

## College of Nursing *Highlights*

- Dr. Tarsha Jones was honored as the College of Nursing's Nurse of the Year at the Palm Healthcare Foundation's Heart of Gold Reception. Two other CON alumni, Jean-Endy Pierre-Louis and Yaima Morgan, received this honor from their organizations.
- Drs. Lisa Wiese and Andra Opalinski received the Daisy Awards for teaching excellence.
- Dr. Shirley Gordon was named the Outstanding School Nurse Educator of the Year by the National Association of School Nurses and the Consortium of School Nurse Educators. She also received the Barnes and Noble Community Service Award at FAU's Employee Recognition event.
- Drs. Beth King was recognized at FAU's Honors Convocation with the Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching Award, and Dr. Rhonda Goodman received the inaugural Presidential Award for Engaged Faculty. Student Christopher Demezier was the CON's Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, and Andrea Diaz-Holgun received FAU's Distinguished Student Award.
- The College of Nursing held its 3rd annual Lamplighter reception, bringing together donors with the students they support through scholarships. Over the past three years, there has been more than \$80,000 in scholarships provided to more than 160 freshman students.



### Researcher Develops First Tool to Accurately Measure Communication in Couples Affected by Dementia

For people with dementia, communicating needs and emotions, and interacting with others becomes increasingly difficult as communication deteriorates with the progression of dementia.

This can cause considerable stress for the person with dementia and family members, especially spouse caregivers.

College of Nursing Professor Christine Williams, DNSC, conducted the first study to examine and measure communication outcomes between caregivers and their spouses with dementia. She found that "practice makes perfect" with a 10-week communication-enhancement intervention and a tool that can accurately measure couples' communications.

"Using this new tool, I was able to confirm that the intervention I used actually worked and the communication improved between the spouse with dementia and the caregiver over time," said Dr. Williams. "As the disease progresses, couples don't have to lose everything especially if they are engaged, if they can still relate to one another and if they focus on the here and now."

For more information on Dr. Williams' research, click [here](#). Results from the study are published in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*.



### FAU Students and Faculty Participate in Foot Care Event for Homeless Individuals

Among the many health issues that negatively impact the homeless population, issues related to their feet are ever present and often left untreated resulting in significant health risks and decreased quality of life. Forty College of Nursing students provided free foot care to homeless persons at Christ Church Pompano Campus.

During this clinic, 187 individuals experiencing homelessness received basic or advanced foot care, as well as a new pair of shoes and socks. Many also received hot meals, hot showers and participated in a study assessing therapeutic relationships between homeless individuals and community health workers.

Joining these students were College of Nursing faculty, including Drs. Opalinski, Dyess, D'Avolio, Palma and Donna Linnette, as well as Dr. Nancy Stein from the Department of Anthropology.

Caring is a Science, *and we study it.* Caring is an Art, *and we practice.* Caring is a Way of Being, *and we live it.*



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