



## Dean's Message

# Dear Alumni and Friends,



**In February, West Virginia University kicked off a yearlong celebration of its 150th birthday. While we have only been a School for a little more than a third of that history, it's important to reflect on our past, as well as look to the future of our School.**

In the early 1960s, under the leadership of Dean Dorothy Major, a group of faculty members helped to design and implement a nursing curriculum that would become nationally recognized as "The West Virginia Plan," the very foundation we work from today in educating future nurses. One of those founding faculty members was Gaynelle McKinney. Sadly, Gaynelle passed away earlier this year, but I can't help but think about the significance of the contributions she and our School of Nursing faculty have made to not only West Virginia University and its students, but to the state as a whole.

And, that legacy continues to live on as we continue to evolve and expand our programs; enhance service and learning opportunities that provide our students with unique skills; and provide important outreach that changes the lives of people in West Virginia and beyond, every single day.

In this issue of the magazine, you will read about the new programs we have developed to improve patient care and extend our reach to rural communities in West Virginia. You also will learn more about the research efforts we are doing to improve overall health, including placing a strong emphasis on addressing chronic illnesses. You will see how our grads are taking their knowledge and skillsets to improve the quality of life for people all over the world. And, you will also get to meet a few of our outstanding students who will lead the future of healthcare moving forward, as well as hear about some of the latest news from our alums.

While I did not have the pleasure of meeting Mrs. McKinney, I do believe that she and others who have come before us would be proud of the great work we are doing at the WVU School of Nursing. I look forward to continuing to build on that legacy as we expand our academic offerings, address critical healthcare issues and extend our reach to improve patient care.

*Let's Go!*

**TARA HULSEY**, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN  
Dean and E. Jane Martin Endowed Professor  
West Virginia University School of Nursing

▲ The School of Nursing continues to train and educate the best and brightest students to address today's most pressing healthcare issues, including new grad Annie Royek (pictured above with me and her mom), who was recognized as one of WVU's 36 outstanding seniors. Rising junior Sarah Shia (pictured at top with Jody Miller, left) is the recipient of the Heather Miller Memorial Scholarship and received the School's 2017 BSN Award for Excellence.



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## Snapshot

Alumna Jacqui Ranson's WVU education and passion for helping others led her to Haiti where her life would be forever changed.  
*Submitted photo.*



# ‘Write Your Own Ticket’ Through Education

WRITTEN BY HANNAH BOOTH AND TARA CURTIS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY M.G. ELLIS

**If you asked Vicki Chase for her secret to building a 35-year nursing career, she would tell you she owes it all to her education. She would also tell you that sometimes the journey to that education is not quick or easy. But Chase is proof that with a determined spirit and a strong passion for your profession, you can accomplish anything.**

More than 30 years ago, Chase completed a three-year nursing program and began her journey as a staff nurse with WVU Hospitals. Shortly after taking on her first management position (one of many throughout her extensive career), she decided to go back to school to pursue her bachelor’s degree in nursing at the WVU School of Nursing.

After 13 years, four kids and a few job changes, she graduated with her BSN in 1998. She admits that it was not an easy task, as she could only take six hours each semester. She recalled, “I love education. I think that it’s important to be learning and doing things, but it was a grueling time in my life with multiple job changes and a growing family. It was just not an easy thing to do. But education is something that can never be taken from you. It opens every door, and it enables you to write your own ticket.”

Proving that belief, five years later, Chase was back in the classroom pursuing her master’s degree.







## In-state tuition offered for students enrolled in online RN-BSN program

Beginning in fall 2017, students enrolled in the School of Nursing's online RN-BSN program will receive in-state tuition, no matter where they live. This will enable the School to address a growing demand for bachelor's-prepared nurses as set forth by the Institute of Medicine that calls for 80% of all nurses to have a BSN by 2020.



Visit [online.wvu.edu/rnbsn/](http://online.wvu.edu/rnbsn/) to learn more.



***“When I look back at 35 years of nursing and all the things I’ve had both the privilege and the opportunity to do, when I needed a change, I’ve been able to do it because of my education. It truly is the degree that makes the difference.”*** Vicki Chase, BSN '98

She still had her family to think about, and could only take classes that met the tuition reimbursement requirements offered by her employer. It took her an extra year to complete her master's degree in nursing, but no matter what adversity she faced throughout her combined 16 years of education, she was committed to achieving her goals.

Along the way, Chase never wandered far from patient care. Even as she transitioned into other leadership positions, helping patients remained her passion: “The best roles have diversity in them – where there is a measure of patient care but also the ability to do other things.”

It was her search for the perfect combination of care and opportunity that led to her current role as department coordinator for the WVU Medicine Diabetes Education Center, where she is helping patients develop healthier lifestyles while working to expand the scope of services the Center offers. When she arrived in this new role, only an outpatient program existed and consults were done with patients of the hospital. The Center has grown to include an expanded outpatient program, a diabetes prevention program and an increased number of in-house consultations that allow staff to see every adult patient with diabetes.

“Our goal is to help people living with diabetes in West Virginia and surrounding areas decrease complications related to diabetes and improve the quality of their life,” Chase explained.

The Center is in the process of its first expansion outside of the hospital – diabetes care and classes will soon be offered through the Department of Family Medicine, which is located on the outskirts of Morgantown.

Chase's efforts over the years have not gone unnoticed. She was recognized for her passionate care and determined spirit with

the 2016 WVU Medicine-WVU Hospitals Magnet Nurse of the Year Award. Chase was overwhelmed by the response of her family, friends and community. “I’ve never had anything be such a big deal. It is such an honor.”

While some may consider her years of service and accomplishments as a worthy legacy, Chase believes that her legacy lies in “someone” rather than “something.” She has passed her love and commitment to nursing on to her daughter, Alyssa Chase, a nurse and student in the School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Chase encouraged her daughter, who is a mother herself, to take the plunge and continue her education, saying, “Don't do it the hard way. Don't do it in baby steps over the next 25 years. Just buckle down and do it.”

“My mom instilled the value of hard work in all of us. She started from the bottom and worked her way up. I am beyond proud of her. She's my mentor, my role model and I aspire to be like her,” Alyssa Chase proclaimed.

Chase is truly an advocate for education. Once you have the degree, she believes what you decide to do as a nurse is completely up to you. “The beauty of nursing is you can rewrite your own ticket as many times as you'd like if you have the education behind you,” she said. “There is nothing that you can't learn and put your arms around.”

Recalling the affect it has had on her career, she added, “When I look back at 35 years of nursing and all the things I've had both the privilege and the opportunity to do, when I needed a change, I've been able to do it because of my education. It truly is the degree that makes the difference.”

Although her journey has not been easy, Vicki Chase is proof that if you work with passion and determination, anything is possible. ♡



A woman with a black headscarf and a blue t-shirt is shown in profile, holding a young child in a red t-shirt. They are outdoors, with other people and trees in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# *Mission Trip To Haiti Turns Out To Mean So Much More For Nursing Grad*

WRITTEN BY HANNAH BOOTH

When other volunteers go on international mission trips, they often return with countless memories, a changed perspective and maybe even a small memento to remind them of the experience. Jacqui Ranson brought back a son.



*“At one time, I was just a little girl growing up on a pig farm. But because of my education at West Virginia University, I am now able to help people all over the world.”*

Jacqui Ranson, Founder, Heart of the Mountain Mission



Clockwise from top, right: Ranson and her son, Marc Henry; Ranson showing her compassion to a villager; and a group of villagers with Ranson and other volunteers.



After working as a family nurse practitioner for 12 years, the West Virginia University School of Nursing alum (MSN '01, BSN '99) had the opportunity to put her skills to work and fulfill her longtime desire to do medical mission work during a trip to Haiti in 2013. Eager to serve the poverty-stricken country, Ranson traveled to the community of Digue Matheux, located about 45 minutes outside of the Haitian capital of Port Au Prince, to volunteer at a medical clinic.

The mission she was working with assigned a young man to be her translator (Haitians primarily speak Creole, but some also speak French). Marc Henry, who was 19 years old at the time, spoke both languages fluently and had learned English from other Americans who had visited his village. When they first met, Ranson had no idea her life would be forever changed by this bright young man, but she quickly loved his “beautiful smile and loving disposition.”

When Ranson returned to the United States, she couldn't ignore the feeling she was being called to do something to improve this

young man's life. Ranson could see he had the “intelligence to succeed, perseverance to survive and a personality that everyone loved.” All he needed was an opportunity to put those attributes into action. That's where she felt she could help.

Just eight weeks after her return to the U.S., she traveled to Haiti with her husband and two sons to meet Marc Henry. Her husband, Mark, and the boys instantly accepted him as part of their family, and within four short months, they were all in Haiti once again. This time, they were able to bring their third son home with them. Now living in West Virginia with the Ranson family on a student visa, Marc Henry is in his third year of college, where he is studying hospital administration.

Giving Marc Henry the chance to receive an education was important to Ranson because of the opportunities she was given as a nursing student. She believes she would not be the person she is today without the WVU School of Nursing.





**“Haiti needs people like me to help make a change. My goal is to one day move back and use my education to serve my people. It is my dream for everyone to have access to a job, education and healthcare.”**

**Marc Henry**

▲ Marc Henry was immediately embraced by the Ranson family and was able to pursue his education. He hopes to pay that love and compassion forward to others after graduation.

“At one time, I was just a little girl growing up on a pig farm. But because of my education at West Virginia University, I am now able to help people all over the world,” she said.

As Marc Henry continues to work to improve his own life, he remains committed to bettering the lives of his people. “Haiti needs people like me to help make a change. My goal is to one day move back and use my education to serve my people,” he said. “It is my dream for everyone to have access to a job, education and healthcare.”

He returns to Haiti on each of his breaks to help in any way he can. At the young age of 22, Marc Henry serves as a village elder in Digue Matheux.

Because of his determined and generous spirit, Ranson says he is an inspiration to everyone who knows him, including those beyond the Haitian borders. But she and her family have been equally inspiring to him. “How they serve others without expecting anything in return has greatly inspired me to give back,” he shared. “The way they love is unexplainable.”

Ranson’s desire to help the people of Haiti remains strong, and that passion has only grown stronger. She and her family have opened their own non-profit organization called Heart of the Mountain Mission in Marc Henry’s native village and are now dedicated to the organization.

The first step was to build a facility – with property secured and blueprints in hand, the Ranson family is working hard to bring their nonprofit to life. Once the structure is built, the goal is to bring medical and nonmedical missionary teams to the area to serve the local people.

Ranson plans to establish the facility as a clinical rotation site for future nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and doctors. She has been a preceptor for nurse practitioner students for years, but it wasn’t until she took one of her students to Haiti that she realized the “true value of an international clinical experience” – an opportunity she feels cannot be matched by most found here in the U.S.

In the meantime, Mountain Mission has been serving the community of Digue Matheux through other projects.

It is now operating a nearby primary school with 335 children, ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. When the school lost its sponsorship after more than 22 years, the Mission was able to secure enough funding to keep the doors open.

Following Hurricane Matthew, the Mission was able to feed more than 400 families that were affected by the storm. Beyond that, Ranson said the Mission is working to build a block machine plant in the village, “providing much-needed jobs and a future of self-sustainability for Digue Matheux and neighboring communities.”

Through Heart of the Mountain Mission, Ranson hopes to continue helping the people her whole family has come to love.

“We have great dreams that we will someday, somehow, somehow make positive change for these wonderful people,” she said. “Haiti has become an integral part of our daily lives. We are invested in Marc Henry’s village and very committed to the beautiful people and the country of Haiti.” ❖



Our **Students**





# Meet Alan.

**Alan Alimario, a senior nursing student from Weirton, West Virginia, hopes to become either a certified registered nurse anesthetist or family nurse practitioner upon completion of his undergraduate degree.**

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## ***What made you decide to choose nursing at WVU?***

I was very indecisive during the summer before my freshman year, switching from major to major. Coming from a family of medical professionals (and WVU alumni), I always knew I wanted to attend WVU and pursue a career in the medical field. I took interest in direct patient care and found great satisfaction in helping people out, so I finally chose to go into nursing. I was skeptical at first, but after my first week in the program and meeting my peers and faculty, I knew this was where I was meant to be.

## ***What do you think the most challenging thing about nursing is? What do you like best so far about the program?***

I think the most challenging thing about the nursing program is that the content and material is so extensive. The first Nursing classes during sophomore year are no doubt difficult and challenging. It can be very stressful at times, but with good time management skills and organization, success can be attained in those classes. The best part of the program is the faculty. All of my professors and instructors have helped me along the way to become successful. They are always there for the students and are willing to take their time to help students understand the material.

## ***Favorite class.***

Nursing 212, the Fundamentals of Nursing

## ***When you are not studying/at the School of Nursing, you are ...***

Listening to music or sleeping.

## ***Favorite spot in Morgantown.***

The rail trail

## ***Favorite food.***

Sesame chicken from Lavender Cafe

## ***One thing people might not know about you?***

I love playing the piano. I've been playing since I was five years old.

## ***What is the one thing a nursing student can't live without?***

The one thing a nursing student can't live without is a good friend to help you study for exams and lots and lots of food! ♡

# Meet Marseille.

**Marseille McBeam, a senior nursing student from Ocho Rios, Jamaica, juggles the demands of nursing school while also being a high jumper on the WVU Track and Field team. She always knew from a young age that she wanted to help people, and now she is fulfilling her dream at West Virginia University.**

## ***Why nursing and why WVU?***

I did a lot of research and knew the WVU School of Nursing was one of the best programs in the country. Growing up in Jamaica, there are many things you are exposed to at a very tender age, and I knew that I wanted to reach out and help people. It has been my ultimate desire since I was a little child, and I'm grateful to be able to fulfill my dream here at WVU.

## ***What is a typical day like for you?***

I get up around 6 a.m. and head to my clinical rotation, which begins at 7 a.m. I get done around 12 or 1 p.m., and then I have track practice around 2 p.m. I then go to study hall to get my work done and get ready to start it all over again. As a nursing student, you have to do pre-planning for your clinical work, and that takes a lot of time, so I spend Mondays and Wednesdays focusing on the clinical piece and attending class. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I spend time doing the actual clinical training/coursework. It is demanding, but it's all about dedication. It's about setting your priorities.

## ***How do you balance being a student-athlete and a nursing student?***

Track and field and nursing school are both hard. You have to know how to communicate with the coaches and your professors to make sure you stay on track (literally). Focus and go one step at a time. Good time management is a must.

## ***Favorite nursing class?***

Med surge. This is one of the most difficult classes. It entails a lot of head-to-toe stuff. You learn the systems one by one and then learn the nursing management piece. It's what you go into the hospital and actually do – the hands-on stuff – and I really like that.

## ***Biggest success story?***

I never dreamt of going to college. Back home, you finish high school and you normally go to work. Now that I'm here, I think that's a success. It's one of my biggest accomplishments.

## ***Favorite food?***

Curry goat and white rice.

## ***One thing a nursing student can't live without?***

Friends. You have to have some friends.

## ***One thing people might not know about you?***

A lot of people think that I'm tough-hearted, but I'm actually very soft-hearted and very caring.

## ***Best piece of advice?***

You have to have people who can motivate you, and you have to be your biggest motivator. Don't give up. You don't have someone there to push you sometimes, so you have to have that come from within. ♡





Meet more of our students at [nursing.wvu.edu/students/profiles/](https://nursing.wvu.edu/students/profiles/).





*Facing the*

# FUTURE *of* NURSING

WRITTEN BY TARA CURTIS

Healthcare is constantly evolving — a nationwide shortage of nurses, the need for expanded scope of practice and access to care — and the WVU School of Nursing must evolve to confront these issues.



**D**ean Tara Hulsey is constantly evaluating opportunities and unique partnerships to not only meet these challenges but to create the programs and advanced training future nurses and nurse-leaders need.

“Our core mission remains educating and training future nurses, both at the undergraduate and graduate level. But, as healthcare continues to change and the roles of nurses expand, we have to be forward-thinking in addressing the needs of our state, our nation and our world,” said Hulsey. “It’s important for us to take a 360-degree look at who we are, where we’re going and what we can do to provide our students and graduates with skills and training that will enable them to provide the best possible care for patients. That starts with responding to the healthcare needs of West Virginians.”

Addressing the shortage of nurses is a focus for the School — one that requires innovative ideas and creative problem-solving. Increased competition for clinical sites, coupled with retiring faculty, has made this a challenging task — especially when seeking to expand enrollment.

One way to address this challenge is to broaden our School’s reach. Beginning in 2017, the School of Nursing’s Institute of Technology program will move to the new Beckley campus, providing greater access to prospective students. “Having a presence in this area will enable us to expand our recruitment pool and hopefully increase the number of students in our program. Additionally, this area does not currently have a BSN program, so we will be meeting a community need,” added Hulsey.

The School continues to look at other areas of the state where we can increase undergraduate enrollment, while providing additional training and education for our students. In addition, Dean Hulsey also recognizes the critical need for professionals with advanced degrees and the need for primary care providers in rural settings.

During the past year, we have initiated a number of new programs to enhance educational opportunities for students at all levels. In early 2016 we implemented changes to the curriculum for master’s and doctor of nursing practice programs.

“We know we need more advanced practice nurses who can fulfill a much-needed role in caring for a growing patient population. By making some small changes to this program, we hope to encourage more students to complete this advanced degree early in their careers so they can return to their communities to assume an expanded nursing role,” Hulsey explained.

Addressing the need for strong, talented nurse-leaders with business skills has become another focus. In May, through a partnership with the WVU College of Business and Economics, we announced the addition of our first off-campus dual master’s program (Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Science

in Business Administration). The goal is to prepare graduates to take leadership roles in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practice, nonprofit organizations and public sectors. Business is a necessary content area that is not a significant part of nursing curricula.

Another new program began in fall 2016, when the School of Nursing launched a Faith Community Nursing certificate program. It focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting

holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community. Students can take the course online or as a hybrid option. The course is the first step in a nurse’s ability to apply for national certification in faith community nursing through the American Nursing Credentialing Center. Providing care in faith communities often reaches people who otherwise do not have access to regular healthcare.

And Hulsey is not one to rest. She and her team are constantly working to identify additional academic programs and professional partnerships.

“Nursing has taken center stage in helping to address the growing healthcare needs of communities, and we must evolve to meet those demands. We will do that by ensuring our academic offerings are of the highest quality and addressing the needs of the profession and the interests of our students. We have a tremendous opportunity to take the lead in how we approach the ever-evolving healthcare landscape, and I believe we have the plans and people in place to do that. I am extremely excited and passionate about the future.” ❖

**“Nursing has taken center stage in helping to address the growing healthcare needs of communities, and we must evolve to meet those demands. We will do that by ensuring our academic offerings are of the highest quality and addressing the needs of the profession and the interests of our students.”**

**Tara Hulsey**, dean, WVU School of Nursing





# Collaborating For A Better West Virginia

WRITTEN BY HANNAH BOOTH  
PHOTO BY DAVID SMITH

**Dr. Ubolrat “Diu” Piamjariyakul believes in leading by example, and that is exactly what she has been doing since arriving on campus in August.**

As the new associate dean for research at the WVU School of Nursing, Dr. Piamjariyakul is responsible for leading all aspects of the School’s research mission, working closely with faculty to further define the direction of research and scholarship.

She immediately recognized a unique passion for research among our faculty. Hoping to build on that passion, “one of my goals is to develop strong mentorship and scholarship programs to facilitate growth and collaboration among our faculty and students,” she said.

Dr. Piamjariyakul has been the driving force behind the expansion of internal grant opportunities offered to WVU Nursing researchers in support of interprofessional collaboration. Available this spring, an award has been created as an extension of the School’s Research Investment Fund. It will allow researchers to work together across disciplines to better address the healthcare

needs of West Virginia. Dr. Piamjariyakul hopes to extend the reach of School of Nursing researchers and encourage more multidisciplinary collaboration, ultimately providing an improved healthcare experience for West Virginians.

Dr. Piamjariyakul also has worked to establish the School of Nursing Research Task Force, which will strengthen research activities in the School and provide scientific review for both internal and external grant opportunities. Including faculty across all tracks and campuses, as well as a PhD student and WVU Medicine representative, the task force provides an opportunity for Dr. Piamjariyakul to work with these individuals, further encouraging mentorship and collaboration. To see more teamwork among faculty, students and clinicians, she will practice what she preaches.

She is also working to establish a research interest group devoted to community-based palliative care needs in rural West Virginia, a service that has been offered in the past. Though she





*“The physical, emotional and societal burdens associated with chronic illnesses are prominent in Appalachia, where rates of comorbidity, disability and premature death are among the highest in the nation. We are passionately focused on addressing these health disparities in West Virginia through research.”*

**Dr. Ubolrat Piamjariyakul**, associate dean, WVU School of Nursing

wants to start small, rebuilding this group will help the School better serve those with life-limiting conditions, their families and their healthcare providers.

One very rewarding accomplishment has been mentoring faculty. Dr. Piamjariyakul has been able to get to know faculty members better while introducing them to the many grant opportunities available.

Before joining the WVU School of Nursing, Dr. Piamjariyakul served as a research associate professor at the University of Kansas, where her research focused on interventions and health service delivery that effectively reduce acute care hospitalizations and health inequalities among minority populations.

Dr. Piamjariyakul holds a PhD in nursing from the University of Kansas, a master's degree in nursing and healthcare management from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Saraburi Nursing College in Thailand.

She is a peer reviewer for the Nursing Research and Heart and Lung journals and has been published in renowned multidisciplinary

research journals. Dr. Piamjariyakul has received several awards, including the Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize from the American Heart Association, the Research Practicum Award from the Mayo Clinic Clinical and Translational Science Awards, and Faculty Research Investigator Award from the University of Kansas Medical Center.

“The physical, emotional and societal burdens associated with chronic illnesses are prominent in Appalachia, where rates of comorbidity, disability and premature death are among the highest in the nation. The WVU School of Nursing is passionately focused on addressing these health disparities in West Virginia through research,” said Dr. Piamjariyakul. “But I always stress research is not a one-person show. Through supportive leadership and collaboration, we will elevate the School's level of research and scholarship to achieve optimal health outcomes for West Virginians.” ♡



## Alumna's legacy to live on for future generations

To say Hazel Johnson lived life to the fullest is an understatement. The retired United States Air Force colonel spent much of her career caring for wounded soldiers around the world. During her 26-year career with the military, she also found a passion for traveling and exploring new places — a passion that allowed her to visit more than 80 countries.

Johnson also believed in education. Wanting to ensure that students had a chance to achieve their dreams and find their passion, she established the Hazel A. Johnson Scholarship at West Virginia University for nursing students. Nursing student Kelsey Welsh was the 2106 recipient of the scholarship. "Ms. Johnson was such an inspiring, caring and giving woman. Even though she donated a substantial amount of money she still felt like that wasn't enough and that she wished she could do more. During our luncheon I thanked her for the scholarship and told her how extremely helpful it would be to me as I continue with my nursing studies. She then responded to me with, 'Oh, you're quite welcome. I know it's not much, but I hope to eventually donate more.' Having this scholarship has allowed me to work less hours so that I can focus on my studies."

Hazel Johnson passed away in November 2016. Through her two scholarships at the School of Nursing — one undergraduate and a newly created graduate scholarship — her passion for education and compassionate spirit will live on for future generations of Mountaineers.

***"Ms. Johnson was such an inspiring, caring and giving woman."***

**Kelsey Welsh**, 2016 scholarship recipient

## Retired faculty member establishes scholarship for graduate students



Dr. C. Lynne Ostrow served the School of Nursing and its students at the undergraduate and graduate level for more than 35 years. During that time, she watched as graduate students tried to juggle the demands of work, academic study and personal life. Those moments had a long-lasting effect

on her. "I was always impressed with students who were studying to become nurse practitioners (NP). Many were doing this while continuing to work and raise families. The stress of all these demands must be overwhelming. That moved me to want to help future students," she explained.

Those memories led her and her husband, Andy, a retired faculty member of the WVU College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences (CPASS), to establish two scholarships totaling \$50,000, including the Ostrow Graduate Student Scholarship (\$25,000) for students pursuing their advanced nursing degrees. The nursing scholarship will provide financial assistance for tuition, fees and books. The Ostrow International Achievement Award (\$25,000) will provide financial support to enhance study abroad and international travel experiences for undergraduate students in CPASS, as well as support students' participation in faculty-led overseas travel.

And Dr. Ostrow hopes others who have gone through the rigorous nursing programs will think about helping a future nurse achieve their dreams at WVU. "It is my hope that others will see this and say, 'She's talking about me' and want to also give back to help these future NP graduate students."



◀ Hazel Johnson (*center*) made a difference in the lives of students through her passion for education, and was recognized during the 2016 scholarship luncheon. Pictured with Hazel (*center*) are nursing student Kelsey Welsh (*left*), scholarship recipient, and Dean Tara Hulsey.





*The School of Nursing is grateful for the generous donors who support scholarships, faculty research and other programs/activities. It is because of our alumni and friends that we are able to train and educate the very best nurses who change the lives of patients every day.*

## Did you know ...

- /// You can donate stock, retirement assets, real estate and other investments?
- /// You can make a planned gift or include the School of Nursing in your will?
- /// You can name the School as a beneficiary on an insurance policy?
- /// You can support an existing fund, such as an established endowment or scholarship fund?
- /// You or your spouse's company might offer a matching gift option that will allow you to double your contribution?
- /// You can have a direct effect on scholarships, programming and other activities by making a cash gift?

Giving is easy. In addition to the giving opportunities noted above, there are many ways to give, and no gift is too big or too small to make a significant difference in the lives of our students, faculty and greater community. For more information on making a gift to the WVU School of Nursing, please contact Kit Walizer, director of development, at **304-293-1597** or email [kit.walizer@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:kit.walizer@hsc.wvu.edu).

*Gifts made prior to December 31, 2017, are included in the A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia University.*





Volunteers Sarah Snider (second from left) and Dr. Gina Maiocco (right) visit Army veteran, Troy Olsen, as part of the Vet to Vet initiative to help address the needs of veterans during their hospital stay.

# Vet to Vet Program One-Of-A-Kind In Addressing Unique Healthcare Issues

WRITTEN BY TARA CURTIS

**As a veteran, School of Nursing Clinical Associate Professor Gina Maiocco, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, understands the unique healthcare issues our military personnel and veterans face on a day-to-day basis, particularly in civilian hospitals where exposure to the needs of these patients may be limited.**

To help healthcare professionals gain a better understanding of those issues and provide them with opportunities to further engage with these men and women, Dr. Maiocco started the “Vet to Vet” volunteer program at WVU Medicine’s J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. This one-of-a-kind program connects veteran healthcare providers with military patients to provide additional support during their hospital stay.

Veteran Sarah Snider, CPM coordinator and dietician, at WVU Medicine, serves as a Vet to Vet volunteer and enjoys making these visits to veterans. She finds so much meaning in what the program is trying to accomplish. “Veterans aren’t always quick to share a lot of information, but when they find out that we, too, are veterans and make that military connection with them, they tend to open up a bit more. We learn more about them and their service, which often results in us identifying issues that the patient might be experiencing, and we are able to work with fellow healthcare professionals to address their needs.”

At any one time, Ruby may have 35-40 veteran patients receiving care, many whom have combat experience. During a

recent visit with patient Troy Olsen, who served with the U.S. Army’s Infantry Division, Dr. Maiocco and Snider learned of the hearing loss he suffered during his military service. “This is something that should be noted for those providing care to the patient, and if it’s not in the patient’s chart, then we can alert the staff, which makes it easier on the patient and on the healthcare providers,” added Snider.

The volunteers visit veteran patients every Thursday and have connected with more than 40 men and women since the program started in November 2016. And, it has been well received by veterans. “I am glad to see help for our veterans. Please keep up the good work. It’s encouraging to know someone is here for us,” said another patient.

“We know our veterans experience a number of health issues, particularly those who have served in combat,” said Dr. Maiocco. “As veterans ourselves, we understand the need to work with these patients to address their unique healthcare needs. Our hope is that the program will continue to grow and can be expanded to other healthcare facilities.” ♡



# Did You Know ...



**88**  
*nursing WVU  
Honors students*



Nearly 40 nursing faculty and students presented posters and participated in **West Virginia's 2017 UNITY DAY**

**25+**  
*faculty research/articles*

were published in 2016, including in the International Journal of Nursing Sciences, and Applied Nursing Research, and Journal of Nursing Care Quality, to name a few



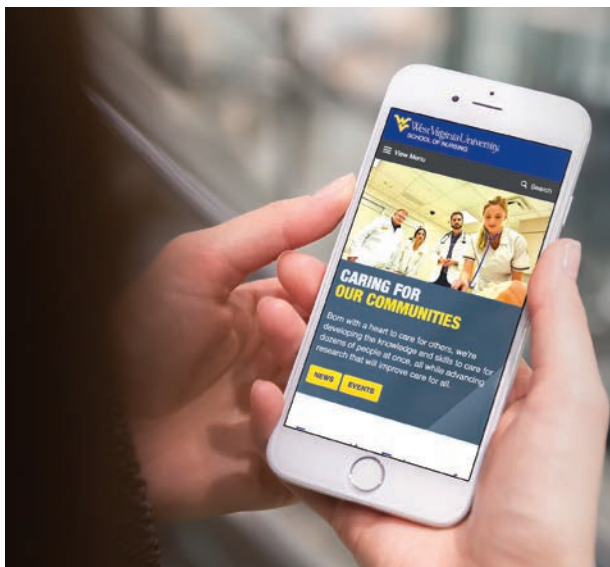
**MORE THAN \$111K**  
*awarded in scholarships*

during the 2016-17 academic year to School of Nursing students



School of Nursing and the West Virginia Attorney General's Office have partnered to

**EDUCATE 8TH GRADERS**  
*about substance abuse*



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◀ (L to r) Babs Nighthengale, Brenda Daugherty and Judi Polak were recognized for their pioneering work in neonatal care at WVU Medicine Children's.

## Alumni Recognized For Pioneering Care For Tiniest Patients

WRITTEN BY ERIN BLAKE AND TARA CURTIS

The tiniest Mountaineers born at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital receive extraordinary care thanks to the pioneering efforts of three outstanding School of Nursing graduates.

Brenda Park Daugherty ('80 MSN, '76 BSN), Barbara "Babs" Nightengale ('85 BSN, '94 MSN), and Judi Dunmire Polak ('10 DNP, '79 BSN) were instrumental in building a nationally recognized Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at WVU Medicine Children's.

The trio was recognized by the hospital at its annual gala for their dedication to the care of newborns and for their roles in educating current and future generations of healthcare providers.

Nightengale was one of the first nurses to join the staff at the new NICU in the former University Hospital in Morgantown when it opened in 1976. As the demand for NICU services started to grow, she trained to become a transport nurse. When the number of newborns transported grew to more than 250 annually, Daugherty and Polak joined the team to support the transport program. By the end of the 1970s, they had been to every hospital in the state and in many neighboring states, caring for the smallest and most delicate patients.

In the 1980s, the trio became certified as Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NNPs) and spent the decade in collaborative

patient care in the NICU, while advancing their own education (each received a master's degree in nursing). They also realized that the training of the new NNPs was essential, and together, with the WVU Department of Pediatrics, they started an NNP certification education course. Nurses from around the country came to Morgantown to learn from and be mentored by these three extraordinary women.

The women continued to excel as caregivers, teachers and mentors. Nightengale was appointed to a national committee of neonatologists that created the Neonatal Resuscitation program – the standard of care in all hospitals. She later pursued care of at-term and near-term newborns, becoming a thought leader in caring for infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Polak, who received a Doctor of Nursing Practice, joined the School of Nursing faculty where she helped develop a master's degree for NNPs. Daugherty continued her work throughout West Virginia, educating nurses and physicians about newborn stabilization and care. She also coordinated a yearly, statewide nursing education conference and brought the S.T.A.B.L.E. neonatal education program to West Virginia hospitals. ♡





preventing pressure ulcers in the spinal-cord-injured patient.

**Holly Riley, BSN '03**, Morgantown, West Virginia, made a podium presentation at the Trauma Quality Improvement Program National Conference in Orlando, Florida, in the fall. The presentation focused on the development of a multidisciplinary approach to



**Virginia Londahl-Ramsey, BSN '88**, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, received her Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice from Texas Wesleyan University. She is grateful to the School of Nursing for "laying the foundation of a bright and prosperous nursing career."

**Sarah Saville, BSN '12**, Baltimore, Maryland, works at R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in the ECMO unit (extracorporeal



**Sherri Williams, MSN '01, BSN '90**, Princeton, West Virginia, received the 2016 Bluefield State College Foundation Outstanding Faculty Award. The recipient of this award is chosen by his/her peers for dedication, commitment to teaching and learning, service to the college and community, and dedication to students. She was recognized during the 2016 commencement ceremonies. Williams, who joined Bluefield State College in 2002, also works part-time at Princeton Community Hospital.



### **Professor Emeritus Gaynelle McKinney (1925-2017) devoted her professional career to the creation and successful growth of the West Virginia University School of Nursing.**

As a young faculty member at the University of South Carolina, she was personally recruited by the first dean of the WVU School of Nursing, Dorothy Major, to join the founding faculty and to assist in the design of the curriculum for the School. That curriculum plan, known as "The West Virginia Plan," continues to be admired and adopted nationally and internationally.

Over the course of her service to the School, Professor McKinney instructed students in critical care nursing, served as director of continuing education, chaired an academic department and served as assistant dean. She was a founding member of the Sigma Theta Tau International - Alpha Rho Chapter and served as president.

Students remembered her as an outstanding teacher, and she received many honors from her peers in recognition of her work to advance the profession of nursing both in West Virginia and nationally. Throughout her work and after retirement, Professor McKinney remained a warm and kind friend to all.

Cheryl Toombs Richter, Class of 1970, noted, "Nursing and West Virginia University's School of Nursing have lost a pillar of the nursing profession and a wonderful instructor, faculty advisor and friend. Gaynelle will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate enough to be mentored by her."

Professor Emeritus Lynne Ostrow remembers her friend and mentor fondly. "She was an outstanding scholar, a supportive and encouraging leader as my chairperson, a lady at all times, and the best Monday morning quarterback! I loved our Monday coffee to review the weekend football games."



**Remembering  
Gaynelle  
McKinney**  
RN, MNEd, FAAN





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# 2017 ALUMNI CELEBRATION

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**September 15-16, 2017**

Our School of Nursing annual celebration will include a new format and additional activities for our grads the weekend of September 15-16. We will host a Friday night cocktail reception and recognition of special milestones, followed by a tailgate on Saturday in the Blue Lot prior to the WVU-Delaware State game. We'll also be carving out some time for you to visit the School and grab a peek at our state-of-the-art STEPS training center.



Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special celebration of alumni and friends! A formal invitation will be mailed in early summer with full details of the weekend activities. Questions? Email [sonalumni@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:sonalumni@hsc.wvu.edu).

We have secured a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn (next to Mon General Hospital) at a discounted rate (\$149/night, two-night minimum). To make a reservation, please call 304-241-6649 and mention "School of Nursing" to receive the special rate for this weekend. You may also find a complete list of area hotels at [tourmorgantown.com/stay/](http://tourmorgantown.com/stay/).