Community engagement guides our journey toward a holistic, lifespan approach to health care. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) collaborates with clinical and community partners on campus, in greater Burlington and around the world. Since 2009, the College has doubled its clinical and service-learning offerings and added study abroad programs to help students advance their skills, develop cultural competency and gain global perspective. We work closely with colleagues at the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) and University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC), local health care practitioners, sports clubs, senior residence homes and community allies.

Our collaborations include:
- Interdisciplinary Clinical Simulation Laboratory with LCOM and UVMMC
- Joint appointments, collaborative research and professional development with UVMMC
- Programs with Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families
- Faculty mentorship through the Vermont Center for Immunology and Infectious Disease, Vermont Center on Behavior and Health and Vermont Cancer Center
- UVM Integrative Health with the Laura Mann Center for Integrative Healthcare, LCOM and UVMMC
- Interprofessional education with LCOM, UVMMC, UVM departments of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Education and Social Work, and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

CNHS offers:
- Primary care services through Appletree Bay Primary Care, our nurse practitioner-run faculty practice
- An interdisciplinary Doctorate in Human Performance and Rehabilitation degree
- An undergraduate Certificate in Integrative Healthcare
- Endowed Laura Mann Integrative Healthcare lecture series, practitioner forum and network
- Speech, language and hearing services through the Eleanor M. Luse Center

Since 2009, $4.5M raised for student support; $4M raised for faculty support; $6.5M raised for program support; $5.5M in grants for health sciences research; $10M in grants for interdisciplinary training supporting children with neurodevelopmental disabilities.
Innovative

WORK THAT HELPS THE WORLD

Here, teaching and scholarship go hand in glove. Engaged faculty influence each other to create powerful synergy and share new technologies, developments and discoveries that catalyze students’ learning.

College research advances health care in areas including health promotion, injury prevention, immunology, cognitive function, successful aging, genomics of disease and patient-centered care. Our faculty have interdisciplinary research connections with faculty in engineering, nutrition, psychiatry, psychology, education and medicine.

To foster these efforts, Dean Prelock created awards that provide funding for teaching and research excellence and graduate and undergraduate student research and instituted the annual Zeigler Research Forum to showcase research findings.

Students navigate real-world experiences at UVM Medical Center and in the Clinical Simulation Laboratory, where high-tech, interdisciplinary training and testing take place. In the Eleanor M. Luse Center for Communication, students apply skills in hearing, voice, speech and language therapy. Students engage in patient care at AppleTree Bay Primary Care, a nurse practitioner-led, integrative health care practice.

Our faculty and students partner with colleagues in the Larner College of Medicine and UVM Medical Center to integrate allopathic methods of medical care with complimentary and alternative medicine approaches to improve population health, enhance patient experience, reduce costs and decrease workforce burnout. We are developing a new certificate in Integrative Health Coaching to support health care providers in encouraging patients’ healthy behaviors and attitudes.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

SUGAR STORES
Eyal Amiel, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Biomedical and Health Sciences

A surprising new discovery shows how sugar metabolism regulates immune response. This may lead to targeted treatments for patients with infections, cancer, or autoimmune diseases. The research, led by Dr. Amiel, adds an important missing piece to the puzzle of how metabolism helps fight disease. With additional funds from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Amiel’s team continues to explore metabolic access to sugar in the context of vaccines.

CONVERSATION TRACKING
Tiffany Hutchins, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders

A study led by Dr. Hutchins was the first of its kind to use eye-tracker technology and Skype to monitor eye movement during an interactive conversation. The study revealed that children with autism spectrum disorder fixate longer on a speaker’s mouth than eyes when the conversation turns emotional. The results are affecting the way speech therapists treat the estimated 1 in 59 children nationally who live with this developmental disability.

THE POWER OF PLAY
Yang Bai, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Rehabilitation and Movement Science

A study led by Dr. Bai found that the National Football League (NFL) Foundation’s NFL PLAY 60 initiative to tackle childhood obesity significantly improved aerobic capacity and body mass index among children who participated. Following Dr. Bai’s study, the NFL provided additional funding for communities to implement the program, giving more young people the chance to be active and healthy.

FOND MEMORIES
Jason Garbarino, D.N.P., RN, CNL
Clinical Assistant Professor, Nursing

Dr. Garbarino received the UVM Outstanding New Service Learning Faculty Award for developing a course in which students engage in “reminiscence therapy” with residents in area senior facilities. The experiences gives students opportunities to practice communication skills, work interprofessionally and understand the diverse needs of an aging population.

“UNDER DEAN PRELOCK’S LEADERSHIP, UVM IS DEVELOPING A MODEL FOR HOW TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CARE TO PATIENTS. THIS BREAKS NEW GROUND IN EDUCATING AND DRAWING TOGETHER PRACTITIONERS AND SERVES AS A MODEL NATIONALLY FOR BRINGING WHOLE-PERSON, PATIENT-CENTERED INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CARE TO CHALLENGING AND UNDERSERVED PATIENT POPULATIONS.”
— BENJAMIN KLEGER, M.D., M.P.H.
National Director, Integrative Health Coordinating Center, Veterans Health Administration
In her first year as dean, Prelock initiated a College collaboration with the Larner College of Medicine and UVM Medical Center to establish an interdisciplinary clinical simulation laboratory. The “Sim Lab” opened in Rowell Building in 2011.

In 2017, the College Interprofessional Education (IPE) Leadership team, which included Dean Prelock, Department of Nursing Chair Rosemary Dale and UVMMC Chief Nursing Officer Kate FitzPatrick—appointed Nursing Professor Mary Val Palumbo as Director of Interprofessional Education.

That same year the College hosted more than 400 students, faculty and clinical educators from CNHS, Larner College of Medicine and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in a series of workshops to share ideas for preparing health sciences students for future team-based collaborative practice.

In 2018, Dean Prelock established the Student Interprofessional Education Leadership Committee to steer interprofessional education opportunities to health-related clubs on campus.

“THE SIM LAB PROVIDES A SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO PRACTICE COMMUNICATING WITH PHYSICIANS WHILE TAKING CARE OF A PATIENT. IT GAVE ME A SAFE SPACE TO PRACTICE MY NEW SKILLS AND FEEL CONFIDENT IN WHAT I WAS LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM. THESE SKILLS FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF MY NURSING CAREER AND HELPED PROPEL ME TO THE LEADER I AM TODAY AS MY UNIT’S CHARGE NURSE.”

— MORGAN (WEBB) SANDERS, NURSING ’13

“HAVING SUPPORT FROM THE TOP IS PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT. WE ARE CHANGING THE EDUCATIONAL CULTURE BY TEACHING WHAT CAN BE DONE AS A TEAM FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES. WE KNOW IN THE FUTURE WE’LL HAVE ADDITIONAL INTERPROFESSIONAL ROLES AND STUDENTS KNOW THEY WILL BE DEALING WITH ALL DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS IN THEIR CAREERS.”

— MARY VAL PALUMBO, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND DIRECTOR OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, UVM COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES
IN OUR UNCOMMON COMMUNITY

Central to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences mission is the goal to prepare members of our community to be globally responsible and engaged citizens who make the world a better place, understanding that, to be an institution of true academic excellence, we must consider the knowledge, skills and distinct experiences of all.

Under Dean Prelock’s leadership, the College continues to expand opportunities that facilitate understanding of diverse cultural contexts. Our Inclusive Excellence Plan includes faculty development, curricular innovation, funding for diversity recruitment and cultural competence assessment.

“DEAN PRELOCK IS AN INCREDIBLE LEADER WHO CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ACADEMIC AND PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS. SHE REMAINS A STEADFAST CHAMPION FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTEGRATIVE HEALTH, AND SHE LEADS INNOVATIVE WORK TO CREATE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT EMBRACE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION.”

— KATE FITZPATRICK, CHIEF NURSING OFFICER, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEDICAL CENTER, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC-PRACTICE INTEGRATION, COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

LEARNING AND WORKING ON A GLOBAL SCALE

Sensitivity to cultural diversity is vital in health care professions, where patient-provider relationships impact quality of care. Dean Prelock’s quest includes expanding global and domestic learning opportunities that promote cultural competence to serve all patients regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability or age.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences students study in Australia, Belize, Cuba, Iceland, Mexico, the Netherlands and Uganda, where they learn self-reliance, problem-solving and intercultural communication. Our students test and apply textbook concepts against real-world conditions and gain a global mindset to impact a much bigger picture.

“BELIZE GAVE ME A GOOD START IN LEARNING HOW TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR HEALTH. IT WAS A CULTURAL IMMERSION. PATIENT EDUCATION IS WHAT I DO EVERY DAY NOW. IT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO LOWER READMISSION RATES AND REINFORCE LIFESTYLE CHANGES.”

— HALEY KARR ’17, TELEMETRY NURSE, UVM MEDICAL CENTER

90% OF GRADUATES WHO STUDIED ABROAD REPORT THE EXPERIENCE IMPROVED THEIR INTERPERSONAL AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS


HIGHLIGHTS

2016

- MASTERS IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE BEGINS
- CNHS COMMITTEE ON INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE FORMS
- NEW FUNDS STIMULATE GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH
- THREE NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AID GRADUATE STUDENTS IN CSD, D.P.T. AND STUDENTS OF COLOR
- 2017
- INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORATE IN HUMAN FUNCTIONING AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE STARTS
- FIRST DIRECTOR OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION NAMED
- UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BEGINS
- HEALTH SCIENCES BACHELOR’S DEGREE ENROLLS FIRST CLASS
- UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INTEGRATIVE HEALTHCARE BEGINS

PHOTO: KRISTEN MACKIE, EXERCISE SCIENCE ’18

PHOTO: HALEY KARR, NURSING ’17

2016

2017

2016

2017
Scholarly productivity and impact guide our approach to achieving strategic objectives in the preparation of competent, highly-qualified health professionals.

Dean Prelock fosters faculty and staff excellence by supporting professional development, advancing diversity and inclusion goals and planning proactively for changes in resources. In her first year as dean, she established a research agenda including strategic recruitments, funding mechanisms and mentorship. The College consistently meets goals for research grant submissions, peer-reviewed publications and national exam pass rates.

Student satisfaction is a driving force in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Our graduates report:

- Strong connections among students in their class
- Satisfaction with the quality of instruction in their major and their clinical experience
- Feeling prepared to enter their professions

The College’s First-Year Experience program provides community, mentorship, and professional academic advising from day one. Our first-year seminar, NH 50: Applications to Health, brings all health sciences students together weekly to introduce interprofessional education and issues relevant to the health professions while building community and facilitating the transition to college. Additionally, “Links” peer mentors provide an essential source of support for first-year students as they adjust to college life.

“The proof is in our alumni”

**Where Our Graduates Go**

- Boston Medical Center
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- Duke University Hospital
- Hematologic Technologies
- John Hopkins Hospital
- The Mayo Clinic
- New York Rangers
- University of Vermont Medical Center
- U.S. Paralympic Ski Program
- Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports
- Vermont Department of Health
- Visiting Nurses Association
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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Path to Success

**CARRYING COMMITMENT FORWARD**

“UNDER PATTY’S LEADERSHIP, THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES HAS EXPANDED IN MANY CRITICAL AREAS. SHE HAS BROUGHT IN NEW AND NEEDED PROGRAMS, CREATED COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP POSSIBILITIES, AND ENERGIZED STAFF. HER ENTHUSIASM AND FORWARD-LOOKING APPROACH HAS GIVEN UVM EXTRA SHEEN.”

— BRIAN HARWOOD, COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

**90%**

FOUR-YEAR RETENTION RATE

**97%**

GRADUATES EMPLOYED OR CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION WITHIN 6 MONTHS

**100%**

GRADUATES SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOBS

Source: UVM Office of Institutional Research survey of 2017 graduates

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**100%**

NATIONAL EXAM PASS RATES FOR GRADUATES OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS, DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE.

Source: UVM Office of Institutional Research

**40%**

INCREASE IN GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

**47%**

INCREASE IN FACULTY

**37%**

INCREASE IN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

Source: UVM Office of Institutional Research

**$15+ MILLION**

RAISED BY CNHS FOR MOVE MOUNTAINS CAMPAIGN, SURPASSING $10.3 MILLION GOAL

Source: UVM Office of Institutional Research

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**2018**

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH COACHING CERTIFICATE PLANNING UNDERWAY

MASTERS DEGREES IN ATHLETIC TRAINING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WELLNESS ADVANCING

CNHS SURPASSES GOAL FOR MOVE MOUNTAINS CAMPAIGN 18 MONTHS EARLY AND PUSHES ON

**2019**

THREE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS IN NURSING AWARDED

DEAN PRELOCK’S 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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**37%**

INCREASE IN GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

**37%**

INCREASE IN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

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**2018 - 2019**

HIGHLIGHTS

**“10 BEST COLLEGES TO STUDY HEALTH PROFESSIONS.”**

— 2015 U.S. News and World Report

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LEARN MORE: (802) 656-3858, CNHS@UVM.EDU

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THREE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS IN NURSING AWARDED

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