and Girls of Color Research Initiative Grant, Marquette University, with Dr. Ruth Ann Belknap, Dr. Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal, and Jaunita Terre Garcia, College of Nursing; and Dr. Lisa Edwards, College of Education.
$4,000, “Mindfulness Practices to Promote Heart Health Among Afro-Latino Youth;” Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation.
$5,000, “Learning a Healthy Rhythm;” College of Nursing Frenn Award, Marquette University.

Linda Hanson, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM, professor
$426,248, “The Efficacy of Probiotics to Reduce Antepartum Group B Streptococcus Colonization,” NIH/NCBHD, with Dr. Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal and Dr. Leona VanDerVusse, College of Nursing; and N. Safarr.

Teresa Jenoffe-Owen, Ph.D., RN, APN-BC, assistant professor $11,270, “Patient Preferences for Engagement in Care;” Marquette University.

Norah Johnson, Ph.D., RN, CNP, associate professor
$50,000, “Pods (Self-management Transition to Home Intervention): Nursing Intervention to Improve Hospital Discharge Outcomes;” CTIS/NIH Traditional Pilot Award, NCATS/NIH, with Dr. Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal, College of Nursing; Dr. Iqbal Hameed, College of Arts and Sciences; S. Dobroszi; C. Gibson; and S. Lerrer.
$7200, “Knowledge Exchange in Child and Family Nursing;” University College Dublin School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, Dublin, Ireland; Fulbright Specialist: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Distinguished Fellows

Dr. Kristina Dreifuerst has been named fellow by the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). Dreifuerst, whose work primarily focuses on developing innovative techniques to improve students’ clinical reasoning skills, is a recognized authority on the analysis of clinical simulation through the creation of debriefing for meaningful learning. A member of the International Society for Simulation in Healthcare, she is also currently president of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning, an elected position she has held since 2016.

Dr. Lisa Hanson has been named an American Academy of Nursing fellow. As a further recognition of her accomplishments in the field, Hanson has also received a grant from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute for Child Health and Disease NIH to study the use of prenatal probiotics. “Up to one-third of all pregnant women are colonized with group B streptococcus GBS during pregnancy,” says Hanson, “to avoid the dangers to newborns, women receive antibiotics during labor to reduce transmission. With this work we hope to reduce GBS colonization and the need for antibiotics to avoid the negative consequences.”
### PUBLICATIONS

**Abiela Keller, Ph.D., MPH, PA-C, associate professor**

- “$11,500, “Concept Mapping to Explore Health-related Social Control in the Adult Child Caregiver Older Adult Patient Dyad,” Marquette University Committee on Research.
- “$60,000, “Access to Physical Activity Health Education Among Individuals with Depression,” Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation.
- “$5,000, “Healing Health Literacy at Two Urban Low-income Clinics,” Hsiburn Foundation.
- “$5,000, “Healing Health Literacy at Two Urban Low-income Clinics,” nccPA Foundation.

**Donna McCarthy, Ph.D., RN, professor**

- $70,872, “Chronic Stress and Reproductive Function in Female Cancer Survivors,” NIH/NINH.

**Jennifer Ohlendorf, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor**

- $7,087, “Chronic Stress and Reproductive Function in Female Cancer Survivors,” NIH/NINH.

**Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal, College of Nursing; and J. Suresky; and M. Stonehouse.**


**Jennifer Ohlendorf, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor**


**Kristina Dreifuerst, Ph.D., RN, CNE, associate professor**


**Amber Young-Brice, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor**

- $20,000, 2017 Way Kiang Teaching Enhancement Award, Way Kiang Faculty Development Program, Marquette University.

**Abir Bekhet, Ph.D., RN, HSIM, associate professor**

- “Mediating Effects of Positive Thinking and Social Support on Suicide Resilience,” Western Journal of Nursing Research, Feb. 1, (2018), with Dr. Mauricio Garnier-Villareal, College of Nursing; and D. Mattei-Anderson.
- “Mauricio Garnier-Villareal, Ph.D., research assistant professor”
- Exploring the Oregon Ovarian Risk Assessment Tool Within Health Parameters: A Latent Class Analysis,” Western Journal of Nursing Research, (2018), pp 1–16, with Dr. Donna McCarthy, College of Nursing; T. Hardy; R. Anderson; and R. Reynolds.
- “Health-related Quality of Life of Older Adults With Advanced Coaching Intervention to Promote Healthy Weight Gain in Pregnancy for Overweight and Obese Women,” American Nurse Credentialing Center.

**Mission Accomplished**

- Dr. Dora Clayton-Jones. CPNP-PC, successfully completed the 2017-2018 Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-related Research Institute — Functional and Translational Genomics of Blood Disorders (PRIDE-FTG) program. The PRIDE program is a research careenaavancing training opportunity funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The Augusta University PRIDE program focused on training scientists in research related to hemoglobin and red blood cell diseases. Clayton-Jones’s specific area of research is sickle cell disease to include optimizing self-management behaviors and health care transition.
“Using a Self-regulation Physical Activity Intervention to Improve Physical Function,” Medicina & Science in Sport & Exercise, Vol. 49, (2017), with W.C. Kuo; C.E. Babino; K. Meat; C. Mangan; E. Hammar; and R.J. Gretebeck.


Kristin Haglund, Ph.D., PNP, FNP, APN, associate professor


See entries for Dr. Norah Johnson and Dr. Madeline Schmidt.

Lisa Hanson, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM, professor
See entry for Dr. Karen Robinson.

Norah Johnson, Ph.D., RN, CNP, associate professor
“Autism and Research Study Magnetic Resonance Imaging,” Journal of Radiology Nursing, Vol. 36, No. 4, (2017), pp 248–252, with Dr. Amy Van Hecke and Dr. Iqbal Ahamed, College of Arts and Sciences, with Dr. Amy Van Hecke and Dr. Iqbal Ahamed, College of Arts and Sciences, with Dr. Amy Van Hecke and Dr. Iqbal Ahamed, College of Arts and Sciences, with Dr. Amy Van Hecke and Dr. Iqbal Ahamed, College of Arts and Sciences.


See entry for Dr. Marianne Weiss.

Abiola Keller, Ph.D., MPH, PA-C, assistant professor


Donna McCarthy, Ph.D., RN, professor
See entry for Dr. Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal.

Jane Miles, Ph.D., assistant professor

Karen Robinson, Ph.D., RN, CNM, assistant professor

Chris Schindler, Ph.D., RN, CPNP-AC/PC, WCC, clinical assistant professor

Madeline Schmidt, D.N.P., RN, APNP, clinical assistant professor

Kathryn Schoeter, Ph.D., RN, CNNE, CNOR, clinical associate professor


Margaret Sebem, Ph.D., RN, associate professor
“Does an Intervention Designed to Improve Self-management, Social Support and Awareness of Palliative Care Address Needs of Individuals with Heart Failure, Family Caregivers and Clinicians?,” Journal of Clinical Nursing, (2017), with Dr. Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal; College of Nursing; N. Sulemanjee; and C.J. Whittacher.

Lisa Thiemann, Ph.D., CRNA, APNP, FNP clinical associate professor, director of Nurse Anesthesia program

Marianne Weiss, D.N.S.C., RN, professor


Validation of the Registered Nurse Readiness for Hospital Discharge Scale (RN-RHDS), Nursing Research, Vol. 67, No. 4, (2018), pp 305–313, with K. Bobay; D.L. Oswald; and O. Yakusheva.

“Aimee Woda, Ph.D., RN, BC, assistant professor

Amber Young-Brice, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor

NOTE: Faculty publications/presentations are listed on the online faculty directory at marquette.edu/nursing/directory.
In the Marquette University College of Nursing, we’re preparing students to be highly skilled, clinically talented and leaders in a rapidly changing health care industry. With the new Health Care Data Analytics and Nurse Anesthesia programs, we’re offering programs that help students to inform care and understand the complexities while meeting the industry demands. And while we continue to innovate, what never wavers is the compassionate care of a Marquette Nurse.

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