

# M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING



ESPIRITUS  
NOVA®  
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The Campaign for Villanova University



## From the Dean

I am honored, as an alumna of our graduate program, to come home to Villanova to lead the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) as the Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. With pride, I continue to see FCN flourish, consistently recognized as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing.

Villanova Nurses are inherently innovative thinkers, collaborators and communicators, and our graduates are involved in nearly every aspect of health care. Because of the state of health and growing nursing shortage, our country is at a critical juncture. The College of Nursing is contributing solutions by doing what it does best: graduating practice-ready nurses, preparing advanced practice nurses and educating future nurse educators in the Augustinian Catholic tradition, exemplified by truth, unity and love.

Through our three doctoral tracks, five master's degree tracks, traditional bachelor of science track, and accelerated second degree track—combined with a range of flexible programs in health care professional development—FCN is preparing nurses at all levels to positively impact health and health care and to transform the profession.

***Espiritus Nova:*** *The Campaign for Villanova University* will enable the College of Nursing to soar to even greater heights through strategic investments in our key priorities. With its \$50 million goal for FCN, the campaign will amplify and extend our impressive accomplishments.

Our priorities address the most important issues in health care, nursing and nursing education. Foremost, reimagining our Simulation and Learning Resource Center with innovative, immersive technology and state-of-the-science learning spaces will shape and strengthen our capacity to provide students with authentic, safe, simulated scenarios to build competency and proficiency in caring for patients. Attracting and retaining deserving, talented students with scholarships and highly regarded faculty scholars with named appointments are always among our key objectives. These endowed funds—as well as support for centers of excellence—will propel our advancement as a leader in health care delivery, research, nursing education and innovation.

I invite you to partner with us in ***Espiritus Nova:*** *The Campaign for Villanova University* to achieve FCN's aspirations as we rise to unprecedented heights!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna S. Havens". The script is elegant and cursive.

Donna S. Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor

# Investing in Future Villanovans

As an Augustinian Catholic institution, Villanova is called to educate people regardless of their socioeconomic status. This is the bedrock on which the University was built more than 180 years ago. Today, that foundational commitment is also shaping our future. Endowed scholarships help remove the financial barriers keeping high-achieving students from Villanova, creating an academic community rich in talent, diverse in background and enhanced by a wealth of perspectives. Currently, Villanova does not meet 100% of demonstrated financial need for undergraduate students. Villanova's goal in this campaign is to narrow the need gap by raising \$300 million for endowed scholarships, with a specific goal of \$25 million for FCN. Reaching this goal will make Villanova comparable to peer universities and will position FCN to attract and enroll the most academically gifted students from across the socioeconomic spectrum.



## Nicholas Jubilee '25 FCN

*The Lawrence J. Resinski '58,  
Philip S. DiVita '63 Scholarship*

Nick Jubilee, a Nursing major, Villanova Diving team captain and BIG EAST 1-Meter Diving champion first experienced the power of Villanova's uniquely caring community when he received his scholarship package. "Not only did it make Villanova financially viable, but it told me that people believed in me and all I could do at Villanova."

That undercurrent of support—from faculty, coaches and friends—has set him up to excel. On top of a rigorous practice and competition schedule and coursework, Nick has taken on leadership roles in The 13%, a student group dedicated to improving the experience of Black student-athletes at Villanova; in the Multicultural Student Nurses Organization, which facilitates community connection for Nursing students of color; and as a Nursing Ambassador, sharing his experience with prospective Nursing students and families. Winner of the 2024 Villanova Black Alumni Student-Athlete Award for Outstanding Achievement, Nick recently served as a Susan D. Flynn Oncology Fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on the Bone Marrow Transplant and Oncology Units and held a summer research internship at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

"I want to give back to the next generation of nurses," he says. "Especially for nurses of color, having a mentor who looks like you can make a big difference."



**"The scholarship I received meant I could focus on my academics and athletics and still discover new areas that I am passionate about."**

Nicholas Jubilee '25 FCN



# Researching for the Common Good

Recognized leaders in their disciplines, Fitzpatrick College of Nursing faculty conduct groundbreaking research. At the same time, they are deeply committed teachers who design new courses and employ innovative learning strategies to educate and inspire our students. Our faculty embrace experiential learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, engaging undergraduate and graduate students as true partners in the research and creative process. Endowed faculty positions have evolved into one of the most distinguished and permanent investments that can be made in higher education, enabling the College to competitively recruit and retain outstanding faculty who make significant contributions in teaching, research and scholarship.



## **Bridgette M. Rice, PhD, MDiv, APRN, FAAN**

*Associate Dean for Research and Innovation*

*Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations*

An award-winning and innovative researcher, Bridgette M. Rice, PhD, MDiv, APRN, FAAN, focuses her research portfolio on the promotion of health equity and reduction of health disparities in marginalized groups. She has secured more than \$6 million in funding to advance the understanding of individual, social and structural drivers of inequity with spatially driven, mixed-methods approaches to research. She is the founder and director of the Fitzpatrick

College of Nursing's Research for Equity and Justice Collective.

Dr. Rice is a sought-after speaker and national leader in promoting the critical role of nurses in research and innovation. Recently, Philadelphia's Science Center invited her to speak at its Scalable Solutions-Focused Think Tank on nursing and health care innovation; she also spoke at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's workshop on "Addressing Workforce Challenges Across the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care." In addition, Dr. Rice delivered the keynote address for the Intensive Training Institute of the American Nurses Association/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Minority Fellowship Program.



## **Guy M. Weissinger II, PhD, MPhil, RN**

*Diane Foley Parrett Endowed Assistant Professor*

Guy Weissinger, PhD, MPhil, RN, is recognized nationally and internationally for his work as a nurse scientist and an educator, specializing in the intersection between mental health and health systems to improve health outcomes.

Originally a therapist before becoming a nurse, Dr. Weissinger blends his clinical experience in emergency medicine, outpatient mental health, public health nursing and home care with a mixed-methods approach to research involving suicide prevention, adolescent mental health and the health care workforce. The National Institutes of Health has tapped him for his expertise

as a reviewer for a Healthcare and Health Disparities study section meeting. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario has also called on him to serve as co-chair of its expert panel for *Best Practice Guideline: Assessment and Care of Persons at Risk for Suicidal Ideation and Behaviour*, with the potential to influence policy and practice throughout Canada.

# Key Campaign Initiatives

## Simulation and Learning Resource Center

In the Simulation and Learning Resource Center (SLRC), Nursing students refine their ever-growing clinical skills in a state-of-the-science, safe, controlled and customizable environment.

Simulation is an essential and a versatile complement to the traditional clinical experiences of student nurses. Villanova's SLRC enables its learners to refine their nursing skills and clinical reasoning with repeated participation in simulated patient scenarios, improving their performance over time in this secure environment.

With advancements in technology, simulation continues to provide increasingly authentic experiences for nursing students. Virtual reality, for example, offers a deeply immersive level of realism. Integrating the College's simulation opportunities with the latest clinical learning and virtual or augmented reality will provide students with a variety of opportunities to practice and expand their skill sets. Reimagining the SLRC's clinical education space with enhanced integration of equipment and technology will ultimately result in improved care for patients, their families and communities.



## Center of Excellence in Nursing Workforce Development

A Center of Excellence in Nursing Workforce Development would place the College at the forefront in addressing the rapidly growing nursing workforce shortage in numerous areas such as elder care, oncology, health care innovation, research, elimination of health disparities and other critical areas. Developed in tandem with industry partners, the Center would improve the delivery of care by growing the pool of highly skilled nurses, improving staff retention and partnering with health care organizations and facilities.

Centers of Excellence elevate the leadership of our outstanding teacher-scholars in important areas across the health care continuum and facilitate the engagement of talented students in their innovative research.



## Endowed Graduate Student Scholarship Support

In addition to increasing financial support for undergraduate students, expanding financial support for talented graduate Nursing students is a longstanding priority in the College. Scholarship support attracts the brightest graduate students, and also serves a critical role in cultivating a community of high-achieving learners with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. It is Villanova's mission to educate and prepare critical thinkers and ethical leaders who want to ignite change.

# Campaign Giving Opportunities

## Transforming the Simulation and Learning Resource Center (SLRC)

- Name the Simulation Learning Resource Center: \$5 million+
- Naming SLRC areas such as collaborative workspaces, clinical simulation laboratories and advanced technology (e.g., virtual and augmented reality): \$100,000+

## Faculty Excellence and Innovative Research

Supporting our talented and dedicated faculty with named endowments—and doing so during a national nursing faculty shortage—ensures the highest level of teaching and research for generations of students to come.

- Endow a Faculty Chair (e.g., Nursing Education or Oncology): \$2.5 million+
- Endow a Professorship: \$1.5 million
- Name the Visiting Health Care Expert-in-Residence Program: \$1 million
- Endow other faculty positions: \$500,000 to \$750,000
- Endow a Faculty Research/Innovation Grant: \$125,000+

## Student Scholarships

Endowed support for outstanding Nursing students has an immediate transformative impact on their lives and education, as well as on their career paths in health care.

- Endow a Scholarship for Undergraduate Students: \$100,000+
- Endow a Scholarship for Graduate Students: \$100,000+
- Endow an Experiential Learning Fund: \$100,000+

## Named Gifts for Centers

Centers of Excellence enrich scholarship and foster interdisciplinary collaboration in areas that are critically important to health care delivery, clinical excellence and research and innovation.

- Name a Center of Excellence: \$5 million

The areas listed below, among others, may be named as centers of excellence:

- Health Innovation
- Research
- Nursing Workforce Development
- Health Equity and Justice
- Oncology
- Elder Care

## Named Spaces in Driscoll Hall

Naming the spaces that students, faculty, staff and visitors use every day is a testament to the value of the teaching, learning and collaboration happening in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

- Name Classrooms: \$250,000+
- Name the Dean's Board Room: \$250,000
- Name Faculty Offices: \$100,000+

## Dean's Fund for Strategic Initiatives

Gifts of any size to this fund allow Dean Havens to act quickly and strategically to pursue key opportunities and high-impact programs that benefit our students, faculty and staff and further the College's academic mission.

## About the Campaign

***Espiritus Nova: The Campaign for Villanova University*** reflects the strong, generous and unshakeable spirit that connects us all as Villanovans. With a goal of \$1.25 billion, it is the most ambitious fundraising effort in the University's history. Achieving this goal will strengthen our academic preeminence, enrich our campus and amplify our collective Augustinian Catholic impact—across the nation and around the world. Like St. Augustine himself, we have a restless drive to improve to become the very best version of ourselves, and when Villanovans put hearts and minds together, we are unstoppable. Your involvement in the *Espiritus Nova* campaign will continue Villanova's legacy as a transformative experience that embodies the strength of spirit, brilliance of mind and warmth of heart of St. Augustine.



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