

heartbeat

Fall 2018

University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

CELEBRATING
70 YEARS —
*MOVING
FORWARD*

ON A MISSION • • • PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY • • • A YEAR OF SIMULATION • • • Q&A: DEAN MUNRO



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MISSION STATEMENT

At the School of Nursing and Health Studies, we transform lives and health care through education, research, innovation, and service across the hemisphere.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies at 70: Novel, Optimistic, World-Changing

This year, the School of Nursing and Health Studies is proudly celebrating its 70th anniversary, a momentous occasion that coincides with the unveiling of the University of Miami's Roadmap to Our New Century. These events herald an exciting new era for the University and the SONHS. We have eagerly embraced three of the Roadmap's strategic priorities: mission-driven research, education for life, and hemispheric leadership; these are our guiding stars as we navigate toward a future that will see our graduates taking their place as leaders among the next generations of health care clinicians and researchers in South Florida and throughout the globe.

In this issue of *Heartbeat*, we proudly recognize and honor our 70-year legacy of academic, clinical, and research excellence, and look ahead with optimism and hope toward our 100th year. The articles in this issue showcase the ways in which the SONHS is building on its legacy while working to fulfill its strategic priorities.

In "On a Mission," you'll go on a medical mission to Haiti, where you'll meet SONHS staffer Jude Dhaiti, who was born and raised in Haiti, and read about how he is going back there time and again to make a difference in communities with little or no access to health care. Through his selfless service, he has earned his place at the heart of the team. You'll also get to see our advanced practice nursing students and faculty in action as they bring health care to small villages and remote, difficult-to-access areas in the rural Thomonde region. It's a compelling example of hemispheric leadership and partnership at its finest.

Our faculty, community partners, and alumni are harnessing the school's exceptional physical resources on an unprecedented scale. In "Real Connections in a Simulated Setting," you'll learn how our Simulation Hospital, which opened just

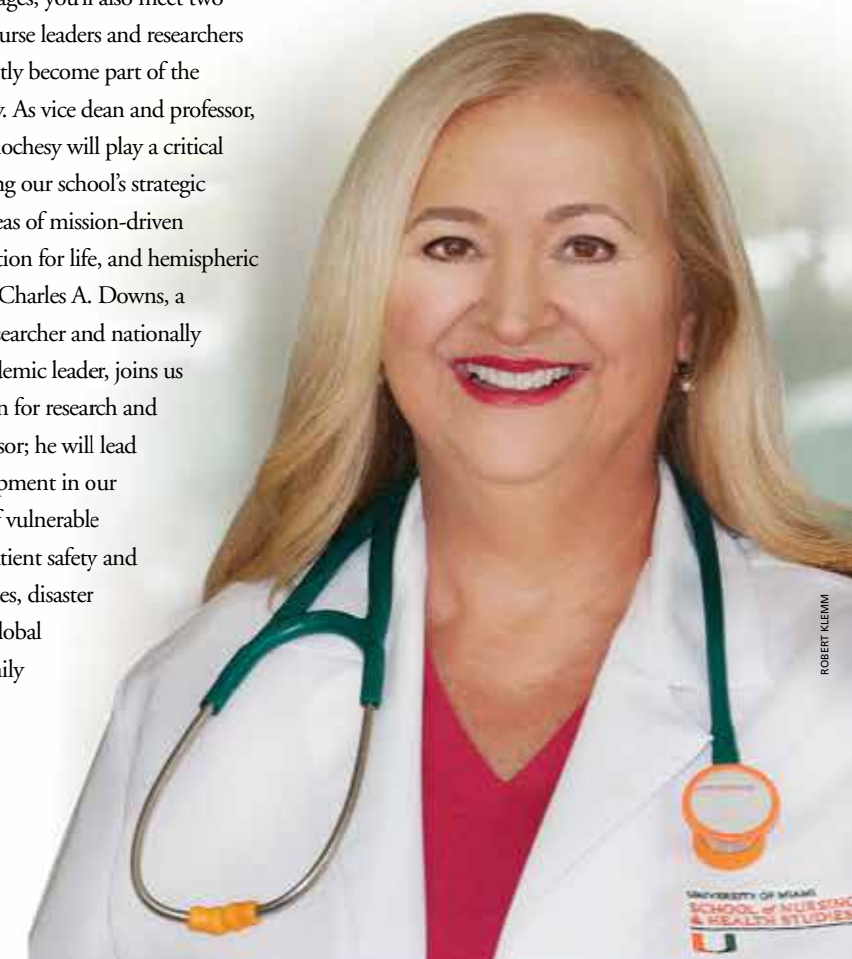
over one year ago, has become a hub for education, research, testing, and training—a critical step toward improving health care and public safety in the region. This transformational facility has been the locus for a year of regional and international collaboration, communication, and innovation at the vanguard of health care simulation. And, importantly, it has provided an unmatched setting to support our strategic priority of education for life.

In "Pillars of the Community," you'll read about how our novel undergraduate public health program is teaching students to carry forward our tradition of advocacy for vulnerable populations. Partnering with nonprofit organizations, seniors are designing and implementing interventions aimed at improving community health. With our fifth graduating class of public health students, we're demonstrating how long-term community building leads to lasting impacts.

In these pages, you'll also meet two distinguished nurse leaders and researchers who have recently become part of the SONHS family. As vice dean and professor, Dr. John M. Clochesy will play a critical role in advancing our school's strategic vision in the areas of mission-driven research, education for life, and hemispheric leadership. Dr. Charles A. Downs, a translational researcher and nationally recognized academic leader, joins us as associate dean for research and associate professor; he will lead research development in our priority areas of vulnerable populations, patient safety and patient outcomes, disaster preparedness, global health, and family caregiving.

Please join me for an informal conversation in our cover story—"Celebrating 70 Years at the SONHS—Moving Forward"—where I'll share my thoughts about our key strategic initiatives, the shifting currents in health care, the culture of belonging that infuses everything we do at the school, and my plans for steering the SONHS toward new horizons as I begin my second year at the helm of this extraordinary school. After seven decades of progress, our journey is still an adventure on which I'm excited to embark every day!

Cindy L. Munro
Ph.D., R.N., A.N.P.-B.C., F.A.A.N.,
F.A.A.N.P., F.A.A.A.S.
Dean and Professor



Promoting Health and Hope for All of Us

The rain couldn't dampen Catherine Nadeau's enthusiasm for her mission. Sporting her white coat, she stood at a waterlogged booth in an open field in rural Homestead showing area residents how to check for possible signs of skin cancer. Nadeau, M.S.N. '17, was one of 45 current Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) students from SONHS who helped organize and staff a free Community Health Fair on June 23 in collaboration with M.U.J.E.R., a Homestead-based social service organization.



SONHS faculty Rosina Cianelli and Natalia Villegas, above, with Rick Garcia, of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, host a health fair with help from D.N.P. students to promote the All of Us Research Program.

The students distributed first-aid kits, dental floss, even UV-light-detecting keychains and discussed a variety of health-related topics with members of the mainly Latino community. D.N.P. student Evens Mesadiou, B.S.N. '09, distributed bilingual pamphlets showing proper body mechanics. "There are many farmworkers in this area," he says. "This explains how to bend down to pick up boxes, for example, so they don't hurt their backs."

"The experience was wonderful," says associate professor Rosina Cianelli, Ph.D. "We had a much higher turnout from the community than we expected, even with the rainy weather. And the

D.N.P. students did fantastic work. They created innovative booths on a variety of health issues. They also brought in a huge donation of food for the community."

The health fair the students participated in as part of Cianelli's Population Based Health and Health Care Disparities course accomplished another goal as well: helping scientists connect with groups historically underrepresented in biomedical research. Cianelli and SONHS associate professor of clinical Natalia Villegas, Ph.D. '12, proposed the outreach in a competitive mini-grant funded by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to support the landmark All of Us Research Program. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched All of Us in May to extend precision medicine efforts to all diseases by developing a health research data set of one million or more participants who represent the diversity that exists throughout the United States.

Rick Garcia, Ph.D., director of nursing education at the Washington, D.C.-based AACN and a principal investigator for its All of Us grant, attended the Community Health Fair in June to discuss All of Us with fair attendees. During his presentation, Garcia, a SONHS alumnus (B.S.N. '95), explained in English and Spanish that minorities make up 36 percent of the U.S. population, with that number forecast to rise to 56 percent by 2060. But despite those increases, enrollment in clinical trials remains much lower for minorities—in "subzero territory," pronounced one of the researchers interviewed in a video Garcia played for the audience.

Cianelli says All of Us is an important initiative given that Latinos and other historically underrepresented minority groups suffer at higher-than-average rates from chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis. She says she and her team managed to discuss All of Us with 195 adults, many more than their projected goal of engaging 150 members of the Homestead rural community in meaningful conversations about the initiative. She credits support from the school's Center for Latino Health Research Opportunities (CLaRO) and longstanding community partner M.U.J.E.R.

Attendees who showed interest in participating were directed online to allofus.org. "I had people coming up to me after, saying, 'I want to participate.' I think it was because they saw minorities represented, and the subject was discussed openly," says Villegas. "Having Dr. Garcia present the information was very effective because he knows the program. People were feeling empowered because he came to talk to them directly about this important program."

SONHS BY THE NUMBERS

98%

Overall first-time pass rate for nursing master's students who took nurse practitioner certification exams in 2017—that's 10 percent above the national average

97.22%

First-time pass rates for B.S.N. students on the National Council Licensure Examination (or NCLEX-RN) for 2017, well above the State of Florida average of 73.99 and the national average of 87.11

NO. 32

Ranking for the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program out of 296 programs, as reported in March in the *U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools 2019* guide—a jump of six spots since 2018 and nearly 30 spots since 2015

NO. 42

Ranking for Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program out of 203 programs in *U.S. News' Best Graduate Schools 2019*, up four spots over 2018

359

Number of students who graduated from the SONHS this past spring/summer as of press time

1,143

Total number of students enrolled at the SONHS in Fall 2018



Foronda Named Macy Faculty Scholar

A parent receives the news that her young child has a severe chronic condition that will require daily treatments, medications, and other potentially complicated care at home. The hospital sends the family off with a list of instructions, supplies, and other resources. But then what? The day-to-day responsibility for the young patient's well-being falls to the family.

Pediatric nurse Cynthia Foronda, Ph.D., associate professor of clinical, has a plan to connect low-income family caregivers of children who have asthma with students and faculty at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, empowering these families with a comprehensive caregiver education program grounded in simulation and telehealth.

“Macy Faculty Scholars are paving the way for health professions education reform.”

Thanks to the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, Foronda's proposal will become reality. Foronda was one of five Faculty Scholars selected nationwide this year to receive the Macy Faculty Scholars Program Award. She is the school's first-ever recipient of the prestigious educational change award funded by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Her appointment began September 1.

“Macy Faculty Scholars are paving the way for health professions education reform. Dr. Foronda's project to teach family caregivers of young asthma patients, future nurses, and other health professionals how to apply simulation and telehealth technology to improve patient and family health outcomes is an

example of the innovations we need in order to meet the public's changing health care needs,” said Holly Humphrey, M.D., president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation.

“This award is so exciting, as it will provide mentorship for career development and support the creation of a new model of clinical education that not only bridges education with patient outcomes but also focuses on an often-overlooked area in our current health care system—that of caregiver education,” said Foronda.

Macy Faculty Scholars receive support of up to \$100,000 per year over two years, spending at least 50 percent of their time pursuing education reform projects at their institution.



“We're delighted by this fantastic news from the Macy Foundation,” said Cindy L. Munro, dean and professor at SONHS. “The project holds great promise for helping family caregivers and improving outcomes for chronically ill children. The foundation's recognition and support will help propel Dr. Foronda to the next level as a driver of change whose bold vision for simulation teaching and research will greatly benefit the community at large.”



R.M. LAJAZARES-RODRIGO

Public Health Degree Earns National Accreditation

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) has accredited the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (B.S.P.H.) program at the School of Nursing and Health Studies for a five-year term, through July 1, 2023.

Already accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the SONHS program is now one of just a dozen standalone baccalaureate programs of public health nationwide—and currently the only one in Florida—to receive CEPH accreditation.

Martin M. Zdanowicz, Ph.D., is the associate dean for Health Studies, which administers the public health program.

“I am very proud of Dr. Zdanowicz and our faculty for creating and sustaining excellence in undergraduate public health education at the SONHS, and equally proud of our exceptional staff and amazing students,” says Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro, Ph.D.

“Massive kudos to the public health faculty—Dr. Ashley Falcon, Dr. Andrew Porter, and Dr. Diego DeLeon. They were recognized by everybody, and particularly the students, as being phenomenally dedicated and outstanding,” says Zdanowicz. “They bring lots of innovation to the program and prepare the student to go out and be successful in tackling health challenges worldwide.”

CEPH is an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The accreditation status is retroactive, applying to all graduates of the program since its launch in 2012. The review involved detailed documentation and on-site interviews addressing eight overall review standards, such as faculty, areas of study, and student outcomes.

Zdanowicz says graduates have been highly successful at going on to advanced degrees and careers in public health, noting that this past spring, 96 percent of B.S.P.H. graduates reported employment and/or graduate school placement. See page 14 for more about the impact SONHS public health students are having out in the community.



Two Doctoral Nursing Students Named Jonas Scholars

Two doctoral students at the School of Nursing and Health Studies have been named to the prestigious Jonas Nurse Scholars Program for 2018-2020. Gilda Pamphile, B.S.N. '09, a student in the B.S.N.-D.N.P. Nurse Anesthesia Program, and Ernesto Carnota, who started the Ph.D. in Nursing program in August, join an elite group of over 200 Jonas Scholars at 92 universities across the nation. Carnota, a certified Critical Care Registered Nurse (C.C.R.N.), was selected to the Jonas Scholar Ph.D. Program—Psych-Mental Health. His research focuses on how stigma impacts post-exposure prophylaxis usage and HIV-prevention efforts among gay/bisexual Hispanic men. Pamphile, C.C.R.N., was selected for the Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar D.N.P. Program—Community-Based Care. Her scholarly project looks at the issue of postsurgery opioid abuse among veterans. Jonas Philanthropies, a leading national philanthropic funder of graduate nursing education, funds the Jonas Scholars program, which invests in nursing scholars addressing our nation's most urgent health needs. Previous Jonas Scholars at the SONHS have used their awards to advance knowledge in health issues related to military combat, mental health, suicide, and HIV/AIDS-related stigma.

Inaugural Helene Fuld Accelerated B.S.N. Scholars Named

Eight stellar students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (A.B.S.N.) degree program have been chosen as the first-ever Helene Fuld A.B.S.N. Scholars at the School of Nursing and Health Studies. The students will receive \$10,000 each toward their tuition in the rigorous degree program, thanks to a generous award from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, one of the nation's largest private funders devoted to nursing students and nursing education.

"I'd like to welcome you as the inaugural group of Fuld A.B.S.N. Scholars," said Cindy L. Munro, Ph.D., dean and professor of the SONHS, during a June luncheon to introduce the students to their faculty mentors. "The Helene Fuld Health Trust has been very active in the support of nursing as a discipline for a very long time and is a major donor for our school. This will be a lovely achievement for you to add to your CV."

Announced in 2016, the Helene Fuld Health Trust's \$1.7 million grant to the SONHS went toward building the Helene Fuld Skills Resource Center on the fifth floor of the new Simulation Hospital and to create scholarships for eight incoming A.B.S.N. students per year for a period of three years. The 11-month A.B.S.N. program is designed for students who already have a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing. Financial aid can be critical because they've often exhausted prior scholarship support while earning their first degrees.

The 2018 Helene Fuld A.B.S.N. Scholars at the SONHS represent a broad range of academic experience, from liberal arts and computer science to biology and business. Their geographic backgrounds are equally diverse, including the Pacific Northwest, Minnesota, Jordan, Brazil, Cuba, and Russia.

During the luncheon, Irina Kalvanskaya, who moved to South Florida from Moscow five years ago, explained that the scholarship will help her fulfill her childhood dream of becoming a nurse. "Thank you very much for this opportunity," she said. "Thank you for believing in me."

She and her peers are among the 82 Accelerated B.S.N. students of the Class of 2019 who began the program in May. The Fuld Scholars were selected based on the quality of their personal statements, résumés, and grade point averages at the time of application. "It was very hard to choose this group, and I think we've made a great selection," said faculty mentor Erick Zarabozo, D.N.P. '17.

Zarabozo's mentee is Gino Cortes, a 24-year-old former software developer from New Jersey who was valedictorian of his high school class. The Rutgers graduate now hopes to connect his technology background with the advances taking place in health care. Cortes said seeing his mother serve

in the nursing profession all his life has fostered his passion for helping people—and his persistence to succeed.

Sharing the resources that will help Cortes and the other scholars do just that was a main goal of the afternoon event coordinated by program leaders Mary Mckay, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '09,

associate dean for B.S.N. programs and associate professor of clinical, and Deborah Salani, B.S.N. '86, M.S.N. '89, D.N.P. '12, associate professor of clinical. "We're here to give you a lot of support and encouragement," assured Salani. "We were all young nursing students once upon a time too, so we know how difficult that was."

The Fuld Scholars must maintain a 3.0 GPA and meet regularly with their mentors. "I'm really excited to be here and

go through this program," said Meredith McCoid, who earned a degree in psychology and worked on a sailboat in the Caribbean before joining the SONHS last month. "I know it's going to be overwhelming, but it's good knowing there's someone behind you."

Cortes agreed. "The Fuld scholarship not only reduces my financial debt," he said. "It provides me with an open network of both faculty and fellow students on whom I know I can rely."

The 2018 Helene Fuld A.B.S.N. Scholars are: Gino Cortes, Yaima Gutierrez, Irina Kalvanskaya, Meredith McCoid, Gabriela Piacentini, Haley Rudnik, Abigail Wilton, and Rhonda Yousef.



Front row, from left: Faculty mentor Deborah Salani; students Rhonda Yousef, Irina Kalvanskaya, Gabriela Piacentini, and Yaima Gutierrez; and faculty mentor Ruth Everett Thomas. Middle row, from left: Students Meredith McCoid and Haley Rudnik; faculty mentor Carmen Presti; students Abigail Wilton and Gino Cortes; and faculty mentor Natalia Villegas. Back row, from left: faculty mentor Erick Zarabozo with Mary Mckay, associate dean for nursing undergraduate programs, and Sean Kilpatrick, assistant dean, Office of Student Services. (Faculty mentors Laly Joseph and Giovanna DeOliveira not pictured.)

By Yolanda Mancilla
Interviews conducted by
Robin Shear

ON A MISSION

Jude Dhaiti's passion for bringing health care to his native island nation has changed many lives, including his own.

As a dazzling sun rises over the mountains of Thomonde, Jude Dhaiti is already at work in the house that serves as headquarters and dormitory for the Haiti medical mission team. He's checking the weather report and road conditions, arranging transportation, and making sure everything's ready for the trip to the distant village the team will visit that day. Located in central Haiti near its border with the Dominican Republic, Thomonde is a rural farming community with high rates of poverty and emigration to the U.S., and extremely limited access to health care.

Twenty-five advanced practice nursing students are milling about, grabbing a quick breakfast, helping pack lunches and medical supplies, and asking Dhaiti countless questions. Through it all, the School of Nursing and Health Studies employee is the knowing calm at the center of a bustling, well-organized operation that will provide primary and preventive health care services to some 400 adults and children over the course of an extraordinary week.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) has been visiting the Thomonde region twice a year since 2010, and Dhaiti has been an integral member of the team for the past six years. "We couldn't do it without him," says team leader Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives and associate professor of clinical. "Everyone feels safe and comfortable because he's there. He makes sure our students and faculty understand the Haitian culture and that we know what to expect."

The School of Nursing and Health Studies runs mobile health care clinics in Haiti twice a year addressing pediatric, adult, and women's health. Last year longtime UM supporter Evelyn J. Budde donated \$5,000 toward the mission. For the second year, Walgreens has provided in-kind donations of health care supplies totaling over \$7,000. To learn more about supporting this special project, please contact the Development Office at (305) 284-9773.

The team gathers for a morning pre-briefing session before heading out into the lush green landscape dotted with palm trees and small, colorful houses. After an hour-long drive along rugged roads, they arrive at a schoolhouse that will be the setting for the one-day clinic. Already a large number of people—elderly men, pregnant women, mothers with babies, children of all ages—have lined up outside the structure. Dhaiti works closely with Project Medishare, a Haiti-based nonprofit health care organization, to coordinate the logistics of the visit to area residents. Some of them are visiting the clinic for the first time; others know it well and call out greetings to Dhaiti, Ortega, and other team members. Many patients have walked an hour or more from remote farms and villages to be seen during today's clinic.



Christopher Mourra Thompson, above and bottom right

The all-volunteer SONHS health care team springs into action, aware that every minute is precious. Working in small clinical groups, four faculty members and their student charges see as many as 150 patients a day. They assess the space and furnishings and divide the area into separate clinics for triage, pediatrics, maternity, and adult care. They developed their rigorous protocol based on the U.S. National Incident Management System (NIMS). Their adapted NIMS framework, which was documented last year in the *International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health*, has allowed the SONHS team to address safety issues while speeding up clinical set up times and increasing patient capacity.

“We can set up in 20 minutes instead of taking an hour because we

know exactly what to do,” explains assistant professor of clinical Kenya Snowden, M.S.N. ’10, D.N.P. ’11. “The hardest part is figuring out how we’re going to set up the space because we never know what we’re going to find.” But ingenuity and resourcefulness rule the day: For the maternity area, students sometimes have to push benches together and drape them with clean sheets to create a table for pelvic exams, hanging more sheets around it for privacy.

Once again, Dhaiti is at the center of activity, coordinating logistics, assigning the local interpreters to their posts, and providing information and guidance to the residents who are waiting to be seen. His strategic skills and methodical approach are a perfect fit for the NIMS model. Throughout the hectic, demanding day, he’ll serve as interpreter while supervising the other interpreters, ensuring they’re communicating medical information accurately. He’ll troubleshoot and resolve myriad issues that may arise, freeing the medical team to focus on providing care. He’ll arrange the team’s transportation back to home base. And he’ll constantly make his way around the clinic, checking to make sure the team members are taking care of themselves. Have they had lunch? Do they need a break? Some water? He knows it’s easy to neglect your own needs when there’s so much to be done.

Officially Dhaiti’s position, identified near the top of the NIMS org chart, is “Student Services/Community Ambassador,” but his contributions are more complex and nuanced.

“He lets everyone know, if you need anything, just go to him and he’ll figure it out,” says assistant professor of clinical Juan M. González, D.N.P. “It’s always very reassuring when you’re there and he’s part of the team.”

“Jude takes care of everyone, and of so many things behind the scenes that we might not even notice,” agrees Snowden. “He has a way of calming people down, of resolving situations.”

Snowden recalls the time a mother brought her newborn to the clinic with a fever, rash, and distended belly. She knew

the infant’s only chance at survival depended on an emergency trip to a hospital. She immediately turned to Dhaiti. “I said, ‘Jude, you’ve got to make sure this baby gets to the hospital because otherwise the baby might not make it,’ and he responded in his reassuring way,” she recounts. “It’s very hard to arrange transportation to the hospital. We don’t often do it. But Jude took charge. He communicated the urgency of the situation and did whatever he had to do to try to get the mother and baby taken to the hospital. And that’s just one example of the many heroic things Jude does every day of the mission.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT HOME

At the SONHS, Dhaiti is a data analyst. He corrals numbers and facts into tidy reports for the entire school. But what this beloved—and tirelessly efficient—SONHS employee gives back to his island nation through the medical missions cannot be contained, predicted, or explained by the rows and columns of any spreadsheet.

Born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Dhaiti was originally recruited to the initiative by Ortega and the late Marie Chery, a SONHS faculty member and country director for Project Medishare in Haiti who passed away in 2014.

“Marie Chery always hoped I’d join the team and experience the work they do for the community,” Dhaiti remembers. “She made sure I went there that first time, when I joined the mission to Thomonde in 2013 as a photographer.” From his first trip, Dhaiti’s role has quickly evolved into one that is vital to the mission. But the missions have also been a revelation for Dhaiti.



“Going to Thomonde made me see a part of Haiti I didn’t know,” he says. “I was fortunate to be part of the middle class in Haiti, so learning that people in Thomonde didn’t have any health care, and seeing what the SONHS and Project Medishare are doing, really changed my life.”

A FAMILY LEGACY OF GIVING

Jude Dhaiti’s father, a dentist, served as dean of Haiti’s dental school. His mother also worked at the school, and emphasized the importance of education to her children. Dhaiti moved to New York at 17, began college at the New York Institute of Technology and worked in banking. He eventually married and had a son before returning to Haiti for several years. There he owned and operated a number of businesses. “I moved back to Haiti because I wanted to give my child the same type of family setting I had when I was young,” he says.

By 2001 Dhaiti had a daughter as well and had relocated to Miami, where he soon began working for the U. At UM, he continued the education he’d curtailed to work full-time in New York. Taking one class at a time while bringing his considerable business background to the task of troubleshooting data challenges at the SONHS, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the College of Arts and Sciences.

He had been living outside of Haiti for almost a decade when the catastrophic earthquake of 2010 occurred. Dhaiti says he lost many friends in the disaster—one was killed by falling debris as she fled a supermarket, another was trapped under rubble in a bank, and yet another friend died after flying back home to Haiti from Miami that same day. Dhaiti’s father, in his 70s at the time, had to flee to safety from Port-au-Prince to the Dominican Republic on the back of a motorcycle. Even as the Haitian people worked to recover from the terrible devastation of the temblor, they were slammed by



hurricanes—most recently Matthew in 2016 and Irma in 2017—with the countryside especially hard hit.

Their country’s challenges led Dhaiti’s family to start a nonprofit organization. “We started it by feeding the poor,” says Dhaiti. The organization also began fundraising educational scholarships for young people. “At first we were able to sponsor six kids, and now that number is up to 210,” says Dhaiti.

RETURN TO HAITI

Some of the students who take part in the medical missions are also from Haiti. One of them is Christopher Mourra Thompson, M.S.N. ’18, who participated in the past two missions while pursuing his graduate nursing degree at the SONHS. Born in the U.S. to Haitian parents, Thompson, like Dhaiti, lived in Port-au-Prince until the age of 17. “I had a more privileged upbringing than the majority of the people in Haiti, and growing up I was always very aware of that,” says Thompson. Still, he too was shocked to see Thomonde’s lack of health care firsthand. “I asked myself, how can I help make this better next time? What can I do with the resources I have available in Haiti? Why are we buying food in the U.S. and bringing it to Haiti in suitcases?”

Thompson not only contributed his clinical skills in December 2017 and this past March, he also enlisted the attention and aid of his family, who runs wholesale companies in Haiti. Their contributions and connections ultimately saved the program more than \$5,000. Any money saved enables the team to purchase more medicine, a scarce resource in rural Haiti.

“It was such an amazing experience to give back to my community,” says Thompson. “I think that’s what motivated



so many of us to go back. It was the community feel, and the great need of the population.”

“It’s important for Haitians to contribute to the project,” says Dhaiti. “What happened to Chris also happened to me, in terms of Haitians returning and not really understanding the country until you experience the mission. All the Haitian students who’ve gone on the mission say the same thing.”

Many other students describe their experience with the SONHS clinics in Haiti as transformational as well. “I have never experienced anything like this in my entire nursing career,” says D.N.P. student Marecia Bell, who has worked with U.S. veterans, the homeless, and other vulnerable populations over her 20-year nursing career. “The SONHS clinic in Haiti was such an eye-opener. I cried every day. I pledged to myself as a health care provider to go back to Haiti with this mission.”

And when she, Thompson, and future SONHS students do make that trip, they will find Jude Dhaiti is still a constant energetic and emotional force at the center of the undertaking. “Jude has facilitated our ability to implement this mission year after year,” says Ortega. “His devotion and dedication come from his own passion for helping Haiti.”

“Jude has a love for his country that he shares with everyone,” adds Snowden.

And even though the twice-yearly visits to Thomonde are grueling and exhausting, taking Dhaiti away from his family during his brief holidays from work, he says he’ll keep going back for as long as he can. “I feel I make a difference for Haiti and for the students,” he says. “When each mission ends, and I see how many people we’ve helped and how the students have been impacted by the work they’ve done, it’s all worth it.”



Barbara Bogni



Brianna Valdes



CJ Arcalas



Alexander Klar

Pillars of the Community

By Jessica Weiss

With its fifth graduating class of public health students, the School of Nursing and Health Studies shows that long-term community building leads to lasting impacts for vulnerable populations.

Alexander Klar, B.S.P.H. '18, had passed by the Mexican Consulate in Brickell, just two blocks from his apartment, dozens of times before he finally walked in one day last November. ■ Klar, at the time a University of Miami senior, was looking for a partner organization for his field practicum in community health, a required final-semester course. The consulate, he thought, could be the perfect setting to leverage his double major in public health from the School of Nursing and Health Studies and Spanish from the College of Arts and Sciences to address a community health need. ■ He introduced himself to the consulate staff. "I gave them several ideas and asked if they had any projects on the backburner," Klar recalls. ■ The nationally accredited Bachelor of Science in Public Health (B.S.P.H.) program requires students in their final semester to partner with a nonprofit health organization from 6 to 20 hours per week as a way to apply the knowledge and skills gained during their public health studies. ■ "They learn to communicate, think, and understand the bigger picture," says Martin Zdanowicz, Ph.D., associate dean for Health Studies at the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS). "It's not just a theory in the classroom. Everything they learn goes right out into practice."



Students generally assist vulnerable communities on issues such as health disparities, autism spectrum disorder, nutrition, and sexual and environmental health. They often end up serving as key players in an organization's work.

In Klar's case, by the start of the Spring 2018 semester, staff at the Mexican Consulate had connected him with the Ventanilla de Salud program. Located inside 50 Mexican consulates across the United States, the service, which translates roughly to "Health Window," is intended to improve the physical and mental health of Mexicans living in this country. The Miami Ventanilla had a number of ideas in the works, one of which was a Spanish-language health guide that could serve as a crucial resource for the immigrant community in Miami.

"Alex was the perfect person to lead the project," says Andres Ruiz, the community relations manager at the consulate. "He spearheaded it and made it happen."

By April, the consulate had released its first-ever *Guía de Salud*, a 53-page resource for Spanish-speaking immigrants in Miami-Dade and surrounding areas, prepared by Klar. Available online as well as in print at the consulate, it includes a comprehensive database of free and low-cost area services, including hospitals and clinics. It also provides assistance for navigating the U.S. health system and information on several chronic and high-incidence diseases.

Klar says the process helped him understand the true power of public health.

"It's about the ability to take a problem—in this case the need to increase the use of health resources among the Spanish-speaking population in South

Florida—and be able to digest it," says Klar, who now lives in Paris and works as a social enterprise consultant. "This was one aspect of a larger problem that we could really change and that was not super hard. When I ended up with the final product, I could understand the whole process. I was able to see I was contributing."

Ruiz agrees that the impact has been tangible. More people are now accessing the consulate's website to download the guide. And Ventanilla de Salud uses the guide regularly to assist people who come in to access services.

'A Practice Science'

Ashley Falcon, Ph.D. '14, assistant professor of clinical, is one of two faculty members leading the community health practicum. She says the course differs from an internship in that the impact is designed to go beyond the students' own development. "Public health is very much a practice science, and it needs to be beneficial to the community partner," says Falcon. "The course is meant to be a win-win."

Launched in 2012, the B.S.P.H. degree program has grown from just four graduates in 2014 to 45 this past spring. The number of community health partners for the practicum has increased exponentially, as well, to 30 across South Florida, with an alternative option for students to meet the field requirement globally in India, Australia, or Chile.

About a quarter of students make their own community match, as Klar did. Otherwise Falcon and fellow course leader Andrew Porter, Ph.D., assistant professor of clinical, help place them. Students begin the semester by responding to a number of key questions about their partner organizations, such as: "What's the need? What are the challenges? How do we tackle them?"

They quickly learn about their partner organizations' day-to-day operations and the communities they serve while being introduced to the basic principles and methods used in community health assessment, program development, program implementation, and evaluation.

Erin Kobetz, Ph.D., an associate director at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and senior associate dean for health disparities at UM's Miller School of Medicine, says she viewed Gabriela Pages, B.S.P.H. '18, and Brianna Valdes, B.S.P.H. '18, as "much more than students." For their spring practicum, Valdes and Pages helped launch Sylvester's new mobile cancer detection center for underserved communities. "It was a learning experience for everyone, so we didn't see them as interns or students," says Kobetz. "We saw them as collaborators and team members."

Learning about Community Needs

For her practicum, Chelsea-Jane "CJ" Arcalas, B.S.P.H. '18, was matched with Pridelines, an organization that supports and educates South Florida's LGBTQ youth. It was the third year that public health students had worked with the organization.

Arcalas had no prior knowledge of HIV screening and hadn't been involved with the LGBTQ community on campus, but she developed a passion for the Pridelines mission. Now she's interested in working on HIV awareness issues in her career.

"It opened my eyes in terms of putting myself in the shoes of someone who is different than me, learning about their struggles and also realizing our lives are the same," she says.

One of Arcalas's main tasks was to input HIV testing data, collected either from the Pridelines facility or at outreach locations. The information goes into the organization's monthly report to the Florida Department of Health. Every Thursday she worked at the Pridelines office in Miami, attending programming meetings with people from other departments. That's where she developed an interest in doing outreach for young adults, specifically on college campuses.

"I saw that's where I could really contribute," says Arcalas, a UM student leader who also served as a resident assistant and president of the Council of International Students and Organizations in her senior year.

With support from her preceptor at Pridelines, health services outreach manager Luigi Ferrer, Arcalas joined Pridelines' efforts on the Getting to Zero campaign. A national program adopted by Miami-Dade County in 2016, Getting to Zero aims to respond to the high rates of HIV among 20- to 29-year-olds and find solutions to issues related to HIV/AIDS by getting more people tested, reducing the number of new diagnoses, and helping HIV-positive individuals in treatment reach viral load suppression (an undetectable level of the HIV virus in the body).

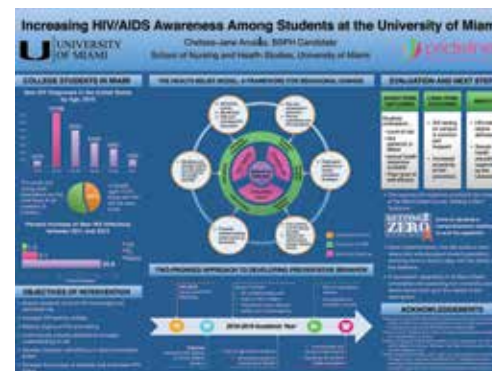
Ferrer saw Arcalas as a strategic partner in reaching campus communities. "I felt the learning really went both ways," he says. "We collaborated, and it was just a great experience."

Arcalas continues to work with Pridelines to integrate more HIV awareness education at UM and on other campuses around South Florida. She plans to attend medical school next year.

"It would be great if HIV testing could reach the same level of acceptance and visibility as the red blood drive trucks that are always on campus," says Arcalas. "We need to reduce stigma."

Building on Ideas

In addition to the practicum, the public health students work throughout the semester on a final paper discussing evidence-based intervention proposals for their partner organization. During National Public Health Awareness Week each April, they present their capstone research posters to the University community. Partner agencies and future practicum students sometimes adopt and advance their work.



That was the case at the Thelma Gibson Health Initiative (TGHI), where community health field practicum students have helped shape a crucial initiative over the last three years. The "Passport to Health" program for low-income Miamians provides a pathway to better health, new skills, jobs, housing, and economic stability through a series of 60 interventions providing guidance for a range of issues, from affordable health insurance and dental care to counseling and injury prevention.

The 2016 practicum students helped develop and research the majority of TGHI's material relating to health. The following year, students helped transition the material from hard copies to lesson plans and online resources, with a focus on HIV, risky behaviors, and nutrition. And this past spring, four students helped finalize the program and identify local health and nutrition resources.

Joseph King, TGHI's vice president of operations, runs Passport to Health. He says the school's public health students have made the program possible. "They helped me pioneer it," he adds. "And we've rolled it out and had a really high success rate getting it through."

Falcon says successes like this show the true potential of the field practicum in community health. "This wasn't just a hypothetical project someone came up with," she says. "It's actually implemented. The students helped build it and develop it."

This and other long-lasting partnerships are growing the program's footprint in the community.

"We get such tremendous feedback from the partners on what the students are doing," says Associate Dean Zdanowicz. "The impact it has is threefold: the impact on the students, on the community, and on the agency partners."

The program's most recent accomplishment came in July, when it received accreditation for a five-year term from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Becoming Integral Members of the Community

In Spring 2018, public health student Barbara Bogni was matched with Urban Health Partnerships (UHP), an organization that aims to create equitable communities through access to transportation, food, physical activity, and more. UHP assigned her to the Live Healthy Little Havana program, which works to improve the health of residents through elements like parks, bike lanes, and safe sidewalks.

Little Havana consistently ranks below the national average in terms of residents' physical activity.

Though Bogni had taken an environmental health course, she says the practicum brought the material to life. "The built environment is crucial to health," she says. "Can you cross to the other side of the street? Can you access parks to exercise? Is the community connected? Do people feel safe? These things all affect health. The practicum really opened my eyes to that."

It also taught her that the first essential step, before implementing any intervention, is to build trust. She spent the semester engaging the community by conducting workshops, administering surveys, organizing events, and holding conversations. As a result, she began to see that many Little Havana residents she met tended to feel disheartened about their community and by what they described to her as unfulfilled promises from local government.

The experience inspired Bogni to stick with UHP in Little Havana for the final year of her "4+1" combined bachelor's and master's degree program, in the hopes that building long-term relationships in the community will lead to lasting public health improvements.

"I didn't realize the community was lacking so many things. When you go there, you notice the community is a little bit tired; they don't have hope," she says. "Little by little, it's amazing to see change, and to get a smile and a 'thank you.'"

Real Connections in a Simulated Setting

A year of collaboration and innovation at the height of health care simulation

By Jessica Weiss and Robin Shear

It's a typical afternoon at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, and Professor of Clinical Jeffrey Groom, Ph.D., is doing his daily triage of the overlapping grids displayed across his computer screen: Interventional Radiology (gray), China Neuro Delegation Tour (red), Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Sim (green), Public Health Sim (blue), and so on. The dizzying array of color-coded squares is the master calendar that Groom, the school's associate dean for Simulation Programs and the International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research, uses to track every course, conference, tour, training, symposium, and residency taking place at the school's Simulation Hospital.





"It was ridiculously fun. Everything gave me an adrenaline rush," gushed New Jersey teen Amanda Allen. She and her classmates explored the Simulation Hospital during the UM Summer Scholars Program and even took turns intubating mannequins. The Simulation Hospital has also been the setting for full-scale disaster preparedness scenarios, comprehensive inter-professional patient safety education, and research projects like the Alarm Study, which is using a multidisciplinary approach to address the impact of medical alarms in hospital settings.

And there are lots of them—as many as 35 per week—each designed to advance health care education, improve patient safety, and innovate community solutions to pressing public health concerns.

At the dedication ceremony for the 41,000-square-foot facility on September 28, 2017, University of Miami President Julio Frenk concluded his remarks by saying, "Save one life, you're a hero. Save a hundred lives, you're a nurse."

Since that day, scores of interna-



tional visitors, hundreds of health care professionals, and over 1,000 UM students have benefited from the dynamic Simulation Hospital's ability to help bridge the critical and growing gap between classroom learning and increasingly complex clinical environments, from emergency and intensive care to labor and delivery.

In its first year alone, the Simulation Hospital has been the site of active shooter and hurricane sheltering

exercises, countless birthing and emergency scenarios, and other medical twists and turns, all carefully orchestrated to improve real-world health care outcomes and patient safety.

"We learn how to do different scenarios with our simulators, especially before going into the hospital setting," then-student Casey Pearce, B.S.N. '18, told the *Miami Herald* in April at the eMerge Americas technology convention, where she did CPR on a newborn. Her "patient" was a simulator Pearce had learned on at the SONHS. "We might even have one of our professors standing next to the baby and acting as the parent, and [we are] learning how to talk to the parent of a newborn. So, all the communication and all the skills we learn basically on the simulators first."

With medical error the third leading cause of death in the United States, these are important lessons. The International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research at the Simulation Hospital is already a go-to resource for training new and experienced health care personnel from area medical facilities in a range of specialties—from school nurses brushing up on emergency response for cardiac arrest or severe bleeding to acute care nurse practitioners taking a simulation-based workshop on the latest diagnostic ultrasound techniques for emergency departments. It also offers research, innovation, and collaboration opportunities for students, faculty, and community partners alike.

On each of its five floors, immersive clinical simulation activities are played out using computerized patient simulators or standardized patient actors directed by simulation instructors in high-tech backstage control rooms. The hospital has full and partial simulator mannequins to address every stage of life—preemies and toddlers, pregnant women, adult men and women—all capable of demonstrating almost any malady or series of complex conditions a health care provider might encounter.

"The Simulation Hospital is fully equipped," says SONHS alumna Jessica

Joseph, B.S.N. '11, a certified nurse educator responsible for training some 80 nurses at UHealth Tower. Joseph brought her latest nurse residency group to the Simulation Hospital in June. "Everything is state of the art, and the support from the SONHS' skilled technicians is very important in allowing us to carry out simulation scenarios with high-fidelity mannequins."

Education also takes place in the building's second-floor, 280-seat auditorium, which has been the site of conferences on Medicare fraud, Zika, and the role health care providers can play combating human trafficking, among others. On the Simulation Hospital's one-year anniversary, it featured a symposium with speakers from the CDC, UM Emergency Management, and other experts in the field. The event was a continuation of the hospital's inaugural symposium, which included a high-profile panel on disaster response, a fitting topic for a building that opened in the wake of the very real devastation wrought by Hurricane Irma.

Just weeks after Irma, the Simulation Hospital team conducted a mass sheltering exercise that transformed the facility into a Red Cross shelter for volunteer "evacuees" seeking safety before a major hurricane. Nursing students took the roles of frontline responders, using the guiding principles of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program and conducting client intakes and assessments according to Red Cross protocols. The second part of the exercise replicated a hospital dealing with patient surge following the post-hurricane all-clear announcement.

Since then, first responders and public safety agencies also have been using the facility to meet their disaster preparedness and response training needs. Over the summer, the UM Police Department used the clinic and ER spaces, hallways, and emergency entrance to conduct an active shooter tactical training.

Emergency medicine and interventional radiology residents receive regular

training at the Simulation Hospital too, with programs for other UM graduate medical education programs slated to roll out in the coming year, says Groom.

And for the first time, this past June, the annual Interprofessional Patient Safety Course was able to easily accommodate all 225 participating nursing students and medical residents from UM together in one setting for intensive team trainings, lectures, and the ever-popular SimOlympics. "The size and layout of the Simulation Hospital allowed students to go from simulation to debriefing room seamlessly, without losing the continuity of the thought process or the experience," explains Groom. "It also has clinical and patient rooms that look appropriate to the scenario, providing a more realistic physical context than in previous years."

**"Save one life, you're a hero.
Save a hundred lives, you're a nurse."**

The realism was clear when new UM parents toured the entire facility in mid-August, most for the first time. The excitement, from the corridors to the clinical suites, was palpable. "Oh, you can feel the fontanelle!" one mother exclaimed, caressing the head of a newborn simulator in the third-floor Labor and Delivery Suite. Another parent, a midwife from Maine, carefully examined the birthing suite occupied by a birth-ready simulator named Victoria, commenting, "I wish I'd gone to school here!" Many noted that the Simulation Hospital had been a big draw for their SONHS freshmen. "You really get the sense of the hospital setting, all the monitors and beeping sounds that can be distractions," said Daniel Gallagher, whose daughter Erin is a public health/premed student. "It's very impressive."

Just as impressive as the building, notes Groom, are the simulation faculty, nursing specialists, operations technicians, and other community partners involved in developing curricula; conducting research; and prepping, running, and debriefing

each scenario, no matter how complex or grand in scale. "The building, technology, and teaching scenarios come to life and translate into learning experiences and teachable moments because of our Simulation Hospital team," he explains.

And there's more to come. Supporting the school's mission to serve vulnerable populations and improve patient outcomes, SONHS faculty involved in the grant-funded Caregiver Academy will use the Simulation Hospital's telehealth capabilities and fourth-floor home health apartment to educate and empower family caregivers and other learners to tend to the daily needs of individuals suffering from chronic illness and other life-altering conditions.

The school also plans to launch a Simulation Fellowship program, welcoming health care researchers from around the world to advance their

simulation-based studies at this first-of-its-kind, cutting-edge facility.

And with each new grid added to the Simulation Hospital master calendar, another window of opportunity opens into the future of health care education and innovation. This year nursing students from Spain, Mexico, Australia, and Chile took part in scenarios at the Simulation Hospital as part of an observership exchange SONHS hosts. Nursing students from Mexico's Universidad Autonoma de Campeche said the Simulation Hospital was like nothing they had ever seen. "At first it was a little hard because the clinical simulation was new for us. But the simulation instructors made us feel very at home. They were very friendly, calming, and supportive," said Gabriela Gala Queb. "This experience opened the path for us to continue becoming better nurses and do the best we can for our patients."

To tour the Simulation Hospital or for information, call 305-284-4089 or visit simhospital.sonhs.miami.edu.

Celebrating 70 Years
at the SONHS—

Moving Forward

A conversation with
Dean Cindy L. Munro

By Yolanda Mancilla

The School of Nursing and Health Studies has always been a leader, whether in the local community or across the hemisphere. As the needs of the nation's population and health care system have evolved, so has the SONHS. Today, the school's research on health disparities and attention to cross-cultural issues in clinical care are addressing the challenges facing our increasingly diverse communities.

Expanding enrollment and the introduction of an accelerated B.S.N. are helping to meet the urgent and growing need for nurses in the health care workforce. The B.S. degree in health science is providing foundational studies for tomorrow's pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, physicians, and health policy professionals, while the B.S. in public health is preparing future professionals in areas from epidemiology to global health. New M.S.N. programs are bringing more nurse practitioners to the field, where they are able to fill the primary and specialized health care needs of the population, and the school's Ph.D. and D.N.P. programs are producing new generations of nurse-researchers and nurse-leaders who are redesigning health care and redefining our understanding of nursing as a profession.

Entering her second year at the helm of the SONHS, Dean Cindy L. Munro, a veteran nursing educator, researcher, clinician, and administrator, is poised to lead the school into a future that abounds with opportunities for those in health professions to play transformative roles at every level of the health care environment. In recognition of the school's 70th anniversary, *Heartbeat* sat down with Dean Munro to learn more about her vision for taking the school to its 100th anniversary and beyond.



How have your past experiences helped you navigate your first year as dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies?

As sailors, my husband and I have a saying we use out on the water: “Other people have plans, but people on a boat have intentions.” Rather than a rigid plan about how you’re getting from A to B, you have a larger vision for where you want to go. You adapt to the changing tides and winds and storms with the long-term goal in mind, and with the ability to adapt to whatever is happening at the moment. If you get a good current that’s taking you in the right direction, you’re going to ride that current. I’ve found that’s a pretty useful approach on land too. A dean has to view things from the perspective of various roles, so when I’m working with faculty, I’m channeling what I learned as a nurse educator. I put myself in their shoes in terms of their concerns and vision for their careers. Having worked in the clinical world also helps me navigate in the right direction for the future of the health care practitioners we’re preparing.

This year marks the SONHS’ 70th anniversary—what most excites you about the coming year and beyond?

Celebrating this special anniversary has given us a wonderful opportunity to build our community. We’re recognizing and honoring our past but trying to think forward rather than looking in the rearview mirror. It sets the stage for our

success in the next 10 or 20 years for the greatness yet to come. It’s also an opportunity to build the culture of belonging that underpins everything at the University of Miami. At the school, we’re creating an environment where every member of our community is valued for who they are and has an opportunity to contribute to the fullest extent of their abilities. All of this is intimately tied to our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Can you talk about the school’s strategic priorities?

We’ve been working to align our own strategic priorities with the University of Miami’s Roadmap to Our New Century. In doing so, we are building on an existing platform of excellence at the school, focusing on three common strategic areas: mission-driven research, education for life, and hemispheric leadership.

First, we already have a legacy of strength in mission-driven research, particularly in the area of vulnerable populations, and that has given us a platform from which to strengthen our research infrastructure and move into related research areas like global health, disaster preparedness, patient safety and patient outcomes, and family caregiving.

Next, we have a record of preparing exceptionally well-qualified students in nursing and health studies, and of outstanding educational outcomes that are reflected in our B.S.N. graduates’ first-time passing rates of 97.22 percent on the NCLEX, and in our M.S.N. graduates’ first-time passing rates of 98 percent on their nurse practitioner certification exams. While we’re protecting our core degree programs that have

traditionally produced educational excellence for our undergraduate and graduate students, we’re also looking to provide education for life for working professionals in health care by adding skill sets, stackable credentials, and continuing education targeted to the different and novel things they’ll need to know.

Finally, we’re extremely well positioned to move forward as leaders in the area of hemispheric leadership because of our Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization-funded collaborating center focused on workforce preparation in the Americas, as well as through our other activities around the hemisphere.

What do you consider the school’s greatest strengths?

Our people—our faculty and staff are spectacular. Our physical facilities—from our beautiful 53,000-square-foot M. Christine Schwartz Center to the landmark 41,000-square-foot Simulation Hospital—represent another great strength because they support all of our cutting-edge work now and to come. For example, the Caregiver Academy is an incredibly innovative idea that was recently funded by the Macy Foundation through an award to associate professor Cindy Foronda. It’s just launching and will be an important research area for us and the populations we serve. But it wouldn’t be possible without the great brainpower of the faculty combined with the physical resources of the Simulation Hospital. And, of course, having students who are really engaged and very dedicated to their fields is such a joy. It expands our ability to make a difference in the

community when we have so many students—and alumni—who are out there as our ambassadors, doing such good work.

What about the school’s challenges?

I don’t think in terms of challenges. Going back to the sailing analogy, if the current isn’t going in the direction you want to go, you alter your course. You don’t think of that as a challenge but as something to navigate around. In higher education, people identify challenges like maintaining enrollments in traditional programs and the cost of education being a barrier to many students, but we’re navigating around things viewed as challenges by people who aren’t quite as optimistic about the world.

What are the most significant issues facing nursing education and global health care?

One of the most significant issues we face as a health care system and as a country is how we’re going to pay for the services our population needs. Health care has grown more expensive, and our ability to adapt to that hasn’t kept pace. So identifying strategies to deliver high-quality, personalized care at a cost the country can afford is going to be important. Nurses are poised to be part of the solution because if we’re permitted to practice at the full scope of our ability and knowledge, we can help fill the gap in terms of access and cost containment.

Our system is in flux. It’s difficult to predict what the health care and reimbursement systems will look like. Are we going to focus on wellness, or only on illness? Our job is to provide students and working professionals with the toolkits they need to

deliver the highest quality care at the lowest cost by helping them to understand the systems and to be high-quality critical thinkers and decision-makers about the best interventions to offer patients.

Seventy years ago, we never could have envisioned the technology in health care today. How do you lay a foundation for the SONHS that can carry the school to its 100th anniversary?

We’re grounded in wanting to improve outcomes for our patients. As technology changes, as there is more research, we’re better positioned to improve outcomes. We should embrace the idea that the world we’ll have in 30 years will be much more conducive to improving outcomes for patients. We should be running headlong into the future, ready to get there. I don’t see it as a threat but as an opportunity to accomplish our root mission to fully serve and engage patients in meeting their needs and improving their outcomes. It will mean that those of us who come from an earlier generation will have to continue tuning up our skills because the equipment we see tomorrow won’t look the same. But we’ll deal with changes in technology as they come, and welcome developments that help us meet the goal of improving patient outcomes.

Why is the school’s focus on simulation education important?

Research shows that students who have simulation experiences practice in a safer way when they work with real patients.

The Simulation Hospital gives people the opportunity to practice routine things over and over to get them smooth and to practice responding to rare clinical situations where you get only one chance. Simulation is still in its infancy. At the school, we’re thinking hard about how to incorporate virtual reality into the simulation experience. About how we can expand the simulation experience beyond the clinical setting to what might happen in the home setting by using our one-bedroom homecare apartment, or to what might happen in a movie theater by using the Simulation Hospital auditorium. We’re open to the possibilities of simulation becoming more and more important in student activities and in lifelong learning for professionals.

What kind of individuals thrive at the School of Nursing and Health Studies?

My doctoral studies mentor, Francis Macrina, was always looking for answers to problems in the world and always optimistic that those answers could be found. He made every student and faculty who worked with him feel it was possible to change the world and accomplish great things. That’s my goal here at the SONHS. Our tagline is NOW: Novel, Optimistic and World-Changing. Those are the kind of faculty and students I want. People who are forward-thinking about new solutions to patient problems. People who are eternally optimistic about the potential that patients have and about their own potential. And people who really do believe they can change the world and are willing to give it a shot.



Welcome to the Team



JAVIER CORRALES

Nicole Gonzaga

Nicole Gonzaga

Assistant Professor of Clinical
Nicole A. Gonzaga, D.N.P., is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist who has worked in hospitals and ambulatory facilities in South Florida since 2006, including as chief obstetric C.R.N.A. at Memorial Hospital West. She has been an adjunct faculty member at the SONHS since 2015 and currently holds a faculty position at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and University of Miami Health Tower. Previously she held positions in UCLA Medical Center's Cardiothoracic ICU and at NYU Medical Center. For the first time this fall, Gonzaga, who regularly participates in medical mission trips to Latin America, is bringing a Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist from SONHS with her on a medical mission in Guatemala. Gonzaga has a B.S.N. from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.S. from Columbia University, and a D.N.P. from Johns Hopkins University.



R. M. LANAZARES-ROMERO

Zhan Liang

Zhan Liang

Assistant Professor

Zhan Liang, Ph.D., R.N., held an appointment as an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at the University of South Florida from 2015 to 2018, where she was the principal investigator (PI) on a study to test the Effect of Music Intervention on Symptoms and Weaning from Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation. She has focused her research on management of symptoms and clinical outcomes among chronic and critically ill patients. This research interest developed from her clinical experience as a critical care nurse caring for patients admitted to the ICU and their family caregivers. Her direct patient experience has given her the foundation to develop rigorous research studies examining interventions to improve symptoms and clinical outcomes for chronic and clinically ill patients. She worked with Dean Cindy L. Munro on a large NIH-funded clinical trial on oral care for mechanically ventilated patients and is currently a co-investigator on another NIH-funded study with Munro as PI that uses recorded family voice messages to reduce delirium for mechanically ventilated patients in the ICU. Liang received her B.S.N. degree from Guangzhou Medical University in China, and her M.S.N. and Ph.D. degrees in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh.



R. M. LANAZARES-ROMERO

Juan Gonzalez

Juan E. Gonzalez

Professor of Clinical and Program Director, Nurse Anesthesia

Juan E. Gonzalez, Ph.D., C.R.N.A., joined the School of Nursing and Health Studies in May, after 15 years on the nursing faculty at Florida International University, most recently as clinical associate professor at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and vice chair, assistant program director for the Department of Nurse Anesthetist Practice. He holds a Ph.D. in nursing, an M.S. in science (nurse anesthetist), and a B.S.N. in nursing, all from Barry University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Barry. Gonzalez is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner licensed in Florida and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. His interests include patient simulation as a teaching modality, technology in nurse anesthesia, advanced cardiovascular life support, and patient safety.

Vice Dean Clochesy Joins the SONHS

Within his first few weeks on the job, John M. Clochesy, Ph.D., R.N., was already showing off his Hurricanes pride, sporting a University of Miami necktie to match his new role as vice dean and professor at the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS).

"I look forward to supporting all aspects of the SONHS, including the dean, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners," says Vice Dean Clochesy (pronounced CLAW-see), who started August 15.

Clochesy comes to the U from the University of South Florida College of Nursing in Tampa, where he held an appointment as a professor and recently served as an associate dean, both for organizational integration and for the Ph.D. program.

"I can't think of a better fit than Dr. Clochesy for this integral senior leadership position," says SONHS Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro. "He will play a critical role in advancing our school's strategic vision in the areas of mission-driven research, hemispheric leadership, and education for life."

Clochesy's current research involves providing virtual support and digital therapeutics by developing and testing serious games for health. A recipient of the 2017 USF College of Nursing Mentor in Research Award, he is currently co-investigator on two virtual support studies funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research—one to assist older adults in managing their

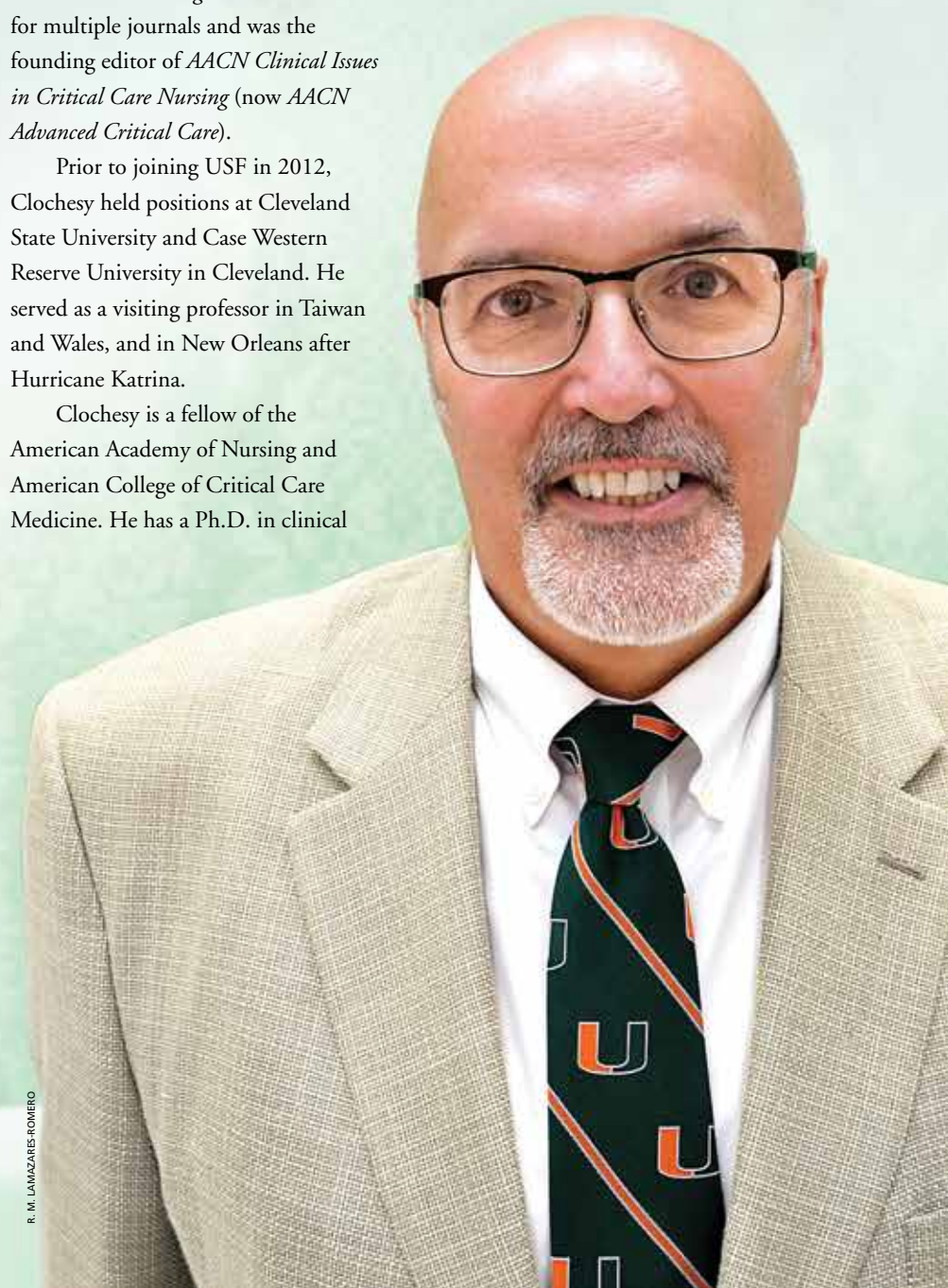
cancer symptoms and another to help educate caregivers of chronically critically ill patients on end-of-life decisions.

He has more than 100 publications, including the award-winning books *Essentials of Critical Care Nursing* and *Critical Care Nursing*. He is a reviewer for multiple journals and was the founding editor of *AACN Clinical Issues in Critical Care Nursing* (now *AACN Advanced Critical Care*).

Prior to joining USF in 2012, Clochesy held positions at Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He served as a visiting professor in Taiwan and Wales, and in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Clochesy is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and American College of Critical Care Medicine. He has a Ph.D. in clinical

nursing research from Case Western Reserve, an M.S. in medical-surgical nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and an M.A. in psychology/diversity management from Cleveland State.



R. M. LANAZARES-ROMERO



Maya Elías

Maya Elías

Postdoctoral Associate

Maya Elías earned her Ph.D. in nursing science and her master's degree in gerontology from the University of South Florida. She has a B.S.N. from the University of Central Florida and spent four years working as a neuroscience registered nurse at Tampa General Hospital. Her dissertation study, "The Relationship between Sleep Quality and Motor Function in Hospitalized Older Adult Survivors of Critical Illness," was the first to describe post-intensive care unit sleep quality among older adult inpatients and explore the relationship between sleep and motor function upon transition of care out of ICU. Under the mentorship of her dissertation chair, Dean Cindy L. Munro, she submitted a postdoctoral fellowship grant application to build on her preliminary research and explore longitudinal outcomes of critical care survivorship in older adults.



Chante Washington-Oates

Chante Washington-Oates

Postdoctoral Associate

Chante E. Washington-Oates, B.S.N. '07, Ph.D. '18, is working on a grant proposal to the National Institutes of Health. Her research comprises multilevel preventive interventions designed to improve the quality of life of vulnerable families, such as those affected by mental illness and substance use epidemics, violence, incarceration, and separation. She plans to use her research to inform the development of community agencies that provide effective, evidence-based, protective-focused interventions. Her dissertation, "Protective Multi-Level Factors in Adolescents of Mothers with Mental Disorders," suggested that adolescent self-management strategies and maternal involvement protected mental well-being among youth whose mothers have mental disorders. It received the Beta Tau Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Graduate Research Award and informed her first-place-winning presentation at the 2018 Southern Nursing Research Society conference. She has also presented at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research, the Minority Health and Health Disparities Grantees Conference, and the Nursing Consortium Conference.



JAVIER CORRALES

Paul Metcalf

Paul Metcalf

Development Director, Major Gifts

For two decades, Paul A. Metcalf, Ph.D., has been dedicated to the advancement of higher education through fundraising efforts such as multiyear capital projects, annual direct response programs, and leadership giving. From 2004 to 2018, he served in various capacities in the Division of Institutional Advancement at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, most recently as associate director of Community Engagement. He has presented at national conferences on the topic of alumni giving and received graduate faculty status in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology at FAU while developing a graduate-level course titled Education and Philanthropy. He holds a B.S. degree in Communication from Ohio University, as well as M.Ed. and Ph.D. degrees from FAU.

Pulmonary Researcher Named Associate Dean for Research

Charles A. Downs, Ph.D., A.C.N.P.-B.C., F.A.A.N., a translational researcher from the University of Arizona noted for his work in acute lung injury and pulmonary diseases, joined the School of Nursing and Health Studies August 15 as associate dean for research and associate professor.

Downs, a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, will lead the ongoing development of the school's extensive research portfolio, including identifying new areas of research, mentoring early- and mid-career faculty, and pursuing research funding opportunities in the areas of vulnerable populations, patient safety/outcomes, disaster preparedness, global health, and family caregiving.

"Dr. Downs is a dynamic, nationally recognized academic leader. We are very pleased to welcome him to our school," says Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro.

His basic and early translational research focuses on Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), a disease process characterized by profound inflammation and pulmonary edema that is a major source of morbidity and mortality in the United States. Supported by a five-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Downs is using state-of-the-art molecular and biochemical techniques to better understand the molecular underpinnings involved in the evolution and resolution of ARDS with the aim of informing the development

of personalized health interventions to prevent and treat the disease.

Downs began his career working in the medical intensive care unit and serving as a critical care flight nurse at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, where he also earned his M.S.N. and B.S.N. degrees. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in nursing with a focus on lung biology at the University of Arizona, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University.

At both UA-Birmingham and Emory, Downs taught across B.S.N., M.S.N., D.N.P., and Ph.D. nursing programs, developing courses focused on radiography and biological methodology. As a dually appointed assistant professor in Emory's nursing school and physiology department, he earned the Woodruff Early Investigator Award in 2014.

He joined the University of Arizona in 2015 as an assistant professor with a dual appointment at the College of Nursing and the Division of

Translational and Regenerative Medicine in the College of Medicine. In addition to the NIH, his research has been supported by private foundation and institutional funding, and published in a number of scholarly publications, such as the *Journal of Proteomics*, *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*, and *PLoS One*.



JAVIER CORRALES

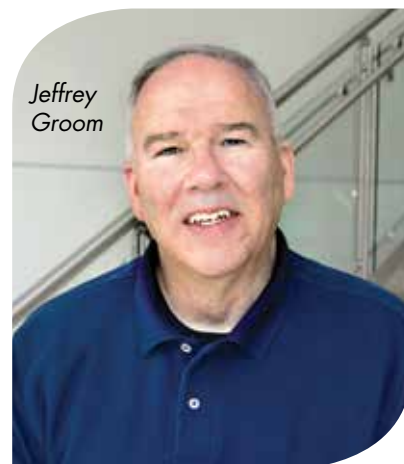
PHOTOGRAPH BY R.M. LAMAZARES-ROMERO



Laly Joseph

Joseph Named to Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy

Laly Joseph, D.V.M., D.N.P., assistant professor of clinical, was accepted to the 2018-2019 Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (ENFLA), a 12-month leadership development experience offered by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STTI). Joseph is president of the University of Miami's Beta Tau Chapter of STTI. Administered by the Center for Excellence in Nursing Education, ENFLA promotes leadership development in mid-career nursing faculty. Preference for this highly selective program is given to doctorally prepared nurse educators and active STTI members. Each ENFLA scholar, mentor, and faculty triad works throughout the program to plan, initiate, and direct a variety of projects aimed at expanding the personal influence and confidence of participants while having a substantial impact on the supporting institutions, the profession of nursing, and global health.



Jeffrey Groom

Groom Named to Society for Simulation in Healthcare Academy

Jeffrey Groom, Ph.D., SONHS professor of clinical and associate dean for Simulation Programs and the International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research, will be inducted into the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) Academy at the International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare in January 2019. With over 3,700 members, the SSH seeks to improve performance and reduce errors in patient care through the use of simulation. The SSH Academy convenes a peer-vetted cadre of experts whose sustained contributions have had an impact on advancement of the society and the field of health care simulation. Joining 49 existing fellows, the 11 members of the 2019 Class of Fellows represent institutions that range from the University of Miami to the University of Pittsburgh and from Minnesota's Mayo Clinic to Australia's Royal Perth Hospital. Of particular note, this third cohort is the first to name Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists as fellows, and Groom is one of the first two CRNAs selected to the academy.



Kenya Snowden



Johis Ortega



Juan M. González

Florida Nurses Association Honors Snowden, Ortega, Gonzalez

The Florida Nurses Association (FNA) named assistant professor of clinical **Kenya Snowden**, M.S.N. '10, D.N.P. '11, 2018 Outstanding Nurse of the Year (Community Action category) at its 8th Annual South Region Symposium Awards Ceremony in April. The Nurse Leader: Administration/Academia Award at the event went to **Johis Ortega**, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for hemispheric and global initiatives and associate professor of clinical. **Juan M. González**, D.N.P., assistant professor of clinical, received the Nurse Educator Award.



Andrew Porter

Porter Selected Fellow of the Faculty Learning Community

Andrew Porter, Ph.D., assistant professor of clinical, has been invited to participate as a faculty fellow in the University of Miami's 2018-2019 Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Learning through Dialogue and Discussion. This fall he will take part in learning sessions about educational uses of dialogue and discussion. He will then redesign a course to be taught and evaluated over the next five years. UM will provide funding for research and professional development during Porter's fellowship year.



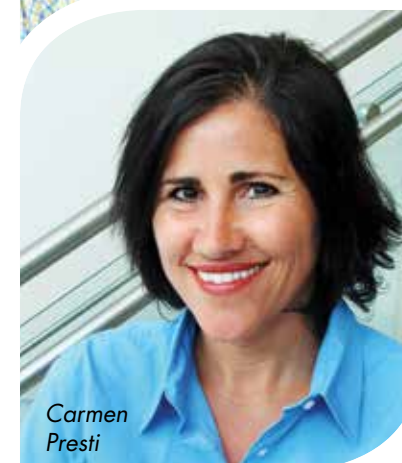
Jill Sanko

Sanko Recognized for Dedication to Simulation

Assistant Professor **Jill Sanko**, Ph.D. '15, received the Frontline Simulation Champion Award from the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation in Learning. This award acknowledges a hard-working individual who demonstrates exemplary dedication in the day-to-day implementation of simulation-based health care education, going beyond the ordinary to exemplify an extraordinary commitment to excellence in the delivery of simulation-based learning.



Erick Zarabozo



Carmen Presti

Presti, Zarabozo Tapped for Spring Awards

During the school's Spring Awards Ceremony in May, lecturer **Erick Zarabozo**, D.N.P. '17, received the Faculty Clinical Excellence Award. He says his goal "is to make students succeed and equip them with the skills they need to provide the best bedside care to their patients." Teacher of the Year recognition went to **Carmen Presti**, D.N.P. '12, an assistant professor of clinical and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner who teaches pathophysiology, role transition, and interprofessional health care. "I am grateful to the SONHS for the opportunity to share my passion for nursing with my students," says Presti, a prior two-time recipient of the Faculty Clinical Excellence Award.

"I am grateful to the SONHS for the opportunity to share my passion for nursing with my students."

Tips from a Two-Time Teacher of the Year

Assistant Professor Juan M. González, D.N.P., has been voted clinical faculty/professor of the year twice by his students since joining the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Asked his teaching secrets, he quotes advice from his mother, a high school teacher: “A teacher needs to be a student advocate, identify and remove any barriers students have, and make every moment a teaching moment.”

Now director of the SONHS Family Nurse Practitioner program, González first got excited about becoming an educator when assigned to be a preceptor for new graduate nurses in the emergency department at South Miami Hospital, where he’s worked for the past 12 years. “I enjoyed the interaction and the challenge of having students ask questions and put me on the spot,” he says.

He began teaching clinical skills at the SONHS in 2011, the same year he was named South Miami Hospital’s ER Unit Nurse of the Year. He soon discovered that teaching complemented his work as a clinician and vice versa.

“The more you study to teach, the better you do clinically,” he says. “The more clinical experience you have, the better scenarios and examples you can give your students.”

Sofia De La Camara, B.S.N. ’15, M.S.N. ’18, recalls him as “brilliant but never arrogant.” “Everyone’s favorite class was always whatever Dr. González was teaching. For me that was pharmacology. He has the ability to make a whole classroom very interested in a topic they might have otherwise thought was going to be dreadful because he exudes such confidence and knowledge,” she says. “As a new nursing student, when the hospital environment was still terrifying (which led me to faint in front of a patient and all my classmates), I remember being very discouraged. In moments like those, when I thought

possibly that nursing wasn’t meant for me, Dr. González was very supportive. He was able to see the humor and meaning behind such situations. He could give you the confidence you needed to succeed.”

González says students who are receptive and hungry for new knowledge motivate him. In return, he encourages them with meaningful feedback and plenty of praise. “I try to celebrate with students their small accomplishments, such as when they get the right answer to a question, instead of focusing on their deficiencies,” he says.

Several times a year, he also travels to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to help lead the school’s hemispheric health care efforts there. These medical missions offer him yet another opportunity to see his students transform. “When they leave, they’re different individuals,” he says. “They develop more compassion. They learn how to troubleshoot problems and be creative with a small amount of resources.”

A board-certified adult gerontology, family, and emergency room nurse practitioner, González conducts research on ways to advance emergency care through new knowledge and protocols, and he educates nurse practitioners on methods for using ultrasound to improve diagnosis and treatment in the emergency department. “If you’re starting a central line or trying to drain an abscess, the ultra-

sound allows you to visualize the area on the computer screen instead of going in blindly,” he explains.

From his vantage point at the forefront of nursing education, González expresses optimism for his students’ prospects. “In many states Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners are now practicing to the fullest of their scope,” he says. “There are going to be a lot of opportunities for advanced practice nurses at the bedside as well as in leadership and teaching, in both acute care and primary care settings.”

—Maggie Van Dyke



1970s

Ann M. Thrailkill, C.N.P. ’76, works for VA Palo Alto Health Care System in California. She works in primary care and women’s health, serving as the maternity coordinator for the medical center and its outlying clinics. She enjoys doing volunteer work and travels when possible. Her grandson is a Harvard grad working on Wall Street, and her granddaughter is a senior at Ann’s undergrad alma mater, Boston College. Ann says she’d love to hear from fellow 1976 grads of the C.N.P. program.

Kathleen J. McGillick, B.S.N. ’77, received her M.S.N. degree at Adelphi University in New York after graduating from the SONHS. She remained active in nursing for 17 years, including in management and teaching. In 1994 she graduated from the John Marshall School of Law in Atlanta and has been a practicing family law attorney for 24 years. This year she self-published four novels, all in the mystery, thriller, suspense genre under the name K. J. McGillick; they can be found on Amazon.

1980s

Mary E. Asher, M.S.N. ’85, D.N.P. ’11, relocated to San Antonio, Texas, where she teaches part-time for the University of the Incarnate Word School of Nursing in the traditional B.S.N. program.

Deanne Silvers Donato, B.S.N. ’89, is married to Daniel Donato, M.D. ’80. Their son, Zach, graduated from Emory University in 2018 and is in the first cohort of the University of Miami’s Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences program. “We are happy and proud to have another Hurricane in our family!” says Deanne.

1990s

Dawn L. (Harrison) Garzon Maaks, B.S.N. ’90, was appointed president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners on July 1. Her term continues through June 30, 2019. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner and pediatric primary care mental health specialist.

Elise C. Hermes, B.S.N. ’98, was recently promoted to chief nursing information officer for Nicklaus Children’s Hospital in Miami. She has been with the organization for 18 years, serving in leadership roles and other positions, including neonatal intensive care unit and emergency room/trauma staff nurse.

2000s

Katrina Chong Blissett, B.S.N. ’06, was asked to be a presenter at the 27th World Nursing Education Conference in Berlin, Germany.

Anna M. Lozoya, B.S.N. ’06, a risk manager at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, received the 40 Under 40 Award from the National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Illinois Chapter and was recognized by the Illinois Nurses Foundation with a 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award.

2010s

Esther Mathurin, B.S.N. ’11, M.S.N. ’13, Ph.D. ’18, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar, defended her dissertation in June. Titled “Engagement in HIV Care and Treatment among Haitian Americans,” it examines the process by which Haitian Americans decide to be involved in their HIV care. She is interested in identifying barriers that inhibit HIV-prevention behaviors in the Haitian community, and in the relationship between stigmatizing attitudes toward HIV and prevention behaviors. As a Ph.D.

student, she developed a concept analysis of “Disengagement in HIV Care,” presented at the 2016 McKnight Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference, and presented the results of a research study examining sexual negotiation among Hispanic men who have sex with men at the annual conference of Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

Narciso Quidley-Rodriguez, B.S.N. ’14, Ph.D. ’18, defended his dissertation in May. It explores sexual decision-making among men who identify as “bears,” a gay subculture. His published works include “Physical, Psychosocial, and Social Health of Men Who Identify as Bears: A Systematic Review” in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* and “A Literature Review of Health Risks in the Bear Community, a Gay Subculture” in the *American Journal of Men’s Health*. He has presented research findings at several conferences, including the National Hispanic Science Network and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

Julius Johnson, D.N.P. ’16, is teaching in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Long Island University-Brooklyn, where he was asked to become program lead for the current year. He also reports that he continues to practice home-based primary and transitional care, and has two health care-based start-ups in the works.

Kristi Brownlee, B.S.P.H. ’17, M.S.P.H. ’18, took part in the Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research at UCLA this summer. Before graduating from the SONHS, she won

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third place in the UM College of Arts and Sciences' 24th Audley Webster Memorial Essay Contest for her submission, "Defining the 'Strong Black Woman.'" Also earning third place honors was fellow SONHS student **Jasmine Mompoint** for her submission titled, "I once thought I was beautiful. Then I saw a magazine."

Anna Liza DelRosario Fernandez, D.N.P. '17, a Jonas Nurse Scholar, is the acting clinical nursing director, Office of Community Care, San Francisco VA Health Care System.

Hana Phelan, B.S.N. '17, was hired for an operating room internship at Lakes Region General Hospital in New Hampshire. She was previously a nurse

at a camp for children from low-income and otherwise at-risk backgrounds. **Yesenia Licor, B.S.N. '18**, and **Jessica N. Morales, B.S.N. '18**, were hired by Jackson Memorial Hospital and are in the 16-week Critical Care ICU Internship program. Jessica is in the Neuro-Surgical Intensive Care Unit. "It has been an amazing, exciting, and rewarding experience. I am constantly learning something new, whether it be about spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, or intracranial hemorrhages. The SONHS truly prepared me to start a job just months after graduation." "Working for Ryder Trauma Center has been a dream come true for me," adds Yesenia, who works in Ryder's Trauma ICU. "Dr. Presti, who taught our pathophysiology class, sparked further interest and

eagerness to work at Ryder, especially when she shared some of her experiences there." Yesenia is also a research assistant for the family automated voice recording (FAVoR) research study spearheaded by SONHS Dean Cindy L. Munro. "This nursing-led research study has the potential to change the quality of care and quality of life experienced by the patient in an ICU," says Yesenia. "It's important to me because every day in the ICU I not only see delirious patients in mental distress and pain but also families who are experiencing a plethora of emotions and distress. I truly look forward to what this research study can do for the prevention of delirium."



Her Legacy Lives On In Memoriam: JoAnn Trybulski

From launching a pioneering Doctor of Nursing Practice program to inspiring students and mentoring colleagues, JoAnn T. Trybulski, Ph.D., left an indelible mark during her 11 years at the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS). She passed away on June 29 at age 67.

"Dr. Trybulski was a pioneer, a creative visionary, and a mentor to so many, both at the SONHS and across our communities," says Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D., current associate dean for the D.N.P. program at the SONHS, who worked with her from 2010 to 2013.

A native of New York, Trybulski earned a biology degree at Fordham University and an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree from the University of the State of New York. In her first nursing job in the emergency department of Amesbury Hospital in Massachusetts, she helped create protocols that were recognized with an award from the State Office of Emergency Medical Services. After earning her M.S.N. and Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner certification from Simmons College,

she created Salem Hospital's nurse practitioner-managed employee health clinic. She then spent a decade as a licensed nurse practitioner and assistant chief of nursing at the Harvard Community Health Plan.

Before coming to the SONHS in 2002 as an assistant professor, Trybulski served on the faculty of MGH Institute of Health Professions (a graduate school founded by Massachusetts General Hospital) and earned her Ph.D. in nursing on a fellowship from Boston College.

At the SONHS, Trybulski revised the Adult Nurse Practitioner curriculum and instituted case-based teaching. Named an associate dean in 2007, she worked with faculty to create a dynamic master's degree curriculum that helped triple applications and double enrollment. In 2009 she rolled out the school's D.N.P. Program, which today boasts over 250 graduates, many of whom are involved in transforming the profession around the nation.

Trybulski's other achievements include co-editing the award-winning textbook *Primary Care: A Collaborative*

Practice, being named a Distinguished Practitioner of the National Academy of Practice in Nursing in 2008, and being appointed to the Florida Board of Nursing in 2013. In 2013 she was also tapped to be chief nursing officer for University of Miami Hospital (now UHealth Tower), a role she held for two years before moving to Central Florida. Trybulski had recently retired from a position as director of Chamberlain College of Nursing's D.N.P. program. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Ed; daughter Sarah Trybulski Fedor, a 2006 UM alumna; son-in-law Rick Fedor; three brothers; and two sisters-in-law.

"She was a kind, extremely caring, and compassionate colleague, role model, and friend," says Hooshmand. "Though her legacy lives on at the SONHS, we will miss her greatly and extend our deepest condolences to her family."

Global Grandmother Inspired Next-Gen Nurse

When **Rosemary F. Lohlein, C.N.P. '79**, began her nursing journey in Queens, New York, in 1961, and later New Jersey, she never expected it would lead to Miami, much less to a war zone halfway around the world.

But in 1972, Lohlein, by then a mother of four, headed south with her family to Marathon in the Florida Keys to start a new business venture with her husband.

"I worked per diem at Fishermen's Community Hospital in labor and delivery, the emergency department, and the operating room," Lohlein said. "I just loved working as a nurse, and the hospital was very accommodating with my schedule."

Recognizing Lohlein's dedication and potential, a supervisor encouraged her to apply for a nurse practitioner program being offered at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

"I'm so grateful for the education I received at the University of Miami," said Lohlein, who passed away in August, just a couple of months after being interviewed for this article. "It really opened up the world to me. Living in the Keys was like living in a very small town. At the University, I met students from all over the world, and working at Jackson Memorial Hospital, I cared for patients from many different cultures."

Lohlein said being a nurse helped her cope with the grief of losing her husband in a car accident when she was just 49.

And her experience at the SONHS sparked her interest in volunteerism. Several years after her husband's death, Lohlein registered with International Relief Teams, based in San Diego. Almost immediately, she was called to serve in northern Iraq after Operation Desert Storm.

"Caring for patients in a third-world country is quite challenging," Lohlein said. "You sometimes have to be resourceful and improvise, but it really is a wonderful feeling when you realize, 'Oh my gosh, this will work!'"

Lohlein's two-week stint in Iraq was a crash course in the horrors of war, as she tended to patients with gunshot wounds and devastating injuries from land mines. But she also observed the resilience of the human spirit and the generosity of the medical professionals who give selflessly of their time and skills.

She continued her volunteer work well into her retirement, caring for patients in Senegal, Ecuador, and Mexico. Her last mission was six years ago in Honduras.

Though her health of late had forced her to curb her volunteer activities overseas, she remained active in her community in Coronado, California, attending church, practicing yoga, and traveling for vacations to visit her children and grandchildren.

Just last year she attended the graduation of her grandson Robert Charles Lohlein, B.S.N. '17, who had followed in her footsteps at UM. (His parents and sister are also UM alumni.) The younger Lohlein now works as a registered nurse in the Surgical Transplant Unit at Florida Hospital in Orlando. "I definitely was inspired to go into nursing by my grandmother," he says. "And I chose the University of Miami because it's where she became a nurse practitioner."

It's fair to say, some 40 years later, it is not his grandmother's nursing school, as it now boasts major advances like the new state-of-the-art Simulation Hospital.

Wisely, however, the U hasn't changed everything, and Lohlein seems to echo his grandmother as he recalls his clinical experiences. "I got to care for the most diverse patients—people from the Caribbean, South and Central America—with the best professors guiding me," he says. "I don't think I would have had that experience anywhere else in Florida."

—Ginny Pickles

Robert Lohlein at graduation last year with his grandmother, Rosemary, who passed away in August.



From Nurse to Patient: A Case Study in Courage

In 2015, **Stephanie Lozano** was living her dream—a dream she'd pursued since shadowing a certified registered nurse anesthetist as a teenager.

By Christmastime, the pediatric intensive care unit nurse had completed her first year in the B.S.N.-D.N.P. Nurse Anesthesia Track at the School of Nursing and Health Studies and was looking forward to her second when she became ill with what she assumed was a virus. Things got worse, though. A trip to urgent care revealed a high creatinine level, indicating a serious kidney problem.

"I told the doctor, 'I have school starting tomorrow,' and he said, 'Nice try. Go straight to the emergency room,'" Lozano recalls.

She was immediately admitted to the hospital. Her creatinine levels continued to climb, and her kidneys failed. A biopsy revealed an autoimmune disease called Henoch-Schönlein purpura, which inflames the small blood vessels in the skin. In some cases, such as Lozano's, the disease also attacks the kidneys.

In the span of six weeks, she went from a healthy, driven Doctor of Nursing Practice student to a patient on dialysis awaiting a transplant. She arranged to take a leave of absence throughout 2016. "I always believed I would return the following year, no matter what," she says.

Today, Lozano is again living her dream, on target to graduate in December. But her path hasn't been without challenges. She had to balance her medical treatments and school, arranging to receive peritoneal dialysis at home while sleeping so she wouldn't miss clinicals or classes.

Then she received the news she'd been waiting for. "It was March 10, 2017," she says. "We got together as a family to say the rosary and, at the end of the prayer, my cousin announced she was my transplant match."

The surgery was a success, and Lozano was back at school a month later with a new kidney.

"Stephanie did not miss a beat," says Assistant Professor Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D., associate dean for the D.N.P. program. "She is a diligent and excellent student and showed incredible resiliency and courage. Even while she was on dialysis waiting for a transplant, she was proactive about scheduling her clinicals and working with faculty to arrange everything."

Lozano refuses to let her health challenges define her life. She credits her faith, in addition to the support of her family and friends, for her resilience. "There's this Bible verse that truly resonates for me and pushed me to remember there is a beautiful life ahead," she says. "It's Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

That future now includes earning her D.N.P., marrying her fiancé, and advancing her career as a C.R.N.A. She's also intent on helping other kidney disease patients and donors navigate the pre-transplant process, which she found fragmented and overwhelming.

As part of her studies, Lozano is working with staff at Jackson Memorial Health System to improve communication between patients and the transplant team and to develop short patient education videos that help explain key topics, including living organ donation. She is particularly interested in increasing the number of

living organ transplants, which have better long-term graft survival rates than deceased donor organs.

Her final scholarly proposal, "Pre-Kidney Transplant Process Improvement Project," is a testament to the dream she wouldn't let die.

"Everyone has a battle to overcome," says Lozano, "and although my battle wasn't the easiest, I had a determination inside of me that wouldn't let me entertain any of the negative diagnosis, prognoses, or outcomes thrown my way."

—Maggie Van Dyke



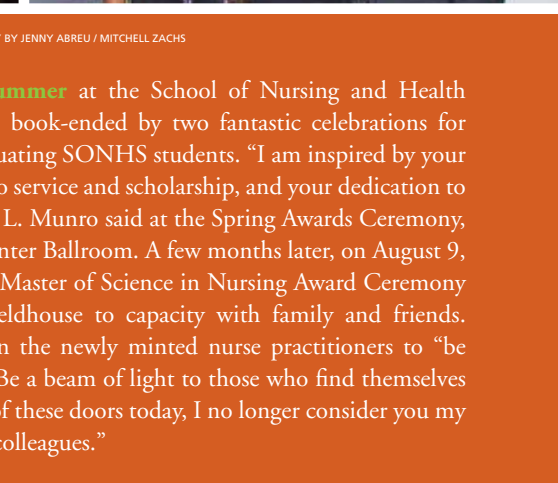
CARY LOZANO



The School of Nursing and Health Studies 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNY ABREU / MITCHELL ZACHS

A busy summer at the School of Nursing and Health Studies was book-ended by two fantastic celebrations for over 330 graduating SONHS students. "I am inspired by your energy, your call to service and scholarship, and your dedication to learning," Dean Cindy L. Munro said at the Spring Awards Ceremony, held May 11 in the Shalala Student Center Ballroom. A few months later, on August 9, the more than 160 participants in the Master of Science in Nursing Award Ceremony filled the 700-seat Watsco Center Fieldhouse to capacity with family and friends. Associate Dean Johis Ortega called on the newly minted nurse practitioners to "be leaders." "Be a voice for the voiceless. Be a beam of light to those who find themselves in darkness," he said. "As we walk out of these doors today, I no longer consider you my students. It is my privilege to call you colleagues."



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