PREPARING 21ST-CENTURY NURSES

To promote health and wellness in our community and around the world
Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to USF College of Nursing.

When I assumed the role of dean in summer 2017, I had grand ideas about what the College of Nursing could accomplish. With a rigorous curriculum, robust laboratory facilities, and real-world education capabilities, the college was already a powerhouse in the Tampa Bay region and throughout the nation. But that is not enough.

We have ambitious goals of becoming a top 20 National Institutes of Health Research team and a top 25 U.S. News and World Report nursing program. In addition, we want to expand our reach in the community and do even more to improve health care, both locally and around the globe. Now that a year has passed, I am pleased to report that we are well on our way to reaching the goals we have set.

I invite you to read this Annual Report and learn about our success stories. It has been a great year—and I know the best is yet to come.
Forging a New Mission and Vision

As the College of Nursing has evolved, so have our mission and vision. In 2017-18, the faculty met on multiple occasions to talk about a new mission statement for the college. After several discussions and votes, the final wording was approved. These statements are now standards that guide our faculty and staff.

We celebrated the announcement in April 2018 with Charles Lockwood, MD, MHCM, senior vice president of USF Health and dean of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

Mission

USF College of Nursing provides innovation and leadership in preparing 21st-century nurses to demonstrate excellence in research, education, and clinical care while promoting health and wellness in our community and around the world.

Vision

By educating students from diverse demographics, we ensure that our USF Bull nurses mirror the populations they serve.
INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS

Under the guidance of acclaimed faculty, our students are encouraged to gain the experience and knowledge that will help them become compassionate and highly skilled nurses. They learn what it takes to care for patients and manage health care for diverse populations.

Mayah Knight
Upper Division BS ’18

“USF fueled the passion I have for other cultures and the beauty I see in our differences. It gave me more than just an academic experience but a learning opportunity about the students of various backgrounds and how I can leave my mark on the world.”
“I’ve learned so much being here. The classes are really challenging and take a lot of time. But everything is scheduled so you can succeed … All of us come in at different levels, but the simulation labs help fill in the gaps … All the instructors are great. They are willing to invest in your success.”

Shon Henson
V-CARE ’18

“I first received my BSN followed by MS-CRNA, then DNP, and most recently completed the Advanced Pain Management Fellowship all at USF. Needless to say, I am very proud to be a Bull. I am even prouder that I have been a part of such a tremendous educational organization. Each program offered the caliber of education that I expected and admired from USF … The Simulation-Based Academic Fellowship in Advanced Pain Management was by far the most well put together, well run, coordinated, organized, and most professional course I have encountered. The detail and time that went into educating and preparing the fellows is far beyond its infancy and is only going to get better. The cadaver workshop was outstanding and far exceeded my expectations. I am truly grateful to have received such an amazing education and look forward to carrying it forward. This program and its director, Dr. John Maye, deserve recognition for the quality and effort put forth into the contribution towards higher level academia. I cannot begin to say enough great things about both. It has been an honor and a privilege to be a fellow.”

Jena M. Hill
DNP ’19, CRNA ’09, RN to BS ’04

The University of South Florida’s Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs) is one of the world’s largest, free-standing simulation facilities exclusively dedicated to training health care professionals. Located in downtown Tampa, it is a 90,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility with a wealth of health professional education and training, for both individuals and teams.

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Jena M. Hill
DNP ’19, CRNA ’09, RN to BS ’04
Before applying to the College of Nursing Upper Division, many students are part of the pre-nursing program. They take critical health-related courses and have the option to live in a nursing-focused Living Learning Community (LLC).

In 2017-18, the 56 students in the pre-nursing LLC earned an average 3.65 GPA and took advantage of these opportunities.

- **6 “Ask a Nurse” Sessions**
  - with 6 nursing faculty
  - and an average of 18 students per session

- **3 Volunteering Events**
  - a total of 94 hours of volunteer service
  - and 32 students participating

- **256 Tutoring Hours Provided**
  - 128 student-tutor interactions

- **50 In-Hall Advising Hours**
  - 128 student-advisor interactions

**Special Programs**
- Dining with the Deans
- Pancakes and Planning
- Cocoa and Careers
- Simulation Lab Tours and Demonstrations

“The faculty and staff at USF Health and the College of Nursing truly care about the success of pre-nursing students, who are the future Bull nurses. From my first semester, I have been able to get involved with the College of Nursing’s Student Council, Nursing Student Association, and even volunteer with the USF Health Service Corps as a pre-nursing student. To top it off, the student nurses in Stampede Into Bull Nursing and the advising staff at the College of Nursing have been instrumental in giving us the scoop on all things nursing school.”

Anthony Suda
Upper Division BS ’20
We recognize the unique skills that veterans have, and we support medics and corpsmen who wish to transition to nursing. By offering credit for military training and education, we encourage veterans to use their experiences to further their careers and have an impact on those in need of health care. In addition, the college works with the USF ROTC program to train cadets to pursue nursing careers.

Alicia Rossiter  
DNP ‘15, MS ’96, ARNP, PCNP-BC, FNP, FAANP  
Assistant Professor and Program Director, V-CARE Nursing Program  
Ret. Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force Reserves Nurse Corps

“The V-CARE program is a unique opportunity for veterans who have been educated and trained as medics and corpsmen to transition into the professional role of nursing. Many post-9/11 medics and corpsmen experience unemployment or underemployment once they separate from the military. While nursing would appear to be a logical next step for veterans who wish to expand their education and scope of practice, many face barriers to entry into nursing programs. The V-CARE program was created to provide access to nursing education for these veterans through an accelerated program that builds on their education and training and bridges them into becoming a bachelor’s-prepared nurse. Collaborating with other veteran students and experienced faculty, they can transform their knowledge in pursuit of nursing careers. This program is a win-win. It helps our military men and women transition to civilian life by providing them with career skills and also addresses our nation’s need for highly trained nurses.”

Jessica Panasewicz, V-CARE ’17, praised for her high academic achievements, community involvement and military service, was recognized with an Honor-A-Bull award in the Health Sciences as part of a 2017 Veterans Day celebration.

On April 30, U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor (front row, center) visited the USF College of Nursing to talk with a handful of students in the college’s acclaimed V-CARE program. Nursing students discussed the benefits of this program, and many lauded V-CARE for how it helps veterans transition from the military to the civilian sector. Others praised the program’s tight-knit group of peers, who share a similar mentality.
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Throughout the academic year, our nursing students and faculty lend their services to a number of worthy causes throughout the Tampa Bay area. We know that effective health care begins in our back yard.

Jennifer Carter (left) was one of more than 20 students who offered their services last year at Pinellas Hope, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

"Pinellas Hope is a very large program that serves people who are homeless. (The USF nursing students) coming out here are able to educate; they are able to help people with their medications. Having their presence here has been a great, great advantage to our program."

Rhonda Abbot  
Director of Homeless and Veteran Services, Pinellas Hope

Elizabeth “Betty” T. Jordan  
DNSc, RNC, FAAN  
Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Undergraduate Nursing

“Health care is increasingly community-based and population-focused.

Critical to developing prepared public health nurses is the response of nursing education to preparing our students for public health needs. We do this by using a public health framework, evidence-based learning strategies and clinical experiences that foster clinical reasoning and judgment while integrating nursing roles and public health concepts. Students have clinical experiences in home health, public school systems, homeless shelters and work with local health departments."
Eight College of Nursing students joined nearly 300 others from the USF System in a one-day trip to bring key issues to state legislators as part of the annual USF Day at the Capitol. The group traveled on Nov. 14 to Tallahassee where they attempted to persuade state lawmakers to back various initiatives important to the university and USF Health.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that the students get to have. It’s just a great way to start advocating. As nurses, we advocate a lot for our patients, and it was kind of putting what we need to do into practice.”

Tina Fetalvo
Upper Division BS ’18
President, College of Nursing Student Council
IMPACTING THE WORLD

Through our Global Nursing program, our students travel to Scotland, Panama, and other locations. During these trips, they provide immunizations and other health care services, learn about the local culture and history, and explore the unique challenges each population faces.

“Our Global Nursing program contributes to global health equity by addressing health disparities through service, practice, education, research, and leadership.”

The college’s commitment to global health education was evident in 2017 with 70 students studying in countries around the world: Panama, Scotland, the Dominican Republic, St. Croix, and Guatemala. This global commitment is integrated in the USF College of Nursing’s identity and thus allows our students to grow intellectually, professionally, and globally.”

Stephen McGhee  
DNP ’18, MSC, PGCE, RNT, RN  
Instructor and Director, Global Nursing
“It was really devastating. It looked like a war zone, and that’s people telling us it looked so much better than it did before. You have that gut-wrenching feeling … You hear their stories and you feel for them, and you’re certainly empathetic, but it didn’t hit me until we did the homebound visits.”

Jessica Gordon
PhD ’15, MSN ’07, ARNP

Gordon (left and above) led relief trips to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

“I am so thankful I had the opportunity to participate in a surgical mission trip during my CRNA program. It was undoubtedly one of the most formative, unforgettable experiences of my training.

We were working with limited supplies and resources, so on this trip, I learned a lot about how to provide a safe anesthetic in a simple, creative, and flexible manner. I got to work alongside several skilled, knowledgeable, and confident anesthesia providers who made me feel like a valued member of the anesthesia team. Going on this trip was the perfect way to help me transition into my new role as a CRNA.”

Meghan Mattson
Nurse Anesthesia ’17

Mattson participated in a medical mission trip to Guatemala in 2017.
OFFERING REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Even the most accomplished students may not be ready for an emergency until they face one. The College of Nursing simulation lab enables students to experience crises first-hand, better preparing them for situations they will encounter throughout their careers. In addition, the clinical experience that every nursing student completes will help them make good decisions and provide excellent patient care in the years ahead.

"With experiential learning, students consider ‘What if?’ and analyze the best- and worst-case scenarios. They learn and practice in a safe environment before working with human patients. With our latest lab redesign, we will have the environmental fidelity to educate 21st-century nurses and provide evidence-based care."

Teresa Gore
PhD, DNP
Assistant Dean, Experiential Learning/Simulation

"One of the primary goals of Graduate Clinical Programs is to prepare students for their future practice environments. We do this through substantive experiential learning, which readies our students for actual patient care. Environmental fidelity and hands-on learning are key."

Catherine Gaines Ling
PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP
Associate Dean, Graduate Clinical Programs

"I want (the nursing students) to be confident in going into a patient’s room, taking a history and formulating a plan ... They get this camaraderie of ‘This is what I am thinking.’ It’s a team approach ... They’re going to be experts by the time they leave. We are building their confidence and building general knowledge at the same time."

Bonnet is a preceptor for USF nursing students at Tampa General Hospital.
Nurse scientists play critical roles in health care discovery. The USF College of Nursing houses a biobehavioral lab with 2,000 dedicated square feet of space. Our faculty and students are highly involved in research that impacts a host of issues, including cancer prevention and management; heart health; chronic illness; biobehavioral mechanisms; complementary and alternative therapies; caregiver support; and symptom management.

"I have done biobehavioral research for 40 years on pregnancy, the postpartum, and women and children’s health, and have been nearly continuously funded by NIH for the past 17 years. Current funded projects in the biobehavioral lab are studies on the gut microbiome in children, in pregnancy and in cancer patients. I also study the behavioral effects on chronic infections with the parasite Toxoplasma gondii in a variety of populations."

Maureen Groer  
PhD, RN, FAAN  
Professor and Interim Vice Dean, Research

"The aim of my research is to improve the interactions between mothers who are in substance abuse treatment and their newborn infants. I have focused my research on the newborn period, when successful mother-baby bonding is critical for healthy attachment and interaction that supports infant growth and development. My research has contributed to an increased awareness of the unique needs that these mothers have, and how NICU nurses can make a tremendous impact on helping these mothers to be successful."

Denise Maguire  
PhD, RN, CNL, FAAN  
Associate Professor
According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death globally. In my research, I work with an international group of scientists from Sweden, Spain, Italy, and Canada to impact heart failure patient and informal caregiver dyads. We conducted the first systematic review of caregivers’ contributions to heart failure patients’ self-care, then developed a dyadic classification system for efficiently tailoring care and interventions. We subsequently developed and tested an instrument to classify dyads which is in use in the U.S. and Europe. I am currently working with European colleagues to adapt this system for chronic obstructive lung disease populations. All my work reflects the mission of the USF College of Nursing to provide innovation and leadership while promoting health and wellness in our community and around the world.

In a study that examined stress during pregnancy, I analyzed hair cortisol data of women who recently delivered both preterm and full term. I discovered a blunted stress response in the women who delivered preterm. Preterm labor is still poorly understood; therefore, any new information that is discovered can help explore the possible mechanism of preterm labor. The results of this study are currently being further explored in a larger sample of pregnant women in the Tampa Bay area.
“My research goal is to contribute to the science for improving health behaviors and health outcomes for women with cardiovascular disease. Supported by National Institutes of Health funding, I developed a motivationally tailored cardiac rehabilitation program specifically for women, so we can better understand the environmental and genetic risks for women, their unique physiological and psychosocial risks, and gender-specific barriers to disease self-management. Another goal is to improve access to health care at a lower cost for improved health outcomes of women with heart disease. My face-to-face cardiac rehabilitation program for women has been supplemented by a mobile platform called HerBeat, which uses wearable sensors and a smart phone to monitor patients’ progress.”

Theresa Beckie
PhD, MN, RN, FAHA
Professor and Associate Dean, PhD Program

“My passion is to improve a cancer patient’s life. As a registered nurse and certified exercise physiologist (American College of Sports Medicine), I have experience providing nursing care for cancer patients at diagnosis and during surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy, as well as in the end-of-life period. I have observed the challenges cancer patients faced in self-managing their symptoms at home, which fuels my focus on symptom management research in this population. I laid extensive groundwork for a home-based personalized behavioral physical activity intervention with fitness graded Motion Exergames (PAfitME). I am currently engaged in preliminary migration of PAfitME to an entirely e-health platform (funded by National Science Foundation).”

Hsiao-Lan Wang
PhD, RN, CMSRN, ACSM EP-C
Associate Professor

“My promising project involves a collaboration with Dr. Miguel Labrador from the USF Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the design of a mobile phone application (HeartMapp) for patients with heart failure to improve self-care practices, quality of life, and reduce admission rates. Development of HeartMapp was funded by Florida High-Tech Corridor, The CS Draper Laboratory, and National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps. The HeartMapp is a non-invasive mobile application that serves as a health coach for patients. The app has seven modules with 14 self-care components allowing patients to assess their heart condition daily. Initial development and usability testing have been published. We are testing the efficacy of HeartMapp as a home monitoring device to support self-management of patients with heart failure, as well as working with local hospitals and home health agencies to test the efficacy of HeartMapp in reducing readmission rates due to heart failure.”

Ponrathi R. Athilingam
PhD, ACNR, MCH, FAANP, FHFSA
Associate Professor

“A major success in research achieved during 2017 was to publish findings in clinical trial behavioral intervention research emphasizing the link between physiological and behavioral outcomes of breast cancer patients. Among 322 patients, from our R01 NIH/NCI from our MBSR Symptom Cluster Trial for Breast Cancer Survivors, results showed that the practice of the mindfulness intervention not only decreased psychological and physical symptoms, but it also decreased the stress hormone, salivary cortisol and cytokine interleukin 6. These results contribute to the biological evidence of the effectiveness of the MBSR(BC) intervention on the objective markers of a stress hormone and an inflammatory cytokine. Also, it demonstrates that an alternative, non-pharmacological intervention can alleviate the stress response for BCS, providing more options for clinical interventions.”

Cecile Lengacher
PhD, RN, FAAN, FAPOS
Professor and Director, Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program
COLLABORATING WITH COMMON GOALS

The College of Nursing is proud to collaborate with other colleges within USF Health for inter-professional education. Just as every hospital or medical center relies on the expertise of nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physical therapists, and other medical professionals, we work with colleagues and students in these colleges to better understand the needs of patients and the future of health care.

Specifically, the college is collaborating with the physicians of USF Health to provide opportunities in the community for improved access for patients.

From left: Jennifer Krawczyk, RN to BS ’14, MSN ’17, a Nurse Fellow with the Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair program, Dean Victoria L. Rich, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Marcia Johansson, DNP ’16, ARNP, ACNP-BC, who is concentration director of the acute care programs in the College of Nursing.

The College of Nursing is partnering with the USF Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine to offer its first neurosurgical-specific nursing fellowship for advanced practice nurses seeking specialized training after graduation.

“We’re very excited. The physician and nurse practitioner fellows will have an opportunity to share the training opportunities and develop their neurosurgical skills in an interdisciplinary environment. The goal is to expand opportunities for advanced practice postgraduate training and position USF Health as a leader in developing Nurse Fellows across the nation.”

Susan Perry
PhD, CRNA, FAAN, Col., USAF, NC (ret.)
Vice Dean, Clinical Integration and Scholarship
On May 17, colleagues from USF Health joined College of Nursing faculty and students in trying out the CAE VimedixAR with Microsoft HoloLens—a cutting-edge ultrasound simulator that projects 3-D holographic images. The augmented reality technology allows users wearing the HoloLens headgear to visualize complex organs. Experiential learners can peer inside the 3-D image of the human heart and see the valves and arteries. The innovative technology allows users to pinch the hologram and enlarge, minimize, or rotate it to see how its structures are interrelated.

The USF College of Nursing in Tampa is partnering with the College of Science and Mathematics at USF Sarasota-Manatee to offer a new nursing program at the Sarasota-Manatee campus, beginning in fall 2018.

“We are very pleased to partner with USF Health in Tampa to offer a new nursing program here at USF Sarasota-Manatee. It has been a priority in our community to meet a critical need for well-trained, highly skilled nurses. Our regional health care providers have been asking us to help address this need.”

Karen A. Holbrook
PhD
Regional Chancellor, USF Sarasota-Manatee
Every year, our students and alumni remind us how important the call to nursing is, and they excel in so many ways. Their success is our success, and we couldn’t be more proud of their accomplishments.

Crystal Williams  
DNP ’15, BSN, RN

“I feel this national award is a direct reflection of the growth and development USF has provided me. It is also a testament to the quality of faculty the College of Nursing offers its students. … Receiving this scholarship has validated the efforts of those who have supported me over the course of my doctoral studies.”

Williams is a DNP student who was awarded a $2,500 scholarship from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Bruce Weiner  
DNP ’17, MSNA, CRNA

“This is an exciting opportunity for CRNAs and ARNPs to provide health care solutions and increase access to our patients in the community. I have a passion for giving back to my profession. This organization promotes patient safety and constantly improves education standards and focuses on advancing the profession. My goal is to improve membership engagement and the value in our organization.”

Weiner is an alumnus who was named 2017-18 president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Foundation is a national nonprofit charitable organization that distributes scholarships, fellowships, and grants to oncology nurses to help advance their careers. The ONS awarded $5,000 research doctoral scholarships to two College of Nursing PhD students Jennifer Miller (above) and Tina Mason for the 2018-2019 school year.

In March, DNP students Gianna Constantine, Upper Division ’17, Vanessa Belcher, and Danielle Horstman were recently awarded the Hazel and Herschel Cole Scholarship, a one-time need- and merit-based grant for nursing students pursuing a doctoral degree. They each received $10,000 toward completing their degrees thanks to a scholarship aimed at helping future advanced practice nurses.
USF College of Nursing alumnus and assistant professor, Erik Rauch, DNP ‘11, CRNA, NSPM-C, Upper Division ’03, was honored for his exemplary leadership skills as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Dr. Rauch, who is chief CRNA at Bayfront Health St. Petersburg, received the Platinum Leadership Award from Envision Physician Services, a recognition given to the top allied health provider within the health care company.

Karen Kaminsky (center, with President Judy Genshaft and then-USF Alumni Board Chair April Monteith, ’01, ’03) was honored at the May commencement ceremonies with the King O’Neal Scholar award — a recognition given to undergraduates students graduating with a 4.0 GPA. The award, presented by the USF Alumni Association, was created in honor of charter USF graduates Lucas King and Evelyn O’Neal.

Mercedia White, MS ’18, BS ’15

“My time at USF has been a remarkable journey that extended beyond the perimeter of the Tampa campus. My educational experience was a collaborative effort of expert instructors and leaders from industrial and health care corporations, governmental agencies, and private enterprises. Stretched beyond anything imaginable, I developed as a practitioner and nurse researcher. Originally a class assignment, one of my papers evolved into an article that was published in a leading nursing journal. The deans, faculty, and staff at USF embrace a culture that enabled me and others to discover our passions and thrive.”

White is a student in the Occupational Health graduate program.

In 2018, Associate Professor Constance Visovsky, PhD, RN, ACNP, FAAN, earned a Fulbright Global Scholar Award, which allows U.S. academics and professionals to engage in international, transregional projects. She will be spending six months in Panama, working on a breast cancer collaborative registry with the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies.
STUDENTS

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE 1,382
TOTAL GRADUATE 893
TOTAL 2,275

AS OF FALL 2017

FACULTY

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME 70
ADJUNCT 91
COURTESY 226
POST DOC 1
TOTAL 388

AS OF FALL 2017

NATIONAL COUNCIL LICENSURE EXAMINATION (NCLEX)

2017 Pass Rates
USF College of Nursing 93%
State of Florida 74%
United States 87%

13,000+ ALUMNI

#1 ranked for NIH Funding among all universities in Florida; #22 in the Nation
Local Outreach – Global Impact

Preparing 21st-Century Nurses to
Promote Health and Wellness in Our Community
and Around the World