

## **Carr College of Nursing History**

By May 2022 over 1,700 alumni of the Carr College of Nursing were practicing in the United States and all over the world. Numerous graduates have, or are pursuing, masters and doctoral degrees in nursing.

The development of the Carr College of Nursing, from the inception of the idea to educate nurses to the fully developed program, has been a continuing effort by Harding University. A strong pre-nursing curriculum was offered at Harding College in the late 1940's. In the fall of 1972, administrative officers of the College became interested in developing a baccalaureate degree in nursing to meet the needs of students who chose to attend a Christian college.

A feasibility study for a nursing program was undertaken in July, 1972 by Dr. James F. Carr, Jr., the Assistant to the Dean of Harding College, and members of the science faculty. A critical nursing shortage and a scarcity of educational programs to prepare baccalaureate graduates were evidenced. The administration, consistent with its philosophy of service, proceeded with the necessary steps to establish a new program to help meet those needs. Support and endorsement were given by the Harding College Science and Pre-Medical Advisory Council, as well as other interested friends at Harding. Letters of support came not only from sister junior colleges, but also from health care facilities and healthcare providers in the immediate area.

The Harding College Board of Trustees approved the program development in November, 1972, followed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing in May, 1973. A. Michele Warren, M.S.N., served as the first chairman of the nursing program. For the school year 1975-76 two other faculty were employed. They were Elissa Lane (Miller), M.N.Sc., and Louise Truex (Bradford), M.S.N. In the fall of 1975 the first class of 56 students was admitted into the upper level of nursing major. The nursing program was organized as a Department of Nursing Education in the Division of Natural Science.

In 1976 nine more faculty were added. The second class was admitted in the fall of 1976, making a total enrollment of about 100 students. The first class of 48 students, including two registered nurses, was graduated in May, 1977. The name of the program was changed to the Department of Nursing in the fall of 1977 and Cathleen M. Smith became the Chairman, with 15 full-time faculty members.

Harding College became Harding University in August, 1979 and with this change, the program became the School of Nursing and its chief administrative officer became the Dean. Mrs. Cathleen Smith Shultz, the Chairman of the Division of Nursing, was appointed the first Dean.

Faculty development continued to be a characteristic of the School. In 1980, Harding was the first Arkansas nursing program to have all masters prepared faculty. Cathleen M. Smith received a Ph.D. in 1983, becoming the first faculty member to receive a doctoral degree. By the fall of 1984, two faculty had doctoral degrees, and seven of nine faculty members had masters degrees. Louise Truex Bradford received her Ed.D. in 1986. By the fall of 1999, three faculty had doctoral degrees, three had doctoral degrees in progress, and all others had masters degrees. Several were nationally certified in their specialties.

In April of 1980 the School of Nursing received notification from the National League for Nursing (NLN) that the School had received the maximum accreditation length of eight years. NLN changed to the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) which continued to award accreditation through 2020. In 2016 the Carr College of Nursing changed accrediting bodies and was approved for accreditation by The Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for both the

BSN and FNP MSN programs. After a fall 2021 CCNE visit all Carr College of Nursing programs were granted full accreditation for an additional 10 years.

Student involvement in the Carr College of Nursing has been present since its inception. The Harding Student Nurse Association was organized in 1976 and is an active chapter at the state level; the name was changed in 1997 to Harding Nursing Student Association because the title of “nurse” became a protected title. Several Harding nursing students have served as state officers. Students are selected each year to sit on several faculty committees and submit input from the student perspective. Epsilon Omicron, a Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society chapter, was incorporated in 1980. The organization promotes nursing scholarship and has annually held nursing workshops.

During these developing years, the faculty and students in nursing have, through committee work, developed principles and procedures to guide students while enrolled in nursing. The results of the faculty and student deliberation have been compiled into a Handbook for the Carr College of Nursing for the benefit of present and incoming students. The *HCCN Student Handbook* does not replace the *Harding University Student Handbook*, but has been developed to enhance and give specific information to nursing majors.

## Highlights by Year

### • 2021-2022

The Carr College of Nursing faculty continue to offer the highest quality graduate and undergraduate nursing degrees. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program offers a thriving, traditional four-year degree. As an initiative of Harding Online, the dean and BSN faculty are actively partnering with Orbis Education to launch an Accelerated BSN in Rogers, AR to start in January 2023. The ABSN program will be offered as a hybrid format. The classes are planned asynchronously, and the laboratory experiences, simulation and clinical will be planned in the Rogers facility and regional clinical sites. The course exams will be proctored at the Harding Rogers facility. During the 2021 – 2022 academic year, the Dean led the pre-requisite course faculty and the first semester BSN faculty in collaboration with Orbis instructional designers to plan the highest quality online course delivery.

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program offers the MSN degree, a second MSN degree option and a Post-Graduate Certificate as an FNP. The Master’s Entry into Professional Nursing (MEPN) MSN program was launched in the fall of 2021. There are two tracks in the MEPN program. The traditional track requires the applicant to have an undergraduate degree, and completion of nursing prerequisites. The second track, Early MEPN (EMEPN), admits students with 90 credit hours and the prerequisites into the program. The fall 2021 MEPN initial cohort was 26 students, and was stronger than expected. The master’s foci of the MEPN program are healthcare administration and leadership. The 1032 planned clinical hours will prepare the MEPN graduate for the national licensing exam. The graduates will become Registered Nurses (RNs) after successfully passing the licensing exam, and after direct patient care experience, will be positioned to have a facilitated trajectory into leadership roles or advanced practice roles in the first three to five years of their professional careers.

## Faculty Achievements

- Dr. Karen Kelley completed the requirements for her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Central Arkansas in May 2022
- Dr. Debora Nutt, DNP, RN was given a Harding University Teacher Achievement Award in April 2022
- The following faculty were promoted to Associate Professor in 2021 – 2022:
  - Dr. Kim Cooper, DNP, RN, CNE

- Dr. Juli Lane, DNP, RN, CNE, SANE-P
- Dr. Susan Clouse Smith, DNP, APRN, PNP, FNP-BC
- Dr. Kim Swenson, DNP, RN, RNC-MNN
- Dr. Elizabeth Thomason, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
- Ms. Jackie Harris was chosen as a 2022 Arkansas Nurse Educator of the Year Nominee
- Mrs. Kristen McCook was admitted to the DNP program at Vanderbilt University
- Dr. Susan Kehl, PhD, RN, CNE was trained as a Federal Compliance Reviewer, and continues to accept assignments from the Higher Learning Commission.

### **Student Achievements**

- Taylor Conaway, a first-year Early Master's Entry into Professional Nursing (EMEPN) was elected as the Arkansas Student Nursing Association (ASNA) President. Later, the year, was then elected as the National Student Nursing Association (NSNA) President. She is currently serving as the leader of both the ANSA and NSNA.
- Malorie Laferriere, a first-year EMEPN student, was elected as Secretary of the ASNA.
- Ai Kondo, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student was given a 2022 BSN Future leader award by the Arkansas Center for Nursing
- Over spring break, two MEPN students, Dr. Greg Brooks, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC and Physician Assistant faculty and students worked in Guatemala with staff from Health Talents.
- During spring break, two BSN students and Mr. Jerry Myhan, MSN, APRN (retired faculty) conducted a health care mission trip in Nicaragua.
- Mrs. Ronda Reely, MSN, RN led 6 BSN students and two RNs to Chimala Mission Hospital in Tanzania, East Africa. The group worked in the acute settings and clinics for four weeks in May and June. Dr. Greg Brooks traveled with Harding in Zambia with the Communication and Sciences Disorders program to assess the future trips at that site.

### **In Fall 2021, the Harding Nursing Student Association (HNSA):**

- Hosted the virtual ANSA (Arkansas Nursing Students' Association) Convention for students. Organized viewing rooms for students attending a virtual conference to allow in-person collaboration and engagement in various topics virtually presented by guest speakers.
- Three HCCN students were named to the ANSA Board of Directors: President, Secretary, District 2 Director.
- Completed a hygiene product/first aid supply/basic OTC medication drive benefiting Mission Machine, a local non-profit for homeless individuals. A pizza party prize for the nursing cohort with greatest participation was awarded.

### **In Spring 2022, the HNSA:**

- Launched a textbook drive for new nursing school in Zambia. Received donations from current and former students, faculty, and the University library.
- Completed a blanket and comfort item drive for Child Safety Center in Searcy in honor of a classmate tragically lost in an automobile accident.
- Nine students and two faculty advisors attended National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) convention in Salt Lake City, UT
- HNSA's resolution "In support of standardized oral care in long term care facilities" was unanimously adopted
- HCCN MEPN student named as NSNA President 2021-2022

### **College Achievements**

The Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) approved the BSN and FNP MSN programs for initial accreditation in 2016. In September 2021, CCNE sent a team of nurse leaders to

once again review the quality of the BSN and MSN programs and tracks. The review team documented full compliance with all the standards and key elements of CCNE in September, and the CCNE Board voted in May 2022 to renew full accreditation for all undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at Harding for 10 years (2031)! The organized work of the faculty and dean, and diligent attention to a culture of continuous quality improvement of the dean, faculty and students are reflected in these outstanding results.

### **Assessment Highlights**

- The 2021 BSN first-time licensing exam pass rate was 97.9% and was significantly above the national first-time pass rate of 86.06%.
- The five-year (2017 – 2021) BSN first-time licensing exam pass rate is 98.8%.
- The 2021 FNP certification rate was 91.30%. Decreases in the national average have been noted since the pandemic. This is first time any Harding FNP graduate did not pass on the first attempt.
- The five-year (2017 – 2021) FNP certification rate is 97.5%, and is well above the national certification rate.
- The 2021 employment rate for graduates of the BSN and FNP programs are 100%.
- In 2021, 100% of full-time pre-licensure nursing faculty participate in patient care in clinical settings or provide supervision for students' clinical experiences to inform clinical and simulation planning and currency for practice.
- In 2021, 100% of full-time Family Nurse Practitioner faculty engaged in clinical practice throughout the year to inform curricular and clinical planning for the FNP and PGC programs.

We ask for prayers for the faculty, staff, students and families of the Carr College of Nursing. We tragically lost two BSN students and 1 recent FNP graduate in 2022 due to motor vehicle accidents. We have sought to honor these students' memory, and to continue to pray for the families of these missed individuals.

- **2020-2021**

The Carr College of Nursing faculty continues to offer the highest quality graduate and undergraduate nursing degrees. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program offers two tracks, a traditional four-year degree, and an accelerated second-degree BSN. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program offers the MSN degree, a second MSN degree option and a Post-Graduate Certificate as an FNP. The dean submitted a feasibility study to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for initial approval for a Master's Entry into Professional Nursing (MEPN) program. This is the first MEPN program in the state. The initial approval was earned in September 2020. The approved MEPN program plans for two tracks. The traditional track requires the applicant to have an undergraduate degree and completion of nursing prerequisites. The second track, Early MEPN (EMEPN), allows students with 90 credit hours and the prerequisites to apply to the program. This approval allowed the newly appointed director, Dr. Debora Nutt, DNP, RN, to recruit the first cohort of MEPN students to begin on August 23, 2021. The Lord blessed the faculty and students with protection from serious illness while serving in clinical settings despite the pandemic. While clinical opportunities for students closed in March of 2020, all students were permitted to practice again in diverse clinical settings beginning in September 2020. The dean and faculty created COVID-19 policies to protect the students, faculty, staff and vulnerable patients that the students and faculty encountered. In August 2020, the students are returned to more clinical sites that opened as the pandemic spread. New terms such as "COVID capacity" applied to social distancing in classrooms and laboratories. Enormous amounts of personal protective equipment was ordered to keep faculty and students safe. The faculty and students were prayerful as the fall semester began in this new era.

## **Faculty Achievements**

Nursing faculty continue to lead and serve diligently in the classroom and clinical settings.

Additional achievements of the faculty include:

- Dr. Kimberly Cooper completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Grand Canyon University in June 2021.
- Dr. Juli Lane completed her DNP from the University of Central Arkansas in May 2021.
- Dr. Elizabeth Thomason completed her DNP from Arkansas State University in May 2021.
- Kristen McCook, APRN, FNP-BC was admitted to Vanderbilt University's DNP program in August 2021.
- Dr. Susan Kehl was promoted to Professor in April 2021.
- Ronda Reely, MSN, RN received a Harding University Center for Health Sciences Teacher Achievement Award and Deanna Nowakowski, MBA received a Staff Achievement Award in April 2021.
- Nursing faculty worked with Medic Sav-On Drugs to administer Pfizer vaccine to the Nursing students in two planned clinics. Several Nursing faculty administered vaccine in the College of Pharmacy clinics in the spring.
- Karen Garner, MSN, RN, Jessica Gardner, APRN, APNP-BC and Dr. Kim Swenson, DNP, RN worked to earn The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) certification.
- Jeanie Burt, MSN, MA, RN completed Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) requirements and Certified Montessori Dementia Care Professional (CMDCP) requirements in June 2021.
- Dr. Susan Kehl completed four Higher Learning Commission (HLC) peer reviewer assignments which included participation on two virtual comprehensive team visits. She completed training (July 2021) as a Federal Compliance Reviewer for HLC.

## **College Achievements**

- The BSN program 1<sup>st</sup> time licensing exam pass rate and 5-year average is the highest in the state.
- The FNP program celebrated 24 graduates in May 2021.
- The FNP program has a five-year first-time certification rate of 97.4% (76/78 graduates).
- The MEPN application cycle completed contact with 280 potential students.
- The MEPN director and faculty offered 31 applicants admission and 26 students accepted.
- The MEPN program has 12 students in the EMEPN track, and 14 students from AR, AZ, CA, PA, TN, TX and WA in the traditional MEPN track.

## **Student Achievements**

- Kaylen Martin Holmes, BSN, RN (2018) was admitted to East Tennessee State University to study medicine.
- Shami Fowler, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC (2020) owns her clinical practice in Valiant, OK
- All thirty of the May 2021 BSN graduates passed the national licensing exam on the first attempt.
- BSN Students elected to the Arkansas Nursing Student Association Board of Directors to lead state-wide initiatives:
  - Haley Mills, President
  - Reece Goudeau, Breakthrough to Nursing Director
  - Ashlynn Jones, Secretary

## **Assessment Highlights**

- The 2020 BSN first time licensing pass rate is 97.8% and completion rate is 84.91%.
- The 2020 MSN FNP national certification rate is 100% and completion rate is 91.67%.
- The 2020 BSN employment rate is 100% and FNP employment rate is 95.6%.
- The MEPN Assessment Plan was approved by the Arkansas Board of Nursing.
- A formalized remediation policy was developed in the BSN program due to the faculty evaluation of student scores on standardized sub-specialty exams.

- **2019-2020**

In the midst of the unexpected pandemic, the faculty, staff, students and graduates of the Carr College of Nursing continued to thrive and realize goals, dreams and aspirations. In March 2020, the university faced the unprecedented situation of the pandemic of COVID-19. The clinical sites and clinics were closed for undergraduate and graduate students in the Carr College of Nursing. Both the Arkansas Board of Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education allowed the spring semester to be completed in an online format. Nursing faculty and students worked tirelessly to complete content and clinical contact hours with virtual strategies. New software tools such as Human and Shadow Health were used for students to practice clinical judgment on patients. University Mission Trips were canceled, which included planned trips to Guatemala (for the first time during spring break and with FNP students), Tanzania and Cambodia. We are prayerful God will open the door for continued efforts in these areas.

Fifty-one Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates completed degree requirements in the 2019 – 2020 academic year. The first attempt pass rate by BSN graduates (98.03%) from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 was excellent. The five year pass rate remains the first in the state of Arkansas (99.2%), and far exceeds the national pass rate of BSN graduates (91.2%). Graduates continue to secure hospital positions of their choosing all over the country. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program graduated the largest class since the initiation of the program in 2015. 23 MSN graduates completed the degree requirements in May 2020, and we are thrilled to report that 100% passed the national certification exam on the first attempt. This is the fourth year of a perfect pass rate of the MSN FNP graduates. They continue to secure jobs of their choosing with remarkable compensation as new Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

### **Faculty Achievements**

Four of our full-time faculty are currently teaching and pursuing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees. These faculty are preparing to teach in our future graduate nursing programs. Two of our faculty, Dr. Dona Clarin, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC and Dr. Greg Brooks, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC were nominated for the 2020 Outstanding Nurse Educator Award in the state of Arkansas. Faculty continue to present on selected nursing and health topics in the region and in the state.

Dr. Greg Brooks was presented with a 2019-2020 Harding University Center for Health Sciences Teacher Achievement Award.

In April of 2020, Ms. Karen Kelley was honored in a very special way. The current Harding University yearbook was dedicated to her. HCCN is thrilled for this tireless servant leader to be recognized for her life and ways.

The faculty sponsors, Kim Swenson, DNP, RN and Kim Cooper, MSN, RN, of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, attended the Biennial Sigma National Convention as chapter delegates. The Carr College of Nursing chapter, Epsilon Omicron, was recognized for Excellence in Collaboration in the Presidential Call to Action. This recognition was based on our nursing faculty annual collaboration with Arkansas State University for the faculty and student Research Day. This event is planned each spring.

I am grateful for the leadership, service and sacrifice the faculty demonstrated in the spring of 2020. They each went to extraordinary measures to ensure that the students continued to develop clinical judgment and knowledge to care for their future patients. The firm evidence of this commitment is demonstrated by the strong spring student standardized exam scores in the sub-specialties and on the comprehensive RN exit exam along with excellent licensing and certification outcomes.

### **Student Achievements**

Four graduating BSN students completed honors synthesis projects in the NURS 4620 Nursing Capstone experience. Two of the BSN students, worked with Harding's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) project begun by Christy Swaid, and led locally by Britney Finley, Ed. D. The pair developed 12 HEAL newsletters (to be distributed in 2021) for faculty and staff at Harding. Each

newsletter contains information and tools to promote the health culture at the university through education and the practice of a healthy lifestyle.

Two of our Harding Nursing Student Association (HNSA) members were elected to serve and lead in state positions. Our HNSA chapter is the largest in AR, and provides valuable leadership and professional development for the students.

The FNP graduates prepared quality improvement community health projects in their final clinical course last spring. Each graduate demonstrated an understanding of population health and outcomes to be measured in primary care settings. These projects were developed as tools to measure, evaluate and improve the quality of their future advanced practice in nursing.

### **College Achievements**

In September 2019, the Arkansas Board of Nursing (ASBN) granted the College of Nursing the pre-requisite approval to initiate the Master's Entry into Professional Nursing (MEPN) in the fall of 2021. This program will be the first of a kind in the state. The program will admit graduates with any degree (BA or BS) with nursing pre-requisites or undergraduate students with at least 90 credit hours and the nursing pre-requisites. This 3+2 track in nursing will be the first in the nation, and the ASBN sought special approval from the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing in Chicago. Kehl then developed the first year syllabi with course and program materials for a second ASBN review this fall. After the second phase of approval, MEPN student recruiting will begin. Dr. Deborah Nutt, DNP, RN was appointed as the MEPN Director this month. She, Kehl and faculty will complete the development of the curriculum, plan the systematic evaluation plan for accreditation and the assessment processes to ensure continual quality improvement of the new program. The developing MEPN materials can be accessed at <https://www.harding.edu/academics/colleges-departments/nursing/other/asbn-mepn>

### **Assessment Highlights**

The Nursing Anatomy & Physiology courses improved the freshmen and sophomore retention and student satisfaction. The licensing, certification, completion and employment rates remain at or above the expected levels of achievement set by the faculty. The faculty continue to analyze other program outcomes such as student, graduate, faculty and employer satisfaction, student academic achievement and aggregate faculty outcomes in teaching, scholarship and service. All the program outcomes are analyzed by the faculty each spring based on calendar year data.

The ASBN and the national nursing accreditor, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) have allowed programs in nursing unusual freedom to meet curricula requirements in the midst of the pandemic. Temporarily, the ASBN will allow programs of nursing to use high-fidelity simulation in greater than 50% of the required clinical hours. The BSN program currently plans 25% simulation in the total clinical hours in 2020. Faculty worked in spring and summer to make alternate plans to increase simulation if needed due to many possibilities related to the virus. The direct care clinical hours established by CCNE are not flexible in the MSN FNP program. However, since our clinical requirement exceeds the minimum requirements, our MSN FNP graduates completed the program in May 2020 despite clinics closing in the spring. Students began this August to actively engage in clinical experiences and the graduate nursing faculty continue to provide quality distance instruction

- **2017-2019**

The BSN faculty and students have continued with excellence in academics, service and leadership. The BSN program completed the fourth year as measured by the Arkansas Board of Nursing with a 100% licensing exam pass rate. The students continue to seek excellent RN positions in Arkansas, neighboring states, Mayo Clinic and Vanderbilt, as well as other diverse locations.

The service of health care mission trips continues to be a strength of program. The students participated in trips to Haiti, Guatemala, Tanzania, Cambodia and Thailand. The Harding University in Zambia program is growing and led by a nursing faculty member.

The Harding Nursing Student Association (HNSA) is strong and vibrant. As the largest chapter in the state, the leaders continue to participate at state and national levels. The HNSA students participated in a mission fund raiser and gifted the International Health Care Foundation (IHCF) with a monetary gift. There are currently several state leadership positions filled by BSN students. Finally, many traveled to Salt Lake City to participate in the national convention.

In 2018, Dr. Patricia Smith was appointed the BSN Director and Dr. Greg Brooks was named the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. The leadership team in the college and BSN program is strong and collaborative. In 2019, two BSN faculty completed their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees: Dr. Lisa Engel and Dr. Kim Swenson. Three additional faculty began their DNP degrees in the summer of 2019.

- **2016-2017**

A passion for the profession of nursing is shared by faculty and students in the Carr College of Nursing. Nurses are honored to assist patients and their families in simple and complex ways in diverse circumstances. When nurses are committed to excellence in patient care, we believe nurses are loving their neighbors as the Lord commanded. The demanding professional lives of nurses in student, professional practice or advanced practice roles become meaningful journeys when the Lord is honored.

The commitment of the college of nursing to excellence and continuous quality improvement is acknowledged by the Arkansas Board of Nursing state approval and the new national accreditation given by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Effective September 2016, CCNE accredited the newest Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Post-Graduate Certificate (PGC) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. CCNE serves higher education institutions and healthcare organizations throughout the United States.

The first class of eight FNP graduates finished the programs in May 2017. Last spring, a total of 30 graduate nursing students were enrolled at Harding, and 42 will be enrolled this fall. The graduate nursing programs are delivered by hybrid, distance strategies. With faculty assistance, the students seek clinical placement in his or her state of residence. Faculty maintain weekly contact with students and preceptors. Faculty will visit each clinical site at least once a semester. Students are required to attend five week-long intensives on campus during their studies.

To earn CCNE accreditation, the nursing programs must strive for a culture of continuous quality improvement. To measure quality improvement, each program, BSN, MSN and PGC, has ten program outcomes (POs) that are evaluated annually by faculty. The program outcomes are student completion rates, licensing/certification rates, employment rates, achievement, satisfaction, alumni achievement, employer satisfaction, and aggregate faculty outcomes in teaching, scholarship and service. Faculty in each program have established eight student learning outcomes (SLOs) that are evaluated by students' class assignments, testing and clinical proficiency. As curricula are refined by annual analyses, increased use of current evidenced-based content and teaching strategies are implemented. The BSN program has experienced 2.5 years of 100% pass rates of graduates for the national licensing exam, the NCLEX-RN™,™, as a result of the program outcome and student learning outcome evaluation process.



The leadership and service of faculty and students in the college give meaning to the myriad details of the continuous quality requirements. Each week, approximately 170 undergraduate and graduate students in the college will care for patients in various clinical settings. There are 864 clinical hours in the BSN program and 720 clinical hours in the MSN and PGC programs. Clinical activities domestically and abroad are closely aligned with the mission of the college and university. Nursing faculty and students make annual trips to Guatemala, Haiti, Tanzania, Cambodia and Thailand. Nursing faculty serve and lead in the Harding University in Zambia program. The worldview and faith of faculty and students broadens and matures as they care for patients in international settings.

Finally, the founding Dean of the Carr College of Nursing, Dr. Cathleen Shultz, began a legacy of professional leadership and service. Each student in the college is a member of the National Student Nurses Association. Under the leadership and guidance of faculty sponsors, the Harding Student Nurses Association is actively involved at local, state and national levels. There are currently five Harding BSN students leading and serving as officers at the state level. The chapter received Stellar Chapter recognition at the national convention in Dallas in April 2017. The students lead and serve in promoting the profession of nursing at Harding and surrounding communities.

- **2015-2016**

This academic year was productive for the faculty, staff and students at the Carr College of Nursing. The most notable achievement was the initiation of the graduate nursing programs in the fall of 2015. Seventeen students part-time, full-time students were admitted to the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN), the Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) or the second MSN. Preparation for the advanced practice role as a Family Nurse Practitioner is the focus of all programs. The MSN degree is 45 credit hours in length with 720 required clinical hours. With full-time status, the length of the program is five semesters and with part-time status, the length is eight semesters. Courses are offered in the fall, spring and summer semesters. Four of the full-time faculty at the college teach in the program and with one adjunct faculty. In the fall of 2016, as many as 37 students, will be enrolled in the program.

The graduate nursing programs implement distance education with mixed online instruction and face-to-face faculty and student experiences. The students will visit campus on five occasions for one-week campus intensives. Course orientations, final exams and laboratory instruction are planned during these intensives. The students and faculty work to secure clinical preceptors in the student's local areas. The students and faculty communicate weekly, and faculty travel to the clinical site at least once a semester.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program had a year of significant accomplishments. In 2015, all graduates of the BSN program passed the licensing exam the first time, a 100% pass rate. There were 37 graduates and 54 admitted to the BSN program in fall 2015 and spring 2016. There are 15 full-time faculty who teach in the program and 13 part-time clinical faculty who lead clinical groups. Five of the nine BSN clinical course coordinators began using high-fidelity simulation. These experiences involve realistic student participation in safe nursing practice. Students are required to make decisions, communicate with interprofessional health care team members, implement interventions and administer medications safely. The course coordinator of NURS 4550 Nursing Leadership and Management implemented a multiple patient simulation experience and a new clinical immersion within that course. Senior students are paired with a preceptor in the hospital to learn how to care for multiple patients during a twelve-hour shift. The faculty believe this preparation will ease the transition of the new graduate nurses to professional practice in the hospitals.

The faculty and students are involved in notable service and leadership opportunities. Faculty and students participated in health care missions trips to Haiti, Guatemala, Tanzania, Cambodia and Thailand. A new nursing faculty member was hired to lead the Harding University in Zambia (HIZ), East Africa each fall. Jessica Gardner, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC will lead sophomore students in the semester-long HIZ experience.

The Harding Nursing Student Association (HNSA) is an active organization with leadership and service opportunities for all students. HNSA is involved locally, in the state and at the national levels. Last spring in Orlando, Florida, three students presented a resolution to the House of Delegates at the National Student Nursing Convention. Their resolution contained support of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) simulation in undergraduate nursing education to decrease the number of missed RRT calls in hospital settings. This implementation will increase new graduate competency on the activation of RRTs.

- **2014-2015**

I (Dr. Susan Kehl) was honored to begin the position of Dean of the Carr College of Nursing on June 1, 2014. Dr. Cathleen Shultz left a foundation of excellence in the college. The faculty and I have prayerfully collaborated during this year to continue the development of our nursing students as Christian servants.

During this year, two major reports were submitted and approved. The undergraduate program received full approval from the Arkansas Board of Nursing (ASBN). Secondly, the program received continuing accreditation from the Accreditation Commission of Education in Nursing (ACEN). Both of these reports were essential for our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates attaining national licensure as registered nurses, and then attending graduate programs in the future.

The faculty and I worked diligently during the year to evaluate the BSN curriculum and the admission standards. We updated the sequence of the nine clinical courses, and revised the admission criteria in efforts to prepare students for the rigors of the program.

We plan to open a Family Nurse Practitioner Master of Science in Nursing program this fall. The program will be taught on line with the students attending campus event three times each year. The graduate faculty are currently admitting the initial class.

We are prayerfully working to both challenge and encourage the students in their goals and dreams of professional nursing. We appreciate your prayers, support, and gifts throughout the year. The beautiful Swaid facility is a blessing to faculty and students every day. We weekly use simulation laboratory equipment provided by the generosity of those that support the mission of the college. We seek the Lord's wisdom in order to honor Him in all we do, and hope these behaviors communicate our gratitude to our generous students, alumni and friends.

We currently have 15 full-time nursing faculty, and one full-time opening. We have been blessed this year with new experienced faculty committed to the mission of Harding University. Dr. Dona Clarin began last summer as the FNP Director, and Dr. Debby Nutt began in August as full-time faculty in the BSN program. Later in January, Dr. Greg Brooks began as the Associate Dean, Shari Wells as FNP faculty, and Lisa Engel began teaching Women's Health in the BSN program. An additional update is the appointment of Dr. Cheryl Lee to Assistant Dean of Clinical Education. Several part-time Clinical Faculty guided and mentored our students in safe direct patient care in many facilities in the region.

Karen Kelley leads the Community Health clinical course and supervises students in major community events. She and students conduct a Wellness Screening each semester for the Harding campus employees. She helps to organize a community wide simulation in Disaster response. All pertinent community responders participate. This spring, Dr. Jenene Alexander led an excellent debriefing session on crisis de-escalation.

Through the dedicated leadership of Jerry Myhan and Janice Bingham, Healthcare Missions remains a vital part of the service of the Carr College of Nursing. This year there are 70 nursing students also minoring in Healthcare Missions. Last fall, Janice led a large student group to spend the semester at Harding University in Zambia (HIZ). This spring, five nursing majors joined other medical and nursing professionals for a surgical clinic in Guatemala. Nine nursing and pre-nursing majors joined Dr. Clarin and other professionals to host community clinics and health education sessions in Haiti. Additionally, the Haiti team worked with two orphanages and networked for community relationship building. This month, Janice Bingham and Ronda Reely will lead six nursing students to care for patients for five weeks in the Chimala Mission Hospital at Tanzania, East Africa. Finally, Lisa Engel accompanied one senior student to Cambodia to work on the Ship of Life. They worked with the medical crew to provide primary care services. The trips provide essential medical and nursing services to the host recipients, but also challenge the hearts and minds of our students and faculty of God's mission and work in the world. We believe these experiences are life changing.

The Harding chapter of the National Student Nurses Association (HNSA) is an active and service-oriented group. All upper division students attended the state ANSA convention last fall and 21 students served as delegates. This spring, 10 students attended the national convention, and 7 were national delegates. There were 2 service highlights from this group this year. Three nursing students, 5 Pharmacy students, and Jeanie Burt conducted a health fair at Levy Church of Christ Community Day. They assessed vital signs, blood glucose levels, weights, BMI levels, and medication histories. The student participated in counseling related to medications, lifestyles, diet, nutrition, and smoking cessation. A large student nurses' group hosted 40 students from Beebe High School for a Breakthrough-to-Nursing event. The high school students were given a tour of the Swaid building, taught vital signs, CPR techniques, hand washing, and several assessment skills. The high school students had many questions related to nursing and careers in the health sciences that morning. HNSA is capably led by faculty sponsors, Jeanie Burt and Patty Smith.

- **2013-2014 Highlights**

This fall marked the culmination of years of praying, dreaming, planning, and preparing for the new facility. The HCCN moved from the Olen Hendrix Building, where the first nursing class enrolled in 1975, to the Swaid and Christy Swaid Center for Health Sciences Building. The HCCN and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders share the nearly \$10 million state-of-the-art facility. During Homecoming weekend, the facility was dedicated in an afternoon ceremony featuring remarks by Dr. Swaid Swaid and several HU dignitaries.

In September the HCCN faculty and staff honored Dr. Bruce McLarty and his wife, Ann, with a dinner in the new Freeman Conference Center in the Swaid Center for Health Sciences. Dean Cathleen Shultz presented Dr. McLarty and Ann HCCN school pins as honorary nurses, and a plaque commemorating a tree planted in their honor in front of the Swaid building.

Alumnus LaDonna Johnson was named the 2013 Outstanding Alumnus for the HCCN.

In October, HNSA (under the leadership of Breakthrough to Nursing (BTN) Director Rachel James, and HNSA President Larissa Pinczuk) offered HNSA's first ever BTN activity. This Explore

Nursing event drew over 40 area high school students and exposed them to the many career opportunities available nursing.

HNSA participated in the Arkansas Nursing Students' Association (ANSA) Convention in Little Rock, with 21 students serving as delegates. Becca Lyle, senior nursing major, served on the ANSA Board of Directors as Webmaster.

Jeanie Burt presented a session at the International Healthcare Foundation's 32nd Medical Missions Seminar in Ft. Worth involving strategies to promote student involvement in service/mission efforts. Students serving on a panel for this session included Heath and Erin LaFavers, Jenna Lillich, and Michelle Sexton. Raya Grasham, a senior nursing major, presented a session about her time last summer in Tanzania with the HCCN.

Harding's Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), along with Arkansas State University's Chapter of STTI, sponsored the annual Research Day in March. This year Epsilon Omicron planned this scholarly conference and hosted it on our campus. The theme was Opening the Door to the Role of Mental Health Nursing in Healthcare.

HNSA participated in the NSNA Convention in Nashville, TN, with 18 members, six of them serving as delegates. Rachel James and Larissa Pinzcuk authored and presented a resolution dealing with safer alternatives to restraint use in pediatric patients, which passed in the House of Delegates. The HNSA won the school award for their BTN activity and an individual award for their International Photo.

Dr. Johnnetta Kelly was named the 2014 Arkansas Nurse Educator at the annual event celebrated in June in Little Rock.

- **2012 - 2013**

Harding Nursing Student Association Chapter won Most Outstanding Newsletter at the Arkansas State Convention in Little Rock. Chapter representatives presented a resolution at the House of Delegates. It was passed by a large majority at the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Meghan Przewcowski presented a poster about the HNSA's journey to become a Stellar Chapter. Chapter Advisors are Patty Smith and Jeanie Burt.

Dr. Cheryl Lee was a finalist 2013 Arkansas Nurse Educator. The event was celebrated in June in Little Rock with over 500 attending the awards event.

Alumnus Kyle Vath was named 2012 Outstanding Alumnus for the Carr College of Nursing.

Groundbreaking for the new building occurred with a ceremony in July, 2012. The year was spent in preparation for a move in August of 2013. New equipment, new designs, and new technology are planned. Students and faculty are very excited.

Dr. Cheryl Lee was presented a 2013 Harding University Outstanding Teacher Award.

Patty Smith successfully completed her comprehensive exams for her PhD in Nursing from UAMS.

Jerry Myhan and Dr. Johnnetta Kelly attained recertification as Family Nurse Practitioners. Drs. Cheryl Lee and Johnnetta Kelly were recertified as an NLN Certified Nurse Educator.

Janice Bingham, in our collaborative international program, spent the fall semester in Zambia at a mission site. She and Julie Lane took a group of nursing majors to Tanzania for a health missions program at a clinic and orphanage site. Jerry Myhan took a group of students to Haiti during spring break as part of health missions activities.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz was installed as a Fellow of the NLN Academy of Nurse Educators in Anaheim, CA. There were only 250+ in the country at that time.

Dr. Melodee Harris was elected President of the National Gerontological Society for 2012-2014.

The Arkansas Nurses Association celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. The Carr College of Nursing supported both events. Enrique Cenicerros is a McNair Scholar. He is sponsored by Dr. Melodee Harris through the HU McNair Program.

May brought a time of transition as Dean Cathleen Shultz stepped down from her role as dean, after 36 plus years. She plans to spend the next year on sabbatical pursuing other projects, including writing, then return to teaching. Her contributions to the Carr College of Nursing are innumerable and her professional and spiritual leadership will continue to be felt throughout the program.

In June, Dr. Susan Kehl became dean of the HCCN. She brings a wealth of experiences in nursing and nursing education. Dr. Kehl is an alumnus of the HCCN, and has been a valuable member of the HCCN faculty for the past two years.

- **2012**

July 2, 2012, was a landmark day for the HCCN. The groundbreaking for the new Nursing and Communication Sciences and Disorders building was held that morning. In addition to Dr. Cathleen Shultz, Dr. Beckie Weaver, Dr. David Burks, Dr. Jim Carr, Dr. Clifton Ganus, Jr., and other HU administration, those attending included nursing faculty and staff, community leaders, nursing students, and clinical agency leaders.

Dr. Clifton L. Ganus, Jr. and his wife, Louise, were named Honorary Nurses of the HCCN. The HCCN pins were presented at the Pinning Ceremony for the May 2012 HCCN graduates.

In February, 2012, the HCCN underwent an NLNAC accreditation visit, culminating in the visitors recommending reaccreditation for the next eight years.

Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International celebrated its 30 year anniversary.

In 2012, HCCN celebrated its 35th year.

Student Accomplishments:

The HCCN, along with only two other nursing schools nationwide, received NSNA Stellar School Chapter Recognition on April 14, 2012, at the NSNA convention in Pittsburg, PA. The HNSA students devoted many hours to gathering documentation and other evidence of the school's and HNSA's professional activities, areas of service, and other accomplishments required by the criteria for this distinguished award.

Charlotte Hatch, HNSA member, was elected as the ANSA Legislative Chair at the ANSA convention in October 2012.

Kasey House and Charlotte Hatch, HNSA delegates to the NSNA convention in Pittsburgh, PA, in April 2012, developed and proposed two resolutions which were passed at the convention.

The HNSA chapter won the following awards at the ANSA convention: Legislative Excellence (for outstanding fundraising and budget management) and Outstanding Newsletter (for their outstanding work with The Pulse).

Jennifer Walker, a senior, submitted a manuscript entitled “*Let Them Cry*” to the Journal of Christian Nursing. She received notice that her work will be published.

#### Faculty Accomplishments:

Dr. Melodee Harris is President and a founding member of the Arkansas Chapter of the National Gerontological Nursing Association. She is also Director-at-Large for the National Gerontological Nursing Association.

Johnnetta Kelly completed her doctoral studies and received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas Arlington, December 2012. Her dissertation title was “*Health screenings beyond a history of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: A secondary analysis of behavioral risk factor surveillance data.*” She presented a 1.0 (hr) CE presentation to ARNA: “*Screening after a history of Gestational Diabetes.*”

Janice Bingham received the Dr. Henry and Grace Farrar Award for Service in Medical Missions at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Missions Seminar in Ft. Worth, TX. In February, Janice also received the Woman of Hope Award from Healing Hands International for service in missions. During the 2012 WINGS conference, Janice was recognized for her life of service to God.

Jeanie Burt was honored in October 2011 as the Chapter Advisor of the Year at the ANSA convention in Rogers, AR.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz will be among 32 distinguished nurse educators to join the National League for Nursing’s Academy of Nursing Education. She will be inducted as a fellow (ANEF) at the NLN 2012 Education Summit in September 2012. Dr. Cathleen Shultz successfully renewed her recognition as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE).

Jerry Myhan completed requirements for recertification as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

Jeanie Burt was recertified as an NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE).

A book edited by Dr. Cathleen Shultz and two other nationally recognized nurse educators, was nominated for the Capstone International Nursing Book Award by Sigma Theta Tau International. The book, “*Giving through teaching: How nurse educators are changing the world,*” features HCCN faculty Janice Bingham and Karen Kelley and includes photos of HCCN faculty and students.

- **2011**

The family of Dr. James F. Carr, Jr. was honored at the Carr College of Nursing Transition Ceremony in August 2010. The ceremony took place in Cone Chapel where Mrs. Stephanie Carr, Dr. Jim Carr and wife Susan, and Tom Carr and wife Lisa, participated in the HCCN Candlelighting Ceremony welcoming the new nursing students.

The Carr College of Nursing was officially dedicated by the Harding University Board of Trustees, in a ceremony held in conjunction with Homecoming activities in November 2010.

During the summer, the HCCN pin was redesigned to bear the new name, Harding University Carr College of Nursing.

A Nursing Student Study Center was created in OH 302. The room offers students a comfortable, quiet area to study or work on group projects, with wireless internet service, laptop counters, and table workspace available.

#### Student Accomplishments

Mike Carrodeguas, HNSA delegate to the NSNA National Convention, developed and proposed a resolution which passed at the convention.

Kevin Lillis, HNSA member, continued to serve as ANSA Legislative Chair of the Board of Directors and also filled the role of Nominations and Elections Committee Chair.

Amber Bellcock, HNSA member, served as a District II Director through ANSA.

Teddy Luke, HNSA member, served as Director of Nominations and Elections.

The HNSA newsletter, *The Pulse*, again won the ANSA award for Most Outstanding Newsletter.

Kelly Frye, a senior, won the 2011 National Gerontological Student Nursing Leadership Award from the National Gerontological Nursing Association.

Brittany Houtchens, a senior, received a scholarship award from the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care for her project on *Reducing the Use of Physical Restraints Among the Elderly in Long-Term Care Facilities*.

#### Faculty Accomplishments

Jackie Harris became an NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE).

Jerry Myhan received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the University.

HCCN's Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, sponsored the annual Tri Chapter Research Day in March on Harding's Campus. The program, which focused on genetics in nursing, featured presentations such as: Decoding the Human Genome: Applications for Genetic Obesity Research; Pharmacogenomics on the Horizon; and Last Things First: Above All Do No Harm.

- **2010**

The College of Nursing was renamed the Dr. James F. Carr, Jr. College of Nursing (Carr College of Nursing) by the Harding University Board of Trustees in May 2010.

#### Student Accomplishments

The Harding Nursing Student Association (HNSA) newsletter, *The Pulse*, won the Arkansas Nursing Students' Association (ANSA) award for Most Outstanding Newsletter as well as the Most Outstanding Newsletter at the NSNA National Convention in Orlando, FL.

Kevin Lillis, HNSA member and ANSA board member, proposed a resolution which was passed at the NSNA National Convention.

### Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Cathleen Shultz was installed as President for the National League for Nursing (NLN) in September 2009. Dr. Cathleen Shultz, along with other NLN leaders, published the NLN Outcomes and Competencies Model.

Dr. Da'Lynn Clayton was appointed to the NLN Presidential High-Stakes Testing Task Force.

Johnnetta Kelly was appointed to the NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) Test Commission; she also received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the University.

Janice Bingham received an Outstanding Christian Service Award during the annual Harding University Lectureship.

Lisa Engel became an NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE).

Jeanie Burt was appointed to the NLN CNE Test Development Committee.

- **2009**

The College of Nursing received continuing full approval from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing in May 2009.

### Student Accomplishments

The Harding Nursing Student Association won the *Arkansas State Award* for their newsletter, *The Pulse*, November 2008.

### Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Cheryl Lee was appointed to the American Academy of Nursing Geropsychiatric Competency Development Taskforce in April 2, 2009.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz was awarded the Fellow in the Arkansas Gerontological Society in April 2009.

Johnnetta Kelly won the Graduate Research Poster Award from Tri-Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Research Conference in April 2009.

Dr. Cheryl Lee, Johnnetta Kelly, and Juli Lane became NLN Certified Nurse Educators (CNE's).

Karen Kelly received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the University.

Dr. Cheryl Lee presented her dissertation research, "*Health Promotion Behaviors of Older Spousal Caregivers: A Comparison of Rural and Urban Women*" at the Tri-Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Research Day, April 2, 2009.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz presented the Keynote Address: *Challenges of Implementing Evidence-Based Teaching* for the Nursing Education Institute, April 2009.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz received the Outstanding Award for Innovation in Baccalaureate Geriatric Nursing Education Award from the Hartford Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Washington D.C.; 2008

Johnnetta Kelly presented at the Southern Nursing Research Society, February 2009.



## Faculty Publications

### Articles

Dr. Cheryl Lee. (2009). A comparison of health promotion behaviors in rural and urban community-dwelling spousal caregivers. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 35.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz. (April/May 2009). Preparing to work in an informatics-based world. *Imprint*, 36-39.

### Book Chapters

Dr. Cathleen Shultz and Karen Kelley. (2009). "Nursing education and public health nursing." *Public health nursing: Practicing population-based care*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Dr. Cathleen Shultz. (2009). "Total program faculty." *Giving through teaching: How nurse educators are changing the world*. New York, NY: Spring Publishing.

### Books

Dr. Cathleen Shultz (Ed). (2009). *Building a science of nursing education: Foundation for evidence-based teaching-learning*. New York, NY: National League for Nursing.

- **2008**

#### Faculty accomplishments included:

Juli Lane received a MSN from University of Southern Alabama.

Karen Kelley received the District 8 Nurse of the Year Award from the Arkansas Nurses Association.

Dr. Da'Lynn Clayton received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the University.

Jeanie Burt became an NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE).

Johnnetta Kelly was appointed to the NLN Taskforce on Cultural Diversity.

Jackie Harris was appointed as an NLN Ambassador.

- **2007**

Harding University announced that a new nursing building is part of the university's five-year strategic plan.

The Olen Hendrix Building became wireless for computer technology. Flat computer screens were placed in the Simmons Laboratory and bedside computers were placed in the skills lab. The skills laboratory was inventoried, updated, and organized for continuing use of evidence-based teaching strategies.

The 2007 year marked the 30<sup>th</sup> year of preparing Harding nursing graduates.

Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

#### Faculty accomplishments included:

Dr. Cathleen Shultz was elected President-Elect for the National League for Nursing (NLN).

Cheryl Lee received a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences campus in Little Rock.

Dr. Da'Lynn Clayton was appointed Associate Dean.

Dr. Sheila Sullivan became an NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE); she and Dr. Shultz are 2 of 500 nurse educators certified in the U.S.

Janice Bingham, Health Missions Coordinator, was instrumental in preparing 27 students to be the first in working with Harding's newest international program in Zambia to begin fall semester 2007. A required preparation course was implemented and coordinated by Miss Bingham. She received the 2007 Distinguished Teacher Award.

- **2006**

Nursing faculty and students again, for the 13<sup>th</sup> year, offered a Campus Disaster Drill, which is a collaborative event between Searcy and the Harding community. We also celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nursing program throughout the year.

The Harding Nursing Student Association, 4<sup>th</sup> largest chapter in the nation, was presented with 3 national awards. Student mission trips were to Haiti, Tanzania, and Central America. Faculty and students remain active in Searcy's Christian Health Ministry of White County.

Ms. Debra Spunt, a faculty member from the University of Maryland, was a consultant on laboratory simulation; Ms. Spunt, site coordinator for the NLN Laerdal Simulation Project, died of breast cancer about 9 months later.

Regarding the Olen Hendrix Building, the external staircases were removed and replaced with steel stairs. Limestone external decorations near the roof were replaced with a lighter, synthetic material. The building was externally cleaned.

Cathleen M. Shultz, PhD, RN, FAAN became the first Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) at Harding, joining about 250 CNE's nationwide. She was elected Treasurer of the National League for Nursing.

Numerous faculty published in referred journals and books.

Dr. Da'Lynn Clayton was appointed Interim Associate Dean.

- **2005**

The nursing enrollment continues to expand and a waiting list was again implemented.

The skills laboratory entered a three-year phased-in renovation, which included purchasing simulators and electronic monitors. A student lounge area was created on the third floor of the Olen Hendrix Building.

The Harding Nursing Student Association won three national awards at convention.

Student mission projects included Haiti, Tanzania, and Ghana.

- **2004**

The College of Nursing received continuing full approval from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. The undergraduate program had regularly scheduled state and national site visits, which complemented a self-study report. As a result, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing awarded continuing approval for 5 years and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission awarded continuing accreditation for eight years. Both awards were without recommendations and for the maximum number of years.

Five graduates formed the last class of the graduate nursing program. The program was closed in May 2004 by the university due to low enrollment.

The Harding Nursing Student Association (HNSA) is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest chapter in the country. Chapter faculty advisor; Johnnetta Kelly (MNSC, RN, FNP), was given the Arkansas Nursing Student Association 2003 Faculty Advisor of the Year award at the state convention. HNSA won several state awards, and 3 national awards including the 2004 Outstanding Chapter Recruitment Event.

The Olen Hendrix Building's ceilings and heating/air condition systems were replaced.

- **2003**

Alumni from the first undergraduate class (1977) returned and celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year at a dinner.

Mission trips to Haiti, Nigeria, and Tanzania were held.

Former storage space was remodeled into a nursing classroom on the first floor of the Olen Hendrix Building.

- **2002**

The graduate program received initial accreditation for five years (maximum award).

An interdisciplinary Health Missions Minor was initiated through collaboration with the College of Bible and Religion.

Mr. Jerry Myhan won a Distinguished University Teacher Award.

Dr. Sheila Sullivan was appointed Associate Dean.

Dr. Helen Lambert was awarded an "Emeritus Faculty" status and retired as a nursing faculty member; the faculty honored her with a scholarship in her name.

- **2001**

The School of Nursing became the College of Nursing, which corresponds with similar changes in other campus professional schools. Two additional faculty were awarded Ph.D.s. Sheila Sullivan successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Campus and Da'Lynn Clayton successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Texas in Austin. Harding's Sigma Theta Tau International Chapter, Epsilon Omicron, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An interdisciplinary health missions minor was initiated in conjunction with the College of Bible and Religion. Mission sites for the year included Guatemala, Haiti, Nigeria, and Uganda. Serving on the Board of Directors for 3 years, Dr. Shultz assisted with development and opening of a local church sponsored clinic, Christian Health Ministries. Under the umbrella of the Downtown Church of Christ, the clinic serves those without financial means, insurance, or government-sponsored health care programs. Currently Karen Kelley, a nursing faculty member, staffs the clinic each Sunday afternoon. Dr. Neale Pryor was named an Honorary Harding Nurse for his support of nursing in his position as Vice President for Academic Affairs. The first class of the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) program graduated.

- **2000**  
 For the fourth year, the students and faculty assisted with the River City Ministry run by the Levy Church of Christ in North Little Rock. They spent the first Sunday of each month as volunteers taking health histories and providing care. Students and faculty participated in health mission efforts to Haiti and Guatemala during the spring semester and Nigeria during the summer. The School of Nursing held its twelfth Campus Wellness Screening for employees/spouses and students. Created by Da'Lynn Clayton and Cathleen Shultz, the program has expanded under the leadership of Jerry Myhan, Charlotte Patton, and Karen Kelley, faculty members. This year also marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School of Nursing.
- **1999**  
 The School of Nursing gained continuing full approval from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing after a site visit in February of 1999. Nursing faculty, staff, and students participated in relief efforts following a series of tornadoes, which struck Arkansas on January 21. Students and faculty participated in health care mission efforts to Honduras, Guatemala, and Haiti during the spring semester. Graduates' success rate on the NCLEX-RN® exam was over 97%.
- **1998**  
 The University approved starting a graduate program in nursing. In the Fall of 1998, the School of Nursing began offering the MSN degree, with two tracks: Managed Care for High-Risk Populations, and Primary Care in Community and International Settings. Mrs. Jan Linck retired as Acting Associate Dean, and moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where she worked as a health-care missionary and on-site faculty member for future mission efforts of the College of Nursing. Dr. Kathy Martin began serving as Director of the Undergraduate Program. Dr. Shultz continued as Dean, and took on the role of Director of the Graduate Program in Nursing. Graduates had a 100% NCLEX-RN® pass rate.
- **1997**  
 The Olen Hendrix Building was added to the campus' Internet, and a computer-generated announcement system was installed in the School of Nursing. Students participated in mission efforts to Haiti, Guatemala, and Nigeria. Melissa Owen's research project was selected to compete in a national competition for honors students. A bronze plaque with the School of Nursing's Motto: "Developing Nurses as Christian Servants" was purchased by an alumnus of the School for display in the School of Nursing. The plaque was designed and manufactured by Matthews, Inc., an internationally known bronze-working company located in Searcy.
- **1996**  
 In the fall of 1995, the School of Nursing held a 20-year anniversary celebration with a graduate of the first class, Sarah Starling Bolton, as the featured speaker. The NLN site visit took place in the spring of 1996; the program evaluators recommended full reaccreditation. In the summer of 1996, the Olen Hendrix Building was remodeled. A new combined skills lab and nursing center, an elevator, and extensive electronic and multi-media capabilities were added. Nursing honors courses were added to the curriculum to provide an enriched learning experience for qualified students. Nancy O'Brien, following 20 years of service, was the first faculty member to retire. Dr. Helen Lambert retired as Associate Dean, but continued full-time teaching. Dr. Clifton Ganus, Jr., Chancellor of Harding University was the featured speaker at the pinning ceremony.
- **1995**  
 Dean Shultz was awarded the University Distinguished Teacher Award for the second time. Mission trips to Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, and Africa were taken by students and faculty.
- **1994**

New furniture for student use was purchased and placed in the lobby of the School of Nursing. Dr. Fay Bower, president of Sigma Theta Tau, spoke at the pinning ceremony. Alvin and Georgia Hobby were pinned as Honorary Nurses for their contributions to missions and to the School of Nursing.

- **1993**

Dean Shultz became the first nurse in Arkansas to be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing. A revision of the nursing curriculum was completed. Jerry Myhan, Tod Martin, and 18 students went to Haiti during Spring Break. The Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau won the Ethel Palmer Clark Founder's Award, and the Chapter Key Award at the international convention. Dr. Ruth Cole was pinned as the School's second Honorary Nurse.

- **1992**

Dr. Louise Suit received the University's Distinguished Teacher Award; she became the second nursing faculty recipient. Haiti became another mission site under the direction of Jerry Myhan. Sandy Long also assisted in a second mission trip to Haiti this year.

- **1991**

The School of Nursing underwent extensive remodeling of the Dean's office, the Audio-Visual Lab, and several other areas. The Martha Ruth Simmons Memorial Audio-Visual and Computer Lab was officially opened in October 1991. This lab was the first in Arkansas to have Interactive Video units for nursing student use. Helen Lambert became the fourth faculty member to receive a doctorate (Ed.D.) Dean Shultz was appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, later serving as President of the Board.

- **1990**

Yvonne Francois and Lori Northcutt won the University-wide Evening of Scholarship. The seniors at the pinning ceremony honored Dean Cathleen Shultz by their presentation of an oil portrait of her. She also became the first nursing faculty member to receive the University's Distinguished Teacher Award.

- **1989**

The Assistant Dean position became the Associate Dean position held by Helen Lambert. A new position, Assistant to the Dean, was created and held by Tod Martin, BBA. The Ruth Simmons family endowed the Learning Resources Center and one of the laboratories was named in her honor. She participated in the laboratory dedication services in December 1989, when she was pinned as the School's first Honorary Nurse. She died March 29, 1990.

- **1988**

The National League for Nursing site visit again took place; reaccreditation was awarded. The Science and Nursing Development Council was formed; Dr. Mike Justus was the first chairperson. Arta Banks won the University-wide Evening of Scholarship. The Jones Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to the School of Nursing to develop an interactive computer video program in the curriculum and to modernize the Learning Resources Center equipment.

- **1987**

The School of Nursing received a grant from the Arkansas State Health Department to provide a rape prevention program for White County citizens. The group became White County Rape Crisis Services, Inc. in 1988 and has been fully funded by the United Way of White County. Additional funds were secured from the Arkansas State Health Department in 1990 to form a countywide child sexual abuse awareness program

- **1986**  
Three additional nurses were added to the Science Advisory Council. They included: Mary Alice Turley, Ph.D., R.N.; West Texas State University; Canyon, Texas  
Joan Dodson, M.S.N., R.N.; Memphis State University; Memphis Tennessee  
Sharon Lane, R.N.; Calico Rock, Arkansas.  
They joined Dr. Ruth Cole, former Dean of Nursing at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, who has been on the Council since before the School of Nursing began. Louise Bradford received the Ed.D., becoming the third faculty member to obtain a doctorate.
- **1985**  
Tenth Anniversary celebration occurred at Homecoming. Helen Lambert, M.S.N., R.N., became the Assistant Dean of Nursing. The Searcy Area Nursing Advisory Council was formed and held its first meeting at Harding University.
- **1984**  
Caribbean Islands were developed as a mission site for the health care missions project. Faculty was Cathleen Shultz, Ph.D., R.N. Seniors Laura Cheatham and Margaret Cook won the University's First Evening of Scholarship Award for their research presentation. Dr. Joseph Pryor and Dr. Jimmy Carr were recognized at the pinning ceremony for their outstanding contribution to the development of the School of Nursing.
- **1983**  
Students developed and presented the first "Nurse Sing" in chapel. Cathleen Smith Shultz became the first faculty member to receive a doctorate; Nancy Clark became the second faculty member to receive a doctorate.
- **1982**  
First Capping/Banding Ceremony held. Nancy Clark, M.P.H., R.N. became Assistant to the Dean of Nursing.
- **1981**  
Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was chartered.
- **1980**  
Students and faculty participated in the International Year of the Child by administering several thousand vaccinations to children in Nigeria and the Cameroons. This was done in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the Arkansas League for Nursing, and Mrs. Betty Bumpers, wife of Senator Dale Bumpers. Initial National League for Nursing accreditation was received for the full eight years. Panama was developed as a mission site for health care missions. Faculty was Nancy Clark, M.P.H., R.N.
- **1979**  
Harding College became Harding University. The Division of Nursing became School of Nursing; Cathleen M. Smith, M.N., R.N., became the first Dean of Nursing. Harding became the first program in Arkansas to have all masters prepared nursing faculty. W. K. Kellogg Grant was awarded for Faculty Development.
- **1978**  
The Department of Nursing became the Division of Nursing. The nursing program was among the first nationally to use computer technology as part of instruction.

- **1977**  
First nursing students graduated; all passed their licensure examination. First Pinning Ceremony held. Cathleen M. Smith, M.N., R.N. was appointed second Department Chairman. First health care missions' program for nursing students developed in Nigeria and the Cameroons. Missions program faculty were Janice Bingham, B.S., R.N. and Nancy Leslie O'Brien, M.S., R.N.
- **1976**  
W. K. Kellogg Curriculum Development Grant received; the Harding Nursing Student Honor Society and the Harding Student Nurse Association were formed. Nine more faculty were added, including two who continued with the program into the 2000s: Cathleen Shultz, PhD, RN, FAAN (retired 2015) and Janice Bingham, MSN, RN, ANP (retired 2022).
- **1975**  
First nursing class of 56 students enrolled. Two additional faculty were employed. They were Elissa Lane (Miller), M.N.Sc., and Louise Truex (Bradford), M.S.N.
- **1974**  
A. Michele Warren, R.N., M.S.N., was appointed first Department Chairman. The nursing program was organized as a Department of Nursing Education in the Division of Natural Science
- **1973**  
Harding College received approval from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to begin a BSN program.
- **1972**  
Harding College Board of Trustees approved development of a nursing program.