



UTA 

College of Nursing and
Health Innovation



**HONORING THE PAST.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.**

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON



“We have trailblazed a path of innovation for 50 years, and as we look to the future, we are optimistic and ambitious about the years ahead for our College.”

It is with great pleasure that I share with you our special 50th anniversary edition of The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation Annual Report. This report not only summarizes the great achievements we have seen over 2020-21, but also reflects on our 50-year history of academic and research excellence.

The roots of the modern-day College of Nursing and Health Innovation originally date back to 1906, when the City County School of Nursing on Fourth and Jones streets in Fort Worth was established offering a diploma program. In 1955, the program was renamed the John Peter Smith Hospital School of Nursing. Later, in 1972, the School of Nursing in Fort Worth saw its first students, becoming the sixth UT System School of Nursing. It was then that the program transitioned from a diploma program to a baccalaureate nursing program. The Department of Kinesiology also was first established in 1971 at UTA, with the name the Department of Health and Physical Education.

Over the past 50 years, our three departments have gone through immense change and growth to become the College we are today. Our Department of Kinesiology started with 86 students in 1971 and today has nearly 2,000 students enrolled in kinesiology, exercise science, athletic training, and public health. We also have seen tremendous growth across our nursing programs, which had 67 enrollees in the fall of 1972 and today see over 24,000 students in our on-campus and online undergraduate and graduate programs. And through all of this progress, our amazing faculty and staff have maintained the high-quality education we are known for nationally.

In preparing this year's annual report, our College took a look back to help tell our story across the years. What we found was not only a story of achievement and success among our current students, but also a commitment and unparalleled level of dedication from our faculty and staff, many of whom started as students themselves at UTA. We discovered a remarkable alumni class whose members have reached new heights in their careers, from research and discovery to community service and leadership. And we understood better how fortunate we are to have an incredible support network across our many donors, community partners, affiliates, and other friends of the College.

Within this report, we present an overview of our funded research and just a few of the many research endeavors our faculty are undertaking. I would like to highlight and share our success in obtaining external funding for research and commend our highly productive faculty for their scholarship and publications.

We have trailblazed a path of innovation for 50 years, and as we look to the future, we are optimistic and ambitious about the years ahead for our College. This past year, we also completed our 2021-2026 Strategic Plan that sets our sights on even greater accomplishments over the next five to seven years and lays a strong foundation for those trailblazers who will follow and will continue to innovate, transform, and shape our College.

What I hope you see in this year's report is the incredible tenacity of our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and larger community. I also invite you to join us throughout the next year to celebrate our 50th anniversary and stay connected as lifelong friends of our College.

Dean Elizabeth I. Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN

CONTENTS

- By the Numbers.....2
- 50 Years of Nursing.....4
- 50 Years of Kinesiology.....6
- Smart Hospital.....8
- Center of Excellence.....10
- Student Spotlight.....11
- Student Organizations.....15
- Scholarships.....16
- Capstone Projects.....18
- Dissertations.....19
- CONHI Chairs.....20
- Endowed Professorships.....21
- Faculty Spotlight.....22
- New Programs.....24
- Professors Emeriti.....25
- Forefront of Research.....26
- Research Centers.....27
- Selected Grants.....28
- Researcher Spotlight.....29
- Research Programs.....30
- Alumni Spotlight.....32
- Distinguished Alumni.....35
- Looking to the Future.....36

Editors

Sarah McBride Teresa Newton

Editorial Contributors

Sarah McBride Stephanie Patrick
Ellen Rossetti Madeline Perez

Graphic Designer

Melissa George

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
 - Prelicensure BSN
 - RN to BSN
 - Honors Degree Program

GRADUATE NURSING

- Master of Science in Nursing
 - Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
 - Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
 - Family Nurse Practitioner
 - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
 - Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
 - Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
 - Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing Administration
- Master of Science in Nursing Education
- Nursing Educator Certificate
- Post-Master's Certificate
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

KINESIOLOGY

- Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science
- Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology
- Bachelor of Science in Public Health
- Master of Science in Exercise Science
- Master of Science in Athletic Training
- Master of Public Health
- Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- FitSTEPS for Life at UTA
- MavFit Exercise and Wellness Counseling
- Little Mavs Movement Academy

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

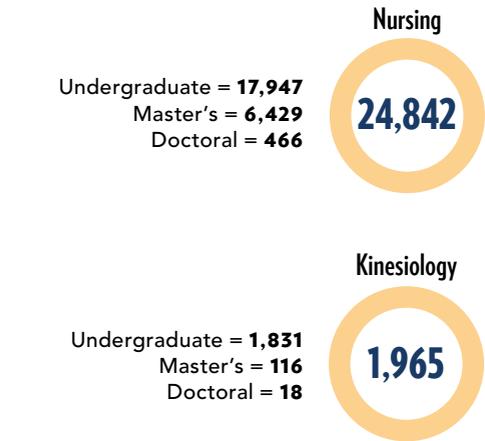
- Graduate Gerontology Health Care
- Telehealth and Health Informatics

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation is a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence.

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and post-graduate APRN certificate program at The University of Texas at Arlington are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

The athletic trainer program in the Department of Kinesiology is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

2020-21 ENROLLMENT
26,807



CONHI SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED*

FALL 2020
Recipients = 212 **\$381,844**

SPRING 2021
Recipients = 174 **\$333,978**

**total includes endowed scholarships & others from fellowships, grants, and Dream Makers*

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING
Placements = 6,422
Sites = 81

GRADUATE NURSING
Placement = 4,652
Sites = 2,166

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING
Placements = 69
Sites = 21

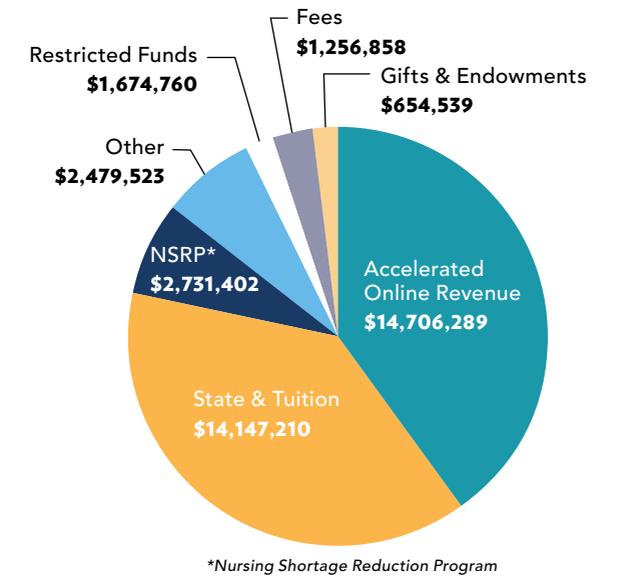
FIRST-GENERATION TO COLLEGE

FALL 2021 ENROLLMENT **8,498**

49.2% of CONHI enrollment was first-generation students.

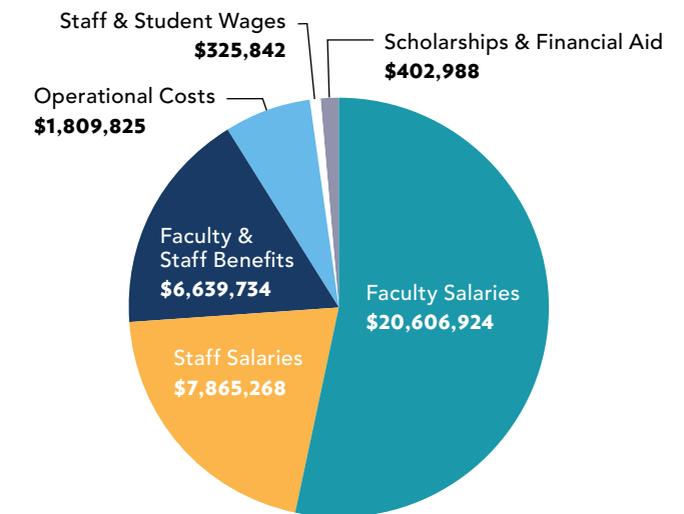


2020-21 SOURCE OF FUNDS



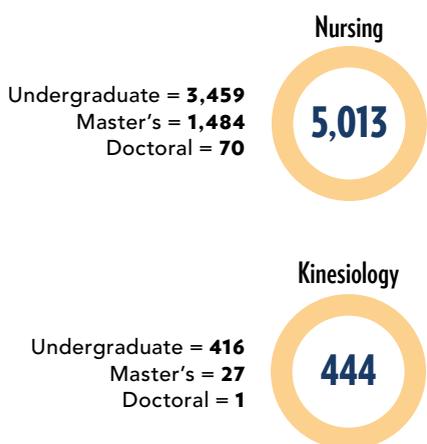
\$37,650,581

2020-21 EXPENDITURES



\$37,650,581

2020-21 GRADUATES
5,457



FACULTY
Both on-campus and online

NURSING
Full-time = 135
Part-time = 342

KINESIOLOGY
Full-time = 33
Part-time = 16

2020-21 GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

91 \$46.7M

2020-21 SPONSORED PROJECTS*

Awards
45 \$7.3M

**new and continuing*

MYRNA PICKARD'S LEADERSHIP STILL INSPIRES



Myrna Pickard is synonymous with UTA's nursing program. For 24 years, she recruited faculty, expanded programs, added degrees, established high standards, collaborated with community and health care leaders, and

taught and mentored numerous students. Needless to say, she inspired.

The first nursing dean—and the first female dean at the University—was the nurse administrator of the John Peter Smith Hospital's diploma School of

Nursing in 1970 when hospital and county leaders asked her to head a baccalaureate program.

Dr. Pickard became associate dean of The University of Texas System School Nursing, Fort Worth in 1971. By 1976, the program moved to the Arlington campus as the UTA School of Nursing, occupying space in the Business Building.

During Pickard's leadership, the School of Nursing grew from 67 students in fall 1972 to the largest producer of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in Texas. The first master's program was offered in 1977, with more options and specializations to follow.

When she retired in 1995, Pickard's leadership and the work of the faculty and staff resulted in 6,000

graduates of the BSN, RN-to-BSN, and MSN programs. Typical of her dedication, she stayed on another three years as a professor.

"My time at UT Arlington was certainly a period of development and change," Pickard said in a 2000 article in *UTA Magazine*. "But thanks to a good administration and good support system, I was pleased with the way things went."

UTA honored her achievements by renaming the nursing building built in 1982 as Pickard Hall. She was named a professor emerita in 1998.

Pickard was the first to hold the George W. and Hazel M. Jay Professorship. In 1999, the Myrna R. Pickard Professorship in Nursing was established.



NURSING HISTORY [GO.UTA.EDU/CONHI50](https://go.uta.edu/conhi50)

NEW NAME

Renamed UTA School of Nursing moved to Arlington; NLN accreditation achieved.



1971

PICKARD HALL

Nursing Building renamed Pickard Hall for founding dean Myrna Pickard.



1982

SMART IDEA

Smart Emergency Department, first phase of Smart Hospital, opens in University Hall.



2003

DNP

Doctor of Nursing Practice degree offered.



2007

NAME CHANGE

Nursing & Kinesiology merge to become College of Nursing and Health Innovation.



2010

NEW BUILDING

Construction began on new building for CONHI Smart Hospital and School of Social Work.



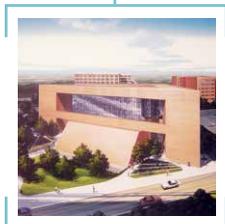
2015



BEGINNINGS

UT System Nursing School in Fort Worth created.

1976



MOVING UP

Moved to new 154k-square-foot Nursing Building.

1995



PHD

PhD in Nursing offered.

2005



NEW DIGS

Smart Hospital opened at current location.

2009



NEW STATUS

School of Nursing changed to College of Nursing; Accelerated online BSN added.

2014



EXCELLENCE

Named Center of Excellence by National League for Nursing.

2021

BEGINNINGS

Department of Health and Physical Education created in College of Liberal Arts; renamed Department of Physical Education in 1983.



1971



NEW NAME

Renamed Department of Exercise, Sport, and Health Studies.

1987

NEW DEGREE

Exercise Science degree offered.



1995



JOINED EDUCATION

Department moved to School of Education, later renamed College of Education and Health Professions.

1999

NEW NAME

Renamed Department of Kinesiology; Athletic training degree offered.



2000



MASTERS

Master of Science in Exercise Science offered.

2003

JOINED CONHI

Nursing & Kinesiology merge to become College of Nursing and Health Innovation.



2014



PHD

PhD in Kinesiology offered.

2016

NEW DEGREE

Public Health degree offered.



2017



A NOTABLE JOURNEY FOR FORMER CHAIR BARRY MCKEOWN



After a 37-year career at UTA, Barry McKeown is still a staple in the Department of Kinesiology in UTA's College of Nursing and Health Innovation.

Now into his third year of retirement, Dr.

McKeown is known by students for the lecture series in the College named after him, which he still often attends. He even recalls having the

current chair, David Keller, as an undergraduate student in his classes.

Department chair from 1995-2007, McKeown developed a friendship with the first department chair, Eugene Anderson, at conferences. He recalls Dr. Anderson asked him to consider a position at UTA.

"When I came here, I was the only exercise physiology faculty in the department," McKeown says. He joined the department in 1983 when it was called the Department of Physical Education and seated in the College of Liberal Arts.

Under his leadership, the department grew to have its first master's degree program and nearly 2,000 students enrolled in its various programs. His support of students and faculty laid the foundation for the research powerhouse the department is today, with nationally and internationally renowned researchers.

One standout memory he has is of Ross Query, '95 MS Exercise Science, winning first place at UTA's first Student Research Day. That was unexpected of a student from a department that

had often been considered closer to athletics than academics, he recalls.

His time in the department spanned three College moves, ultimately joining the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, which is where he had advocated it be for many years to better align the allied health profession programs across UTA.

"I love UTA," McKeown boasts. "UT Arlington has a great geographical location, there are great possibilities here for students and faculty, and that is why I stayed 37 years. And I'd do it again."



SMART HOSPITAL THROUGH THE YEARS

Life-sized computerized manikins cry, blink, and speak in UTA's Smart Hospital, giving nursing students clues about their ailments. Using the manikins, students learn how to dress wounds, provide chest compressions, and even assist in childbirth, among other skills.

UTA's vision for a simulation training ground first came to fruition in the mid-2000s and continues to expand and evolve. In the first phase of the project, the Smart Emergency Department opened in 2005 with the help of a \$496,000 Department of Education grant. The nursing school became one of only six sites in the world to be named a Laerdal Center of Excellence, recognizing its dedication to simulation-based training and research.

For the second phase, UTA received \$500,000 from a University of Texas System Enrich Nursing through Exceptional Recruitment (ENTER) program and \$150,000 from the Amon G. Carter Foundation to help fund a move to a bigger space with a more realistic, hospital-like setting. In 2007, UTA celebrated the opening of its Smart Hospital with more than 13,000 square feet of space, where it is still located today. UTA also has an additional 13,000 square feet in the Smart Lab in University Hall that opened in 2015 for students to practice nursing skills.

Now, students make more than 1,000 visits every semester to the Smart Hospital, which includes more than 60 simulators representing adults, children, and infants.

Simulation has advanced beyond skills-based learning, says Jennifer Roye, assistant dean for simulation and technology and clinical assistant professor.

"In the past two and a half years, we have moved toward a more scenario-based approach, emphasizing critical thinking and clinical judgment rather than psychomotor skills," Roye says. "We also have incorporated new technologies, like virtual simulation, telepresence robots, and telehealth simulations."

The Smart Hospital is increasing collaborations beyond nursing, too. In summer 2021, kinesiology students studying to be athletic trainers learned how to spring into action on the soccer field to perform CPR and use an automated external defibrillator on a Smart Hospital manikin simulating cardiac arrest.

In February 2021, UTA broke ground on a new \$76 million, 150,000-square-foot facility for the School of Social Work and CONHI's Smart Hospital. The first simulations in the new building are projected to begin in spring 2023.



The new facility will include a home health suite, like an apartment, for social work and nursing students to interview patients and learn how to create a safe space to prevent falls and accommodate disabilities.

\$1M MATCHING GRANT

A \$1 million matching gift from the **Arlington Tomorrow Foundation**, the city's charitable arm, will support the new School of Social Work/CONHI Smart Hospital Building.

The gift serves as a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant with the goal of inspiring alumni as well as other members of the Maverick community to take part in bringing the state-of-the-art facility to life. Gifts donated in support of the building will be matched by the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation up to \$1 million.



UTA graduates the most baccalaureate-prepared nurses in Texas and has one of the largest nursing programs in the nation.

DONATION SUPPORTS AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNOLOGY SUITE

Nursing students will gain access to the latest advancements in audio and video technology thanks to a \$50,000 gift from the **United Service Association for Health Care (USA+) Foundation**.

The Paul and Dody Wood AV Production Room will be on the second floor of the new School of Social Work/CONHI Smart Hospital Building.

The suite will be a state-of-the-art hub for professional multimedia production services. CONHI will use the room to produce, edit, and package engaging educational video and audio content from its faculty that strengthens the student learning experience.

To learn more about the building or to make a contribution, go online to uta.edu/giving/impact/ssw-sh.



NURSING AWARD PUTS UTA ‘AMONG THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY’

For the fourth time in recent years, the National League for Nursing (NLN) named the College of Nursing and Health Innovation as a Center of Excellence for its sustained efforts to advance the science of nursing education.

Comprising 40,000 nurse educators and 1,200 member institutions, NLN is considered the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education.

UTA Interim President Teik C. Lim says CONHI's continued commitment to innovation and its array of accessible programs has made it the premier nursing program in Texas.

“This prestigious recognition reinforces UTA’s position as one of the finest academic centers for nurses in the nation,” Dr. Lim says. “Through innovative and accessible degree programs that attract thousands of the brightest nursing students from Texas and beyond, UTA’s College of Nursing and Health Innovation has become an established leader in the critical field of educating, training, and improving our nation’s nursing workforce.”

UTA becomes one of just a small number of universities nationwide to earn the Center of Excellence designation across all three NLN categories for nursing education: Advancing the Science of Nursing Education, Enhancing Student Learning and Professional Development, and Promoting Pedagogical Expertise of Faculty.

“This latest NLN designation highlights our commitment to conducting nursing education-related scholarship and research to generate the new knowledge needed to continually advance excellence in nursing education,” says Dean Elizabeth Merwin. “These designations are evidence of our College’s investment in training the future of our profession. We are thankful for our faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to ensure our College provides a world-class learning environment for all of our students while being a leading center for nursing education instruction and research as well as health care research.”

Kathryn Daniel, associate dean for academic affairs and professor in nursing, points out that NLN designations require peer review from a variety of nursing leaders, making them especially significant.



REBECCA GROENHUYZEN AO BSN

Rebecca Groenhuyzen’s daughter, Ellie, was born prematurely with a third-degree heart block in 2017. Weighing 2 pounds, 7 ounces, Ellie was whisked to San Antonio’s Methodist Hospital for surgery. She remained in neonatal intensive care for 73 days.

Groenhuyzen often spent eight hours a day there, changing tiny diapers and talking with nurses working to keep Ellie alive. When she finally brought Ellie home, she also brought home a new dream—to be a NICU nurse.

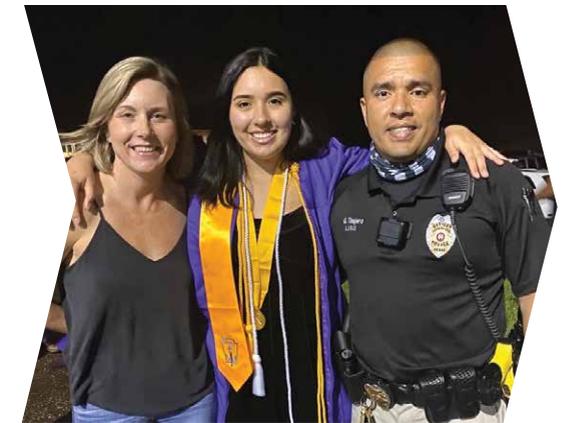
“She would not be here if not for them. I had this need to say thank you and give back,” she says. “I have the ability to hopefully have an impact on other parents in similar situations.”

Groenhuyzen earned a BS in animal science from Texas A&M in 2013. But after Ellie’s experience, she started UTA’s accelerated online BSN program because of its reputation and convenience, taking online classes from San Antonio while caring for Ellie and her son, Oliver, born in 2019. She interned in Ellie’s former NICU and graduated in December.

Groenhuyzen credits UTA’s faculty and academic coaches for helping her succeed by reaching out to offer support.

And how is Ellie today?

“Amazing,” Groenhuyzen says. “She’s a little ball of energy.”



KIMBERLY TINAJERO AO RN-BSN

Kimberly Tinajero has taken on various roles throughout her life.

At age 15, she began working in a law office that led to the pursuit of her first degree in the paralegal field. While continuing her studies and caring for her mother, who has health issues, Tinajero obtained a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in 2004 and a master’s in interdisciplinary studies in 2009.

The continuous care of her mother inspired Tinajero to return to school and pursue a BSN degree.

“It helped me discover this is where I should be—where I can help others, support them through their times of despair, and aid them in their recovery,” says Tinajero.

Her demanding life required her to search for an accommodating university, which is why she decided to enroll in the online BSN program at UTA.

“I researched many programs to find something that fit my needs of being a full-time mother, wife, daughter, paralegal, and gym owner,” she says.

Throughout the BSN program, Tinajero has been able to create lifelong friendships with her clinical classmates and has learned beneficial information from her clinical instructors.

“I feel that the skills and knowledge I have learned in my current career will mold into my new role as a nurse,” she adds.

Tinajero aims to work in trauma, labor and delivery, or the nursery. She hopes to one day be able to spread her passion for caring with Doctors Without Borders.

ONE OF SIX university programs to earn three simultaneous distinctions as a Center of Excellence from the National League for Nursing: (1) Advance the Science of Nursing Education, (2) Enhance Student Learning and Professional Development, and (3) Promote the Pedagogical Expertise of Faculty.

#1 Online RN to BSN program in Texas by RegisteredNursing.org in 2021

#2 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program by RegisteredNursing.org in 2021

#2 in Texas best FNP programs by NursingProcess.org for 2021

#2 in Texas and **#23** in U.S. for PhD in kinesiology by the National Academy of Kinesiology

#4 in Texas and **#60** in U.S. MSN on-campus program by U.S. News & World Report in 2021

#12 Best Nurse Practitioner programs in Texas in 2021 by Best Value Schools

“TOP 15 Best Colleges for Nursing” in 2021 by Scrubs and Beyond

#32 NIH funding for schools of nursing, according to Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research for 2020

#100 Doctor of Nursing Practice program (DNP) by U.S. News and World Report



ANNA KITABJIAN POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

Throughout her career, Anna Kitabjian has strived to help improve the standard of care through research and become a dependable provider for her patients.

Dr. Kitabjian came to UTA to strengthen her already impressive skills. She earned her BSN from California State University, Northridge, her MSN as a nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist at UCLA, and her DNP at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She will complete her post-master's certificate specializing as an acute care pediatric nurse practitioner in August 2022.

Currently, she is the first and only pediatric nurse practitioner within the Division of Hospital Medicine at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles.

"I enjoy giving of myself unconditionally to care for others and make them feel special. I love caring and advocating for my pediatric patients as if they were my own children," Kitabjian says.

Kitabjian praises her professors for providing her eye-opening educational experiences.

"I've been on both sides of education, as a faculty member and as a student, and I can honestly say it takes a lot of work and thoughtfulness to create a course with assignments that you know will help the student grow," she states.

Kitabjian will now use the skills she gained at UTA to expand her role and elevate the practice of nurse practitioners.



LESLIE JENNINGS PHD IN NURSING

"I never thought I'd get my PhD," recalls Leslie Jennings, a doctoral nursing student who is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Undergraduate Nursing and the freshman nurse scholar coordinator.

Jennings received her MSN in nursing education in 2007 before joining UTA in 2010. An invitation to collaborate on a research project from Regina Urban, assistant professor, solidified her desire to pursue a doctorate.

"I looked at several programs that offer a PhD in nursing education," she says, "but after talking with colleagues and the graduate faculty at UTA, I realized that I could focus a PhD in nursing on education here. It was great to have that support and flexibility."

CONHI's PhD program, first offered in 2003, has a robust and varied research portfolio among its candidates. Jennings also has the unique opportunity to conduct her research for her dissertation around her role as the freshman nurse scholar coordinator, looking at predictors of success in nursing students.

"That was birthed out of my position in this pilot program," says Jennings. "I can advance the science by looking at what we are finding and disseminate that information to the academic community."

Jennings raves about the investment CONHI is making in new and novice researchers and has twice been awarded CONHI's Nursing Education Research Initiative Grant. The grant was established by Dean Elizabeth Merwin to offer novice researchers grant funding and collaborative support to work on projects.

NEELAM AHUJA PHD IN KINESIOLOGY



A dentist trained in India, Neelam Ahuja is now pursuing a PhD in kinesiology and researching bone and muscle regeneration.

"I became interested in research because I saw

a lot of cases that were not very common, and I did not have the amount of clinical knowledge that was needed to understand them," Ahuja says. She researches 3D printing techniques to address volumetric muscle loss and promote revascularization and reinnervation.

Ahuja joined UTA in part due to her interest in the field where she could explore more under the guidance of her mentor, Associate Professor

Venu Varanasi, a biomaterials researcher whose lab focuses on rapid healing through new biomaterials and 3D printing/nanofabrication.

Ahuja exemplifies the spirit of research and collaboration within the College, which drew her to CONHI in the first place.

"I was always a curious kid, and curiosity has always driven me. The question 'Why?' is always in my head," she notes.

"What I like about UTA is that it is very collaborative and there is so much to learn. Even though I am focused on bone and muscle research, I'm not limited to only that," Ahuja says. "UTA is helping me explore the physiology of the body, which I really like and want to apply in my career. My goal is to be very translational."

Ultimately, Ahuja is focused on improving the quality of life in patients after trauma by reducing healing times and providing better materials to help them heal. She plans to graduate in 2022.

ANITA CORBITT MASTER'S IN PUBLIC HEALTH



At age 50, Anita Corbitt decided to pursue a dream of earning a bachelor's degree.

So, she began classes at UTA part-time in 2010, working on core classes while considering options for her major.

At the same time, she was helping family members navigate health care issues and realized she wanted to help others with similar needs. She enrolled in her first public health class and discovered the perfect fit—a degree that merged her health care interests with the computer skills she had honed during her accounting career. And she found a

welcoming, inclusive community, she adds.

"Everyone was there for that one purpose: 'We want to help,'" she says.

After earning a bachelor's in public health in 2019, Corbitt began working on a master's degree. As a teaching assistant, she used her professional Microsoft Excel skills to help students better understand the program. In fall 2020, she began helping UTA Health Services with COVID-19 contact tracing. She now leads the contact tracing group, providing guidance and resources such as a training manual she created.

"My leadership style has always been by empowering those around me, by creating those tools and setting them up for success," she says.

Corbitt earned her master's degree in public health in December 2021 and is now an adjunct assistant professor with the public health program.



Efreth Ghirmazion

Jocelyn Ruiz

STRONG TRACK RECORD OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH BY NURSING HONORS STUDENTS

Students research projects published in peer-reviewed journals

Cheryl Anderson, associate professor of research and associate professor emeritus, has served as a mentor to undergraduate students in the honors nursing program and to graduate students interested in various aspects of research on childbirth.

Working together, the students that Dr. Anderson mentors have not only gained valuable research experience and stepped closer toward degree completion, but also have had their findings published in academic research journals, forever becoming a part of the scientific knowledge within the field of nursing.

Students have had their works published in *The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*, *Hispanic Health Care International*, and the *Journal of Perinatal Education*.

"I have been involved with undergraduate research and the McNair Scholars Program the last three years of my college experience," shares Efreth Ghirmazion, a May 2020 graduate of the BSN program. "It has helped me evolve in so many ways, such as enhancing my research skills,

professional development, networking, and becoming a published author in a peer-reviewed journal."

Current honors students are exploring the impact of anxiety, domestic violence, and personal control on the adolescent's childbirth experience. Another honor student is working with data collected from adult women to explore maternal depression, infant length of stay in the NICU, and maternal-infant bonding.

"The research I did with Dr. Anderson allowed me to understand the work that comes along with doing research," says Jocelyn Ruiz, a December 2019 graduate and postpartum nurse at a North Texas hospital. "With my research topic I learned about the lack of mental health education in various states and cultural barriers in the Hispanic/Latino community. Now working in a postpartum unit, I teach my patients about postpartum depression. In the future I plan on going to graduate school to become Women's Health Nurse Practitioner to provide more preventative care in the DFW area."

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ARLINGTON NURSING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION is the local chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association, a national organization of student nurses that provides a gateway to professional nursing organizations. (Est. 1972)

ASIAN-AMERICAN STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION serves as a liaison between the Asian American community, nursing students, faculty, staff, and professionals. (Est. 2016)

ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENT ASSOCIATION seeks to promote and advance the athletic training profession, encourages the exchange of ideas, and develops and maintains professional relationships. (Est. 2003 as *Maverick Student Athletic Training Society*, name change 2010)

BLACK STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION functions as a support and networking group for African American students. It forges a bond among nursing students, encourages a positive self-image, and assists in student recruitment. (Est. 1992)

HEALTH INNOVATION CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL represents all College of Nursing and Health Innovation students and serves as a liaison to faculty and professionals. (Est. as *Nursing Constituency Council* in mid-1970s)

HISPANIC STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION builds partnerships between students, family, community, and the College to promote the successful development of Hispanic students as professional nurses. (Est. 1991)

KAPPA DELTA PI recognizes excellence in education and elects to membership those who exhibit the ideals of scholarship, high personal standards, and promise in teaching and allied professions. (Est. 1977)

MALE STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION promotes nursing as a career path for male students and supports current students, providing social and service opportunities. (Est. 2016)

MAVERICKS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH strives to help students, faculty, and staff become more aware of their own health, to understand how to take charge of their health, and to better care for others. (Est. 2019)

NURSING MENTOR PROGRAM builds relationships among nursing students by offering guidance and support through peer mentorship, leadership, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. (Est. 2018)

SOCIETY OF KINESIOLOGY SCHOLARS is dedicated to health and fitness through activities, athletics, fundraising, and various community outreach programs. (Est. 1998)





PROMISE ROBINSON

JUNIOR IN KINESIOLOGY

A research assistant and volunteer in the Developmental Motor Cognition Lab, Honors College student, and president of the Society of Kinesiology Scholars are a few of the opportunities undergraduate student Promise Robinson has taken on at UTA. She is a junior studying exercise science in the clinical and applied physiology track and minoring in Spanish for Global Health and Human Services.

Robinson is especially interested in studying movement disabilities in children after working with Assistant Professor Priscila Tamplain in her lab. This opportunity has affirmed her plans to secure a PhD in movement and cognitive rehabilitation sciences after graduation, aiming to become a motor development researcher and professor.

“Promise is one of our star students. She is dedicated, a hard worker, and she is curious,” says Dr. Tamplain.

And Robinson can pursue many academic and extracurricular endeavors, research experience, and her career goals thanks to the generous support of an endowment established by a medical group in Tarrant County. The **Advancing Healthcare in North Texas Endowed Scholarship Fund** was created to help students like Promise go beyond their financial limitations and make a difference in the world.

“This scholarship will help lighten the financial burden and allow me to further focus on my academic career,” says Robinson. “I aim to make a difference in my community.”



NATALIE ESQUIVEL SENIOR IN NURSING

A first generation college student and the first in her family to pursue a career in the health care field, Natalie Esquivel is a trailblazer whose hard work has earned her the **Courage in Adversity: Billy Flores Scholarship**.

“I will be able to become the example of accomplishing a career one hasn’t been exposed to and promote and increase the number of Hispanic nurses within the community,” Esquivel says.

The scholarship’s namesake, Billy Flores, was honored for his heroism when in 1980 while serving in the Coast Guard he courageously saved several lives after his ship, the USCGC Blackthorn, collided with an oil tanker.

Flores’ family recognized the importance of his actions and established the scholarship endowment in his memory. Giving back came naturally to Billy’s sister, Connie, his brother, Sam, and sister-in-law, Ceil, all UTA alumni.

Criteria established by the family included a student pursuing an undergraduate degree in nursing, financial need, and commitment to overcoming barriers.

“My passion and drive to help those around me are shown through my nursing care, and this scholarship opportunity has provided me the ability to finish my last year here at UT Arlington,” Esquivel says.

After graduation, Esquivel plans to specialize in the neonatal or labor and delivery unit to help mothers and fathers feel supported throughout their hospital stay.

MEMORY OF DEDICATED NURSE LIVES ON THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP



Elizabeth Callahan DeBruin

As a head nurse, Elizabeth Callahan DeBruin was just as passionate about the nurses on her team as she was about the patients in their care. She died early in her nursing career but left behind an endowed scholarship that is still making a difference for nursing students today.

Liz began her career as a nurse’s aide, then earned a degree through UTA’s RN-to-BSN program.

“Her education at UTA was particularly important to her because it gave her the tools and confidence to help everyone who needed it,” says James DeBruin, her husband.

She led the neurology unit at Parkland Hospital, which gained recognition as one of the best in the country. In 1989, she was recognized as Head Nurse of the Year. Two years later, she was named one of the inaugural DFW Great 100 Nurses.

“Liz was a nurses’ nurse,” says Mary E. “Beth” Mancini, who was the chief nursing officer at Parkland Hospital when Liz worked there and is now a UTA professor emeritus. “She was the consummate professional. She invested herself in helping to educate the next generation of nurses.”

Before her death from cancer in 1992, Liz and James created an endowed scholarship, the **Elizabeth Callahan DeBruin Memorial Scholarship Fund**, to help future nursing students.

“This scholarship boosted my confidence,” says Renuka Icchapurapu, ’16 BSN, ’18 MSN, a previous scholarship recipient. “I always say it’s one student and one dream at a time being fulfilled by a fellow nurse.”

Since inception, dozens of nursing students have benefited from support from the Elizabeth Callahan DeBruin Memorial Scholarship, ensuring that her love of nursing will continue to make a difference far into the future.

RECEPTION CELEBRATES JHG TEXAS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



In October 2021, CONHI brought together the **Johanniter Humanitarian Group of Texas** and scholarship recipients for the 2021-22 academic year. The event connected the students with the civic organization that cares deeply about providing scholarships and mentoring opportunities for nursing students.

“We have been impressed with the caliber of UTA’s nursing students,” shares Hank Fink, president

of JHG Texas, a humanitarian organization. “Our commitment extends beyond providing scholarship support, connecting these students toward resources and community service opportunities throughout the region.”

One of the scholarship recipients is Colin Blackmon, who was awarded the **Mike Myers Nursing Scholarship**. Blackmon has overcome several personal, family, and health challenges on his journey toward his degree in nursing, which he hopes to receive in May 2022.

“I want to have an impactful, positive effect on the lives of those who I touch in my practice and help others find a meaningful life through their health,” he says. Blackmon previously received an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin in nutrition.

Since 2019, JHG Texas has awarded almost \$50,000 in scholarships to UTA nursing students.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

SARAH ANDREWS, *Quality Improvement to Reduce Adverse Behaviors in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury*

ANNETTE AYERS, *Adverse Events: A Pre- and Post-QI Project*

MARGARET BADEJO, *Improving African American Men's Blood Pressure with Home-Based Blood Pressure Monitoring*

ELINOR BERGER, *Waterproof Liners for Hip Spica Casts Reduce Unplanned Healthcare Encounters*

MARICELA BERGSTROM, *Improving Wait Times and Patient Satisfaction in Primary Care Through a Staggered Appointment Workflow Process: A Quality Improvement Process*

SHARON BLACKERBY, *Influencing Self-Confidence of Registered Nurse Residents*

PHILIP BOETTCHER, *Preventing Elderly Falls in the Emergency Department with Video Monitoring*

JOYCE BOTCHEY-NIIQUAYE, *Pre-Hypertension Risk Awareness Education*

CANDI CARNEY, *Informed Decision-Making Regarding Skin Cancer Management*

SHAMEYA CEASAR, *Nurse Perception of Bedside Shift Report*

YVONNE CLARKE, *Vision Referral Completion Rates*

ADELAINE CUNNINGHAM, *HB 2186 Giving Educators the Tools to Actively Participate in Suicide Prevention Strategies and Training in School-Aged Students*

MARLISE CURLEE, *Improving Diabetes Mellitus II with Lifestyle Changes*

TATIANA DANIEL, *Detection of Vitamin D Deficiency: An Improvement Project for Screening of Adults and Elderly Patients in the Primary Care Setting*

SHELBY DO, *Transforming Perceptions of Communication and Trust Through Utilization of Unit-Based Shared Governance and Transformational Leadership*

SALLY DYE, *Repositioning Patients After Cardiovascular Procedures to Reduce Pain*

KIMBERLY ENGLISH, *Use of the 5A Method by COPD Navigators for Smoking Cessation Counseling*

MELANIE FRYE, *Interprofessional Collaboration in Aesthetics: An Evidence-Based Project*

RHONDA FUSELIER, *Newborn Drug Screening: Improving Collection Methods and Outcomes*

DIANA GODINEZ, *Improving Hemoglobin A1c in Type 2 Diabetes with the Use of a Continuous Glucose Monitor*

EDDIE GRADNEY, *Evaluation of a Videogame to Prevent Adolescent Nicotine Initiation for Translation into Ambulatory Care Settings*

MAME GUEYE, *The Restructure and Management Redesign of Nursing Float Pool Operations*

WESLEY HARRIS, *Reducing HF Readmissions through Targeted Patient Education*

JULIE HOLLAND, *Music to Improve Patient Perception of Pain Control*

REBECCA JOHNSON, *Effectiveness of Patient Rounding*

HORACHEL JONES, *STEADI Initiative: Educating APRNs in Elderly Fall Prevention*

VICTORIA KLEIN-OLARTE, *Improving HPV Vaccination Rates Through Provider Education*

VICTORIA LAVACCA, *Inpatient Fall Prevention InPatient Project*

KELLY LEE, *Improving Care of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes in the Primary Care Setting*

CRYSTAL LUCAS, *Increasing Provider's Adherence to Mammogram Screenings in Family Practice*

ANGELA MANNING, *Improving Mammography Compliance in a Rural Healthcare Clinic*

SHELLY MCDONALD, *Development and Implementation of a Nurse Preceptor Workshop to Enhance Confidence and Comfort*

ELISA MORRISON, *Increased Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates in Lower Income Primary Care Population*

ANILA NAIR, *Post-Operative Surgical Infection Prevention Bundle to Decrease Surgical Site Infections in Spinal Surgeries*

ASHAKRISHNA NAIR, *An Evidence-Based Approach to Improve Providers' Confidence in Addressing Obesity*

CAROLINE NARED, *Increasing Nurse Residency Job Satisfaction by Implementing a Mentoring Program*

MARILYN NIBLOCK, *Cultural Civility in the Nursing Workplace with an Educational Intervention*

HOLLY NUNNS, *Best Practices for Copying and Pasting in the EHR*

OMOROWA OBANOR, *Post-Operative Teach-Back Wound Care Education to Reduce Spinal Surgical Site Infection Occurrence*

JAMES OCHUKA, *Optimizing Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines for Adults with Diabetes Mellitus in Primary Care Clinics*

CRISTINA OLSON, *Improving Multidisciplinary Rounds with Family Involvement*

WEN PAO, *Evaluating Coordinated Spontaneous Awakening Trials to Decrease Self-Extubation Rate*

ZANDRA PEREZ, *Standardized Postpartum Depression Education*

SHERRY PERRY, *Increasing Outpatient Nurse Comfort with End-of-Life Conversations*

KIMBERLY PETRIE, *Increasing Colon Cancer Screenings*

KATHERINE POWERS, *Decreasing Emergency Department Returns and Hospital Readmissions Through Multidisciplinary Trauma Discharge Education*

LISA REID, *Nurse Practitioner-Led Approach to Medicare Wellness Visits*

GILBERTA SANTANA, *Diabetes Self-Management Education to Improve Adult Hispanic's Glycemic Control*

HENRY SIRENGO, *Maintaining a Healthy Weight in Rural West Texas*

KAYLA SKALA, *Reducing Duration of Labor and Cesarean Delivery Rate with Peanut Balls*

KRISTIN SNIDER, *Evaluation of Acute Stress after Trauma*

VIVIAN SONA, *Observed Dosing of Opioid Substitution Medication to Improve Adherence*

SARAH SULLIVAN, *Increasing Awareness of Patient Satisfaction Survey Elements and Scores*

JACI SULYNN MESTER, *Health Policy Advocacy Education as it Relates to the Rural Hospital Closure Crisis*

LATHA THOMAS, *Prediabetes Screening and Management in Primary Care*

JASON THORNTON, *EMS Simulation and Situation Awareness*

CAROLINE TOMLINSON, *Improving Metabolic Screening in Children and Adolescents Prescribed Second-Generation Antipsychotics*

JEANETTE VAUGHAN, *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of Hispanic Nursing Students: Impact of the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program*

WHITNEY VILLEGAS, *Implementation of a Multi-Disciplinary Protocol for Frail Geriatric Trauma Patients*

TIFFANY WHITE, *The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act: Expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder and the Impact on Mortality in the United States*

CALLIE WILDE, *Implementation of Block Charting to Improve Titration Documentation in the ICU*

JENNIFER ZIRKLE, *Readmission Reduction Implementing Project RED*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING (PHD)

ZAINAB ALYOUSEF, *Diabetes and Physical Activity Among Saudi Women*

JUAN FENG, *The Association Between Caffeine Intake and Cardiovascular Mortality: An Analysis of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (Nhanes) 1999-2014 Database*

ALEX KLACMAN, *The Effects of a Novel Quarterly CPR Training Program on Hospital Basic Life Support Providers' Adult and Infant CPR Skills*

SUWON PARK, *Health Literacy, Illness Perception, and Diabetes Self-Management in Korean-Speaking Immigrants with Diabetes*

JULIE PETERSON-NEWMAN, *Mediating Effects of Cognitive Function on Health-Related Quality of Life Among Older Adults with Cardiovascular Disease in the United States*

KAREN STANZO, *Glucose Gel as a Treatment for Neonatal Hypoglycemia*

BRENDA ROSS SWILLEY, *Smoking Cessation Within the Federal Employee Population*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN KINESIOLOGY (PHD)

JOHN AKINS, *Sex Differences and Vascular Mechanisms of Elevated Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Non-Hispanic Black Individuals*



Jeanean Boyd



David Keller

ALUMNI NOW CHAIR DEPARTMENTS IN CONHI

In the years since department chairs Jeanean Boyd and David Keller were UTA students, enrollment has grown, degree programs have expanded, and online classes reach students in faraway places.

Yet some aspects remain unchanged, they say. Faculty are still invested in students' success, creating the same strong connection with students that Dr. Keller felt when he earned his BS in exercise science in 2000.

"It is an important piece to keep that feeling of family and connection with students so they feel they are getting the attention and support they need," says Keller, associate dean and chair of the Department of Kinesiology.

And faculty members are still inspired by the innovative spirit of founding dean Myrna Pickard, says Dr. Boyd, chair of the Department of Undergraduate Nursing since 2017. Following in Dr. Pickard's innovative footsteps, Boyd led the effort to develop the RN-to-BSN program into an online program in 2009.

"We would not be where we are right now if it hadn't been for the innovation and the forward thinking of Dr. Myrna Pickard and others within the College of Nursing," Boyd says.

Boyd earned a BSN in 1974 and MSN in nursing administration in 1984 from UTA before earning a DNP in leadership in 2017 from Texas Christian University. Her nursing leadership career included such roles as corporate vice president and chief nursing officer. She was on the UTA faculty from 2003 to 2005, then returned in 2007.

Keller earned an MS and PhD in integrative physiology from the UNT Health Science Center in 2002 and 2004. He became chair before the nursing college merged with kinesiology to become CONHI in 2014. In recent years, the department has expanded to offer programs such as public health.

CONHI is building on its multidisciplinary strengths and seeking opportunities for collaborative community partnerships, they say.

"How do we partner with our clinical facilities because of the pandemic and scarce resources?" Boyd says. "What can we do together?"

Nursing students have staffed vaccination clinics, and public health students helped with community contact tracing.

"In all of our fields, we commonly work as teams," Keller says. "We are really well-positioned now to continue to provide more and more incredible opportunities to our students."

GEORGE W. AND HAZEL M. JAY PROFESSORSHIP

Marco Brotto, 2015-present



Established in 1992, the George W. and Hazel M. Jay Professorship in Nursing was the first in the UTA School of Nursing and honors Mrs. Jay's contributions to and her husband's support of nursing education. Mrs. Jay retired in 1981 as assistant dean.

Marco Brotto holds the professorship. An internationally distinguished nurse clinical-translational scientist, Dr. Brotto has dedicated his research to understanding the causes of muscle and bone weakness that come with aging. He also has discovered new biomarkers for bone and muscle diseases, including osteoporosis. Since he came to UTA in 2015, the renowned researcher has been supported with grants totaling over \$6.575 million in recent years.

Brotto serves as the director for the PhD nursing program and the Bone-Muscle Research Center and is a U.S. Bone and Joint Ambassador with the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research.

ENDOWED CHAIR IN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING EXCELLENCE

Barbara St. Pierre Schneider, 2022



The Endowed Chair in Gerontological Nursing Excellence was established in 2019 thanks to the generosity of the Deerbrook Charitable Trust, as part of a grant to support excellence in gerontological nursing. Highly qualified faculty are very rare in this field.

Barbara St. Pierre Schneider assumed the endowed chair in early 2022 and will focus on aging and gerontological research. Dr. Schneider has devoted over 25 years to understanding biological influences on health, with expertise in detecting white blood cells during muscle healing. With a research funding portfolio of more than \$8 million, Schneider has been published in numerous nursing, medical, and physiology journals.

Schneider holds fellowships with the Western Academy of Nurses and the American Academy of Nursing and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Society.

MYRNA R. PICKARD PROFESSORSHIP IN NURSING

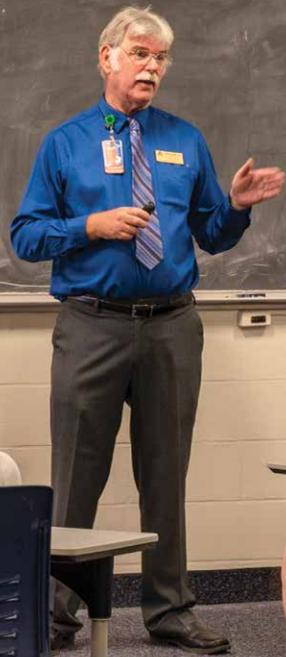
Mari Tietze, 2021-present



The Myrna R. Pickard Professorship in Nursing was established in 1999 in recognition of the first dean of the School of Nursing and her 24 years of dedicated service. Dr. Pickard was committed to advancing research and knowledge in the nursing profession.

Mari Tietze, an accomplished nursing educator and researcher, was appointed to the professorship in 2021. Dr. Tietze is a recognized expert in psychosocial nursing, holistic patient needs, and expansive health services distribution. Her research also includes telehealth.

She serves in a critical role to advance health informatics education at UTA by supporting its upcoming health informatics master's in nursing degree and associated interprofessional certificates. Tietze will represent CONHI as an affiliate of the Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics, a collaboration among numerous health informatics entities.



THOMAS DOMBROWSKY

**CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
UNDERGRADUATE NURSING**

When Thomas Dombrowsky first enrolled at UT Arlington in the mid-1980s, he had been a licensed practical nurse for nearly a decade and worked in the psychiatric unit at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

“Before coming to UTA, I had never taken classes at a university, only at community colleges,” says Dr. Dombrowsky, now a clinical associate professor of undergraduates. “I saw the University as being at a more advanced level and was excited about the possibility of taking classes here.”

His goal was to be a nursing educator, so he attended classes for years while working at area hospitals. He earned a BSN in 1985, an MSN in nursing education in 2009, and his PhD in 2016. He started as an instructor in 2014.

“One thing I have learned from the students is that there is more than one way to learn to become a nurse,” says Dombrowsky. “Students have different learning styles. I think the biggest factors in success are to be highly engaged with class activities and to persist in the face of difficulties.

“I hope that students develop the habits of good scholarship from my courses and they continue to grow those habits after they graduate,” he added.



PATTI PARKER

**CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
GRADUATE NURSING**

When Patti Parker earned her master’s degree in nursing at UTA in 1991, students spent more time in classrooms and libraries than today’s students, many of whom receive their entire educations via online learning.

“We still went to classes; there were no hybrid classes, nothing like that,” Parker says. “There was no online anything.”

Parker attended graduate school at night while working as a vascular surgery department manager at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. Later, she earned a nurse practitioner degree focused on gerontology in 1994.

Her experience in the brick-and-mortar days of education lets her appreciate students’ online education, which often means nursing students have more hands-on time with patients.

Those students come to class with unique skill sets and career experiences, and many only need a refresher in some area, said the 27-year educator. Many are experts in fields such as cardiology, neurology, and oncology.

“You want to teach to the knowledge level in your classes. In grad school, you are teaching to really brilliant people,” says Parker. Most students are in their 30s and more hail from out of state, she notes.

Today, Parker is focused on helping grow UTA’s new Graduate Gerontology Health Care Certificate program.

ABU YILLA

**CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
KINESIOLOGY**

Wheelchair basketball drew Abu Yilla to UT Arlington in fall 1984 to pursue a physical education degree, which he earned in 1987.

Now a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology, the Sierra Leone native discovered UTA when his University of Nottingham wheelchair basketball team visited the campus. Disability advocate and coach Jim Hayes offered him a scholarship and a spot on the UTA Freewheelers, the early version of today’s multi-champion Movin’ Mavs.

Dr. Yilla returned to UTA in fall 1996 as a faculty member after earning his master’s degree and a PhD at Texas Woman’s University.

He credits the development of an exercise science program, which includes bachelor’s and master’s degrees, as attracting those seeking clinical options. Changing the name to kinesiology—keeping with changes within the industry—also was important.



“A graduate program started to be developed, and we now offer master’s and PhDs, which make a difference,” Yilla said. “It’s particularly stepped up remarkably as far as the research agenda goes and the number and quality of faculty now.

Yilla is also a Paralympic medalist, former coach of national and international championships in rugby, and has 14 national championships in wheelchair basketball as a player and two national championships as president of the Dallas Wheelchair Mavericks.



CINDY TROWBRIDGE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, KINESIOLOGY

Cindy Trowbridge had two wishes when searching for her next academic position in 2004 after earning a PhD in exercise science, specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation. She sought a young athletic training (AT) program that would allow her a hand in sculpting the curriculum, and she preferred a program with a female faculty leader.

Dr. Trowbridge found both at UT Arlington. The AT program received accreditation only a few years prior and was led by Louise Fincher, who founded the program in 2000. It has grown to be nationally known in the field.

The industry matured and broadened its focus from secondary school level, collegiate levels, and professional or Olympic sports to include work in warehouses, performing arts, fire and police departments, sports medicine physician offices, and worksites.

Eight years ago, the AT program transitioned to a two-year professional master’s degree program focused on injury prevention, assessment and diagnosis, and acute care and therapeutic interventions for managing musculoskeletal injuries and common medical conditions.

“We’ve managed growth and change, but we’ve kept our grounding as being a department that works really well together and still allows for connection with students,” said Trowbridge, who primarily researches therapeutic modalities to heat and cool muscles with evolving technology including portable energy generators.



CONHI meets the challenges of an ever-changing health care field by creating new degree and certificate programs to help students prepare or enhance their careers.

An **accelerated campus-based Bachelor of Science in Nursing program**, a first for CONHI, allows students to finish their last two years of nursing school in 15 months.

The students' studies continue across two summer semesters and feature accelerated versions of the courses their peers take during the longer spring and fall semesters.

The first cohort of 31 students began in summer 2021. CONHI plans to offer the accelerated campus-based BSN option again in summer 2022.

The **Graduate Gerontology Health Care certificate** program is for nurses and health care professionals who have hands-on experience working with adults age 65-plus.

Students are baccalaureate-prepared professionals who care for older adults in settings such as hospitals, home health, skilled-nursing facilities, or assisted-living centers. Some are bedside nurses or nurse administrators, while others are social workers and health care administrators.

Those who go through the program can tailor which courses they take to match their interests and gain valuable expertise. Most of the courses are fully online, with synchronous online events and limited on-site meetings.

Admission requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in nursing or a related field. The stand-alone certificate could be completed in one academic year or added to degree-seeking students' degree plans.



The **Telehealth and Health Informatics certificate** aims to prepare undergraduate students to better understand the fields of telehealth and health informatics.

Telehealth is the distribution of health-related services via electronic and telecommunication technology, while health informatics is the storage and use of health care information. Both are meant to foster better collaboration among health-related providers and produce better health outcomes for patients.

The certificate is geared toward upper-level pre-baccalaureate students. It was developed in collaboration with UTA's Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics.

NURSING



Hazel Jay, 1988



Myrna Pickard, 1998



Mary Ellen Wyers, 1999



Karen Heusinkveld, 2003



Ferne Kyba, 2004



Mary Lou Bond, 2014



Carolyn Cason, 2015



Jennifer Gray, 2015



Elisabeth Poster, 2017



Cheryl Anderson, 2018



Anne Bavier, 2018



Judy LeFlore, 2018



Barbara Raudonis, 2018



Mary E. "Beth" Mancini, 2019

KINESIOLOGY



Eugene W. Anderson, 2000



Elba G. Stafford, 2000



Barry McKeown, 2019

Read more about the professors emeriti at uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/conhi/people/emeriti.

CONHI RESPONDS TO COVID-19

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board selected UTA as a Star Award recipient for its outstanding efforts to respond to COVID-19, which included several CONHI-based activities and initiatives.

A team of UTA nursing students found an impactful way to give back to a rural community by driving more than two hours to administer more than 1,300 doses of the vaccine to residents of Fannin County.

In 2021, over 500 CONHI students spent more than 4,300 hours supporting 20 vaccination sites and administering thousands of vaccine doses. Students also assisted COVID-19 testing sites.

Erin Carlson and Rebecca Garner, clinical associate professors of public health, spoke about COVID-19 safety measures, vaccines, misinformation, and other concerns in a series of videos for on-campus communication.





TEXAS TIER ONE

In August 2021, UT Arlington achieved designation as a **Texas Tier One university**, a significant milestone of excellence in academics and research that brings with it access to the state's National Research University Fund (NRUF).

UTA reached or exceeded rigorous benchmarks of quality established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for at least two consecutive years.

Texas lawmakers established the NRUF in 2009 to provide a pathway for emerging research institutions to become national leaders in research output. Texas Tier One status not only signifies that UT Arlington is a leading research university, but also provides additional resources to ensure the University continues to recruit top faculty, pursue groundbreaking research, and prepare students to enter one of the strongest workforces in the country.

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION RENEWED

UT Arlington again has been named to the elite group of **R-1: Doctoral Universities—Very High Research Activity** by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the definitive list for the top doctoral research universities in the United States.

“Our continuous pursuit of excellence has advanced the University’s reputation for impactful research and high-quality education, placing UTA among the nation’s top research institutions,” says

Teik C. Lim, UTA’s interim president.

The Carnegie Classification analyzes data from all U.S. post-secondary institutions and evaluates measures of research activity, including research and development expenditures; science and engineering research staff; and doctoral conferrals in humanities, STEM fields, and other areas such as business, education, and social work. UTA was first designated as R-1 in 2015, and the status was renewed in 2018.

TEXAS INFORMATICS ALLIANCE CO-FOUNDER

UTA is a founding member of the **Texas Health Informatics Alliance (THIA)**, which aims to build informatics ties across the state through research, data, policy, education standards, and workforce development.

THIA is aimed at researchers, developers, health professionals, information management professionals, data and information scientists,

students, and anyone interested in health informatics.

“We hope that the THIA will contribute to the greater use of informatics in health care in our region, as well as promote research and education in the field,” says Gabriela Wilson, professor of kinesiology and co-director of UTA’s Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics.

BONE-MUSCLE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTER

Across the world, about 1.71 billion people have musculoskeletal conditions, according to the World Health Organization. As people age, these diseases can impact their quality of life.

“How do we live longer, healthier, and stronger?” asks Marco Brotto, the George W. and Hazel M. Jay Professor and founding director of the Bone-Muscle Research Center at UTA.

Dr. Brotto and other researchers in the center study such issues as sarcopenia, osteoporosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease. The center fosters collaboration in such areas as nursing, materials science, bioengineering, biology, kinesiology, and mathematics.

Founded in 2018 with seven members, the center has grown to 45 members and has gained funding for multiple grants, including \$6.575 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows also contribute at the center, helping to build their careers, he says.

“There is this beautiful educational mission that labs can fuel from inspiring undergraduate students to the fellows, the next generation of scientists,” Brotto says.

The center collaborates with facilities locally and across the country and has a growing presence internationally with collaborations in Australia, Brazil, China, and Europe.

In coming years, Brotto hopes to expand the center’s membership and become an institute. He also hopes to raise awareness and advocate nationally about the role of activity in musculoskeletal health.

CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING AND LONGEVITY
The center aims to improve the quality of life of older adults by improving physiological health with innovative, evidence-based physical rehabilitation programs.

CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES IN NURSING AND HEALTH
The CHSNH aims to advance the health and human condition of underserved and culturally diverse, Spanish-language populations in the United States and abroad.

SMARTCARE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SmartCare is a collaborative project between CONHI and the College of Engineering to develop, build, and deploy the next generation of intelligent care technologies enabling improvement in in-home health care. Kathryn Daniel is director.

Two University-wide research centers are led by CONHI faculty.

MULTI-INTERPROFESSIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATICS
MICHI draws from strengths and knowledge of multiple professions and disciplines with the ultimate goal of transitioning from sick care to health care. Marion Ball and Gabriella Wilson are co-directors.

NORTH TEXAS GENOME CENTER
The center provides massive genome sequencing capabilities for biotech and health research. Florence Haseltine is medical director.

NURSING

MARCO BROTTO

Regulation of Store-Operated Calcium Entry during Muscle Aging; Subaward with The Ohio State University via National Institutes of Health; **\$954,172**

ELIZABETH MERWIN

Reducing Health Disparities in SMI, Rural, and Minority Populations; National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; **\$1,258,324**

MEGAN ROGERS AND JENNIFER ROYE

Nursing and Allied Health-Supporting Clinical Learning to Mitigate Impediments due to COVID-19; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; **\$149,136**

VENU G. VARANASI

R56-Printing and Regenerating Fractured Bone Using Antioxidant Materials; National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; **\$427,584**

YAN XIAO

PROMIS Learning Lab: Partnership in Resilience for Medication Safety; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; **\$1,875,000**

Partnership for Medication Safety in Primary Care and Telehealth During COVID-19 Public Health Crisis; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; **\$375,977**

KINESIOLOGY

MATTHEW BROTHERS

Neural and Vascular Mechanisms of Elevated Cardiovascular Disease Risk in African Americans; National Institutes of Health; **\$447,615**

KYRAH BROWN

Racial Differences in Patient Experiences and Diabetes; Health Resources & Services Administration; **\$100,000**

ERIN CARLSON

Hepatitis Viral Infection and Systematic Treatment Alliance Program; Bexar County Hospital District, dba University Health; **\$55,839**

PAUL FADEL

Mechanisms of Exercise Intolerance in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction: Precision Therapy Based on Patient Specific Pathophysiology. Subaward with The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center via National Institutes of Health; **\$865,149**

JODY GREANEY

Peripheral and Central Mechanisms of Neurovascular Dysfunction in Human Depression; National Institutes of Health; **\$745,344**

YEONWOO KIM

The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study; National Institutes of Health; **\$144,359**

TIFFANY KINDRATT

The Prevalence of Diagnosed and Undiagnosed Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Among Arab Americans; National Institutes of Health; **\$77,000**

MICHAEL D. NELSON

Mechanism and Modulation of Sex Differences in Myocardial Steatosis Induced Left Ventricular Dysfunction; National Institutes of Health; **\$2,711,937**

ISS MetaOx Tissue Oxygen Consumption Monitor; National Institutes of Health; **\$248,100**

DANIEL W. TROTT

T Cells Mediate Age-Related Arterial Dysfunction; National Institutes of Health; **\$380,700**

JINGSONG ZHOU

Preserving Mitochondrial Function for Alleviating ALS Progression; National Institutes of Health; **\$1,752,752**

**RHONDA PRISBY****PROFESSOR, KINESIOLOGY**

Rhonda Prisby uses her artistic eye to “come up with a creative way of seeing science,” she says.

“I don’t think there’s much separation between the arts and science,” says Dr. Prisby, who earned a bachelor’s degree in art and graduate degrees in exercise physiology. “You can use them in concert, and it can be very beneficial.”

In 2019, Prisby gained widespread recognition for discovering ossified particles—or tiny bone-like pieces—in the blood of rats and humans. The particles could potentially clog blood vessels and lead to heart attack or stroke, she notes.

“With an art degree, you are taught to see details,” Prisby adds. “When I was looking at images of blood vessels, I think it was my training in art that helped me make links between the images, and that led to the discovery of this new blood particle.”

UTA’s commitment to increased research activity drew her back to the University in 2016, she says. She previously taught at UTA from 2009 to 2012.

Research is never boring, says Prisby, who still paints and sculpts, too. “The questions are always there, and things always change.”

She has broken ground beyond the lab, too. In 2020, she became the first woman and African American to be named full professor in kinesiology at UTA.

**YUE LIAO****ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, KINESIOLOGY**

Researcher Yue Liao joined the Department of Kinesiology in 2020 as one of the newest faculty members and has already been making great strides in adding to the expansive and collaborative research CONHI is known for.

Dr. Liao was co-lead author on a research article published in the journal *Cancer*, which found that cancer survivors improved their quality of life, physical activity level, and physical functioning after completing a 12-week group-based exercise program.

Liao and her partners conducted their research through Active Living After Cancer (ALAC), a Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas-funded program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Their findings show that community-based programs like ALAC could be able to reach and support medically underserved populations of cancer survivors and improve their physical functioning.

Liao is continuing her research to investigate how survivors can maintain the positive benefits these evidence-based programs have garnered. Liao plans to recruit English- and Spanish-speaking cancer survivors for her research who have finished the ALAC program or who are currently participating or planning to participate in the FitSteps for Life program at UTA.

Liao’s new pilot project, Project REMOTE: Research to Examine Motivation to Exercise, is funded by the CONHI’s Center for Research & Scholarship’s pilot grant program.

NURSING

PATRICIA ALLARD focuses on exploring the role of resilience, anxiety, depression, and stress on the mental health of newly graduated nurses transitioning to practice.

MARCO BROTTTO works to devise new strategies to diagnose and treat musculoskeletal diseases in the Bone-Muscle Collaborative Research Center.

KATHRYN DANIEL focuses on technology development to assist older adults in safe independent living in the community in the SmartCare Technology Development Center.

KRISTIN GIGLI conducts research, advocacy, and education to improve pediatric health outcomes by optimizing care delivery systems utilization of nurse practitioner and through evaluation of health policies.

FLORENCE HASELTINE concentrates her research around UTA's North Texas Genome Center, which is a service center for genomic sequences and has been the site of the UTA Athletic COVID-19 testing program.

LYNDA JARRELL investigates the integration of telehealth/telemedicine training into Family Nurse Practitioner programs.

LESLIE JENNINGS explores the predictive factors of nursing school success in students as well as what variables impact persistence.

ELIZABETH MERWIN directs her research on improvements in health outcomes and reduction of health disparities in rural, minority, and vulnerable populations, using large, national health care data for population health studies.

ADEJOKE "FELICIA" OGIDAN investigates the best innovative educational approach that will prepare prelicensure nursing students in delivering quality end-of-life care to the elderly population, especially those with chronic health conditions.

ZUI PAN focuses his laboratory research on intracellular calcium signaling and its pathophysiological implications in human diseases.

JAQUETTA "JADA" REEVES is developing creative and innovative strategies that will improve sexual health services, increase access to high-quality care, and decrease the spread of STIs and risk of HIV among at-risk populations in underserved communities.

MEAGAN ROGERS investigates the use of telepresence robots to mitigate COVID-related clinical experience challenges.

JENNIFER ROYE directs her research on health care simulation, including evaluation, innovation, and learning theory related to simulation education.

JESSICA SMITH focuses on generating knowledge about how nursing resources could be modified to result in safer care for rural communities.

REGINA URBAN focuses on topics specific to nursing education in academic and clinical practice settings, including research that contributes to improving student success and persistence in undergraduate settings.

VENU VARANASI conducts research on the effects of oxidative stress as it relates to traumatic injury repair and tissue regeneration.

SHARON WILSON explores the connection between spirituality and health with the primary objective of examining the impact of faith-based physical activity strategies on health-related behaviors in African Americans.

YAN XIAO develops and tests innovative technology solutions for health care delivery to improve quality, safety, and engagement in health in the Healthcare Innovation Laboratory.

KINESIOLOGY

APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY AND ADVANCED IMAGING LABORATORY led by Michael Nelson focuses on questions relating to human health and cardiovascular disease.

BIOMECHANICS LABORATORY led by Mark Ricard investigates the effects of human joint mechanics and neuromuscular control upon health outcomes.

BONE VASCULAR AND MICROCIRCULATION LABORATORY led by Rhonda Prisby examines the interaction between blood vessels and bone in states of health and disease.

CARDIOVASCULAR PHYSIOLOGY LABORATORY led by David Keller focuses on dynamic blood pressure control with an emphasis on racial disparities.

DEVELOPMENTAL MOTOR COGNITION LABORATORY led by Priscila Tamplain investigates the development of motor behavior in children and adolescents.

DISABILITY SPORTS LABORATORY led by Judy Wilson focuses on the effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy as a tool to improve clinical outcomes, specifically stroke, as well as the physiological responses of wheelchair and able-bodied athletes.

GLOBAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB led by Godfred Boateng has set out to understand the multi-dimensional factors and processes driving health and health equity across spatial scales (individual, community, institutional, national, etc.) and how these factors can be addressed in a sustained manner.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH LABORATORY led by Tiffany Kindratt conducts epidemiologic research studies focused on evaluating predisposing (e.g., race and ethnicity, specifically Arab Americans) and enabling (e.g., patient-provider communication, patient experience) factors that influence individuals' morbidity, mortality, and use of health services with big data methodologies.

HUMAN NEURAL CARDIOVASCULAR CONTROL LABORATORY led by Paul Fadel investigates neural cardiovascular control in human health and disease.

INTEGRATIVE IMMUNOLOGY LABORATORY led by Daniel Trott focuses on how the immune system interacts with other tissues to regulate cardiovascular and metabolic function.

INTEGRATIVE VASCULAR PHYSIOLOGY LABORATORY led by Matthew Brothers investigates the mechanisms of impaired autonomic and vascular function in selected at-risk/diseased populations.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EQUITY LABORATORY led by Kyrah Brown examines the factors that shape the birth outcomes and health of Black women across the lifespan.

MOVEMENT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY EPIDEMIOLOGY LABORATORY led by Xiangli Gu seeks to improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents.

NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASES LAB led by Jingsong Zhou focuses on Ca signaling and mitochondrial function in striated muscle pathophysiology and neuromuscular diseases, particularly amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

NEUROVASCULAR PHYSIOLOGY LABORATORY led by Jody Greaney studies neurovascular dysfunction in depression to address depression-associated cardiovascular disease.

NICOTINE AND TOBACCO RESEARCH LAB led by Ziyad Ben Taleb focuses on emerging tobacco products like hookahs and e-cigarettes and their effects on health.

NORTH TEXAS GENOME CENTER is where founding director Jon Weidanz pursues identifying tumor-specific peptides presented by the human leukocyte antigen system for use as potential targets for immunotherapy.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LABORATORY is led by Larry Nelson, whose research centers on measuring the physiological and psychological effects of physical education in youth development programs.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WEARABLE SENSORS LABORATORY led by Yue Liao promotes active living using wearable sensors for chronic disease prevention.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH LABORATORY led by Yeonwoo Kim investigates how neighborhood environments impact health outcomes and behaviors.

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS RESEARCH LAB led by Cynthia Trowbridge investigates the clinical efficacy and therapeutic intervention in athletic injury.



AMY MCCARTHY '12 BSN, '17 MSN

One of the highlights of Amy McCarthy's career came at the very beginning—when she received her first UTA nursing degree.

"I'll never forget that moment," says McCarthy, now the director of nursing, women, and infants specialty services at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. "The career and practice of nursing is an incredible gift. We have the opportunity to be a part of people's lives in such an intimate fashion from the beginning of life to the end of life."

McCarthy was a pre-med student at SMU, where she earned a BA in biology in 2010. But she changed paths after seeing nurses in action.

"I loved the amount of time they spent with patients," she says.

She earned an accelerated online BSN in 2012 and MSN in nursing administration in 2017, both from UTA. She expects to earn a DNP in executive leadership from George Washington University in May.

McCarthy also has worked as nurse manager of the maternal fetal specialty clinic at Parkland, mother/baby nurse manager for Medical City Healthcare, and nursing supervisor for Texas Health Resources.

She was elected the American Nurses Association's director-at-large in June 2021 and has served as secretary of the Texas Nurses Association.



CHRISTI NGUYEN '94 BSN, '04 MSN & MS

As a young child watching nurses do their jobs, Christi Nguyen felt drawn to the nursing profession.

"I thought, 'This is so amazing. I want to do that when I grow up and help people,'" she says.

Now Dr. Nguyen oversees operational functions of nine units as an executive director of medical surgical services at JPS Health Network in Fort Worth, and she has earned numerous awards during her career. She serves as president of the North Central Organization for Nursing Leadership, Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a member of both the American Organization for Nursing Leadership and Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership.

In preparing for her career, she sought three UTA degrees—a BSN in 1994 and an MSN and an MS in Health Care Administration in 2004—and a DNP from Texas Christian University in 2016.

"UTA's reputation was strong then, but is even stronger now," she says, noting that hospitals appreciate graduates' preparedness and clinical skills.

Now, Nguyen teaches as a clinical assistant professor in UTA's online MSN nursing administration program.

"It's worthwhile work being able to mentor and lead the next generation of our future leaders," she says. "I love being able to have that impact in helping nurses grow."



JAKKI OPOLLO '04 BSN, '08 MSN, '12 PHD

Nursing is one career with a thousand career choices, Jakki Opollo says.

In September, Dr. Opollo was promoted to vice president of talent initiatives and regional chief diversity officer of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in North Carolina, merging her passions for health care and diversity.

"Nursing has afforded me many opportunities. I've worn different hats working in the cardiovascular ICU, academia, and administration," she says. "None of that would have been possible without my education preparation at UT Arlington."

She earned BSN and PhD degrees from UTA and a dual MSN/MPH degree from UTA and the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Prior to her current role, Opollo served as the system vice president of nursing talent acquisition and strategy at Atrium Health and director of professional practice and nursing research at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Opollo is a native of Kenya and founder and president of Lovebound International, a nonprofit organization that focuses on addressing health care and education challenges in Kenya and beyond. At UTA, she teaches the graduate online nursing health care policy course as an assistant professor.

"Nurses can grow into new and emerging roles as long as they are willing to innovate and take risks," she says.



MARY ROBINSON '82 BSN

Mary Robinson has traveled to hospitals nationwide through her work as a nursing leader, and she often hears about CONHI's reputation for excellence.

"This is a program that is really recognized throughout the United States," she says. "That's a real testament to the growth of the program."

Dr. Robinson is Texas Health Resources' senior vice president and chief nursing officer of Reliable Health and was named one of 2021's 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives in the U.S. by *Modern Healthcare* magazine.

She also has served as director of professional practice and education at Texas Health Fort Worth, chief nursing officer at Texas Health Southwest, and interim chief nursing officer at Texas Health Cleburne.

Robinson earned a BSN in 1982 from UTA, where her mother was a nursing faculty member. At Texas Woman's University, Robinson earned a MSN in 1988 and a PhD in 2002.

At UTA, she built a solid foundation that prepared her for her career, she said. Through the years, she has watched the college continue to grow and innovate as it has added simulation labs, DNP degrees, online classes, and more.

"UTA has always been a forward-thinking university," she says.

TREY HILLMAN '91 BA, EXERCISE SCIENCE

Trey Hillman's professional baseball career has taken him from player to team manager and many jobs in between for programs across the United States and in Japan

and Korea. He was the first person to manage teams in Major League Baseball and the Japanese Nippon Professional Baseball and Korean Baseball Organization.

He credits both UT Arlington's baseball program—he played 1982-85—and kinesiology professors for his early success.

"Dr. (Eugene) Anderson and Dr. (Barry) McKeown always kept things very interesting and vibrant

with the program," Hillman says. "It was very obvious that they weren't satisfied with where it was; they wanted growth."

Hillman credits Drs. Anderson and McKeown with building an innovative curriculum for a program that draws students worldwide.

The late Anderson and McKeown made sure Hillman graduated from UTA after he left to play in the minors in 1985. They arranged for him to take and transfer credits from the University of South Florida, where he relocated for baseball.

He keeps in touch with McKeown and follows UTA's successes.

"I love UTA and will always love it," says Hillman, who is looking for new opportunities after resigning from the Miami Marlins at the end of the 2021 season. "I am hopeful that it continues to grow, both domestically and internationally."

BENJAMIN YOUNG '20 PHD, KINESIOLOGY

A recent alumnus of the PhD in Kinesiology program, Benjamin Young leaves behind a notable and impressive track record of success during his time in the College

of Nursing and Health Innovation. He conducted research in the Human Neural Cardiovascular Control Lab at UTA led by Paul Fadel, associate dean for research and professor in kinesiology.

"The College of Nursing and Health Innovation, and Department of Kinesiology in particular, was a paradigm shift in my doctoral training that has prepared me for a successful career at the forefront of the field," Dr. Young says. "I would recommend the program to any and all students

interested in exercise, exercise physiology, and physiological research. I'd also like to thank Dr. Fadel, specifically, for his superb mentorship and commitment to my training."

While at UTA, Young received an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship and several research awards from the American Physiological Society. He also was recognized with *Experimental Physiology's* prestigious Early Career Author Prize for 2020-21 for his research on blood pressure regulation in Black men conducted at CONHI.

"It was a pleasure to have Ben in the laboratory," Dr. Fadel says. "He was an exemplary student and contributed tremendously to our research studies."

Young most recently began a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Applied Clinical Research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.



1988
Donna Bertram, '80 BSN



1995
Robert A. "Bobby" Lane, '55 BA, PE



1995
Margaret Martin, '79 MSN



1996
Kenneth Lowrance, '80 BSN



1997
Ellen Larsen Palmer, '81 MSN



1998
Kathleen Willis, '77 BSN



1999
Jim Garrett, '55 BA, PE



1999
Freda Murray, '83 BSN, '88 MSN



2000
Lea Barbato Gaydos, '76 BSN, '81 MSN



2000
Robert Howard, '85 BA, PE



2001
Sandra Bruce, '91 MSN



2002
Kevin Abelbeck, '89 BA, ESS/ES



2002
Remy "Luz" Tolentino, '85 MSN



2003
Mary Clark Robinson, '82 BSN



2004
Brenda Marshall, '78 BA, PE



2004
Laura Valencia Alvarado, '92 MSN



2005
Rayla Allison, '75 BA, PE



2005
Robin Newman, '91 MSN



2005
Ross Querry, '95 BS, ESS/ES



2006
Melody Phillips, '94 BA, ESS/ES



2006
Corrine Anderson, '85 BSN, '99 MSN



2007
Lillie Biggins, '74 BSN



2008
Virginia Lynch, '90 MSN



2008
Thomas "Trey" Hillman, '91 BA, ESS/ES



2010
Jean McSweeney, '83 MSN



2016
Elizabeth "Liz" Johnson, '89 MSN



BEYOND 50 YEARS

As CONHI celebrates our past 50 years, we would be remiss to not consider the future in front of us. The College has accomplished a great deal, but continuously strives to improve and grow. In fall 2021, CONHI published its newest **2021-2026 Strategic Plan**, which outlines the path ahead for the College in the next five years.

The plan serves as the College's guiding light and is aligned with UTA's Strategic Plan 2025. The strategic plan was carefully built by the faculty and staff in CONHI and sets out actionable immediate and long-term tactics to ensure our College's continued success.

As the College prepares for the future, it remains committed to the guiding principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, promoting and enriching a positive work environment in which faculty and staff can thrive, strengthening and growing the academic mission, advancing interdisciplinary research, and improving service to patients and the community, which establishes the foundation of the strategic plan.

The plan is built around four strategic pillars that form the College's future-focused strategic framework for prioritizing and delivering academic and research programs.

STRATEGIC PILLARS



Innovation, Discovery, and Research



Global Engagement and Public Health Policy



Transformative Education and Clinical Experience



People, Partnerships, and Leadership

"I'm excited about our new plan and believe it will reinvigorate and guide the College over the next several years," says Kimberly Siniscalchi, professor of practice and strategic planning project sponsor who spearheaded the creation

"What makes this plan special was active involvement of faculty, staff, and other key stakeholders throughout the entire strategic planning process..."

of the new plan. "What makes this plan special was active involvement of faculty, staff, and other key stakeholders throughout the entire strategic planning process and having their continued support and involvement, will be critical to make our plan come alive over the next five years."

The College invites its community to read through the plan, as their support will be needed to accomplish the lofty goals outlined in there. It can be found at go.uta.edu/CONHIstrategic.



The School of Social Work/CONHI Smart Hospital Building will be a 150,000-square-foot facility with a mix of flexible, state-of-the-art, technology-enriched learning spaces; teaching and research labs; simulation learning center; student engagement, study and support spaces; and faculty and staff offices. Take a virtual tour of the new building at bit.ly/SSW-CONHI.

Your gift to the College of Nursing and Health Innovation will help students achieve their dream of a career in health care.

uta.edu/giving



UTA 

College of Nursing and
Health Innovation

go.uta.edu/conhi50