

# Project BEYOND-2

Newsletter Fall 2021

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## A Word from the Dean

As my retirement date approaches, I just wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on the amazing contributions that Project BEYOND-2 has made, is making, and will continue to make. The research has been clear that we need a diverse workforce to more closely mirror the population we serve and really begin to impact health care disparities. It was more than 15 years ago that the College of Nursing began to make a renewed, focused commitment to responding to the ethical mandate we deeply felt, to increase the diversity of our student body. To that end, I reached out to Dr. Leona VandeVusse and Gloria Rhone to begin to look for grants and ideas to do just that. Our first grant was from the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), a very small grant to begin to start Future Nurses Clubs in area high schools. We soon learned that we needed to make a much bigger impact. Dr. VandeVusse was instrumental, as she is a grant writer extraordinaire. We wrote the first large grant to HRSA back in 2006 and began Project BEYOND-1 in 2007 after receiving a million dollar award. We looked for the right person to lead this effort, and we interviewed several people, that I knew were not the right fit, and then we found Terrie Garcia, now Dr. Garcia! The rest as we say is history. We started small, with just a handful of students and today we have well over 100 students participating in Project BEYOND-2. **(Continued on page 3)**



Pictured from left to right: Tana Karenke, BSN, RN, Amber Johnson, BSN, RN, Dean Janet Krejci, PhD, RN, Terrie Garcia, PhD, RN, Carmella Castro, BSN, RN



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# Peer Mentoring Circles

This semester brought the much anticipated return of in-person Peer Mentoring Circle (PMC) gatherings. PMCs are established with junior and senior PB-2 participants who serve as mentors for freshmen and sophomore PB-2 participants. The six peer mentoring groups met twice in a structured setting and independently with the goals of creating community and new bonds.



## Peer Mentoring Meet & Greet

At the start of the fall semester Meet & Greet session, students met the members of their peer mentoring circle for the first time to develop group names and play ice breakers. The six group names are: *Life Savers, Terrific Two's, Nightingals, Spicy Nurses, Mealswipe Central, and the Golden Nurses.*



## Holiday Bonding

*"As Thanksgiving break was upon us, the Nightingals' mentors (Kyla, Sam, and Gina) decided to host a Friendsgiving dinner. The food consisted of Sal's Pizza and garlic knots, chips, bread loaves, fruit punch, and delicious desserts! The night was full of fun stories and laughs - and we plan on doing it again next semester." Kyla Navarro (senior peer mentor)*



## Holiday Arts and Crafts Session

During this structured mentoring session, students worked with their groups to create a holiday themed painting. The large group then voted for their favorite artwork and all pieces were displayed in the Student Services suite within the College of Nursing. Pictured on the left are the winners, the Golden Nurses!

# Eldercare Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant Update

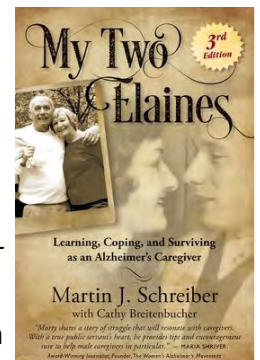
Marquette's College of Nursing is in its final year of a 2-year Eldercare Enhancement (E2) program intended to increase and diversify the number of nurses who have the skills necessary to care for elderly patients. This year 8 nursing students from Project Beyond-2 continued in the program and received eldercare scholarships and stipends totaling more than \$150,000. The E2 program is financially supported with a federal grant from HRSA (grant D19HP39728).



This fall semester E2 students participated in a special home-based primary care clinical rotation with the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. Students accompanied healthcare teams into the homes of elderly veterans and assisted with health assessments, treatments, and care planning. Maryann Jimenez said, *"I really liked working in the home-care setting. It was a lot different than anything I've seen so far. It was really interesting and I appreciated the experience."*

Twice a month E2 students also participated in online group meetings which addressed such topics as elder abuse, mental illness, quality geriatric care, family caregiving, and the Wisconsin Star Method. Each student had the opportunity to present two case studies to the group. Ifunanya Nwanebo described the value as: *"I liked doing the two case presentations of our patients because it was more hands-on. I asked more questions of my patients because I was curious and because I knew it would be helpful for the presentation."*

Also this semester, former Wisconsin Governor Martin J. Schreiber shared his experiences with caring for his wife Elaine, who is living with Alzheimer's disease. Students were able to receive a free autographed copy of his best-selling book and discuss it with him. The event was featured on *Marquette Now Television*; a link to the news report can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KqtqwDlaSk>



## ***A Word from the Dean (continued from page 1)***

The difference this endeavor has made can not be adequately captured in words. The literally hundreds, if not over a thousand Marquette Nurses that are making a difference, not only because of their Marquette education, but because of the support, collegiality, friendship and sense of belonging they found in Project BEYOND-2 over the last 15 years! We have alum from Project BEYOND-2 who have gone on to Advanced Practice Degrees, Doctoral degrees, teaching roles, and yes even mentors today working for Project BEYOND-2! We have come a long way but have more progress to make. We have our Office of Student Services working closely with all of the Project BEYOND-2 staff, including tutors, mentors, and mentor/advisor specialists; we are taking all the knowledge, wisdom, and success we have learned over the years to continue to make the college of nursing a "home" where all students experience an inclusive environment, that frees students from feeling like an "other" to learn as much as they can and become the best "Marquette Nurse" they can be.

During my time away from Marquette from 2009-2016, Dr. VandeVusse and Dr. Garcia built a great team, continued to receive funding and kept raising the bar to support our future Marquette Nurses! I know that the leaders who follow me will have a great opportunity to champion these efforts even further, because we have these wonderful passionate leaders, such a strong foundation of wisdom, a tradition for doing the right thing, a faculty and staff with the deepest commitment, and a college with a steely-eyed resolve to create the diverse nursing workforce we so clearly need. I will be cheering you on from the sidelines with a feeling of gratitude that I got to witness so many here truly *"being the difference"*. Thank you for the opportunity to walk this journey with you!



# Student Awards & Accolades

## Froedtert Scholars

Four Project BEYOND-2 junior students were selected as Froedtert Scholars, a program that will help establish skills and relationships that can foster early job placement and improve readiness to practice. These selected students will begin their clinical rotation at Froedtert Hospital during the upcoming spring semester, complete a 10-12 week paid internship over summer, and return to Froedtert for senior year clinicals .

Sydney Chambliss

Maryann Jimenez

Elsa Sanchez

Jackie Corona

## 2021 Summer Research Program

Through the support of the Thomas J. Rolfs Family Foundation, twenty-nine Marquette students were able to participate in a paid undergraduate summer research study under the mentorship of Marquette's dedicated and talented faculty scholars. Four of these scholars were Project BEYOND-2 students! Below they describe their favorite part of their summer research.

**Name: Emily Ethington**  
**Mentor's Name: Dr. Abiola Keller**



*"My favorite part of the undergraduate summer research program was meeting and interacting with the Milwaukee community in various neighborhoods. I was able to hear the improvements they thought their neighborhood needed."*

**Name: Sydney Chambliss**  
**Mentor's Name: Dr. Dora Clayton-Jones**



*"My favorite and most memorable part of participating in the undergraduate program, was interacting with the young adults affected by sickle cell disease. Hearing their stories and the way sickle cell effects their everyday lives guided my research towards ideas for the sickle cell camp."*

**Name: Isabel Silvar**  
**Mentor's Name: Dr. Dora Clayton-Jones**



*"My favorite part of the program is that it allowed me to continue progressing the research I had already been doing with Dr. Clayton-Jones throughout the school year into the summer. This allowed me to carry through on projects without interruption and even start up new workshops and events."*

**Name: Kyla Navarro**  
**Mentor's Name: Dr. Joan Totka**



*"Undoubtedly, my favorite part during this program was attending my first nursing conference virtually. The 15th International Family Nursing Conference (IFNC15) was held from June 28th through July 2nd on the Airmet platform. Throughout the conference, nursing faculty from all around the world conducted various video/power presentations."*