

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2021



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

School of Nursing

# Message from the Interim Chair



## Greetings from the School of Nursing!

2021 has started out to be a great year. As we started the spring semester, student/faculty activity was slowly returning to campus. Yes, we were still wearing masks and social distancing, but we were also receiving the COVID vaccine. Several nursing students assisted with administering vaccines at Student Health Services this spring. What an awesome opportunity to be part of history and make an impact on individual lives and the community in general. Spring has not been without its challenges, but I see over the rainbow into brighter days. I am so proud to work with a phenomenal faculty and staff who have adjusted to required changes and continued to explore ways to create a learning environment for student success.

As Dr. McCleary-Jones transitioned into her new role, I felt very humble to step into the interim chair role and try to fill her shoes. I appreciate her continued support and the support of the faculty and staff in the School of Nursing. The search is moving forward for a new chair.

The search for a new University President was concluded with Richard Muma filling that role.

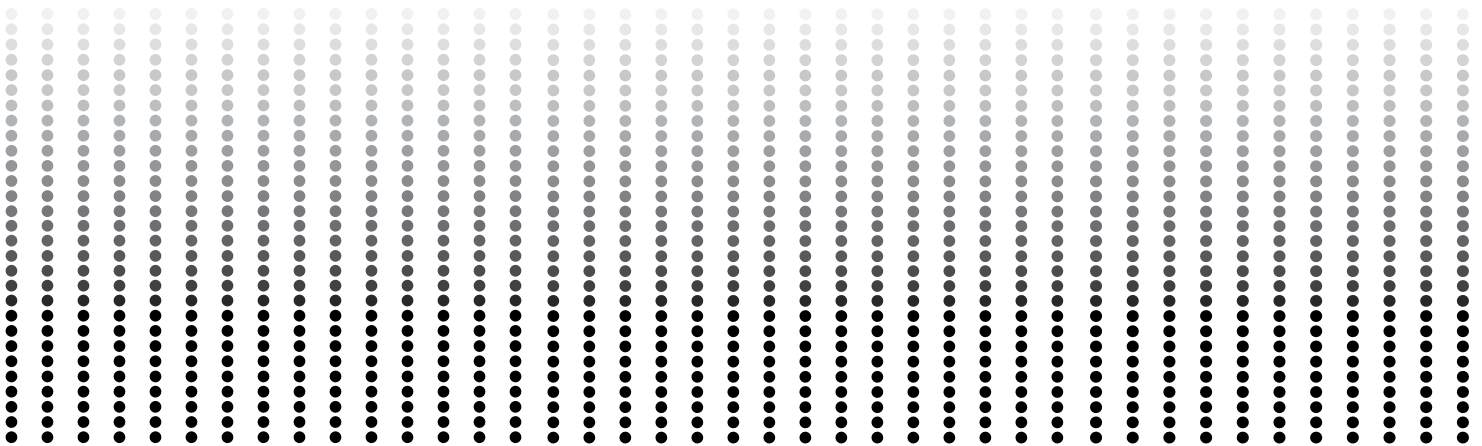
It is exciting to see more faculty, staff and students returning to campus. On June 1, all were encouraged to return to offices and classes on campus. With so many receiving the COVID vaccine, masking and social distancing practices can be relaxed. In the fall, we hope to see a more “normal” campus with regular classes, fewer zoom meetings and classes, and more hands-on labs for students.

I hope the end of this spring semester finds you excited to start traveling, attending social events, visiting family and friends and enjoying a beautiful Kansas summer. I am anxious to start the fall semester renewed, invigorated, and being able to look at entire faces, not just eyes.

Warmest wishes,

Dr. Debie Pile

Associate Professor and Interim Chair – School of Nursing



# School of Nursing Updates

## Foster family leaves \$2.2 million gift for nursing scholarships at Wichita State

The WSU Foundation received a generous gift of \$2.2 million from the trusts of Charlotte and Brian Foster to the Wichita State University School of Nursing. The Charlotte Foster and Brian Foster Nursing Scholarship will provide approximately \$80,000 in awards each year for nursing students. The scholarship will allow the School of Nursing to award both need-based scholarships, for those with financial limitations, and merit-based scholarships, to help recruit and retain high-performing students. It is not clear why the Fosters selected Wichita State to be the beneficiary of their estates, but what is certain is the powerful impact this gift will have on future WSU nursing students. We celebrate the generosity of the Foster family and know their legacy will live on as their scholarship helps educate the nursing students who will serve and care for countless people. [Read more](#) about the gift.

## School of Nursing supports local nurses

Throughout the past year the School of Nursing has made efforts to support our local nurses who are working tirelessly caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty and staff have come together to work on several initiatives to address challenges and provide support for nurses, including; assembling and delivering care packages to Wesley Medical Center and Ascension Via Christi; administering COVID-19 vaccines to health care workers; lending an ear and talking with nurses during debriefing sessions; collecting monetary donations; and launching a social media campaign promoting proper safety measures to prevent people from ending up in the hospital. Thank to our nurses and health care workers for the important work you are doing. You are greatly appreciated!



## Dedicated Education Unit at Wesley Medical Center

Wesley Medical Center has created a Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) for WSU nursing students. A DEU is a unit at the hospital devoted to nursing students, and a limited number of students are placed for their clinical experience. The DEU is Wesley and WSU's first collaborative effort to provide a robust and enhanced clinical rotation by pairing students with facility nurses who have been specially trained to mentor and supervise students. The students who have been selected for the DEU are Leslie Ortiz and Victoria Atkins.

## Virtual School of Nursing tour

The School of Nursing has created a [virtual tour](#) of Ahlberg Hall to connect with more potential students remotely. The tour takes viewers to various classrooms, labs, offices and more. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to participate!

## Departing faculty and staff

Assistant Professor Nicole Delimont and Undergraduate Program Coordinator Kelly Knitig have left the School of Nursing to pursue other endeavors. We wish them the best in their futures!

## Nursing faculty contributes to lactation book

Jolynn Dowling, Associate Educator and Janice M. Riordan Distinguished Professor in Maternal Child Health, contributed authorship to three chapters in the book "Lactation: A foundational strategy for health promotion."

1. Dowling, J. (2022). Key concepts of lactation as health promotion: Global and equity perspective. In Campbell, S. (Ed.), Lactation: A foundational strategy for health promotion. Jones & Bartlett Learning
2. Dowling, J. (2022). Community support: An exemplar. In Campbell, S. Baby friendly health initiatives: Framed as health promotion. In Campbell, S. (Ed.), Lactation: A foundational strategy for health promotion. Jones & Bartlett Learning
3. Taylor, R. & Dowling, J. (2022). Social policy and lactation. In Campbell, S. (Ed.), Lactation: A foundational strategy for health promotion. Jones & Bartlett Learning

To hear interviews with Jolynn and the other authors, visit the [University of British Columbia website](#). Jolynn's interview can be found in Chapter two.

# Student Updates

## Student wins Via Christi Quality Award

Nursing student Tiffany Nold received a Quality Award at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis in Wichita. Tiffany and her supervising CICU nurse Michelle Harper were recognized for a great catch after identifying an empty, sealed metoprolol packet and a separate metoprolol packet with two tablets inside. Pictured are Shannon Miller, WSU clinical instructor (left) and Mary Meadows, Cardiac ICU manager who nominated Tiffany.



## Students administer COVID-19 vaccines

Nursing students volunteered several days during the spring semester to help administer COVID-19 vaccines at the Student Wellness Center. On one particular day, four students gave 116 vaccinations in just a few hours!



## SON bulletin board

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Postbaccalaureate students created a bulletin board on the 5th floor of Ahlberg Hall that shows how nurses gave hope to others through the COVID-19 pandemic. Nursing students have done a great job representing nurses during the pandemic!



## Sherr Scholarship winner

Graduate student Lydia Schwertfeger was a recipient of the fourth annual Sam & Rosemary Sherr Scholarship. Every year each department in the College of Health Professions nominates one outstanding student for the Sherr Scholarship Award, which is the largest scholarship award in the College. Lydia is from Wichita and is in the family nurse practitioner program. She works full time at the Kansas Heart Hospital and volunteers with international students and children.



## Student spots misprint in textbook

Sara Swartzendruber's sharp eye found a misprint in a textbook that WSU nursing students read for class. With the support of faculty member Stephanie Nicks, they contacted the book representative with their concern and the author reached out directly to Sara to confirm the misprint and thank her for bringing it to their attention. Kudos to Sara for going above and beyond to understand a class concept. Not only did she identify the misprint, but she also took action to have it corrected. Her questioning is advocacy for education at its finest.

## Student featured on KSN News

Christina Shriver was featured in a [news story](#) on KSN TV. During the pandemic, Christina says she saw the need for more nurses and decided to go back to school to help fill in the gap. Christina will be graduating in July from the Accelerated BSN program.

## Student thanked by family of patient

Alyssa Hall received a very nice thank you note from a patient's family at Wesley hospital describing their appreciation for how well Alyssa communicated and translated clinical

data into understandable information. We are proud of Alyssa for taking the time to connect with her patients and provide the best care possible!

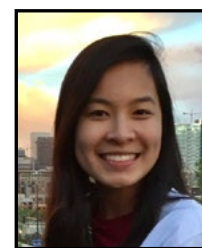
## School of Nursing Graduates

The School of Nursing had the following number of graduates from our programs in spring 2021. Congratulations to our graduates!

- ➔ Pre-Licensure BSN - 88
- ➔ RN to BSN - 11
- ➔ Postbaccalaureate DNP - 1
- ➔ Master of Science in Nursing - Education - 1

## Meet a Shocker Nursing Grad

Kathy Phan was able to create meaningful experiences and relationships at Wichita State with her



involvements on campus. She also says that during the COVID-19 pandemic she truly found her passion in caring for those in need and the nursing

profession. [Read more](#) about Kathy's experience at WSU.

## Shocker Career Accelerator feature

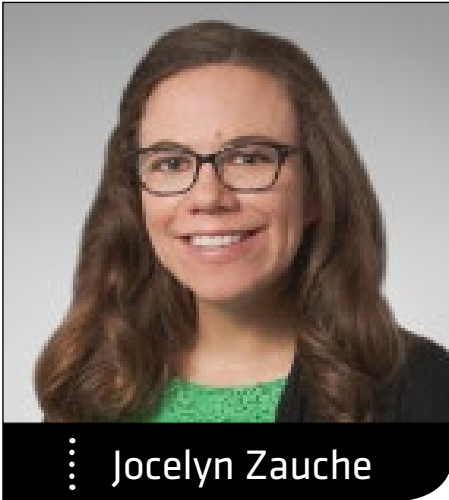
Shocker Career Accelerator gave nursing student Alyssa Hall a [shout out on social media](#) for accepting a job in the Trauma-Surgical ICU at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital.

## Graduates celebrate on social media

Britton Cloutier and JJ Gonzalez were among many WSU students and parents who were proud to celebrate their milestone on social media!



# Student Spotlight



Jocelyn Zauche has wanted to be a nurse since she was four years old. Growing up in western Kansas, her father was a pediatrician and spoke highly of the nurses he worked with, which helped inspire Jocelyn to pursue nursing. She attended nursing school at Bethel College in Newton, KS. Afterward she earned a degree in New Testament Theology, and then attended graduate school at the University of Colorado while working as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at a children's hospital. From there she moved to Kansas City to continue her work in pediatric oncology and earned her post-master's family nurse practitioner degree. She moved to Wichita three years ago to help start the pediatric oncology program at Wesley Children's Hospital.

"There was a need for more cancer care oncology care. In collaboration with doctors and the KU School of Medicine, we started the pediatric oncology program at Wesley," she says. "We have a great multi-disciplinary team consisting of physicians, a nurse practitioner, a social worker, clinical pharmacists, and nurses."

Jocelyn says she loves living in Wichita. She enjoys her job which provides her with many teaching opportunities training nurses, while still being able to work on the clinical side taking care of patients and performing procedures. Her vision is to provide more cancer treatment for Wichita.

"Today alone I had three patients drive over three hours for their treatment," she says. "Before the pediatric oncology program opened at Wesley, many patients had to drive even longer."

Jocelyn is in the DNP program at WSU. She appreciates the option to do school online and the opportunity to practice what she learns in class.

"As a current practitioner it's fun because we discuss a subject in class, and it can be put into action the next day at work," she says. "Looking at the whole of a patient hasn't changed, but I am thinking through things more critically than I did a year ago."

The DNP program has also given her the tools to think through and initiate quality improvement processes, a topic she is very passionate about.

After graduating, Jocelyn plans to continue her job at Wesley Children's Hospital. She would also like to become an adjunct faculty member, teaching pediatric classes at the graduate level.

Jocelyn's entire career has been in pediatric oncology, and she has worked with many special kids and families.

"Pediatric oncology can be fun and hard and challenging and heartbreaking. It's a very, very special privilege to walk along with a family through some of their hardest times," she says. "Our staff come to work to give, and often we realize the kids are imparting wisdom and kindness and love to us. Many families take a piece of your heart and even years later, random things will remind you of a patient."

Her advice for future nursing students is something a mentor once shared with her – when you stop crying, you stop caring.

"You don't need to be someone who cries a lot, but when you get to the point where you're callused, maybe you need to look for something else."

Jocelyn says a positive aspect about the pediatric oncology field is that the overall survival rate of kids with cancer is over 80%, which is much higher than it used to be. Although survival rates vary by cancer type, and the work of treating patients and raising awareness will never be done, it's encouraging to see the survival numbers improve over time.

In her spare time Jocelyn likes to run and walk with her dog. She also enjoys cooking and baking, and has a large brood of nieces and nephews who occasionally need spoiled. Jocelyn also describes herself as addicted to school. "I always say it's a cheaper addiction than drugs," she says with a laugh.

# Staff Spotlight



John Sandlin is the Online Academic Advisor for the RN to BSN program and dental hygiene degree completion program in the College of Health Professions. He is a Wichita native and a proud Shocker alum, earning his undergraduate degree in business administration from Wichita State.

John went to graduate school at Minnesota State, Mankato where he earned his master's degree in counseling and student personnel. His first job out of graduate school was in the Student Union at Kansas State University. In 1997 he came to work at WSU. For over 14 years he held various positions in Student Housing including Greek Life, programming, student conduct, occupancy, room assignments, and facilities management. He briefly left WSU for a couple of years to work at ITT Technical Institute. In 2014, the opportunity to come back to WSU opened up, and he started in his current role.

"I've been doing this ever since and I love it," he says. "This is home, my alma mater. I love WSU and always have. After choosing to go into this field, the option to come back here was wonderful."

In his position John works with current and prospective students in the RN to BSN Nursing program and the online dental hygiene degree completion program. He works on recruitment efforts and participates in events like community college visits and nursing career fairs. He also supports current students through their journey at WSU, from being admitted to finishing the program and graduating. John does lots of problem solving every day, helping students work through any issues or concerns. He truly enjoys helping students and having a close, personal connection with them.

He says it is very rewarding being able to help people further their education and advance professionally.

"I usually work with licensed nurses and licensed dental hygienists, and many of them have families and full lives outside of the classroom," he says. "It's really cool to see students finish the program and graduate every semester. I enjoy helping them reach the next step in their academic and professional lives."

John says the COVID-19 pandemic has helped him and his colleagues think outside the box to connect with potential students. During the past year he has done more Zoom and online presentations, and he foresees more virtual recruiting events moving forward. Reaching out virtually has also had unexpected benefits such as reaching a larger audience and more potential students.

One of the biggest changes John has seen through his career is the creation and growth of online education.

"When I was growing up online education was not a big thing. I still used a typewriter in college for my English Comp class," he says with a laugh. "So, it's amazing to see how things are now and how far technology has come."

John also says the Innovation Campus at WSU has been an exciting addition to the university and all the possibilities it provides students.

He says his favorite part about working at WSU is all the great people in Online Education, and in the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene department.

"All of the online academic advisors like being advocates for students and are in this profession for the right reasons," he says. "And being housed in the College of Health Professions and School of Nursing, I feel like these are my people. Health professions is a helping profession, and I feel like I fit right in."

When he is not working John enjoys spending time with his wife Kim, who also works at WSU as the Director of Student Success, and their 14-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter. The family enjoys walking, bike riding and family game nights. John enjoys the occasional round of golf and his favorite restaurants in town include Doo-Dah Diner, Saigon, and Tanya's Soup Kitchen. John and his family are also big Shocker fans and have had season basketball tickets for several years. He is excited for basketball games to return to Koch arena.

"It's so much fun to be in Koch arena with all the other Shocker fans and feel the energy and comradery. I have really missed that this past year."

# Alumni/Donor Spotlight



Carolyn Harrison

Carolyn Harrison is a retired nurse, Health Care Ethics Education Specialist, Wichita State alumna, and scholarship donor. She received her Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Missouri and Master of Nursing from WSU. Carolyn is passionate about patient advocacy and lectures extensively on end-of-life care and health care ethics.

Carolyn is one of eight children in her family from the rural town of Wardsville, MO. During her childhood Carolyn experienced two life-changing events that gave her firsthand experience being a patient in the hospital and influenced her to work in health care. At age four she was hit by a drunk driver while getting the mail on the country road near her house. She was in the hospital for a month with a skull fracture, broken ribs, and other injuries.

At age 15, Carolyn got her first job as a nurse's aide. She liked helping patients and became interested in medicine and nursing. When she was a junior in high school it was discovered that she had an enlarged heart, and she underwent open heart surgery to repair an atrial septal defect. After surgery she had complications that led to a respiratory infection because she never received pre-operating instructions that could have prevented the infection. The experience made her realize that better education and communication is needed between health care workers and patients. She remembers

many kind people during her stay in the hospital, but there was one unfriendly resident who left a negative impression, which taught her about the importance of having empathy toward patients.

Carolyn says going through these difficult experiences as a child and teenager helped pique her interest in nursing and pursue her education in health care.

Carolyn says her mother was also a huge influence in choosing her career path. She encouraged her children to pursue their education and made many sacrifices so they could achieve their future goals.

"My mother, who graduated with an eighth-grade education, encouraged me to take the SAT and ACT in high school, and said I should apply to college," she says. "She was my mentor and encouraged me to pursue my interests."

Carolyn attended the University of Missouri and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing. Her career took her to the University of Kansas Medical Center, where she worked in labor and delivery and became head nurse of the postpartum unit. She met her husband, Paul Harrison (a retired surgeon), when he was a medical student. They married in 1974 and moved to Wichita, where she worked at Wesley Medical Center and taught Lamaze childbirth classes and nursing education in obstetrics.

Carolyn completed her master's degree from WSU in 1981. She says it was a very challenging time in her life going to school while working and raising children. Despite the challenges, she enjoyed working with other graduate students in her classes and says that going to WSU was the best decision for her.

Carolyn and Paul have three daughters and five grandchildren. They are pleased to support WSU students through the Hermina 'Minnie' Fitzpatrick Endowed Scholarship for students majoring in nursing and the Paul and Carolyn Harrison Scholarship for students majoring in a health-care related field or pre-medicine.

"We both worked our way through college and know how hard it is to work and go to school full-time," she says. "If a student doesn't have as many financial worries, they can concentrate on their studies better."

Carolyn says one of the best things about the nursing profession is the flexibility and ability to evolve. Nurses can graduate and continue onto other roles like traveling nurses, teaching, writing, Physician Assistant, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, doctor, and more. Nursing can also lead to other areas of health care.

"With my degree in Nursing I could pursue my interest in health care ethics and now teach patients and healthcare professionals about serious illness conversations and end of life care," she says. "Nobody teaches you how to deal with death. The role of a nurse at bedside is so important."

Carolyn serves on various community boards: WSU National Advisory Council, College of Health Professions Dean's Advisory Council, Alzheimer's Association Conference Committee, and Wesley Medical Center Ethics Committee. She is also chair of the TPOPP (Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences) group, an initiative to help patients, families, and healthcare professionals document conversations about end-of-life decisions and wishes for patients with advanced chronic illness and terminal illnesses.

"This project has been very worthwhile to me. It has helped persons discuss end of life wishes, spurred health care professionals to get better at having conversations with patients about trajectory of illnesses, progress of diseases and what to expect in the future."

In her spare time Carolyn enjoys gardening, traveling, reading (she's in two book clubs), bicycling, walking, and cooking. She and Paul also love to go fly fishing, and particularly enjoy traveling to Colorado to enjoy the outdoors and scenery.

# Message to Alumni & Friends

Alumni - we want to hear from you! There are many reasons to stay in touch and be involved. Keep your lifelong relationship with Wichita State and the School of Nursing a strong one. We encourage you to:

- ➔ **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.** We want to make sure you receive the latest news, invitations to events, department updates and more.
- ➔ **KEEP US UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS.** Send your achievements and news to [chpcontent@wichita.edu](mailto:chpcontent@wichita.edu) for promotion on social media and in upcoming newsletters.
- ➔ **ATTEND UNIVERSITY AND ALUMNI EVENTS.** These events are a great opportunity to network and reconnect with fellow alumni.
- ➔ **CONNECT AND ENCOURAGE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WSU NURSES THROUGH YOUR EXPERIENCES.** This is an important way in which your leadership can help further the nursing profession and the School of Nursing at WSU.
- ➔ **CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION WITH US.** Stand out and take your nursing career to the next level.

Let us know what's happening with you by emailing the following information to [chpcontent@wichita.edu](mailto:chpcontent@wichita.edu). Thank you for sharing!

Name:

Class:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Tell us about yourself. Where are you living, what are you doing in your career and what are your future plans?

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