

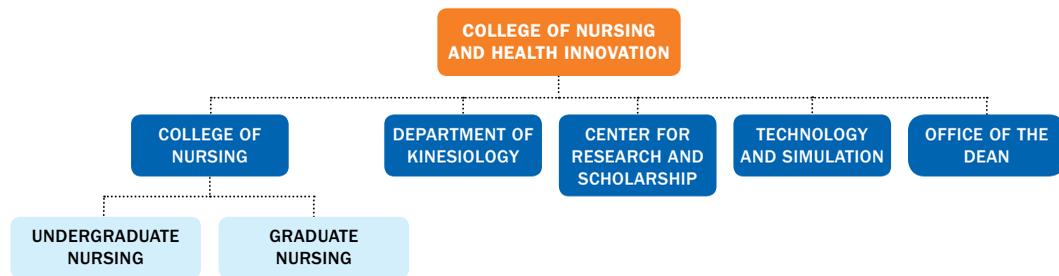
# DRIVEN TO HELP OTHERS



COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION  
2016 ANNUAL REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON



## DEAN'S MESSAGE



Through its innovations in the classroom, research, and work in the community, The University of Texas at Arlington's College of Nursing and Health Innovation is emerging as a national leader in the health care space. In the last year, we have added several of the world's most respected health care scholars to our faculty, introduced innovative academic programs, and stepped up our efforts to advance health and the human condition through our work in the community.

We are taking the lead in tackling the nursing shortage crisis in Texas and around the United States by significantly expanding access to our programs, particularly online. As a result, we now produce more than half the registered nurses in Texas and are the state's largest producer of BSN graduates. Our determination to ensure access to aspiring registered nurses has made us the largest nonprofit program in the United States.

We are responding to the health care needs of an aging and increasingly diverse population. This fall we introduced an undergraduate track in public health as part of an effort to meet rising nationwide demand for health care professionals trained in wellness as well as disease and injury prevention. Also this fall we began offering a doctoral degree in kinesiology in response to soaring demand for health care scientists and faculty. This degree is novel for its combination of elements of curriculums from kinesiology and nursing.

Faculty from nursing and kinesiology are collaborating on health care research projects designed to benefit humanity by advancing health and the human condition. In some instances, these faculty members work closely with colleagues in other academic units at The University of Texas at Arlington, including Engineering and Life Sciences and the School of Social Work.

We are looking forward to seeing even more of this kind of teamwork progress when many faculty members from the colleges of Nursing and Health Innovation, Engineering, and Science move into the new Science and Engineering Innovation and Research building in 2018 and work side by side in multidisciplinary labs.

I invite you to read this inaugural annual report, which covers the 2015-16 academic year and gives a glimpse into the new school year. It will give you much insight into our role in educating some of the world's finest health care workers and working toward a healthier region, a healthier state, and a healthier nation.

*Anne R. Bavier*

Anne R. Bavier, PhD, RN, FAAN  
 Dean and Professor  
 College of Nursing and Health Innovation

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATING HEALTH CARE'S  
FUTURE LEADERS**

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation is leading the way to address the nursing shortage in Texas and around the country. The College is one of the nation's largest nursing programs and the leading producer of registered nurses in the state of Texas.



**SUPERIOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT  
OUTCOME OF EXAMINATIONS  
SHOWCASE ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE**

A nurturing environment, first-rate instructional facilities like our SMART Hospital and kinesiology labs, and innovative approaches to teaching and learning prepare our students for success in the classroom and beyond.

- **90 percent** of our nursing students pass the licensing exam on the first try
- **92 percent pass rate** for the Certified Athletic Trainer credential
- **98 percent pass rate** for the Licensed Athletic Trainer credential
- **100 percent pass rate** for our master of science in athletic training program
- **100 percent pass rate** for our online nurse practitioner (NP) program

**NURSING STUDENTS ENROLLED**

DISTINCT HEADCOUNT PROGRAM - DEGREE	2014-15	2015-16
<b>CERTIFICATE</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>60</b>
CERTIFICATE	47	60
<b>DOC</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>81</b>
DNP	52	43
PHD	41	38
<b>MASTER'S</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>2,727</b>
MSN	2,181	2,727
<b>SPEC</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
NON-DEGREE	6	1
<b>UNDERGRAD</b>	<b>15,236</b>	<b>15,353</b>
BSN	14,794	15,083
NON-DEGREE	442	452
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17,563</b>	<b>18,404</b>

**KINESIOLOGY STUDENTS ENROLLED**

DISTINCT HEADCOUNT PROGRAM - DEGREE	2014-15	2015-16
MASTER'S	70	58
SPECIAL		1
UNDERGRAD	1,190	1,217
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,276</b>

**CONHI GRADUATES**

	FALL 2014	SPR 2015	SUM 2015	TOTAL	FALL 2015	SPR 2016	SUBTOTAL
<b>GRADUATE PROGRAMS</b>							
DNP	8	4	0	12	4	0	4
MSN ADMIN	67	23	31	121	62	44	106
MSN ED	5	10	5	20	25	21	46
NP	79	4	70	153	89	19	108
PHD	5	3	0	8	2	3	5
<b>UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS</b>							
KINES	4	18	2	24	1	16	17
CB RN_BSN	20	8	6	34	9	16	25
AO* RN-BSN	804	933	624	2,361	980	1,108	2,088
AO* BSN	108	102	7	217	88	99	187
CB BSN	104	116	7	227	124	96	220
KINES	93	92		185	98	106	204

\*AO: Accelerated Online

**STEWARDSHIP  
STRIVING TO DO MORE  
AS OUR NEEDS INCREASE**

Our budget has increased, but so have our needs as we expand access so we can educate more future health care professionals.

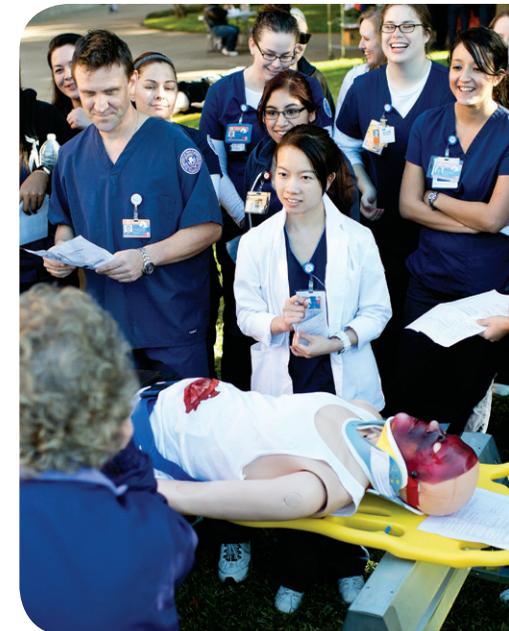


**CONHI FINANCIAL DATA**

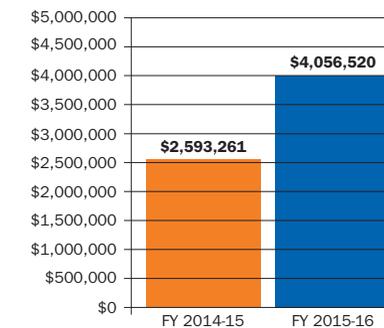
	2014-15	2014-15
<b>STATE FUNDING</b>		
SALARIES (FACULTY, STAFF)	\$5,287,661	\$5,410,666
DEPARTMENTAL MATERIAL AND OPERATING	\$649,591	\$483,830
ADMINISTRATION	\$815,613	\$1,064,307
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,752,865</b>	<b>\$6,958,803</b>
<b>NURSING SHORTAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM</b>		
SALARIES (FACULTY, STAFF)	\$3,834,129	\$5,241,768
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,834,129</b>	<b>\$5,241,768</b>
<b>ACCELERATED ONLINE REVENUE</b>		
SALARIES (FACULTY, STAFF, GRA, GTA)	\$5,390,494	\$6,278,256
DEPARTMENTAL MATERIAL AND OPERATING	\$265,353	\$348,112
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,316,603	\$1,533,736
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,972,450</b>	<b>\$8,160,104</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,559,444</b>	<b>\$20,360,675</b>

**FINDING SOLUTIONS  
SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR  
HEALTH PROBLEMS**

Research grant awards to College faculty rose by more than 40 percent last year. That number is projected to rise even higher with the addition of new faculty members who are researching subjects like esophageal cancer.



**RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS**



Would you like to help the College educate the next generation of health care leaders?  
Email [kristen.box@uta.edu](mailto:kristen.box@uta.edu)

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### ADVANCING HEALTH CARE

## IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION THROUGH RESEARCH AND SERVICE

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation is rapidly evolving into one of the region's most important health care research centers. Through scholarly research and service to the community, our faculty aggressively seeks solutions to an array of health concerns, including cancer, muscle degeneration, bone density, weak motor skills in children, and chronic kidney disease.

### TACKLING LOSS OF MUSCLE MASS AMONG THE ELDERLY

Marco Brotto, an internationally renowned nurse-scientist with expertise in muscle and bone physiology, is enhancing the College's stature as a leading center for health science research.

Dr. Brotto joined the faculty of the College in August 2015 as the George and Hazel M. Jay Professor. He also serves as director of the nursing doctoral program and heads Muscle and Bone Collaborative Sciences.

He is just one of the highly regarded health care researchers who have joined the College in the past year. Others include Mark Haykowsky, an internationally renowned muscle physiology nurse-scientist, and Paul Fadel, a noted physiology integrative researcher and expert in neural cardiovascular control in health and disease.

Brotto continues to aggressively explore strategies for mitigating the loss of muscle mass and function as people age, a condition known as age-related sarcopenia.

"Most people begin to lose muscle mass and function by the time they enter their 30s," Brotto says. "People who are physically inactive can lose up to 5 percent of their muscle mass each decade after they turn 30. Muscle weakness accelerates among the elderly and is a leading cause of frailty, which in turn heightens risks of falls and a host of injuries."



"Falls are caused by a combination of factors. We need to attack these causes from all angles."

DR. MARCO BROTTO  
George and Hazel M. Jay Professor



### BEST OF THE BEST CONHI PROGRAMS EARN TOP RANKINGS

Few health care programs manage to combine accessibility with high standards like the College of Nursing and Health Innovation. Employers say our graduates come to them well-prepared and are often head and shoulders above their peers. Many independent organizations, including some national news outlets, similarly hold high opinions of our nursing programs.

RN to BSN program **ranked No. 1** in the country by *College Choice*

Online BSN **ranked No. 2** by *College Choice*

MSN **ranked in top 100** by *US News & World Report*

UTA's nursing program one of the **top 4 percent** in the country by *Nursing Schools Almanac*

PhD program **ranked No. 35** by *Value College*

DNP program **ranked No. 42** by *Value College*

### HELPING CHILDREN BEAT A TOUGH BUT LITTLE-KNOWN DISORDER

Between 6 and 10 percent of young children have Development Coordination Disorder (DCD), a condition that impacts motor skills development.

Research shows children with DCD can also suffer from emotional and mental health issues or feelings of inadequacy or poor self-worth as they work to keep up with classmates in areas like handwriting and physical education.

Priscila Caçola, an assistant professor of kinesiology in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, designed the Little Mavs Movement Academy to improve the coordination and motor skills of children with DCD. Through her intervention program, she works to bring attention to this disorder, which is still not widely recognized.

With the help of undergraduate students, Dr. Caçola works with these children at her lab on the UTA campus to improve their coordination and motor skills. Although majority of the kids come from North Texas, some come from as far away as Mexico.

While the investigation of the mechanisms of this condition has been a key part of her research, Caçola is also examining the impact of group intervention.

"Little is known about how the dynamics of the group can improve different aspects of a DCD child's well-being," she says.



"More than half of the children who come to my lab have significant motor problems and should receive intervention early."

DR. PRISCILA CAÇOLA  
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology  
and Founder of Little Mavs Movement Academy

“Older adults are a vital part of the community, but are often overlooked. This is one area of nursing where I can truly make a difference.”

ELESHA ROBERTS  
PhD Student

#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

#### SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE

### CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTH CARE RESEARCHERS AND PROFESSIONALS

Through individualized attention from faculty, our students receive excellent preparation for careers in academia, hospitals, health clinics, athletics, and other arenas. They get coaching, mentoring, and unlimited access to resources such as the award-winning Student Success Center, which helps students navigate personal and academic challenges.

#### ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE ELDERLY

Elesha Roberts had two goals when she enrolled in UTA's nursing PhD program—helping address the nation's need for more nursing faculty and improving the quality of life of older adults, particularly African-Americans with hypertension.

“I would like to explore alternative treatment methods like spirituality and other faith-based health management strategies that can be used to control blood pressure in this target population,” says Roberts, an assistant clinical professor of nursing at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. “Older adults are a vital part of the community. This portion of the community is often overlooked and has limited resources. This is one area of nursing where I can truly make a difference.”

Roberts is a member of the College of Nursing and Health Innovation's inaugural class of Jonas Scholars. The program, which awards \$20,000 over a two-year period to each scholar, is part of a nationwide effort to increase the number of nursing faculty with doctoral degrees.

“This scholarship will help me further my goal to be a skilled nurse-scientist and true leader within the profession,” Roberts says.



We are thankful for the support of our friends and partners. It is because of their support that our nursing and kinesiology programs are among the best in the country. To find out how you can help the College create the next generation of health care workers and advance health and the human condition, contact [kristen.box@uta.edu](mailto:kristen.box@uta.edu).

#### GIVING 2015-16

TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS: **501**  
AVERAGE GIFT AMOUNT: **\$352**  
NUMBER OF DONORS: **235**  
NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS: **111**



“When [the donors] invest in young people like me, they are making an investment in the community. A healthy community is a thriving community.”

STEVE BOYTON  
Master's in Athletic Training Student

#### BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Steve Boyton, a native of the United Kingdom, is working on his master's in athletic training and hopes to work with a broad range of clients, including Paralympic athletes. He also dreams of working in health care research. His interest in research was kindled after arriving on the UTA campus, where he has the opportunity to work on an array of projects, such as parents' perceptions of concussions and knee ligament rehabilitation.

“These projects have given me a lot of insight into the importance of research in improving both the health care system and the quality of life for our patients,” says Boyton. But Boyton's dream of attending UTA almost didn't happen. He was turned down for loans repeatedly in the U.K. A forlorn Boyton reached out to Paul Krawietz, an associate professor of kinesiology and program coordinator of the Master's in Athletic Training program. Dr. Krawietz, who had been very supportive since Boyton first expressed an interest in the program, offered him an academic scholarship that waived a portion of his tuition. Boyton's parents refinanced their house to help pay some of the balance.

Then in his first year at UTA, Boyton received a Dream Makers scholarship, which is awarded to students in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation for excellence in scholarship and service. Since its inception in 2002, donors have contributed more than \$3 million to the Dream Makers scholarship fund, making it possible for hundreds of students to complete their studies.

“The donors not only build futures for young people, they build communities,” he says. “Like many of my classmates, I plan to devote all of my working life to improving the health of people. So when they invest in young people like me, they are making an investment in the community. A healthy community is a thriving community.”



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### DEVELOPING HEALTH CARE LEADERS UNLOCKING THE DOOR TO A VAST WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation cherishes its proud tradition of producing some of the top health care professionals in the United States. Our alumni include hospital nurses, nurse-scientists, chief nursing officers, senior corporate executives, college professors, top military officers, and athletic trainers. Most of them are more than just employees—they play key roles in advancing health care. We prepare students to be change agents.

#### FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER

Lillie M. Biggins' distinguished career had an inauspicious beginning. Her first job in health care was sweeping floors and changing beds at Fort Worth's John Peter Smith Hospital. It was the only position the young wife and mother of four could qualify for.

Encouraged by some of the nurses she encountered on the job, Biggins decided to pursue a career as a registered nurse. She eventually earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at UTA in 1975, a feat that continues to shape her career.

"The College is known for its innovations and transformative programs that provide platforms for traditional and non-traditional students," Biggins says.

In more than 40 years as a health care professional, Biggins has become a powerful example of the transformative power of a good education and hard work.

She worked as a critical care nurse for many years before becoming an administrator. She joined Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth in 1997 and was appointed the first female president of the 720-bed, faith-based nonprofit medical facility in 2012. She has been an adjunct faculty member at the College and is also a distinguished alumna. An active member of the Fort Worth-Arlington community, Biggins is currently the chair of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council and former chair of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Board of Directors. She received the inaugural Susan Halsey Leadership Award from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce in 2016 and was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 2014.



**"The focus on access and success at UTA's College of Nursing and Health Innovation has led to record numbers of graduates who continue to fill the needs of our health care systems across the region."**

**LILLIE M. BIGGINS**  
President of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth

**"The College of Nursing and Health Innovation strengthened my resolve to take action aimed at improving lives beyond the United States and incorporating a global perspective in my work."**

**DR. JAKKI OPOLLO**  
Director of Professional Practice and Nursing Research  
at Parkland Health and Hospital System



#### TRANSFORMING NURSING LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

As director of professional practice and nursing research at Dallas' Parkland Health and Hospital System, Jakki Opollo combines her keen interest in enhancing the nursing profession with her passion for global health care.

Dr. Opollo, a native of Kenya who holds undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees from the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, is responsible for ensuring that Parkland maintains programs and processes that help its 4,000 nurses thrive.

She works hard to ensure that nurses are adequately represented in governance decisions and that nursing practice is grounded in research and evidence-based information.

Her interest in empowering nurses stems in part from her passion for global health.

That passion was nurtured at the College by mentors such as Joy Don Baker, who stimulated a passion for health policy, and Jennifer Gray, who encouraged her to make a global impact.

"When I was an undergraduate, Dr. Gray recognized my passion for global health," says Opollo, founder of Love Bound International, a nonprofit organization that brings together professionals who push for sustainable global development goals. "We shared the same passion for the impact of HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa. We have done work together in Uganda, Rwanda, and South Africa. Every summer we would go to these countries and work with nurses and health care professionals to enhance their skills and help them better articulate issues on health care and research to the government."

The diversity of the student body coupled with the supportiveness of the faculty made for a very enriching experience at the College, she says.

"The support the faculty provided was phenomenal," Opollo adds. "They were readily available and responsive."





UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

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COLLEGE OF NURSING AND  
HEALTH INNOVATION