Twenty years seems like a long time but it is a mere snapshot in the life of an evolving health college on the campus of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and its associated distant learning sites. It is so fun to reminisce and review some of the things we focused our efforts on during that period. Many of these are still in place, but certainly not in their original form. Others were appropriate for the time but then change happened.

As you look through the document, curriculum development was certainly a primary focus in 1995. We had eight accredited programs at that time with an expressed regional need for many more. We worked our way through one 10-year curriculum plan, followed by two five-year plans. That work has resulted in an expanded depth and breath of our offerings, concomitant student semester hour increases and graduation numbers.

With the program growth in the college, we had natural increases in numbers of faculty and staff. The building that once housed all of us (Nursing and Health Professions) morphed into also occupying the first floor of Smith Hall, followed by taking over half of the third floor in that same building, opening the Donald W. Reynolds Center for Health Sciences and finally using all floors in Smith. With the renovations we have made to the Nursing and Health Professions building and the continued upgrades to Smith Hall, we have three large buildings with state-of-the-art pieces that we side-by-side to support our didactic, laboratory, research and service delivery operations.

We found extramural funding, outside of grants, was necessary to support enhancements and activities in the college not covered by the Arkansas state budget. The college has worked to increase the number of student scholarships available and endowments to support faculty education, student international travel, staff continuing education, excellence funds, an annual grief seminar and more through the Arkansas State University Foundation and the Craighead County Community Foundation.

Private gifts have touched every program and department in our college. Without these “discretionary” funds, our operations would not be as impactful as they are today.

So many people over this time frame including students, faculty, staff and the clinical community, which encompasses our alumni, have influenced the direction and quality of our programs and services. Partnerships have been invaluable. It has been remarkable work that we should take time to celebrate over this “brief” 20-year period.

Cheers to all!

Susan Hanrahan, Dean
College of Nursing and Health Professions

Reflections from the Dean
Our MISSION is to provide quality education to students, graduates and health care providers in a variety of health disciplines. Recognising its unique position in the lower Mississippi Delta region, the college provides educational programs that are designed to promote lifelong learning based on the expressed needs of its varied constituencies. The college assesses the attainment of this mission in terms of the contributions its graduates make to health care in the Delta region and beyond.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions was established in 1982, after being an independent division (1968), Division of Nursing (1973), School of Nursing (1975) and College of Nursing (1979). NurseJournal.org ranked the School of Nursing #9 on America’s Best Nursing Schools & Colleges in 2015 in the eastern region of the United States. It was the highest ranked school in the state of Arkansas.

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

GRADUATE DEGREES

- Master of Communication Disorders (MCD)
- Master of Science in Health Science (MSHS)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Adult Health (CNS, Education, Administration)
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management (MS)
- Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management (MS)
- Occupational Therapy (OTD)
- Certification in Aging Studies
- Certificate in Health Care Emergency Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

- Clinical Laboratory Sciences (AAS, BS)
- Communication Disorders (BS)
- Nursing (ADN, BSN)
- Physical Therapy (AAS)
- Social Work (BSW)
- Nutritional Science (BS, Dietetics)
- Radiologic Science (BSR)
- Radiology (BSR)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography (BSRS)
- Nuclear Medicine (BSR)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (BSRS)
- Radiology Management (BSR)
- Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)
- Paramedic (Technical Certificate, AAS)
- Emergency Medical Technician - Certificate of Proficiency

More than 500 clinical sites contract with the college for experiences in a diverse array of settings.

GRADUATES:

In 1995, the college had eight accredited programs.
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

The college has continued to build on its associate and baccalaureate framework by adding numerous discipline-specific and needs-based undergraduate and graduate degrees, graduate certificates and entry level doctoral degrees. Off-campus programming continues to occur on our sister campuses in Mountain Home, Beebe and West Memphis. We have added a few degrees that are wholly online (RN to BSN and Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management programs). Our college houses state-of-the-art laboratories for those programs in addition to spaces for service delivery and research.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Changes in healthcare necessitate a team of individuals providing prevention, assessment, treatment and follow-up care. What better way to learn about teams than to participate in interdisciplinary opportunities while in school. The college provides an array of programs that captures interprofessional experiences through teaching, scholarship and service delivery. Examples include our Healthy-Ager Program, Diabetes Self-Management Program, Beck PRIDE Center for America’s Wounded Veterans and Hippotherapy (equine assisted) services.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

The world is ever changing and cultural opportunities broaden our students perspectives and views. The college supports “exposure and immersion” activities in our curriculum including a “student passport” to document these experiences. Activities on campus, selected movie discussions, events in the community and trips to places like Peru, China, Israel and London impact students in ways that are often immeasurable.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

We have seen an ever-growing number of these in our college. These student organizations have been found to enhance the academic, service and professional aspects of their future roles, including leadership development.

EDUCATION

Impacting tomorrow’s leaders

COLLEGE ADDITIONS

1997
Relocation of Communication Disorders to the College of Nursing and Health Professions

2003
Relocation of Social Work to the College of Nursing and Health Professions

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Arkansas State University Red Cross Club
BSW Student Organization
International Association of Emergency Managers
MSW Student Organization
National Student Speech Language Hearing Association
Physical Therapy Student Association
Student Association for Clinical Laboratory Professionals
Student Association of Black Social Workers
Student Association of Radiologic and Imaging Science
Student Association of Radiologic and Imaging Science - Dogmatic Medical Sonography
Student Association of Radiologic and Imaging Science - Radiation Therapy
Student Nurses Association
Student Nutrition and Dietetic Association
Student Occupational Therapy Association

PROFESSIONAL HONOR SOCIETIES

Alpha Eta (Allied Health)
Lambda Nu (Radiologic Sciences)
Phi Alpha (Social Work)
Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing)

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

10 available in 1994
27 available in 2015
PHOTOTHERAPY
An interdisciplinary team of researchers (Physical Therapy, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Radiology, and Nutritional Sciences) have joined together to form the A-State Phototherapy Institute. The Institute investigates the potential clinical applications for visible and near infrared light as treatment for disinfection, wound healing, neuropathies, joint degenerative conditions and pain.

ARKANSAS BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE LAB
A team of researchers, including undergraduates and graduate students, are studying connections within the brain. Currently, they are searching for connections that control the inhibition of the startle reflex. Another investigator is leading research into the normal development of the serotonin system in the gut. The Long-term goal is to study the effects of anti-depressants (SSRIs) on this development.

BALANCE
Studies have been done looking at the relationship between foot sensation loss and balance in persons with diabetes. Additionally, a study has been done looking at the relationship between hearing aid use and balance.

AUTISM
An interprofessional team of behaviorists, occupational therapists and neuroscientists are investigating the feasibility of a comprehensive intervention to improve emotional regulation in naturalistic environments for children ages 10-18 diagnosed with autism.

EXECUTIVE PROCESSING
A team of psychologists, neuroscientists and occupational therapists are investigating the effect of an executive coaching intervention to improve resilience during high-stress conditions in naturalistic settings.

STUDENT LEARNING
Many studies are being conducted on improving student learning/experiences. Various topics include student perceptions of a culminating clinical experience, using course exam grades as a predictor of licensure success, peer instruction and so forth.

CULTURE AND MINORITY POPULATIONS
Investigations on many aspects of diverse cultures, including work on disparities and select populations both nationally and internationally.

SCHOLARSHIP  Seeking evidence for practice

GRANT IMPACT
Title IV-E (Child welfare)
1993 - 2016 - $9,069,943
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Delta Health Education Partnership)
1996 - 2002 - $1,800,000
Holden Foundation (Eugene Remich memorial)
1999 - 2004, 2008 - $1,043,000
Kellogg Foundation/American Association of Medical Colleges (Health Professions Partnership Initiative)
1999 - 2002 - $387,082
Department of Agriculture - U.S. Rural Utilities Grant (Distance Learning & Telemedicine)
1999 - $590,000
Arkansas Geriatric Education Center (Subcontract)
2002 - 2016 - $630,000
Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (Building)
2007 - $14,508,342
Beck Family Foundation (Beck PRIDE)
2008 - $1,000,000
Department of Defense (Veterans)
2010 - 2016 - $1,450,000
SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER (ESTABLISHED 1974)
The center provides high-quality professional services to individuals of all ages with needs in communication and hearing improvement. The facility provides diagnostic and treatment services for disorders related to articulation, fluency, voice, hearing, swallowing, language and literacy.

CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS/FIELD SEMINARS (ESTABLISHED 1998)
A free, annual one-day program that addresses a current topic in the morning applicable to all health disciplines in the college (faculty, resident and clinical/field instructors) and afternoon sessions broken out specific to each discipline.

BILLY JOE AND BETTY ANN EMERSON GRIEF SEMINARS (ESTABLISHED 2005)
Annual seminar that is free to the participants through an endowment established through the Craighead County Community Foundation—Emerson Family Gift for Grief Education. National speakers with expertise in grief come to Jonesboro each year for a day of continuing education.

REGIONAL CENTER FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION (ESTABLISHED 2006)
Provides core, basic and advanced courses, education and training in natural disasters as well as biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear and explosive events. The center is also an authorized Farmedic provider.

BECK PRIDE CENTER FOR AMERICA’S WOUNDED VETERANS (ESTABLISHED 2007)
The mission of the award-winning center is to provide combat-wounded veterans with first-class educational programs and services, including education to access higher education, counseling, personal rehabilitation and advocacy. PRIDE stands for Personal Rehabilitation, Individual Development and Education.

A-STATE CARE (ESTABLISHED 2011)
A-State’s Community Action Reinforcing Empowerment program is located off campus in north Jonesboro. The site is a one-stop shop for residents of the community who need to be linked to social and economic services including mental health, medical, educational, social welfare and employment opportunity. The goal is to focus on issues that are becoming much more common in our communities, such as substance abuse, crime, health disparity and social capital inequity.

SERVICE
Delivering education/treatment to those who need it

PAST INITIATIVES
Adopt-a-School
Art in Radiography
A-State Virtual Memorial Hospital
Based on a Promise (breast cancer exhibit)
Breast Photo Essay
Community Health Fair
Continuing Education Series
Focus on Health (KASU radio)
Healing Art Exhibit
Health & Wellness Series
Health Camp
Health in Your Hands (ASU TV)
Heart Walk
Ladies Night Out
Online Journal of Delta Health
Sports Injury Clinic
Stuttering Treatment Center
Therapeutic Riding Center
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
College of
Nursing & Health Professions