

ADVANCING



HEALTH

THROUGH INNOVATION



COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON



DEAN'S MESSAGE



At UTA's College of Nursing and Health Innovation, innovation is more than just a word; it is the very essence of who we are, the driving spirit of the College. Innovation is deeply engrained in everything we do in teaching, research, and service to the community and humanity.

I am proud to report that during the 2016-17 school year we lived up to our name.

In response to rising demand for health care scientists and faculty, we launched a doctoral degree in kinesiology. The program focuses on prevention and care. It is the only one of its kind in Texas with an interdisciplinary approach to health care.

We further broadened our efforts to create the next generation of health care workers by introducing an undergraduate track in public health care with an emphasis on urban populations. The program is designed to produce a public health workforce that mirrors the state's rapidly changing demographics. Near the end of the past school year, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board voted to upgrade the program from a track to a full-fledged bachelor's degree effective fall 2017. Graduates will get jobs as health educators, health policy analysts, health advocacy specialists, environmental specialists, disease interventionists, and industrial hygiene officers.

In spring 2017, in our continuing efforts to increase the number of advanced practice nurses, we began offering four of our graduate nursing degrees online.

We continue to attract some of the finest minds in health care research to our faculty ranks. Their work in fields as varied as esophageal cancer, simulation, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular disease has further positioned the College as a leader in advancing health and the human condition.

The groundbreaking and cutting-edge work of these researchers, who attract millions of dollars in grants, creates numerous opportunities to serve our surrounding communities. Each week, scores of residents come to one of our 12 labs seeking treatments for conditions such as developmental coordination disorder or looking for creative strategies to regain their strength while undergoing chemotherapy.

I invite you to read the 2017 annual report of one of America's most innovative health colleges. We are proud of the successes of the past year, and we are just as excited about the coming year.

For we know that our best years lie ahead.

*Anne R. Bavier*

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

COLLEGE OF NURSING  
 AND HEALTH INNOVATION

COLLEGE OF  
 NURSING

DEPARTMENT OF  
 KINESIOLOGY

CENTER FOR  
 RESEARCH AND  
 SCHOLARSHIP

TECHNOLOGY  
 AND SIMULATION

OFFICE OF THE  
 DEAN

UNDERGRADUATE  
 NURSING

GRADUATE  
 NURSING

**WORKFORCE PIPELINE**  
**PRODUCING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation is one of the most comprehensive health care colleges in the state. We are the largest producer of registered nurses in Texas and one of the five largest in the United States. In addition to registered nurses, we produce advanced practice nurses, athletic trainers, researchers, and much more.

**25,409** TOTAL ENROLLMENT

2016-17	Undergraduate	Master's	Doctoral	TOTAL
Nursing	19,164	4,729	118	24,011
Kinesiology	1,298	88	12	1,398

**3,507** TOTAL GRADUATES

2016-17	Undergraduate	Master's	Doctoral	TOTAL
Nursing	2,900	355	21	3,276
Kinesiology	214	17	NA	231

**4,565** TOTAL CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

2016-17	Students	Sites
Nursing	4,232	98
Kinesiology/Athletic Training	100	44
Kinesiology/Exercise Science	233	94

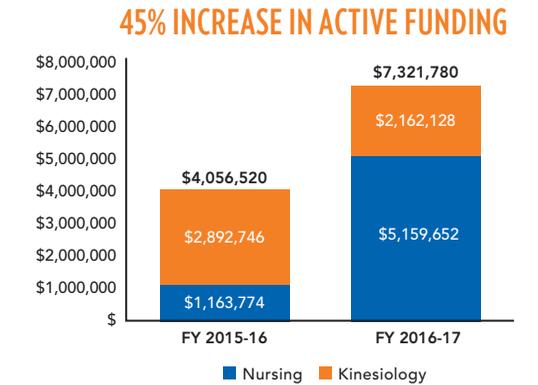
Would you like to help the College educate the next generation of health care leaders?

Email [CONHIGifts@uta.edu](mailto:CONHIGifts@uta.edu)



**FIGHTING AILMENTS**  
**IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH RESEARCH**

Faculty at the College of Nursing and Health Innovation attract millions of dollars in grants each year from various sources, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. In many instances, these organizations work closely with faculty from other disciplines to find solutions to pressing health matters.



**NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

2015-16: **111**  
 2016-17: **298** Thank you, donors!

**NATIONAL RANKINGS**

- Online MSN in nursing administration ranked **No. 6** by College Values Online
- MSN in nursing education ranked **No. 13** by GradSchoolHub.com
- Online MSN programs ranked **No. 19** by the Center for Online Education
- MSN programs ranked **No. 19** by OnlineColleges.net
- Online BSN degree ranked **top 20** most affordable by College Choice

**GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH**

Our faculty's research has appeared in many of the world's leading journals, including:

- American Journal of Managed Care
- American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing
- American Journal of Physiology: Heart and Circulatory Physiology
- Experimental Physiology
- Journal of Biological Chemistry
- Journal of Nursing Regulation
- The Journal of Physiology
- Journal of the American College of Cardiology
- Journal of the American Medical Association
- Nursing Education Perspective



**ADVANCING RESEARCH  
TEACHING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS WHILE MAKING IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES TODAY**

The College continues to attract some of the nation's leading health care researchers to its faculty roster. In addition to attracting millions of dollars in grants and overseeing laboratories designed to find solutions to intractable health problems, these faculty members mentor and help shape many of our students into outstanding researchers.

**Creating the next generation of health care researchers**

As a faculty member at his previous university, **Matthew Brothers** developed a close relationship with **Jordan Patik**, who had completed a master's degree and begun his doctoral studies in Dr. Brothers' laboratory. They shared a mutual interest in the role of vascular dysfunction in the risk for a variety of diseases, including hypertension, stroke, and diabetes.

Patik, who was one year into his PhD in kinesiology, followed Brothers to UTA when his mentor joined the College as an associate professor of kinesiology and director of the Integrative Vascular Physiology Laboratory.

Under Brothers' tutelage, Patik has presented his research at two regional conferences and six national conferences. He also worked with faculty members from several of the College's other labs.

"Jordan has truly turned into a top-notch student," Brothers says. "He's taken huge advantage of the collaborative approach toward research that we have in the College."

The relationship between Brothers and Patik is just one example of the kind of mentorship in scholarship actively promoted by the College.



Matthew Brothers (left) and Jordan Patik

**“Our students receive the kind of individual attention and mentoring from faculty members that prepare them to become world-class health care researchers.”**

**Dr. Matthew Brothers**  
Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Director of Integrative Vascular Physiology Laboratory

**Forging partnerships to improve health**

As the College evolves as a leader for health care research, faculty members are engaging in interdisciplinary research to improve health and the human condition.

**Deborah Behan**, an associate professor of nursing, teamed with **Dan Popa**, former UTA associate professor of electrical engineering; the UTA Research Institute; and Texas Health Resources to develop a robot to handle routine nursing duties.

**Rhonda Prisby**, an associate professor of kinesiology who studies blood vessels in bone, joined with a UT Dallas engineering professor to develop a device to stimulate bone growth.

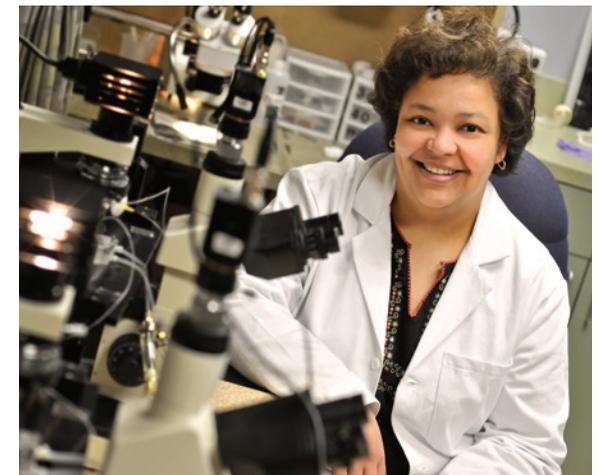
**Larry Nelson**, an associate professor of kinesiology, collaborated on a community garden project to reduce health disparities with **Courtney Conley**, an assistant professor of social work, and **David Hopman**, an associate professor of planning and landscape architecture.

**Zui Pan**, an associate professor of nursing and esophageal cancer expert, joined mathematics Professors **Benito Chen** and **Hristo Kojouharov** on the dynamics of calcium.

"The focus of health care research is ultimately better outcomes for patients," says **Paul Fadel**, the College's associate dean for research. "To improve outcomes, collaboration with researchers in other disciplines is paramount, including those in life sciences, engineering, technology, and the social sciences."



Deborah Behan



Rhonda Prisby



**“As leading researchers, we actively seek collaborators around UTA and beyond.”**

**Dr. Paul Fadel**  
Associate Dean for Research and Professor

## BOLSTERING SKILLS

## STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

At UTA, we not only create the next generation of health care professionals, but we also strengthen and broaden the skills of working professionals. Our students learn from respected faculty who know the latest trends and research and who are uniquely qualified to steer students to a path that's best suited for them.

## Helping the disabled improve their quality of life

Sara Hermansen, a kinesiology PhD student, is steadily working toward her goal of becoming a researcher focused on helping disabled patients, with a personal incentive. Together with her faculty adviser, Judy Wilson, she is comparing the body fat of wheelchair athletes and able-bodied athletes. It may be the first study of its kind. Hermansen, an athlete, came to UTA to pursue her master's in kinesiology and work as a weight trainer for the University's Lady Movin' Mavs wheelchair basketball team.

**“The professors here help you find the best fit for you and help you go down that path.”**

## Sara Hermansen

Kinesiology PhD Student

Within a few months, she was diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome, a progressive disease of the sympathetic nervous system. The disease in her right leg limits her ability to walk and forces her to wear a brace. She ultimately switched from being the team's weight trainer to becoming a Movin' Mavs player.

“In kinesiology, there are so many areas to choose from. You can go into biomechanics, coaching, or physiology. The professors here help you find the best fit for you and help you go down that path.”



## Living a lifelong dream of saving lives

Alex Klacman was 18 when her father died of a massive heart attack. That tragic experience triggered her interest in resuscitation and CPR as well as a career in health care.

Her passion for saving lives got her through nursing school and a 16-year nursing career. She now oversees the resuscitation quality improvement program at Texas Health Dallas as a system critical care clinical education specialist.

As a nursing PhD student, she has a reputation as a talented researcher. In spring 2017, she co-authored an article published in the *Journal of American Cardiology*.

Klacman says she was attracted to the College's PhD program because of its hybrid instruction delivery and the opportunity to work with the respected faculty.

“The structure works for me. It has really met my needs,” she says. “A lot of universities don't have the blended format. My master's program was at another university and was all online. When I started going to UTA I realized how much I missed the classroom and being able to ask questions.”



**“The structure works for me. It has really met my needs.”**

## Alex Klacman

Nursing PhD Student

## CREATING LEADERS IN HEALTH CARE

## DEVELOPING THE FINEST IN HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation's vast resources help position graduates for fulfilling professional lives. Our alumni—physical therapists, physicians, nurses, athletic trainers, university professors, corporate executives, business owners, and cutting-edge researchers—are transforming the face of health care, one person at a time.

## Taking holistic health to new heights

After years of working as a registered nurse in traditional health care, **Terri DeNeui** decided there had to be a better way. She became a devotee of holistic care, particularly wellness and disease prevention.

Her company, Evexias Medical Centers—located in Southlake and Rockwall, Texas—focuses on diet, hormones, and spiritual and emotional balance as the foundations to good health.

DeNeui is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and is on track to graduate in May 2018.

"I felt having my doctorate would broaden my knowledge base, leverage my mission, and afford me more credibility," she says. "I've been in leadership positions my entire career, and pursuing my DNP just made sense."

DeNeui says the College's DNP program has enhanced her practice while expanding her horizons.

"It seems that every step of the way in the DNP program—from the political process in Austin to electronic health records to creating dashboards—I have learned something that has been applicable to my practice," she says.

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**Terri DeNeui**

DNP Student and Founder of  
Evexias Medical Centers



## Enhancing the nursing profession through research

As a nurse-scientist at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, **Marygrace Hernandez-Leveille** mentors nurses with a spirit of clinical inquiry and an interest in nursing research.

Dr. Hernandez-Leveille has published articles in numerous scholarly journals and has been the principal investigator on several research projects sponsored by the Baylor Health System. A popular speaker for nursing events, she was named the 2014 Magnet Nurse of the Year by Baylor University Medical Center.

Hernandez-Leveille, who graduated from nursing school more than 30 years ago, planned to be done with school after her master's degree. But her UTA professors thought differently.

"Mary Lou Bond, Mary Schira, and Carolyn Cason encouraged me to pursue my PhD," she says. "In the PhD program, they expect excellence. I couldn't have done it without Dr. Cason. She was my rock. I had a research class with her in my master's program. I was so impressed with her that I asked her to be my dissertation chair many years later. She was straightforward and honest while being supportive."

**"Mary Lou Bond, Mary Schira, and Carolyn Cason encouraged me to pursue my PhD. In the PhD program, they expect excellence."**

**Marygrace Hernandez-Leveille**

PhD Graduate and Nurse-Scientist at  
Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas





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