

Winter 2015

# heartbeat

University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies



## EXPANDING *the* NURSING EDUCATION SUPERHIGHWAY



JOB SATISFACTION • • • FILLING THE PRIMARY CARE GAP • • • ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# Simulation Saves Lives



**“The School of Nursing and Health Studies has a powerful vision for improving health care through advanced education and research. What we accomplish together will have widespread impact—now and for generations to come.”**

**– R. Kirk Landon**

In its most forward-thinking initiative yet, the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies will build the nation’s first education-based Simulation Hospital. This full-scale, five-story facility will be a community and global health care resource for eliminating patient safety breaches—before they even occur.

Here, health care students and professionals will work in teams with standardized patient actors and high-fidelity simulators presenting scenarios from birth to end-of-life care. They will be active participants in the true flow of activities in a clinical practice and hospital.

## Double Your Impact

The School of Nursing and Health Studies needs your help to take the Simulation Hospital from concept to construction. South Florida philanthropist R. Kirk Landon will match all leadership gifts of \$50,000 or more, up to \$1 million. Participating in the R. Kirk Landon Challenge doubles the impact of your gift and brings us closer to our goal of making health care safer and more affordable for all.



**MOMENTUM 2**  
THE BREAKTHROUGH CAMPAIGN FOR  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

To accept the R. Kirk Landon Challenge, or to learn more about Momentum2, contact 305-284-1892 or SONHS-Advancement@miami.edu.

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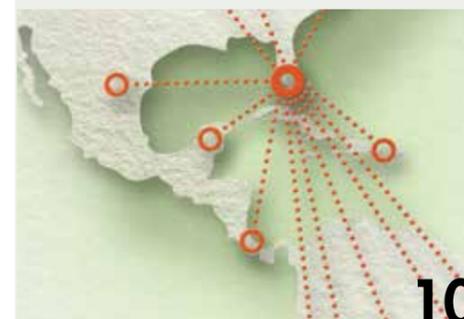
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### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the School of Nursing and Health Studies is to educate students and support faculty committed to excellence in nursing and health science. Through research, education, and practice, the school will create and disseminate health knowledge and prepare culturally competent leaders to provide safe service to our community, the nation, and the world.

## A Bold but Plausible Prophecy

“In our lifetimes we will see a nursing professional become president of the United States.”

With those words, University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala concluded her address at our school's annual Alumni Breakfast and Homecoming Celebration, receiving thunderous applause for the bold prediction. And when I think about the incredible achievements of our students and alumni, the prospect of a SONHS graduate in the Oval Office certainly becomes feasible.

This issue of *Heartbeat* magazine highlights some of those widespread SONHS accomplishments. Case in point is the first online nursing leadership course offered free on the Pan American Health Organization Virtual Campus of Public Health, created collaboratively by our own D.N.P.

students and faculty members.

The Internet is a powerful tool for disseminating health care knowledge on a global scale, and we are proud to play an integral role in using this technology to benefit all regions.

Closer to home, one of our faculty investigators is asking our recent graduates provocative questions about how the reality of nursing compares with their expectations. The results of this research will inform nursing schools and health care employers on how to help frontline nurses increase job satisfaction, thus addressing the nursing shortage and improving quality of care. You will also learn why many of our advanced-degree seekers are choosing to specialize in primary care, and how donors are stepping up to alleviate financial challenges for our students so they can complete their education.

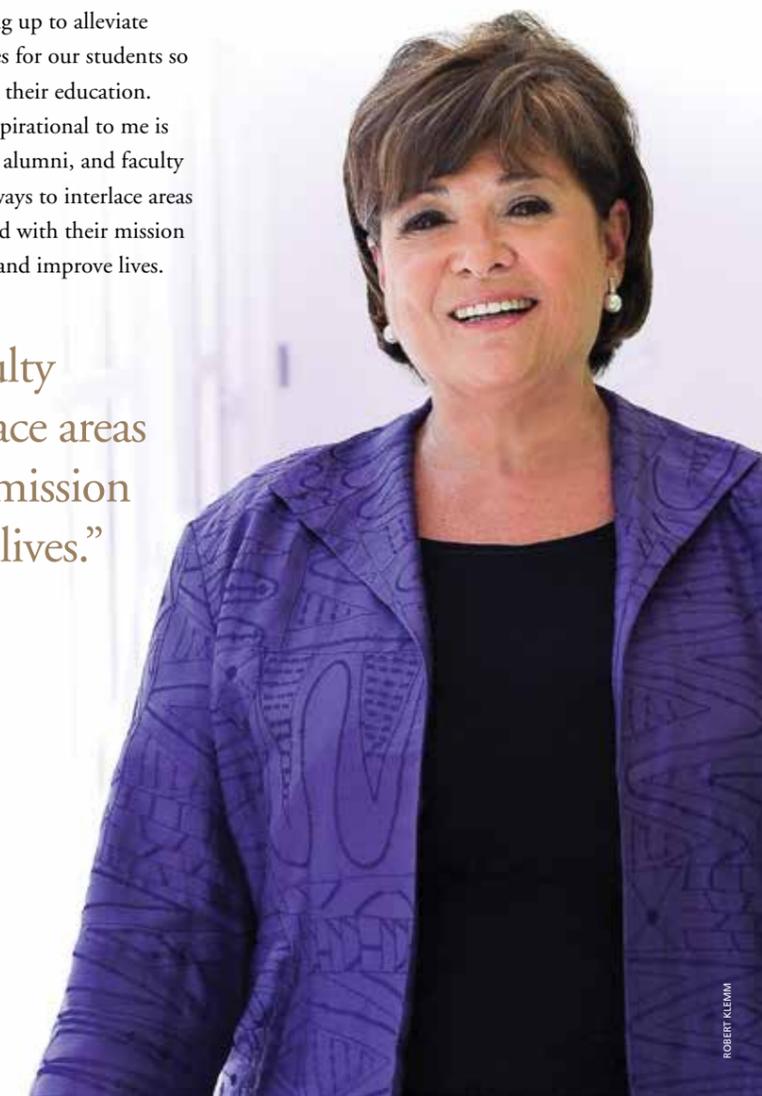
Especially inspirational to me is how our students, alumni, and faculty consistently find ways to interlace areas of acute social need with their mission to learn, educate, and improve lives.

Among many community outreach activities you'll read about in this issue, our school opened its doors to host a conversation about human trafficking in our region and to teach health care providers how to screen for intimate partner violence.

Reflecting upon the amazing talent, dedication, and knowledge represented at the SONHS, I am reminded of President Shalala's prophecy. Thank you for being a part of our legacy of service to individuals, families, and communities around the world.

**Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano**  
Dr.P.H., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
Dean and Professor

“Our students, alumni, and faculty consistently find ways to interlace areas of acute social need with their mission to learn, educate, and improve lives.”



## Mastering the Art (and Music) of Interprofessional Collaboration

**Shelton G. Berg**, dean of the Frost School of Music, conducts a string quartet that is performing Mozart's "Eine kleine Nachtmusik" for 150 third-year Miller School of Medicine students and 60 Accelerated B.S.N. students in the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Following a delightful rendition of the piece, one violin begins playing faster than the other instruments, the viola gets louder, and the cello melts timidly into the background. Next, all of the musicians play their parts with technical precision, but without a trace of passion or interest.

"You have to be present in the moment," Berg tells the students. "You have to be aware of your job, but you have to be aware of other people's jobs around you because their jobs interrelate to yours. You have to react to what they're doing in real time—and you have to put your heart and soul into it."

The exercise was part of the second annual Interprofessional Patient Safety Course. The point was clear: Collaboration is the key to a successful outcome, from a musical performance in perfect harmony to the recovery of a patient in distress.

"The mistakes that physicians and nurses can make are wonderfully illustrated by musicians: From time to time, everyone can be lazy, unfocused, or showing off," explains David Birnbach, Miller School professor and director of the UM-Jackson Memorial Hospital Center for Patient Safety. "That's how we scripted the musical errors that Dean Berg and these gifted musicians showed our students."

Birnbach, who is also senior associate dean for quality, safety,

and risk at the Miller School and the University's vice provost for faculty affairs, and Mary McKay, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '09, SONHS assistant professor of clinical nursing and safety assurance director, joined forces for the first time in 2013 to present the weeklong course, which highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between nurses and doctors to improve patient safety practices. Participants split their time between the School of Nursing and Health Studies on the Coral Gables campus and the Miller School's Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education and Center for Patient Safety. Last year's pilot course was a great success, and this year's curriculum was expanded to include even more activities and simulations.

"What educators have been doing is teaching nurses in a silo and medical students in a silo and then putting them together expecting them to work effectively as a team," McKay says. "That's why this course is such an eye-opening experience."

Also new to the course this year, which included lectures, team-building exercises, and simulated but realistic patient encounters, was a trip to the Lowe Art Museum. There, nursing and medical students jointly formed small groups to view and discuss different works of art. The students learned how to communicate their own impressions and incorporate the perspective of others who viewed the pieces differently—a process that's also critical to making proper diagnoses.

In addition to the students, more than 40 faculty from the Miller School, SONHS, Frost School, and College of Arts and Sciences participated in the course. UM President Donna E. Shalala, who chaired the Institute of Medicine's *The Future of Nursing* report, attended the concluding activity, a competition between the two most-improved teams of future physicians and nurses in a final simulated patient encounter, judged by their classmates.



Shelton Berg



SONHS and Miller School of Medicine students learn how to improve patient safety by working collaboratively.

PHOTOS BY R. M. LANAZARES-ROMERO

## Engaging Alumni at Miami Hospitals

If you're at a health care facility in South Florida, it's likely you'll see School of Nursing and Health Studies alumni. With NCLEX-RN passing rates that are among the highest in Florida, the school produces alumni who are top candidates for jobs in the local community and nationwide. In an effort to engage local alumni, the school partnered with the University of Miami Alumni Association to host "Alumni at Work" events in April at three institutions that employ large numbers of Hurricanes: Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami Children's Hospital, and University of Miami Hospital.

The events provided updates on what's happening at the school and information about undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Those who attended also learned about the forthcoming Simulation Hospital and funding needs to build this state-of-the-art facility, which will improve patient safety through its focus on interprofessional collaboration. Several alumni made on-the-spot gifts to support the Simulation Hospital's Technology Fund, which will enable the school to outfit the hospital with the latest health care devices and create a true-to-life workplace environment for aspiring nurses.



Special events reach out to SONHS alumni employees at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami Children's Hospital, and University of Miami Hospital.



## SONHS Faculty Join Nurse Researchers at Colombia Colloquium

As part of its mission as a World Health Organization-designated Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety, the SONHS was well represented at the XIV Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium this September by faculty, staff, and Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano, who served as vice chair of the event. The prestigious biennial conference, which the SONHS was honored to host in 2012, brought more than 1,000 nurse researchers, educators, practitioners, and students to Colombia.

Dean Peragallo Montano spoke about the current state of nursing research as part of the panel "Estado Actual de la Aplicación de la Investigación en Enfermería" (Applied Nursing Research: State of the Science) and delivered a separate presentation on improving teamwork through the school's Interprofessional Patient Safety Course. At breakout and poster sessions during the week, SONHS faculty members Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, and Joseph De Santis shared their research findings on such topics as safe sex and predictors of depression among Hispanic men who have sex with men. The SONHS also showcased its research/academic programs, online distance education activities, and other resources at a display booth in the colloquium's exhibit hall.



Johis Ortega

## El Centro Hosts Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium

In a **standing-room-only event** at the Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies in May, the SONHS' Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro helped to shed light on the grave issue of trafficking human beings for both sexual and labor purposes—as well as identify resources in Miami-Dade County for victims. Florida, ranked third in the number of calls received by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's hotline, is considered a hub for human trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Community Resources Awareness Symposium—a SONHS collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department, the Miami-Dade County Human Trafficking Coalition, and Americans for Immigrant Justice—included an information session followed by presentations from representatives of several entities that specialize in services to victims of human trafficking, many of which are community partners of El Centro. The Federal Law Enforcement Task Force, Florida Department of Children and Families, State Attorney's Office, Miami U.S. Attorney's Office, Coordinated Victims Assistance Center (CVAC), and Kristi House are just a few of the participating organizations.

"Those who attended the symposium were so grateful to be given the opportunity to discuss this issue," says Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, Ph.D. '08, SONHS assistant professor and co-director of the Research, Training, and Education Core at El Centro. "There's so much wonderful work going on in the community to address human trafficking, but sometimes we're working in silos. There are many opportunities for collaboration; people just need a platform."

The activity, which was free and open to the public, is the first of numerous planned community events that will focus on human trafficking in Miami-Dade. This initiative advances El Centro's mission to reduce health disparities in vulnerable populations, given the overlap between human trafficking and health concerns such as HIV/STDs, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Another way El Centro is tackling the issue is through a partnership with CVAC to evaluate the impact of specialized services for human trafficking victims that the CVAC has recently implemented. Gonzalez-Guarda is leading the evaluation component of this service grant, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crimes.



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## El Centro Researchers Share Findings at National Conference



**Five El Centro faculty researchers** shared their findings with leading investigators from across the country at Vulnerability to Drug Abuse among Hispanics: Bridging Science and Society, a conference held at the University of Texas at El Paso in May 2014. Presentations by Julie Barroso, Victoria Behar Mitrani, A.B. '80, Ph.D. '86, Natalia Villegas Rodriguez, Ph.D. '12, Brian McCabe, Ph.D. '11, and Joseph De Santis included findings from: an intervention to reduce stigma in

HIV-infected women in the Deep South; a family intervention for mothers in recovery and their children; an Internet-based STI and HIV prevention intervention for young Chilean women; a comparison of the effectiveness of two alcohol screening tools; and a study of the influence of cultural factors on risk behaviors in Hispanic men who have sex with men. Mitrani delivered the keynote address, "Reducing Health Disparities through Culturally Tailored Intervention Science," a topic that describes the mission of El Centro.

## Grant Will Help Nurses Meet Family Practice Demand

**Miami-Dade County** has half as many family practice physicians as the rest of Florida, and its 30 percent uninsured rate is well above the national average. As many more patients are expected to access care via the transformed health care system, nurse practitioners will play a prominent role in meeting the demand.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies is doing its part to increase the number of advanced education nurses who practice as primary care providers, and now the school can help these students with tuition, books, and living expenses. A \$700,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship Program will provide annual stipends of \$22,000 to full-time students and \$10,000 to part-time students seeking their Master of Science in Nursing degrees to be advanced practice nurses.

"The financial challenges presented when pursuing advanced-level nursing education are insurmountable for many students, forcing them to either abandon their goal of N.P. education or drop from full-time to part-time status so they can continue working to earn an income," says Todd Ambrosia, principal investigator of the funded project, associate dean for master's programs, and assistant professor of clinical. "This award will significantly relieve that burden and accelerate their graduation."

Read more about primary care nursing in today's health care climate in "Filling the Primary Care Gap" on page 20.

**\$700,000**

## Celebrating Commencement

Held at the new Student Center Complex in May 2014, this Awards Ceremony and Commencement Reception honored the 240 students who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Pictured below with Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano is Sierra Solange, B.S.N. '14, who received the Excellence in Leadership award.



## SONHS Men Step 'In Her Shoes'

They say you can't really understand another person's experience until you walk a mile in their shoes. So to raise awareness of the effects of sexual assault and practices that demean women, School of Nursing and Health Studies faculty, staff, and students were among about 70 men on the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus who donned red heels and endured the discomfort of walking in them. The April 2014 activity was part of Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, a campaign that has been taking place on college campuses and in cities nationwide since 2001.

"We want them to experience empathy and compassion for victims of sexual abuse," says Kimberly Martin, a clinical social worker and outreach coordinator at UM's Counseling Center, which organized the march at UM. "Men can be allies and partner with women in this fight."

## Educating Health Care Workers to Recognize IPV

**Health care professionals** can be first-line responders for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) if they know how to effectively screen patients and provide access to vital resources. The School of Nursing and Health Studies

These one-day seminars, held this summer at University of Miami Hospital, with additional locations to come, equip Miami health care providers with tools to assist abused men and women they may encounter in practice.

“Health care providers are uncomfortable screening for IPV, partly because they don’t know what to ask and what to do once they identify the existence of abuse.”

has teamed up with Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) to host “Domestic Violence and the Role of the Healthcare Provider: Assessment and Intervention Strategies.”

abused,” says SONHS Assistant Professor Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, Ph.D. ’08, a nationally recognized IPV expert who has been facilitating the seminars with Ph.D. student Valerie Halstead. “Unfortunately many health care

“Whether or not a patient visiting a health care facility is there for emergency or routine care, statistics show a significant percentage of them, especially but not only women, have been or are being

providers are uncomfortable screening for IPV, partly because they don’t know what to ask and what to do once they identify the existence of abuse.”

There were 43 University of Miami Hospital providers—including nurses, physicians, social workers, and students—who completed the first session, held in June.



GAYA MOMENTS

## Summer Is Prime Academic Exchange Time

**At the School** of Nursing and Health Studies, academic hospitality is a two-way street. As part of bidirectional exchange agreements the school maintains with institutions around the globe, many of its students gained an international perspective on nursing over the summer. The SONHS reciprocated by hosting international guests in classes, simulation learning at the state-of-the-art International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research, and observation of clinical care and practice at University of Miami Hospital and other partner facilities throughout the South Florida region.

Aspiring nurses who spent time at UM this summer arrived from Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas and Universidad Autónoma de Campeche, both in Mexico; Universidad Andres Bello in Chile; and Universidad de Barcelona in Spain. In return, SONHS undergraduate and graduate nursing students jetted off to Universidad de Barcelona, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in the Dominican Republic, National Tapei University of Nursing and Health Sciences in Taiwan, and Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, Australia.



Bidirectional exchanges took place this summer between the SONHS and schools or organizations around the world.

## Bringing Global Expertise to the Far East

**This summer**, several SONHS faculty members presented lectures and research posters in Hong Kong at the 25th Annual Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nursing Research Congress, themed Engaging Colleagues: Improving Global Health Outcomes. Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D. ’10, Rosina Cianelli, Victoria Behar Mitrani, A.B. ’80, Ph.D. ’86, and Natalia Villegas Rodriguez, Ph.D. ’12, shared their work on topics such as: telemedicine care for special-needs children; implementation of a mental health training program for Haitian health care workers; the impact of parental reaction to disclosure of sexual orientation among Hispanic gay men; and HIV prevention among Hispanic women. At a special ceremony during the congress, STTI inducted Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano into the Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, which honors STTI-member nurse researchers who have achieved significant and sustained national and/or international recognition for their work, and whose research has impacted the profession and the people it serves.



Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano is inducted into the STTI Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in Hong Kong.

## A-B.S.N. Students Put Their Hearts into Teaching CPR

**There are now 759** additional members of the South Florida community who know how to perform CPR when a person’s breathing or heartbeat stops, and they all learned it from School of Nursing and Health Studies students. The University of Miami’s BankUnited Center Fieldhouse was one of seven South Florida venues where nearly 5,000 people received free cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction on September 6, 2014, as part of the first-ever CPR Day Miami, a collaboration between the University of Miami, Jackson Health System, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, American Red Cross, and American Heart Association.

Alberto Carvalho, superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and UM mascot Sebastian the Ibis were among those who attended the event at UM. Participants—who ranged in age from elementary school children to senior citizens—first watched a 10-minute video on the importance of CPR and how the technique is performed. SONHS student instructors, proudly wearing their green “U” scrubs, then guided participants in the proper way to perform chest compressions using

mannequins provided by the Miller School of Medicine’s Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education.

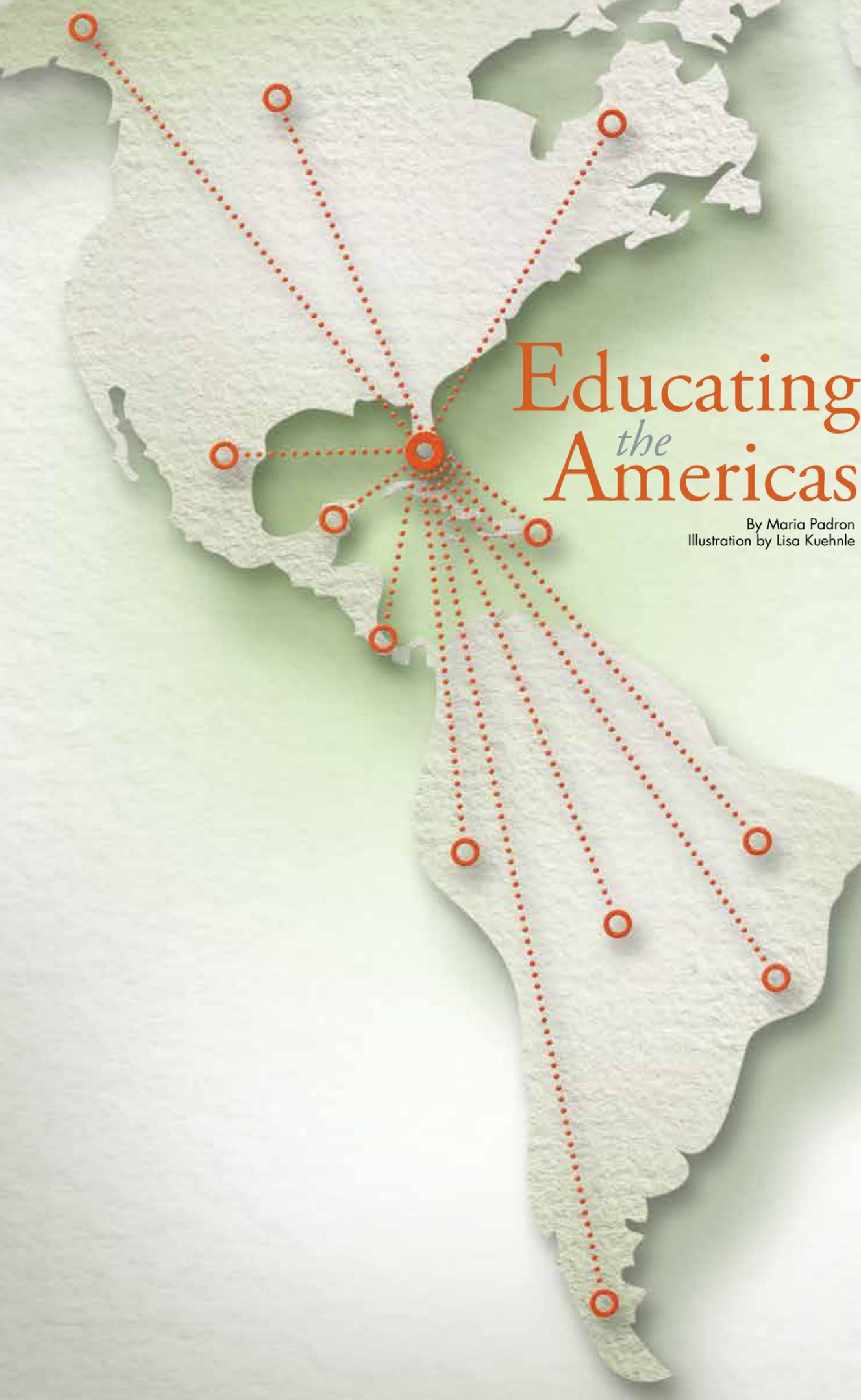
“It truly exemplified what it is to be a nurse and give back to the community,” says Susana Barroso, SONHS director of project management, who coordinated student involvement.

All UM nursing students in clinical settings carry BLS (Basic Life Support) certification, including the 58 Accelerated B.S.N. students who taught at CPR Day Miami. They received clinical hours for their service, but more important, they gained enthusiasm for providing a lifesaving skill to fellow citizens. The need for more people to learn CPR is paramount, as about 70 percent of Americans lack the knowledge to perform the procedure.

“For the first time, I now have students asking to borrow mannequins so they can add CPR instruction to the screenings they perform at community health fairs throughout the semester,” Barroso says. “They’re taking the baton and spreading it throughout the community.”



These SONHS students spent a Saturday teaching Miamians how to save lives.



# Educating *the* Americas

By Maria Padron  
Illustration by Lisa Kuehnle



A new online course developed at the SONHS gives nurses the tools they need to become leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Just as the fall 2014 semester began,** a contingent from the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) joined an official from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) at an auditorium in Cartagena, Colombia, to address hundreds of nursing students, practitioners, researchers, and educators from just about every country in Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the session was to introduce Empowering Nursing Leaders, the first online course on nursing leadership ever featured on the PAHO Virtual Public Health Campus.

An inaugural cohort of students will enroll in the first version of the course in spring 2015. To a workforce challenged by a severe shortage of educational tools, particularly in the area of leadership development, the free-of-charge course is a much-anticipated resource. Created by a team of faculty and eight students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the SONHS, the cutting-edge course is the most recent global project of the school's World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety—one of only ten such centers in the United States and 43 in the world.



## Take the Pulse, Tailor the Tools

One of the SONHS Collaborating Centre's most cutting-edge initiatives is its use of technology to disseminate health care knowledge to difficult-to-reach segments of the health care workforce. It provides an ever-expanding list of Web-based courses at no charge to nurses, students, and faculty across the globe in English, Spanish, and Portuguese—languages that are heavily spoken in Latin America and the Caribbean. Current courses include Nursing and Patient Safety (completed by more than 1,800 people as of September 2014), Preventing Medical Errors, Domestic Violence, and HIV Prevention and Care. Each participant who completes all course modules is awarded an electronically generated and customized certificate.

The Empowering Nurse Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean course for the PAHO Virtual Public Health Campus is one of the Centre's most exciting and ambitious projects to-date. Launched in 2003, the PAHO Virtual Public Health Campus is a virtual community that serves as a platform for communication exchange and provides a library of distance education tools designed to strengthen health care policy and practice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The SONHS Collaborating Centre developed the Empowering Nurse Leaders course content in partnership with PAHO technical staff and with WHO

Collaborating Centres at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and at the Colombian Association of Schools and Colleges of Nursing. SONHS students played an essential role in the process. SONHS faculty members Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10 and Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D. '10, led a team of eight Doctor of Nursing Practice students, each taking on the responsibility to develop one module for this new e-learning tool.

"Not every school or health care institution has the resources to send its students and personnel outside their own country for leadership training," explains Hooshmand. "But even the most resource-challenged organizations today have Internet connectivity. This course provides an overview of leadership and management principles in a no-cost e-format to the future nurse leaders of the international community. Another important outcome is that our D.N.P. students who helped develop course content expanded their own knowledge of leadership topics while addressing a dire global need."

The course, offered in both English and Spanish, is designed for Latin American and Caribbean nursing professionals who have at least an undergraduate-level nursing education and who want to become leaders in the quest to develop comprehensive, integrated health care in their countries. The course's eight modules cover topics such as ethics, the nurse as advocate, patient safety, evidence-based research, the role of

nursing in health policy, and financial management skills. Course content is tailored to the needs of the geographical regions it is intended to serve.

"The course has a section on budget planning and cost analysis, and for U.S.-based students we would have addressed the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the financial forecasts of health care institutions," Hooshmand explains. "But in Latin America and the Caribbean, there is no Affordable Care Act, so in this module we teach the metrics used to develop health care operations plans, the common components of nurse staffing budgets, and other core competencies essential to efficient financial health care management in any institution."

The world's nursing workforce is continually changing, which is why the lines of communication between the Collaborating Centre and its international partners must remain open.

"You can't just drop in on developing world nations and tell them how you are going to help them, and you can't generate a global collaboration plan in isolation," Ortega explains. "If you really want your efforts to have an impact, you must first take the pulse of the regions you are trying to serve and hear their needs and concerns."

The SONHS Collaborating Centre regularly hosts faculty and students from foreign universities to share information on addressing patient safety in a variety of national contexts, and to discuss how to move forward with collaborative projects. Attending and hosting or co-hosting international conferences has also proven to be an effective way to continue the dialogue about opportunities and challenges confronting the international health care workforce. At these conferences, Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano and school faculty deliver and listen to numerous academic presentations, and meet with health care educators, clinicians, scientists, and students from all over the world.

An ongoing need expressed by PAHO region educators is for more experiential learning through simulation training. To address this gap, the SONHS opened the

doors of its state-of-the-art International Academy for Simulation and Research to the international community. Ortega and Nurse Specialist Susana Barroso designed Simulation Strategies Workshop for Patient Safety, a three-to-five-day customizable course targeting Spanish-speaking health care professionals seeking knowledge of simulation, with an emphasis on patient safety and how to integrate it into nursing education curricula. The hugely popular course is available in English and Spanish to international participants who visit the school from throughout the Americas. Ortega, Barroso, and other SONHS faculty also travel regularly to teach the course throughout the PAHO region.

## Strengthening Scientific Capacity

The School of Nursing and Health Studies WHO Collaborating Centre's success in improving health care throughout the Americas has been a catalyst for the school to expand its activities even further. Dean Peragallo Montano and other faculty are turning their attention to strengthening "scientific capacity," which refers to the infrastructure, knowledge, and processes needed to conduct research at universities in the PAHO region. A new grant of more than \$1 million from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities has funded The Global Health Disparities Research Experience, a training program that will send SONHS undergraduate students to conduct scientific research with foreign faculty mentors at global partner institutions in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Spain, and Australia.

"The role of science and its influence on nursing practice cannot be overemphasized," says Dean Peragallo Montano. "It is exciting that we are engaging the next generation of researchers at the undergraduate level and doing it collaboratively with our international partners. I look forward to this new and exciting phase of our Collaborating Centre's work in global regions."

## THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE MISSION

While the SONHS has long had a global presence, the worldwide health care crisis, a series of international disasters, and the rapid pace of globalization all converged in recent years to make international partnerships a front-and-center priority for the school.

"Our faculty and students have always conducted research in many regions of the world," says Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano, who serves as director of the school's WHO Collaborating Centre. "Being recognized by the WHO as a formal collaborating center in 2008 allowed us to take the next step in this process—and really practice global citizenship."

In the first year after the school's WHO designation, Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, deputy director of the Collaborating Centre, and other faculty invited health professionals from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, and Mexico to participate in a patient safety conference in Miami, which culminated in the formation of the International Network of Nursing and Patient Safety Experts, known by its Spanish acronym: RIENSEP. Today the RIENSEP network is one of the PAHO region's most active and productive nursing networks.

Since its inception, the school's Collaborating Centre has worked directly with other WHO Collaborating Centres and with the PAHO—which is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and serves as a regional office of WHO—to advance priorities in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean, with a special focus on underdeveloped regions. As their international conversations continued to evolve, the SONHS Collaborating Centre faculty constantly heard Caribbean and Latin American colleagues express concern about the severe scarcity of capable nursing educators and clinicians in their regions.

Aging populations and global calamities, both natural and manmade, have further strained resources. In places such as Haiti and Guyana, for example, the SONHS has helped to strengthen access to quality health care through its "educate the educators" framework. In this model, every faculty member or clinician who undergoes education in underserved regions is also instructed on how to provide that education to others. This creates a positive ripple effect and allows communities to chart their own futures.



SONHS faculty members Mary Hooshmand and Johis Ortega, third from left and center, developed the online course with D.N.P. students, left to right, Annalisa Chery, Lainey Kieffer, Lorraine Keith, Shavone Johnson, Claudia Warren, Nichole Crenshaw, Joanne Christopher-Hines, and Salma Hernandez.



# FINDING SATISFACTION ON THE FRONT LINE

By Ginny Pickles

Ensuring that frontline registered nurses stay on the job is critical to keeping health care costs down and quality up. New research at the SONHS tracks what nursing students expect to find in the workplace—and what makes them happy when they get there.

**How do you like your job?** It's a seemingly simple question, but it likely triggers a mental checklist of pros and cons. In the end, your answer reflects how closely your expectations for the job match your daily reality. Is there any way to predict whether or not you'll be satisfied in your job, especially if you've chosen to work as a frontline nurse? •

“How you approach a situation helps establish your credibility.”

When she set out to explore that question, Assistant Professor of Clinical Deborah Saber discovered that the literature held no answers.

“During the past 30 years, no one has attempted to identify the key factors that contribute to job satisfaction among frontline registered nurses,” she says. “Even the three meta-analyses performed in the past 25 years—the most recent one published seven years ago—included nurse managers, administrators, educators, and in some cases licensed practical nurses in their data, making it difficult to extrapolate conclusions specific to bedside nurses working in hospitals and acute care facilities.”

To search for job satisfaction predictors among frontline registered nurses, Saber recently completed a first-of-its-kind comprehensive assessment of 62 studies performed from 1980 to 2009. Following that meta-analysis, she turned her attention to today’s new graduates through her latest endeavor, a longitudinal study comparing senior nursing students’ expectations of work to their perceptions after they are employed as newly licensed registered nurses.

## WHAT NURSES WANT—AND WHY THEY SHOULD GET IT

Saber believes identifying predictors of job satisfaction for frontline nurses is of the utmost importance, not only for the nurses themselves but also for educators and employers.

“Nursing has a history of cyclical shortages, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the frontline registered nurse workforce,” she says.

“Turnover is expensive. It’s taxing on the staff, and it’s disruptive.”

Health care institutions pay a price

for dissatisfaction, Saber says.

According to a 2006 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study, replacing one nurse can cost as much as \$92,000 in lost productivity, hiring expenses, and the like. A study published in *Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice* earlier this year reports that 17.5 percent of newly licensed registered nurses leave their first job within their first year, adding up to a staggering financial loss.

Saber also notes a high turnover rate has a trickle-down effect. “Not only does it disrupt the team, which is so integral to nursing, but it also is stressful for the nurses who choose to stay in a unit,” she says. “They must care for the sickest patients, often while orienting new hires, waiting for the experienced nurses to become acclimated to the environment and for the new graduates to become clinically proficient.

“Turnover can take a toll on safety and patient satisfaction,” Saber continues, “which in today’s health care environment is very important because we’re being reimbursed according to those measures.”

The results of Saber’s 62-study meta-analysis—published this year in *Nursing Outlook*, the official journal of the American Academy of Nursing—revealed three top predictors of job

satisfaction among frontline registered nurses: task requirements, control, and empowerment. These findings differ from those of the previous meta-analyses, which included non-registered nurses, nurse managers, educators, and others.

The older studies identified stress, nurse/physician relationships, autonomy,

leadership, and routinization as the largest predictors of job satisfaction.

The tasks required of today’s frontline nurses are a major factor in their job satisfaction because “the number of tasks is increasing, and the tasks are continually changing with the introduction of policy initiatives and concurrent budgetary constraints,” Saber explains. Control has become important because frontline nurses “must be able to effect change and perform productive work in an environment that demands more output with less time.”

Saber also found that job satisfaction for frontline nurses depends on empowerment—having the information, resources, and opportunities necessary for effective performance of a job. She notes that empowerment, which is necessary for control, was not included in past job satisfaction meta-analyses because the study of empowerment in the field of nursing did not gain popularity until the 2000s.

Stress and autonomy were identified as moderate predictors of job satisfaction consistently across all studies, which Saber says is an important finding. “Stress in the acute care environment is increasing because only the sickest of patients are in the hospital,” she says. “The nurses have full loads. Their patients are complex, and the pace is fast, as patients are admitted and discharged rapidly.”

“Sometimes you can get a little off track and need to play catch-up.”

Saber notes autonomy has always been very important in nursing because it enables nurses to make clinical decisions that are within their scope of practice and in their patients’ best interests.

Saber found two predictors with “curiously small” effect: wages and workload. “Findings may indicate that while registered nurses may be dissatisfied with wages, it’s not a top predictor of job satisfaction when other predictors are considered,” she says. Regarding workload, she suggests that the type of work, environment, interactions, and equality of work distribution may be more important for satisfaction than the actual amount of work.

## DOCUMENTING EXPECTATIONS VERSUS REALITY

In her current study to assess how job expectations among senior nursing students compare with their on-the-job experiences once they become licensed registered nurses, Saber has thus far facilitated 14 focus groups. Over a five-week period, she and her team interviewed 98 senior nursing students ranging in age from 20 to 57 years; 39 students were enrolled in the accelerated program and 59 were in the traditional program at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Using a semi-structured, six-item interview guide, Saber solicited group discussion, with questions such as: What do you expect your typical day will look like as a registered nurse? Do you expect to be asked to do things that aren’t part of your job? Do you feel prepared to enter the workforce?

From the first set of focus groups, Saber learned that nursing students do expect to experience stressors when working as newly licensed registered

nurses, and they discussed four main strategies for coping.

“Number one, they want to find a working environment with a mentor who will support their successful transition into the work environment,” Saber says. That came as something of a surprise to Saber, as she recalled her own entry into the workforce. “They were specifically saying, ‘I’m looking for a nursing orientation program that will help me,’” she says. “That makes sense, but 20 to 30 years ago, we just went to a hospital to get a job.”

According to Saber, these students know they are entering a highly technologically advanced profession.



“I’m going to continue to be a learner. If you have a good support system, you can make it.”

“Their knowledge base has to be very large, and they know they can only learn so much in four years,” she says. “To be successful in their work environment, they know they’re going to need mentoring to help them advance from novice to expert.”



Assistant Professor Deborah Saber, above left, is investigating how job expectations among senior-year nursing students compare with their levels of job satisfaction once they become licensed registered nurses.



CHRIS SCHMIDT

The students' second strategy is to take the highest precautions to protect themselves from infectious diseases. Saber quickly points out that the focus groups were held in May, before the extensive news coverage of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. "Students are aware that hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, tuberculosis, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and other bacteria and viruses are present in the workplace," she says. "They are savvy and smart enough to know that they need to take care of themselves first so they can take care of other people."

"I didn't expect a lot of charting."



KEVIN WEAKLEY

The third strategy is to seek support systems for personal self care. This strategy has more to do with emotional support in the life-and-death environment of acute care nursing.

"The students know they will need support systems to help them through the difficult days," she says. "Maybe it's a spouse who's particularly empathetic, but many times it's other professionals who understand what you're going through."

The students' fourth strategy is to keep psychologically and physically safe from potential violence and bullying in the work environment.

"In the hospital environment, patients are stressed, families are stressed, and health care workers are stressed, as well," Saber says. "Also, there's a lot of alcohol and drug abuse. I think these new nurses are more aware of the potential for violence and the need to be vigilant about keeping themselves safe."

Saber will reconvene with original study participants who are still located

"Much more is expected of you as a primary nurse compared with your work during undergraduate education."

in the area and who have been working for three months. Her goal is to find out how the realities of their jobs compare with their expectations. She is hopeful her findings will serve a dual purpose.

"Hospitals need to know what nurses are expecting and what they can do to improve retention and recruitment," she says. "Educators will learn what we can do to help our students better prepare for the workforce. Ultimately, by helping the nurses get jobs and keep jobs, we are improving our health and helping to reduce the cost of health care."

"The nurse is wearing the hard hat, which is kind of a shocker."



STEVE DEBRONPORT



## RECENT GRADS WEIGH IN

**Evens Mesadiou**, B.S.N. '09, has worked at University of Miami Hospital since graduating from the SONHS. He began his career in the step-down unit, and after 18 months there, transferred to the surgical ICU, where he has worked for three years. Last year, he began teaching clinicals at SONHS but continues to work part-time at UMH.

Mesadiou says he was well prepared for the realities of nursing, and he credits clinical practice experiences for his confidence on the job.

"After shadowing a nurse for about three months, I felt very proficient," he says, noting that the shadowing experience also taught him how to prepare for the day and prioritize his tasks. "Much more is expected of you as a primary nurse compared with your work during undergraduate education. Although the workload is heavier than when I was an undergrad, it is very manageable, and I had been educated on how to get it done."

Mesadiou also credits his clinical instructors at SONHS for preparing him for the workforce. "The clinical instructors can make a very big difference," he says. "At SONHS, every one of them, with no exception, went far and beyond what they were supposed to do to make sure we were ready for practice."

**Patrick W. Nugent**, B.S.N. '13, who began his career at University of Miami Hospital, was recently accepted into the Baptist Versant R.N. Residency Program. He works at South Miami Hospital. Nugent agrees that time management and prioritizing tasks are important skills to learn. He recalls one on-the-job surprise was the amount of documentation required of nurses.

"I didn't expect a lot of charting," he says. "As my role transitioned, I realized that you have to document, and you have to prioritize and manage your time throughout the day in order to spend as much time as possible with your patients."

Nugent says that observing methods used by the nurses who mentored him helped him find a routine that works. He also found that unexpected interruptions can disrupt the routine. "Sometimes you can get a little off track and need to play catch-up," he says. On the positive side, his relationships with coworkers exceed his expectations. "They're very supportive," he says. "They treat you as if you are family."

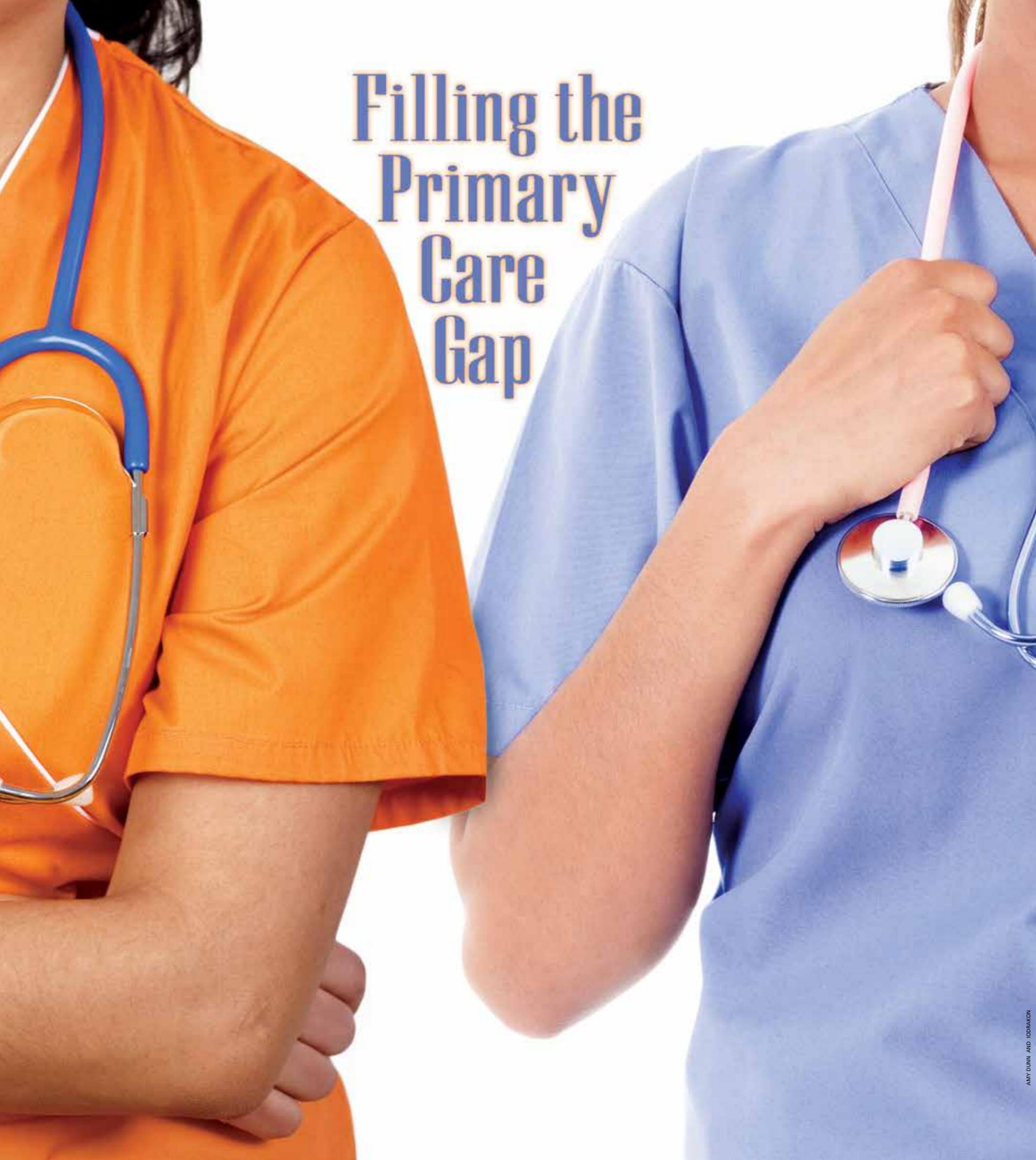
Nugent says he has autonomy at work, and he highlights one important lesson he learned at SONHS that has contributed to his self-confidence.

"We were taught to be prepared to describe the situation, the background, the assessment, and the recommendation," he says. "How you approach a situation and how much information you provide helps establish your credibility."

**LaVette Richardson**, B.S.N. '14, is enrolled in the Baptist Versant R.N. Residency Program. She works at West Kendall Baptist Hospital. Richardson came to SONHS as a certified nursing assistant in her hometown of Mobile, Alabama. After working side by side with the nurses there, she decided to pursue her B.S.N. She is grateful for her residency opportunity because despite her prior clinical experience and clinical practice placements in nursing school, she is starting to feel the responsibilities of being the primary nurse.

"When you're a nursing student in school, you have responsibilities, but you know the nurses there can help you because it's their responsibility, as well," she says. "But now, I'm realizing the doctors, the A.R.N.P.s, dietary, they all revolve around the nurse. The nurse is wearing the hard hat, which is kind of a shocker."

Richardson says the residency program provides an important support system. "I don't feel alone because I have a preceptor, clinical educators, and managers as resources," she says. "I look forward to having autonomy and applying my critical thinking skills, but even then, I have the wisdom to know I'm not alone and I'm going to need help even after the program ends. I'm going to continue to be a learner. Nursing is stressful already, but if you have a good support system, you can make it."



# Filling the Primary Care Gap

By Ginny Pickles

If opportunity is an accurate gauge, then there's never been a better time to pursue a master's degree in primary care nursing. At a time when health care reform is increasing access to care by making health insurance more available and more affordable, the number of primary care physicians is dwindling. This shortfall is particularly apparent in Miami-Dade County, where

Now more than ever, primary care nurse practitioners are a critical component of the evolving health care system.

more than one-third of the 2.6 million residents are uninsured and the ratio of licensed family practice physicians to residents is 16 to 100,000. Where will the newly insured obtain care?

According to the landmark 2010 Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, the answer is clear: Nurse practitioners will play a prominent role in providing safe, high-quality primary care.

AMY DUNN AND IODRACON

## Caring for a Broad Patient Population

“With a dearth of primary care physicians to meet the existing demand, a rise in newly insured individuals seeking care will strain an already taxed primary care system,” says Todd F. Ambrosia, D.N.P. ’13, associate dean of Master of Science in Nursing programs and assistant professor of clinical at the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies. “Clearly, health care reform has created opportunities for the advanced practice nurse to come to the forefront of primary care.”

Having recently secured a \$700,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship (AENT) Program to support M.S.N. students enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner (F.N.P.) and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care programs at the SONHS, Ambrosia has successfully outlined the need for more advanced practice nurses—particularly in regions with large populations of ethnic minorities. In diverse places such as Miami, an inadequate pool of primary care providers worsens the health care disparities minority populations often face.

“About 64 percent of Miami-Dade County’s population is Hispanic, while blacks and other minorities comprise another 29 percent,” Ambrosia says. “The burden of chronic disease and associated risk factors is greater among racial and ethnic minority groups.”

In addition, this diversity presents distinct cultural and communication challenges for patients and providers, hindering access to care for many people. For example, more than one-fourth of the households in Miami-Dade County are “linguistically isolated,” meaning that all members of the household over the age of 14 speak a non-English language and have difficulty with English. An increase in the number of culturally sensitive and multilingual primary care nurse practitioners is critical to meeting the complex needs of diverse populations throughout the nation.

## Where Are the F.N.P. Opportunities?

According to Todd F. Ambrosia, D.N.P. ’13, associate dean of M.S.N. programs at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, employment opportunities abound for graduate-level nurses specializing in primary care.

“Family nurse practitioners can work in physicians’ offices, retail health centers, nurse-managed clinics, and community health centers,” he says. “In many cases, depending on the area in which they wish to practice, they can open their own practice, either independently or in collaboration with a physician.”

As for earning potential, Ambrosia says that the primary care N.P. coming out of school, on average, can earn from \$90,000 to \$110,000 per year. “Generally, they will start at about the same level as nurses in the acute care setting.”

The good news, Ambrosia says, is that the number of applicants to the Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner programs at the SONHS has tripled over the past five years. Why this increased interest? We asked two recent graduates why they chose to pursue advanced education in primary care.

According to David Sanjurjo, M.S.N. ’13, who practices at a MinuteClinic retail health center in Miami, his advanced practice degree opened up new career opportunities in a wider variety of practice settings.

“As an F.N.P., I can care for women, men, adults, and children,” he says. “The education I received has increased my understanding of primary care and my ability to effectively and efficiently treat my patients.”

Sanjurjo particularly appreciates being able to care for entire families, from newborns to the elderly. “That is why I chose this track,” he says. “Sickness is not restricted by age, so it makes no sense for your practice to be.”

Felipe Novoa, B.S.N. ’10, M.S.N. ’13, who practices at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of UHealth—University of Miami Health System, echoes this sentiment. “I chose the family nurse practitioner track because I wanted to have the broadest scope of practice that would allow me to work with all ages,” he says. “I have more autonomy when caring for patients as an F.N.P., and I have gained more knowledge, which I can share with my patients and their family members.”

Novoa says that many patients recognize he has completed advanced education. “I was a chemotherapy R.N. at UM Sylvester, and I now treat many of the same patients I saw as an R.N.,” he explains. “As a family nurse practitioner, however, I evaluate and treat them at a more advanced level. They often congratulate me for continuing my education, in particular at the University of Miami.”

## Ensuring Success

The decision to return to graduate school is not one made lightly, as numerous factors must be considered, not the least of which is the expense. Nurses who are employed must consider the impact of reduced work hours with associated income reduction as well as tuition.

“Finances right now are a big issue for baccalaureate-prepared generalist nurses who want to enroll in graduate school,” Ambrosia says. “Although some students try to work and attend school at the same time, that is stressful and, in

fact, it’s almost impossible to do because of the clinical requirements.”

The recently awarded AENT grant, as well as grants from the HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Expansion (ANEE) program and the Peacock Foundation, offer financial support via scholarships to help ensure that nurses who wish to pursue advanced degrees at the SONHS are able to do so.

“By helping students financially, these scholarships also help them from an overall academic perspective to increase their opportunity for success,” Ambrosia says. “As more students attain their graduate degrees, the pool of excellent advanced practice nurse primary care providers increases at a time when the health care system needs them.”

*After earning his master’s degree at the SONHS, Felipe Novoa now works as a family nurse practitioner at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Working with him in the Hematology/Oncology clinic is Kimberly Wood.*



According to Ambrosia, the ANEE grant provides 32 stipends of \$22,000 over five years to help part-time SONHS F.N.P. students transition to full-time status, thus shortening their time to graduation. AENT support will provide stipends of \$22,000 per year to five full-time students and \$10,000 per year to 24 part-time students who wish to maintain their full-time working status.

Scholarships from the AENT grant were awarded in the fall and spring of this academic year; 12 scholarships for part-time students will be awarded in the spring of 2015. Scholarship recipients are selected by a committee that bases its decision on essays in which candidates describe their desire and commitment to work with underserved populations.

Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner programs are designed to prepare nurse practitioners to meet the primary care needs of diverse populations throughout the life span, and according to Ambrosia, the SONHS offers some distinct advantages to students.

“What sets us apart is the opportunity not only to have an accelerated program with a very well prepared group of students—they are very much nurse-scholars—but also, we are connected to a major medical center,” Ambrosia says. “Our excellent reputation and the high-functioning ability of our students affords us almost carte blanche entry to many community and collaborative clinical practice sites.”

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies intends to stay on the forefront of advanced practice nursing education. In addition to researching and presenting compelling data to obtain funding from government and private organizations, the school is constantly working to create new opportunities for students.

“We are developing new community initiatives that may include advanced practice residency programs,” Ambrosia says. “That will be a big story for us. Stay tuned.”

## Peacock Foundation Supports F.N.P.s

Ten Family Nurse Practitioner candidates each received a \$7,500 scholarship toward tuition costs for the 2013-2014 school year from the Peacock Foundation. Recipients were selected based on their GPA and school references, as well as an essay describing their interest in providing primary care and how they will use their master’s degree education to deliver high-quality, culturally sensitive care to poor and underserved populations immediately following graduation.

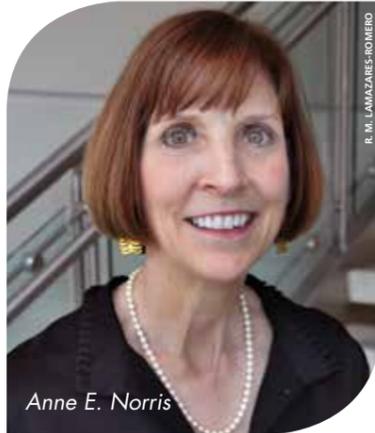
Scholarship recipient and recent F.N.P. program graduate Meilin Diaz-Paez, B.S.N. ’07, M.S.N. ’14, is the first in her family to earn a four-year college degree, let alone a graduate degree. Before entering the F.N.P. program at the SONHS, she worked as a pediatric nurse for five years, including two years working with children diagnosed with cancer. She pursued her advanced practice education to gain the clinical expertise that would help her provide the best care possible to this vulnerable population.

“With the generous support of the Peacock Foundation, I’ve been able to complete my education and use my knowledge to help many of these children,” Diaz-Paez says.

The Peacock Foundation, Inc. was established in 1947 with the mission of enhancing and promoting the good health and well-being of children, families, and underprivileged people through contributions, gifts, and grants to eligible nonprofit organizations, primarily in Miami-Dade County. Since its inception, the Peacock Foundation has contributed more than \$35 million to worthy charitable endeavors.

# Welcoming New Faculty

The School of Nursing and Health Studies is pleased to welcome the following exceptional educators, scientists, and clinicians to its faculty.



Anne E. Norris

## Marquessa Fisher

*Assistant Professor of Clinical*

Marquessa Fisher obtained her B.S.N. from the University of Louisville, her M.S.N. from Murray State University-Trover Foundation in Madisonville, Kentucky, and her doctorate from the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies (D.N.P. '13). She is a certified CRNA and nurse practitioner. She has functioned as staff CRNA, clinical instructor, and CRNA clinical coordinator for various



Laly Joseph

## Laly Joseph

*Assistant Professor of Clinical*

Laly Joseph was a clinical assistant professor and the R.N.-to-B.S.N. program coordinator at Fairleigh Dickinson University Henry P. Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health for the past 12 years. She was a practicing veterinarian before earning her B.S.N., M.S.N., and D.N.P. degrees from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She holds certifications in critical care and oncology nursing and is board certified in medical-surgical nursing and as an adult nurse practitioner. Her past leadership roles include nurse manager, administrative nursing supervisor, and director of education at Barnert Hospital, Englewood Associates, Hackensack University Medical Center, NP Associates and Lifesource Hospital, all in New Jersey. At Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she began as a clinical instructor, she also served as president of the Sigma Theta Tau International Society of Nursing Epsilon Rho Chapter, winning the first Chapter Key Award in chapter history. She is currently a delegate of the United Nations on the Human Rights and HIV/AIDS committee and has authored or co-authored publications and presentations on many topics, including the benefits of yoga on chronic back pain and the use of mobile technology to reduce medication errors.



Marquessa Fisher

institutions of higher health care education and community sites, including the Murray State University-Trover Foundation nurse anesthesia program, Florida Gulf Coast University, Wolford College's nurse anesthesia program, Barry University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies. She is a member of the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau national honor society at the University of Miami in 2013 and is a recipient of the University of Louisville's Charlotte Ann Prewitt Award (1999).

## Anne E. Norris

*Professor*

Anne Norris earned her Ph.D. in nursing and psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1988 with specialization in psychiatric/mental health nursing (master's level) and social psychology (doctoral level). She has held nursing faculty positions at Ohio State University, Boston College, and the University of Central Florida. She has been conducting research on adolescent and young adult sexual behavior for over 25 years. She recently completed an NIH/NINR-funded feasibility trial for Mighty Girls, a pregnancy prevention intervention for middle school Latinas using a live simulation game to build peer resistance skills. Her NIH-funded efficacy trial involving seventh-grade Latinas enrolled in Miami-Dade Public Schools will begin in 2015, and she is developing additional technologies to address childhood obesity. Norris has authored or co-authored more than 75 professional publications, presented her work at numerous scientific meetings, and served as guest editor for national and international nursing journals. She is the 2011 recipient of the Mary Cash Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cultural Diversity in Nursing and Health Care and a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Nursing, among other honors.

## Summer DeBastiani

*Lecturer*

Summer DeBastiani most recently held the position of health scientist in the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She holds an M.P.H. degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a B.S.N. from West Virginia University, where she was an instructor in WVU's Homeland Security Program. Her experience in the preparedness arena includes research on citizen preparedness in West Virginia, instructing FEMA preparedness planning courses nationally, and providing health and human services to at-risk populations. A certified critical care nurse, she has held clinical positions at WVU Hospital; in the Jinja province of Uganda, where she worked for an American-based NGO



Summer DeBastiani

in malaria prevention and treatment; and as a nurse volunteer in Manang, Nepal's Himalayan Rescue Association outpatient clinic. She also worked as a home health nurse in New Zealand, where she still holds her nursing license. DeBastiani has authored publications in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, among others, and delivered presentations at national venues on public health and emergency preparedness.



Kristin Levoy

## Kristin Levoy

*Lecturer*

Kristin Levoy is an oncology certified nurse with 11 years of experience. She received both her B.S.N. and M.S.N. degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For her M.S.N., she focused on the study of health care systems with dual concentrations in nurse education and nurse leadership. Her clinical experience includes staff and research nurse positions at Duke University Medical Center's hematologic oncology and gynecology oncology divisions. She has been a clinical preceptor at UNC's and Miami Dade College's nursing programs. She passed the Certified Nurse Educator exam this spring and is currently preparing for Clinical Nurse Leader certification status. Levoy is a recipient of the Graduate of the Last Decade Award from UNC School of Nursing (2007). She holds professional memberships in the Oncology Nursing Society and the National League for Nursing. She currently works as a research assistant on a nationally funded nursing research study and in a clinical practice position at Baptist Hospital.

## Patricia Larrieu Briones

*Assistant Professor of Clinical*

Patricia Larrieu Briones is a board-certified family nurse practitioner with over a decade of practice experience. She has expertise in caring for patients with end-stage renal disease and comorbid conditions, and is skilled at performing interventional endovascular procedures. As a result, her focus is on health promotion and disease prevention strategies. She has authored and co-authored several published abstracts, posters, and papers in journals such as



Patricia Larrieu Briones

*Seminars in Dialysis, Kidney International, and Dialysis & Transplantation.* She has lectured internationally and participated in numerous research projects and educational seminars at the Miller School of Medicine. She helped produce educational material for patients with ESRD kidney disease and created an International Academic Exchange in Nephrology, which provided education to physicians in North America. The Florida Nurses Association recognized her leadership in 2013 by awarding her the Undine Sams Scholarship.

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Jacqueline Cereijo, B.S.N. '03, D.N.P. '09, and Valentin Ruiz	Charlotte A. Degentesh-Salinerio, B.S.N. '79, and Efen D. Salinerio, B.S. '73, M.D.	Erez Elisha, M.B.A. '06	Elizabeth P. Garcia, R.N., B.S.N. '85	Erica M. Gonzalez, M.S.N. '10	Veronica Hernandez, B.S.N. '14	Lauren Konefsky Schwam	Eileen S. Logan, B.S.N. '90, and Maurice Logan
Beatriz H. Ceron-Chamorro	Natalie N. Del Rio, B.S.N. '10	Erika L. Ellison, B.S.N. '12	Marta R. Garcia	Erica M. Gonzalez, M.S.N. '10	Veronica Hernandez, B.S.N. '14	Anne Koneru, B.S.N. '05, M.S.N. '07	Jennifer A. Lopez, B.S.N. '09
Martha A. Chavoustie and Steven E. Chavoustie, B.S. '78, M.D. '81	Charlotte A. Dench, B.S.N. '10	Mary E. Ernst, B.S.N. '89	Nereida M. Garcia, M.A.L.S. '11	Erica M. Gonzalez, M.S.N. '10	Veronica Hernandez, B.S.N. '14	Susan E. Lord, R.N., B.S.N. '63	Susan E. Lord, R.N., B.S.N. '63
Christopher R. Chie-For, B.S.N. '10	Ann-Lynn Denker, Ph.D. '89	Rama N. Escolin, B.S.N. '14	Nereida M. Garcia, M.A.L.S. '11	Erica M. Gonzalez, M.S.N. '10	Veronica Hernandez, B.S.N. '14	Edith M. Lorenzo and Jorge A. Lorenzo, R.N., B.S.N. '80	Edith M. Lorenzo and Jorge A. Lorenzo, R.N., B.S.N. '80
Rosina Cianelli Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., F.A.A.N. and Eduardo Novoa		Ana Espinosa, D.N.P. '09, and Humberto Espinosa	Nereida M. Garcia, M.A.L.S. '11	Erica M. Gonzalez, M.S.N. '10	Veronica Hernandez, B.S.N. '14	Anna M. Lozoya, B.S.N. '06	Anna M. Lozoya, B.S.N. '06

## honor roll

Suzanne M. Malouf, B.S.N. '88, and Joseph A. Malouf	Constance B. Miller, D.N.P. '12	Judith A. Ormson, R.N., B.S.N. '86, and Daniel R. Ormson	Sarah M. Plourde, B.S.N. '11, M.S.N. '13	Patricia K. Rister, B.S.N. '64 John Rivas	Betty J. Severyn, R.N., B.S.N. '63	Nancy A. Sweeney, A.B. '73 and William J. Sweeney	Gloria Vallina Jennifer L. Vanetti, M.S.N. '13
Raquel Maluf-Contreras, M.B.A. '03	Hollace S. Mittleman, B.S.N. '87, and Roger Mittleman	Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '11	Sheandra J. Pollack Natasha Pollard	Lourdes Rivera Ekaete J. Roberts, B.S.N. '94	Lois G. Shapiro, R.N., B.S.N. '65, and Dr. Jerome B. Shapiro	Marie S. Sylverne, B.S.N. '14 Gail V. Symonette, R.N., B.S.N. '83	Michele L. Varlotta, M.S.N. '13
Jessica Malvacino Kesia Botet and Gersom G. Manresa	Isabel Molina and Alberto D. Molina	Skye J. Ostreicher, B.S.H.S. '11	Ella Polyak	Norman P. Roberts, M.S.N. '13	Erin Shea, B.S.N. '12	Deborah Szabo, B.S.N. '09 and Attila Szabo	Elsa Vasquez-Tomonto, B.S.N. '88, and Charles V. Tomonto, Ph.D., B.S.M.E. '80
Janet H. Mar, R.N., B.S.N. '77, and Dr. Eugene Y. Mar	Claire A. Monzeglio-Barry, M.S.N. '87, and Kevin W. Barry	Ruth M. Otto, R.N., B.S.N. '63	Marilyn P. Pompei, R.N., B.S.N. '84	Janie C. Rodriguez, B.S.N. '91	Karen R. Shelly, R.N., B.S.N. '77, and Christopher Shelly, B.Ed. '76	Helen A. Taylor, R.N., B.S.N. '83	Annalyn Velasquez, B.S.N. '01
Kristi A. Marsh, B.S. '03 Dolores Marte	Ann F. Morrisseau, R.N., B.S.N. '59, and William L. Morrisseau	Ana C. Pacheco, B.S.N. '04 Natalie D. Padilla, B.S.N. '14	Alyssa Posar	Vanessa Rodriguez, B.S.N. '14	Teri A. Sherrin, M.S.N. '87, and Robert H. Sherrin, M.D.	Taice A. Taylor B.S.N. '01, M.S.N. '11	Vivian M. Venero
Patricia A. Martely Christina M. Matadial, M.D. and Christopher A. French	Jill M. Morton, B.B.A. '82	Iris Padron, B.S.N. '95	Randee R. Potter, B.Ed. '71, and Randolph J. Potter, J.D. '73	Roberto Roman Laporte, M.S.N. '14	Solange Sierra, B.S.N. '14	Pura M. Teixeira, A.R.N.P., B.S.N. '97, M.S.N. '03	Lorraine J. Vitale, M.S.N. '79
M'Hagarenesh Mathieu, B.S.N. '14	Deborah L. Moskowitz, Esq., B.S.C. '94, and Eyal Goldshmid	Maria Padron, B.S.Ed. '86	Luise S. Powell and David Powell, M.S.N. '93	Nicole L. Rosen, B.S.N. '00	Elizabeth V. Singleton, B.S.N. '90, M.S.N. '93	Candace A. Templeton, B.S. '06, and Mark Templeton	Jodi L. Walker, R.N., B.S.N. '84, and Douglas Walker
Taimania S. Matthews, B.S.H.S. '10	Marsha Moskowitz and George R. Moskowitz, M.D.	Maite V. Palermo, B.S.N. '84, and Nick N. Palermo, M.D. '87	Cecilia A. Prado, R.N., B.S.N. '13	Margaret T. Rosier, R.N., B.S.N. '01, and John D. Rosier	Christine E. Skow, R.N., B.S.N. '73	Diana L. Tershakovec, A.R.N.P., B.S.N. '88, M.S.N. '91 and George R. Tershakovec, M.D. '80, B.S. '76	Catherine M. Waters R.N., B.S.N. '85, Ph.D. '93
Dr. Gloria H. Mayer, R.N., B.S.N. '67	Stephanie R. Moss, D.N.P. '13	Deborah S. Paris	Carmen R. Presti, D.N.P. '13	Nancy T. Rosman, R.N., B.S.N. '74	Christopher R. Slivka, B.S.N. '11, B.S.M.A.S. '10	Melody A. Watral, R.N., C.P.N.P., P.C., B.S.N. '80	Robin J. Weidlich, A.B. '94, and Major Christopher P. Weidlich B.S.N. '95
Susan L. McCall, R.N., B.S.N. '78, and Milton C. McCall, R.N. B.S.N. '83, M.B.A. '89, M.S. '89	Ivan Munro, B.S.N. '04	Linda M. Parker and Raymond L. Parker, Jr., M.D.	Marcia G. Prieto, B.S.N. '92	Monica D. Roundtree Cleckley, D.N.P. '13, and Richard L. Cleckley, III	Susan Z. Slotnick, R.N., B.S.N. '65, and Michael C. Slotnick A.B. '57, J.D. '60	Latoya K. Thomas, B.S.N. '01	Diane L. Weisman and Dr. Richard S. Weisman
Cathy J. McClellan, M.S.N. '92	Hyacinth Murray	Wendy Parker	Ninoska Prince, A.B. '00, M.A.L.S. '04	Barbara Rubin and David Rubin	Azona K. Smith B.S.N. '01	Doris H. Thompson, B.S.N. '76, and Everette Thompson	Suzanne Wells, D.N.P. '11
Mary B. McCord, MBA '08	Yamily M. Musa, B.S.N. '12	Aileen H. Parris, B.S.N. '97, and Steven Parris	Tina L. Prince	Lillian M. Rucker, R.N., B.S.N. '86, and Roger D. Rucker	Elizabeth L. Smith, M.S.N. '09, D.N.P. '13, and Walter R. Smith	Pamela B. Thompson, R.N., B.S.N. '67	Evelyn P. Wempe
Ann M. McCrystal, R.N., B.S.N. '59, and Hugh K. McCrystal, M.D.	Martha B. Musino	Lornette D. Patrick, B.S.N. '91, M.S.N. '94, and Fergus R. Patrick	Michelle M. Prosser-Fineman, M.S.N. '00, and Mark E. Fineman	Christian G. Ruiz, B.S. '05	Linda Smith	Shameka L. Thompson B.S.N. '14	Alethia C. Wildman-Jackson, B.S.N. '95
Kathleen M. McDaniel and John W. McDaniel, Jr.	Patricia B. Naaman, B.S.N. '87, and Fred A. Naaman	Patricia M. Paxton-Alan, M.S.N. '95. and Mark A. Alan, B.S. '81	Domingo Punaless	Shirley A. Ryan, R.N., B.S.N. '79	Maya C. Smith, B.S.N. '11	Ann M. Thrailkill, C.N.P. '76	Mari L. Williams, B.S.N. '81, and Michael L. Williams
Moira L. McDermott, D.P.M. B.S.N. '76	Lili K. Neale, R.N., B.S.N. '75, M.S.N. '77, and David A. Neale, M.D. '79	Vanessa A. Paz, B.S.N. '14	Jacqueline W. Purger, R.N., B.S.N. '50	Deborah Saber, Ph.D., R.N., CCRN	Dr. Samuel Smith	Tina M. Tinch, B.S.N. '13	Rita Winegar and William Winegar
Joan H. McDermott, R.N., B.S.N. '65, and William J. McDermott B.B.A. '61	Tennille D. Nelson, M.S.N. '03	Carolina P. Penaranda, B.S.N. '13	Carolina N. Puyana Barcha, B.S.H.S. '14	Melissa J. Sabino, B.S.N. '06, M.S.N. '07, and George Crispin	Mary C. Smolenski, A.R.N.P. C.N.P. '80	Sally A. Titus, R.N., B.S.N. '65, and Jeffrey H. Titus	Helene G. Wittner, R.N., B.S.N. '80, and Stuart Wittner
Kimberly McDuffie, M.S.N. '13, and Lajuan McDuffie	Nancy D. Newbury, A.R.N.P., M.S.N. '81	Christina Penaranda, B.S.N. '13	Dianne H. Quadros, M.S.N. '90	Renee E. Sneddon	Renee E. Sneddon	Jeffrey A. Tobias, M.D. '77	Mary B. Tooke, M.S.N. '13
Clara C. McElroy, R.N., B.S.N. '65, and Dale McElroy	Ngan D. Nguyen, R.N., B.S.N. '78	Judith A. Penley, C.N.P. '80	Erika L. Quattrocchi, D.N.P., B.S.N. '07	Aleida M. Saenz, B.S.N. '01	Kenya F. Snowden, D.N.P. '12, M.S.N. '00	Mary B. Tookey, M.S.N. '13	Johnny J. Torres, B.S.N. '06
Mary E. McKay, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '10, and John Flint	Carolyn R. North, R.N., B.S.N. '68	Patricia E. Pepe and Richard K. Pepe, R.N., BS '75, B.S.N. '78	Lucienne Y. Reese, B.S.N. '85, and Richard A. Reese	Sonique S. Sailsman, R.N., B.S.N. '00, M.S.N.Ed.	Sarah E. Snyder, B.S.N. '12, and Aaron J. Snyder, B.S.Ed. '11	Johnny J. Torres, B.S.N. '06	Bonnie F. Taiman, R.N., B.S.N. '60, and Steve Taiman
Gwen Meckler	Autumn N. Norton, M.S.N. '12	Mayra Perez and Christopher A. Perez	Opal L. Reid-Monfiston	Kimberly Salmi and Michael C. Salmi, B.S.N. '94	Mary B. Soares, B.S.N. '83 and Vaughn Bleuel	Gabriel A. Trieger, B.I.A. '10	Katherine C. Tryon, B.S.N. '80, and Robert D. Tryon
Marta M. Medina, M.S.E.D. '94	Patrick W. Nugent, B.S.N. '13	Danette Perez	Renee S. Reynolds, R.N., B.S.N. '83, and Brian Browne-Reynolds	Sol B. Sanchez and Sergio Sanchez	Luz Maria Solano Cutie and Luis A. Cutie	Katherine C. Tryon, B.S.N. '80, and Robert D. Tryon	Angelea Turner and Patrick W. Turner
Madelyn Menendez and Enrique Menendez	Ellen J. Nusbaum and Sanford J. Nusbaum, B.B.A. '72	Melissa Perez, B.S.N. '11	Jennifer L. Rezendes, M.S.N. '09	Eva A. Santiago	Norma I. Solis, B.S.N. '09, M.S.N. '13	Carol A. Tutta, Ph.D. '13	Richard A. Ulrich, B.S. '75
David A. Meropol, B.S.N. '11	Vanessa L. Ochoa	Ruth E. Perez, B.S.N. '95, M.S.N. '07, and Edward E. Perez	Mabel Ribe, B.S.N. '86, M.S.N. '09, and Ricardo Ribe	Darla J. Schaller, R.N., B.S.N. '64	K. T. Somers	Richard A. Ulrich, B.S. '75	James S. Usich, B.B.A. '68, J.D. '71
B. L. Meza, B.S.N. '00	Troy A. Odom	Edward E. Perez	Ricardo Ribe	Lee A. Schmidt, Ph.D. '01	Louis J. Sperling, A.B. '68	James S. Usich, B.B.A. '68, J.D. '71	Joy A. Usich, B.Ed. '64
	Angela O'Keeffe and John C. O'Keeffe	Paula M. Perry and Dr. Gerson Perry	LaVette N. Richardson, B.S.N. '14	Arlene T. Schnell, A.B. '49, and Martin N. Schnell	Mary B. Stein-Ferrer	Joy A. Usich, B.Ed. '64	Natesha A. Vaillancourt, B.S.N. '04, M.S.N. '06
	Diane H. Oman, B.E.D. '66, and Earl K. Oman, B.B.A. '64	Joycelyn Petersen, B.S.N. '92	Marianne F. Rickert, B.S.N. '76, and Brian M. Rickert	Sharon S. Schwartz, Esq. and Aaron Schwartz, D.O., B.S. '80	Nina J. Stowe and Kenneth I. Stowe, B.B.A. '70	Ivette R. Valdes and Jorge A. Valdes, B.S.N. '97, D.N.P.	
	Susan E. O'Neill, B.S.N. '07	Joan M. Petry, R.N., B.S.N. '58	Mayra S. Riesgo, R.N., B.S.N. '80, and Armando Riesgo	Evelyn B. Schwartz and Gerald Schwartz	Nicole L. Stroud, B.S.N. '13		Tracy Zuckerman and Andrew Zuckerman
		Bridgette L. Pettit, M.S.N. '13	Armando Riesgo		Danielle Sutton, B.S.H.S. '14		
		Gustavo A. Pineiro, B.S. '98, M.A. '02	Jacquelin Rios				



Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda



Joseph P. De Santis



Rosina Cianelli

## Mentorship Yields Celebrated Publication

In keeping with the Institute of Medicine's *The Future of Nursing* report, which calls on health educators to emphasize interprofessional collaboration, SONHS Assistant Professor **Rosa M. Gonzalez-Guarda**, Ph.D. '08, routinely mentors non-SONHS students. One of her recent mentees is Amanda Cummings, Ph.D. '14, a counseling psychology major in the UM School of Education and Human Development with whom Gonzalez-Guarda authored a paper that has been recognized among the ten best violence research articles of 2013 by a panel of senior researchers convened by the editor of the journal *Psychology of Violence*. The article, "Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanics: A Review of the Literature," was published in the *Journal of Family Violence*. Gonzalez-Guarda also mentored the paper's third author, Melanie Sandoval, who did a summer 2010 internship at the SONHS while a student at the University of Virginia.

"Inclusion of our work in such a selective list is a great recognition," says Gonzalez-Guarda, a nationally recognized expert in the field of IPV. "The fact that it is co-authored by our counseling psychology and nursing mentees just makes that honor that much more special—and shows that our efforts to educate a new generation of interdisciplinary health disparities scientists are working."

## De Santis and Gonzalez-Guarda: AAN Fellows

Associate Professor **Joseph P. De Santis** and Assistant Professor **Rosa M. Gonzalez-Guarda**, Ph.D. '08, are among 168 nurse leaders inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing during the academy's conference in Washington, D.C., this October. The academy comprises more than 2,200 nurse leaders from 24 countries who have made significant contributions in education, management, practice, policy, and research.

"To join such an accomplished group of peers, whom I have aspired to emulate, means a great deal to me," Gonzalez-Guarda says.

De Santis, who is recognized for his national work on reducing health disparities among sexual minorities and for his global work on care of infants and children with HIV, considers his designation "a pinnacle of my nursing research, education, and practice career."

Applicants are reviewed by a panel of fellows, and selection is based, in part, on the extent the nominee's nursing career has influenced health policies and overall well-being.

## Cianelli Elected RWJF Executive Nurse Fellow

Associate Professor **Rosina Cianelli** has been named one of 20 national Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellows for 2014. This world-class, three-year leadership development program provides nurse leaders who are working to improve the U.S. health care system with coaching, education, and other resources to help them lead teams that will implement new initiatives.

Cianelli is a bilingual Hispanic nurse scientist with expertise in health disparities, HIV prevention, culturally tailored interventions, women's health, and global health. She is an investigator for the school's Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro and co-principal investigator on an HIV prevention intervention for Hispanic women.

"Our alumni are a virtual who's who of accomplished, prestigious nurses, and we know that Dr. Cianelli and the other members of the 2014 RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows cohort will do a tremendous amount to build a culture of health in the United States," says Linda Cronenwett, co-director of the RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows program.

"The program represents a challenge and an opportunity to reframe my leadership style paradigm," Cianelli says. "I look forward to utilizing the skills gained from this experience to contribute to the nursing profession."

# Triple 'Cane Devoted to Serving Local and Global Communities

From his earliest school days in his native Cuba, Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, always knew a career in health care would be in his future. When asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, his inevitable answer was *nurse or doctor*.

"I have always liked helping people," he remembers. "That has been my passion." Ortega was in his second year of medical school when he joined a large wave of Cuban migrants fleeing the island in 1994 for a better life in the United States. He arrived in Miami with almost nothing, and speaking no English. Two decades later, he holds three degrees from what has become his academic and professional

home: the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

"Even though I love my country and my family," he says, "I made the decision to leave to be able to accomplish my dreams. My grandmother was very influential in my life, and I made a promise to her to continue my education."

Balancing his economic situation with his love of science and medicine led Ortega to consider a nursing career. "I worked two or three jobs to come to school," he says. "I chose nursing because I could not afford to just dedicate myself to studying. I had to work to be able to eat and help my family in Cuba. But I have never regretted it. This is my calling."

Despite working while going to school, Ortega was a stellar undergraduate. He received the Florida League of Nursing Clinical Excellence Award, the SONHS' Academic and Clinical Excellence Award,

and inductions into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the Golden Key International Honor Society. After earning his Ph.D., Ortega began his clinical nursing career at South Miami Hospital, where he still works as an acute care nurse practitioner in the emergency room to sharpen his skills as an educator.

"It really keeps you up to date," he says. "It's the difference of someone who really knows what's out there versus teaching only from the book."

SONHS students have twice recognized Ortega as Faculty of the Year, and in 2013 the Pew Research Center named him among "twenty fabulous Hispanic Professors in Florida." He has also progressively pursued positions of global leadership, including his role at the SONHS as director of international programs and deputy director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre. He leads frequent international exchange trips for students and faculty and studies how such experiences impact learning.

Ortega regularly leads SONHS humanitarian missions to Haiti. His work there has been recognized with a UM Citizens Board Select Projects grant. He is also the 2013 recipient of the Susana Espino Muñoz Academic Trajectory Award of the Latin American Association of Schools and Colleges of Nursing, among other accolades.

"I want to help where there is the most need," reflects Ortega. "In the future, I hope to find more funding to do more research and missions to underserved populations in other countries."



R. M. LAMAZARES-ROMERO

## 1960s

**Nancy Wade, B.S.N. '63, and Claudia M. Hauri, C.N.P. '76,** enjoyed a cruise to the Caribbean this past August; both are enjoying retirement, travel, and their friendship.

**Cynthia J. Cardarella, B.S.N. '68,** is retired but continues to be a source of nursing information for family and friends. She also mentors a B.S.N. student at the state college in her town of Sebring. She was proud to have been chosen to receive one of six grants to obtain her master's degree at UNC in Chapel Hill in 1970.

## 1970s

**Clare Good, B.S.N. '70,** returned to New York City in May for her 65th reunion as a graduate of Bellevue Hospital's School of Nursing (1949). It wasn't until the 1960s that she went back to school to further her education, culminating in her graduation from the University of Miami.

**Nan Rosman, B.S.N. '74,** is widowed after 44 years of marriage and retired from working. First she worked in obstetrics, then did home health for many years on Miami Beach, then worked at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the Miller School of Medicine. She loved her nursing jobs and calls her days as a UM student "the best of times." At 75 years old, she is very busy traveling, including a recent trip to Japan. She helps to raise money for cancer research at the UHealth Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. She loves going to alumni events and still being part of the U of M!

**Betty S. Huber, B.S.N. '75,** retired from 39 years of nursing, including 20 years on the R.N. staff at Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford, Florida.

**Kathryn Zeoli, B.S.N. '75, M.D. '79,** is presently a volunteer faculty member in the Miller School of Medicine's Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery and would like to help teach dermatology to the Family Medicine residents at UM as well. She is also volunteer faculty at Florida Atlantic University's Nurse Practitioner master's program and is working to enable FAU students who are interested in medical dermatology (mainly skin cancer recognition and treatment) to rotate through her office. Her office has three medical dermatologists and two Mohs surgeons.

**Ann M. Thrailkill, C.N.P. '76,** a graduate of the SONHS Family Nurse Practitioner program, is working at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in California as a primary care provider in women's health. She also handles primary care for male veterans one day a week, conducts compensation and pension exams for veterans seeking disabilities, and is the OB coordinator for the medical center. She is a preceptor for residents from Stanford Medical School as well as a second-year adult nurse practitioner student from the University of California, San Francisco, for primary care and women's health. This keeps her quite busy, but she also enjoys golf, bridge, ragtime music festivals, and travel.

**Arlynn Segai-Owens, B.S.N. '77, M.S.P.H. '86,** met her husband of 25 years, John Owens, A.B. '71, B.S. '71, M.A. '97, at the University of Miami Hospitals and Clinics. He was working as a nuclear medicine technologist, and she was the employee health nurse. Their paths crossed after he stuck himself with a needle from a hepatitis patient and she had to give him a gamma globulin, tetanus, and Heptavax shot that made him sick as a dog; the rest is history. John then worked at the University of Miami Miller School as an assistant radiation safety officer until he retired in 2012. He has coordinated and taught courses about Florida history and the Everglades for 20 years at the Elderhostel/Road Scholar Everglades Programs. Arlynn worked in epidemiology and later at the Diabetes Research Institute doing clinical trials. She has been an R.N. for 40 years and a certified diabetes educator for 18 years. For the past 12 years, she has worked in the Pediatric Diabetes Clinic at the Mailman Center for Child Development at the Miller School.

**Shirley Ryan, B.S.N. '79,** loves to receive the newest updates from the SONHS. She was in her 40s when she earned her degree—"a late starter, and I loved every minute of it." She worked for 15 years, first doing hospital nursing in orthopedics and labor and delivery. She spent her last ten years of practice in PACU. Since retiring more than 20 years ago, she has been a hospital volunteer, working in PACU and outpatient surgery.

## 1990s

**Audra Hutton Lopez, B.S.N. '90, M.S.N. '94,** is the program manager and nurse practitioner for the Liver Program at Broward Health Medical Center. She has been with this program since 2003. She continues to be active and involved with the UM Broward Alumni Club; previously she served as vice president for two consecutive terms. She is married to her high-school sweetheart, and they have three beautiful children. Her eldest daughter, Natalie, is a student at the University of Miami. Her daughter Alexandra is a sophomore at Colorado State University and plans to enroll at the University of Miami for her master's degree. Son Erik will be graduating from high school in 2015.

**Catherine Mainieri Gagnon, B.S.N. '91,** passed her "Certified Nurse Educator" examination in July 2014.

**Debra Diaz, B.S.N. '92,** recently received her D.N.P. with a specialization in anesthesiology and is the Officer in Charge of Detachment H Operational Support Health Unit Jacksonville at the Naval Operational Support Center in Tampa, Florida. She is a commander in the U.S. Navy. She became a C.R.N.A. in August of 1994.

**Dorene Harrison, B.S.N. '94,** began the B.S.N. program right after Hurricane Andrew. It was the start to completing her dream of becoming an F.N.P. She recently returned to Florida from the West Coast and is calling upon her classmates to get in touch.

**Enrique "Rick" Garcia, B.S.N. '95,** served as the executive director of the Florida Board of Nursing and faculty at the Florida State University College of Nursing. He returned to private practice in urology to serve as director of clinical services and administrator of the practice's adjacent ambulatory surgery center. He has been invited to join the faculty at New York University's College of Nursing as an assistant professor/faculty fellow for two years.

**Grace Grau, B.S.N. '96,** has been living in Alabama since 2002. She completed her M.S.N. in A.C.N.P. in 2005 at University of Alabama in Huntsville and is presently working on her D.N.P. with expected completion date in May 2015. She is on the faculty at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where she teaches gerontology, evidence-based practice, and adult acute care clinical practicum courses for undergraduate and acute care nurse practitioner students. She has served as a member and chair of the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice of the combined Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing for the State of Alabama since 2010. She has been working in interventional cardiology since 2005 and currently holds a one-day-a-week faculty practice appointment at University of Alabama Hospital at Birmingham. Her research interests include health disparities in women, particularly coronary ischemia, attention-deficit disorder, and domestic violence. On a personal note, she is now the proud *abuelita* of two granddaughters, Robyn Ileana and Aurora Grace Fernandez, who keep her traveling down to South Florida at least quarterly, and a grandson, Blake Alexander Godber, who lives close by and helps remind her that everything IS NOT about frills and curls.

## INSPIRE & ENGAGE FUTURE GENERATIONS

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By naming the School of Nursing and Health Studies as a beneficiary in your will or trust, you can support the greatest need or your preferred program at the SONHS.

A bequest in your will or trust allows you to fulfill your philanthropic goals while minimizing your taxable estate and simplifying the probate process. You also retain full use and control of your assets during your life.

A bequest is easy – just ask your attorney to draft a codicil to your existing will, or if you don't have a will, now is a good time to have one prepared. A bequest to the School of Nursing and Health Studies can be a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your residual estate or trust.

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Cynthia L. Beamish, Executive Director  
Office of Estate and Gift Planning  
(305) 284 - 4342  
um.plannedgiving@miami.edu  
www.miami.edu/plannedgiving

### Send us your news!

Email Rosa Lamazares-Romero,  
SONHS Communications Manager,  
at rmlromero@miami.edu



**Jorge Delgado, B.S.N. '97**, completed his Doctor of Nursing Practice at the University of Alabama in 2014. He is now practicing at Duke University as a nurse practitioner in vascular surgery and as part-time faculty of Duke University Graduate School of Nursing in Durham, North Carolina.

**Charlotte Barry, Ph.D. '99**, was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in October 2014. She is internationally known for her expertise in caring science through ongoing practice, teaching, research, and policy development for vulnerable families and populations at nurse-run, school-based health centers in the Southeast United States, sub-Saharan Africa, and rural Haiti.

## 2000s

**Theresa Buckley, M.S.N. '06**, is presently working in private practice in Fort Myers, Florida. She serves as the Gulf Coast Chapter chair of the Florida American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) affiliates.

**Meagan Mulawka, B.S.N. '06**, is working as an acute care nurse practitioner for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

**Ofelia Cabrera, B.S.N. '08**, began medical school this July.

**Megan Corley, B.S.N. '08**, a graduate of the SONHS Accelerated B.S.N. program, earned her adult nurse practitioner degree in 2012 from New York University. She now teaches as adjunct faculty to N.P. students at NYU and works full-time as an N.P. in a private practice doing orthopedics/sports medicine.

**Susan Watson, M.S.N. '08, Ph.D. '11**, was promoted to associate dean at Roseman University of Health Sciences on the South Jordan campus. It is a relatively new university that teaches baccalaureate-level nurses, as well as pharmacy and dental students. The university plans to start a medical school and is already doing research on uterine and ovarian cancers, as well as some pharmacology studies. It is a mastery learning program and a block program, immersing students in one topic at a time with breaks for remediation. She loves living near her 18-month-old grandson, Benjamin, and his newly graduated R.N. dad, Corey, and wife, Melanie, who is a Salt Lake City attorney.

**Rose Knapp, D.N.P. '09**, started the D.N.P. program at Monmouth University in 2012. She was appointed chair of the Department of Nursing at Monmouth University in 2014 and was elected president of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Forum of Nurses in Advanced Practice in 2013. She developed and presented the Adult-Gero Acute Care APN review webinar and developed the ANCC Adult-Gero Acute Care Review Manual. She has been appointed clinical editor for Wolters Kluwer Publishers.

**David Zambrana, D.N.P. '09**, has been named chief executive officer of the University of Miami Hospital.

## 2010s

**Ashton Nicole Paul, B.S.N. '10**, works as a nursing manager for Alegria Community Living, based out of the San Francisco East Bay Area. She medically manages seven residential homes for adults with severe developmental disabilities and recently began teaching and training outside vendors and agencies on health issues that arise in the developmentally delayed population. She loves her job, and the flexibility of the position gives her plenty of time with her family, including the newest addition, Cohen. She works with adults ranging from 40 to 85 years of age with severe autism, intellectual disabilities, and seizure disorders; most are nonverbal, which helped teach her how to communicate and understand body language and unspoken cues both in and out of the workplace. She assists with moving individuals from developmental institutions into the community to improve quality of life and develop life skills and relationships that were lacking in the institutional life. Serving this population that is often neglected and underserved has become a passion of hers, and she enjoys learning and growing in the position, as well as expanding out to educate others in the health care profession and community about the ongoing needs of the disabled.

**Darin Principe, B.S.N. '10**, completed her M.S.N. for family nurse practitioner at the University of Central Florida in August 2013 and was accepted into a 12-month nurse practitioner residency at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic in the state of Washington. There are roughly ten such residencies throughout the country for outpatient F.N.P.s.

## Stay Connected on Facebook!

The SONHS is on Facebook – receive the latest exciting news and learn of upcoming events, research, and so much more!

It's the best way to stay in touch with alumni, students, faculty, and the many others who follow the SONHS.



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**Maria Teresa Urrutia, Ph.D. '10**, is conducting research about cervical cancer in Chilean women. She hopes to interview 1,000 Chilean women over three years. The research was based on Social Determinants of Health—a WHO theoretical model. It was funded by FONDECYT- CONICYT (similar to the NIH in the U.S.)

**Paula James, D.N.P. '11**, moved from Orlando, Florida, where she had been employed as a critical care clinical nurse specialist at South Seminole Hospital (Orlando Health), to Boston, where she accepted a position as associate dean of the School of Nursing at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University.

**Adriana Arcia, Ph.D. '12**, has been appointed to the faculty of Columbia University School of Nursing with the title of assistant professor of nursing. For her article, "Method for the Development of Data Visualizations for Community Members with Varying Levels of Health Literacy," she received the Harriet H. Werley Award, presented yearly at the American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium to the paper with a nurse as first author who is judged to make the greatest contribution to advancing the field of nursing informatics.

**Christopher Perez, B.S.H.S. '12**, published his book, *Getting into Medical School: A Comprehensive Guide for Non-Traditional Students*. The book was written to serve as an essential guide to help non-traditional students who have decided to change their career paths and pursue careers in medicine. It informs the reader about all the necessary steps needed to become a successful premed student and medical school applicant.

**Betsy Fernandez, D.N.P. '13**, received the Advanced Practice Nursing Award 2014 from the Florida Nurses Association, which recognizes an individual who exemplifies excellence in the advanced practice role. She was described as “a model nurse practitioner with extraordinary clinical, organizational, and political skills that inspire colleagues, students, and the multidisciplinary team of professional caregivers with whom she works and associates.”

**Elizabeth Martinez-Ochoa, B.S.N. '13**, started the new graduate program at Cedars-Sinai medical center (Pulmonary/EKG unit) in Los Angeles.

**Karen Perez, M.S.N. '13**, was accepted into the University of Miami D.N.P. program in spring of 2014. For two years she dreamed of opening a learning center that would offer NCLEX review, tutoring, CPR, CNA review, and other nursing educational services. At the end of her first semester in the D.N.P. program, she opened Nursing Kare Learning Center. She says her first semester in the D.N.P. program played a vital role in making this dream a reality.

**Susan L. Sonson, D.N.P. '13**, had her capstone accepted for a podium presentation at the CGEAN (Council on Graduate Education for Administration in Nursing) INARC (International Nursing Administration Research Conference) in November in Dallas. She also did a poster presentation of the capstone at the NCNP (National Conference of Nurse Practitioners) in Chicago in April 2014.

## In Memoriam



**Sima Gebel, B.S.N. '53, C.N.P. '76**, a graduate of the first class of nurses in the UM College of Arts and Sciences, leaves a legacy of more than 70 years of service and philanthropy to the field of nursing. A former R.N. who navigated the World War II-era nursing shortage in Chicago, Gebel relocated to South Florida, earned her B.S.N., and became director of nurse education at what is now called Miami Children's Hospital, the go-to place in the 1950s for polio treatments. As such, she became skilled with the Iron Lung. She later served as a pediatrics instructor at the UM medical school while earning her graduate degree to become a family nurse practitioner. Her generosity over the years includes gifts to support the Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies, a nursing student loan program named for her brother, Irving Gebel, and the Sima Gebel Doctoral Nursing Scholarship Fund to support nursing students pursuing doctoral degrees.



**Joan Abess, B.S.N. '68**, a long-time donor to the SONHS whose gifts helped to fund student scholarships, died at the age of 82. A former assistant director of nursing at Doctors Hospital, Abess joined Jackson Health System in 1977 as director of quality assurance, later becoming chair of nursing practice. She then returned to Doctors Hospital in 1985 as chief nursing officer until she retired in 1996. She remained a lifelong advocate of advanced education for nurses. She was a cousin of UM Board of Trustees member Leonard Abess.

**Carol Tuttas, Ph.D. '13**, authored “Job Integration Factors as Predictors of Travel Nurse Job Performance, A Mixed-Methods Study,” published in the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*. In addition to being published for a third time in this journal, Tuttas was asked to create a video abstract of her study to bring attention to the importance of the topic being researched. The results of the study can inform nurse managers preparing to receive travel nurses, lead to onboarding frameworks that more effectively meet travel nurses' needs, and facilitate optimal job performance in the best interest of patient safety and satisfaction.

**Sonia Fumie Nakasone, B.S.N. '14**, is back in Washington state, working as a registered nurse for maternity support services in Thurston and Mason counties through Sea Mar Community Health Clinics. She is very happy with her new job and new life as a nurse! Her son (Heisei, 8) and daughter (Adriana, 4) are very proud of her and are very happy she is back home. She's proud to be a 'Cane!

**Harold David Rosales, B.S.N. '14**, passed the NCLEX and was accepted into the Residency Program at University of Miami Hospital, on the telemetry floor.

## Russia Gives Fulbright Scholar a Lesson in Adaptability

**Suzanne Wells, D.N.P. '11**, grew up in a small, rural community on the southern tip of Illinois. For her, a career in nursing offered a ticket to the broader world—a trip she was happy to take.

After graduating from nursing school in Kentucky and later getting her M.S.N. in psychiatric and mental health nursing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Wells worked in the mental health field for years. She then began teaching at Florida Southwestern State College before deciding to enroll in the D.N.P. program at the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies.

“I loved the accelerated format,”

Wells says. “It was manageable for me to continue to teach full-time. It enabled me to better understand evidence-based practice and the need to incorporate that into my own clinical practice experience.”

Particularly appealing to Wells was the school's focus on health disparities and its global perspective, which meshed perfectly with her travel bug. She had worked as a nurse and taught for five years in New Zealand, and also spent part of a summer doing fieldwork in Indonesia.

The director of the D.N.P. program encouraged Wells to apply to the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. She was accepted in 2013 and spent three months in the city of Ufa, Russia, teaching at Bashkir State Medical University and local medical facilities. For her Fulbright proposal, Wells focused on

incorporating healthy lifestyle behaviors into a nursing curriculum, but she soon discovered that she had to be flexible and adapt her teaching to the interests of the students.

The students, whom Wells taught through an interpreter in large classes of up to 100, were less interested in American notions about smoking than in practical differences in medical protocols. They asked her to lecture on a wide variety of topics.

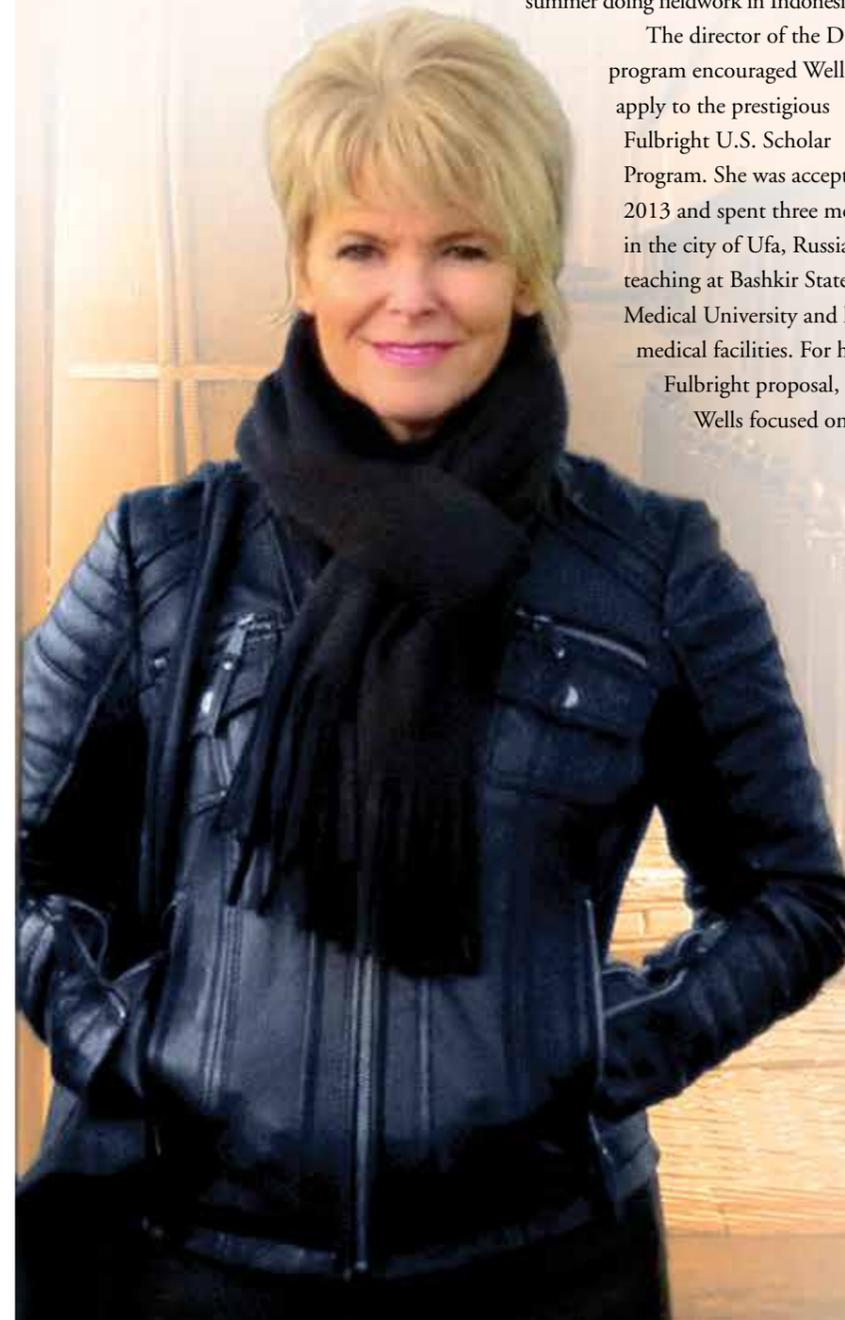
“At the oncology department, the students wanted to know our practices on infection control,” she recalls. “In a hospice, they wanted to know how we handled the psychological aspects of hospice care. I would meet with [students and staff] and design lectures that way.”

Wells says the experience was positive, though it required constant adjustments in cultural perspective from both teacher and students. Her students in Russia, many of whom attended school 12 hours a day, six days a week, were serious, focused, and extremely formal.

“Culture shock both ways,” Wells says.

Not long after returning home, Wells was promoted to associate dean of the nursing program at Florida Southwestern State College, where she also teaches global health, among other courses. She credits her advanced nursing degree with making the Fulbright experience and her career advancement possible.

“It opened new doors for me,” Wells says. “I'm a pretty lucky person to have come from humble beginnings to these experiences. It truly is all about education.”



## Grace under Fire

After more than 20 years as a firefighter, paramedic, and certified rescue diver—plus a brief stint as a strong safety for the Minnesota Vixens in the 1999 inaugural year of the Women’s Professional Football League, what other challenges are there for a 48-year-old wife, mother, and grandmother?

For Merrill Camel, a lifelong learner with a keen interest in health care, there’s just one thing left to do: earn a degree in nursing. And just to keep things interesting, Camel is a full-time B.S.N. student in the School of Nursing and Health Studies (Class of 2015) while also working full-time as a captain with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. Her goal is to complete her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a specialty in anesthesiology.

“A few years ago, I reached a point where I felt I needed to go back to school,” says Camel, who has frequently taken courses and earned certifications throughout her career, often finishing at the top of the class.

She became particularly attracted to anesthesiology after hearing a physician friend’s description of the specialty as

“... hours of routine procedure with moments of sheer terror.” Camel laughs as she recalls this half-joking comment and says, “That’s like the fire department. Not a whole lot is going on until the alarm goes off, and then all hell could break loose. It’s a job that suits me.”

Camel is now channeling her insatiable thirst for knowledge into her nursing coursework—and her dedication to community service into volunteer activities at the University. She maintains a GPA of 3.95 and was recently inducted into the prestigious Golden Key International Honour Society, which offers membership only to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors University-wide. She is treasurer for the Multicultural Nursing Student

Association (MNSA), and she recently joined the executive board of the American Assembly for Men in Nursing (AAMN), which is open to both men and women.

How does Camel manage to work full-time, maintain her status as a top student, and volunteer her time to support causes in which she believes? She says simply, “It takes discipline, a calendar, and a supportive spouse.”

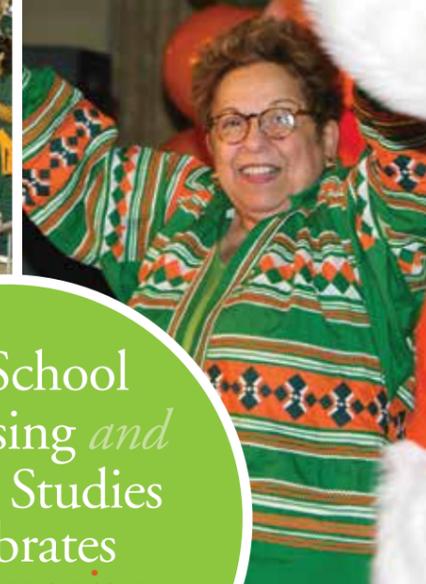
When her work schedule conflicts with class or clinical times, Camel swaps time with fellow fire captains, often working double shifts, weekends, and holidays to pay back the time. When time permits, she relaxes and recharges by taking cruise vacations with her wife. She also enjoys biking, riding motorcycles, and entertaining at home.

Camel doesn’t mind the term “nontraditional student.” In fact, she says, “I think it fits me. And one advantage of going back to school as an older adult is that I know what I want to do.”

Her advice to other nontraditional students? “It sounds cliché,” she says, “but keep your eye on the prize. It’s worth it at the end. It might be tough, but tough is only for a little while.”



F. M. LAMAZARES-ROMERO



The School of Nursing and Health Studies Celebrates Homecoming 2014



On Friday, October 31, School of Nursing and Health Studies alumni, faculty, and staff gathered on campus to watch the annual University of Miami Homecoming Parade, where SONHS students marched down Stanford Drive in scrubs to show their nursing pride!

On Saturday, November 1, the SONHS welcomed more than 300 alumni, students, community partners, friends, and guests to the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables for what has become a time-honored tradition: The Annual Alumni Breakfast and Morning Spirits Celebration. This year’s attendees represented multiple class reunions, including members of the classes of 1959 and 1963. Congratulations to all our alumni on their amazing accomplishments, and Go ‘Canes!





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## INFORMATICS

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING NURSING INFORMATICS (MSN-NI)

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### MASTER OF SCIENCE HEALTH INFORMATICS (MS-HI)

The program is designed to prepare students for rewarding careers with health care systems, hospitals, government, health insurance providers, medical vendors, pharmaceutical/biotechnology companies, and consulting firms. Graduates from the program may seek employment as health information managers, clinical data managers, chief information officers, health care project managers, auditing/coding specialists and health informatics consultants.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

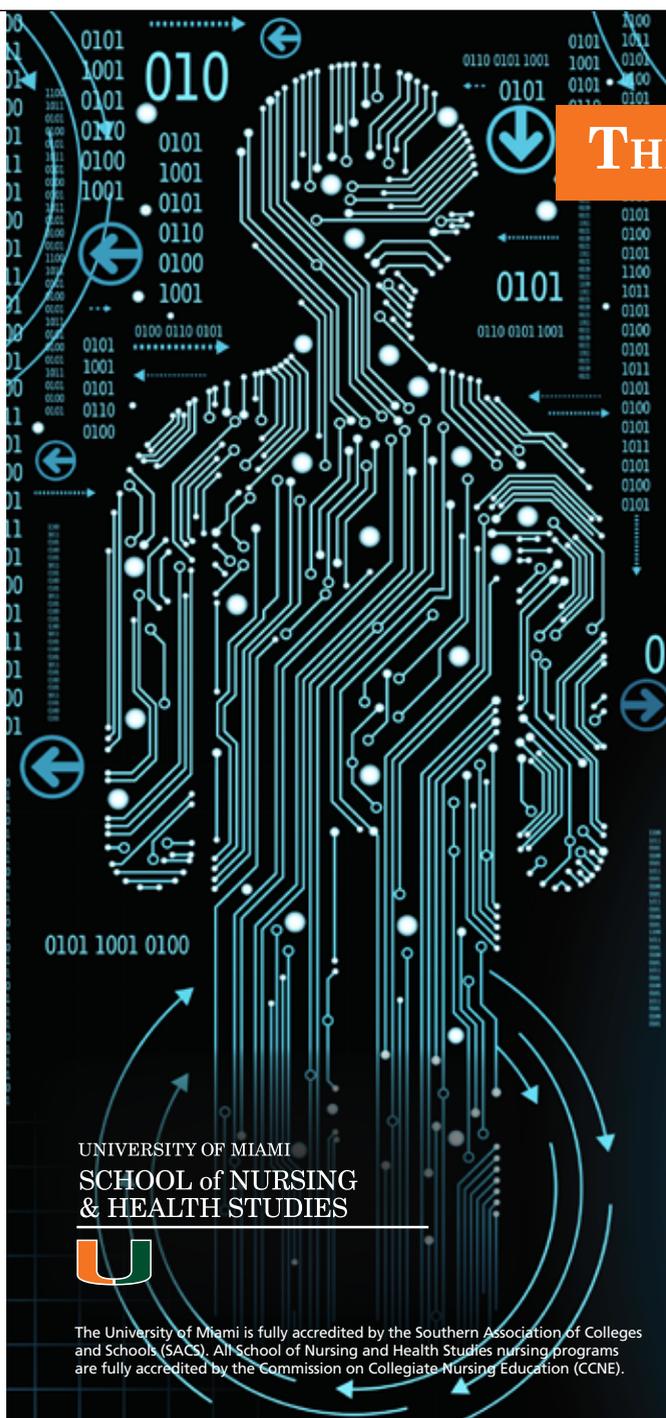
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& HEALTH STUDIES



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