

heartbeat

Fall 2012

University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies



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To make a gift or learn more about *Momentum2*, please contact Nancy Castleman-Dion in the School of Nursing and Health Studies Advancement Office at 305-284-1892 or ncastlem@miami.edu.

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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.

Welcome to the Fall 2012 edition of *Heartbeat!*

There is a feeling of momentum building all across the University of Miami. It's a vision for the future, a long-term view of all the things a great research university can be. Spurring it on is *Momentum2: The Breakthrough Campaign for the University of Miami*—the ambitious \$1.6 billion capital campaign that UM launched in February. The campaign will enhance the educational opportunities for all students, including the next generation of health care providers.

At the School of Nursing and Health Studies, our *Momentum2* goal is to raise \$15 million. The centerpiece in our own vision for the future is the five-story, 39,000-square-foot simulation hospital that we will build on our Coral Gables campus. This fully equipped facility—the only one of its kind in the U.S.—will form the base

for our faculty to educate students using cutting-edge approaches to health care and patient safety. New support is also needed to fund endowed chairs and student scholarships, which will help us continue to attract the best and the brightest educators and students from around the world.

Our other big news is that the National Institutes of Health has awarded the school a \$7 million, five-year grant to continue the work of our Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research (El Centro), which is dedicated to improving minority health. The renewal grant funds two randomized trials that will test evidence-based interventions in real-world community settings. And in a prestigious recognition of our global outreach, we were selected to host the XIII Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium, held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in September.

Here on campus, we are launching a Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree this fall. It is the first full-time undergraduate public health program in

South Florida and one of only two in the entire state. What we are doing in the classroom is paying off, too, as the rapid rise in our students' NCLEX-RN scores attests. We are now one of the top nursing schools for NCLEX-RN passing rates in both national and state averages.

You will find all of these exciting stories, and more, in this issue of *Heartbeat*. And please remember: Your ongoing support is vital to our continued ability to provide a world-class education for future health care leaders. Enjoy the issue.

Nilda (Nena) Peragallo

Dr.P.H., R.N., F.A.A.N.

Dean and Professor

“We are now one of the top nursing schools for NCLEX-RN passing rates in both national and state averages.”



After the Quake: Helping Haiti Heal

On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, killing more than a quarter of a million people, injuring hundreds of thousands, displacing more than a million—and traumatizing a nation.

“Estimates are that two out of five Haitians witnessed severe trauma, including backyard amputations, severe physical injuries, and destroyed homes and businesses,” says Associate Professor Rosina Cianelli. “Many lost everything, including their will to live, and are in desperate need of psychological care.”

Two years later, a team of School of Nursing and Health Studies faculty members completed a project that gave Haiti the tools to recover. They developed a “culturally adapted” program to educate Haitian health care professionals to identify and treat mental health issues and trauma.

“Mental health, as defined by western psychiatry and psychology, has never been a priority in Haiti,” Cianelli explains. “There are just a handful of psychiatrists working in the Cap-Haïtien region, providing care for over one million residents.”

The team included Cianelli, Assistant Professor of Clinical Carole Roseau, D.N.P. ’10, Dean Nilda Peragallo, Associate Dean Victoria Mitrani, A.B. ’80, Ph.D. ’86, School of Education and Human Development Department Chair Marie Guerda Nicolas, and Miller School of Medicine Assistant Professor André Vulcain. Half the group—Roseau, Nicolas, and Vulcain—are natives of Haiti.

“The Haitian trainees were so enthusiastic,” recounts Cianelli. “Some traveled more than eight hours from rural areas to the training in urban Cap-Haïtien. The Haitian nurses gave

many examples of how they put their new skills into practice while working with people with post-traumatic stress disorder as a consequence of the earthquake. In total, we trained more than 110 workers and provided advanced training to 20 trainers, who, for the first time, are providing mental health services in urban and rural areas of Haiti.”

The trainers, in turn, will teach other Haitian health care professionals about mental health, creating a ripple effect.

Still, says Roseau, “The problems in Haiti were a lot worse than we initially thought. I expected the health care professionals to have some training in mental health, but since mental illness is considered taboo in Haiti, it is not taught. In Haiti, when a child is sick, the automatic belief is to blame evil spirits. We taught the nurses and physicians to dig deeper to see if children need to be seen by a psychiatrist or psychologist.”

The one-year training program was funded by a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (part of the National Institutes of Health) to the school’s Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research (El Centro). It represents one aspect of the school’s work in Haiti, which is far from finished.

Now, thanks to a new grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation that began in March, the school has launched a second program, one that addresses maternal and child health issues in southwestern Haiti. These issues include clandestine abortion, one of the causes of maternal mortality in Haiti; family planning; and the mental health needs of childbearing women.

“We made a commitment to the people of Haiti, and we still have a lot of work to accomplish,” Cianelli says.

UM Professors Rosina Cianelli, Marie Guerda Nicolas, and Carole Roseau enhance mental health care in Haiti.



Nursing School Welcomes Kenyan Minister of Medical Services



Dean Nilda Peragallo leads Kenya's Anyang' Nyong'o on a tour of campus and the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies.

The notion that nurse practitioners can boost access to quality health care in underserved regions was something of an epiphany for Kenya's minister of medical services, Anyang' Nyong'o. After learning about the initiative that UM alumnus Folorunso Ibraheem, D.N.P. '10, launched in his native Nigeria, where nurse practitioners screen villagers for chronic illnesses, Nyong'o began exploring how nurses could help ease the strain on his own country's ailing health care system.

Ibraheem helped arrange a visit for Nyong'o to the University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Studies this April, where Nyong'o met with Dean Nilda Peragallo, Vice Dean Doris Ugarriza, M.S.N. '81, and Associate Dean JoAnn

Trybulski before touring the school's M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies. Nyong'o received a firsthand look at one of the center's signature features—a simulation lab where nursing students practice nursing procedures on lifelike simulators that can register a heartbeat, perspire, and even deliver a baby. He visited the lab's fully equipped mockup of a hospital emergency room, watching faculty members care for a simulator soldier who had been injured by an improvised explosive device.

"He was impressed with how nurse practitioners were able to identify serious health conditions in patients using only the most basic of medical equipment such as stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, and audioscopes," Trybulski said. She noted that Nyong'o is leading an effort to change the Kenyan health care system so that practitioners can concentrate more on the detection and treatment of chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

Nyong'o's three-hour UM visit also included a meeting with President Donna E. Shalala; Victoria Mitrani, A.B. '80, Ph.D. '86, associate dean for research at the nursing school; and David Zambrana, D.N.P. '09, chief operating and nursing officer at University of Miami Hospital.

Reducing Stress on the Front Lines

Is it possible to make military health care providers more resilient to stress in a combat zone? That's the question Christopher Weidlich, B.S.N. '94, is trying to answer. A lieutenant colonel and psychiatric nurse practitioner in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Weidlich is pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing on an Army scholarship at his alma mater. He has received two grants through the Triservice Nursing Research Program and Jonas Foundation to support his research.

"Witnessing how soldiers respond to being in a war zone, their heightened sense of awareness for safety, you see horrific things and intense emotions," Weidlich says of his service for the past decade on Army units that specialize in combat stress and mental health.

By examining the resiliency levels of Army nurses, LPNs, and medics, Weidlich hopes to gain new insight into how resiliency training can be improved for deployed military health care providers, ultimately leading to better care of U.S. troops. Weidlich expects to graduate in 2013, at which time he will return to the Army to conduct research for the Army Medical Department and Army Nurse Corps.



D.N.P. Student Hopes to Lead Revolution in Chinese Nursing

“In China, we do not have anything like the D.N.P. Even our master’s program does not provide the same hands-on experience that you have in the United States. My goal is to use my education to help redefine the nursing program in China.”

So says Siwei Liu, who has traveled 8,000 miles to Miami from Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province in the People’s Republic of China. As a student in the school’s D.N.P. Program, she is learning about nursing education practices that in her home country would be considered, well, revolutionary. “The majority of nurses in China do not have access to this type of education,” says Liu.

China has more than three times as many people as the U.S. but only half the number of nurses. There is also a dramatic difference in education and clinical experience. In China, 64 percent of the nurses have a diploma-level education, provided primarily through high school-level programs. Another 24.4 percent are educated at the college level (similar to A.D. programs), and only 1.3 percent are B.S.N. graduates.

“Our program in China utilizes nurses as doctors’ assistants and never would allow direct-access patient care,” says Liu, who is hoping to help nurses in China get more involved in patient care. “Nurses never question a doctor; we follow orders. It is so different in the U.S.—you collaborate and work as a

team. Our nurses in China want to learn these advanced practice skills. I want to show that through education we can redefine the role of nurses in my country and allow them to take more of a leadership position.”

“The language of nursing is universal,” says JoAnn Trybulski, associate dean for D.N.P. programs and associate professor of clinical. “Attracting international students to our innovative nursing programs helps us fulfill our mission

to improve health care globally by educating nurses and nurse educators.”

Liu, an educator herself, is amazed at the pace of the program and the clinical experience of her classmates at the School of Nursing and Health Studies. “I can see how much I need to learn.”

Liu says obtaining her D.N.P. is the first of two goals, and she is on track to graduate in December. “I would like to do an internship after finishing the D.N.P. to get more direct patient care experience in the United States,” she says. “I also plan to pursue a Ph.D. to get more research experience. There are so many opportunities for nurses in your country to expand their education. This type of education would revolutionize nursing in China.

What begins here may play a part in doing that.”





Thanks, Preceptors

The School of Nursing and Health Studies held its Annual Preceptors Appreciation Dinner on February 9, 2012. Preceptors are area health care professionals who demonstrate clinical procedure, then provide feedback on students' performance.

"We want to express our sincere appreciation to the many preceptors who work with our students," says Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo. "They volunteer their valuable time and advice, and our school and our students are both better for their contributions."

NCLEX-RN Pass Rate Highest in South Florida

Our graduates are setting a new standard of excellence with an NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses) pass rate that is the highest in South Florida and among the top four in the state. Under the leadership of Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, the School of Nursing and Health Studies has recorded significant increases since 2007. Beginning in 2006, Peragallo and the SONHS faculty implemented a number of curriculum changes that helped students gain stronger baseline knowledge of clinical nursing. The school now uses standardized tests that not only mimic the NCLEX-RN exam but also act as valuable diagnostic tools for students to monitor their strengths and weakness.

The accompanying chart shows the school's track record between 2007 and 2011. State and national results

are also shown for the five-year period.

"I want to congratulate our students and our faculty for their hard work and dedication, which is reflected in the excellent scores our students achieved," says Peragallo. "These accomplishments make us all extremely proud."

Under the school's plan, students now have access to tutoring services to improve their areas of weakness, and faculty members and doctoral students routinely conduct review sessions. The school also provides a three-day comprehensive review of all material students have studied during the semester and how the content relates to the NCLEX-RN.

The school's pass rate has exceeded both state and national annual averages for several years. The goal now is to achieve the highest pass rate of any school in Florida.

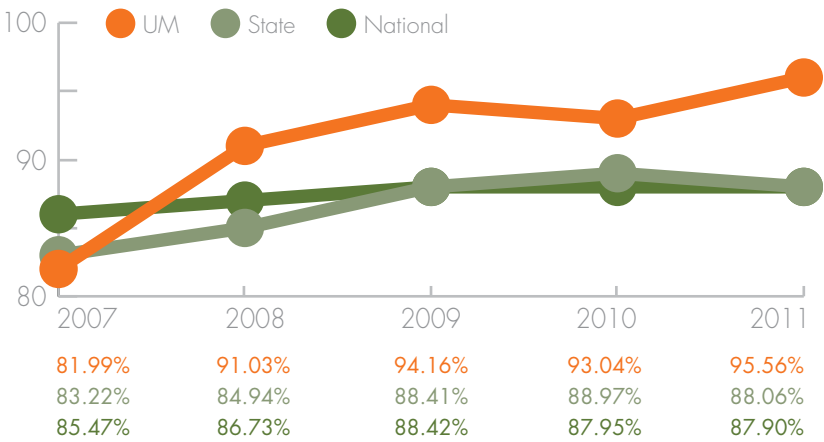


Speaking Out with Beta Tau

Darcy Velazquez, B.S.N. '09, research manager at the UM Miller School of Medicine's Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, was the keynote speaker at the induction ceremony of the Beta Tau chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Forty-eight School of Nursing and Health Studies students were inducted into the chapter during the ceremony, held May 4.

Velazquez (above right) delivered a talk titled "Clinical Development of Stem Cell Therapy for Heart Failure." Shown here with her are Aubrey Florom-Smith, vice president of Beta Tau and a Ph.D. candidate at the school, and Jeanne C. Gottlieb, C.N.M. '85, president of Beta Tau and a lecturer at the school. (More on Velazquez and her work can be found on page 32.)

NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses) Pass Rate: School of Nursing and Health Studies vs. State and National Averages



Chile Trip Opens Doors and Minds

It was an **intercultural eye-opener** and, for some, the trip of a lifetime. During winter break, 21 adventurers from the School of Nursing and Health Studies journeyed 4,000 miles to Santiago, Chile, to put learning into practice and gain an international perspective on health care.

"I had an incredible time and learned more than I ever imagined," says health studies student Dennis Barbon about the two-week Global Studies mini-mester. "If you love to travel, interact with different cultures, and learn different approaches to health care, this is a tremendous learning experience."

The school has partnered in the program with two Chilean universities—Universidad Andrés Bello and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile—since 2005. "We're living in a global society, and it's critical for our students to be exposed to different cultures and different approaches to health care," says Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, director of the school's International Programs. He and Nurse Specialist Susana Barroso were the faculty advisors who accompanied the contingent.

The students, who began their day at sunrise, visited all units at the universities' hospitals. They not only watched surgical procedures but also took part in staff briefings. Barbon says he felt like a member of the surgical teams instead of an observer.



Global Studies students Dennis Barbon and Robyn Wojeck get a firsthand look at surgical procedures in Chile.

"We're living in a global society, and it's critical for our students to be exposed to different cultures and different approaches to health care."

"We had a chance to be in the OB surgical suite and actually witness the birth of a baby," he says. "We watched the entire process and talked with the doctors, and we even held the baby. It was a much more intimate learning experience than here in the U.S. The teams we worked with were wearing two hats—one as professors explaining every step of the process and the other as health care professionals. We learned so much about the theory as it unfolded right in front of our eyes."



The Global Studies mini-mester program gives students an international perspective on health care.

Health studies student Robyn Wojeck learned that being in the operating room during a complex surgical procedure is very different from listening to a lecture in class. "I had a chance to work side by side with an anesthesiologist," she says. "He had so much insight, guidance, and passion for his profession that I've decided this is the route I plan to focus on. This trip opened my mind and made me aware of all the fascinating possibilities."

Barbon adds that the trip helped crystallize his professional goals, too. "Growing up, I thought about nursing and wanted to interact with others to provide one-on-one, quality care," he says. "My concern was that, as a hospital administrator, I would lose that ability to interact one on one with patients. But in Chile I learned the importance of collaboration and how critical the

hospital administrator is in creating quality teams to provide outstanding individual care. I'm more convinced than ever that I'm heading in the right direction. What an incredible opportunity!"

Wojeck was initially concerned about cultural and linguistic barriers, but those uncertainties evaporated quickly. "I had a chance to observe a different culture and people—there was so much to see and learn," she says. "This trip was the highlight of my experience at the school so far. I encourage all students to take advantage of the Global Studies program."

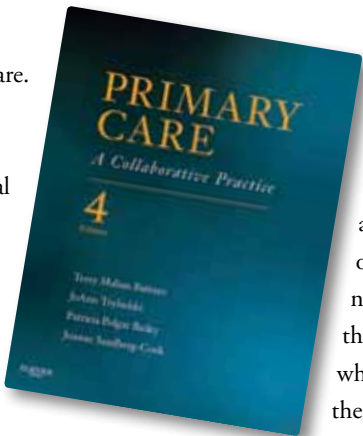
Faculty Members Contribute to Primary Care Textbook

Several faculty members can say they wrote the book on primary care.

JoAnn Trybulski, associate dean of D.N.P. programs and associate professor of clinical, is one of four editors of the just-released *Primary Care: A Collaborative Practice, 4th Edition* (Mosby, \$125). She and several colleagues, as well as experts from University of Miami Hospital and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, joined nearly 150 other health care professionals from across the country in contributing to the latest edition of the well-regarded textbook.

“In the mid-1990s, we noticed a need for a textbook that truly reflected primary care practice and the need for collaboration,” says Trybulski. “At that time most nurse practitioners were educated with textbooks written by physicians. We wanted to create a textbook that was based on collaboration with nurse practitioners.”

Since the first edition was published in 1999, more than 32,000 copies have been sold. The textbook is a staple used by more than 90 schools of nursing, and it has been honored with two *American Journal of Nursing* “Book of the Year” awards for clinical practice. Faculty member Elaine Kauschinger, Ph.D. ’09,



assistant professor of clinical, wrote new chapters for the current edition, which acknowledges the challenges of primary care practice

in a health care system that is in a state of change. The introductory chapters explore emerging dialogues in primary care and offer a new vision for the primary care practice of the future.

Faculty Award Winners

Two School of Nursing and Health Studies faculty members were winners in new award programs sponsored by the University of Miami Office of Civic and Community Engagement. Joseph De Santis, associate professor, was one of five winners in the 2012-13 inaugural class of the Engaged Faculty Fellows Program. Each fellow receives a \$2,500 summer stipend to develop a course that incorporates a significant component of civic engagement and service learning into the course curriculum. De Santis will be required to teach his course at least three times during the next five years. Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D. ’91, research professor, was one of two winners in the 2012 Excellence in Civic Engagement Faculty Award Program. The award is given to recognize faculty members who work with UM students to engage community-identified needs through academic service-learning courses and community-

based research. Santisteban has three active NIH grants that support projects engaging undergraduate and graduate students in comprehensive work with adolescents suffering from mental health problems.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies course NUR551—Teaching and Learning Theory in Clinical Nursing Education has won the 2012 Exemplary Course Award in the Blackboard Catalyst Awards program. The award was given to recognize two assistant professors of clinical, Mary McKay, B.S.N. ’88, D.N.P. ’09, and Cynthia Foronda, as well as instructional designer Lyndon Godsall, for their contributions in building, designing, and teaching the course. The award is given to creators whose courses demonstrate best practices in four major areas: course design, instruction and collaboration, assessment, and learner support.



Faculty Award winners, left to right, Cynthia Foronda, Mary McKay, Lyndon Godsall, Joseph DeSantis, and Daniel Santisteban

Dean Peragallo Speaks at Graduate Commencement

Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, delivered the keynote address at the University of Miami's graduate degree commencement ceremony on May 10. Her advice to the assembled graduates: "Identify a rare opportunity to pursue a passion, then be brave enough to take action."

Dean Peragallo told how she came to the United States in 1976 to pursue a graduate degree in nursing that wasn't available in her native Chile. She arrived "with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in my pocket and a family that already included two children, ages 5 and 6." One

of those children, daughter Lorena, was present at the commencement ceremony, receiving her Ph.D.

Dean Peragallo described her own moment of opportunity, which came in the early 1980s as she made clinical rounds at a hospital in Orlando. "There was a male patient," she said, "and no one on the floor wanted to go into his room. I had assigned the patient to one of my students, so we went in. There were old food trays everywhere, and the curtains were drawn. This man had AIDS. At the time, no one, not even health care professionals, knew what AIDS really was and how it was

transmitted. Even the nurses were afraid to go near him. This man, all alone in that room, really impacted me."

Because of that encounter, Dean

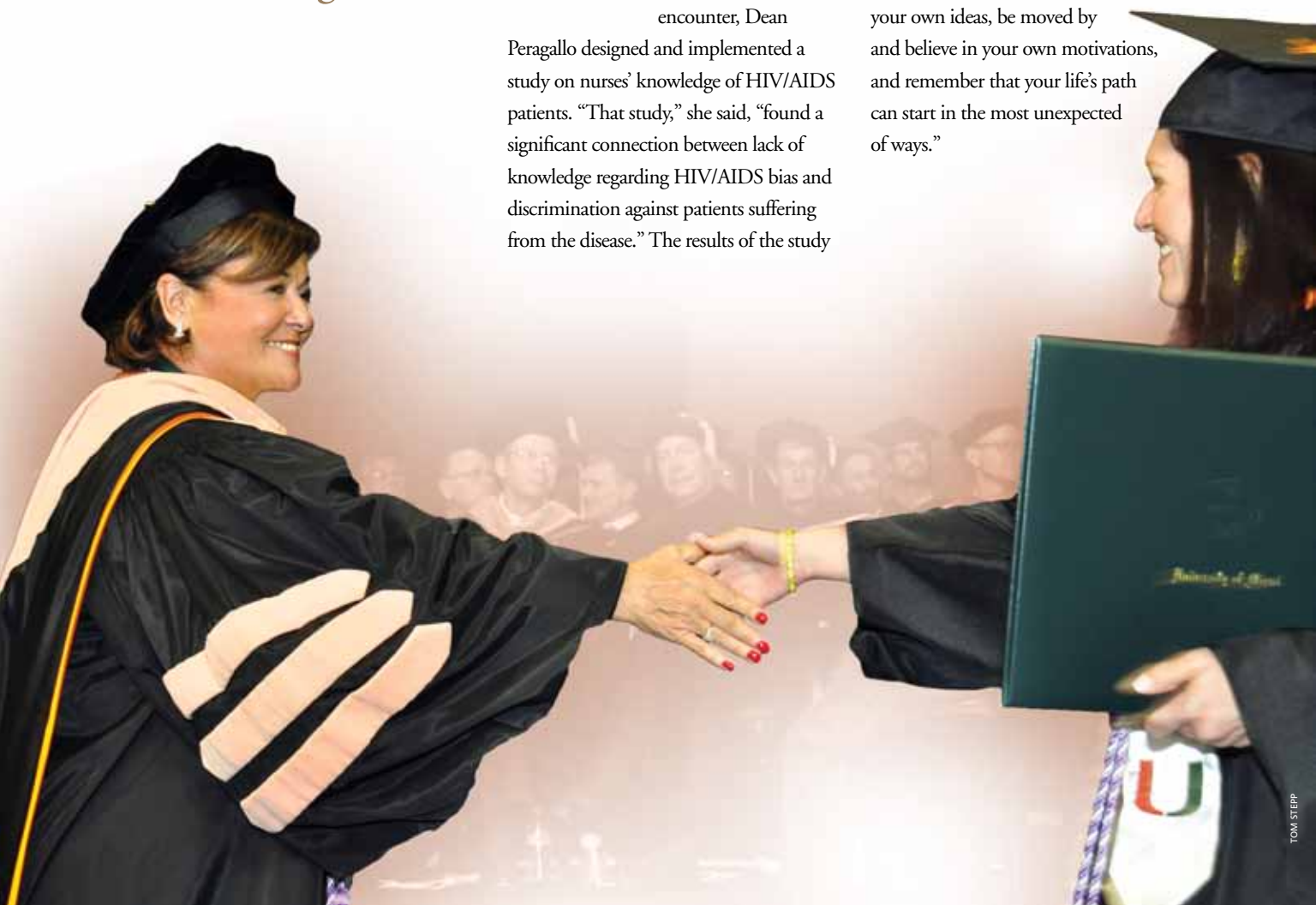
Peragallo designed and implemented a study on nurses' knowledge of HIV/AIDS patients. "That study," she said, "found a significant connection between lack of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS bias and discrimination against patients suffering from the disease." The results of the study

changed the State of Florida's policy to require HIV/AIDS education as a prerequisite for nursing license renewals.

That experience led Dean Peragallo to conduct research, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, testing an HIV/AIDS intervention program with low-income, inner-city Latino women, who were contracting the disease at increasing rates. This research led to the creation of El Centro, the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research, housed at the School of Nursing and Health Studies (see *"Renewing Our Goal to Reduce Health Disparities,"* page 16).

Dean Peragallo called the sequence her "perfect storm of preparation, passion, and chance encounter" and said she wished a similar experience for everyone in the audience. "Have steadfast confidence in your own ideas, be moved by and believe in your own motivations, and remember that your life's path can start in the most unexpected of ways."

"Identify a rare opportunity to pursue a passion, then be brave enough to take action."



Whitehead Scholarships Benefit Students in Need

Tasha Henry, whose family emigrated to the United States but fell into economic hardship due to her father's health, is one of several School of Nursing and Health Studies students who received a prestigious Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation scholarship. Born in Miami to a family from Trinidad, Henry says the scholarship helped her with costs related to her nursing education that she otherwise would have been unable to pay.



Tasha Henry, B.S.N. '12

"I'm the first in my family to pursue a college degree," says Henry, who grew up in Miami Gardens. "I went to an inner-city high school, and there weren't a lot of expectations for the majority of students there. My parents have always had a low income. I was at the top of my class in high school, but I didn't know how I would be able to afford to attend UM."

Henry decided to apply to the University after a UM recruiter who visited her high school encouraged her to do so. "I applied early decision and was accepted with a financial aid package," she says. "I was an academic fellow, so my

housing was covered, but there was still so much more that was not covered. This scholarship gave me the opportunity to pursue my passion—nursing."

Complicating the financial situation, Henry's father developed congestive heart failure and had to retire. "When the letter arrived telling me about the Whitehead scholarship, my mother called in tears," says Henry, "because without it, I probably would not have stayed here. I had a part-time job on campus, but I didn't make enough to pay for extra textbooks or the scrubs for my clinicals."

Henry, who graduated in May, hopes to return for the school's Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists program. "Right now," she says, "I'm trying to network my way through various hospitals. I'd love to work in an intensive care unit."

The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, based in Atlanta, is dedicated to the support of women in nine southeastern states, including Florida. The foundation was established in 1946 by businessman Conkey Pate Whitehead in honor of his mother, who died in 1953. The Whitehead scholarship program provides grants to schools and colleges for deserving female students. A significant number of its scholarship grants support education in the medical, nursing, and allied health fields. Henry and many other School of Nursing and Health Studies students are the beneficiaries of that vision.

"Mrs. Whitehead had the foresight to recognize the value of educating and empowering young women," says Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo. "We are immensely grateful for the long-standing generosity of the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation."



Two Ph.D. Students Named Jonas Scholars

Two School of Nursing and Health Studies Ph.D. students, Debbie Anglade, M.S.N. '10, and Kyuwon Park, have been named grantees of the prestigious Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholars Program. They join an elite group of 250 Jonas Nurse Leaders across the country. The program is funded by the New York City-based Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, whose mission is to improve health care through nursing. Specifically, it seeks to increase the number of doctorally prepared faculty available to teach in nursing schools. Anglade, who is a clinical instructor for undergraduates, plans to explore research opportunities in Miami. Park, who tutors undergraduates, is interested in teaching and research. Both are on track to receive their Ph.D. degrees in 2014.

The school's designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre broadens its reach in the international arena.

EXPANDING

Our Global Initiatives

By Maria Padron

In 2008 the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies was designated a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety. As one of just 11 nursing-related WHO centers in the United States, the school is proud to hold this elite appointment. The research and educational activities of the Centre are designed to support the WHO goal of “Health for All,” with a particular emphasis on patient safety and workforce development in the countries of Iberoamerica—which include all of Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, Spain, and Portugal.

The vision of the school's WHO Centre involves taking a leadership role in the sweeping transformation of international health care that is the result of globalization. Improvements in information technology and communications that characterize the new millennium have created both fresh opportunities and unforeseen challenges for the nursing profession in the global arena. For instance, along with the risk for faster disease transmission that comes with globalization, there also exists potential for dramatic advancements in knowledge transfer among health care systems and regions.

Health care initiatives

To further its vision of disseminating knowledge about patient safety and health care workforce development to formerly difficult-to-reach populations, the Centre has carried out several exciting initiatives. One is the “Strategies for Clinical Nursing Education using Simulation” course. Designed and taught by the school's faculty, the course has a focus on how to incorporate simulation techniques into existing patient safety curricula. Not only is the course offered to groups of health care

faculty and clinicians who visit the school from Latin America, but faculty also regularly travel to teach the course at Latin American institutions.

Another initiative to transfer knowledge to nursing professionals and students in remote locations is the Nursing and Patient Safety free online course. The Centre worked with its international partners to build multiple perspectives from different Iberoamerican countries into the course, which is now in the piloting phase and offered in English and Spanish.

Responding to critical need related to the January 2010 earthquake, the

Centre designed and carried out a one-year project to expand mental health capacity in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti (see “*After the Quake*,” page 4).

Modern innovations

Various advances in technology help the Centre continue to meet its goals of disseminating knowledge throughout Iberoamerica. A case in point is the school's undergraduate online certificate courses in HIV, medical errors, and domestic violence, which have been translated into Spanish and Portuguese.





Welcoming the Americas to Miami

The School of Nursing and Health Studies was selected to host the XIII Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium, held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel September 5-7, 2012. This designation was especially prestigious because it was the first time the biennial gathering was held in the United States.

"That nursing leaders, scholars, and students from the Americas and around the globe came together for this event in Miami is particularly appropriate, given our city's reputation as an international gateway for the Americas and as a bridge linking Latin America and Europe," says Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo. The colloquium, themed "Global Nursing Research Challenges for the Millennium," convened some of the brightest minds in the world to tackle pressing nursing research challenges of the 21st century and support research initiatives related to the WHO's Millennium Development Goals.

The main program of the colloquium had a focus on building research infrastructure in resource-limited countries, particularly WHO-designated "critical regions" of the Americas. University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala and John Ruffin, head of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, which partially funded the colloquium, delivered opening addresses. Internationally recognized health care leaders shared their insights during panel discussions in English and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

Pre-colloquium workshops on September 4 educated participants on such topics as simulation training techniques, research infrastructure development, the construct of scientific presentations, and nursing and patient safety. A showcase of exhibits complemented scientific breakout and poster sessions. A dinner banquet in honor of Maricel Manfredi recognized the achievements of this nursing science leader and included presentation of the Maricel Manfredi Prize to Beatriz Villamizar Carvajal, author of the research paper that best exemplified innovative, rigorous, and relevant nursing scholarship.

As our faculty strive to prepare our students for an increasingly globalized health care environment and diverse patient population, this event could not have been timelier.

The Centre plans to offer these Web-based courses free to nursing students and professionals in WHO-identified low-resource regions of the Americas. To address workforce development, the Centre has recently completed a report analyzing nursing migration trends to the U.S. from Latin America and the Caribbean, with an eye on the ramifications to patient safety in both the U.S. and countries of origin.

One of the Centre's most exciting developments to date is its selection as host of the XIII Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium. Being designated

to host this event's first U.S. appearance is clearly an acknowledgement of the Centre's impact on international health care knowledge and knowledge dissemination during the past four years.

The school's plan for the future during the next four-year cycle is to build on the success of existing global initiatives by applying for re-designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre, concentrating on developing nursing education, disseminating critical patient safety knowledge, and strengthening research capacity in the regions of the Americas.

Strengthening the Sphere of Public Health

By Robert S. Benchley

We may think our individual health is a private matter, but many things that affect our health, safety, and well-being are public by virtue of our shared customs and environment. “Public health is everything,” says Assistant Professor Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, Ph.D. '08, who has focused her academic career on the subject. “I have a tough time finding an issue that is not related to the general health or well-being of a population.” ● Some of the more obvious public health issues include health promotion, epidemiology, environmental health, social and political

issues, health care reform, gender-based violence, and psychological health conditions such as substance abuse. Then there are other issues—war, unemployment, and even seat belt use—that the public does not typically associate with public health but have a dramatic impact on the health of a population. ● The School of Nursing

and Health Studies has a national reputation for the excellence of its public health programs and research, thanks to the leadership of Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, who has focused her academic interests on health disparities among various population groups for nearly 30 years. Her innovative work at the University of Miami reached a pinnacle in 2007 with the creation of the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research, known as El Centro. This spring, El Centro received a second \$7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue its groundbreaking research (see “*Renewing Our Goal to Reduce Health Disparities*,” page 16).

Nursing, by nature, plays a central role in keeping populations healthy. A new public health degree brings the School of Nursing and Health Studies' long-time public health expertise full circle.



Degree Meets Demand

To bring students on board, the school unveiled a minor in public health in the fall of 2010. The school then quickly obtained accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to launch a new Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree, the first such program in South Florida and one of only two in the entire state.

"We expected to see interest in the program, but what we saw was amazing. All of our courses, including Introduction to Epidemiology, Introduction to Public Health, and Health and the Environment, immediately filled to capacity," says Gonzalez-Guarda.

Melissa Gautreaux was one of the first students to sign up. "I transferred to UM to study public health because there is so much you can do in this field," she says. "Why treat one patient when you can be involved in something like *E. coli* outbreaks, which affect millions of people?"

Career Opportunities

"One goal of the new degree is to prepare students to enter the workforce in entry-level positions at government, not-for-profit, and private sector institutions that deal with community and population health," says Lecturer Diego DeLeon, one of five faculty members Dean Peragallo appointed to develop the new program. "It also prepares students to pursue graduate studies in public health or other health-related fields, and it allows them to satisfy their prerequisites for medical school admission, should they choose to continue on that track."

Brianne Neuburger is another student excited by the new degree. "I am pre-med and interested in public health because it deals more with prevention—trying to identify and treat diseases and other health problems before they occur versus depending on medicine to treat them afterward," she says.

"This unique curriculum is designed to expose all students to the wide range of health challenges the world is confronted

with," says Lecturer Nomi S. Weiss-Laxer. "To expose students to the variety of career trajectories available, we are incorporating experts working in public health and allied fields into our courses and field practica."

The program's curriculum and independent studies also address public policy. "A background in health policy enables students to critically analyze what they hear and read, leading them to make more informed decisions as patients, family members of patients, and voters," says Gonzalez-Guarda. "This semester I am working with three public health students to assess the health education needs of clients seeking services at the Coordinated Victims Assistance Center (CVAC), an agency that provides services to victims of domestic violence. Their work will serve as the foundation of a health education program at CVAC that our students will implement and evaluate."

"I'm excited about this program because I think it is a unique focus for students interested in working with populations," says Assistant Professor Emma Mitchell.

That's Shameka Thompson's plan. She grew up in an underserved community in Jamaica, where she witnessed firsthand the need for improved public health education. Her goal is to go back to Jamaica and open a small clinic or hospital. "This program is a blessing," she says. "Public health will provide me with a broad-based foundation to explore environmental and cultural challenges to provide an outstanding level of care for patients back in Jamaica."

Although the public health degree is new, the role of nurses in public health is at the root of the profession. "Community nursing is a long-standing tradition," says Victoria Mitrani, A.B. '80, Ph.D. '86, associate dean. "Nursing also has a special voice because it has always been a holistic discipline. We take in the whole person, and where and how they live. Nursing is about making that huge connection."

Areas of Focus

Students in the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health program will examine a myriad of current and emerging public health issues. More important, they will develop competencies in assessing the health of a population, examining determinants of health, developing evidence-based solutions to health problems, and evaluating the impact of public health interventions. The following are core areas of the program:

- **Behavioral Science/Health Education**—stopping the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as herpes and HIV/AIDS, helping youth recognize the dangers of binge drinking, and promoting seat belt use are examples.
- **Epidemiology**—investigating the cause of the disease and trying to control its spread when food poisoning or an influenza outbreak attacks a community.
- **Biostatistics**—estimating such trends as gang-violence-related deaths or drunk-driving injuries.
- **Environmental Health**—focusing on factors such as the air we breathe and the water we drink, as well as their complex interactions with human genetics.
- **International/Global Health**—studying the health implications of the movement of people, products, and food across borders.
- **Community Health Planning**—involving members of a community in an open public process to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of their health care.
- **Public Health Policy**—working to improve public health through legislative action at the local, state, and national levels.

RENEWING OUR GOAL TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES

By Robert S. Benchley

A second NIH grant enables El Centro to continue its research on health and social problems that disproportionately affect minorities.

Nearly 30 years ago, when little was known about the origin and transmission of HIV/AIDS, the number of Latinas contracting the disease was steadily increasing. Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, who was teaching at the University of Central

Florida, wondered what caused the disparity between Latinas and other groups, and whether something could be done about it. These questions led Peragallo to develop and test an HIV/AIDS intervention for low-income, inner-city Latinas—a first step on a lifelong journey to reduce health disparities among Latinos and other minorities.

Peragallo brought this commitment to her position as dean of the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies. Shortly after her 2003 arrival, Dean Peragallo and her colleagues began envisioning a first-class research center dedicated to understanding and addressing health disparities, the first of its kind to be housed in a school of nursing and health studies. In 2007 they were awarded \$7 million in NIH funding to establish El Centro—the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research. El Centro's ultimate goal is to eliminate the health disparities that affect Latinos, African-Americans, Caribbean-Americans, and sexual minorities.





Every day at El Centro, researchers are learning more about how to address health and social problems that disproportionately affect minorities—HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, family and intimate partner violence, and related mental and physical health conditions. They are developing interventions to prevent and treat these problems, making sure their approaches are tailored to the cultural values and needs of each group, then putting these interventions to the test in real-world, community-based programs. In the process, El Centro investigators are working closely with students in interdisciplinary teams, thus educating the next generation of health disparities researchers.

“The original funding has allowed us to develop our infrastructure, build and sustain community and academic alliances,

expand our health disparities research training, and conduct innovative research studies to improve minority health,” says Dean Peragallo.

BIG NEWS ABOUT FUNDING

“El Centro is nationally and internationally recognized for the excellence of its research,” says Dean Peragallo. That recognition has paid off in the form of a second \$7 million NIH grant, which ensures that El Centro’s research will continue through 2017.

“This award recognizes the accomplishments of El Centro during our first five years,” Peragallo says, “and will allow us to continue building a program that serves our University, community, and society in advancing the science of eliminating health disparities.”

“The interventions being tested and adapted at El Centro are crucial to the improvement of the health outcomes of minority groups in our community,” says Lillian Rivera, administrator of the

Associate Dean for Research Victoria Mitrani leads the Research Core of El Centro’s operations.

Miami-Dade County Health Department. “The renewed funding for El Centro provides [us] with additional opportunities to collaborate in this important endeavor.”

The new funding will allow El Centro to conduct two new randomized trials that will test evidence-based interventions in real-world community settings. One is SEPA III (Salud, Educación, Prevención, y Autocuidado / Health, Education, Prevention, and Self-Care), which focuses on reducing the incidence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and domestic violence among Latinas. The other is Project “Healthy Home,” which aims to prevent relapse in mothers who are in substance abuse treatment and improve the health of their children by enlisting the whole family in the recovery process.

The new NIH funding will also provide continued support to the



County health department administrator Lillian Rivera, left, with Dean Peragallo

CIFTA (Culturally Informed Family Therapy for Adolescents)-Prevention study, which has a focus on family-oriented mental health and drug use treatment for Hispanic adolescents. See the sidebar below for more information on these NIH-funded studies and all health disparities research projects presently under way.

CORE SUPPORT

In addition to the studies, the grant will fund the four “cores” that support El Centro’s operations.

The Administrative Core, under the direction of Dean Peragallo, supports El Centro’s mission, management, and infrastructure, as well as all health disparities research at the school.

The Research Core promotes scientific rigor and innovation through leadership and resources that include a measurement library, quality assurance, statistical and IRB support, and Web-based data collection. Victoria Mitrani, A.B. ’80, Ph.D. ’86, associate dean for research and professor, is the director.

The Research Training and Education Core

Health Disparities Research at SONHS

El Centro faculty share snapshots of their work.

DANIEL SANTISTEBAN, PROFESSOR

Research: CIFTA (Culturally Informed Family Therapy for Adolescents)-Prevention

Partner Organizations: Melissa Institute, Miami Behavioral Health Center, Regis House, Southern Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, Thelma Gibson Health Initiative, and the UM Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement

Our research shows considerable overlap between adolescent behavioral issues, such as violence and drug use, and mental health issues, such as depression. With a substance-abusing child, for example, it’s highly probable that there are underlying psychiatric symptoms. Family intervention appears to be the most effective approach, but even the most successful treatments work very well only about half of the time. Much of our work targets Hispanic adolescents because their rate of drug use in middle school is so high. The trick is to figure out the cultural nuances that can impact treatment and improve outcomes. We also will be focusing on shaping many of our research findings into lay language for the public. We’re

investigating the benefits of integrating technology, such as adolescents’ cell phones, into treatment.

VICTORIA MITRANI, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND PROFESSOR

Research: Project “Healthy Home”

Partner Organization: Banyan Health Systems

The idea behind our study is to help mothers who are in the recovery stage of substance-abuse treatment as well as their families. All of the mothers are already receiving treatment at Banyan Health Systems. Our study is an extension of that treatment, and it will involve nurses visiting patients’ homes and meeting with them and their families. The commitment of substance-abuse treatment can interfere with time and energy that the mother can devote to the family. Sometimes families put pressure on the mother to give them more time. We want families to understand that if they support the mother in her recovery, then this will have a positive impact throughout the family—on the health of the mother, the health of the children, and how the children do in school.

NILDA (NENA) PERAGALLO, DEAN AND PROFESSOR

SEPA III (Salud, Educación, Prevención, y Autocuidado)

Partner Organization: Miami-Dade County Department of Health

This study is the second phase of an ongoing effort to develop an intervention program that reduces the incidence of HIV/STIs and domestic violence among Hispanic women. The prior phase involved randomized studies in which women were treated by research staff. This new phase will study the effectiveness of SEPA as delivered by the staff of the Miami-Dade County Department of Health to women already being seen by the agency. Our intervention is the first culturally specific HIV-prevention program known to reduce intimate partner violence and to address multiple and interrelated health disparities experienced by Hispanic women. Addressing the interrelationship between



equips trainees with knowledge, skills, and experiences to conduct culturally competent community-based health disparities research, with a focus on minority trainees. Rosa M. Gonzalez-Guarda, Ph.D. '08, assistant professor, and Marie Guerda Nicolas, associate professor at UM's School of Education and Human Development, co-direct this core.

The new Community Engagement, Dissemination, and Implementation Core serves as a bridge between researchers and community-based providers to foster implementation of treatment advances in community settings. Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D. '91, research professor, is the director.

"Nursing has tremendous potential to lead the reduction of health dispari-

ties," says Dean Peragallo. "With more than 3.1 million registered nurses, the nursing workforce is the largest among the U.S. health care professions. Given the size of the workforce, their close proximity to patients, and their expertise in the science of caring for vulnerable populations, nurses have an excellent opportunity to make a real difference."

violence and HIV/STI health disparities is critical because these two conditions often co-occur and have common root causes. We are studying the impact of cultural factors, such as acculturative stress, partner communication, and health knowledge, on this interrelationship.

JOSEPH DE SANTIS,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIEGO DELEON, LECTURER

Research: Cultural Factors and Risk Behaviors of Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Health Risks of Transgender Women

Partner Organizations: South Beach AIDS Project (recruiting and enrolling); NIH through UM Miller School of Medicine Center for AIDS Research (MSM study); Aqua Foundation for Women (transgender women funding)

Regarding the men's study, we're very much interested in HIV prevention, but we're not convinced the answer is just providing information about safer sex and condom use. We are interested in researching how mental health factors such as depression, low self-esteem, and substance abuse may influence high-risk sexual behaviors. The transgender-women study is also about mental health factors that influence risky sexual behavior, but it includes psychosocial aspects such as gender reassignment surgery, employment issues, discrimination, and marginalization. The men and women in both studies have immigration issues that make gaining employment a challenge. The women, however, are more likely to end up doing commercial sex work to earn money. Ideally, we would like to develop HIV-prevention interventions for both groups based on their unique mental health needs.

Our goal is to develop a teen-dating violence-prevention program that can be implemented in schools that have a majority Hispanic student body. Prior research conducted with the Miami-Dade County Coordinated Victims Assistance Center identified Hispanic youth as having greater rates of dating violence than non-Hispanic white youth. We will be working with ninth-graders because they are entering high school and beginning new relationships. This entrance also carries potential for high-risk situations such as dating and parties. Working through the end of the 2012-2013 school year, we will be recruiting students, their parents, and school personnel to focus on building knowledge about dating violence. We will teach the parents how to talk to their children about topics such as dating and sex, and we will teach school personnel and parents how to identify and intervene in unhealthy relationships.

ROSA M. GONZALEZ-GUARDA,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Research: Family intervention study with Hispanic ninth-grade students to prevent adolescent violence

Partner Organizations: Hialeah High School and Miami-Dade Coordinated Victims Assistance Center (CVAC); Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars

Funding the Future

By Susan Plawsky

The school's capital campaign will fund the nation's first education-based nursing simulation hospital and provide support for endowed faculty chairs and much-needed student scholarships.



Nurses dressed in surgical scrubs tend to a woman in labor, monitoring her vital signs and counting her contractions until she delivers a glistening, crying baby. A floor below, in the emergency room, a nurse defibrillates a sweating, gasping, blue-lipped man mid-heart attack. In the medical-surgical wing, an elderly man complains of extreme pain, and a young woman's surgical incision is bleeding profusely.

Just another day in the life of a general hospital?

Not quite.

The patients here are high-fidelity human simulators, and they are programmed to mimic human symptoms and human responses to treatment. The nurses are University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies students being educated through simulation immersion—lifelike experience without real-life risks. And the hospital, the only simulation hospital of its kind in the United States, is setting a new standard in nursing education, interprofessional education, and patient safety.

The hospital does not exist—yet. But it has progressed from dream to blueprint, and it's poised to become a five-story, 39,000-square-foot reality adjacent to the school on UM's Coral Gables campus. All it needs is a life-giving infusion of donor support.





Through simulation, nurse midwifery students practice acute care resuscitation for newborns transitioning to the environment.

Momentum2 across the U

The school plans to build this cutting-edge simulation hospital with funds raised through *Momentum2: The Breakthrough Campaign for the University of Miami*, which celebrated its public launch in February. University wide, *Momentum2* is aimed to raise a towering \$1.6 billion by 2016, transforming the institution with state-of-the-art facilities and labs; scholarships and student support; world-class faculty, researchers, and scholars; and programs that benefit the community (www.miami.edu/momentum2). UM's prior capital campaign, *Momentum: The Campaign for the University of Miami*, raised a record-setting \$1.4 billion upon its completion in 2008.

The school's goal in *Momentum2* is to raise \$15 million, which will also fund endowed faculty chairs and scholarships designed to attract stellar faculty and promising students, as well as provide program and general support. "*Momentum2* will allow the School of Nursing and Health Studies to address hospital errors and the nursing shortage—

national crises that threaten everyone who needs, or will need, health care," says Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo. "The campaign will not only propel the school to the forefront of nursing education, it also will enable us, in concrete ways, to transform 21st-century health care."

Reducing hospital errors

Chilling statistics on hospital errors are sounding alarms and underscoring the need for enlightened approaches to patient safety (see box below). Following the aviation industry's lead, the health care profession has begun to invest in simulation training. In the sky as well as on the ground, simulation is the ultimate dress rehearsal. It saves lives.

Due to the need for hands-on education and the declining number of clinical facilities available, simulation plays an increasingly critical role in preparing students for their first job, says Valerie Bell, associate program director and director of the Simulation Nurse Anesthesia Program. "Simulation is on par with clinical experience because

today's scenarios are created by clinicians to provide as real-to-life an experience as possible. And unlike clinical, where you don't have a great deal of time, in simulation you can go over a scenario three or four times until the student masters the concept."

UM Nurse Specialist Susana Barroso notes that simulation enables students to become active learners rather than passive participants. "Simulation creates a world that appeals to the majority of their senses," she says.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies, which in 2006 created the International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research (IACSR), is already a leader in simulation education. Housed in the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies, the IACSR was the first simulation center in the country designed exclusively for nursing and health sciences education, and it remains one of the most advanced. The proposed simulation hospital is a logical next step.

"The hospital will be a destination center for simulation and interprofessional education," says Dean Peragallo. "It will replicate a full-service hospital and provide a complete, interactive experience for undergraduate and graduate nursing students at all levels."

The state-of-the-art hospital will include medical-surgical floors, an emergency room, an intensive care unit, a neonatal intensive care unit, operating rooms, pediatrics, obstetrics, and hospice service, plus ancillary services such as telehealth, pharmacy, and radiology. It will be populated with the latest generation of high-fidelity human simulators. These patients—which come in all ages, sizes, and ethnicities—can be programmed to perform dozens of bodily functions, mimic normal and abnormal physiological conditions, and respond in real time to medical interventions, drugs, and anesthesia. They inhale and exhale gases, urinate, and sweat. Their eyelids blink, their pupils contract when exposed to light,

SAFETY IN NUMBERS?

- An estimated 44,000 to 98,000 Americans die in hospitals each year as a result of medical errors, according to The Institute of Medicine's groundbreaking 1999 report, *To Err Is Human*. Even the lower estimate exceeds the number of annual deaths from car accidents, breast cancer, and AIDS combined. The higher estimate is equivalent to the number of annual deaths from four jumbo jets crashing each week.
- About one in eight hospitalized Medicare patients suffers serious or long-term injuries or dies in the hospital, according to a 2010 report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Physician reviewers estimated that 44 percent of these "events" are preventable.
- About one in three hospital patients experiences "adverse events" and about 7 percent are harmed permanently or die as a result, according to a study reported last year in the journal *Health Affairs*.



MEET THE SCHOOL'S MOMENTUM2 CO-CHAIRS

Pamela Garrison, R.N., retired from recovery room nursing last year and felt compelled to fill the void. Not a void in her life—she leads an active one—but the void she left within the ranks of nurses nationwide. “We have to educate the next generation to take the place of baby boomers, who are starting to retire from nursing,” she says.

Co-chairing the school’s *Momentum2* campaign, says Garrison (above right), “is my way to give back to the nursing community and invest in the future of the profession.” Several years ago, she was tapped to join the school’s Visiting Committee and helped the school raise money for its current home, the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies, which was built in 2006. A community leader, she has served on the boards of the Miami City Ballet and the Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County. She is also a director of The Kirk Foundation, which generously supported the Schwartz Center, including Dean Nilda Peragallo’s office suite, which is named for Garrison.

“The simulation hospital is a phenomenal idea,” says Garrison. “When I began my career, we learned hands-on, on live patients. I’m inspired by what the school plans to do. It’s such an empowerment for nursing.”

Maria Lamas Shojaee, A.B. ’85, describes herself as “an advocate for integrative and Eastern health care in

addition to Western medicine. I believe in treating the patient holistically—mind, body, and soul.” Fully recovering from a near-fatal car accident in her teens triggered Shojaee’s interest in Eastern medicine and how integrative health care practices enhance patient recovery.

Shojaee serves on the school’s Visiting Committee and participated in a panel on Advances in Integrative Healthcare: Impact on Global Health Issues at the 2011 UM Global Business Forum. She also has been a guest lecturer in Integrative Health Care at the school’s graduate program. Shojaee is the CEO of Shoma Group, and she is currently pursuing an M.B.A. with a concentration in health care policy and management at the UM School of Business Administration. Co-chairing the school’s *Momentum2* campaign is clearly a natural fit.

Shojaee is a former UM Alumni Trustee with an orange-and-green family: husband Masoud, B.S.E.E. ’83, M.S.E.E. ’85; daughter Anelise, B.B.A. ’07, M.B.A. ’12; and daughter Lilibet, B.S.C. ’10. The family has donated generously to the University of Miami, the School of Nursing and Health Studies, the School of Communication, and the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“*Momentum2* will raise the bar in nursing education,” says Shojaee. “The simulation hospital is an idea whose time has come.”

their lungs inflate and deflate, their hearts beat, and their muscles twitch in response to peripheral nerve stimulation. When mimicking illness or injury, they can say they're in pain or having trouble breathing. They may have tremors, convulse, or go into full cardiac arrest.

These learning experiences also give students the opportunity to practice interdisciplinary collaboration.

“The campaign will not only propel the school to the forefront of nursing education, it also will enable us, in concrete ways, to transform 21st-century health care.”

For example, the B.S.N. student nurse will page the “on-call” nurse practitioner to provide him or her with symptoms of the patient. The nurse practitioner will then provide the B.S.N. student with a prognosis of the patient. Anesthesia students will be administering anesthesia to a pregnant woman, while the midwifery students will be delivering a baby.

Augmenting the hospital's simulators will be human actors. They'll enable students to take histories, conduct assessments, practice psychiatric interventions, and communicate with patients and their families.

“The school's simulation hospital will provide a safe, supervised way for students to master clinical techniques, hospital processes, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork before ever touching a real patient,” explains Dean Peragallo. “We'll allow mistakes to occur that would normally require immediate intervention, so students can learn from them. We'll be able to repeat scenarios several times until students respond flawlessly and confidently. We'll stage unusual, complex, and high-risk situations—virtually anything that can happen in patient care.”

Additional priorities

Momentum2 will enable the school to fund additional priorities: endowed faculty chairs in areas such as patient safety and integrated health care, new graduate and undergraduate student scholarships, and program and general support.

An endowed faculty chair is a faculty position permanently funded by the earnings generated by an endowment, a generous gift whose

principal remains untouched. They are vital to recruiting national and international nursing leaders.

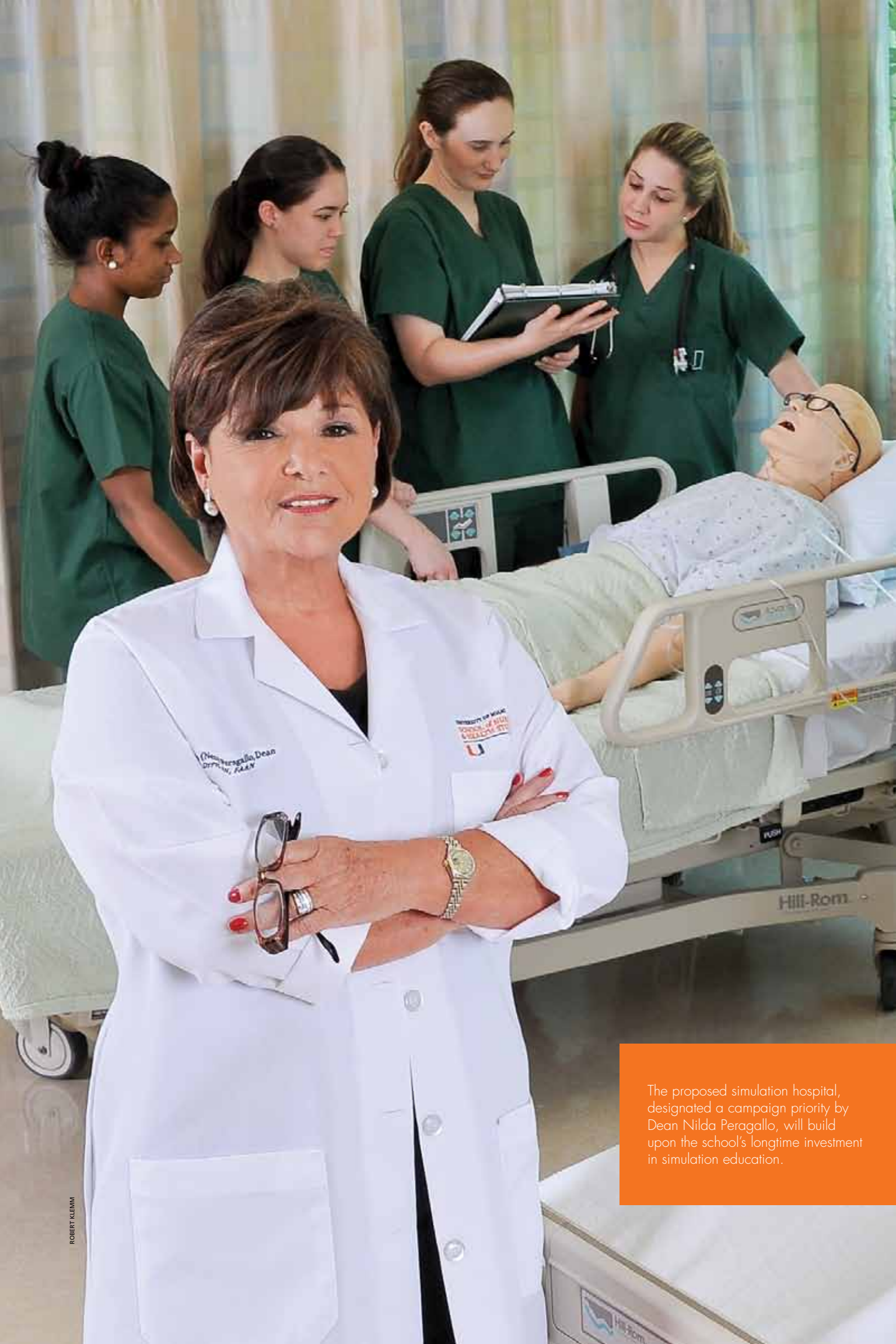
New scholarships will open doors to promising students otherwise unable to attend or complete their education. Scholarships are win-wins, changing the course of young lives and attracting the best and brightest to the nursing profession. Program and general support enables the school to maintain and build on its existing level of excellence. It funds the programs that are part of the school's ongoing leadership position, helping to raise the quality of health care throughout the world.

For more information on giving to the School of Nursing and Health Studies *Momentum2* campaign, visit www.miami.edu/sonhs, or contact Nancy Castleman-Dion, M.A.L.S. '04, executive director for advancement at 305-284-1892 or ncastlem@miami.edu.

PAGING NEW NURSES

It's well known that millions of baby boomers are aging and starting to need more health care. But who will provide it?

- The demand for nurses continues to grow, according to figures from the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The growth of the health care industry, the rising average age of nurses currently working in the field, and the wave of baby boomers retiring will keep demand strong through 2030.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-IOM report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, prescribed sweeping changes in the nursing profession. UM President Donna E. Shalala chaired the committee that authored the 2010 report, which urged that nurses achieve higher levels of education through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression, practice to the full extent of their education and training, be full partners with physicians and other health professionals in redesigning health care in the United States, and require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure. In addition, the council recommends that by the year 2020, 80 percent of nurses should be baccalaureate prepared and the number of doctorally prepared nurses should be doubled.



The proposed simulation hospital, designated a campaign priority by Dean Nilda Peragallo, will build upon the school's longtime investment in simulation education.

1950s

Ann Marie McCrystal, B.S.N. '59, attended the Visiting Nurse Association of America's 30th annual meeting in Phoenix, where she was recognized as a VNAA "Legend" for service with VNAA of the Treasure Coast. She has attended every national meeting since the inception of the organization. McCrystal, who lives in Vero Beach, Florida, and is one of the founders of VNAA of the Treasure Coast, began serving her second term as chairman in 2010.

1970s

Ann M. Thrailkill, C.N.P. '76, is a registered nurse practitioner doing primary care and women's health for women veterans at the VA in Palo Alto, California. Her son, Tim, works for a biotech company in Brisbane, California, and her daughter, Amy, works for Nordstrom in Boston. Her grandson, Matt, will be a senior at Roxbury Latin, where he is captain of the hockey and lacrosse teams. Her granddaughter, Haley, will be a sophomore at Thayer Academy, where she plays lacrosse and soccer.

Anita Keller, B.S.N. '79, is retired. Her last position as a nurse was at a 1,000-bed, male maximum-security prison in North Carolina. She volunteers for the Helping Hands free clinic in Caldwell County, North Carolina, where she lives.

Shirley Ryan, B.S.N. '79, retired from active nursing in 1994. She is a volunteer in an outpatient surgery and post-anesthesia care unit at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, California.

1980s

Marilyn Davis Holloman, C.N.P. '80, is the author of *Oil for Food: The Ambassador's Daughter* (Xlibris, 2011), a book about the impact of the United Nations' child support laws on her family. She also is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 18-N, covering Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and part of Okeechobee Counties. She lives in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Mary McKay, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '09, assistant professor of clinical nursing at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies, has attained Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credentials.

Ann-Lynn Denker, Ph.D. '89, an adjunct clinical professor, has been elected chair of the Florida State Board of Nursing.

1990s

Denise (Fair) Felsenstein, M.S.N. '90, is a continuing education consultant at Williams & Wilkins publishing company. Her son, Austin, will begin college at Widener University in the fall.

Ric Cuming, M.S.N. '95, was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow for the 2012 cohort. The RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows program is a three-year, world-class leadership development experience to enhance the effectiveness of nurse leaders in having an impact on the U.S. health care system. Additionally, he now serves as both chief nurse executive for Jackson Health System and chief nursing officer for the system's flagship hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Michele Dunn, B.S.N. '97, was promoted to director of clinical quality programs at The Austin Diagnostic Clinic, a large, multispecialty clinic with 120-plus providers and 20 specialties in Austin, Texas.

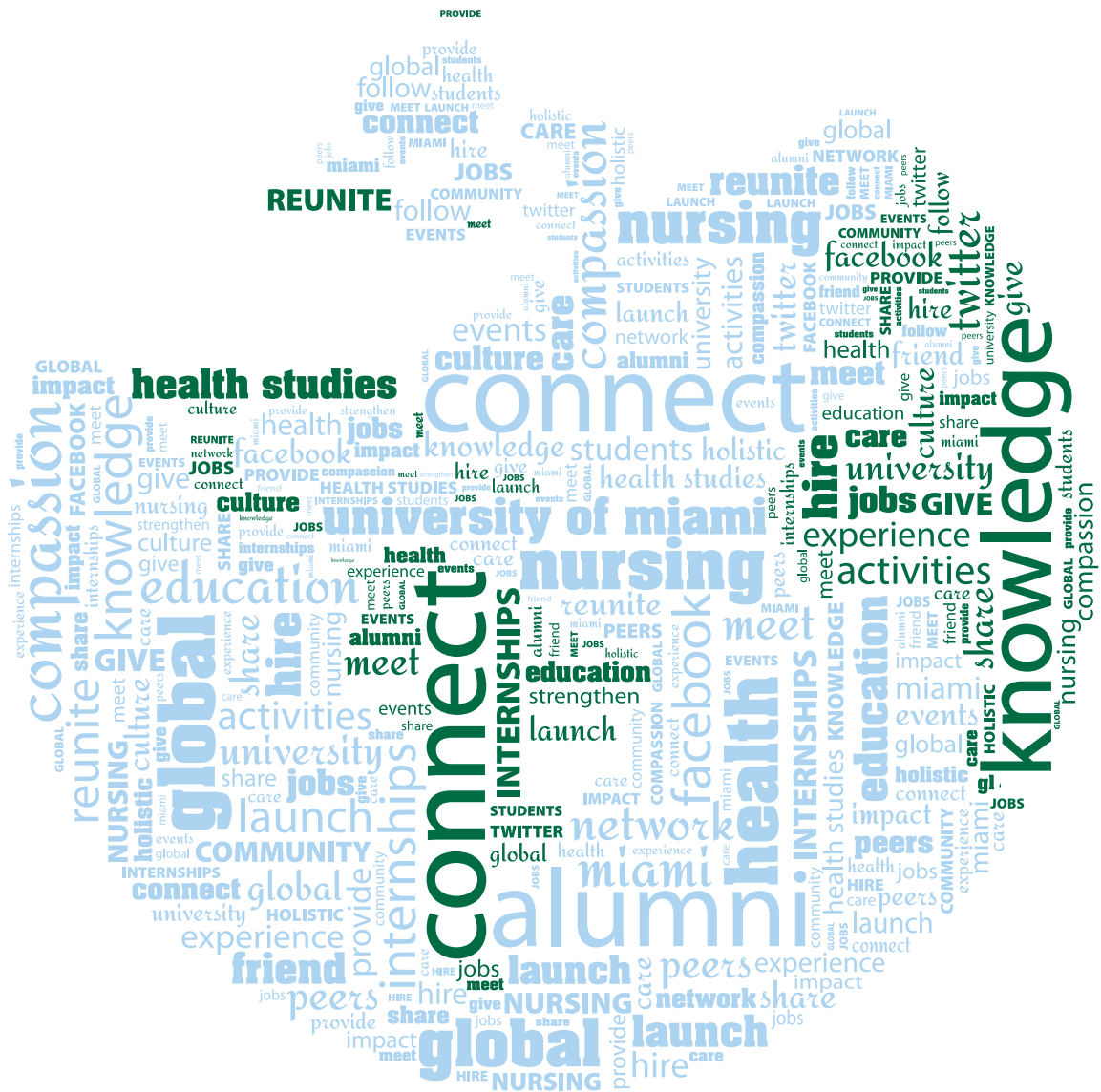
Kathleen A. Smith, M.S.N. '98, is director of nursing graduate programs at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she received her D.N.P. degree in 2011.

Charles Buscemi, B.S.N. '99, M.S.N. '01, Ph.D. '05, has an article, "Acculturation and Health Status among Hispanic American Elders," in the July 2012 issue of the *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*. In February, he presented "Caregiver Burden and Depression among Hispanic Families" at the 26th Annual Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society in New Orleans.

Melanie L. O'Shea-Chaparro, B.S.N. '99, works in the post-anesthesia care unit at the Weston Outpatient Surgical Center in Weston, Florida, and is a marketing and physician liaison at the South Florida Neurosurgical and Spinal Wellness Center in Loxahatchee, Florida. She and her husband, a neurosurgeon, also own a company that handles medical malpractice reviews.

2000s

Nancy Auster, B.S.N. '00, celebrated her 20th year at Vitas Hospice in Miami, where she is a community liaison for veteran affairs. She is also the southeast region district leader for the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA). In addition to being hospice- and palliative-care certified, she is an ELNEC (end of life nursing education consortium) trainer and an HPNA trainer.



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Kyle Smith, B.S.N. '00, received the 2012 Baptist Health South Florida Healthcare Award for the American Red Cross–Sara Hopkins Woodruff Spectrum Awards for Women, for her work as a founder of PATCHES (Pediatric Alternatives Treatment, Care, Housing & Evaluation Services), which has centers in Florida City and Fort Pierce, Florida, for children with extreme medical conditions.

Lee Schmidt, Ph.D. '01, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Loyola University Chicago's Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. He also was promoted to senior associate dean for academic affairs at the school. He will continue in his role as director of the school's Ph.D. in nursing program.

Tess O'Neill, Ph.D. '03, has been teaching in the Ph.D. program at the University of Jordan as a Fulbright scholar.

Jacqueline Cereijo, B.S.N. '04, D.N.P. '10, is director of the University of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center's Kendall Clinic and Infusion Services. She was a presenter at the National Oncology Special Interest Group Meeting organized by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. in June. The meeting's objective was to share strategies implemented to improve patient experiences.

Ryan J. Shaw, B.S.N. '04, received a Ph.D. from Duke University School of Nursing in nursing science and health informatics. In the fall he begins an awarded postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Duke University Medical Center Department of Medicine.

Stephanie Becherer, M.S.N. '05, is clinical nurse specialist in the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit at the Walt Disney Pavilion at Florida Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida.

Anna M. Lozoya, B.S.N. '06, graduated in May from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago.

Leonel Oliva, B.S.N. '06, has just finished shooting a movie about how nurses, their patients, and their families deal with life and death during one 12-hour shift. Called *The Shift*, the film stars Oliva and Danny Glover. Oliva plans to premiere it at the Sundance Film Festival in 2013.

Robyn Antonelli, B.S.N. '07, married **Michael Beninati, B.S. '07, M.D. '12**, on February 25, 2012. They have moved to Houston, where Michael is completing his OB/GYN residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Robyn, who worked for five years at Miami Children's Hospital, recently accepted a position in Houston at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Vivian Oriaku, B.S.N. '07, is pursuing a graduate degree at the UNCG/Raleigh School of Nurse Anesthesia in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Luis E. Valdes, B.S.N. '07, works at Parallon Workforce, a nursing travel company performing catheterization laboratory services at hospitals all over the U.S. His family travels with him, and they are hoping for an assignment in Europe.

Megan Corley, B.S.N. '08, is an R.N. at New York Presbyterian Cornell Hospital. She completed her master's degree at New York University and graduated in May as an adult nurse practitioner.

Rose Knapp, D.N.P. '09, is the new chair of the nursing department at the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies at Monmouth University. She is an abstract reviewer for the 2012 DNP National Conference presentations.

Jasline N. Perez, B.S.H.S. '09, is an outreach coordinator in the UM Miller School of Medicine's Comprehensive AIDS Program. Her role is to link HIV/AIDS patients to case management services and to outpatient medical care and treatment.

Joyce Rios, B.S.N. '04, D.N.P. '10, is director of nursing education and professional practice at University of Miami Hospital's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is also a part-time faculty member at the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies and is collaborating with a music therapist at the UM Frost School of Music on the neuropsychological effects of music and mindfulness-based techniques on bone marrow transplant patients.

2010s

Ashton Paul, B.S.N. '10, is a nurse manager in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Joel D. Boling, B.S.N. '11, was recently chosen as Professional Nursing Practice Council unit chair at University of Miami Hospital. He has been accepted into the D.N.P. Program at the University of Florida with a concentration in family health.

Clinical Collaborator Strengthens Bridge between Nursing School and UM Hospital

When Lori Lupe and David Zambrana began talking about the need for expanded professional practice collaboration as students in the School of Nursing and Health Studies D.N.P. program, little did they know their idea would soon come to pass. But when Zambrana, D.N.P. '09, now chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at University of Miami Hospital (UMH), began to have similar discussions with SONHS Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, things happened quickly. And as the first step, Lupe, D.N.P. '09, assistant professor of clinical nursing at the SONHS, has taken on the role of executive director of professional practice at UMH.

"Dean Peragallo and I believe that we need to have more partnerships or dual appointments between the hospital and the school," Zambrana says. "We want the school to see UMH as its hospital and laboratory. At the same time, UMH benefits tremendously from the school's academic faculty and their focus on cutting-edge research."

"David reached out to me because he wanted to have more interaction with the nursing school faculty," says Lupe. "I will be working closely with our clinical faculty and with UMH nursing leadership to deepen those relationships and heighten the experiences of our graduate students." Lupe will remain on the SONHS faculty, teaching courses in the undergraduate curriculum.

"Given Lori's expertise in emergency medicine, I thought it would be an excellent opportunity for us to have her on board as we transition from a private medical staff group to an academic emergency medicine practice," says Zambrana. "She will be in charge of

recruiting a nursing director and, together with our new emergency medicine chief, will completely rebuild the clinical operations of the Emergency Department. In addition, Lori will continue the great work that has been done in the areas of professional practice and organizational learning. The most exciting role she will have is that of leading our 'All Aboard'

campaign, which is the name our frontline staff selected for our journey to excellence and magnet designation."

"Under this new arrangement, the School of Nursing and Health Studies will take a much more involved role at UMH," says Dean Peragallo. "We can bring the clinical excellence of our faculty and students to help achieve the goal of creating exceptional destination academic health care with a focus on the professional practice of nursing. This partnership will offer a dramatic increase in the clinical training of our students. It also will help us meet a key requirement in the school's strategic plan—

promoting faculty participation at clinical and community settings in mentoring roles."



ROBERT KLEMM

Kedly Desliens, B.S.N. '11, works in the emergency department at WellStar Cobb Hospital in Austell, Georgia. She has been accepted into an R.N. residency and fellowship program. She hopes to volunteer for international relief work and eventually earn her master's degree.

Jose Enrique Diaz, B.S.N. '11, is an R.N. in the intensive care unit at the St. Barnabas Hospital Level One Trauma Center in the Bronx, New York.

Caroline S. Elistin, D.N.P. '11, is manager of the Employee Health Clinic and Wellness Center at Miami Children's Hospital. She is responsible for the design, implementation, ongoing analysis, management, and promotion of the center's programs. She also serves as a nurse practitioner, providing health assessments and health promotions to employees and volunteers.

David Gerberg, B.S.N. '11, was R.N. of the month on the 11th floor during his first six months at University of Miami Hospital.

Marta Jiminez, B.S.N. '11, graduated early from the University of Miami Hospital residency program.

David Meropol, B.S.N. '11, works on a general medicine floor at UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh.

In Memoriam

Joan Coster Billingsley, B.S.N. '78, M.B.A. '88, died on May 26, 2012, following a seven-year battle with breast cancer. Her career included director of nursing at the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged, director of the Greater Hallandale Adult Day Care Center, and, for the past 16 years, AIDS case manager for the Memorial Healthcare System. She assisted in the opening of Broward House, an adult living facility for persons with HIV/AIDS, was an active member of the South Florida AIDS Network, and was voted 2005 Nurse of the Year by the Broward County Nurses Association. Following her diagnosis of breast cancer, Billingsley volunteered in the Reach to Recovery program of the American Cancer Society, helping other cancer patients. Donations in her memory may be made to Doctors Without Borders.

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Sister Act

Sisters Jennifer Kuretski, Kimberly (Kuretski) Gunn, and Katie Kuretski have had severe, lifelong cases of orange-and-green-itis. They inherited this colorful condition from their father, Jim, B.S.C.E. '77, and several aunts and uncles, all UM alumni.

"We're proud to say that our three daughters were 'brainwashed' from birth about the University of Miami," says Jim Kuretski, who has held Hurricanes football season tickets for more than 30 years. "Katie was born during a 'Canes football game, and we had the game on TV at the hospital." His little girls even slept in 'Canes pajamas.

The sisters now share other, more serious traits: a passion for nursing, a drive to excel, and an abiding bond with the School of Nursing and Health Studies. But each is following a different path within the profession. "Our family illustrates the different opportunities and areas of study available to today's nurses," observes Kim.

Blazing a trail for her sisters, Jenn, M.S.N. '09, D.N.P. '11, was the first to attend the school. She's now a family nurse practitioner at Triple O Medical Services, a private infectious-disease practice in West Palm Beach, Florida, and a part-time instructor at the SONHS—inspiring nurses outside her

family, too. "I love everything about the one-year D.N.P. program, and I'm doing everything I can to encourage other nurses to enroll in it," she says.

Kim, B.S.N. '10, M.S.N. '11, soon followed, eager to realize her dream of becoming both a Hurricane and a Doctor of Nursing Practice. Also a family nurse practitioner, she works at the Prettel Center in Loxahatchee, Florida, and she expects to complete the D.N.P. Program in December.

Immensely proud of both sisters, undergrad Katie is excelling in her studies and—no surprise—plans to become the third Dr. Kuretski. In the meantime, she is on track to receive her B.S.N. in 2013. "It really helps to see how successful my sisters are," she says. "It shows me anything is possible, including the D.N.P." The youngest Kuretski is considering applying her talents to pediatrics.

Though the sisters have formed a mini-support system, their biggest champion has been the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Kim speaks for the trio when she praises "the curriculum, clinical partners, and outstanding faculty. They're so supportive and encourage each student to go as far as your talent will take you."

The Kuretskis are especially grateful to JoAnn Trybulski, associate dean of D.N.P. programs. "She showed such interest in Jennifer and inspired her to reach for the stars," says Jim. "Her knowledge, dedication, and caring personality sold us on the nursing school's graduate programs. And the rest is history."

Left to right, Jennifer Kuretski, Katie Kuretski, and Kimberly (Kuretski) Gunn



Taking a Promise to Heart

Darcy Velazquez's brother-in-law, Scotty Ellis, had a dying wish before succumbing to cancer in 2004 at age 42. He had Velazquez promise she'd complete her B.S.N., which she was pursuing part time at the School of Nursing and Health Studies while working full time as a researcher at the UM Miller School of Medicine. Velazquez, B.S.N. '09, had been by his side during 18 rounds of chemotherapy, and he wanted the woman he called his "guardian angel" to help others, too.

Mobilized by a mission, Velazquez became a full-time student in 2007 while keeping her full-time job and taking care of her family. She also dedicated her nursing career to stem cell research. Her wish was for other patients to have what Ellis did not—"a fighting chance to live," she says.

After receiving her degree, Velazquez was named research manager at the Miller School of Medicine's Interdisciplinary Stem

Cell Institute, which is nationally renowned for clinical trials in which stem cells were deployed to treat heart disease. Ever since, she's been on the cutting edge of giving patients fighting chances. "We're doing open-heart surgery and injecting stem cells directly into patients' hearts," she says. "A patient wrote a poem called 'Straight from the Heart' to thank us for saving his life, and some of our first patients in clinical trials still call me on Mother's Day."

This research nurse personifies heartening changes in the profession. "Today nurses are on the front lines of new and exciting areas—it's no longer just bedside patient care," she observes. What's more, "we are on equal footing with the physicians. We've achieved a

wonderful level of collaboration. My input and level of care are just as valued as those of the physicians, who have incredible respect and appreciation for the work nurses do in stem cell research. All egos are checked at the door."

Velazquez advises nurses to shed the "old-school mentality" that they play second fiddle to physicians. "Nurses have outstanding experience and must stand up and speak out for their patients," she says. "Own your power as a caregiver, and the respect will follow."

Eight years after making her promise to Ellis, Velazquez is now setting her sights on a Ph.D. in nursing—once again while working full time. "I think my brother-in-law would be proud," she says, still moved by his wish.

"I hope nursing students can look at what I've accomplished as a B.S.N. and understand there are no limitations for today's nurses," she asserts. "In 2012, nurses control their own destiny."





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