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IN THIS ISSUE: [ Sharing Expertise in Africa ] [ Doctor of Nursing Practice ] [ A Mobile Approach to Outreach ] [ Accelerating Learning ]

FALL 2008

# heartbeat

THE MAGAZINE  
of the  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
AND HEALTH STUDIES



The school's growing  
international programs  
serve as the passport to  
a world of learning

## Caring for the Global Community





## AMBITIOUS G

This year our school proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. As we reflect on a rich tradition of excellence and leadership, we also stand on the threshold of an exciting period of growth. Times have certainly changed since our school was established as a Department of Nursing in 1948. Given the profound nature of these changes, how do we define excellence in health care education today? By what measures do we assess our strengths and determine our strategic priorities? And how does all of this translate into the educational experiences we provide to our students?

As a nationally ranked research university, the University of Miami benchmarks against leading institutions on metrics ranging from NIH funding to graduation and retention rates. Many of these metrics form the basis for national rankings such as those of *U.S. News and World Report*, where the University of Miami currently ranks No. 51 among “America’s Best Colleges.” Our university, which is in the National Universities category, has moved up 15 spots in just the past six years. UM is also ranked on the Great Schools, Great Prices (National Universities) list. No other Florida institutions are ranked on this list.

As the only graduate nursing program in South Florida ranked in *U.S. News and World Report*’s top 100, our school has set itself on an equally swift course of success. Our graduates enjoy a 100 percent passing rate on the national certification exams for nurse anesthetist, family nurse practitioner, and acute care nurse practitioner. Our school’s passing rate on the NCLEX-RN exam in the third quarter of this year stands at 92.2 percent, the highest in South Florida and fully ten points above the state passing rate of 81.8 percent. At more than \$7 million, our school’s NIH funding is the highest in Florida and one of the highest among nursing schools nationwide.

What all of this means to our students is access to faculty who are leading nationally prominent research studies, camaraderie with fellow students who serve as mentors and role models, programs distinguished by clinically current, cutting-edge curricula, and opportunities to learn and grow in an environment that nurtures and supports academic success. An essential goal of the University of Miami is to prepare students to work and succeed anywhere in the world. Equally important, our university strives to prepare students for success not only in their first job but in their fifth and sixth jobs. At the School of Nursing and Health Studies, we remain confident that the knowledge and skills our students are learning today will provide them with a firm foundation for success for years to come.

I hope that you all take great pride in your school and our collective accomplishments. It’s never been a more exciting time to be a Miami Hurricane or an alumnus of the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Tina Shapiro Stoler, BSN ’82, MSN ’91, spent the first 23 years of her career working virtually around the corner from the University of Miami. She’s covered a lot of ground since then, both geographically and professionally.

Stoler built a solid career at Miami Children’s Hospital, managing responsibilities in perioperative family and staff education throughout the hospital. With longtime colleague Jeannette Diana-Zerpa, MSN ’93, she developed the first nurse-practitioner-managed nitrous oxide analgesia program in the nation, which inspired similar programs around the country.

Then Stoler fell in love with an international businessman, now her husband, and moved with him to South Africa. Though she had nearly a quarter century of professional experience, gaining permission to work there was a laborious 18-month process. “I discovered how difficult it can be to use your skills in a foreign nation,” she says. “So I urge nurses who are interested in working on a global level to do their homework first.”

After winning certification, Stoler became an instructor for first-year nursing students at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. “Though English is the official language, more than 20 languages are spoken, so my students couldn’t always understand me,” Stoler says. “And many of their health care practices are what we would consider alternative—from herbal therapies to witch doctor spells.”

Stoler initially encountered a seemingly impenetrable reserve among her students. They were, she recalls, skeptical of her motives and her qualifications—yet so subservient they would not meet her gaze. “So I took my time and maintained an open-door policy,” she says. “Gradually, they realized that I truly wanted to help them and knew what I was doing.”

Stoler went on to Netcare, a private health care and health education corporation in South Africa,

where she developed the organization’s first pediatric nursing course for nurses with associate degrees. “We had no books and, often, no electricity,” she says. Stoler again rose to the challenge,

even finding experts around the country to help her teach the course.

When her husband was transferred out of South Africa, Stoler had to leave before her students graduated. “They cried and begged me to stay—it was so touching,” she recalls. “Even those who worked in pediatrics for years were so appreciative for what they had learned.”

The couple’s new destination: Guyana, one of the world’s poorest countries. There, Stoler volunteered with the Clinton Foundation, working closely with government officials, health care leaders, and non-governmental organizations to implement early pediatric blood tests to fight HIV.

Stoler, whose husband currently works in Israel, recently returned to work at Miami Children’s and is pursuing a PhD in nursing at UM. She’s open to further adventures in the developing world.

“Working in developing nations gives you the opportunity to make such a huge difference in people’s lives,” she reflects. Despite the considerable challenges, she adds, “I’d do it all again in a heartbeat.”

School launches new doctoral nursing program

# Building Best Practice

The growing shortage of health care providers has created an urgent need for highly trained nurses who can lead the delivery of high-quality clinical care. To help meet that need, the

School of Nursing and Health Studies begins a new Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) program in January.

The DNP program will prepare expert nurse practitioners to develop and implement innovative, evidence-based practice interventions and health care systems, with a focus on reducing health care disparities. Equally important, the program will help the school address the national nursing shortage by increasing the number of clinical experts qualified to teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

“Our DNP program will educate advanced-practice nurses who can implement the science developed by PhD-prepared nurses and teach safe, clinically current practice to the next generation of nursing students,” says Dean Nena Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN.

“The DNP program builds on the school’s strong tradition of community service, cultural competency, and evidence-based research,” notes JoAnn Trybulski, PhD, RN, associate dean for master’s programs, who will oversee the program.

The DNP’s three-semester curriculum comprises 38 credits and offers three tracks—clinical practice, administration, and education—within a flexible, executive-education format.

According to Trybulski, the school’s varied clinical partners “offer unique opportunities for highly special-



JoAnne Trybulski (center, standing) discusses the new DNP program with faculty colleagues Rosina Cianelli, Joanna Sikkema, Joseph De Santis, Elaine Kauschinger, and Rosemary Hall.

ized, cutting-edge clinical practice.” Selected courses taught by faculty at the University’s School of Business Administration and School of Education are another distinctive feature. “Our DNP program is truly interdisciplinary,” Trybulski says. “It will provide graduates with a broad base of knowledge and a competitive edge.”

For more information, visit [miami.edu/sonhs/dnp](http://miami.edu/sonhs/dnp).

## DOCTORAL NURSING PROGRAMS: KEY DIFFERENCES

	DNP	PhD
<b>Program Objective</b>	Prepare nurses at the highest level of practice	Prepare nurse researchers
<b>Student Goals</b>	Career in clinical practice or service leadership, oriented toward improving care outcomes	Research career oriented toward development of new knowledge and productive scholarship
<b>Degree Requirement</b>	Capstone project demonstrating mastery of expert practice	Doctoral dissertation
<b>Graduate Career Paths</b>	Contributes to improvement in health care via direct service and policy change, and implementation of evidence-based practice	Contributes to and develops new knowledge and other scholarly products that provide the foundation for the advancement of nursing science
<b>Primary Work Settings</b>	Academic institutions, health care organizations, clinical programs	Academic institutions, government agencies

CURRICULUM ELECTIVES EVOLVE TO MEET SOCIETAL NEEDS

## COURSES OF ACTION

Addressing issues that range from the most sensitive aspects of sexual health to the complex needs of patients and families coping with cancer, the school’s curriculum is keeping pace with the challenges that will face tomorrow’s nurses.

A new course focusing on human sexuality, taught by faculty member Joseph De Santis, PhD, ARNP, ACRN, studies the topic via multidisciplinary theoretical perspectives and research. Students examine the complex relationships of the physiological,

psychological, cultural, gender, religious, historical, and political aspects of human sexuality.

According to De Santis, sexual health disparities of various vulnerable populations such as gays and lesbians, transgendered people, and those who have experienced sexual violence are a key theme. “The course focuses on vulnerable populations, health disparities, and sexual health,” he says. “It’s designed to help make students more comfortable with sexual issues and sexual history-taking.”

“Oncology is a dynamic, rapidly changing field,” says Patricia Manda



Collins, RN-BC, MSN, AOCN, CHPN, who has taught a popular oncology course at the school for the past several years. A nurse specialist for pain, oncology, and palliative care at South Miami Hospital, Collins relies on journal readings, guest experts, and interactive activities to help students build the skills that are essential to caring for people with cancer.

“Cancer spans all age groups and crosses all specialty areas,” Collins notes. “The nurse has a pivotal role in every phase of the disease, from prevention through palliative care.”

“Strong communication skills are essential to success in every aspect of nursing, from caring for patients to presenting at conferences,” she adds. “This is a course that applies to all nurses through all phases of their careers.”

## Investigating Urgent Questions

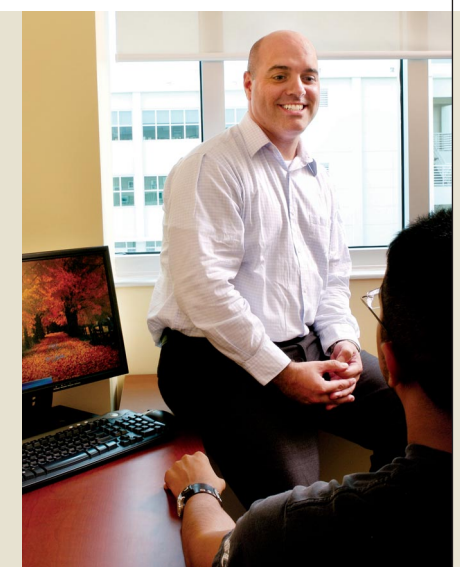
Why do Hispanic-American men engage in health-endangering behaviors, and how can they be encouraged to take steps toward better health? That’s the question that drives doctoral student James J. Weidel, MSN, RN.

Weidel (pictured at right) recently received a fellowship from the National Hispanic Science Network for his ongoing research into drug abuse among Hispanic-Americans. “Latin men are at risk for drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and domestic violence,” Weidel says. “I’m looking at cultural variables affecting drug and alcohol use in this population.”

Weidel was the lead author of an article published this July in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care* (JANAC), coauthored by faculty members Elias Provencio-Vasquez, PhD, NP, FAAN, FAANP, and Rosa Gonzalez-

Guarda, PhD, MPH, RN, as well as fellow doctoral student Susan D. Watson, BSN, RN. The study highlighted cultural issues associated with HIV risk in Hispanics.

Weidel has long been interested in community health and health disparities research. “I have many friends of Mexican heritage,” he says. “Listening to them talk about their experiences helped focus my interest in understanding the various ways that cultural issues can affect health status.”





**The school's international programs  
bring healing and hope to residents of  
distant regions, build powerful partnerships  
with caregivers and educators abroad,  
and transform the lives of  
participating students.**

# A JOURNEY of DISCOVERY

BY LESLIE STERNLIEB

Soothing a seriously ill child who lies bound to a ventilator in Santiago, Chile. Vaccinating a woman against a life-threatening disease in Tampico, Mexico. Visiting the bedside of an 82-year-old man calmly dying at his home in rural Thomonde, Haiti. For students taking part in one of the minimesters abroad offered by the School of Nursing and Health Studies, these and other intense experiences are all in an unforgettable day's work. Last year alone, 48 students traveled to Chile, Haiti, and, for the first time, Mexico. In the process, they gained a deepened appreciation of the art of nursing, an inspiring validation of their chosen profession, and—in many cases—a whole new vision of their potential career path, whether here at home or around the world. As Ivette Cardelli, who went to Tampico this summer, put it, "This experience broadened my thinking about what my future could be."



The school's vigorous and rapidly expanding minimester programs are a vibrant reflection of its strong emphasis on cultural competency—an urgent priority in South Florida, whose diverse demographics are a bellwether for the nation's future. "Miami is a dynamic city that pulses with global energy," says Dean Nilda Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN. "Given the range and complexity of issues that our graduates will face throughout their careers, exposure to international experiences is a vital component of the education that we provide."

"These learning experiences enable students to challenge their assumptions and to develop skills that can be used successfully in work settings anywhere in the world."

Peragallo, who is Chilean, launched the school's first minimester

program in 2005, using connections in her home country to fast-track a partnership between the nursing school and the Universidad Nacional Andres Bello in Santiago. Three years ago, the nursing school launched a Haiti minimester in coordination with the Miller School of Medicine and its highly regarded Haiti-based health initiative, Project Medishare. This summer, a group of nursing students traveled to Tampico, Mexico, in a new minimester made possible by the school's relationship with the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas.

During these journeys of discovery (which provide participants with three elective credits), students have the opportunity to hone classic nursing skills that were automated long ago in the U.S., such as checking blood pressure, counting IV drips, and

triaging patients without diagnostic equipment or blood labs. Though the relative lack of resources can be frustrating, the exposure to different health systems and nursing styles inspires new levels of ingenuity, camaraderie, and compassion.

"Nursing is a caring profession," says Johis Ortega, MSN '06, BSN '02, a PhD student and lecturer who directs the Latin American portion of the international program. "I want my students to feel more and care more for the patient."

Before the groups leave Miami, Ortega familiarizes students with the cultural differences they will encounter in Latin America, such as the common use of indigenous therapies. Translators are teamed with groups of students to help overcome language barriers.



## Santiago, Chile

### Resource Disparities, Resourceful Nurses

The three-week Chile minimester focuses on clinical observation and student-level participation in bedside nursing. Students practice at the private La Catolica and the public Sótero del Río hospitals and interact with Chilean nursing students.



They discover the dramatic disparity between the facilities available to the wealthy and the lack of resources in the region's public hospitals. For example, Adreana Bedoya-Leal, BSN '08, recalls seeing a nurse in the relatively poor public hospital draw blood from an HIV-positive patient—without gloving up. Blood draws are considered routine, and gloves are typically reserved for emergency use only.

Yet the students also find that Chilean health care is more holistic and prevention-oriented than that typically found in the U.S. Though Chilean nurses lack the supplies and technology U.S. nurses take for granted, "They know exactly what's going on," says Bedoya-Leal. "They know how to handle everything."

This year's Chile minimester included rotations at a hospital for



children with chronic respiratory ailments. "We learned that there are different kinds of care we can provide beyond medical interventions—such as listening to and being there for the patient," says Nadia Chung, BSN '08.

In the same spirit of global exchange that inspired the Santiago minimester, Chilean nursing students have visited UM for the past two summers to observe clinical practice at local hospitals and learn through hands-on simulations at the school. The experience of U.S. health care has fascinated them and even inspired one student, Natalia Villegas, to return to UM for her doctorate.

"I would like to improve nursing care in Chile through research, education, and prevention," says Villegas, a nurse midwife with a master's degree in nursing administration. "The school's research expertise in HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases is a perfect fit for my goals."

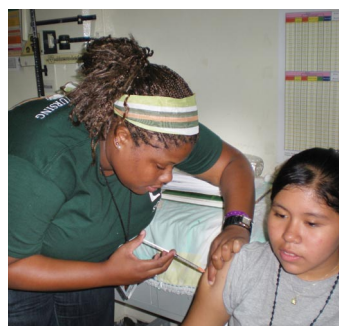
## Tampico, Mexico

### Lessons in Life and Death

The international program extended its reach this summer, when a group of 14 students embarked for Tampico, a major seaport on the gulf coast of Mexico. The students provided screen-

ings for young children, performed Pap smears, started IVs, checked blood sugar, and administered immunizations, many for the first time.

They also learned the lessons of life and death that are part of nursing. CRNA student Anthony Roig was particularly moved by the case of a woman who was bitten by a coral snake while asleep. Her family traveled four hours from her pueblo to the hospital, where she received seven doses of antivenin. She lingered for a month—most snakebite victims die within a few days—before succumbing; Roig was at her bedside when she died. "The venom won in the end," he says, "but she was a fighter."



Gilda Pamphile, a native of Haiti, had never been in an ICU before Mexico. "One patient who had been in a car accident was bleeding from his mouth and nose," she recalls. "The doctor said he needed an MRI, but it was too dangerous to move him to a hospital where he could get one. He died from a blood clot. I was shocked, but I managed to hold it together. And I was fascinated because the nurses and

doctors were moving so fast, yet were so quiet and efficient. Their teamwork was awesome. I soaked up the experience like a sponge."

The students were dismayed to discover that at one sparsely resourced hospital, medical equipment considered standard in U.S. hospitals was only available for rental, if at all—and at rates that were unaffordable for many patients. "Working in the com-



munity moved us to tears," says Ivette Cardelli, who is planning her own charity drive to support the health care and daily needs of the area's poorest families. Toward the end of their visit, the UM students made a special trip to a local Wal-Mart to purchase school supplies for local children. Cardelli and a group of Tampico alums are already planning to return to the area during spring break next year.

## Thomonde, Haiti

### Hope Amid Profound Poverty

"I've seen poverty in different places," says Laura Hlohinec, BSN '08, who traveled to Haiti as a nursing student last January, "but this was shocking." Haiti, a 90-minute flight from Miami and the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, has the highest child mortality rate in the hemisphere; its youngsters are plagued by chronic malnutrition and infectious diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis.

Yet, says Marie Chery, BSN, RN, director of the Haiti minimester and in-country director for Project Medishare, "Students are also inspired by the resilience, the optimism, and the resolve of the people who want to make tomorrow better."

Created 14 years ago by Barth Green, MD, and Arthur Fournier, MD, of the Miller School of Medicine to provide quality medical care to poor and isolated families, Project Medishare serves some 80,000 people in Haiti's Central Plateau. Nursing students joined the effort three years ago. Though living conditions in the Project Medishare compound are basic, warm camaraderie and a strong sense of mission overcome the lack of creature comforts. Working alongside staff, the students go door to door with community health agents to vaccinate children, staff rally posts (where

people converge at a church or school for medical services), dispense prenatal vitamins, and provide for children's nutritional needs at mobile clinics.

Valerie Mathurin, BSN '08, a pediatric ICU nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital who left her native Port-au-Prince for the U.S. when she was 10 years old, wanted to visit a part of her homeland she hadn't seen before. She vividly recalls seeing the crush of patients at a remote mobile clinic—many of whom crossed rough terrain to obtain care and were grateful for any assistance: "It got me thinking: 'Wow, it's the simple things that really matter.'"



## A World of Possibilities

The school's partnerships with academic institutions and hospitals throughout the hemisphere continue to expand, providing students with a growing array of international learning opportunities. "Many have never



been out of the country before," says faculty member Johis Ortega. "They grow tremendously, both personally and professionally." He notes that several students who would like to go cannot afford the travel expenses, which could be offset by philanthropic donations to fund scholarships.

Meanwhile, the students who have gone on a minimester abroad come back forever changed. Julie Megler, BSN '08, who went to Haiti last year, says that her experiences reinforced her growing interest in international public health. "What you

do with the experience is really important," she reflects. "You can build on it."

"I've become more optimistic about helping the world," says Laura Hlohinec, who now plans to pursue a career in public health. Though she fell in love with the people and rich culture of Haiti, she says, "I would be willing to go anywhere."

"The need can be overwhelming," admits Ivette Cardelli. "But you make a dent. You provide education, a bit



of extra time, you focus on the little things, and they grow and make a huge impact."

Since her experience in Tampico, Cardelli—who first considered becoming a women's health nurse practitioner—now hopes to open a community clinic and to also work in developing nations. In the journal she kept during her time in Mexico, she wrote: "My heart is finally where it belongs."



Alumna provides health services for area residents in need

## A Ministry of Care

Through the door they come, several a day, dozens a week. Most are Spanish-speaking workers; some are legal U.S. residents, others not. All are low-income and uninsured.

Within the Good Samaritan mobile clinic, these needy Miami-Dade residents receive compassionate health care services from Debora Nery, BSN '08, and her husband, Jose R. Nery, MD.

The Nerys, natives of Brazil who met in medical school, had long dreamed of practicing together, and the Good Samaritan is the fulfillment of that dream. Debora Nery trained and worked as a surgical pathologist before she and Jose moved to Miami, where he joined the Miller School of Medicine as a transplant surgeon. Once the couple's children were out of the nest (all three are now UM students), Debora decided to return to health care—this time on the nursing side. She completed the school's accelerated BSN program last May.

Through the Kendall Brazilian Church, of which they are founding members, the Nerys befriended a family that donated the funds to purchase and outfit the Good Samaritan. The clinic, which opened last September, includes two fully equipped examination rooms. It is parked alternate weeks outside the Wayside Baptist

Church, home of the Kendall Brazilian Church, and at the Jordan Commons Residential Community in Naranja, one of several villages developed by Habitat for Humanity for low-income residents.

In Naranja, the couple and a team of volunteers provide services from 4 to 10 p.m. to accommodate their patients' schedules, as most are farm workers. "They're very surprised to see the quality of the interior and how much equipment we have," Debora says.

Through its Pastoral Care Service, Baptist Health of South Florida has assigned South Miami Hospital



Debora Nery (above) has partnered with her husband Jose (below left) to provide community-based primary care in South Dade County.

and Homestead Hospital to provide diagnostic services such as clinical and surgical pathology, mammograms and other X-rays, ultrasounds, CAT scans, MRIs, and invasive procedures—as well as various specialized treatments—at no cost. Some specialists have donated services; the Nerys hope to find others, from disciplines such as gynecology, orthopaedics, and ophthalmology, to help meet patient needs.

"Hispanic patients often have conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure," Debora says. "Those who don't have health insurance or financial resources are vulnerable to serious complications. We take a very holistic approach to care—listening to our patients' concerns, then counseling and providing them with detailed information about their condition and how to manage it.

"Most of our patients come back regularly for follow-ups, and that's a good indicator of satisfaction," she adds. Though they cannot pay, the patients show their gratitude in multiple ways: "We get fresh greens, boxes of corn, bunches of flowers, homemade cakes.

"After practicing as a physician earlier in my career, I've enjoyed discovering the differences between nursing and medicine," Debora reflects. "Nursing addresses our patients' deepest needs. And the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies provided me with excellent preparation to become a resourceful health care provider."



YOUNG RESEARCHERS STUDY HEALTH DISPARITY ISSUES

## SUMMER OF SCHOLARSHIP

For many of us, summer means lounging in the sun. But the three individuals who took part in El Centro's first Summer Scholars program spent much of the season seeking to shed light on urgent health issues. The program matches students interested in health disparities research with eight-week projects that complement their particular areas of interest.

Emory Graham, a student in the MSN family nurse practitioner program, worked with faculty member and El Centro investigator Victoria Mitrani, PhD, to compile and evaluate retrospective chart reviews of HIV-positive pregnant women being cared for at the Prenatal Immunology (PRIM) Clinic at Jackson Memorial Hospital. The study sought to correlate variables such as ethnicity, age, and mental health issues with rates of medical adherence. "The experience will be very helpful in my role as a primary care provider," Graham (pictured above left with Mitrani) says.

Tainayah Thomas, BSN '08, worked on research and educational activities for Project Vida, which focuses on

Hispanic men at risk for domestic violence and substance abuse. She also helped combine research data between the project and its female-oriented counterpart, SEPA (Salud/Educacion/Prevencion y Autocuidado). "I learned that there's no one way to design a program—everyone has different needs," says Thomas, now pursuing a master's degree in community health at UCLA.

Patrick Williams, a native of Jamaica and a doctoral student in the School of Education, currently teaches AP Spanish in a Hialeah high school. During his scholarship, he helped create learning modules about healthy lifestyles for Hispanic youth and their families. "Latin food can be very high in fat, and many members of the Hispanic commu-

nity lack access to nutrition information as well as places to exercise inexpensively," he says.

Williams, who has also taught in South Korea, hopes to travel to China on a Fulbright scholarship. Of his commitment to continually immersing himself in different cultures, he says, "That's how you really understand someone."



## Pilot Studies Take Off

Two pilot studies designed to improve health among Hispanic-Americans—both led by young Miller School of Medicine faculty—were recently launched by El Centro.

Health care utilization and medication adherence are critical issues for HIV-positive Latinos, as they are often diagnosed at more advanced disease stages and are at greater risk for the development of AIDS and early death. The HISPACARE study examines the impact of health literacy on medication adherence among

HIV+ Hispanic adults. The study is led by Maria Lopez, PhD, an assistant research professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University's Miller School of Medicine.

While circumcision has been shown to reduce HIV infection risk, Hispanics—with the second highest rates of HIV infection in the U.S.—have low rates of circumcision. A study led by Jose Guillermo Castro, MD, an infectious disease specialist on the Miller School faculty, examines attitudes toward circumcision among



Hispanic couples who are expecting a baby. The study seeks to assist in the formulation of culturally appropriate interventions to promote circumcision as part of an HIV-prevention strategy in the Hispanic community.



Couple supports nursing scholarships through estate plans

# Giving from the Heart

Beatrice “Bea” and William Sahm have enjoyed a life rich with personal joys and professional accomplishments. The couple, who met as teenagers in New York City and recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary, achieved success in different fields—he as a longtime human resources manager for Berkey Photo, she as vice president of marketing for high-end Italian handbag designer RODO of Italy.

Since retiring and relocating to South Florida eight years ago, Bea and Bill have become actively involved with organizations and causes that have affected their lives as well as those of friends and family. Their estate plans include generous contributions to the Diabetes Research Institute, the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, and several divisions of the University of Miami, including the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Bill, who was born in the United States, moved with his family to Europe when he was six months old. He was a nine-year-old boarding student in Amsterdam when Hitler’s invasion of Holland forced him to flee. With two teenagers, Bill set out on a harrowing journey through Belgium and France. The trio crossed the Pyrenees on foot to Spain, took a train to Lisbon, then boarded the SS Exeter, the last American passenger-cargo ship out of Portugal. The ship was diverted by storm to Bermuda and ultimately escorted to New York City, where Bill was reunited with his family.

Bill served in the U.S. Army in Berlin after the war and attended Pace University on the GI Bill, taking night courses for seven years. A company-based scholarship enabled him to take graduate courses in human resources at New York University. “Education is very important, and the need for more nurses is crucial,” he says. “My own education was made possible by scholarship support. Combining our interest in education with support for nurses was a natural choice.”



“Life has afforded us many opportunities. It’s important to give back.”

A native New Yorker, Bea entered the handbag business during her studies at the City University of New York. “I was originally hired for a clerical job,” she recalls. “One day the sales representative called in sick. I was asked to help out in the showroom, and I never looked back!” Bea rose to senior administrative positions for several firms and was highly regarded in the industry. “My sister passed away without making estate plans,” she notes. “It became important for Bill and me to shape our legacy to benefit others.”

The couple’s support of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind was inspired by a lifelong friend who, though legally blind, holds degrees from Harvard University and the Wharton School of Business and served as an elected judge in New York. A diabetes survivor, Bea recognizes the need for diabetes research and quality nursing care. “We’ve been so inspired by the wonderful relationships we’ve developed through our philanthropy,” she says.

“Life has afforded us many opportunities,” reflects Bill. “It’s important to give back.”

NEW GRANT EXPANDS ACCESS TO ACCELERATED BSN PROGRAM

## QUICKENING THE PACE OF PROGRESS

The school’s efforts to address the nation’s severe nursing shortage received a major boost in the form of a \$300,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing program. The award provides scholarships of \$10,000 each to 30 students who enroll in UM’s Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program this year.

UM is one of 58 schools nationwide and just three in Florida to receive funding in the inaugural round of the program, administered by RWJF and the American Association of College of Nursing. The program targets nursing education issues such as the need to support students in accelerated nursing programs—the most efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse for adults who have completed a baccalaureate or graduate degree in another discipline. Launched in 2004, the University of Miami’s accelerated BSN program has already added more than 170 nurses to the local workforce.

The RWJF scholarship program also supports the school’s commitment to recruiting students from groups underrepresented in nursing or disadvantaged backgrounds—essential to meeting the nation’s health care needs and reducing health disparities that exist among many underserved populations. With a minority enrollment of over 60 percent, the School of Nursing and Health Studies has one of the nation’s most diverse student bodies.

“This generous grant is designed not only to expand program capacity but to increase diversity,” notes Rosemary Hall, PhD, RN, associate

dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor. “Thanks in large part to support like this, our accelerated BSN program is helping to change the face of nursing.”

As for the faces of students who have been helped by the scholarships, they’re full of smiles. “Between studying, taking care of my children, and working part time, this has greatly reduced my stress,” says Beryl Teboh, who plans to become a nurse anesthetist. “I’m so excited and grateful.”

“I’m eager to work in intensive care or cardiology nursing,” says Orlando Diaz Sr., a Cuban physician who arrived in the U.S. just a year ago and was overjoyed to learn he had received an RWJF scholarship. “This makes me feel much closer to my goal.”



Accelerated BSN students who have received RWJF scholarships include (from left) Beryl Teboh, Luke Stokes, Orlando Diaz Sr., David Lee Bridges Jr., and Jungsun Lee.

“I can now completely dedicate myself to my nursing studies,” exults Luke Stokes, who plans to practice nursing in a rural setting. “What a tremendous blessing!”

## Paving the Way FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

YOU CAN HELP support ongoing needs at the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies by purchasing a brick in the Palm Courtyard. A wonderful way to recognize personal and family milestones, bricks are sold at the \$250 level (4x8-inch bricks) and the \$500 level (8x8-inch bricks). Your engraved brick will become a permanent part of the Palm Courtyard.



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## ADDRESSING CRITICAL ISSUES

**R**afael Camejo, BSN '06, a critical care nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Medical Intensive Care Unit, has a clear calling for the nursing profession. Though he earned a biology degree from Florida International University and attended medical school in the West Indies, he soon realized that nursing, not medicine, was his true passion: "I wanted more patient contact," he says. Once he'd made that decision, the Miami native recalls, UM's nursing school—with its prestigious reputation and strong focus on research—was the natural choice.

Camejo, president-elect of the school's alumni association, is now in the acute care MSN program. He is drawn to the field for both its technical complexity and emotional challenges: "I like exploring psychosocial issues," he says. He also appreciates the autonomy provided by critical care. "When we offer doctors suggestions, they respect

our clinical expertise," he says. "We are full members of the team."

Camejo's proactive, team-oriented approach to nursing recently led him to Tallahassee. There, along with members of the Jackson Hospital nurses' union, he lobbied for issues affecting health care and caregivers. Among them was proposed legislation that would require hospitals to provide nurses with mechanical and physical support when lifting and transferring certain patients. "Back injuries are the number-one injury for nurses," Camejo notes.

The experience, which provided an opportunity to discover the power of nursing to change policy, reinforced Camejo's commitment to the field. "Nursing is a physically and mentally challenging profession," he reflects. "At times, it can be frustrating. But it's also a beautiful profession, because you have the power to make a difference."

When he's not taking care of others, Camejo enjoys spending time with his family and traveling. One of his favorite experiences during nursing school was a minimester exchange trip to Chile, which broadened his views on health care practice. "Although there were definite differences in our perspective and approach," he says, "it was great to see that the heart of nursing remains the same everywhere."



## CLASS NOTES

**Helene Silverman Wittner**, BSN '79, works as an operating room operations nurse and desk coordinator at a 550+ bed Level I trauma center at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, New Jersey.

**Louise G. Santanna**, BSN '81, MSN, MBA '91, works as a clinical implementation team leader at Virginia Hospital in Arlington, Virginia.

**Donna L. Rice**, BSN '86, MSN, CCNE, works as a professor at the Barry University Division of Nursing. In addition to lecturing and teaching via clinical and lab experiences, she is starting a simulation program for freshman and sophomore nursing students.

**Yvonne M. Hall**, BSN '86, MSN, CNS '88, PhD '99, is a licensed community nurse practitioner with drug prescription privileges. Her experience in research and teaching courses in human sexuality led her to teach criminal law, research, criminal justice, and investigations. She presently lives in Boston, Massachusetts, and is enrolled in the Harvard School of Public Health MPH program. In November 2008 she chaired two sections of the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology in St. Louis and presented a paper on women convicted of homicide from the 19th and 20th centuries forward. "In summary," she says, "stay with nursing!"

**Wisvline Labrousse**, BSN '88, PhD, ARNP, CS, has been a member of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine community since 1997. Previously she served as a family nurse practitioner and contributed to research in the areas of outpatient clinic care and case management for the adult population of sickle cell and

hemophilia patients. She also coordinated recruitment and activities for several multicenter research projects primarily funded by the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Presently she coordinates numerous research projects for women's health in an interdisciplinary setting.



**Audra Hutton Lopez**, BSN '90, MSN '93, ARNP, FNP-C, CNS, is nurse practitioner for the Liver Transplant Program at Broward General Medical Center. She is also co-chair of the APN International Transplant Nursing Society (ITNS). She recently spoke at the ITNS annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri, regarding evidence-based practice in transplant care. She writes, "I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 19 years and have three children."

**Jonathan Brown**, MSN '94, works as a nursing leadership consultant in Nanuet, New York. He was selected as a nominee for the 2007 distinguished Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) award by the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing.

**Christopher P. Weidlich**, BSN '94, MSN, is a major in the US Army Nurse Corps serving his second tour in Iraq with Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 as the commander of the 528th Medical Detachment, Combat Stress Control from Fort Bragg, N.C. He is working toward his psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner degree and has been married for 13 years to Robin Weidlich, who is

also a UM alum. They have four children: Josh, 6; Morgan, 4; Ashleigh, 3; and Lindsay, 1.

**Lemuel Anthony Dizon**, BSN '98, works as rehabilitation medicine and transitional care unit nurse for the US Department of Veterans Affairs at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

**Richard Rivera**, BSN '99, works as an associate nurse manager for Jackson Memorial Hospital, Ryder Trauma Center, 3A.

**Kathryn G. Sapanas**, PhD '99, CCRN, CNOR, has been nationally recognized for achievements in nursing informatics and was recently appointed to a two-year term as a member of the AONE Technology Task Force. She leads AONE workgroups on wireless networks and disaster informatics. Sapanas was appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Nursing Service, Nursing and Health Informatics Alliance, which develops the strategic direction for VA Nursing Informatics. She is also a member of the Technology Innovation Guiding Education Reform (T.I.G.E.R.) leadership collaborative and leader of the national workgroup that is developing nursing leadership informatics competencies.

**Celeste F. Sojet**, BSN '02, received her MSN degree in anesthesiology from FIU this December. She will be working as a nurse anesthetist for Sheridan Corporation at Memorial West Hospital, where she will also be a clinical instructor for future nurse anesthetists. She plans to pursue a doctoral degree and to teach future nurse anesthetists at the collegiate level. She writes, "I thank the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies for laying the foundation for an exciting and rewarding career!"

**Shannan Calhoon**, CNM, MSN '02, practices midwifery in a small rural community in northern California. She also teaches maternal-child health to LVN nursing students at the College of the Redwoods each summer. She writes, "Some of our patients come from two hours away. My husband, daughter, and I are blessed to be a part of our community."

**Carly Bobar**, BSN '04, ACLS, is a travel nurse in the Bay Area of California.

**Jeanette Reyes**, BSN '04, works as a trauma nurse at the Advocate Illinois Masonic in Chicago, Illinois.

**Tatiana Dominguez**, BSN '04, ARNP, received her MSN degree this summer. She writes, "I love my nursing career and am very excited with my new role as a nurse practitioner. Thank you, UM, for paving the road to success."

**Duane Cunningham**, BSN '04, and Carolina (Cubillos) Cunningham, BS '03, BSN '05, are proud to announce the birth of a "baby Hurricane"—David Alexander Cunningham, born September 8, 2008.

**Jacqueline Cereijo**, BSN '04, worked as a metabolic research nurse at the Diabetes Research Institute after graduation. She then became a neuro-oncology nurse coordinator at Sylvester Cancer Center, where she coordinated treatment, procedures, and care for brain tumor patients as well as caregiver workshops, conferences, and a brain tumor board. She received her MBA degree with a concentration in health administration from Nova Southeastern University and was promoted to nurse manager at the University of Miami Hospital Spine Clinic. She is currently enrolled in the MSN program at UM and writes, "I'm very proud to be a

nurse. Nursing has brought many personal and professional satisfactions to my life. I look forward to graduating from UM and being actively involved in the advancement of the nursing profession."

**Diana Christina Lopez**, BSN '05, received her MSN from the pediatric nurse practitioner program at Florida International University in 2008.

**Fiorella Speziani**, BSN '06, worked as a nurse for Baptist Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Room for two years after graduation. She notes, "I have moved back to UM research as a nurse project manager for the prestigious Miami Institute for Human Genomics at the Miller School of Medicine. I manage two NIH grants for genetic studies of Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) disease and Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP) disease."

**Amber Cotton**, BSN '07, works as a charge nurse for the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Cleveland Clinic Florida. "I have accomplished so much," she writes, "and I look forward to what the future holds for me."

**Brittany Hermann**, BSN '07, works in the oncology/hematology and bone marrow transplant units at Baptist Health of Northeast Florida's Wolfson Pediatric Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. She writes, "I absolutely love it here and love working with children. Each day I come to work I feel blessed to have such a great job. I am proud to have graduated from UM and to represent the orange and green!"

**Tiffany Vickers**, BSN '08, works in the heart and kidney unit at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, providing care for newborns to age 21. She writes, "Thank you for all of your support and for preparing me for my nursing career!"



## FACULTY NOTES

**Todd Ambrosia**, PhD, DNSc, MSN, FNP-BC, FACC, assistant professor; was the keynote speaker at the Symposium of Natural Therapies hosted by the National Taipei College of Nursing and sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan; he presented "Integrative Medicine – Clinical Applications in Pain Management." He was the primary speaker at the Taiwan Association of Nurse Practitioners Clinical Meeting and lectured regarding "Diagnosis and Management of Low Back and Shoulder Pain." He also lectured to advanced practice nursing students at the National Taipei College of Nursing regarding "Differential Diagnosis of Chest Pain." He received a tour of local schools of nursing, hospitals, and community health organizations in Taipei and has been asked to return for future conferences.

**Mary E. Asher**, MSN, RN, CPAN, instructor; participated in her eighth Operation Smile Mission this summer; volunteer-

ing as a recovery room nurse in Vijayawada, India. Ninety-six patients, mostly children, received surgical repairs of the cleft lip and palate. Asher has been a volunteer nurse with Operation Smile since 1999.

**Patricia Collins**, MSN, RN, lecturer; recently published "Clinical Excellence Through Evidence-Based Practice (CETEP Model)" in *Topics in Advanced Practice Nursing eJournal*.

**Joseph De Santis**, PhD, ARNP, ACRN, assistant professor; presented "Locating, recruiting and enrolling participants from vulnerable populations for HIV prevention research" at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care 21st Annual Conference in Tucson, AZ. Recent articles include: "The relationship of depressive symptoms, self esteem and sexual behaviors in a predominately Hispanic sample of men who have sex with men" in the *American Journal of Men's Health* and "Depressive symptoms, self-esteem and sexual behaviors in foreign-born and US-born Hispanic men who

have sex with men: Implications for HIV prevention" in *Hispanic Health Care International*.

**Ann-Lynn Denker**, PhD, RN, ARNP, was appointed to the Health Council of South Florida Ethics Committee.

**Maite Garrido**, MSN, FNP, instructor; has been named director of distance learning for the School of Nursing and Health Studies. She has developed a Blackboard platform for the school's faculty that holds resources for teaching courses online. This fall she conducted a workshop for faculty focusing on distance-learning resources.

**Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda**, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, assistant professor; recently presented "Project "DYVA (Drogas Y Violencia en Las Americas: Drugs and Violence in the Americas): Major Findings and Future Directions" at the National State of the Science

Congress on Nursing Research, The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science in Washington, D.C. She also presented "A framework for understanding HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and intimate partner violence as part of a syndemic impacting Hispanics in the U.S.: Implications for primary prevention interventions" at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care 21st Annual Conference in Tucson, AZ. She has published "Intimate partner violence, depression and resource availability among a community sample of Hispanic women" in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, and "HIV risks, substance abuse and intimate partner violence among Hispanic females and their intimate partners" in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*.

**Johis Ortega**, MSN, BSN, lecturer; recently gave a presentation on "The Role of Emergency Room Nurses in Patient Care" at an international conference in Tampico, Mexico.

**Linda Parker**, DSc, RD, research assistant professor; and **Jean Siegel**, PhD, MSN, RN, assistant professor; recently published an article on childhood obesity: "A collaborative approach to nutritional counseling of the over-

**Denise M. Korniewicz**, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and senior associate dean for research, has given several presentations nationally and internationally including:

"Keeping patients safe: Prevention of exogenous infections of surgical sites," a keynote address at the Surgical Infections Society of Europe 21st Annual Congress in Antalya, Turkey;

"Keeping patients safe through infection control methods" at the Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital in Ontario, Canada; "Faculty role in mentoring doctoral students" at The University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada; "Successful Approaches for Enhancing the Globalization of Evidence-Based Nursing" at the Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Convention in Ottawa, Canada; and "Environmental and Professional Hygiene Policy Forum" at George Mason University, School of Public Policy. She has also published several articles including:

"A national online survey on the effectiveness of clinical alarms" in the *American Journal of Critical Care* and "Effect of aloe-vera impregnated gloves on hand hygiene attitudes of healthcare workers" in *MedSurg Nursing*, for which she received the Academy for Medical Surgical Nursing Research for Practice Award.

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weight child" in the *Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing*.

**Nilda "Nena" Peragallo**, DrPH, RN, FAAN, dean and professor; presented the keynote speech at the 33rd Annual National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference in Boston on "Bridging the Gap in Health Disparities among Latinos". She was also invited to speak at the Congreso Internacional de Enfermeria, Unidos Por La Salud regarding "Desarrollo de un Programa de Investigacion Sobre VIH/SIDA" in Tampico, Mexico. She was an invited panelist at the United States Assistant Secretary of the Army Nursing Summit in Tacoma, Washington in July, and was also invited to speak at the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about "Current Challenges and Successes in HIV Prevention with Hispanics/Latinos" in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Kandycy M. Richards**, PhD, MSc, APN, assistant professor; received two intramural research awards: a General Research Support Award (GRSA) from the University of Miami Research Council to fund her study titled "Unraveling of a Symptom Cluster in Metastatic Breast Cancer"; and a James W. McLamore Award from the Provost's Summer Award program, to support her pilot study titled "Distress, Pain, Quality of Life and Immune Function in Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer". Her paper titled "The RAP-Ca Project: Improving Pain Assessment in Cancer Survivors Using the Richards Assessment of Pain Instrument" has also been accepted as a podium presentation at the 12th International Nursing Research Conference and 6th Biennial Joanna Briggs Colloquium in Cordoba, Spain.

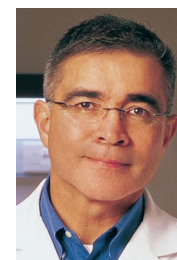
**Jeanne H. Siegel**, PhD, MSN, RN, assistant professor; recently

published two articles with Denise Korniewicz: "Learning to Glove Again" in *Outpatient Surgery Magazine* and "Feasibility & Hand Hygiene Compliance with the Use of a Pocket Hand Sanitizer" in *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*.

**Joanna D. Sikkema**, MSN, RN, ARNP, clinical instructor; was a speaker this summer at the WHO (World Congress of Cardiology) in Buenos Aires, where she presented a paper titled "The Role of the Nurse and Clinical Strategies for Reducing Heart Disease in the United States."

**Dorris N. Ugarriza**, PhD, ARNP, associate professor; was awarded a McLamore Award this summer for her study "The Postpartum Period: A Concept Analysis."

**Elias P. Vasquez**, PhD, FAAN, FAANP, associate professor; has given several national and international presentations, including: "Substance abuse, violence, and risky sexual behavior among Hispanics" at the Annual National Conference for the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care in Orlando, FL; "Promoting translational research in HIV prevention for Latinas: SEPA" at the



National State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research, The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science in Washington, DC; and "Breaking the silence: Latinas' experiences with substance abuse, intimate partner violence & risks for HIV" at the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing 18th International Nursing Research Congress in Vienna, Austria. He has published "A model program: Neonatal nurse practitioners providing community health care

## RECENT RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROJECTS

### Nilda Peragallo, Principal Investigator

- NCMHD Center for Culturally Tailored Hispanic Health Disparities (El Centro). National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health, \$1,397,291.
- Succeed, Florida-Crucial Professionals. Florida State Department of Education, \$150,000.
- An Innovative Interdisciplinary Nurse Anesthesia Program. Health Resources and Services Administration, \$457,353.
- Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships. Health Resources and Services Administration, \$9,739.
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students. Health Resources and Services Administration, \$85,528.
- Acute Care MSN Scholarships. Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation, \$30,000.
- El Centro Regional Seminar Series. National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health, \$225,000.

### Elias Vasquez, Principal Investigator

- PKG Proven HIV Behavioral Interventions. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, \$221,011.

### Nathaniel M. Apatov, Principal Investigator

- Expansion of Innovative and Culturally Diverse Nurse Anesthesia Program. Health Resources and Services Administration, \$296,385.

### Rosemary Hall, Principal Investigator

- New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, \$300,000.

### Denise Korniewicz, Principal Investigator

- Promoting Patient Safety with the VersaCare Bed System: A Quality Improvements Study. Hill-Rom, Inc., \$218,820.

for high risk infants" in *Neonatal Network*; "Cultural issues and HIV risk for Hispanics" in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*; and "Sex and drugs: High risk behaviors at circuit parties" in the *American Journal of Men's Health*.

**Alma Vega**, EdD, MSN, ARNP-C, clinical assistant professor; gave a presentation on "Learned Experiences of HIV Specialty Nurses:

Exploring and Identifying Successful Learning Strategies" at the Federal/ National

Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Ryan White Conference in Washington, D.C., in August.



## Send Us Your News

Share some news about yourself in a future issue of *Heartbeat* magazine.

### BY MAIL

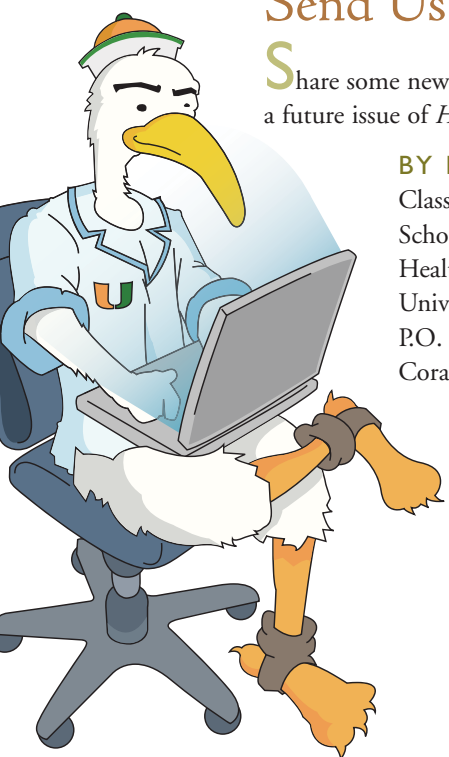
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alumni@miami.edu







## TEN QUESTIONS FOR MASTER'S STUDENT MARGARETT BELLEVUE, BSN '08

- 1. HOMETOWN:** Miami, Florida.
- 2. CURRENT POSITION:** Senior Nurse II in CTU at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 3. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UM?** Because of the University of Miami's standards. UM has an excellent reputation and a strong culture of setting a foundation for students so that they can achieve higher learning.
- 4. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NURSING?** Nursing is a profession that requires a personal vision from the nurse as a health care professional. As a caring and compassionate individual, I feel that nursing brings out the best qualities in me. Promoting quality health care has always been one of my professional goals.
- 5. WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE UM EXPERIENCES AND HOW HAVE THEY CHANGED YOU?** During the first weeks of school, I realized that we have really excellent teachers. The program was intense and challenging.

Fortunately, professors like Dr. Vasquez listened patiently to our concerns. They helped us as a group to adjust our professional and personal lives to deal with the challenges of the nursing program. In addition, while I was in school, I lost my mother. The support and understanding of my classmates and my teachers, especially Professor Jeannette Diana, helped me get through the semester and cope with this difficult time.

From these experiences, I discovered that hard

work is rewarding and that learning is a never-ending process. Objectives can be achieved with discipline, and one should never doubt one's power to accomplish anything. I was able to complete the nursing program because of hard work, professional discipline, and the help and support of my teachers and classmates.

- 6. ADVICE TO STUDENTS:** Never give up—and never be afraid to voice your concerns or ask for help whenever you feel overwhelmed in any situation. Your teachers are there not to see you fail, but to help you achieve your goals.
- 7. CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** I started out as an LPN and have worked up the ladder to become an RN with a bachelor's degree. This fall I started on my MSN.
- 8. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND HOBBIES:** I am an active member of the charismatic group of my church. I like to read and bake for my family and friends.
- 9. FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS:** I am currently enrolled in the school's new master's program for clinical education. When I graduate, I would love to join the great faculty of the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies. I hope I will be able to inspire many students just as I was inspired by my teachers.
- 10. YOUR PERSONAL NURSING MOTTO:** Always put the patient first.

## School Receives Special Recognition on 60th Anniversary

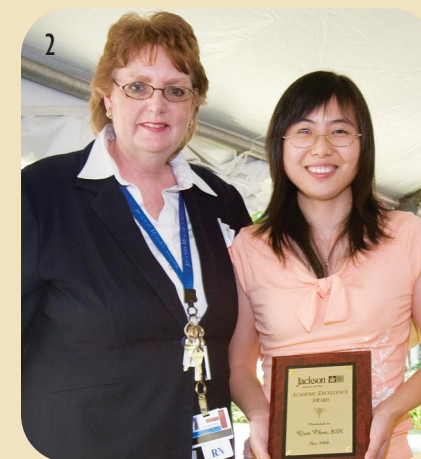
On its Diamond Anniversary, the School of Nursing and Health Studies was recognized by Miami-Dade County for its commitment to academic excellence and service to our society. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and the Board of County Commissioners declared October 7, 2008, as University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies 60th Anniversary Day.

"I would like to congratulate the University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Studies on their 60th anniversary of educating and excellence," said County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez as he made the presentation honoring the milestone to Dean Nilda Peragallo.



Dean Peragallo displays the proclamation plaque with (from left) master's student Rafael Camejo, RN, BSN '06; Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez; and Nilson Mejia, RN, BSN '06, MSN '07.

## GRADUATION GALLERY



1. Seniors pose for a portrait with Dean Peragallo and Sebastian at the 2008 Graduation Luncheon.
2. Kathryn Ewers, MEd, RN, BA, a nurse educator at Jackson Memorial Hospital, presents senior Qian Chen with the Jackson Health Systems Academic Excellence Award.
3. Alumnus Joan Abess, BSN '86, RN, congratulates faculty member Carole Roseau, MSN, for receiving the school's Clinical Excellence Award.
4. Faculty members Joseph De Santis, PhD, ARNP, ACRN, and Diego De Leon, MD, (center left and right) join Sebastian in congratulating nursing students (standing left to right) Erica Pardo, Valerie Perez, Ashley Gelinis, (seated left to right) Tiffany Vickers, Chiavani Case, Stephanie Estael.
5. Dean Peragallo presents Emily Stauffer and Lindsey Busscher with the School of Nursing and Health Studies Excellence in Leadership Award.
6. Dean Peragallo presents Jonathan Aleda with the School of Nursing and Health Studies Bachelor of Science in Health Science Academic Excellence Award.
7. UM Board of Trustees Chair Marta Weeks congratulates faculty member Mary McKay, MSN, ARNP, with the school's Faculty of the Year Award.