Fiscal Year 2018
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
This year has been one of tremendous growth and significant achievements for the School of Nursing. Faculty and staff came together to chart a new course for the next three years, resulting in the school’s three-year strategic plan. President Thomas LeBlanc took office and unveiled five strategic initiatives for the whole university. These guiding principles will help ensure the School of Nursing continues to grow and thrive.

As a result of the diligent efforts of our students, faculty and staff, the school continued to climb in U.S. News and World Report ranking – at No. 5 among online graduate nursing programs and No. 25 among DNP programs nationwide. These advancements reflect years of effort to improve how we approach education, research, scholarship and recruitment.

I am incredibly pleased to report that, after submitting an application to the National League for Nursing for consideration, we were designated a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. This is the culmination of years of work laying a foundation of evidence-based pedagogies upon which to build a culture of excellence. Over the course of months putting together the application, I was thrilled to hear of brief anecdotes, quotes and success stories that together painted a picture of the outstanding education we provide at this school.

This year was also significant for the university, as it was re-accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. I am proud of the part the School of Nursing played in demonstrating the quality education that GW continues to provide.

As encouraging as it is to reflect on what we have done in the past year, I am heartened by future prospects. Reading about these achievements and other milestones for the school, I trust you will be as excited for our future endeavors as I am.

Best

Pamela R. Jeffries
Dean and Professor, GW School of Nursing
New Programs

Fiscal year 2018 was a year of expansion with the addition of new certificates in the fields of Health Policy and Media Engagement, Nursing Education and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). GW Nursing also made the notable milestones of securing approvals of a PhD in Nursing program and a MSN option in PMHNP. All new offerings address shortages of adequately prepared practitioners, scientists and advocates within the nursing profession and are valuable additions to the school’s array of educational programs.

Clinical Placement

With a distance-learning graduate education model, streamlining clinical placement processes has been an ongoing effort to improve the student experience. Over the past two years, GW Nursing revamped its graduate clinical placement process to adopt a student-driven and competency-based clinical placement model designed to empower nurse practitioner students to select clinical sites based on potential to meet clinical objectives and support clinical competencies. The new model also allows faculty and staff to efficiently address challenges associated with rapid national expansion, regulatory requirements and the educational standards of online NP education programs.

The school’s clinical placement staff developed a database of clinical sites across the country to help our graduate students find preceptors. It is accessible by students and faculty and currently contains more than 2,500 sites grouped by availability and population foci.

Admissions Pipelines

GW Nursing negotiated five new guaranteed admissions agreements for students in area community colleges. The school also partnered with the Organization of Associate Degree Nursing to offer guaranteed admission to its members. These agreements facilitate the seamless transition to GW Nursing and address a nationwide demand for nurses.
GW Nursing celebrates faculty members who joined the school this year. Each brings an invaluable perspective on nursing education or research to enrich the school’s portfolio of academic pursuits.

- Cindy Allen  
  Assistant Professor
- Carol Braungart  
  Assistant Professor  
  FNP Program Director
- Mercedes Echevarria  
  Associate Professor  
  DNP Program Director
- Crystel Farina  
  Director of Simulation Education
- Jeanne Murphy  
  Assistant Professor
- Anne-Marie O’Brien  
  Clinical Assistant Professor  
  Director of BSN Clinical Education

Rounding out the new cadre of faculty was Jeanne Geiger-Brown, who joined GW Nursing in January as a tenured professor and associate dean for research. Dr. Geiger Brown, a well-known nurse researcher and former nursing school dean, will lead the school’s expanding research endeavors and mentor faculty as she oversees the school’s Office of Research. She is internationally known for her research in adverse outcomes of occupational sleep deficiency.

In January, the school held the inaugural GW Nursing Research Colloquium in Washington, D.C., inviting faculty, students and staff from partner institutions and other GW schools to share their research at this daylong interdisciplinary event. Faculty shared the podium with students from our Doctor of Nursing Practice program and from partner organizations.

As the school builds the its research portfolio, faculty contributed several new grants and awards:

- Kathleen Griffith – VA - SPIRE subaward  
  Progressive Activity-Based Rehabilitation in Veteran Cancer Survivors with Chronic Pain
- Mayri Leslie – R01 NICHD subaward  
  Umbilical Cord Milking in Non-Vigorous Infants (the MINVI Trial) - Domestic
- Joyce Pulcini – GW Honey W. Nashman Center Professional Development Grant
- Erin Athey – GW Honey W. Nashman Center Professional Development Grant
- Ellen Kurtzman – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship
- Pearl Zhou – GW-CDRF  
  Using blood glucose feedback to regulate physical activity to control blood glucose among women with pre-diabetes
- Sandra Davis – Sigma Theta Tau  
  Mentorship for Academic and Professional, Growth, Guidance and Success
Awards and Honors

**Sigma Theta Tau International**

Several GW Nursing faculty members were honored at the Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention. Karen Wyche was inducted as an honorary member. Christine Pintz and Laurie Posey won the Best Practice in Technology Award for their work on the GW Interprofessional Education Collaborative. Dean Jeffries was awarded the Edith Moore Copeland Award for Excellence and Creativity.

From Sigma Theta Tau International:

*Sigma’s International Awards for Nursing Excellence are based on the society’s dedication to fostering high professional nursing standards, recognizing superior achievement, developing leadership, and encouraging creative work.*

*Awards are conferred to nurses each biennium for contributions in the fields of research, leadership/professionalism, education/technology, communications, nursing practice, and chapter activity/membership.*

**George Washington Bender Award for Excellence in Teaching**

In fiscal year 2018, Majeda El-Banna won the university’s premier award for teaching professors: the Bender Award. The Bender Teaching Awards recognize undergraduate, graduate, and professional teaching at GW.

**2017 Edith Moore Copeland Award for Excellence and Creativity**

Pamela R. Jeffries was honored with the Edith Moore Copeland Award for Excellence and Creativity, also known as a Sigma Theta Tau Founders Award. This award reflects a career dedicated to the advancement of the profession of nursing and her contributions to the state of the science of simulation education.

On receiving the award, Dean Jeffries said, “Being lauded for creativity and my work on the NLN/Jeffries Simulation Framework is both exciting and humbling. Nationally and internationally, Sigma is recognized as a standard of excellence within nursing. Being honored by such a prestigious group of my peers and colleagues is a highlight of my career.”

**Fellowships**

Three GW Nursing faculty members were honored this past year with fellowships in different academies and associations, reflecting their commitment to the profession of nursing.

- Karen Kesten  
  *American Academy of Nursing*

- Jeanne Murphy  
  *American College of Nurse-Midwives*

- Karen Whitt  
  *American Association of Nurse Practitioners*
For the past several years, GW Nursing has focused on building infrastructure – on campus, with new hires and with streamlined processes – to better meet the demands of a growing student body. Whether by expanding the spaces available to our students or creating new professional development or support programs, the school is committed to improving the student experience and building an institutional culture.

### Well-Being Experience

GW Nursing is dedicated to building resilience and grit to help future nurses fight burnout and fatigue. Practicing resilience in the face of adversity can be challenging, given the rigorous demands of the nursing profession. Preparing nurses to deal with burnout, stress and other factors that cause them to leave the profession can be as important to their success in a nursing career as the clinical skills they learn. The Well-Being Experience was designed in FY18 to provide psychosocial, physical and educational support to students in our programs. The initiative includes eight modules. Students receive a notation on their transcripts after completion.

### Diversity

To prepare students for a dynamic and increasingly complex health care industry, the school recognizes that it must provide programming that educates students and the school community on the different backgrounds, personalities, scenarios and identities they will encounter in the course of their careers. This initiative provides a broader perspective on how the practice of health care and the education of health care providers is shaped and affected by issues of diversity.

This year, Sandra Davis was appointed as inaugural assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion and led the school’s first diversity retreat in January 2018. The school also now offers a diversity-focused lecture series three times each semester, featuring speakers on topics such as race, sexuality, social determinants of health and more.

### GW Nursing Veterans At a Glance

- 55 student veterans currently enrolled
- 94 percent NCLEX pass rate
- 47 percent of veteran students had prior military training related to direct patient care
- 5 percent increase in gender diversity across the entire school since 2014
- Ranked No. 3 by U.S. News and World Report for Veterans
- Ranked No. 19 by Military Times for Best Colleges for Veterans

### Veterans

GW Nursing values veterans of the armed forces, which is why the school offers a supportive learning environment tailored to veterans’ needs. The BSN veterans option offers a customized curricular roadmap, which is based on prior education, military service and experience. Since the creation of the initiative in 2014, the school has graduated more than 50 veterans to new careers in nursing.
Centers

The Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement

This center is committed to increasing visibility across health care disciplines to educate the public about their expertise, perspectives and work. Developing the right health and social policies for the nation depends upon it.

Woodhull Study Revisited

Despite gradual increases in women’s representation in the media, nurses remain largely invisible in health news stories, despite their relevance to almost any health issue. Although the profession has an increasing number of nurses with doctoral degrees who are clinicians or researchers with deep clinical and policy expertise, nurses are seldom included as sources in stories on topics related to health policy, research and the business of health care. These are the disparities the center sought to highlight and begin to remedy in their replication of the 20-year-old Woodhull Study on Nursing and the Media: Health Care’s Invisible Partner. The center shared preliminary results during Nurses Week at The National Press Club.

Learn more about the Woodhull Study Revisited at go.gwu.edu/woodhull

The Center for Aging, Health and Humanities

This center is the interdisciplinary home for GW faculty to collaborate on research, education, scholarship and clinical innovations to improve the care of older adults and their families. The center works with faculty and organizations to incorporate skills, benefits and lessons learned from the humanities in the fields of aging and health. This unique approach provides practitioners insight into the intersection of the human experience and the rapidly changing landscape of science, technology and public policy in health care.

In May 2018, the center hosted the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium which offered 12 hours of Continuing Education credits to the 85 participants – 60 RNs, 20 social workers, two chaplains and three nursing home administrators.

Community and Global Initiatives

The school strives to improve health equity throughout the communities it serves and across the world by creating strategic relationships with organizations that serve communities in need of our health expertise. Each year, students and faculty provide over 200,000 hours of community service to the D.C. region and on international mission trips.

This year, Community and Global Initiatives created a new, graduate-level online elective course (NURS 6290, Global Health for Healthcare Professionals) in response to an elevated interest in global public health. Students across all disciplines at GW analyze global health problems and issues from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Figure 3. Trends in the diversity of the student body at the School of Nursing.
Constituent Engagement

Fundraising exceeded attainment goals for the fiscal year by 12 percent. GW Nursing’s faculty and staff giving rate was also the highest in the university.

![Bar chart showing development attainment goals for past fiscal years: FY 2016: $1.05 million, FY 2017: $1 million, FY 2018: $1.12 million. Goal: $1 million.]

Figure 4. Development attainment goals of past fiscal years for reference against FY2018, in which the school’s actual attainment exceeded its goal by $120,000.

Selected Initiatives

+ The Clinician Leadership Executive Program (CLEP) is a partnership with the UnitedHealth Group (UHG) Center for Clinician Advancement. CLEP engages 14 senior clinician leaders across UHG’s many business lines and prepares them for executive leadership roles. Participants hone their executive mindset and presence, leadership, ability to drive system change and capacity to advocate on behalf of the UHG enterprise. The program, led by Kate Malliarakis has an interprofessional perspective, and tailors a rigorous and customized curriculum to meet the evolving needs of UHG and the cohort.

+ In partnership with Envision, GW Nursing hosted more than 350 high school students from across the country interested in careers in health care through this pipeline program this summer. The students participated in interprofessional hands-on activities and simulations relevant to topics and issues in health care today, as well as the profession of nursing.

+ In March of 2018, the school hosted the inaugural GW Simulation Conference on the Virginia Science and Technology Campus, with some 25 different speakers and presenters discussing issues and implications of simulation education for today’s nurse educators and practitioners. Dean Jeffries delivered a keynote address exploring the various policy implications of increasingly using simulation to educate pre-licensure and advanced practice nurses. The simulation conference introduced participants to the next steps in providing evidence, ideas and policy implications. The conference focused on clinical simulation implementation in advanced practice nursing education and clinical practice settings to build clinical resiliency. Conference highlights include presentations of critical learning experiences and exemplars designed to enhance simulation programs.

+ GW Nursing also has standing partnerships with two area hospital systems to offer students scholarships and job placement after they graduate. The school graduated 43 students from the Washington Squared program and six students from the GW Hospital Nursing Scholars program.

![Circle chart showing gift type attainment: Sponsored Research: 4.5%, Outright Gifts & Pledges: 50.9%, Gifts-in-Kind: 42.9%, Planned Gifts: 1.8%]

Figure 5. Attainment by gift type
Construction for the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) simulation space and a new Student Success Center began in February of 2018 at Innovation Hall on the Virginia Science and Technology Campus. The Student Success Center will house staff from the Office of Student Affairs and provide dedicated study and meeting spaces for students. The planned expansion of the OSCE space will provide additional space for clinical skills testing for NP students.

The new space will add 12 patient exam rooms and two acute care rooms, bringing the total simulation space to nearly 20,000 square feet. The entire OSCE space is outfitted with SimCapture, B-line’s health care simulation management platform that provides livestreaming, recording, connections to real data and medical devices and more.

Staff hires

GW Nursing has grown significantly in the past few years, resulting in the need for expanding the school’s staff to support a larger student body and a restructured faculty organizational culture with two communities. As a result, the school has brought on a number of new people in the past fiscal year to help scale, streamline and continually improve the processes and procedures that keep the school running.
Advisory Council
This reflects the membership of the advisory council during the fiscal year.

Chair
+ Mary-Michael Brown, DNP, RN  
  MedStar Health

Members
+ Diane Billings, EdD, RN, FAAN  
  Indiana University School of Nursing
+ Alan Schurman Cohn, JD  
  AbsoluteCare
+ Ellen Dawson, PhD, RN  
  Professor Emerita of GW School of Nursing
+ Patrick DeLeon, PhD, JD  
  Retired, Chief of Staff to  
  U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
+ Karen N. Drenkard, PhD, RN, FAAN  
  GetWell Network
+ Lucas Huang, BEE, BAE  
  B-Line Medical
+ Robin Kaplan, MSN, RN  
  Kushner Hebrew Academy
+ Elizabeth (Betsy) K. Linsert, MS, FNP  
  GW Colonial Health Center
+ Molly McCarthy, MBA, RN  
  Microsoft US Health
+ Lynn Mertz, PhD  
  AARP Center to Champion Nursing in America
+ Angela Patterson, DNP, RN  
  CVS MinuteClinic
+ Sandra Ryan, MSN, RN, FAAN  
  Walmart Care Clinic
+ Al Shimkus, MSN, RN, Capt. USN (Ret.)  
  Naval War College
+ Janet R. Southby, PhD, RN  
  Interagency Institute for Federal HealthCare Executives

Executive Council
This reflects the membership of the executive council as of the publication date.

+ David Biglari  
  Director of Marketing and Communications
+ Marie Brown  
  Senior Adviser to the Dean
+ Sandra Davis  
  Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
+ Alyscia Eisen  
  Director of Finance
+ Jeanne Geiger-Brown  
  Associate Dean for Research
+ Jennifer Hayes-Klosteridis  
  Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
+ Pamela Jeffries  
  Dean
+ David Keepnews (interim)  
  Chair – Acute and Chronic Care Community
+ Kate Malliarakis  
  Chair – Policy, Populations and Systems Community
+ Angela McNelis  
  Associate Dean for Scholarship, Innovation and Clinical Sciences
+ Pamela Slaven-Lee (interim)  
  Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
+ Joe Velez  
  Director of Operations
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