

STATE
UNIVERSITY
OF WEST VIRGINIA
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program has moved from WSU South to the main campus, bringing all the School of Nursing programs together in the same building. The program is now located on the third floor of Ahlberg Hall, occupying the Physician Assistant program's previous space after their move to WSU Old Town.

The program, Kansas' only accelerated nursing program at a state university, has been located at WSU South since its inception in 2008. This is the first time the entire School of Nursing has been in the same facility.

Brandy Jackson, director of undergraduate nursing programs, says the move is beneficial because all students and faculty are now in the same location, interacting and learning together.

"We value our students and faculty having a voice and active representation in the School of Nursing," says Jackson. "Now they can be more easily involved in campus committees and organizations."

The move also gives students more convenient access to the Applied Learning Center, which means no more driving back and forth between locations for simulations and lab time.

Associate Professor Debie Pile and her granddaughter welcomed the students to Ahlberg Hall on the first day of classes by decorating the classroom and lockers with nursing items, welcome messages and homemade name plates. They also stocked the area with supplies and stress relievers such as squeeze balls and bubbles. She says having all the programs together under one roof promotes a more collaborative environment and encourages community among students, faculty and staff.

"We appreciate all the support and advocacy in bringing the accelerated nursing students to the main campus," she says. "Having everyone in the same building is an exciting step for us and makes the School of Nursing more unified."

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Student Activities

Courtney Mellinger was featured in The Sunflower sharing about her experience studying abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico during the fall semester. Courtney wants to become a pediatric nurse and the classes will help her complete her Spanish minor.

Rachael Taylor was featured in The Sunflower's 'Day in the Life' special issue. She says her nephew's early birth and seeing the passionate and genuine nurses who took care of him inspired her to pursue a career in nursing. Rachel's goal is to become a newborn intensive care unit nurse.

More than 185 Nursing, PT, PA and CSD students participated in the TeamSTEPPS Interprofessional event with KU School of Medicine, KU School of Pharmacy and 40 faculty facilitators. Everyone worked together to develop a plan-of-care for a patient that suffered a stroke and learned how to use effective communication tools.

Congratulations to the December 2017 graduating class! We are very proud of your accomplishments and can't wait to see you succeed in your careers!



Second semester student Devin Reese was awarded the prestigious DAISY in Training Award from the DAISY Foundation. Devin was nominated for his positive attitude, professional bedside manner and ability to foster meaningful patient-nurse relationships.



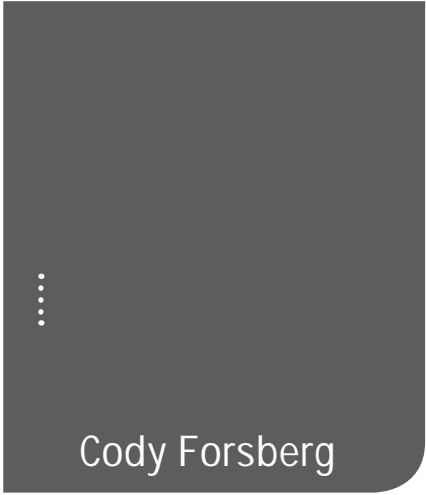
Alyssa Higgins is the recipient of the Forty & Eight scholarship, an organization of veterans of the United States armed forces. The title "40 & 8" comes from the box cars that were used to transport troops to the front in France. Each car had the emblem 40/8 stenciled on the sides, which meant that it could carry 40 men or 8 horses.



Wendy Dusenbury and students from the undergraduate pediatrics class teamed up with the United Way of the Plains and the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy to provide free flu vaccines on Sept. 23 and Oct. 21 at various clinics in Wichita. The clinics were targeted toward people who are unemployed, uninsured or unable to pay. The clinics gave students real-world experience interacting with patients while providing a much-needed service to the community.

As a thank you to the educator at Wesley, nursing students posed for a recreation of a historic photo from the 1940s on a staircase at Wesley hospital. The students in the original photo were celebrating the holiday season by singing Christmas carols.





When Cody Forsberg walked across

Staff Spotlight



Connie Wells

Connie Wells is the Executive Administrative Assistant for the School of Nursing and provides day-to-day support through a variety of tasks, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budget management, travel arrangements, new hire paperwork, office setups and more.

“One of the best things about my position is that I get to do so many different things,” says Connie. “A lot of my work helps solve student, faculty, staff and visitor questions, and that feels good.”

Connie was born in Coeyville, KS. She moved to Wichita when she was twelve years old and graduated from Heights High School. After graduation, Connie went to business college and continued on

to a vocational-technical school. Afterwards she worked for the Urban League, a portion of the United Way agency, for 25 years.

Having worked in a social service agency for so many years, Connie was ready for a change. She applied at Wichita State in December 1999 and began her new position as Senior Administrative Assistant in January 2000.

Connie had no idea how being on a university campus would change her; but the hustle and bustle and new faces of the eager students gave her an idea. In spring 2011, she enrolled in classes at WSU. She began by taking a three credit-hour class, which led to enrolling in six credit hours, and soon afterwards nine credit hours. Connie knew she was pushing her limits, but it was working and she enjoyed being a student. She began taking online courses, which suited her busy schedule as a full-time employee, wife, mother and grandmother. In spring 2015, Connie graduated with her associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“Being on this campus is different than business college and vo-tech, which was made up of mostly women

and had a completely different feel,” she says. “At WSU there are many young people eager to learn, which is an inspiration and makes you feel young at heart.”

With retirement on the horizon, Connie plans to graduate in the near future with her Bachelors of General Studies in Women’s Studies and Religion. Her goal is to retire and graduate at the same time.

Connie enjoys her job and the people she works with. She says everyone is independent, but can still easily work together to get things done. Her position has allowed her to gain new skills in Purchasing and other areas. She has also gained a deeper understanding of the College of Health Professions and other colleges across campus. She says that things are constantly changing and you have to be optimistic.

“Wichita State is a great school. I like the pride and dedication people have here.”

In her spare time, Connie spends time with her husband, children and grandchildren. She also enjoys going to the movies, eating out and is active in her church.



Alumni Spotlight



Linda Bayless

School of Nursing graduate Linda Bayless spent 13 days in Puerto Rico providing medical aid after Hurricane Maria caused widespread destruction on the island.

Linda, an advanced practice registered nurse, was part of a group of volunteer medical professionals who were stationed at a makeshift hospital in Manati, a disaster-stricken area near San Juan. They worked with several disaster relief organizations to provide free care and prescription medicine to residents affected by the hurricane.

The hospital had an emergency area where they treated patients with respiratory issues, lacerations, foreign object removal, head injuries and more. Part of the hospital was used for the general population that the local hospitals were unable to accept.

Linda and the volunteers worked long,

stressful days and slept in corridors on cots. They faced a number of challenges including a poor water supply, sanitation issues, substandard food, exhaustion, limited medical supplies, no electricity and unreliable cell phone service.

Although the conditions were tough, Linda says they were nothing compared to what many Puerto Ricans faced. She says many elderly people live alone and lost everything, including their medication. Most people have no running water, electricity, transportation or supplies.

“Even though things were rough, for me the situation was temporary, and I would be getting on an airplane to fly home soon,” she says. “But for so many people there is no end in sight and they have nowhere to go.”

Linda and her team provided care to 1,600 people, with over 50 patients receiving 24-hour care in the facility. They treated a range of people, from a 6-week-old baby to a 102-year-old.

She says despite the unfortunate circumstances, patients were appreciative of the help.

“The people of Puerto Rico are so kind and grateful,” Linda says. “Even when we had to turn people away, they still

smiled and said thank you.”

This was Linda’s first experience serving as a disaster relief nurse. She says the experience was difficult, but her strong faith helped her get through. Sadness, anger and other emotions from the trip have stuck with her after returning home, but the experience also revived her faith in humanity. She was particularly inspired by a fellow volunteer nurse who was recently diagnosed with terminal breast cancer and wanted to do one last service while she was still able.

She says she would be open to serving again, particularly if it was for a local disaster.

“I’m glad that I was able to do my part to help people affected by this storm,” she says.

Linda works in the Emergency Department at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita. Before that, she worked at Via Christi St. Francis hospital for over 30 years.

Linda received her master’s degree in family practice and will be starting the Doctor of Nursing Practice program in January. In her spare time, she enjoys watching movies, reading and spending time with her family and cats.



Alumni - we want to hear from you! There are many reasons to stay in touch and be involved. Keep your lifelong relationship with Wichita State and the School of Nursing a strong one. We encourage you to:

Stay Connected - We want to make sure you receive the latest news, invitations to events, department updates and more.

Share Your Story - Send your achievements and news to chpcontent@wichita.edu for promotion on social media and in upcoming newsletters.

Attend Events - We encourage you to attend our events.

