

Pace Celebrates 40 Years of Health Care With Opening of New Center

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of its University Health Center (UHC), Pace University last Thursday opened a new and enlarged facility on its Pleasantville campus.

The first nurse-managed academic health care service on a university campus in the United States, UHC opened its doors at Pace in 1977. A novel concept at the time, the use of nurse practitioners is now common in primary care. UHC offers a wide range of primary health care services and its leading-edge care continues to be a model nationally and internationally.

The center, which moved from the Goldstein Fitness Center to the Paton House, is about 2,000 square feet with four patient exam rooms, a procedure room, larger reception area and a lab. More than 1,700 patients, including students, staff, faculty, alumni and their families are treated there each year.

Its nurse practitioners can treat most common illnesses, prescribe or refill medications, order lab and radiology tests and refer to speciality care. Considered in network to multiple health care insurance providers, UHC also acts as a clinical setting for nursing students and preceptorships.

"This new facility will allow us to see more patients in a more comfortable setting and we have already begun to see an increase in

patients," said Dr. Harriet R. Feldman, dean of Pace's College of Health Professions. "We are carrying on a great tradition of patient-centered healthcare in a new, more modern facility that will better serve our campus community."

In honor of the milestone, Feldman and Karen Martin, associate director, University Health Care, accepted a proclamation from the office of State Sen. Terrence Murphy.

The day's activities began with a conference "University Health Care at 40: Emerging Trends in Primary Care," which examined the evolution of the role of nurse

practitioner and emerging trends in health care. The conference included a panel of esteemed nurse practitioners who helped build and shape UHC throughout the years.

Established in 2010, the College of Health Professions at Pace University offers a broad range of programs at the bachelor, master, and doctoral levels. It is the college's goal to create innovative and complex programs that reflect the changing landscape of the health care system.

These programs are designed to prepare graduates for impactful careers in health care practice, health-related research, or

as educators, and equip graduates to work in health policy and global health fields. Students in clinical programs receive hands-on training in the College's Interprofessional Center for Health Care Simulation and have the opportunity to apply their developing skills in real-world settings at many of the regions' leading clinical facilities.

The college is currently comprised of several growing and important areas of study, which include nursing, physician assistant, communication sciences and disorders, and health science.