125 Years of the Iowa Nurse
CONTENTS

1898—2023
From a training school within the University Hospital to the launch of a new MSN—Entry into Practice program, the College of Nursing has had many changes over the years. Its impact is undeniable.

3

In Pictures—Then and Now
Impact on Science and Practice

18

Foundation Notes
Donor Impact
Crossword

22

Remembering Those We’ve Lost

24

ON THE COVER
The graduating class of 1934 is photographed in front of the gothic tower at the entrance to General Hospital, which was completed in 1929. The tower continues to be one of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics’ iconic architectural features.

AT LEFT
Students use the circular ramp and footbridge that crosses over Iowa Avenue and serves as a pedestrian connection between the east and west sides of campus.
Welcome

One hundred twenty-five years ago, when William McKinley was president, the automobile was a novelty, and the airplane was just a dream, five women began their education at the brand-new State University of Iowa Training School for Nurses. These women, and the women who followed them soon after, were trailblazers. When I hear stories about the college’s history from older alumni and their families, I am always impressed with the fortitude students showed. Many of them were the first in their family to reach this level of education, leaving their small hometowns on buses.

The name, the curriculum, and the uniform have all changed over the years, but that fortitude has not. The Iowa Nurse continues to be courageous—in the Cadet Nurse Corps, in the pursuit of evidence-based practice, and in research dedicated to improving patients’ lives; the Iowa Nurse continues to be a leader—in their community, in the state, and around the world; and the Iowa Nurse continues to be purposeful—guided by a mission to promote the health of individuals, families, communities, and populations.

We are incredibly proud of the nurses who built this college, fought for its independence, and grew it into the renowned institution it is today, and we are proud of the thousands of alumni who have carried on the tradition of the Iowa Nurse wherever their lives have taken them.

It is an honor to lead the University of Iowa College of Nursing as we reach this milestone, sharing and celebrating the past, while looking forward to a bright future.

Go Hawks!

Julie Zerwic, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Kelting Dean and Professor

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The first half of the 20th century was a time of exploration, growth, and development at the Training School for Nurses, as the College of Nursing was initially known. The program began in 1898, when the first class of five moved into the State University of Iowa's (SUI) newly opened University Hospital on the east side of the Iowa River and started their two-year course of training. The training program was soon lengthened to three years, and enrollment grew rapidly, reaching forty-six by 1910. At the end of their studies, students received the Certificate of Graduate Nurse (GN).

Overseen and taught by the College of Medicine, nursing education reflected the priorities of physicians at the time, and practical experience working on the hospital wards was the primary focus. Over the years, the didactic requirements were slowly adjusted, and in 1919, a five-year program to complete a Bachelor of Science and a GN certificate was added.

Planning for a new hospital campus on the west side of the river began in the mid-1910s and included a children's hospital, psychiatric hospital, medical laboratory building, and nurse's dormitory. The Children's Hospital opened in 1919, Westlawn nurse's dormitory opened in 1921, and the new general hospital and lab followed in 1928.

The austerity of the Great Depression, marked at Iowa by cuts in state appropriations for indigent care and the university, the decline of private duty nursing, and a saturated market for nurses led to changes in the nursing profession and decline in nursing student enrollment during the 1930s.

However, with the onset of a new decade and the start of World War II, the market for nurses changed and national calls were made for nursing schools to increase
enrollment. The School of Nursing, as it was now known, heeded the call and welcomed 143 first-year students in 1941. The national Cadet Nurse Corps (CNC) program, authorized and funded by the federal government in 1943, further expanded enrollment. More than 400 CNC students enrolled at Iowa from 1943-45. Their presence paid for expansion—via 60 percent financing by Federal Works Administration—of Westlawn in 1945.

Throughout the 1930s and 40s, the School of Nursing maintained the three-year GN certificate program and five-year Bachelor of Science and GN certificate program. Due to changes in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the bachelor’s degree/certificate program increased to six years in 1945. Enrollment in that program subsequently dropped, and the idea of a baccalaureate degree in nursing took hold. State University of Iowa president Virgil Hancher supported the idea, recognizing that a baccalaureate program would make the nursing education more appealing statewide.

In 1948, with the support of the Iowa State Nurses Association and the SUI Nurses Alumni Association, Hancher presented a proposal for the collegiate program to the State Board of Education, and the Board of Regents appointed Amy Frances Brown as the first nursing faculty to hold the rank of assistant professor.

In December 1948, amidst these changes, the School of Nursing celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a banquet at the Iowa Memorial Union.

Back in the 1920s, a [nursing student] locked herself in her room at Westlawn one evening and painted the walls a bright color. Several alumnae now retired and living in Iowa City can’t recall what color she used, but they have no trouble remembering the color she painted over.

Battleship gray covered all walls and woodwork in the nurses’ dormitory and in the old University Hospital in what is now East Hall. The dark paint was used because it was supposedly the most economical color, both to apply and maintain.

The rebellious coed was the late Carmelita Calderwood Hearst, who became nationally known in orthopedic nursing.”

—Iowa City Press-Citizen, Dec. 03, 1971
1919
Five-year combined liberal arts and nursing program begins. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science and a Certificate of Graduate Nurse.

1919–1921
Children’s Hospital (1919), Westlawn dormitory for nurses (1921), and Psychopathic Hospital (1921) are built on the west side of the Iowa River as the University expands.

1920
LOIS B. CORDER (28-47), LOLA LINDSEY (47-48)
DIRECTORS OF NURSING EDUCATION

1922
The Nurses’ Student Council was organized the previous year to promote friendship and cooperation among student nurses.

1922
The Nurses’ Student Council was organized the previous year to promote friendship and cooperation among student nurses.

1923
EASTLAWN, 1940
“A new home has just been completed for the nurses; this is of three stories and a basement. The main floor possesses roonly parlors, tastefully furnished in harmonizing color schemes. The building accommodates 90 nurses, whose comfort has been insured by means of roomy closets, numerous lavatories, shower-baths, and mirror-doors fitted to the closets.” —Hawkey Yearbook, 1916

1923
WESTLAWN, 1921
“The new home for nurses on the West Campus was opened this year. It is well finished and is in every way a splendid home for the large number of women it accommodates.” —Hawkeye Yearbook, 1923

1928
 gamma chapter of sigma theta tau honor society of nursing established at iaowa.

1931
Nursing student hospital work is limited to eight hours per day.

1943
The Cadet Nurse Corps program begins.

1945
Addition to Westlawn is completed, adding space for 121 more nursing students.

1948
The school’s Golden Jubilee is celebrated in December.
1940  Mother was a nursing student. She shared many memories of her days in Iowa City, from moving patients from the hospital to the porches overlooking the stadium so they could watch the Saturday afternoon football games with Nile Kennick (sic) as the star player to talking about dancing to the music of Louis Armstrong. Mother was the envy of all her classmates when at graduation exercises she walked with Nile Kennick. She recalled how he commented on how nice the nurses looked in their nursing caps and capes. She later moved to Sheffield, Iowa, where she married and raised a family.

—Anne Bechtel Bakke, daughter of Esther M. Snitker Bechtel, Esther Snitker Bechtel papers

1929  “A young woman who enters the School of Nursing dares not expect an easy life while in training, but if she feels that this is her life calling, it is one of the best fields open to women in this age.”

—Lois B. Corder, director, School of Nursing

1919  graduate Marcella McInnery’s “most rugged assignment as a student was to care for nine babies with chicken pox. The isolation area then was in two old houses northeast of East Hall. ... Miss McInnery had to stay in one of the houses continuously for a number of weeks to care for the babies, with food and supplies being sent in. She remembers her relief when a UI student got chicken pox and joined her patients—she at least had someone to talk to.”

—Iowa City Press-Citizen, Dec. 03, 1919

1939  “I graduated from the University of Iowa School of Nursing. After passing State Board Exams written in Des Moines for two days, I returned to the University Hospital Nov. 1, 1939 and started working as a registered nurse, receiving my first months’ paycheck of $75 with meals and board included.”

—Marie Schultz Meyer papers

1938  Miss Marie Schultz
Postville, Iowa

Dear Miss Schultz:

You have been accepted as a Preliminary Student in the School of Nursing, effective September 12, 1938. Registration begins at 7:00 A.M. and continues throughout the day.

You will reside at West Lawn. Upon arrival please report at the School of Nursing Office, University Hospital.

If you have not been successfully vaccinated for small pox during the past year, it will be necessary for you to be inoculated before entering.

Please notify us at your earliest convenience if I may rely upon your enrolling upon the above date.

Very truly yours,

Lois B. Corder
DIRECTOR SCHOOL OF NURSING.
Lulu M. Graff (26GN) was ordered to active duty with the U.S. Army. More than 59,000 American nurses served during World War II.

ABOVE: Lulu M. Graff's military ID card from when she was stationed at Marshfield, Wisconsin.

BELOW: A recruitment poster from 1949. Nurses served in a variety of roles during the war, including in the American Red Cross and the U.S. Public Health Service Cadet Nurse Corps.

RIGHT: A U.S. Public Health Service Cadet Nurse Corps uniform from the University of Iowa Special Collections – Iowa Women's Archive
In early 1949, the Board of Education approved the State University of Iowa proposal for the School of Nursing to become an independent, degree-granting college.

Myrtle E. Kitchell, a nurse working on her doctorate in education from the University of Minnesota, was approved as dean-elect in May 1949. ‘Kitch,’ as she was known around the college, immediately began to work on organizing the new college. Promising to provide “a broad education for professional nursing,” emphasis was placed on the baccalaureate program and the combination of liberal arts and professional instruction. Graduates of the College of Nursing would receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Certificate of Graduate Nurse (GN).

On Dec. 3, 1949, the College of Nursing was formally inaugurated as the tenth autonomous college of the State University of Iowa.

The 1950s and early 60s were times of growth in professional nursing and nursing education. Federal and state investments in higher education, medical research, and health care expanded, as did the prevalence of private health insurance and the presence and prestige of hospitals. Many colleges and universities created baccalaureate programs in nursing, some also established master and doctoral-level programs, and accreditation was increasingly important.

For the college, it was a time of evolution as it strove to define itself within the university and nurture new programs.
**Undergraduate programs**

Final revisions of the BSN curriculum were concluded in 1952. The first five semesters were focused on liberal arts and sciences, followed by six semesters of clinical courses. The curriculum was accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN) later that year.

In 1951, the college introduced a second baccalaureate program, known as the “general program” for nurses already holding a GN certificate who wished to obtain a bachelor’s degree. Not long after, they stopped accepting new students into the GN program, and the final class of graduate nursing students completed their studies in 1956. As the GN program wound down, the college added a practical nursing program that served as a laboratory for development of curriculum and teaching strategies while also developing well-educated bedside nurses.

In the 1960s, the national trend was to integrate the BSN programs for new nursing students and those for nurses already holding diplomas into one

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**Increasing BSN accessibility**

In a 1968 grant proposal, Dean Dustan noted that non-baccalaureate degree programs were all terminal, and graduates who later sought a BSN had to backtrack to pick up the necessary foundational courses. Dustan hoped to develop curriculums at two- and four-year community institutions that allowed for seamless transfer to a baccalaureate program. The grant was approved, and the first cohort of seven articulation students began at the college in the summer of 1970, with an additional 20 beginning in 1971.

In 1990, the articulation plan was taken up by the Iowa Board of Nursing and became the Iowa Articulation Plan for Nursing Education. Registered nurses could now complete their BSN in one year of full-time, on-campus classes or at one of three satellite locations where the university rented space for classrooms and the professors taught from Iowa City via the state’s fiber optic network.
baccalaureate track. The college followed suit, and in 1965, faculty approved converting to a single baccalaureate curriculum and granting admissions with advanced standing to registered nurses.

When the nursing program began, students were educated through practical work at the bedside. As late as the 1930s, the final year of the three-year program featured no classroom hours, only “senior ward practice”. Required work hours were slowly reduced over time as nursing education shifted away from the training school model. In 1951, Dean Kitchell estimated that in less than a year, nursing students would provide more than 263,000 hours of hospital service. A significant effort was made during the 1950s to reduce students’ work obligation in the hospital. Although required student work hours were nearing a record low of 28 per week, in 1955 faculty proposed a four-year, (eight-semester) curriculum that did not require hospital service.

The change to the four-year BSN curriculum was approved by Board of Regents in 1961.

**Graduate programs**

During her tenure, Dean Kitchell was adamant about the necessity of credentials to elevate nurses’ professional status and the importance of graduate education. She was instrumental in securing a Kellogg Foundation grant that led to the college welcoming the first class of Master of Science in Nursing Service Administration students in fall 1951. Thirteen students completed the program during the grant’s five-year term.

After the grant expired, the college’s graduate curriculum committee began working on a program aimed at increasing competence in clinical nursing. In fall 1958, a four-semester Master of Arts curriculum in medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing was offered and nine students enrolled. Three years later, the master’s program was reimagined as a vehicle to prepare nurses for positions as teachers and supervisors.

Dean Kitchell stepped down as dean in spring 1957. Her successor, Mary Kelly Mullane, was appointed in 1959 and resigned in summer 1962 for another opportunity. Finding replacements for both Kitchell and Mullane took time, primarily due to the lack of PhD qualified candidates. The college welcomed Laura Dustan, a public health nursing professor who came to the college after working at the NLN’s Board of Review for Accrediting of Baccalaureate Programs, as the new dean in fall of 1964.

Nationally, the 1960s and 70s brought federal funding for nurse practitioner programs, expansion of graduate-level programs, and the 1973 establishment of the American Academy of Nursing to recognize contributions made by nursing leaders. Changes in Iowa law in the 1970s set nursing apart from medicine and gave nurses a degree of professional autonomy.

These decades also brought a marked expansion of BSN and associate degree programs, and a decline in diploma programs. The value of a BSN was becoming broadly recognized, and BSN nurses held a large portion of supervisory and clinical specialty positions.
AUG. 10, 1955—A KIDNAPPING GONE AWRY

During their senior year, eight nursing students dubbed the "Sneaky Snatchers," pulled a prank on the nursing faculty by kidnapping Mary, a demonstration mannequin. The story took a turn when a group of physical therapy students captured Mary from the closet where she'd been "observing strict closet floor rest." She was held hostage until the nursing students paid a beer ransom, after which they returned Mary to the college, "safe, but unsound." - The Daily Iowan

“When I was in school, there was no public transport for getting to clinicals across the river, so we stood on the corner every morning hitchhiking, with our nursing caps in a little plastic bag. We stood on the corners and groups of people going to the hospitals would just pick up these three or four nursing students every morning. It was a nightmare when you think about it, but we just all did it and it was the norm."

—Judith Karshmer (71BSN), Dean, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University

Throughout the previous decades, nursing students had not only moved through classes together, but were required to live together as well. Their lives were strictly controlled, from morning uniform inspection (to pass inspection, each student had to lift her skirt slightly to show that she had on a petticoat), to timing of meals (eating outside of stated hours was not allowed), to their hair length (those with "unprofessional" short hair, were required to buy a "switch" to look like they had long hair in an updo).

Dean Kitchell wanted the new BSN students to be integrated into university student life and see themselves as part of the university community. She encouraged participation in university activities and allowed freshman and sophomore students to live in women's dorms other than Westlawn, despite some grumblings from senior students about the lack of standards and professional dignity evidenced by bobby sox, tennis shoes, and short skirts.
**1972–1998**

1972 Co-founded with the College of Medicine, the first nurse practitioner program begins, focused on pediatrics.

1973 Diamond Jubilee of the College of Nursing is celebrated in May.

1977 Endowed chair established by gifts in memory of John Christian Kelting and Catharine Meeder Kelting.

1976-1978 Dean Barritt serves as president of the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing.

1983-1987 Dean Felton serves as president-elect and president of the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing.

1984 Office of Nursing Research established.

1988 PhD program begins with concentrations in Nursing Administration and Gerontological Nursing.

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**An expanding footprint—building a culture of research**

Although discussions about the importance of a building dedicated for the College of Nursing began as early as the 1940s, serious planning began in the early 1960s under Dean Mullane and continued under Dean Dustan. The federal Nurse Training Act would fund two-thirds of the cost of a new building, making new construction more cost effective than remodeling Westlawn. Disagreements about funding priorities delayed the start of the project, but construction finally began on Oct. 1, 1969. The new College of Nursing building was completed two years later and formally dedicated on Dec. 4, 1971.

Dean Dustan submitted her resignation in December 1970, and Evelyn Barritt, formerly the dean of the Capital University School of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio, was confirmed as the new dean in March 1972.

After seven years of work, a new curriculum based on the nursing process was implemented with the sophomore class in 1974. Nursing students would, the curriculum stated, "approach nursing as a process directed toward the maintaining as well as regaining health of individuals and groups."

Other undergraduate curriculum changes included the additional focus on gerontological nursing and a shift towards community-based instruction, as the health care market became more outpatient and clinic focused.

The college began its first nurse practitioner program in 1972. Co-founded by Toni Clow (66BSN, 75MA) from the College of Nursing and Brenda Cruikshank from the College of Medicine, the pediatric nurse practitioner program was a 16-week program offered twice a year to certificate and graduate students. Following national trends to make graduate education more accessible to working nurses, the college also began exploring extension options in the 1970s. Statewide surveys indicated a great interest and, with support from a federal grant, a medical-surgical graduate program started in Des Moines in 1976.

Dean Barritt ended her term in 1979, and Geraldene Felton assumed the position of dean in 1981. Felton, a military nurse of nearly 30 years earned her Doctor of Education from the New York Department of Nursing in 1969 and was one of the Charter Fellows who launched the American Academy of Nursing in 1973. In a 1996 interview, Felton said she accepted the deanship at the College "because of the challenge," and by all reports she met the challenge in an effective manner, building a strong foundation of research and scholarship for the college's future.

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I entered the College of Nursing as a second-year transfer student and loved being there. I was from a small town, Indianola, Iowa, and it was mind boggling to me how big the university was. I had excellent professors and clinical oversight. Some of the names that come back to me are Marty Craft-Rosenberg, Kitty Buckwalter, Jo Eland, and Pat Donahue.

The dean at the time was Geraldene Felton, and even just saying her name makes me want to stand up straighter. She was amazing and strong, and she told us all as students that we would be leaders. Of course, we didn’t really take that as seriously as she meant it, but she was absolutely right.

—Teri Pipe (85BSN), dean emerita, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University

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A 1982 strategic plan outlined a shift in the college's priorities to focus on perfecting curricula, recruitment of "a faculty of quality educational excellence, academic distinction, and diversity," and pursuit of extramural support for research and instruction.

As dean, Felton also centered her efforts on the development of younger faculty and the recruitment of new faculty with a solid research background. Her strategies proved successful, and the number of faculty holding doctoral degrees grew from 25 percent in 1982 to 60 percent in 1995. In 1995, 81 percent of those faculty with doctoral degrees had earned them from the University of Iowa. This focus also led to an emphasis on and dramatic growth in research at the college.

Extramural research funding, about $10,000 in 1980, rose to more than $400,000 in 1984. In 1993, the college's research funding passed $1 million, reaching more than $2 million by 1995. Grant submissions increased nearly ten-fold, from $850,000 in 1983-84 to more than $8 million in 1988-89, and faculty publications increased nearly four times, from 40 in 1979 to 146 in 1994.

Graduate enrollment more than doubled from 1980 to 1994, and an increasing number of part-time students took advantage of the satellite programs. Gerontological and anesthesia nursing programs were added in the 1990s, bringing the total clinical specialties offered to five.

Discussions of establishing a doctoral program at the College of Nursing began in the 1970s. A 1976 feasibility study assessed aspects such as demand and resources and determined that a doctoral program was "imperative" at some point in the near future, as doctoral preparation for nurses was the way of the future. The study also found that faculty education and research productivity had to be increased substantially for a program to be established.

In 1985, there were 31 nursing PhD programs in the U.S., and another PhD feasibility study was conducted at the college. The study report determined that the college, with 27 faculty holding doctoral degrees, a firm base of ongoing research projects, and a solid record of publications, was ready to establish a program. Seven students enrolled in the first PhD in Nursing program in 1988, which included concentrations in gerontological nursing and nursing administration. Key faculty in nursing administration included Joanne McCloskey, Myrtle Kitchell Aydelotte, and Meridean Maas (57BSN, 60MA), while the gerontological concentration was led by Toni Tripp-Reimer and Kathleen "Kitty" Buckwalter (71BSN, 76MA). The first four College of Nursing PhDs were awarded in spring 1992, with another ten awarded in the next four years.
Building for the Future

The strong research culture established at the college in the 1980s was firmly entrenched over the following two decades, and the college built a national reputation in the research areas of gerontology, health systems, and pain management. Many of the centers and initiatives in place today have their roots in this era, and many current faculty came on board or were students at the college during this time. The later years saw development of new initiatives and programs like the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), a building remodel, and an investment from the state legislature to help counter the nursing shortage.

Faced with difficulty recruiting Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to work in the state, the Iowa Hospital Association asked the Board of Regents for help. There were no CRNA programs offered within the state, and it seemed that the time was right to launch one. Developed in partnership by Dean Felton, a nurse anesthetist herself, and John Tinker, director of anesthesiology at the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing nurse anesthesia master’s program began in 1994 with a cohort of six students. In 2010, the program transitioned to a DNP program and became one of the first accredited BSN-DNP nurse anesthesia programs in the country.

Geraldene Felton stepped down as dean in 1997, and Melanie Dreher, formerly professor and dean of the University of Massachusetts–Amherst School of Nursing, led the college from 1997 to 2006.

The advent of managed care in the 1990s led to concern nationwide over the traditional role of the hospital nurse, but Dean Dreher was excited for the future. “The health care system of the future will not be organized in individual nursing roles … Nurses will be following populations of patients across settings,” she told the Iowa Press Citizen in November 1996, adding that she believed there would be an emphasis on nurses holding higher degrees as the profession advanced toward functional nurse autonomy. Fittingly, it was during Dreher’s deanship that the college added the DNP to its degree offerings in 2006, with Patricia Clinton (76BSN, 84MA) spearheading the transition.

The college and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) Department of Nursing began collaborating on nursing research to enhance the quality of nursing care in the late 1980s and took the partnership further in 1999 when they launched the University of Iowa Nursing Collaboratory (UINC). Designed to serve as an incubator for creativity and innovation to enhance nursing education and patient care, the UINC provided an infrastructure for creative collaboration in four domains: education, practice, informatics, and research. Outcomes of this partnership include a nurse residency program, the incorporation of standardized nursing language developed by the college (Nursing Interventions Classification (NIC) and Nursing Outcomes Classification (NOC))
into electronic records at UIHC, submission of grants as co-principal investigators and investigators, collaborative research project implementation and publication of results, and development of the Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice, a widely used tool providing guidance for clinicians to use research findings for improvement of patient care. Additionally, this partnership led to the 2006 opening of a state-of-the-art simulation lab for students and health care staff education. The Nursing Clinical Education Center (NCEC) is in the UIHC general hospital, but jointly managed and utilized by the college and the Department of Nursing. It is also jointly funded, with additional private gifts and industry support. Buoyed by the successes of the past 24 years, the UIHC partnership continues and is recognized as an inspirational model of academic practice partnership.

In 2007, College of Nursing Professor Rita Frantz (73MA) was appointed dean. Frantz joined the faculty in 1972 and was recognized nationally and internationally for her work in pressure ulcer prevention and treatment.

As a champion for nurses across the state, the college was integral to the implementation of recommendations from the 2010 Institute of Medicine report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Formed in 2012, the Iowa Action Coalition (IAC), co-led by Dean Frantz, held four state-wide summits to gather input on and support for implementation. One of the report’s recommendations, access to a nurse residency program for new BSN graduates and those transitioning to new roles, emerged as a priority for the IAC. As a result, the Iowa Online Nurse Residency Program was created in 2014. Housed in the college, the program has thrived and now serves 54 healthcare organizations across 17 states.

Graduate program offerings were substantially revised during the 2000s with the advent of the DNP and the national trend toward advanced practice nursing. Faculty reduced the DNP program specialty tracks to seven in 2011 and created curricular plans for seamless student transitions from the BSN to DNP program.

The College of Nursing building, considered ultra-modern in 1971, had never had a substantial update, and by 2014, the need for renovation was clear. Official renovation planning began in January 2016, and construction began in December 2017.

Dean Rita Frantz resigned in September 2016 and passed away soon after. Completed in 2019, the renovation she began was intended to respect the existing architecture of the building while making it more welcoming, collaborative, and open. “Rita envisioned that the college was going to need this space for recruitment—and it’s what the students said they needed. She listened to students; she listened to everybody,” her husband David said at the time. “The project manager overseeing the new commons praised her for her forward thinking about the space.”

ABOVE Student services staff members: Linda Myers, Cheri Doggett, Brooke Dwars, and Jennifer Clougherty

Staff continue to be essential to the college’s success. Through the years, College of Nursing staff have been recognized for expertise, service, and dedication to students and faculty. Today the college has more than 50 staff members, who support faculty with research and teaching, advise students, run the various collegiate programs around the state, and offer expertise such as budgeting, IT, recruitment, and communications.
“This renovation has truly changed the student experience,” student Alexa Atkins told the *Daily Iowan* at the time. “The design of rooms facilitates active conversation and encourages participation, ... [and the] study spaces are like a breath of fresh air.” At the ribbon cutting, UI president Bruce Harreld called the building almost unrecognizable from the inside.

Julie Zerwic joined the college as dean in 2017 after a twenty-four year career at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, including eight years as executive associate dean.

Less than three years into Zerwic’s deanship, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health care and nursing education across the country, forcing unprecedented changes. At the college, innovative and engaging virtual learning opportunities created by faculty, staff, and clinical partners ensured that students continued to receive outstanding education.

As a part of a public university that proudly serves not only the surrounding community but the entire state, the college expanded its impact on Iowa in 2021 with the Simulation in Motion–Iowa program. Initially funded by an $8 million grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, this cutting-edge mobile education program features three trucks stationed strategically around the state that bring high-quality, evidence-based clinical education to emergency medical services and hospital professionals. Each fully equipped mobile simulation truck features a simulated emergency bay, ambulance box, and video recording for analysis and debriefing, as well as four human patient simulators. Since the first truck launched in June 2022, more than 3,300 healthcare providers and other individuals in 66 Iowa counties have received education through the program.

In 2023, the country continues to face a shortage of nurses, though nursing schools turn away thousands of qualified applicants each year due to limitations in space and faculty. The state legislature recently recognized this and appropriated $2.8 million to the college to increase student enrollment numbers. Changes now underway include hiring new faculty, increasing pre-licensure enrollment, and expanding student support.

As another way to address the nursing shortage, the college launched its newest program, the Master of Science in Nursing–Entry into Practice (MSN-EIP), in spring 2023. This program prepares students of all academic backgrounds who have a degree in a field other than nursing to become practicing nurses in 20 months. With an initial cohort of 15, at capacity the program will add 48 nurses annually.

Fall 2023 finds the world of nursing education a much different place than it was in 1898, when the first nursing students began at the State University of Iowa. The profession has expanded in roles and impact over the past 125 years and the University of Iowa College of Nursing has been at the forefront. With a BSN program and four graduate programs ranked among the top ten in the country, a robust research program, and dedicated faculty, staff, and students, the college will continue to lead and build the legacy of the Iowa Nurse far into the future.
For over 30 years, University of Iowa Health Care and the University of Iowa College of Nursing have worked together to transform the standard of practice for nursing in Iowa and around the world.

Explore available opportunities and be part of this nursing legacy.

uihc.org/nursing-careers

NURSING EXCELLENCE - LONG-STANDING TRADITION

1980s
Established an Academic-Practice Partnership with the AACN.

1990s
Pioneered the Iowa Model© for guiding evidence-based practice.

2006
Developed a Nursing Clinical Education Center for advanced nursing education.

2009
Formed a collaborative Nurse Residency Program to onboard new graduate nurses.

Center for Advancement Alumni Awards
Since 1963, the University has recognized accomplished alumni and friends with Distinguished Alumni Awards. Many nursing alumni and friends have been honored with these awards, including:

- Lois Austin (31BS, 31GN)
- Rozella M. Schlotfeldt (35BS, 35GN)
- Bertha M. Holt, (26BA, 26GN)
- Ursil Callen (45BS, 45GN)
- Myrtle Kitchell Aydelotte, dean emerita
- Karlene M. Kerfoot (65BSN, 70MA)
- Judith B. Igoe (61BSN)
- Doris J. Biester (63BSN)
- Elizabeth Sele Mulbah (77MA)
- Colleen Knicki Dilorio (69BSN)
- Ida M. Moore (73BSN, 78MA)
- Sharon K. Yearous (93BSN, 99MSN, 11PHD)
- Cheryll A. Jones (69BSN)
- Colleen J. Goode (61BSN, 93PHD)
- Carol E. Smith (72BSN)
- Anita L. Hockett Wildman (54GN)
- Kathleen C. Buckwalter (71BSN, 76MA)
- Marita G. Titler (78MA, 92PHD)
- Joanne Rains Warner (76MA)
- Sally Mathis Hartwig (75BSN, 77MA)
- Leslie Jansa Williams (82BSN)
- Mary A. Anderson Blegen (75MA)
- Margaret O’Connor Stessman (84BSN)
- Geraldene Felton, dean emerita

3,000
Nurses, nursing students, and nursing assistants use the NCEC annually

100
Hours of simulation BSN students complete by graduation

ABOVE Students work with a simulated baby patient in the 1990s.

BELOW DNP students practice skills in the NCEC in summer 2023.
IN PICTURES THEN AND NOW

Commencement, 1954 (top), 2022 (bottom)

Simulation, 1953 (left), 2023 (right)
Consulting sources, circa 1980 (left), circa 1900 (right)

Students, circa 1990 (left), 2023 (right)

Student selfies, circa 1900 Electric cabinet (left), 2023 Simulation mannequin (right)

ANNUAL MAGAZINE FALL 2023
From its roots as a small training school, the College has grown into one of the most successful programs in the country.

Key to the College’s strong research culture was the creation of an Office of Nursing Research in 1984 under the direction of Dr. Toni Tripp-Reimer. This office became an official partnership with UIHC in 1989, and fostered research collaborations while also providing support for identifying funding opportunities, developing research grant applications, managing and analyzing data, and manuscript preparation.

As the college built its research base, multiple areas of strength emerged. Dr. Connie Delaney (78MA) began and led the informatics program in the 80s and 90s, and Drs. Janet Williams (68BSN, 72MA) and Sandra Daack-Hirsch (86BSN, 98MSN, 07PhD) led pioneering research in genomics. Drs. Toni Tripp Reimer, Kathleen “Kitty” Buckwalter (71BSN, 76MA), Keela Herr, Meridean Maas (57BSN, 60MA), and Janet Specht (73BSN, 81MA, 96PhD) blazed a path in gerontology and gerontological pain. Dr. M. Kathleen Clark conducted research on women’s health and Drs. Ada Jacox, Joann Eland (70BSN, 74MA), Ann Marie McCarthy, and Charmaine Kleiber (99PhD) produced impactful research and tools to assess and address pediatric pain. Dr. Rita Frantz (73MA) led research on wound healing that influenced Dr. Sue Gardner’s (81BSN, 90MA, 99PhD) research on wound care and Dr. Barbara Rakel’s (79BSN, 88MA, 02PhD) investigations of non-pharmacological strategies to reduce movement evoked pain. Influential in the field of nursing administration were Drs. Myrtle Kitchell Aydelotte, Mary Blegen (75MA), Meridean Maas, and Marita Titler (78MA, 92PhD), while Drs. Gloria Bulechek (63BSN, 67MA) and Joanne McCloskey were instrumental to the creation of a taxonomy of nursing intervention and outcomes.

College of Nursing research has often been cited throughout the years, and early research continues to be held as a standard when developing new practices and policies in care settings. A few of the most cited works by Iowa Nursing faculty include:


Since 2004 there have been 560 requests for the Müller McCloskey Job Satisfaction Scale.


The American Academy of Nursing recognizes a small group of fellows as Living Legends in honor of their extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession, sustained over the course of their careers. The College of Nursing has been home to four of them since the academy created the designation.

Myrtle Aydelotte, 1994
Geraldene Felton, 2000
Meridean L. Maas, 2011
Kathleen “Kitty” Buckwalter, 2020

The Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness, an Iowa Board of Regents-approved Center, was established in 1995 to facilitate the ongoing research and development of the comprehensive, research-based, standardized classifications commonly known as NIC (Nursing Interventions Classification) and NOC (Nursing Outcomes Classification).

These classifications provide a set of terms to describe nursing treatments and nursing-sensitive patient outcomes and, in conjunction with North American Nursing Diagnosis Association-International (NANDA-I) diagnoses, serve as the foundation for nursing process in nursing practice, education, and research.

For example, NANDA-I is used to diagnose a person’s health problems, NOC to set desirable outcomes for the diagnosis, and NIC to provide the interventions to achieve the NOC outcomes.

Collectively, NIC, NOC, and NANDA-I, often referred to as NNN, are used in 28 countries.

“My vision is that NIC and NOC classification, in partnership with NANDA-I, are used to improve human health. To do this, it is imperative that we demonstrate the value of nursing classifications. This will require both expanded use in practice and innovative use with patients that demonstrates the value of nursing care.”

–Karen Dunn Lopez (08PhD), CNC director, 2020–present

Current programs

**Undergraduate**
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Pre-licensure)
RN–BSN

**Graduate**
MSN—Certified Nurse Leader
MSN—Nursing Systems Administration
MSN—Entry into Practice

**PhD in Nursing**

**DNP Programs**
Adult/Gero—Acute Care*
Adult/Gero—Primary Care*
Family Nurse Practitioner*
Health Systems:
  - Administration/Executive Leadership*
  - Nurse Anesthesia
  - Pediatric Acute Care*
  - Pediatric Primary Care*
  - Psych—Mental Health *

*Post-graduate certificates offered

The language of nursing care

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12,266
Iowa Model requests/downloads from 50 states and 68 countries, cited 1,526 times

5,956
EBP conference participants representing 735 unique organizations, 49 states, and 19 countries

31,277
Requests/downloads from 53 countries, 50 states, and cited 119 times

2023 Process Improvement class activity

The Iowa Model Revised: Evidence-Based Practice to Promote Excellence in Health Care

Design and Pilot the Practice Change
• Engage patients and verify preferences
• Consider resources, constraints, and approval
• Develop localized protocol
• Create an evaluation plan
• Collect baseline data
• Develop an implementation plan
• Prepare clinicians and materials
• Promote adoption
• Collect and report post-pilot data

Identify Triggering Issues/Opportunities
• Clinical or patient identified issue
• Organization, state, or national initiative
• Data/new evidence
• Accrediting agency requirements/regulations
• Philosophy of care

Assemble, Appraise, and Synthesize Body of Evidence
• Conduct systematic search
• Weigh quality, quantity, consistency, and risk

Integrate and Sustain the Practice Change
• Identify and engage key personnel
• Hardwire change into system
• Monitor key indicators through quality improvement
• Reinfuse as needed

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Disseminate Results

Form a Team
State the Question or Purpose

Yes
Is change appropriate for adoption in practice?

Is there sufficient evidence?

Is this topic a priority?

Yes
Yes
No
No
No

Consider Alternatives
Redesign
Consider Research
Reassemble
Consider Another Issue/Opportunity

The language of nursing care

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Giving data for FY2023
(July 2022—June 2023)

Total productivity: $6,463,517
Total number of donors: 524

Endowment balance

Privately supported funds

CONfusion at the CON
Test your knowledge of nursing theory and practice!

Across
2. A type of immunity that results from vaccination.
5. Care provided to patients in their final moments of life.
7. A nursing specialty focused on newborns and infants.
8. Legal term for the failure to provide reasonable care, resulting in injury.
10. Device used for administering fluids intravenously.
11. Standard precautionary measure to prevent the spread of infections.
13. Process of educating patients to manage their own health conditions.
14. A state of extreme physical or mental exhaustion often experienced by nurses.
15. The ‘3 Cs’ of nursing: Care, Compassion, and
18. Medical equipment used to listen to internal body sounds.

Down
1. Document that outlines a patient's medical treatment preferences.
3. A nursing intervention to promote relaxation and stress reduction.
4. A medication administration route often used for rapid drug delivery.
6. A type of nursing care that provides relief to terminally ill patients.
9. Technique used by nurses to document patient assessments.
13. Nursing profession’s pledge to provide ethical care.

KEY
ACROSS
2. active immunity
5. hospice
7. pediatrics
8. negligence
10. iv set
11. hand hygiene
13. patient education
14. burnout
15. competence
16. scrub nurse
17. dorothea
18. stethoscope

DOWN
1. living will
3. therapeutic touch
4. iv push
6. palliative care
9. charting
12. ana
19. oath
Kay Weiler (86MA) established the John and Kay Weiler Research Assistantship fund, the first of its kind in the history of the college, because of her and her husband John’s passion for research and the success of future researchers. The vision of this fund is to support research assistants as they build their research careers.

“The role of the research assistant is so critical because we can have the idea and look at the big picture, but sometimes you need someone to do the nitty gritty and also hold your feet to the fire... That’s what I tried to think about would honor John and me. What we could give to health care,” Kay said.

Kay started at the University of Iowa College of Nursing as a research assistant in 1978 and became an assistant professor in 1986. As a research assistant, she worked with Kathy Schweer (61BSN, 71MA), a long-time faculty member at the college.

“Kay excelled with data collection and organizing the subjective data, which was instrumental in the research I conducted,” said Schweer.

John’s career had a different beginning than Kay’s. He started as a researcher at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital at Harvard University after earning his medical degree from Temple University and completing his residency at Indiana University.

John was a professor and staff physician at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the Veterans Administration. He also worked in a science research lab where he conducted clinical trials as a principal investigator studying allergy, respiratory, and immunology. After a 25-year career at the College of Medicine, John retired, which led to his post-university career as founder of the Iowa Clinical Research Company and CompleWare. John died in September 2022.

“John really loved being at the forefront of research and continued to do so until he was no longer capable,” Kay said.

“John and Kay’s shared passion for research will live on through future research assistants who will benefit from their fund,” said Director of Development Dayna Ballantyne.

“I think one of the most important things we have as humans is to help each other. It sounds sappy, but I truly believe the whole point is to help each other,” Kay said. “Who knows what the next idea is going to be. I want this fund to allow for creativity.”

For more information about making a gift to support Iowa Nursing, contact
Dayna Ballantyne, Director of Development
dayna.ballantyne@foriowa.org
319-331-4135

Geri Hall, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dan Hall, a retired faculty member from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, honors his late wife Geri Hall RN, FAAN, for her dedication to the study of dementia and to Iowa Nursing.

Geri earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Temple University in Philadelphia and Master of Science in Nursing and PhD from the University of Iowa. She worked in multiple positions at the College of Nursing, including adjunct instructor, associate director for outreach and policy with the Center on Aging, director of the nursing master’s programs, and clinical professor.

Dan describes Geri as a modest, humble, and extremely talented individual. She received multiple recognitions, was a highly successful researcher and scholar who published numerous original articles for the lay press, wrote 24 book chapters and 55 peer-reviewed articles, was co-investigator for grants, and served on a great number of professional societies, organizations, and boards.

Early in Geri’s career, she was credited with the ideas that led to the development of tools and resources to inform caregivers about managing dementia with dignity. Kathleen “Kitty” Buckwalter (71BSN, 76MA), professor emerita, served as program advisor, MSN and PhD chair, and a mentor to Geri. Together, they created the Progressively Lowered Stress Threshold Model (PLST) designed to educate formal and informal caregivers about the progression of dementia and associated behaviors to help inform plans of care.

“When her work was first coming out, this was at the beginning of the study of dementia. So really, her research was at the forefront of that,” said Kitty. “Her work is still cited and used all over the world and is as relevant today as it was when she developed it.” Kitty goes on to describe the PLST model as one of the few models nationally recognized as an evidence-based model for dementia.

Geri was a master clinician and educator who could communicate with a variety of audiences at different levels of understanding. She could teach a newly diagnosed patient with dementia and their caregivers or a professional in the highest position in the medical profession.

By establishing the Geri Hall Clinical Leader in Residence fund, which will be administered through the Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence, Dan can honor his wife’s legacy and ensure the work that she initiated lives on through future nurse leaders. The Geri Hall Clinical Leader will advance projects focused on interprofessional collaboration, innovation, and community partnerships with the priority of maintaining and updating the Geri Hall Progressively Lowered Stress Threshold Model Repository.

“The fund allows faculty to identify and mentor Doctor of Nursing Practice students intending to have a practice career and support the development of clinical leaders who will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of dementia on families and the health care system,” said Csomay Center Director Harleah Buck.
IN MEMORIAM

Remembering College of Nursing alumni who have died.

1940s
Mary Lou (Tumer) Saari, 46GN
Virginia (Lee) Pearson, 47BS, 47GN
Norma Harlan, 47GN
Ellen (Butler) Haskins, 48BS, 48GN
Virginia G. Rovn (Rovn) Hayes, 47GN
Barbara (Hook) Montgomery, 47GN
Lorna (Deming) Raven, 48GN, 56BSN
Theodora (Stiarwalt) Gates, 48GN, 58BSN
Esther (Purkhiser) Baker, 49GN
Arlene (Hora) Dayhoff, 49GN
Ruth (Tennermann) Frost, 49GN

1950s
Lois (Laxson) Stewart, 51BA, 51GN
Elizabeth (Collentine) DeVoe, 51GN
Maxine (Voss) Patterson, 51GN
Betty M. (Maas) Wagner, 51GN, 52GN
Dotti (Channer) Bok, 52GN, 53BSN
Allene (Peterson) Anderson, 53BSN
Donna (Smeeton) Becker, 53GN
Elsie S. (Svoboda) Huber, 53GN
Millicent (Robertson) Stein, 53GN, 54BSN
Constance (Cottingham) Gartin, 54BSN
Joyce (Kiefer) Gibson, 54BSN
Carolyn (Marner) Kacena, 54BSN
Betty J. Getting (Getting) Strole, 54BSN
Patricia Ann (Welsh) Strub, 54GN
Joyce (Moburg) Schuchmann, 56BSN
Frances (Stoen) Valles, 56GN
Brunhild (Wegner) Erickson, 57BSN
Mary Ann (Thomas) Park, 57BSN
Shirley (Spunaugle) Pipiani, 57BSN
June (McLaughlin) Gibbs, 58BSN
Arlene (Winn) Beaumont, 59BSN
Marilyn T. (Turnquist) Molen, 67MA

1960s
Virginia Plastino, 80BSN
Karen (Wilson) Thorgaard, 80BSN
Rosa (Paredes-Rojas) Paredes, 80MA
Amy S. North (North) Knapp, 82BSN
Karen (Vanderhart) Dillon, 83BSN
Janice S. Beghtol (Beghtol) Thoen, 83BSN
Kathleen (Meyer) Davis, 86MA

1970s
Synthia Reiling, 90BSN
Diane (Beringer) Oberholser, 93BSN
Connie (Carlisle) Serrano, 93BSN
Nicole D. L. (Bothwell) Rosenberg, 95BSN
Joan Carter, 95PHD
Karen Ruble, 98BSN
Jemonette (Villanueva) Demesa, 99BSN

1980s
Karen Rios, 03BSN
Amy Fields, 05BSN
Rebecca (Larson) Willson, 05BSN, 09MSN
Margaret Cooper, 05MSN
Kenneth Schweitzer, 09BSN

2000s
Stephanie (Sims) Salama, 11BSN
Tina (Greenwald) Bacorn, 14BSN
You are nearing the end of your training days,  
Which will long remain in your thoughts;  
It should send each one of you away  
With the joy that those days have brought;  
For Nursing means service at work or play,  
And friendships that never fade;  
So you grasp at the end of your training days,  
The hands of the friends you’ve made.

—“Perfect Day,” a banquet song from the School of Nursing Alumnae Journal, July 1932
Bring your family and join us for our annual tailgate at the College of Nursing.

Friday, Oct. 6, 2023
4–7 p.m.
Jerold O. and Jacqueline R. (Peterson) Dock Terrace
50 Newton Road
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Parking is available in the Newton Road ramp.

RSVP → SECURE.GIVETOIOWA.ORG/HOMECOMING23

See you at Homecoming!

“Decades past shine anew”

For more information about Homecoming events, visit homecoming.uiowa.edu