

IOWA

2022 MAGAZINE

COLLEGE OF

NURSING

**THREE
PEOPLE,
THREE
PATHS,
ONE
PROGRAM**





Welcome

Greetings,

What a great year to be an Iowa Nurse! As I reflect on academic year 2021-2022, I am pleased to share a few of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. The vibrancy in the college is at an all-time high and students are excited to be learning in the classroom and in clinical environments throughout Iowa.

In this issue of the Annual Magazine, you will learn about the partnerships between the UI College of Nursing and community colleges in Iowa with RN-BSN 3+1 program articulation agreements and the impacts they have on the state, student summer internships at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and our outstanding faculty and staff.

As we look to the future and face the nursing shortage, we continue to seek ways to address this challenge. In spring 2023, we will enroll our first cohort of students into the Master of Science in Nursing - Entry into Practice program. This full-time, accelerated program is designed for individuals with a non-nursing degree wanting to become practicing nurses. Our five-semester program will launch high-achieving professionals into a career in nursing.

It is because of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends that the College of Nursing continues to achieve excellent rankings among our academic programs, graduate industry-prepared nurse leaders, and offer an innovative and impactful education from acclaimed faculty. Thank you.

Go Hawks!

Julie Zerwic

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

IOWA College of Nursing

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ON THE COVER
Alyssa Wessel, a first-semester RN-BSN student, checks on a premature baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she works at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022.

RIGHT
A student walks down the ramp to the ground floor classrooms at the College of Nursing on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022.



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IN MEMORIAM
CLASS NOTES

In brief...

Faculty receive grants for Dementia pain management app, health disparities

College of Nursing faculty research covers nearly every aspect of the field of nursing, as these two major grants received in the past year demonstrate. From an app supporting families in caring for loved ones with dementia to patient safety in inpatient care settings, our faculty research advances knowledge and outcomes across the spectrum.

FEBRUARY 2022

Approximately 16 million American family caregivers care for people with dementia and many of them struggle with pain management. **Nai-Ching Chi, PhD, RN** received a \$150,000 research grant from the Alzheimer's Association to evaluate her Pain Control Enhancement web app intervention that provides tailored strategies in pain management to family caregivers of people with dementia. The preliminary findings suggest the PACE-app is acceptable, informative, and easy for caregivers to use. The PACE-app will be a publicly available tool for family caregivers, and it has great potential to optimize pain management for people with dementia.



Dr. Chi joined the College in 2017. Her program of research focuses on integrating advanced data science with technology to support dementia care, multimorbidity, pain management, family caregiving, and healthy aging.

MAY 2022

Patricia Groves, PhD, RN was awarded a \$450,000 R21 grant from the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities for proposed research on "Patient voices: patient, nurse, and event characteristics associated with nurse judgments about safety concerns conveyed by inpatients in minority and other health disparity populations."

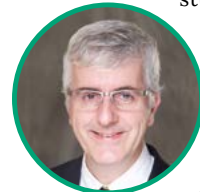
"We know that not everyone experiences hospital care the same way, and part of the reason may be unrecognized assumptions that healthcare workers bring to communication with the patient. In this study, we hope to tease out different factors that influence the way nurses respond when a patient expresses a concern. That way, we can figure out how to intervene in a way that supports both patients' safety reporting and unbiased nurse response," said Groves, who joined the College in 2011.



The long-term goal of her research is to improve patient safety, mitigate risks, and prevent errors by developing targeted interventions that support open and unbiased communication between nurses and patients about safety concerns and allow organizations to respond rapidly to those concerns.

O'Sullivan receives Fellow designation

Cormac O'Sullivan, PhD, CRNA, ARNP, associate clinical professor and director of the Anesthesia Nursing Program, was designated a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, the professional organization for more than 60,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and student registered nurse anesthetists.



The FAANA designation is a major career achievement that recognizes accomplished leadership in the profession. "We recognize Cormac as a leader who has demonstrated a depth of expertise that is critical to shaping the future of anesthesia care," said Lorraine Jordan, PhD, CRNA, CAE, FAAN, Chief Advocacy Officer of AANA and CEO of the AANA Foundation. "Earning this distinction signifies a commitment of excellence and dedication to making impactful changes for our profession."

O'Sullivan began teaching nurse anesthesia at Iowa in 1996. In 2009, he became director of the program and transitioned it to one of the first Doctor of Nursing Practice-Nurse Anesthesia programs in the country. He was recognized as Anesthesia Program Director of the Year by the AANA in 2019 and received the Collegiate Teaching Award from the University of Iowa College of Nursing in 2018. He is the author of numerous articles and cowrote a chapter on perioperative crisis management in the recently published textbook, *Nurse Anesthesia 7th Ed.* O'Sullivan also serves as Senior Advisor for the Simulation in Motion-Iowa program.

O'Sullivan is one of 52 CRNAs who received the Fellow designation in 2022 and one of only 116 to receive the designation to date. According to the AANA, to be awarded the FAANA distinction, applicants must be credentialed as a CRNA for a minimum of 10 consecutive years, have a minimum of 10 years of full-time professional experience, demonstrate outstanding achievements in nurse anesthesia and leadership that command respect and recognition from other leaders in the profession, and provide evidence of enduring and substantial professional achievement that demonstrates professional and personal growth and use of innovative, creative solutions in at least one of several categories.



College of Nursing provides training and support on RAGBRAI

Every July, 10,000 cyclists from across the nation arrive in Iowa for the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, an eight-day bicycle ride across the state. Towns along the route spend months preparing for the influx of riders; this year, thanks to the Simulation in Motion - Iowa (SIM-IA) program, emergency responders in eight of the host towns received extra preparation. Beginning in Sioux City and ending in Lansing, the SIM-IA pre-RAGBRAI tour gave local emergency health care providers a chance to practice their skills with simulated clinical scenarios they might encounter during the ride. The first SIM-IA mobile education truck arrived in June, and the timing of RAGBRAI presented a great opportunity to begin delivering high-quality, evidence-based education across the state. To make sure the education simulations were relevant, the SIM-IA team talked with providers about the calls they typically get during the ride, said SIM-IA Senior Advisor **Jacinda Bunch, PhD, RN, SANE-A, NREMT**. Based on these conversations, the chosen simulations included a woman who was dehydrated and overheated, a man with trauma from a bike-tree collision, and an infant with a head injury from falling out of their improperly secured bike carrier.

Although focused on RAGBRAI-related injuries, the simulation trainings also led to other important learning opportunities for providers. While treating the infant trauma, Bunch recounted, participants in one town realized they didn't know whether to take the patient to the pediatric hospital or the trauma hospital. Finding the answer to questions like that in a simulation can save precious time during a real call.

All told, the SIM-IA pre-RAGBRAI tour educated 172 emergency health care providers in seven counties along the RAGBRAI route. As a result of the tour, another eleven new trainings have been scheduled.

"We've really enjoyed it," said Bunch. "All of the communities have been welcoming, and it has been nice to get out, go across the state, and serve these providers. They're taking care of their communities, and this is a way we can help them do that."

The SIM-IA trainings were new this year, but College of Nursing Executive Associate Dean **Sandy Daack-Hirsch, PhD, RN, FAAN**, has participated as one of the UI team support crew members for the past two years. As a member of the crew, she directly supports UI team riders and connects with local communities and other riders to promote the university. "Injuries can occur at any time, and I am there to assess the severity," Daack-Hirsch stated. According to Liz McIntire of the Office of the President, Daack-Hirsch is a key support crew member in other ways as well. "Sandy is masterful at having thoughtful conversations with our hosts—which is our greatest touch point as crew members. Every year, we come away with incredible stories about how the university has impacted lives across the state... There's always a connection to be made, and those conversations happen in lawn chairs during RAGBRAI," McIntire said.

An avid cyclist who has participated in the ride for many years, Kelting Professor of Nursing and Associate Dean for Faculty **Keela Herr, PhD, RN, AGSF, FGSA, FAAN** broke the radial head in her arm while on the ride this year and was taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital in Charles City. Hearing she was from the University of Iowa, her emergency room doctor told her he had recently attended the pre-RAGBRAI SIM-IA training. "He raved about it," Herr recalled. "He said it was far superior to any training he and his team have received and will be a great asset to the state and rural communities."



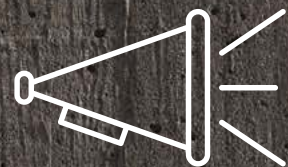
ABOVE

This map of northern Iowa shows SIM-IA's route, which roughly charted the journey RAGBRAI riders followed during the annual bike ride.

Sandy Daack-Hirsch, executive associate dean, is photographed with Jane Palmer (87BSN), who hosted the University of Iowa RAGBRAI team at their home in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

Keela Herr is seen in the ambulance where she was treated for a broken wrist.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SIMULATION IN MOTION PROGRAM, VISIT SIM-IA.UOWA.EDU



The University of Iowa continues to climb in the **U.S. News & World Report Best BSN and Graduate School** rankings. According to the 2023 report, 66 UI colleges and programs were recognized among the best in their field. Four of these programs, all in the College of Nursing, received a top-10 ranking. The BSN program moved up one spot to **number nine** in the country!

#4

BEST NURSING GRADUATE SCHOOLS

DNP Nurse Practitioner:
Pediatric Primary Care

#5

BEST NURSING GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Master's Nursing
Administration Programs

#6

BEST NURSING GRADUATE SCHOOLS

DNP Nurse Practitioner:
Adult/Gerontology, Primary Care

#9

**BEST BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN NURSING**

BEST HEALTH SCHOOLS

Nurse Anesthesia*

#11

BEST NURSING GRADUATE SCHOOLS

DNP Nurse Practitioner:
Family Nurse Practitioner

#19

BEST NURSING GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Doctor of Nursing Practice

* Not evaluated this year, but represent the program's most recent ranking

**SOCIAL MEDIA
Highlights**



5-11-22 The uniforms, the patients, the lighting...we've come a long way in 80 years! The UI Libraries and the Iowa Women's Archive shared this image of an anatomy lesson in the 1940s, which is part of the Nursing Digital Library.



12-3-21 Lest you think nursing school is all work and no play: CON student **Karly Quain** met Earl the llama while doing her clinicals at Arbor Place Assisted Living, a memory care facility for older adults with dementia. Earl and his pal Simon came from Prairie Patch Farm to visit the residents, teach them about llamas, and get some pats and snuggles.



12-9-21 The Multicultural Nursing Association made 'movie night'-themed gift baskets for families residing at the Ronald McDonald House while their loved ones were in the hospital. The baskets contained movies, candy, popcorn, and fuzzy socks.

THE COLLEGE WELCOMES TWENTY NEW FACULTY

ASSOCIATE FACULTY

- Kyung Soo Kim**, PhD, RN
- Alaa Al Bashayreh**, PhD, MSHI, RN
- Bomin Jeon**, PhD, RN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Olivia Croskey**, DNP, ARNP, FNP-C, CNL // Clinical
- Katie Knox**, PhD, RN // Clinical, Director, Simulation and Interprofessional Education, Co-Director, Nursing Clinical Education Center
- Clarissa Shaw**, PhD, RN
- Sena Chae**, PhD, MSHI, RN
- Natany da Costa Ferreira Oberfrank**, PhD, RN
- Yuanlu Sun**, PhD, RN, CLT

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Tonya Johannes**, DNP, FNP, ARNP-BC // Instructional
- Ann Weltin**, DNP, FNP-BC, CNM // Clinical

INSTRUCTIONAL TRACK LECTURER

- Kathleen Adams**, DNP, AGACNP-BC
- Laura Kendall**, MSN, RN
- Elyse Laures**, RN, PHD
- Anna Starcevich**, DNP, RN
- Nicole Breitbach**, MSN, CNL, RN
- Kristina Giuliani**, DNP, PMHNP
- Samantha Lee**, DNP, ARNP, PNP-AC
- Collin Rogers**, MSN, RN
- Danielle Busta**, MSN, RN, CPHON

ON THIS PAGE

The College of Nursing building and the west side of the UI campus, photographed from above.

Growing the profession from the ground up

Story by Riza Falk
Photos by Rebecca F. Miller

Three people, three paths, one program that helped them get there

As the nursing profession has evolved, the competencies to fulfill the role have expanded beyond the technical skills needed for acute care to include an understanding of the complex factors that influence health and well-being, organizational and systems leadership, evidence-based practice, and community and population health—competencies provided by a baccalaureate education.

The University of Iowa College of Nursing's RN-BSN program provides a pathway for registered nurses with an associate degree to gain this education and earn their baccalaureate degrees. **Alyssa Wessel, RN, Brenda Duree, PhD, RN, and Kim Bergen-Jackson, PhD, RN-BC, LNHA** are three nurses whose life paths have been influenced by their participation in the program.

Five years ago, Alyssa Wessel graduated high school and began her path to higher education at a small private Iowa college. When that didn't work out and she found herself back at home in Keokuk, Iowa, Alyssa knew she had to do something different. Following in her mother's footsteps, she decided to pursue nursing. Wessel enrolled at Southeastern Community College in Keokuk, Iowa and began her journey as a nursing student. Today, Wessel is a staff nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, working on her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) with dreams of earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice.

In 1985, Brenda Duree embarked on a similar journey. As a young mom whose mother was a nurse's aide, Duree grew up knowing the significance that nurses have in health care. She drove an hour each way to attend Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg, Iowa and earned her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN). Duree is currently an associate professor in the University of Iowa College of Nursing RN-BSN program and has been a nurse, adjunct instructor, director of nursing, and associate dean at various institutions in Iowa throughout her career.

Shortly after this, Kim Bergen-Jackson left home to attend Job Corps, a free education and job training program in Dennison, Iowa. They started a Licensed Practical Nursing program while she was there, so she decided to enroll. Bergen-Jackson is now administrator at Oaknoll Retirement Residence, adjunct professor in the UI School of Social Work and College of Nursing, Board of Directors Chair for LeadingAge Iowa, and was recently asked to serve on a national committee to enhance nursing home quality.



▲ ABOVE
Alyssa Wessel (left), a first-semester RN-BSN student, works with assistant nurse manager Kayla Fobian RN, BSN, RNC-NIC (right) as they check the vitals on a premature baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where they work at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022.



▲ ABOVE

Cheri Doggett, academic program management specialist, RN-BSN (left) and Brenda Duree (right) talk with students during a nursing college career fair at Southwest Community College in Creston, Iowa on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

History

Historically, there were three avenues to become a registered nurse: a hospital diploma program, a community college associate degree, or a college or university baccalaureate degree. In a 1965 position paper, the American Nurses Association noted that “major theoretical formulations, scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and the development of radical new treatments” were changing the practice of nursing, and they became one of the first public proponents of the baccalaureate degree as the minimum preparation for professional nursing practice.

Laura Dustan, College of Nursing Dean from 1964-1972, was the first to champion the idea of what would become the RN-BSN program at Iowa. She recognized that many nurses in the state lacked access to a baccalaureate program, and that registered nurses who later sought a baccalaureate degree had to first return to school for the required foundational courses.

Dustan led the development of articulation projects which aligned curriculums at accessible two- and four- year community institutions to allow for easy transfer to the University of Iowa or another baccalaureate program. The first cohort of seven students began in the summer of 1970, with that number growing to 20 in 1971.

SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS

Ten community colleges in Iowa have signed articulation agreements with the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

- Des Moines Area Community College
- Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
- Indian Hills Community College
- Iowa Lakes Community College
- Iowa Valley Community College
- Kirkwood Community College
- North Iowa Area Community College
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Southwestern Community College
- Southeastern Community College

Why the BSN?

The number of baccalaureate prepared nurses has grown over time as the knowledge and skills gained from the degree are increasingly recognized as necessary for a changing healthcare landscape.

In 1980, the diploma was the highest educational level of the majority of nurses, but that shifted in the 1990s as the diploma degree programs were closed. By 2000, approximately 67 percent of nurses reported the associate or baccalaureate degree as their highest level. In 2011, 50 percent of employed nurses held a baccalaureate degree or higher.

In 2011, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* was released by the Institute of Medicine, and recommended that the percentage of nurses holding a baccalaureate degree or higher be increased to 80 percent by 2020. The report gives several reasons for this goal, including that a BSN education will, “introduce students to a wider range of competencies in such arenas as health policy and health care financing, leadership, quality improvement, and systems thinking.”

The “2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey” found that 65.2 percent of RNs were prepared at the baccalaureate level or higher. This was an increase from past years, but not the 80 percent recommended in the 2011 Future of Nursing report. According to the 2021 follow-up report, “*The Future of Nursing 2020-2030 Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity*,” is “nurses already in the workforce face barriers to pursuing a BSN, including time, money, [and] work-



▲ ABOVE

Alyssa Wessel (right) attends the College of Nursing pancake breakfast with her partner and son at the Nursing Building on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

life balance.” The report continues, “Nonetheless, the goal of achieving a nursing workforce in which 80 percent of nurses hold a baccalaureate degree or higher remains relevant, and continuing efforts to increase the number of nurses with a BSN are needed. Across the globe, the proportion of BSN-educated nurses is correlated with better health outcomes.”

Finding the path

Kim Bergen-Jackson worked as a licensed practical nurse in Seattle for many years before returning to Iowa and finishing her ADN at Kirkwood Community College. “There was a display—I’ll never forget—on the second floor at Kirkwood,” she said. “I walked out into the hallway after class and they were sitting at a table for the RN-BSN program and I was like, ‘hmmm,’ and I kept walking. The next day in a different class, the table was outside that room, and I was like, ‘maybe I should pay attention to this signal here.’”

Bergen-Jackson entered the RN-BSN program after graduating from Kirkwood. The program was all online, which meant she could work full time and care for her two young children. “I worked full time as the director of nursing [at Oaknoll] and did my studies online and loved it. The convenience! I couldn’t have done it with the kids and work if it hadn’t been online. I did it at night after they went to bed, which prepped me really, really well for the PhD program.”

The opportunity to pursue her BSN arose in a similar manner for Alyssa Wessel. Wessel was considering what she wanted to do after earning her RN, when RN-BSN Program Coordinator Cheri Doggett came to campus in fall 2021 to conduct transcript reviews. “I had all of my classes, so it was like, okay, you should go here. You don’t have to take extra classes and it’s not far,” said Wessel. “My teachers really had a big part of that, because I really didn’t know where I wanted to go.”

Wessel was drawn to the online aspect of the program, just as Bergen-Jackson was. Halfway through her nursing coursework, she became a new mom. Her family and friends helped her with childcare throughout her coursework and clinicals, but when she decided to continue her education, she knew she needed something that would accommodate a more flexible schedule.

For Brenda Duree, the path was a little different. While helping to teach a CPR class with local EMS and mentoring students in the emergency room, Duree discovered she really enjoyed teaching. She always knew she wanted to obtain her bachelor’s degree and, after her children were older, she decided to enroll in the RN-BSN program to earn her degree and begin to teach. Today, as a professor in the program, Duree says, “I can very much relate to the students because many of them are like I was, and they’re trying to balance work and school and families.”

▼ BELOW

Kim Bergen-Jackson is seen at Oaknoll in Iowa City, where she is the administrator.



The hidden gem

The RN-BSN program remains an important part of the College of Nursing's efforts to develop a baccalaureate prepared nurse workforce in Iowa. "The thing that I think is really fantastic about this little hidden gem of a program," said Program Coordinator **Cheri Doggett**, is that, "it's all online, we're flexible with the three plans of study, and it's really good for rural health care in Iowa, which is what Iowa needs."

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs **Anita Nicholson PhD, RN** agrees. "It's our RN-BSN program that has the biggest impact on the state," she said. "If those nurses go back to get their baccalaureate degree, they're set on staying in that part of the state. So having that additional nursing knowledge really benefits that community."

The College of Nursing currently has RN-BSN 3+1 articulation agreements with ten community colleges around the state. These agreements align the curriculum between the institutions, so it is a seamless transition from the associate degree to the bachelor's degree.

This made a significant difference for Bergen-Jackson. She had her transcript evaluated and was pleased that the majority of her course credits transferred. "It was easy. It was organized. It was well constructed. It just felt like a breeze to me," she said, adding, "if it hadn't been so organized, I would have never in a million years applied to the PhD program."

Students enrolled in the RN-BSN program take four professional role classes focusing on research, patient safety, improving health care systems, leadership, and professional engagement in addition to a pathology course, genetics course, nursing elective, community and public health nursing class and practicum, and a baccalaureate seminar. The program offers three plans of study (three, four, or five semesters) students can choose from to accommodate their schedule and work or family responsibilities.

Those professional role courses "really are the beauty of that baccalaureate education," said Nicholson. The content for those courses was developed based upon the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education and anticipating the needs of future nurse leaders. "That's how we've packaged our content in order for our students to get that important information that really makes them leaders out in the practice world," said Nicholson.

Brenda Duree sees the impact of this content in her baccalaureate seminar, the final course RN-BSN students take. "We state [the AACN] competencies, and then we say, 'tell us, throughout the program, how you have met those,'" she said. "Their stories are so heartwarming, because at the RN-BSN level, they've worked now as a nurse, and they really get it. I just see such a transformation, because you move beyond what it's like to be a nurse, the tasks that you do daily, and you look more holistically at nursing. What I say oftentimes is that I think it takes you back to what the purpose of nursing is."

Alyssa has already noticed the difference in her classes. "I really feel like what I'm learning is unlocking a different perspective that's going to help me really encompass every aspect of care for my patients," she said. "Whether that is their background, maybe their ethnicity, their culture.... It's not really something that we learn a lot about at the ADN level, because they're so focused on the skills, the disease processes, and stuff like that."

What nurses choose to do after earning their BSN through the RN-BSN program varies, but the opportunities that come with the BSN degree from the University of Iowa are many.

Opening doors

For Kim Bergen-Jackson, it was a stepping stone to the PhD program. "I never would have said I could get a PhD. Never," she said. "I remember being interviewed for the PhD program and I just wanted to cry I was so nervous." Bergen-Jackson also recognizes that many of her accomplishments, such as being asked to serve on a national committee to enhance nursing home quality, wouldn't have been possible without the program. "The RN-BSN program started it all because people would not know who I am, because I wouldn't be in a position to be doing work that would catch the attention of somebody at the national level," she said.

For Brenda Duree, the RN-BSN program opened the door to a career in teaching, which she loves. She recalls that when she joined the College faculty in 2018, "it was just the coolest thing to come back. I sat there as an RN-BSN student, scared and intimidated, and then to be able to come back as a faculty member—I was just so thankful. I was like, 'wow, you kind of made it.'"

Duree loves working with the nurses who are her RN-BSN students and helping them broaden their nursing scope. "At the end of the day that's what I feel like my job is," she said. "Just trying to better help them and give them tools to love their profession and to make a difference."

As it did for Duree and Bergen-Jackson, the program has opened the door for Alyssa Wessel to a new path she never envisioned. "I actually never had thought about going to the University of Iowa, it kind of just fell in my lap," she said. "I'm just so happy it did because now I'm looking at the BSN to DNP programs. Now that I'm here I'm like, why stop? Why settle?"

"The program definitely gives people who didn't take the traditional route [access to] the opportunities that are still out there," Wessel added. "I really liked that about the program—there are people from all different age ranges. It's just nice to know that there are opportunities out there for people of all ages to continue their education. Even if it's years after they started."



ABOVE ▲ Kim Bergen-Johnson talks with an employee at Oaknoll, the Iowa City retirement community where she is the administrator.



ABOVE: Libby Kennedy, Alexandra Anderson, and Delaney Weeks interned at UIHC in Summer 2022.

"This is the best experience you could have outside our regular clinical experience and curriculum."

-Alexandra Anderson
Glenview, Illinois

Ten-week summer internship program provides three nursing students full-time clinical experience

College of Nursing students **Delaney Weeks** of Spencer, Iowa, **Alexandra Anderson** of Glenview, Illinois, and **Elizabeth "Libby" Kennedy** of Urbandale, Iowa interned one-on-one with a nurse preceptor at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics through the Summer Internship program. The program was piloted during summer 2022 and funded through the Behrens Fund, which was established by Joan Behrens and her family. This educational partnership offers additional clinical experience for students hoping to be employed at UIHC upon graduating with their Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Partnership opportunities between UIHC and the UI College of Nursing are a top priority. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs **Anita Nicholson, PhD, RN** and UIHC's Chief Nursing Executive and Interim Chief Executive Officer Kim Hunter, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC and Director of Professional Development and Advanced Practice Lou Ann Montgomery, PhD, RN worked to establish this 10-week internship for BSN students the summer before they graduate.

Upon applying for the internship and obtaining acceptance, Delaney, Alexandra, and Libby embarked on a journey that would prepare them to further hone their clinical skills.

Each student interned on a Unit that aligned with their area of interest. Delaney interned on the Preoperative and Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Libby on the Respiratory Specialty and Palliative Care Unit, and Alexandra on the Medical Surgical Oncology Unit. This program was preceptored by a full-time nurse, and each student worked the same scheduled hours as their nurse preceptor for the duration of the internship.

"Being with the same nurse for so long was good because I developed a relationship with her," said Libby. "This made it easier for me to ask her questions. I saw her so often, it felt like I actually worked there."

In addition to the internship, students enrolled in a nursing course taught by Nicholson. She witnessed the three interns "grow in their knowledge related to pathophysiology/disease process, pharmacology/medication administration, abnormal laboratory values, assessment, nursing interventions, and more over the eight-week internship" she shared. "They also gained confidence in communicating with patients and families, teamwork, and patient-centered nursing care. The interns attributed their growth to the dedication and nursing expertise of the amazing UIHC nurse preceptors."

Delaney describes her experience as, "Out of my entire nursing education, nothing has prepared me more for being a nurse than this. It was really helpful to be there five days a week and in a more consistent manner. With my senior internship this semester, I can only go in the times that my preceptor is working. Because of my internship this summer, I was really able to understand the flow after the first week."



CHANGE MAKERS

FACULTY AND STAFF AT THE FOREFRONT

"Health really starts with housing, food, and family, and so I think we need to rethink what health is and start at the basics."

**—Emily Sinnwell, DNP, ARNP,
FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC**

Val Garr receives Iowa State Education Association award for humanitarian work



The Iowa State Education Association awarded College of Nursing Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **Valerie Garr** the 2022 Paul Mann Memorial Human Relations Award at the association's Aug. 1 banquet in Des Moines.

The ISEA award honors an individual or group for exemplary contributions toward the advancement of human and civil rights. Garr is the president and founder of the Quad-City Minority Partnership, a not-for-profit organization that seeks to address the high school and college achievement gap among minority and first-generation students.

"Valerie is an effective and creative leader who has successfully grown a program benefiting thousands. Her devotion to enhancing and broadening opportunities for diverse student communities is a vital connection to equitable opportunities for all students. We are pleased to be able to present Valerie with the ISEA 2022 Paul Mann Human Relations Award for her tireless work, progress, and success," ISEA President Mike Beranek said in an ISEA news release.

Garr has worked at the College of Nursing since 2008 and at the University of Iowa since 1986. She is a founding member of various diversity-focused educational initiatives, including the Iowa Edge Program for newly enrolled underrepresented undergraduate students. At the College of Nursing, she works with faculty members to create inclusive coursework in an effort to align with The Future of Nursing 2020-2023 Report. Garr collaborates with members of the Big 10 Academic Alliance on diversity initiatives and has held DEI sessions with partners across the UI campus and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Emily Sinnwell receives IDPH grant for work with migrant communities

For **Emily Sinnwell, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC**, providing health care starts long before a person begins to feel sick or goes in for a check-up – it starts with making sure basic needs are met.

"Health really starts with housing, food, and family, and so I think we need to rethink what health is and start at the basics," she said. "I believe that we can't address some of these bigger issues like diabetes and depression if we can't even address the basic needs for somebody to survive."

Sinnwell, who is dually certified in family and psychiatric mental health, strives to put these beliefs into practice both in her clinical work and outside of it. She has more than 15 years of experience working in Mexican, immigrant, and migrant farmworker communities, co-founded the Iowa City Catholic Worker House, and is a provider for federally qualified health center Proteus, Inc. In 2020, she won the Iowa City Human Rights International Award for her work advocating for immigrant and refugee rights.

For the past two years, much of Sinnwell's work has focused on pandemic-related healthcare, both physical and mental, for Iowa's essential workers. In Columbus Junction, a city of 1,830 whose largest employer is a meat-packing facility, more than 500 workers tested positive for COVID-19 by April 2020, and the ripple effects continue. At the request of Columbus Junction community members looking to address the impact of the pandemic on high school-aged youth, Sinnwell worked with a Carver College of Medicine student and community partners to conduct three bilingual mental health support groups at the high school, one for parents, one for kids, and one that brought them together.



Sinnwell says she doesn't see a lot of serious mental illness in these populations but, because of the discrimination and trauma they've experienced, she sees a lot of depression, hopelessness, fear, panic, and anxiety. "I think a big part is listening to people. We do a lot of listening to their stories and what they've been through, and that's health," she said.

In November 2021, Sinnwell and her community partners received a \$250,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health Iowa Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities. According to the application, the Initiative funded projects across the state to address needs related to social determinants of health and work with social service providers and related organizations to reduce COVID-19-related health disparities in disproportionately affected, higher-risk populations.

This grant allows Sinnwell and her collaborators to continue their outreach and health promotion work and reach a broader population. They organize meetings on vaccine safety, community healthcare, and social service coordination across east and southeast Iowa. They help people with online vaccine appointments, ordering free tests, and encouraging



them to engage in their own health. This work takes place in schools and on front porches, in migrant camp laundry rooms and farm cafeterias, at church after mass, and on social media. "This COVID-19 grant gave us the tools to continue organizing people around issues that affect their health," said Sinnwell. "We know that the pandemic really highlighted all of the discrepancies or the vulnerabilities among these populations. Hearing from the workers, hearing their stories, hearing what's missing – if you don't have paid time off for sick leave, you can't isolate during COVID or take care of your children."

They also work with regional partners to coordinate mobile healthcare and vaccine clinics. Recently, a vaccination clinic in rural southeast Iowa involved Bell's Melons (the grower), Johnson County Public Health, Trinity Muscatine Public Health, and Proteus, Inc. (the medical provider). Bell's brings in hundreds of migrant workers on temporary visas every year to detassel, with many of the same workers returning year after year. The team vaccinated nearly 100 farmworkers with the latest COVID-19 booster. "That feels good because we can send them home boosted and protected, and it's the right thing to do in our community," said Sinnwell.

LEFT
Women prepare a meal at a community organizing meeting.

RIGHT
Emily Sinnwell is photographed in the Bell's Melons farm kitchen, where sweet bread is baked for workers.

2023 SAVE THE DATES!



UI FAMILY WEEKEND

Kick off your weekend of Hawkeye family fun with our **College of Nursing Pancake Breakfast** before heading to Kinnick for the game.

DETAILS COMING SOON!

See photos from the inaugural event:

→ [TINYURL.COM/CON-PANCAKE-BREAKFAST](https://tinyurl.com/con-pancake-breakfast)



ONE DAY FOR IOWA

Mark your calendars for the **University of Iowa's 24-hour online giving day**. Follow us on social media and watch your email about ways to join the Hawkeye community in making an impact.

MARCH 29, 2023

→ [1DAY.UIOWA.EDU](https://1day.uiowa.edu)



MNRS COMES TO DES MOINES

In March 2023, the College of Nursing will host the **47th Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference** at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

REGISTER AND FIND OUT MORE

MARCH 29–APRIL 1, 2023

→ [MNRS.ORG](https://mnrs.org)



125TH ANNIVERSARY

We're celebrating **125 years of nursing at Iowa** next year! Our anniversary weekend will also be a chance for alumni to reunite and meet the next generation of nurses, leaders, and scientists.

Keep an eye out on social media and your email inbox for more information at a later date.

HAWKEYES *Give Back*

THE UI COLLEGE OF NURSING UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

is ranked ninth in the nation and five graduate nursing programs are ranked in the top ten. Our graduates are sought after as highly skilled professionals who have received a rigorous education of the highest quality. Alumni and friends play an important role in our success by **STAYING CONNECTED** and **GIVING BACK**.

DID YOU KNOW?

From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022,

962

alumni and friends came together to commit

\$7.5M+

in donations to support current and future nursing students, faculty, and innovative programs.



2022 GIVING BY THE NUMBERS



162

students received donor-funded scholarships last year.



740

nursing alumni checked in at special events.



Donations fueled innovative research—to the tune of

\$648K.



Donors stepped up on One Day for Iowa, giving more than

\$12K.



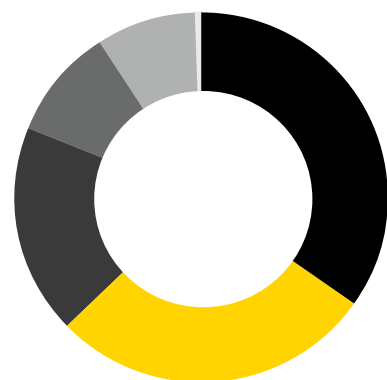
ON THIS PAGE
Nursing students attend the Homecoming Tailgate at the College of Nursing Building in Iowa City on Friday, Oct. 15, 2021.

Giving data for FY2022

(July 2021–June 2022)

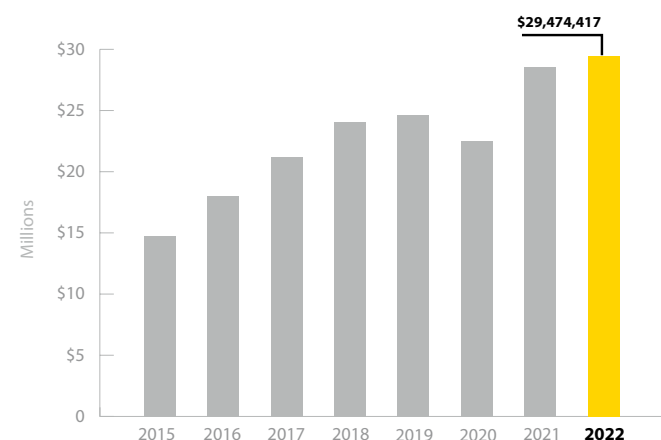
Total productivity: \$7,553,582

Total number of donors: 962

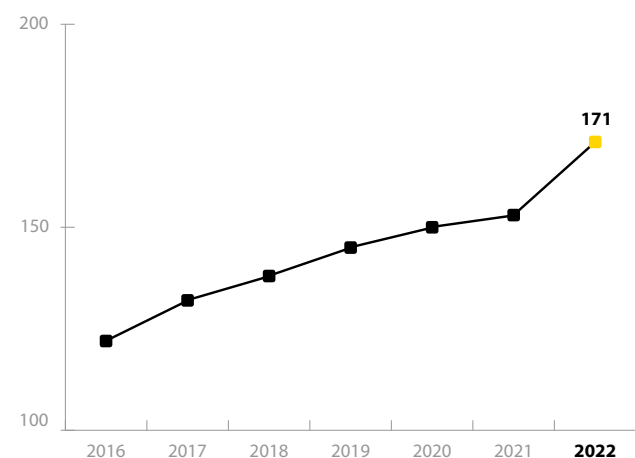


- Scholarships**
\$2,626,155
- Faculty**
\$2,135,745
- Unrestricted**
\$1,374,606
- Various**
\$743,359
- Research**
\$648,715
- Facilities**
\$25,000

Endowment balance



Privately supported funds



ABOVE
Dean Julie Zerwic (left) and Dr. Leah Buck (right), Csomay Center director are pictured with Jill and J.D. Thoreson (center) at an event in September 2022.

THORESON GIFT ADVANCES CSOMAY CENTER MISSION

On July 22, 2022, The University of Iowa Center for Advancement announced that **J.D. (69MD)** and **Jill (67BA, 69MA) Thoreson** of Mason City, Iowa, had pledged \$500,000 to establish the J.D. and Jill Thoreson Optimal Aging Initiative Fund. J.D. is a retired gastroenterology physician who has served Mason City for decades and Jill is a retired speech pathologist who, in addition to teaching, has spent years as a caregiver for aging loved ones.

Both are very passionate about healthy aging, believe strongly in the mission of the Barbara and Richard Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence, and were impressed with the work of the Center. Their dedication to the principles of health aging led to the creation of the new initiative.

"Their investment helps launch much-needed programs at a critical time for all Iowans," said Director of Development **Dayna Ballantyne**. "According to the Iowa Department on Aging, Iowa's population of adults aged 65 and older will constitute nearly 20 percent of the state's population by 2050, which makes support for the aging population more important than ever."

Together, the Thoreson Initiative and the Csomay Center will advance the discovery and adoption of age-friendly practices which promote self-care and provide access to health information using the latest technology, thus helping to ensure that Iowa becomes a leader in delaying frailty and maintaining optimal health as we age. Work is underway on campus and across the state.

"I am pleased to report that we have begun developing a new online gerontology course for nurses in rural areas which will focus on health promotion activities to improve healthy aging in rural Iowa", said **Harleah Buck, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAHA, FAAN**, director for the Csomay Center. "This new course will provide an opportunity for practicing nurses in Iowa to gain the knowledge needed to inform patients and caregivers of best practices as they make their health decisions."

For more information about how you can support the Csomay Center, contact Dayna Ballantyne at dayna.ballantyne@foriowa.org or 319-331-4135.



DONORS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CONNECT AT SCHOLARSHIP TEA

The College of Nursing connected donors and students for the annual Scholarship Tea on Sept. 16, during University of Iowa Family Weekend. With more than 80 Iowa Nursing supporters in attendance, conversation and laughter filled the Gerlach Family Student Commons West as students shared their appreciation and the impact scholarships have on their ability to make the most of their Iowa Nursing education.

University of Iowa College of Nursing **Dean Zerwic** expressed gratitude and shared the significance that scholarship support has on students. In academic year 2021–2022, the College awarded more than \$380,000 in donor-funded scholarships at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels.

"Because of your support, more students have the ability to attend this top-ranked College of Nursing and dedicate themselves to their academics and skills to become great nurse leaders of tomorrow," Zerwic expressed.

Current PhD student **Jesse Weiss (20BSN, 22MSN)** credits a large part of his college career to donor support.

"Early in my undergraduate education, I was selected to participate in the Nancy Stence Creason Young Nurse Scientist Program," Weiss said. "This program provided me with mentorship, resources, and financial support as I engaged in research with faculty over at the hospital."

Donor support means nursing students have more time to focus on their studies and reduces some of the pressure of paying for college.

Lucille Heitman (82BGS, 82GER) connected with her scholarship recipient **Delgratia Hudson**, a third-year nursing student, and learned of Delgratia's experience working at the Oaknoll Retirement Residence in Iowa City. Because of this opportunity, Delgratia identified her passion and hopes to work in long-term care in the future.

"It was very meaningful and uplifting to meet the recipient of my scholarship this semester," Heitman said. "As I told Dean Zerwic when I was leaving, it's easier to write the check when you know there's a human being at the other end who will benefit."

Aubri McClung, a third-year nursing student, said "Growing up, the idea of attending the University of Iowa as a nursing major sounded like an unrealistic dream to me, but because of donor support, it is now my reality. I look forward to making a difference in others' lives, just as they have done for me."

ABOVE LEFT

Nursing student **Delgratia Hudson** (right) is photographed with the benefactor of her scholarship, **Lucille Heitman** (left), at the College of Nursing Scholarship Tea on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022.

ABOVE RIGHT

Nursing student **Shannon Tripp** (left) talks with **Sue Kerr** (69BSN, right), benefactor of the Sister Mary Stella Simpson DOC Scholarship at the Scholarship Tea.

Interested in making a gift?

Contact Director of Development
Dayna Ballantyne at
dayna.ballantyne@foriowa.org
or 319-331-4135.

TONI TRIPP-REIMER, PHD, RN, FAAN Dec. 14, 1946–Dec. 13, 2021

The University of Iowa College of Nursing mourns the passing of **Toni Tripp-Reimer**. Renowned in the field of ethnogeriatrics, Tripp-Reimer was an award-winning scholar and a mentor to many.



Toni Tripp-Reimer was born on December 14, 1946 in Ames, Iowa and received her BSN from the University of Maryland before serving in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps for three years. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from The Ohio State University in 1977 and began her career at the UI College of Nursing that same year. In addition to teaching, she served as director of the Office for Nursing Research Development and Utilization for 11 years, associate dean for research for 14 years, and senior advisor to the dean for seven years.

Dr. Tripp-Reimer's initial research focused on health care among various ethnic groups and later focused on health care for gerontological populations. Along the way, she was recognized with numerous state and national honors, including induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 1987, State of Iowa Regents Award for Faculty Excellence in 1996, The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing/MNRS Award for Leadership in Geriatric Nursing Research in 2002, The University of Iowa Hancher-Finkbine Medallion for Faculty Excellence in 2005, and the Midwest Nursing Research Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

Class notes

Anita Hockett (51GN) Seventy-one years after graduating, Anita remains active as an RN, has founded and served as clinical director of a free clinic, and Volunteers In Medicine for 26 years. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Nursing in 2011.

Terry C. Wicks (18DNP) is a clinical assistant professor in the UNC DNP nurse anesthesia concentration, welcomed UI College of Nursing Dean Julie Zerwic to his Union Square Campus. Dr. Wicks, who earned his DNP from Iowa, was happy to give Dean Zerwic a UNCG coffee mug during her visit.

"The education I received at the University of Iowa College of Nursing—both as an undergraduate and again as a DNP candidate—have proven to be the stepping stones to the successful nursing career I have enjoyed as a clinician, leader, and educator."

Ann E. Rogers (75BSN) was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jody Kurtt (90MA) received her DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award in July 2022, an award given to nurses who dedicate their life's work to the care of others.

(Right: Jody Kurtt is photographed with UIHC Interim CEO and Chief Nurse Executive Kim Hunter, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC.)



HAVE A LIFE UPDATE TO SHARE?

We want to hear from you! Complete our online form to get your update in our next edition.

→ [TINYURL.COM/CONCLASSNOTES](https://tinyurl.com/conclassnotes)

IN MEMORIAM



Bernice "Bunny" Weede Havlicek (40GN) passed away at home in Leesburg, Virginia on Sunday, September 12, 2021. At 103, she was the College of Nursing's oldest living alumna.

1940s

Bernice (Weede) Havlicek, 40BSN
Irmgard (Lehner) Eden, 42BSN
Margaret (Williams) Loghry, 43BS, 43GN
Ruth Cruikshank, 44GN
Edith (Gensicke) Henningsgaard Miller, 45BS, 45GN
Lorraine (Kammerdiner) Miller, 46GN
Dorothy (Mauser) Krogstad, 47GN
Marie (Coobs) Daley, 48GN

1950s

Lois (Gutz) Coon, 50GN
Evalyn Geraldine (Wygle) Mollman, 50GN
Jeanie Jenean Monroe Quinn, 50GN
Murtis (Gordanier) Smith, 50GN
Martha (Francis) Figg, 51GN
Marilyn (Howard) Hess, 51GN
Juanita (Van Osdol) Cloyed, 52GN
Carolyn (Lindahl) Moen, 52GN
Marie (Proehl) Graves, 53BSN
Wayne Henry, 53BSN, 55MA
Phyllis S. (Schultz) Wenglein, 53GN
Ellen (Koopman) Overholtzer, 54BSN
Lois (Plummer) Hartline, 55BSN
Mary Frances (Lantz) Osborne-Pieper, 55BSN
Janet (Brant) Schmidt, 55BSN
Janet (Terry) Hedberg, 55GN
Elna (Larsen) Hendrickson, 55GN
Paulette (Berry) Hradek, 55GN
Joyce (Postel) Roberson, 55GN, 58BSN, 75MA
Donna Lu (Conover) Jones, 56BSN
Dixie (King) White, 56BSN
Maxine (Kloppenburger) Brammer, 57BSN
Mary (McClatchey) Christensen, 57BSN
Jean Kasper, 57BSN
Nancy J. (Johnson) Park, 57BSN
Minta S. (Smith) Uzodinma, 57BSN
Jeanette (Hoffman) Waters, 57BSN
Mary Anne (Edmund) Anderson, 58BSN
Sheila (Telford) Banwell, 58BSN
Charlene (Himrod) Ver Steeg, 58BSN
Sharon (Cadwell) Foss, 59BSN
Jo Ann (Bielefeldt) Wagner, 59BSN

1960s

Jean (Hodges) Conway, 60BSN
Janice (David) Farley, 60BSN
Rhoda (Delfs) Molleston, 60BSN
Pauline (Langner) Stevie, 60BSN
Mary (Baker) Jones, 61BSN
Jane Kallaus, 61BSN
Doris Ann Flater, 61BSN, 68MA
Sharon (Lewis) Wagner, 62BSN
Rose Marie (John) Serra, 63BSN
Suzanne (Meier) Ward, 63BSN
Anna Agerbeck, 64BSN
Betty Gail (Scholtes) Flodin, 64BSN
Patricia (Berstler) Randall, 64BSN
Patricia (Kron) Boettger, 65BSN
Marilyn (Starkweather) McKinley, 65BSN
Judith (Akin) Lass, 66BSN
Marilyn (Graber) Leichty, 67MA, 72MA, 81PHD

1970s

Jacqueline (Hollebeek) Clinton, 69BSN, 71MA
Helen Berg, 70MA
Sarah Bleeks, 71BSN
Mary Auterman, 71MA
Cynthia (Guhin) Mayer, 72BSN
Kay Litherland, 73MA
Cheryl (Hutchins) Christman, 74BSN
Susan H. (Hennings) Bode, 74MA
Sheila Drew, 75BSN
Susan Schmidt, 75BSN
Daniel Chaussee, 75MA

1980s

Rhonda (Scherer) Muhlenbruch, 82BSN
Karen (Vanderhart) Dillon, 83BSN
Natalie (Vickrey) Amhof, 86BSN
Karen (Christensen) Hansen, 87BSN
JoAnn Olson, 89MA

1990s

Linda Reed Fink, 92BGS, 97MSN
Sharon Sinnard, 95BSN, 98JD
Linda Murphy Ott, 97BSN

2010s

Kris Keyser, 11BSN
Taylor (Peterson) Bouska, 12BSN
Amy (Ganoe) Pretorius, 14BSN

College of Nursing

101 College of Nursing Building
50 Newton Road
Iowa City, IA 52242-1121
nursing.uiowa.edu

The Art of Nursing

During the last year, Betsy Miller (22BFA), a student in the School of Art and Art History, worked with College of Nursing staff to catalog, restore, and rehang art pieces in the college's collection.

Many of the pieces were gifts from **Dean Geraldene Felton**, a great supporter of the arts. As part of the project, Betsy created a guide that visitors to the college can use to explore the collection in more detail. We hope you'll come see it for yourself.

The piece at right hangs in the stairwell near the front entrance. It was created by renowned painter Clayton Gorder.

CLAYTON GORDER
Nickelodeon, 1978
Acrylic on Canvas

