Greetings alumni!

As the College of Nursing celebrates its Centennial throughout 2014, we want to share some of our terrific accomplishments and newest updates with you!

- In July, we received notice that the College of Nursing has received designation as a National League of Nursing (NLN) Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for 2014-2018! We will be honored during the NLN Banquet at the 2014 Education Summit in Phoenix, AZ on September 19.
- Our Total Health and Wellness Clinic at OSU East received the top award as a healthcare hero in the community outreach category at the Columbus Business First recognition breakfast. Mary Nash, our college’s Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs, Chief Nurse Executive, Health System Associate VP, Health Sciences CNO UH/Ross Hospitals also received the top award in the manager category.
- In July, our college received a new $1.125 million HRSA grant, spearheaded by Deb Steward (project director). The project, “Educating Nurse Practitioners and Graduate Health Professionals to Manage Chronic Conditions in Children using an Interprofessional Collaborative Model” is a joint effort with Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

As fall semester begins, we are thrilled with the tremendous growth the college has experienced in the past few years. Our student body has grown from 1,300 students in 2011 to 1,900 students! We have 532 students enrolled in our traditional BSN program and 326 RN to BSN students. Our total graduate enrollment has increased by 24 percent from last year with substantial increases in our graduate entry, traditional masters, PhD, DNP, and post-masters programs. We have recruited several new outstanding faculty and staff from across the country to provide our students with the highest quality of education and to generate cutting-edge research to guide evidence-based practice, including Dr. Sonia Duffy, who comes to us from the University of Michigan to serve as our new endowed Newton Professor. Dr. Duffy’s research focuses on cancer prevention and control, tobacco cessation, health behaviors, end-of-life issues, and quality of life. We are thrilled to make her a Buckeye! Our other newest tenure track faculty recruits include Dr. Judith Tate, who comes to us from the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Jenny Rowell, who just completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Health. Dr. Lizzie Fitzgerald from Bellarmine University and Dr. Carolyn Thomas Jones from the University of Alabama at Birmingham also have joined us as regular clinical faculty.

We enrolled our first cohorts in our new executive DNP track and our new master’s in clinical and pre-clinical research, our first interprofessional degree that we are spearheading in partnership with the colleges of medicine and pharmacy. Dr. Margie Neidecker, who has outstanding expertise in clinical research, is our first director of the new clinical research program.

Due to this growth, the college has outgrown Newton Hall! We are at capacity, so we are now going to occupy a floor in Lincoln Tower, the only available space at the university. We hope to have the space renovated to suit our needs by the spring of 2015.

After 2 and 1/2 years of outstanding work, Usha Menon decided to leave her role as vice dean of the college on July 1 to devote more of her time to pursue her research and global health passions. I am delighted to announce that Usha will be our first Centennial Professor of Nursing and director of our PhD program. Margaret Graham, PhD, FNP, PNP, FAANP, FAAN has transitioned from her role as associate dean for advanced practice and community partnerships to be the college’s new vice dean. I am also pleased to inform you that
Candy Rinehart, DNP, FNP, ADM-BC has assumed the position of executive director of advanced practice and community partnerships. We are thrilled to have these wonderful leaders at our college!

On September 5, I am excited to share that we also are hosting Dr. Tom Frieden, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Senator Sherrod Brown for a briefing about all that our college and university has accomplished to advance the Department of Health and Human Services’ Million Hearts initiative. This is wonderful national recognition of all of our terrific Million Hearts efforts in cardiovascular disease risk reduction, which resulted in the CDC director’s office reaching out to our college to schedule this briefing.

As alumni, I hope you will take advantage of our educational programs and reconnect with your alma mater at homecoming on October 17-19, 2014. I also hope that you tune in on a regular basis to our podcast series, Viewpoints of Innovative Healthcare Leaders, where I interview some of this country’s greatest thought leaders in health and healthcare.

We truly are showing the world that dreams become reality here at our awesome CON. We so look forward to seeing you soon. Go Bucks!

Fond regards,