



# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

## CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING

### College of Nursing *Highlights*

- Save the Date: Lamplighter Reception will be held March 15, at 4 p.m. in the College of Nursing atrium. There is still time to sponsor a freshman student with a [\\$500 Lamplighter scholarship](#).
- Register now for the [2018 Summer Academy](#) of the Anne Boykin Institute for the Advancement of Caring in Nursing, held June 13-15.
- Dean Marlaine Smith has agreed to remain at FAU's College of Nursing for an additional year. The dean's search will commence after the University names a new provost.
- Dr. Rose Sherman has been selected by the American Organization of Nurse Executives for their 2018 AONE Nurse Researcher award for the impact of her research and scholarly work on the development of nurse leaders.
- Dr. Ruth Tappen will receive the American College of Health Care Administrator's (ACHCA) 2018 Journalism Award for the Resident and Family Guide developed as part of the PCORI grant.
- Dr. Lisa Wiese was presented with a certificate of appreciation from Glades Diamond and Glades Pioneer Terrace for her service in the community and research.



### Innovative Couples' Intervention Significantly Helps People with Alzheimer's Communication

For couples with decades of shared memories, a partner's decline in the ability to communicate is one of the most frightening and frustrating consequences of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Impaired communication leads to misunderstandings, conflict, isolation, and loss of intimacy.

A first-of-its-kind study using a 10-week in-home intervention to support couples affected by dementia is showing that "practice does make perfect," both for the caregiver and care receiver, the person with dementia. CARE (Caring About Relationships and Emotions) was designed to increase facilitative communication in the caregiver and sociable communication in the care receiver.

The study, conducted by researchers in FAU's College of Nursing and published in the [International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry](#), showed that care receivers, who had moderate dementia, had statistically significant improvement in their social communication both verbally and non-verbally. They were more interested and engaged, maintained eye contact, responded to questions, stayed on topic, and even joked with and teased their partners. Caregivers' communication also showed a statistically significant improvement in their facilitative communication and a statistically significant decrease in their disabling communication.

"By teaching caregivers about their partners' ongoing needs for closeness, comfort, inclusion, love and respect, they can make a difference in how they perceive their spouses and how facilitative communication, both verbal and non-verbal, can contribute to their well-being," said Christine Williams, DNSc, principal investigator, professor and director of the Ph.D. in Nursing Program.

Participants in the study all attended the [Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center](#) operated by FAU's College of Nursing. To learn more about this study, click [here](#).



### FAU Students and Faculty Advocate at Florida Capitol

Twenty-five College of Nursing students and faculty recently traveled to Tallahassee to attend the Florida Nurses Association's Advocacy Days. They met with state legislators, including Rep. Emily Slosberg, Sen. Kevin Radar, and many others, to share information related to pending legislation affecting health and nursing. The students learned about the legislative process and are now using that knowledge to prepare for an upcoming Legislative Forum. The trip and forum were organized by FAU Student Nurses Association Legislative Chair Henry June.



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



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