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CONTENT

- 2. YEAR IN REVIEW
- 3. BY THE NUMBERS
- 4. GLOBAL OUTREACH
- 8. STUDENTS
- 14. FACULTY
- 20. SPECIAL PROJECTS
- 24. GIVING
- 30. NURSING EDUCATION CENTER
- 32. RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE
- 33. RHODE TO HEALTH

WHO WE ARE

Missior

To prepare nurses to excel as outstanding and compassionate clinicians, scholars and leaders who will enhance the health and health care of individuals, families, communities and populations locally and globally.

Vision

The University of Rhode Island College of Nursing is a dynamic catalyst for improving health and transforming health care through innovation and excellence in education, knowledge development, discovery and professional practice to meet the needs of a global society.

Values

- Social justice, diversity, inclusivity and civic engagement
- Respectful, ethical, humanistic and compassionate care
- Intellectual curiosity, innovation and scholarly inquiry
- Leadership, lifelong learning and excellence in practice

DEAN'S MESSAGE

It has been an exciting year in the College of Nursing, as we continue to expand our footprint and enhance our offerings to educate the next generation of nurses and make a positive impact on health care delivery in the community.

Last academic year began with the opening of the brand new Rhode Island Nursing Education Center in Providence, a state-of-the-art facility that provides upperclassmen and graduate students access to the most advanced technology and an unparalleled learning experience. The 133,000-square-foot facility serves as the anchor of the growing health care education and research hub in the capital city.

The opening of the NEC has enhanced the already rigorous curriculum offered in Providence and at our home campus in Kingston, designed to prepare the most capable, dynamic health care professionals in the industry. Nurses are playing an ever-amplifying role in the delivery of health care, and our program offerings are expanding beyond traditional patient care to match that trend.



For instance, a new psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program joins the lineup of offerings at the NEC in Fall 2018, adding to the myriad graduate programs the College offers, including the state's only Ph.D. in nursing. Grant-funded programs in respite care and home health care are preparing students to move beyond conventional nursing roles. And our RN-to-BS program — both in-class and online — offers continuing education to health care workers already in the field.

This report highlights some of the many achievements and experiences the College's students and faculty members have had in the past year. Our students have traveled far and wide to engage in experiential learning in such countries as Liberia, Guatamala, Indonesia and the Dominican Republic. Our faculty members have achieved some of the highest honors in their field, while new professors have joined the College looking to make their own mark. The College's achievements have not gone unnoticed, as grants and gifts have flowed, highlighted by a \$1 million scholarship gift from the estate of Eleanor Ferrante Barlow and her late husband, Edward.

We hope you are as excited as we are to look back on the achievements of the past year and look forward to all the successes to come.

-Dean Barbara Wolfe

YEAR IN REVIEW

Talented incoming class

The most recent class of incoming students had an impressive average GPA of 3.80.

Expanding graduate offerings

The College's graduate program at the Nursing Education Center adds a new concentration in 2018: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Master's degree. (See page 21)

New faculty members

The URI College of Nursing welcomes two new faculty members to begin the 2018-19 academic year. Meet the new professors on page 16.

Quality, affordable education

The URI College of Nursing was ranked among the top 10 accelerated nursing degree programs in the country for the quality and affordability of its RN to BS online program by affordablecollegesonline.org, an organization to "help students choose a school in their state or further afield that best matches their budget, career goals and lifestyle."

New center dedicated

University of Rhode Island and state officials dedicated the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center in Providence, offering state-of-the-art training for upperclassmen and graduate students. (See page 30)

THE URI COLLEGE OF NURSING by the numbers



UNDERGRADUATE FIRST-YEAR NURSING STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR FALL 2018

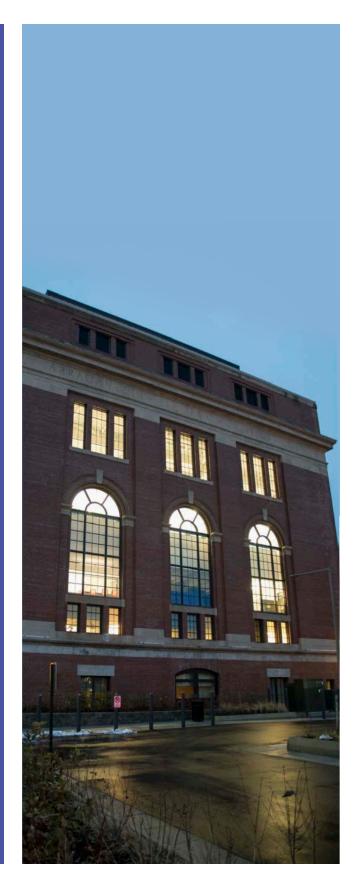
3.80
AVERAGE
GPA

OF INCOMING
FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS





2479
NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO APPLIED
FOR FALL 2018





GLOBAL OUTREACH

Students, faculty bring care where most needed.

▲ URI Nursing grad student Kristen Rameika comforts a newborn baby at a health clinic in Maryland County, Liberia.

▶ URI Nursing grad student Caryn Amedee and faculty member Elaine Parker-Williams vaccinate children against the measles in a small village in Maryland County, Liberia.

Students See Health Disparities on Liberia Trip

The University of Rhode Island College of Nursing continued its global outreach this spring as four students and two faculty members traveled to Liberia to help treat patients at a Partners in Health clinic.

Elaine Parker-Williams, a part-time faculty member in nursing at URI who is from Liberia, led the nurse practitioner students who worked with patients at J.J. Dossen Memorial Hospital in Maryland County, Liberia, conducted vaccination clinics in impoverished villages, and taught nursing and health care classes at Tubman University.

"This is a global initiative for the University, so we can see what is happening in health care in developing nations," Parker-Williams said. "We're exposing the students to these areas of need, which will hopefully gear them toward careers in global health."

The URI students — Bethany MacLeod, Kristen Rameika, Caryn Amedee and Christina Lewis — joined Parker-Williams and part-time faculty member Terri Maine in West Africa. The group relayed their experiences in a real-time blog during their two-week trip, and have been teaching others in lectures and group meetings since their return.

The students said they were struck by the difficult circumstances nurses face in trying to care for patients in Liberia. A lack of supplies, equipment and education are obstacles to providing care, as are the periodic blackouts, lack of running water and outdated medical texts. The situation can be demoralizing to well-meaning nurses who want to improve health in the impoverished nation, they said.

"I feel like nurses felt disempowered, like why bother learning because I can't make a difference anyway," Amedee said. "I don't think they feel like they could even advocate to get better things. The only way is if they start petitioning the Ministry of Health for more and more. I don't think they feel like that's even a viable option for them."

While the URI students traveled to Liberia for an educational experience, they found themselves teaching as much as learning, trying to help fill "the knowledge gap" in some small way, especially with the students studying to become the next generation of health care workers.

The URI College of Nursing plans to continue the partnerships that have been created and is working on ways to educate some Tubman faculty members and possibly bring more URI students to Africa. Putting in such effort is the only way conditions will improve, the students said.

"We want to go back and try to help more," Amadee said.





▲ URI College of Nursing students visited a senior center to conduct blood pressure screenings in the Dominican Republic in January. Students joined Associate Clinical Professor Patricia Stout on the J-Term trip to provide care to underserved communities in pop-up clinics.

▶ URI College of Nursing students conducted a health fair at a high school in the Dominican Republic, teaching students about proper dental care.





▲ URI College of Nursing student Emely Baez conducts a blood pressure screening in a small village in Indonesia during a J-Term trip to the country with several students and faculty members from the URI Academic Health Collaborative.

Dr. Paul Farmer Lectures at NFC

Overcoming health disparities in some of the world's poorest, most remote locations — especially those wracked by virulent outbreaks — is Dr. Paul Farmer's mission, which he relayed during a presentation at the R.I. Nursing Education Center in Providence on Dec. 12.



- ▲ Partners In Health founder Dr. Paul Farmer (second from left) meets with URI College of Nursing students and faculty members after delivering his lecture at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center.
- ▼Famed Partners In Health founder Dr. Paul Farmer delivers a lecture on Ebola and the challenge to nursing in West Africa at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center in Providence.

Farmer's lecture, "The Caregiver's Disease: Ebola and the Challenge to Nursing in West Africa," was sponsored by the URI College of Nursing. Farmer's stories are both heart-breaking and uplifting. They serve as a reminder of the critical role health workers perform, not only in providing treatment, but also in providing care.

A renowned medical anthropologist, professor at Harvard Medical School and physician, Farmer has dedicated his life to improving health care in some of the world's poorest regions. Farmer, the subject of Tracy Kidder's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, is credited with providing access to care for such diseases as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for the world's poorest and most vulnerable in locales such as Haiti, Peru and Liberia through his foundation, Partners In Health.

Read all about Farmer's lecture and watch a video of his presentation at web.uri.edulnursinglnews-stories.

Farmer's stories are both heartbreaking and uplifting. They serve as a reminder of the critical role health workers perform, not only in providing treatment, but also in providing care.

College Confers Nearly 300 Degrees

Caring for an elderly woman as she takes her last breath. Tending to the health care needs of homeless people. Witnessing "the joy and the wonderment" of the birth of a newborn.



STUDENTS

Motivated to make a difference.

Those are just a few of the experiences graduates of the URI College of Nursing have already encountered as they embark on their careers. Dean Barbara Wolfe detailed the clinical knowledge gained and success the students have had in their years at the University before conferring 297 degrees during the College's commencement on May 20.

"These are not every-day experiences of the average college student," Wolfe said. "But they are experiences unique to those pursuing the profession of nursing. And they require a great deal of maturity and sound judgment, which these students have shown. These students have worked hard to be here today. Class of 2018, vou are to be commended."

Shannon McIsaac urged her fellow graduates to carve their own path in the world as she delivered the student commencement address. There is no longer a syllabus to keep up with, so graduates have the opportunity to take their time and "make your time worth something."

"What happens next? For the first time in our nursing career, the answer to that question falls on us," McIsaac said. "We have the power to decide what happens next and how fast or how slow we choose to move on in that journey."

Nursing Grad 'Pays it Forward,' Helping 'Anybody and Everybody'

Much of Shannon McIsaac's life has been lived in service to others, and her time at URI only helped further her mission.

Within the College of Nursing, McIsaac received a first-class education that has prepared her to go the extra mile for her future patients. She describes the clinical experience she received at URI as invaluable, a word others use to describe their experience with her.

McIsaac's charitable work began when she joined the URI Rotaract Club — a group dedicated to providing community service locally and internationally. She led Rotaract in working with the Welcome House homeless shelter and the Jonnycake Center's Food Bank in Peace Dale, R.I., and with students at Peace Dale Elementary School, among other organizations across the state.

Her efforts made a huge impact on campus and beyond. For two years, she served as personal care attendant for URI student Sydney Reich, who lives with cerebral palsy. Whether helping Reich get ready for the day, walking her to class, or going on a fun trip, McIsaac goes above and beyond to help make Reich's college experience as typical as anyone else's.

Reich said McIsaac helps her overcome any obstacle. One of Reich's favorite memories is going to an Ed Sheeran concert, during which McIsaac held her up so she could dance and sing along with her favorite performer.

It was such selfless acts that prompted Reich to nominate McIsaac for the 2018 Robert L. Carothers Servant Leadership Award. It was no surprise when she won. "She helps anybody and everybody," Reich said. "I have no idea where I would be without her."

McIsaac has given it her all in her service, her classes and her leadership roles on campus. She's found success as a student senator, an orientation leader, a student-athlete on the rowing team, the spirit director at the Student Alumni Association and a peer mentor at the Leadership



Institute. Her efforts and achievements led her peers to select her as the College of Nursing Commencement Speaker.

As she enters a nursing residency program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, McIsaac reflects on her time at URI, saying the College of Nursing provided her the best possible preparation.

"I'm sad to leave, but I'm very happy with the involvement I've had, the opportunities I've been given, the people I've met," McIsaac said.

"Although it is sad to leave, I couldn't imagine any better college experience."



Personal Experience Inspires Career in Nursing

Basilio Gonzalez arrived at URI with first-hand caregiving experience at the bedside.

When he was a sophomore at Classical High School in Providence, his mom was diagnosed with breast cancer, and Gonzalez became her primary caregiver. "After a big surgery, I remember my mom arriving home feeling really awful, worse than before," he recalled.

She had ports in her body as part of her treatment, incisions from surgery and patches applied to her skin to administer painkillers. Her suffering, which largely immobilized her, was hard for Gonzalez to witness. "During that time, I thought of many ways for her to do the things she loves without constantly being reminded of the pain," he said. "I gave up my bunk bed for her so that she could use the bars from the bed above to pull herself up on her own when I wasn't home."

When he was home, he changed her dressings, administered the many medications she needed throughout the day and provided much of her care.

"There were times when I barely slept because I would be up with mom with the pain. This was one of the biggest challenges I ever faced. I was 16 and felt so useless," he recalled. "I thought there were other ways that I could have made my mother feel better. That's when I decided to become a nurse."

The nurses at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence who cared for his mom also inspired his choice. "I met so many great people," he said. "I was there to interpret for my mother and thought to myself that I wanted to work closely with patients, and what's better than nurses, right? They not only built a sense of trust with my mom, but with me as well. They gave my mom all the help she needed and were there when I couldn't be."

Thankfully, his mom recovered.

But Gonzalez's path has not been easy. His family immigrated to Rhode Island from Guatemala when he was six, and he is not a native English speaker.

At URI, he was accepted into the Pathways to Nursing Program, which is designed to recruit, support, retain and graduate students from under-represented backgrounds.

"The Pathways Program has helped me get a step closer to my goal," he said. "Sometimes you aren't born with the skills to succeed in life, and as a person who speaks English as their second language, my goal had gotten further away. But that small push, that extra hand, that extra voice does make a difference. The Pathways Program has done all of that and more."

In May, Gonzalez received official word that he was fully accepted into the College of Nursing, bringing him a step closer to his dream. "All those nights and extra hours finally paid off, and I couldn't have done it without the support of the Pathways Program and, of course, Professor Mary Cloud (program director)," he said.

Gonzalez looks forward to caring for people, as those nurses did for his mom, when he graduates with his bachelor's degree in nursing in 2021. But that is just the beginning. He hopes to become a nurse practitioner and have a larger impact in health care.

"There were times when I barely slept because I would be up with mom with the pain. This was one of the biggest challenges I ever faced. I was 16 and felt so useless."

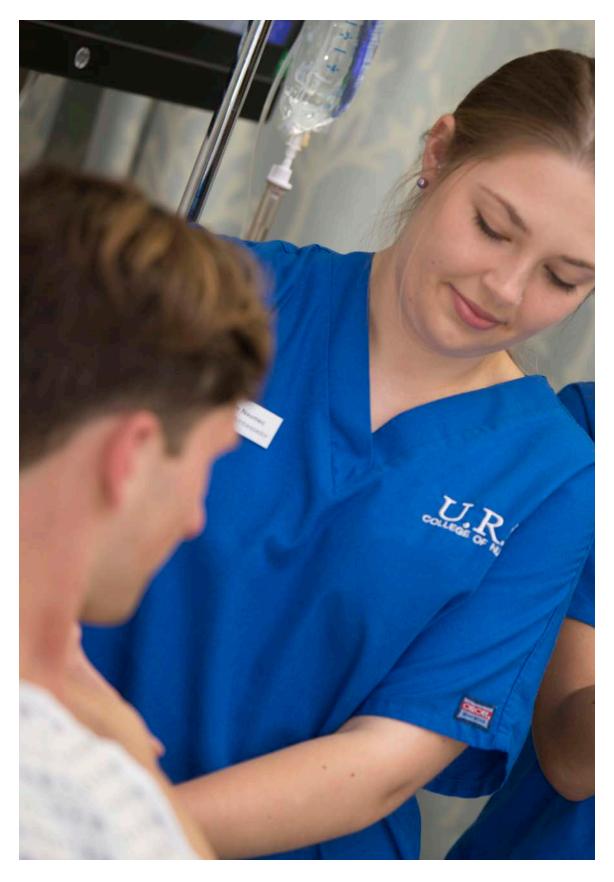
Grant Extends Pathways for Underrepresented Students

A five-year grant from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration has enhanced a URI program that supports nursing students from historically underrepresented populations, such as those from economically disadvantaged and minority backgrounds.

The Southern Rhode Island Area Health Education Centers grant was awarded to the URI College of Nursing through a collaboration with Brown University Alpert Medical School, with Dean Barbara Wolfe as the URI principal investigator and Mary Cloud as project director.

The project's objectives are to reduce health care inequalities and achieve health equity by increasing the diversity within the nursing workforce while improving individual and community health. URI contributes to these goals through the Pathways to Nursing program, which provides students with the resources and support to attain bachelor's degrees in nursing over five years.







Sigma Honor Society Inductions

In spring 2018, 47 URI College of Nursing students were inducted into the Delta Upsilon at-large Chapter of Sigma, one of the world's largest nursing organizations.

Previously known as Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, the organization is dedicated to advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievement in nursing.

The URI inductees include:

Undergraduates

Sarah Abood
Naomi Barnum
Francesca Bernado
Ashley Bousquet
Ruth Bugbee
Kaitlin Canha
Veronica Comito
Taylor Dellagrotta

Julia Fahey

Lindsey Fontneau

Kathryn Gallagher

Adam Gannon

Teresa Graziano

Nathan Grevior

Miranda Jackson

Meredith Jenckes

Shannon Keller

Mckenzie Kiesle

Teddi Kramer

Leilani Livathong

Dana Matassa

Elizabeth McAlvin

Brianna Meka

Brianna Miccile

Lauren Mulvey

Lauren Otado

Jessica Parente

Caroline Rethgeb

Julia Santucci

Taylor Schwab

Ashley Silko

Kerry Walibillich

Becca Wein

Sam Wilson

RN to BS

Erin Breene

Melody Egan

Harle Lavallee

Alejandro Martinez

Esther Pedersen

Knarik Sarkisian

Dino Soscia

Leanna Steinfeld

MS

Dale Monnier

Ann Robertson

Jennifer Thiesling

DNP

Jennifer Barlow

Nurse Leader

Mary Leveillee

Faculty Members Honored as Fellows



Associate Professor **Deb Erickson-Owens**, Ph.D., C.N.M., R.N., was selected as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, an honor bestowed upon only about 2,400 nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research.

Invitation to fellowship is a recognition of a nursing leader's extraordinary accomplishments within the nursing profession.

Erickson-Owens Is being recognized for her outstanding contributions directed at improving maternal/child health nationally and internationally. She has made pioneering contributions in the area of cord clamping at the time of birth. This work has influenced practice, research, policy and education beyond the classroom setting. This includes establishing the first US Air Force (USAF) birth center, providing the vital evidence to change cord clamping practice, developing national policy through practice guidelines, and disseminating this work globally. These sustained contributions span 40 years, from beginning her career as a USAF Nurse Corps officer to her current role as educator and researcher.



In addition, Erickson-Owens joins URI Clinical Assistant Professor **Michelle Palmer**, M.S.N., R.N., as Fellows in the American College of Nurse Midwives, "an honor bestowed upon those midwives whose demonstrated leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession."

Palmer, a midwifery expert, has practiced in a wide variety of settings related to maternal child health, including international experience in a remote rural maternity center in New Zealand, where she managed the center and attended births at home, in the center or in the hospital unit. Her clinical

interest focuses on physiological care in the extended postpartum period and the midwifery model of care.

Faculty

Expertise, leadership bring national recognition.

New Associate Dean Appointed



The University of Rhode Island has appointed **Mary Leveillee** to the position of associate dean of the College of Nursing.

Leveillee joined the College's faculty full time in 2000, teaching undergraduate psychiatric and mental health nursing in lecture and clinical settings. Leveillee's research focuses mainly on women's issues, eating disorders and client-nurse relationships, all areas where she worked extensively in both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric settings.

Leveillee was a staff nurse at Butler Hospital. After earning her master's degree in nursing, she became an outpatient

therapist at the hospital and eventually assumed the role of coordinator of the Eating Disorder Program. In 2014 she returned to Butler Hospital full time and became senior vice president and chief nursing officer, serving in that position until 2017.

"We are delighted to have such an exceptional and talented individual join the URI College of Nursing," said Dean Wolfe. "Dr. Leveillee brings a wealth of leadership experience to this role."

Dean Wolfe Honored by Yale



URI College of Nursing **Dean Barbara Wolfe** was recognized by the Yale University School of Nursing for her achievements and distinction within her career.

The Yale Distinguished Alumna/us Award recognizes a select few individuals for demonstrating "achievement or distinction in their career, and for their contributions to their communities." Dean Wolfe was chosen as one of 2018's recipients because "her accomplishments encompass more than 30 years of experience in clinical, research and academic nursing."

Wolfe's psychiatric/mental health nursing research, and specifically her work on eating disorders, has been published in numerous professional and scientific journals. Wolfe holds Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist Board Certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is a past president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and has served on numerous national committees, including scientific review panels for the National Institutes of Health.

College Welcomes New Professors

In addition to a new associate dean, The URI College of Nursing has welcomed two new faculty members slated to begin teaching in the Fall 2018 semester.

Karen Jennings

Jennings will serve as assistant professor – tenure track, after recently completing a postdoc research fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the Universi-



ty of Chicago. The Amherst College and Boston College graduate has focused her research on the psychology of eating disorders and their connection to other psychological disorders.

Jennings' research is focused on heterogeneity in eating disorders and biopsychosocial factors that contribute to the development and maintenance of these illnesses. Her hope is that this research will help guide treatment assessments and interventions.

Jennings is a graduate of the Jonas Nurse
Leaders Scholar Program and a fellow of the
Robert Wood Johnson New Careers in Nursing
Scholarship. She serves on the Editorial Board of
the Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental
Health Services, and is a member of the
American Psychiatric Nurses Association's
Research Council Steering Committee and the
Academy for Eating Disorders' Research Practice
Integration Committee. She was recently recognized as an emerging nurse leader by the Illinois
Nurses Foundation.

"I'm excited to be a part of all the changes happening at the university, and I hope to help grow the mental health program," said Jennings.

Jennifer Mammen

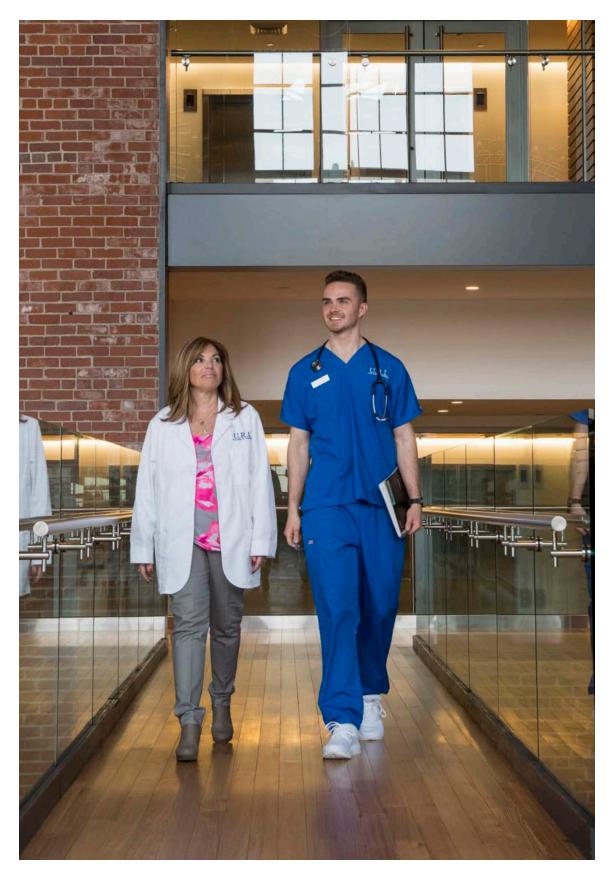
Mammen has accepted a position as assistant professor – tenure track after completing a postdoc at the University of Rochester School of Nursing and having received an NIH/ NINR Research Fellowship.



Mammen is a family nurse practitioner with nearly 20 years of clinical experience. She earned her Ph.D. in 2016 from the University of Rochester School of Nursing under a NIH National Institutes of Nursing training fellowship, after receiving her B.S.N. and M.S.N. from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. At the University of Rochester, Mammen joined the electronic medical record (EMR) build team and was certified as a builder for the Epic system.

Her current research is focused on developing an innovative clinical intervention to improve asthma management in young adults using smartphones and the EMR. This program, called a "Technology Enabled Asthma Management System (TEAMS)," combines nurse-led telemedicine with smartphone symptom monitoring to improve symptom recognition and make asthma care more accessible to patients.

Mammen was recently selected for the Marilyn Hansen Award from the American Thoracic society for outstanding achievement and top nursing abstract relating to the development of the TEAMS program.



Select CON Faculty Publications 2017-2018

Malley, A.M., **Bourbonniere, M.**, & Naylor M. (2018). A qualitative study of older adults' and family caregivers' perspectives regarding their preoperative care transitions. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, Advance online publication. doi: 10.1111/jocn.14377.

Hanley, M.A., **Coppa, D.**, & Shields, D. (2017). A practice-based theory of healing through therapeutic touch: Advancing holistic nursing practice. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0898010117721827.

Bryson, W.C., **Cotton, B.P.**, & Brooks, J. (2017). Mental health, substance use, and socioeconomic needs of older persons paroled or placed on probation. *Psychiatric Services*, *68*, 640-1. doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.201600492.

Cotton, B.P., Lohmanm, M.C., Brooks, J.M., & LaGasse, L.L. (2017). Perinatal substance use, residential instability, and negative behavioral outcomes among adolescents: Lessons from the maternal lifestyle study. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 30, 149-55. Doi: 10.1111/jcap.12188

Lohman, M.C., **Cotton, B.P.**, Zagaria, A.B., Bao, Y., Greenberg, R.L., Fortuna, K.L. & Bruce, M.L. (2017). Hospitalization risk and potentially inappropriate medications among Medicare home health nursing patients. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *32*, 1301-8. doi: 10.1007/s11606-017-4157-0.

Brooks, J.M., Muller, V., Sanchez, J., Johnson, E.T., Chiu, C.Y., **Cotton, B.P.**, Lohman, M.C., Catalano, D., Bartels, S., & Chan, F. (2017). Mindfulness as a protective factor against depressive symptoms in people with fibromyalgia. *Journal of Mental Health*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/09638237.2017.1417555.

Cotton, B.P., Bryson, W.C., & Bruce, M.L. (2018). Methadone maintenance treatment for older adults: Cost and logistical considerations. *Psychiatric Services*, 69, 338-40. doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.201700137.

Cotton, B.P. (2016). Residential mobility and social behaviors of adolescents: A systematic review of the literature. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 29, 177-87. doi:10.1111/jcap.12161.

Cotton, B.P., & Ferszt, G.G. (2018). The role of NPs in medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. *The Nurse Practitioner*, *43*, 8. doi: 10.1097/01.NPR.0000531074.42053.50.

Young, E.E., **D'Agata, A.**, Vittner, D., & Baumbauer, K.M. (2017). Neurobiological consequences of early painful experience: Basic science findings and implications for evidence-based practice. *The Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 31, 178-85. doi: 10.1097/JPN.000000000000000258.

D'Agata, A.L., Walsh, S., Vittner, D., Cong, X., McGrath, J.M., & Young, E.E. (2017). FKBP5 genotype and early life stress exposure predict neurobehavioral outcomes for preterm infants. *Developmental Psychobiology*, 59, 410-8. doi: 10.1002/dev.21507.

D'Agata, A.L., Sanders, M., Grasso, D.J., Young, E.E., Cong, X., & McGrath, J.M. (2017). Unpacking the burden of care for infants in the NICU. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 38, 306-17. doi: 10.1002/imhi.21636.

Groer, M., Fuchs, D., Duffy, A., Louis-Jacques, A., **D'Agata, A.**, & Postolache, T.T. (2018). Associations among obesity, inflammation, and tryptophan catabolism in pregnancy. *Biological Research for Nursing*, *20*, 284-91. doi: 10.1177/1099800417738363.

Ramesh, D., **D'Agata**, A., Starkweather, A., & Young, E.E. (2018). Contribution of endocannabinoid gene expression and genotype on low back pain susceptibility and chronicity. *The Clinical Journal of Pain, 34*, 8- 14. doi: 10.1097/AJP0000000000000000508.

D'Agata, A.L., Coughlin, M., & Sanders, M.R. (2018). Clinician perceptions of the NICU infant experience: Is the NICU hospitalization traumatic? *American Journal of Perinatology*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1055/s-0038-1641747.

DiTomasso, D., & Paiva, A. (2018). Neonatal Weight Matters: An examination of weight changes in full-term breastfeeding newborns during the first two weeks of life. *Journal of Human Lactation*, *34*, 86-92. doi: 10.1177/0890334417722508.

Jaffa, J.L., **Dufault, M.**, & **Lavin, M.** (2017). An interprofessional approach to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis care. *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing, 49*, 318-23. doi:1097/JMM00000000000000309.

Erickson-Owens, D., & Mercer, J. (2018). Umbilical cord clamping at birth. King, T., Brucker, M., Jevitt, C. & Osborne, K. (Eds.), *Varney's Midwifery* (6th ed., pp.1011; 1017-20). Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Ferszt, G.G., Palmer, M., & McGrane, C. (2018). Where does your state stand on shackling of pregnant incarcerated women? *Nursing for Women's Health*, *22*, 17-23. doi: 10.1016/j. nwh.2017.12.005.

Bernstein, M.H., Stein, L.A.R., Neighbors, C., Suffoletto, B., Carey, K.B., **Ferszt, G.**, Caron, N., & Wood, M.D. (2018). A text message intervention to reduce 21st birthday alcohol consumption: Evaluation of a two-group randomized controlled trial. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, *32*, 149-61. doi: 10.1037/adb0000342.

Sillice, M.A., Morokoff, P.J., **Ferszt, G.**, Bickmore, T., Bock, B.C., Lantini, R., & Velicer, W.F. (2018). Using relational agents to promote exercise and sun protection: Assessment of participants' experiences with two interventions. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, *20*, e48. doi:10.2196/jmir.7640.

Sillice, M.A., Morokoff, P.J., **Ferszt, G.**, Bickmore, T., Bock, B.C., & Velicer, W.F. (2017). An assessment of participants' experiences with two e-health interventions. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, *51*, S2016-S2017.

Rambur, B. (2017). What's at stake in U.S. health reform: A guide to the affordable care act and value-based care. *Policy, Politics and Nursing Practice*, *18*, 61-71. doi: 10.1177/1527154417720935.

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Care for Caregivers

Caring for a child with special needs or an elderly parent with dementia can be stressful and overwhelming. The devotion and commitment to a loved one drives the caregiver to provide often constant attention, leaving them no time to care for themselves.

Sometimes, it's the caregivers who need the care, and URI College of Nursing students are there to help, providing respite care throughout the state, thanks to support from the U.S. Department of Human Services Lifespan Respite Grant Program. The students prepare to provide respite care in the community in the state-of-the-art simulation lab at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center in Providence.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Innovative programs address critical needs.

▲ Multiple cameras in the advanced simulation labs at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center record nurse practitioner students interacting with live actors in preparation for work in respite care.

In one class, two live actors portray a woman caring for her elderly mother who suffers from dementia. Three students enter the simulated home, which is designed to resemble a typical four-room apartment. The students practice treating the patient and comforting an often-overwhelmed caregiver.

Once they're comfortable, the students go into the community to provide actual care for families. URI students have provided nearly 900 hours of respite care over the past five semesters, giving them real-world nursing experience while providing a vital service in the community, according to Professor Pat Burbank, principal investigator on the project.

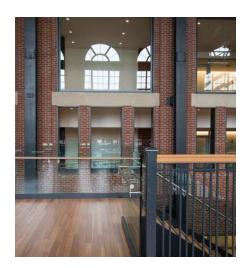
"Respite care is critical for those who give so much of themselves to care for another," Burbank said. "The biggest impact is how much we are giving to these families."

The program gives students an awareness of the needs of families and fosters an interest in home care; and families can be confident in the care they receive from future nurses.

Respite care will continue to be part of the clinical program for students for at least the next three years, as state funding has been expanded.

"One of the things the governor has a strong interest in is respite care," said director of the state Department of Elderly Affairs Charles Fogarty.

"This takes a need in the community, combines it with the resources at the university to create a real win for the state."



New Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

A mental health, substance abuse and addiction crisis has been sweeping the nation in recent years, requiring an influx of clinicians educated to treat mental illness. To that end, the URI College of Nursing has introduced a new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner master's program beginning in Fall 2018.

The program trains psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners to provide mental health care to individuals and families in a variety of settings. The program will allow students to qualify to take the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification exam offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The program, which will be held at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center in Providence, will offer such classes as psychiatric assessment and diagnosis, psychopharmacology and integrated treatment for individuals throughout the lifespan, along with clinical practice in area hospitals, community health centers and private practices. Additionally, it will give students extra course work in the pharmacotherapeutics of psychotropic medications.

The program will help fill a vital need in the health care community, according to Professor Ginette Ferszt, a psychiatric nurse who completed a needs assessment that garnered unanimous support in the mental health community for the program.

"We're seeing a real gap in the need for psychiatric mental health care and the availability of mental health nurse practitioners in the field," Ferszt said. "More and more people are presenting with mental health issues, and there is often a long wait time, sending people to emergency rooms, which is very costly. Going forward, there is a clear need to develop nurses who will be able to conduct psychiatric assessments across the life span, diagnose and offer a variety of treatment options. Clearly, there is a very large need in the community."

For more information on the program, visit web.uri.edu/nursing.



The Health System
Transformation
Project — aims to
educate health
care workers on
such topics as
value-based
payments, social
determinants of
health, health
equity, population
health, telehealth
and more.

Health System Transformation

College's webinar series educates health care workforce

The United States has the most expensive health care system in the world, but consistently ranks far down the list in terms of quality of care. Among the 11 wealthiest nations in the world, the U.S. has the worst performing health care system, and studies show medical error is the third-leading cause of death in the country, just behind heart disease and cancer.

"We're spending a ton of money on health care — \$3.2 trillion a year — but we're not receiving value in terms of outcomes," said URI Professor Betty Rambur, the College of Nursing's Routhier Endowed Chair for Practice. "Given the waste, inefficiency and harm, transforming health care is not only an economic imperative, it is an ethical one."

Misplaced economic incentives are considered a key driver of these poor results. Fee-for-service systems — known as volume-based care, in which individual services are billed separately — can lead to risky overtreatment and unnecessary testing that drives up costs without improving results, Rambur said. Health care systems are transitioning to value-based care, in which health care providers are paid based on patient outcomes, rather than the amount of services provided. That transition is slow, largely due to an adherence to past practice, archaic payment models and a lack of awareness, according to Rambur.

To increase attention on the issue and help spur change, Rambur has spearheaded a series of webinars to enhance health care professionals' knowledge of health system science and promote understanding of health system transformation concepts. The 50- to 90-minute programs — funded by a \$119,000 state grant, part of a Health System Transformation Project — aim to educate health care workers on such topics as value-based payments, social determinants of health, health equity, population health, telehealth and more.

Webinars, which continue throughout 2018, are offered monthly, on the last Tuesday of each month. Topics include alternative payment models, team-based care, predictive analytics for performance improvement, virtual care and more. Each session is presented live and archived on the URI Academic Health Collaborative website at uri.edu/ahc/hstc.



A Future of Home-based Care

Nurse practitioner students get advanced training in emerging trend

As health care costs soar, there is greater emphasis on keeping people out of hospitals and receiving care at home, opening new opportunities and responsibilities for nurses at all levels of education.

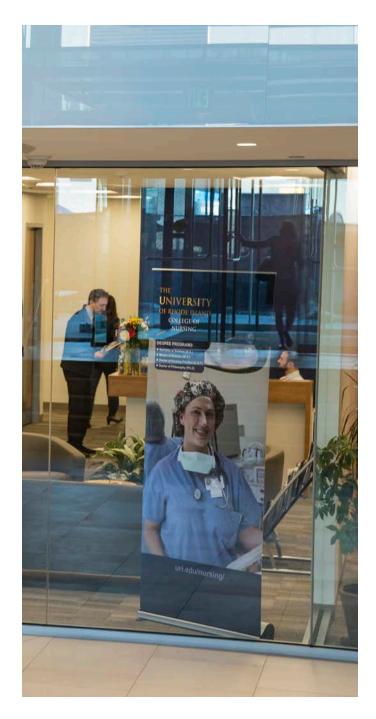
Nurse practitioner students at URI will have a head start on such opportunities, thanks to a \$159,000 state grant, part of the Healthcare Workforce Transformation project. They get experience in the unique challenges of home health care in the advanced simulation labs at the Nursing Education Center and will then apply those skills in the community, according to URI College of Nursing Graduate Program Interim Associate Dean Denise Coppa.

"These students will be prepared to deliver primary care in the home for a medically underserved population," Coppa said. "A very important part of the role of a nurse practitioner is health promotion and prevention, a lot of which will be done in the home. This is showing our students that they see patients differently in home-based care."

In one simulation, two actors portray a couple, George and Reid, one of whom has just been discharged from the hospital after a hip replacement. The students are making the first house call for George three days after his release at a simulated setting designed to resemble a typical apartment. The students practice treating the patient and interviewing him and his partner to learn the challenges the couple face in George's treatment and in their lives.

Evaluators observe them through one-way glass while the interaction is recorded for debriefing afterward, giving the students immediate feedback on their work from observers and even the actors themselves.

"Home-based care is saving millions, just by helping keep people out of emergency rooms when they don't need to be there," noted Coppa. "Many of our students are going to be asked to do some form of home-based primary health care after they graduate."



GIVING

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The College of Nursing is grateful for the alumni, friends, corporations and foundations whose generosity supports students, faculty and essential College initiatives.

An honor roll of donors is published online at uri.edu/nursing/college-of-nursing-honor-roll/

GIVING ALLOCATIONS



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- Endowed Gifts / 35.7%
- Operating Gifts / 54.4%



- Annual Fund / 5.7%
- Endowed Gifts / 68.9%
- Operating Gifts / 25.4%



\$1 Million Nursing Scholarship Gift

The University of Rhode Island has received a \$1 million gift to provide scholarships for students in the College of Nursing. The gift comes from the estate of Eleanor Ferrante Barlow and her late husband, Edward, of Rumford and Westerly, R.I.

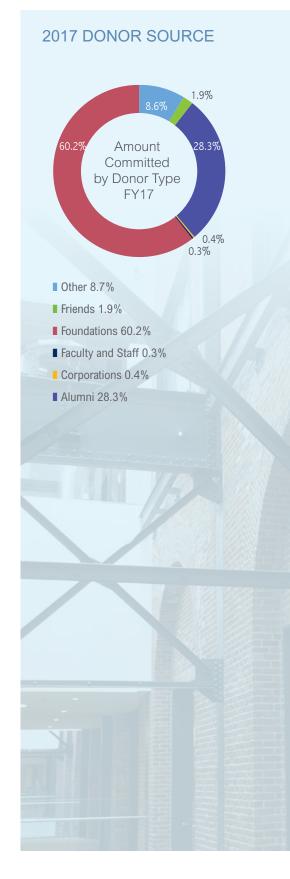
The Barlows' bequest establishes the Eleanor F. Barlow Nursing Scholarship Endowment. The scholarships will support students from Rhode Island public high schools who enroll in URI's nursing program.

With 872 undergraduates enrolled in its on-campus program, the College of Nursing provides a distinct learning experience that includes varied clinical settings, research opportunities, study abroad, and other offerings meant to customize nursing education to meet student interests.

"The future of nursing and its critical role in the delivery of health care depends heavily on our ability to provide opportunities to explore innovation and discovery, through research and experiential learning,"

said Dean Barbara Wolfe. "This generous gift from Eleanor and Edward Barlow will make these opportunities available to a greater number of Rhode Island students interested in pursuing Mrs. Barlow's own profession as a registered nurse. I am deeply grateful for this gift."

A 1947 graduate of the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Barlow, who passed away in 2016, dedicated her life to the profession, starting as a staff nurse and later serving as nursing supervisor of the operating room at the former Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, R.I. Barlow was also a founding member of the hospital corporation and an active member of the hospital's nursing alumni association.



2018 DONOR SOURCE 86.2% Amount Committed by Donor Type FY18 ■ Other 3.1% Friends 1.2% ■ Foundations 86.2% ■ Donor Advised 3.1% ■ Alumni 6.3%

Development Director Named



The University of Rhode Island Foundation has announced the appointment of **Eric Schonewald** as managing director of development for the Academic Health Collaborative, which includes the Colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Schonewald launched his 23-year development

career at Yale University School of Medicine, where he ultimately served as director of development for the Department of Internal Medicine. Prior to coming to the URI Foundation, he served as senior director of development for the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

URI's Academic Health Collaborative, launched in 2016, serves more than 5,000 students in nine health disciplines. The URI Health Institute is the Collaborative's hub for innovation, providing cross-disciplinary opportunities in education, research, entrepreneurship and service. Its work engages external health agencies, including hospital systems, and other universities and colleges in the state.

For more information about giving, contact Schonewald at **eschonewald@uri.edu** or 401-874-9017.



Why I Give: Cynthia Sculco

A serious illness in childhood can leave lasting scars, but not so for Cynthia Sculco. Instead, a bout of rheumatic fever at age seven left her with an appreciation for nurses that led Sculco to her life's work.

A 1965 graduate of the College of Nursing and a Westerly, R.I., native, Sculco is a respected nursing leader and a strong proponent of graduate education and the advanced practice role of nurses.

After graduating from URI and working as a registered nurse, Sculco went on to earn her master's and doctorate of education degrees at Columbia University Teachers College. Now a part-time associate professor of nursing at New York University, Sculco has taught at Cornell University School of Nursing, Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and Hunter College Bellevue School of Nursing. She also was a tutor at the Princess Alexandria School of Nursing in London.

These achievements were possible, Sculco is quick to note, because of the education she received at URI. "The nursing program was outstanding. I was so well prepared and motivated, she said. "I feel I owe URI so much because without that bachelor's degree and my wonderful education, my career would never have progressed as it did."

Simply earning a bachelor's in nursing in the mid-1960s was no easy feat. Sculco's high school guidance counselor encouraged her to pursue a diploma in nursing from a hospital program, which was typical at that time. But Sculco knew she wanted a college degree and the opportunities that came with it, so she persevered. "We had a very small class, just 16 students. We had a great group of women and fabulous instructors, with one instructor for about every four students," she recalled.

Now the nursing program at URI is one of the largest and most competitive on campus. But some elements remain the same. When Sculco was a student, the curriculum was intense and immersive, requiring upperclassmen to spend two years in a hospital's nursing dormitory in Providence while completing clinical training.

Today, the curriculum is known to be just as demanding, and upperclassmen now study at the new Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (NEC) in Providence and complete clinical rotations in the city and around the region. But they no longer live in an old hospital dormitory, and they have access to the latest technology and advanced learning environments available.

Sculco has visited the NEC and likes what she sees. "It is excellent; I think it was a great move. The students have so much more available to them."

And like many of today's college students, Sculco also worried about how she would pay for her education — regardless of how modest the \$250 tuition seems today. "I was on a scholarship, and many of my friends were as well. Philanthropic support makes it possible," she said.

To that end, she has generously supported the University and the College of Nursing through the years. She and her husband, an orthopedic surgeon, established the Cynthia and Thomas Sculco Endowed Nursing Scholarship.

"URI started me on my career so I feel very dedicated to supporting the school," said Sculco, a member of the URI Foundation's Board of Directors and a recipient of a University Distinguished Achievement Award in 2006. "We are very fortunate to have a school at this incredibly high level with such an outstanding reputation and a vision for the future."

Sculco is excited about that future. "We're seeing nursing taking on an increased level of responsibility with nurses making significant contributions to health care across our country and taking on leadership roles," she said. "Nursing has definitely undergone amazing changes from where I started and where it is today. We have a lot of work to do, but we have a very highly educated workforce to rise to the challenges."





NURSING EDUCATION CENTER

New facilitysets the standard in nursing education.



Nursing Education Center Dedicated

State and University of Rhode Island officials ushered in a new era of higher education and health innovation in 2017, officially dedicating the South Street Landing development project in Providence, home to the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center.

The center welcomes undergraduate and graduate nursing students from URI and Rhode Island College, who share 133,000 square feet of laboratory, classroom and office space at 350 Eddy St. South Street Landing also houses offices for Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School.

Rapid changes in the increasingly complex environment for the health sciences demand advanced clinical education and ever-more rigorous academic requirements for nurses.

"The Nursing Education Center more than meets that demand, positioning the University and the state of Rhode Island at the forefront of the increasingly technological health care world," said URI President David M. Dooley "Nursing and nurse practitioner students leave URI poised to provide the care and leadership that patients and our health care systems require."

The center is the educational anchor of a regional hub for health care learning, practice and biomedical research sprouting up on land once occupied by Interstate 195. Housed in what was an abandoned 19th century power plant for Narragansett Lighting Company, precursor to Narragansett Electric, the center is helping transform Providence's former Jewelry District into an economic engine centered around technology.

"Students come to URI's College of Nursing expecting access to the most advanced, comprehensive educational experience available," said Barbara Wolfe, dean of the URI College of Nursing. "That's exactly what the Nursing Education Center helps us provide. Students have access to the most technologically advanced simulation and training systems, and comprehensive, hands-on experience that gives them a real advantage as they enter the health care arena."



Nursing Grads Honored for Distinguished Achievement

Two URI College of Nursing graduates received Distinguished Achievement Awards, which honor those who personify URI's tradition of excellence in achievement, leadership and service.

Claire Perlman '73 and Barbara Hazard '61, '74, have distinguished themselves as leaders in the nursing profession, in practice, in academia and in service.

Claire Perlman pictured below, a philanthropist and volunteer supporting organizations locally and across the globe, received the 2017 President's Distinguished Achievement Award. A graduate of the URI College of Nursing baccalaureate program, she worked at hospitals in New York City before returning to Rhode Island. She serves on the URI College of Nursing Advisory Council and the board of trustees of Boston Medical Center. Perlman has participated in medical mission trips to Belize and Cambodia, working alongside ophthalmologist Michael Morley to provide eye care and cataract surgery. She was particularly motivated by opportunities to help the people of Cambodia, supporting the building of eight schools and the provision of clean drinking water through the nonprofit Water for Cambodia.



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Alumnae achievements honored.



Barbara Hazard has been a practicing nurse, teacher, dean, researcher, author, consultant... there isn't much Hazard hasn't done in the advancement of nursing, leading to her receiving the 2017 Dean's Distinguished Achievement Award.

Since earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from URI. and her doctorate in educational psychology at the University of Connecticut, Hazard spent years as a clinical nurse before transitioning into a career in academia. She taught at URI, Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania and Boston College, where she spent 17 years as Dean of Nursing and remains Dean Emeritus today. Hazard has penned more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and is the author of "Statistical Methods for Health Care Research." a textbook that continues to be used around the world to teach statistical analysis to students in the health care professions.



Rhode To Health

College of Nursing students and faculty members will further their outreach to the community on the Rhode to Health, an integrated health mobile unit secured by the URI Health Institute.

The College will join students and faculty members from other health disciplines in conducting health screenings and HIV screenings as well as other health care services across Rhode Island in the fully equipped unit on wheels.





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