



heartbeat

THE MAGAZINE
of the
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL OF NURSING
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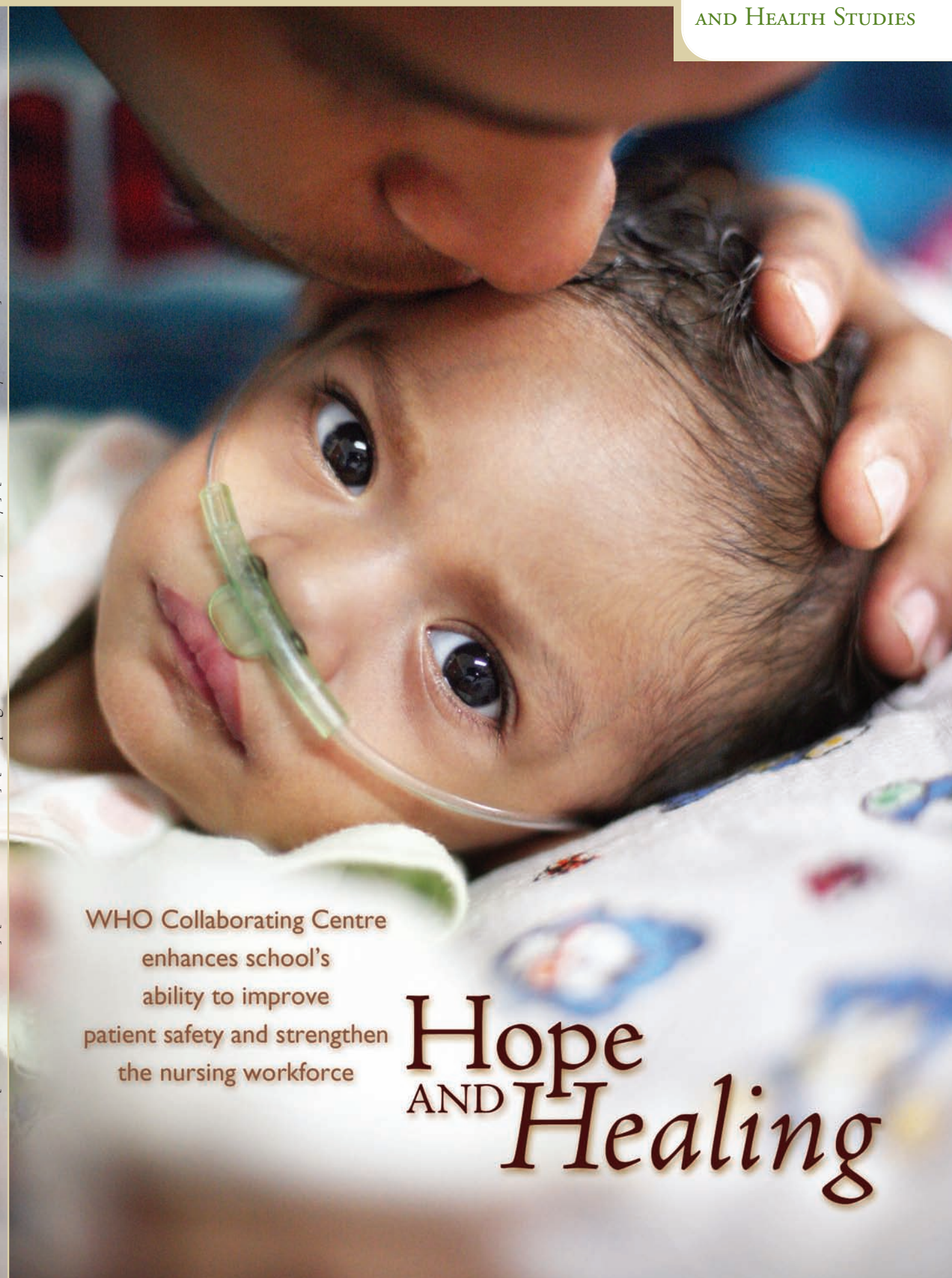
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WHO Collaborating Centre
enhances school's
ability to improve
patient safety and strengthen
the nursing workforce

Hope AND Healing

AMBITIOUS GOALS, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



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The University of Miami has a distinguished record of leadership across the spectrum of health care, from education and research to clinical care and service for the local and global communities. As the national dialogue on health reform intensifies, our school is moving forward with ambitious goals and strong support from University leadership. Our president, Donna E. Shalala, was recently named chair of a new Institute of Medicine Commission on the Future of Nursing. Supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this commission will draw on the collective wisdom of nursing leaders and others from various private and public sectors to develop a blueprint for action that includes changes in policies at the national, state, and local levels.

This spring our school launched a bold agenda to strengthen the nursing workforce and improve patient safety throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. As one of just 11 World Health Organization (WHO) Nursing Collaborating Centres in the United States, the new center at UM will focus on initiatives tailored to the needs of our neighbors throughout the WHO/Pan American Health Organization region.

The school's WHO Collaborating Centre offers unparalleled opportunities for University of Miami students to contribute to programs that advance the quality of care on the front lines of global health. From designing safety initiatives for individual health systems to creating programs that address unique educational needs to learning from nursing leaders from other regions, the center will broaden the range of learning experiences we provide to nursing and health science students.

We live in an era of unprecedented change. The need for highly educated leaders able to consider complex health care issues from a global perspective has never been greater. Thank you for your support, which enables us to prepare health care professionals with the skills, knowledge, and perspective to serve as positive agents for change.

Nilda "Nena" P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing and Health Studies

Our WHO Collaborating Centre offers unparalleled opportunities for University of Miami students to contribute to programs that advance the quality of care on the front lines of global health.

Alumnus helps soldiers cope with battlefield tragedy and trauma

Service Under Fire

Through the magic of Skype, Christopher Weidlich, BSN '94, talks every day to his wife, Robin, AB '94, unless he's on assignment in a part of Iraq too remote for Internet access. He listens to updates about her, their four children, and the goings-on back home in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"My biggest stress reliever is talking to my wife," says Weidlich, commander of the U.S. Army's 528th Medical Detachment, a Combat Stress Control unit in Mosul, Iraq. When not managing the unit, he's traveling throughout Iraq, training battlefield commanders in suicide prevention techniques and general coping skills. And when tragedy strikes, he's on call to help mitigate the emotional impact of the traumatic event.

"Mental health conditions have been part of military service since time began," says Weidlich, who earned his MSN in 2003 through a military scholarship to become an adult psychiatric nurse practitioner. "In World War II, people used the term 'shell-shocked.' In Vietnam we started hearing about 'post-traumatic stress disorder.' Being in a combat zone will change you, one way or the other. We help people understand what they're dealing with."

The intensely patriotic grandson of a World War II Army veteran and a Marine Corps sergeant, Weidlich grew up in Cape Coral, Florida. He joined ROTC in high school and attended the University of Miami on an ROTC nursing scholarship. A clinical rotation in psychiatric nursing with professor of nursing Doris Ugarriza, PhD, RN, sparked his interest in a



"Being in a combat zone will change you, one way or the other. We help people understand what they're dealing with."

mental health career. Aside from working on an inpatient psychiatric ward from 1997 to 1998 in Seoul, Korea, Weidlich remained in the United States until his first deployment to Iraq.

"I joined the Army to take care of soldiers," Weidlich says. "It's tough on my family, but it's my job."

When Weidlich returns from Iraq this summer, he plans to apply for a military scholarship to earn a doctorate. His long-term goal is to teach and conduct research, perhaps in policy development, where he hopes to address the mental illness stigma still prevalent in American society.

"In recent years the Army has become very supportive of mental health issues," Weidlich says. "They recognize that everybody has problems and can benefit from talking to someone."



Honors PT program provides unique opportunity for high-achieving students

Joint Partnership

More people surviving into old age. Athletically inclined “boomers.” A growing number of joint replacement surgeries. For varied reasons, society’s need for physical therapists is on the rise.

The University of Miami is helping meet that need through an accelerated honors program in physical therapy. Based on test scores and grades, eligible applicants to the freshman class are invited to apply to the program. Those admitted receive early admission to the Miller School of Medicine’s highly regarded Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program after completing specific requirements.

Following their first year in the BSHS pre-physical therapy track, students who have achieved a 3.7 GPA may also apply to the physical therapy scholars program, which allows them accelerated access to the DPT.

“This is a great way to recruit exceptional students because you can offer them an accelerated program and a streamlined process for getting into physical therapy,” says Sherrill Hayes, PhD, PT, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the Miller School.

Students are often drawn to careers as physical therapists because of personal experiences. “Many of our students are former athletes who received physical therapy for career-ending injuries,” Hayes says. “Then they became interested in PT as a career.”



Brittany Oliver and Haley Gordon are health studies honors students on the fast track to careers as physical therapists.

The program’s location in the School of Nursing and Health Studies “creates a nice atmosphere, and the advising is amazing,” says freshman Haley Gordon, who looked at several schools before choosing UM.

Freshman Brittany Oliver—a former dancer who became acquainted with PT while receiving therapy for her own injuries—says the program “is exactly what I wanted, and was a huge factor when deciding whether to come to UM.

“It’s a great program for students who are sure that they want to have a career in PT to get ahead of the game.”

ALUMNI MENTORS PROVIDE VALUABLE ADVICE

ILLUMINATING CONVERSATIONS



As they master rigorous coursework and contemplate future career paths, nursing students benefit from the insights of those who have met similar challenges.

That’s why the New Careers in Nursing program, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, provides both scholarship and mentorship opportunities for highly motivated learners. The Univer-

Munajj, who recently retired after 35 years as a nurse midwife, recalls that the mentoring she received as a student from an obstetric nursing instructor at UCLA had a lasting impact on her life and nursing career.

“Having someone you can ask whether the steps you’re taking are the right ones is so valuable,” Munajj says. “And it’s important to give back by sharing your own experiences with someone else.”

that it took her several years—some of them devoted to another course of study altogether—to discover that nursing was her true vocation.

“I always told myself I would not let other people go through what I went through,” says Melbourne, now a nurse manager in the Surgical Services Department at Miami Children’s Hospital. “So if I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Nursing student David Lee Bridges, who has been paired with Melbourne, hopes to gain knowledge about the local job market. “It’s great to know somebody who knows the places where you might seek employment,” Bridges says.

When Melbourne recently received a promotion at work earlier this year, she shared the news with Bridges.

“I wanted to let David know that, even in this rough economy, nursing offers opportunities for advancement,” she explains. “That sort of information is really encouraging for students who are wondering what their future holds.”

Alumna Natasha Melbourne shares her insights with BSN student David Bridges through the New Careers in Nursing mentorship program.

“If I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

sity of Miami is among the first institutions in the nation to receive funding through the prestigious program.

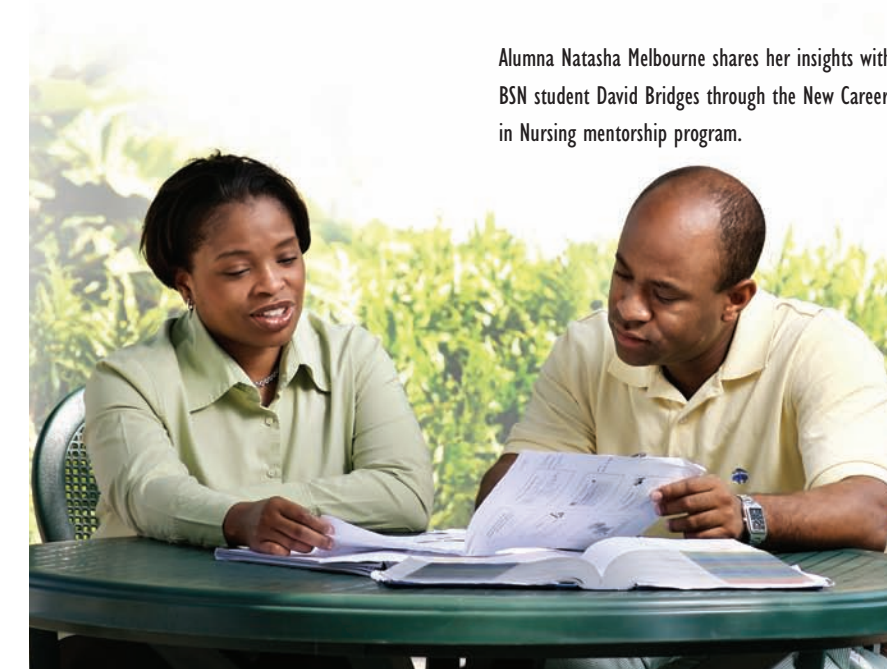
The program’s mentorship component complements the role modeling and mentoring already provided for students by the school’s highly diverse faculty, which includes many Hispanic, African-American, and male professors and instructors.

“One of the primary goals of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to promote nursing as a profession,” says Dean Nilda P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN. “The mentorship program enriches the educational experience of our students because it enables seasoned nursing leaders to share their insight with emerging nursing leaders.”

In January, the school invited several alumni to provide support, guidance, and encouragement to students as part of the program. Josefina Munajj, MSN ’96, welcomed the opportunity.

Student Betty Angerville, who has been paired with Munajj, says conversations with her mentor will help her to clarify her career path: “I value Josefina’s input about the different areas of nursing and my various career options.”

Natasha Hamilton Melbourne, BSN ’98, MSN ’00, is also serving as a mentor through the program. She says



DPT PROGRAM DETAILS



RANKING	Consistently among the top 10 nationwide; currently #7
LOCATION	Department of Physical Therapy, Coral Gables Campus
FACULTY	19 academic faculty members, as well as 13 clinical faculty who are practicing physical therapists at University of Miami Hospital
INTERNSHIPS	Available at more than 400 sites around the country
LICENSURE PASS RATE	92–98 percent over the past five years, compared with national mean of about 80 percent

BY MARIKA LYNCH

PARTNERING *for* PROGRESS

Recently named a
WHO Nursing Collaborating Centre,
the school is joining forces with
neighboring nations to educate nurses, expand
the health care workforce,
and improve the well-being of communities
throughout the hemisphere.

Whether caring for children and families in rural Haiti or designing a curriculum to improve patient safety in Latin America, the School of Nursing and Health Studies plays a pivotal role in shaping health care throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. With its recent designation as a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Collaborating Centre, the school is poised to extend its leadership even further. 🌸 One of just 11 such centers in the United States, the school's WHO center will pursue a vast and varied agenda designed to advance patient safety and workforce development. 🌸 "The global nursing shortage and the migration of nurses out of their home regions are critical workforce issues that impact patient safety," says Nilda P. Peragallo, DRPH, RN, FAAN, dean and professor, who serves as director of the center. "Collaborating with international leaders in the profession will greatly increase our ability to find solutions and ultimately improve patient safety throughout the Western Hemisphere."



Silvina Malvarez, PAHO regional advisor for human resources development, notes that the school was selected because of its strong reputation in nursing education and research, as well as its established ability to work with neighboring nations: “Both geographically and culturally, the University of Miami is in a strategic position to form partnerships and help other countries in the region.”

Prioritizing Patient Safety

Patient safety has been a priority for the World Health Organization since 2004, when it launched its “Clean Care is Safer Care” campaign, which focused largely on preventing infection through hand contact. A second campaign advocates

From left to right, Dr. Cristina Beato, Deputy Director, WHO-Pan American Health Organization; Dr. John Ruffin, Director, NIH-National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities; Dr. Nena Peragallo, Dean and Professor, UM School of Nursing and Health Studies; and Dr. Silvina Malvarez, PAHO Regional Director of Human Resources in Nursing and Health Services Systems.

In Haiti, for example, a group of educators is helping auxiliary nurses, the backbone of the rural health system, improve their knowledge of medications; in Mexico, nurses are designing protocols to prevent patient falls; in Brazil, a network of nurses is focusing on enhancing transparency and error reporting.

and a member of the hemispheric patient safety network.

Nurturing Nursing Resources

Developing new faculty across the region is a high priority for the center, particularly as



Members of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Patient Safety Network who attended the workshops and opening reception at the nursing school included representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Haiti, and Mexico, as well as the PAHO office in Washington, DC.

or designing new curricula, all of the programs developed by the school’s WHO center will be tailored to the working conditions and culture of the countries in which they’re implemented.

“We do not have all the solutions,” Peragallo says. “Countries have their own challenges and must develop their own strategies to address them. But we can share insights that we have gained from our experience.”

Marika Lynch is a freelance writer in Miami.

ing program. The program graduates its first eight students this year.

“The program is critical to preparing new researchers and visionary leaders, and the involvement of the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies has been integral to its development,” says Luz Angelica Muñoz, dean of Andrés Bello’s nursing school. Andrés Bello plans to develop a doctorate in nursing practice program like

According to Chery, nurse anesthetists, in particular, are at a prime in the Haitian countryside. “Having more [nurse anesthetists] available in peripheral and satellite hospitals in rural areas will make it possible to perform more surgeries in a timely fashion,” she says. “This will help save many people’s lives.”

Ultimately, whether geared to improving clinical nursing resources

All of the **programs developed** by the school’s WHO center **will be tailored** to the **working conditions and culture** of the countries in which they’re implemented.



From left: Dean Peragallo presents at the PAHO Patient Safety Network in March; a patient safety working group; faculty member Marie Chery.

the development of a surgery checklist to make procedures safer. Nurses and organizations around the globe, including the University of Miami, have advanced the campaign’s mission by participating in regional networks geared toward patient safety issues.

Members of the regional network on patient safety met at the School of Nursing and Health Studies in March to discuss how patient safety is being addressed on both the individual and collective levels. The health ministries of many countries represented have taken the step of adopting patient safety as an official priority; specific programs to achieve that goal vary.

The United States has made great strides in creating a culture of patient safety, Peragallo says, and the University plans to share those lessons with regional leaders through a culturally tailored, virtual course in patient safety. The University also will invite regional faculty to workshops on patient safety using the school’s state-of-the-art simulation and research facilities.

Attendees of the March event were amazed by the facilities. “We have mannequins in our schools, but they’re just that—mannequins, not simulators,” said Leonor Vera Macías, head of nursing at the Hospital de los Niños Roberto Gilbert in Guayaquil, Ecuador,

the average age of educators hovers at 55. “We can’t prepare more nurses if we don’t have faculty,” Peragallo notes.

The global nursing shortage is particularly acute in the English-speaking Caribbean, where nurses are often recruited to work in the United States and Canada. South America also sees substantial migration among its nurses to Europe. The University plans to research the impact of these patterns on patient safety and to explore recruitment and retention strategies.

Five years ago, Peragallo reached out to the National University Andrés Bello, in her native Chile, to help develop the nation’s first doctoral nurs-

that recently launched by the school.

The school also plans to create other postgraduate training opportunities such as post-baccalaureate certificate programs at partner institutions around the hemisphere.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti faces unique health care challenges, including high rates of HIV infection and maternal mortality. With just one physician for every 17,000 people, much of the health care falls to auxiliary nurses who receive only the most basic training, says Marie Chery, a faculty member who lives year-round in Haiti’s Central Plateau.

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety at the University of Miami will:

ENHANCE	patient safety through educational activities, virtual coursework, and research
ANALYZE	the impact of nursing shortages on patient safety
EXAMINE	nursing retention strategies to strengthen regional workforces
BUILD	nursing faculty in the Americas through consultation on new doctoral programs
EXPAND	student exchange programs—presently in Mexico, Chile, and Haiti—to more countries

Nursing students help UM workers stay well

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

The contract employees who maintain University facilities and infrastructure have direct access to some special maintenance services themselves, thanks to a series of health fairs staffed by UM nursing students.

Conducted since 2004, the sessions are part of UM's Contract Employee Enrichment Program, which offers educational and health assessment and awareness classes for workers employed by UM contractors.

Offered on the Coral Gables, Miller School, and Rosenstiel School campuses in English, Spanish, and (on the Miller campus) Haitian Creole, a series of health fairs last fall and this spring drew more than 150 employees. UM nursing students provided presentations on varied health concerns as well as cholesterol,

students who work at the fairs have received appropriate training through coursework, skills labs, and clinics. "Any student who is interested in participating will have an opportunity to do so," Hall says.

"The caring and professionalism of the nursing faculty and students create a sense of trust among our workers," says Cecilia Calderon Salzborg, contract employee health care coordinator for human resources at UM.



"The health fairs allow us to provide hands-on, highly diverse experience to our students while helping Human Resources meet its outreach goals."

Above: Nursing student Lauren Carey educates a participant about her screening results. Right: UM nursing student Ivette Cardelli takes a blood pressure reading of a UNICCO worker.

vision, blood pressure, and body-mass index screenings.

"The health fairs allow us to provide hands-on, highly diverse experience to our students while helping Human Resources meet its outreach goals," says faculty member Rosemary Hall, PhD, RN. She notes that the

Senior Erica Vergara conducted screenings and educational sessions at three employee events last fall. "I enjoyed the opportunity to raise awareness on health issues while building my skills," she says.

Andrew Jett, an accelerated BSN student, handled glucose and cholesterol testing at health fairs on both the Gables and medical campuses. "The experience was very gratifying," he says. "It opened my eyes to the need for community health screenings and the possibilities of providing for the uninsured."

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ENHANCES PATIENT SAFETY

INSIGHTS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

Improved documentation of medical errors over the past several years has inspired tough new standards for health care reimbursement—and added urgency to the ongoing quest to improve patient safety around the nation.

The recently launched Patient Safety Group, a collaboration between the School of Nursing and Health Studies and University of Miami Hospital, will nurture patient-safety-oriented studies designed to advance nursing knowledge and improve patient outcomes. "We have an opportunity to do important work together that will benefit both the school and the hospital," says Denise Korniewicz, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior associate dean for research and director of the initiative.

"Our two organizations have a strong commitment to working together to implement evidence-based research to improve nursing care delivery," says David Zambrana, MBA, RN, chief nursing officer at University of Miami Hospital.

In addition to enhancing patient outcomes and improving hospital care, Zambrana points out that such efforts yield rich learning opportunities: "Nursing students are our future nurses. It's our job to provide access to all the learning experiences that we offer." Zambrana's commitment to nursing education has a personal component: He is a member of the first cohort of the school's recently launched Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Opportunities for improvements in patient safety are legion, says Korniewicz: "They range from ways to increase compliance with hand hygiene procedures to new technologies that prevent medication errors, pressure ulcers, and even falls among patients."

"As technologies grow more complex and pressures to move patients through the system intensify, the problem grows exponentially," Zambrana says. "Making sure we have the right patient at the right time for the right procedure involves elements including team communication, patient identification, and patient education and empowerment."

Even research projects that focus on seemingly

straightforward low-tech interventions are extremely time-intensive. "It takes a long time to develop a study design and evaluate the outcomes," Korniewicz says. "We need to account for faculty time."

Group members have submitted research proposals for projects ranging in duration from one to three years to professional organizations, foundations, and the National Institutes of Health. The national stimulus plan, which allocates dollars to patient safety initiatives, is another potential funding source.

According to Zambrana, University of Miami Hospital itself will likely underwrite some of the group's initiatives, such as a study to demonstrate the effectiveness of the



Faculty members including Jeanne Siegel, Denise Korniewicz, and Vivian Fajardo are collaborating with David Zambrana and Jay Ober of UM Hospital to improve patient safety through innovative research.

hospital's nurse-based vascular access program for patients who require intravenous medication after discharge.

"An important angle is that nursing is usually thought of as a cost anchor because we don't generate revenue," Zambrana observes. "We're in an excellent position to demonstrate that advanced practice nurses working with evidence-based research can positively impact both outcomes and the bottom line."



Alumna and her husband support the school with unique gift

Charity Begins at Home



“By donating their home to us, this alumna and her husband are truly and forever members of our family.”

Generosity comes in many forms. For some, it means devoting time to a worthy cause. For others, it means providing support to a valued organization—whether it be through financial contributions or gifts of various types of property, from investment holdings to art collections.

For an alumna of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, it meant choosing, along with her husband, to donate their home to the school instead of selling the property when they moved to a new community. The original property will be sold, with the proceeds benefiting the work of the school.

The alumna, who prefers to remain anonymous, has fond memories of her time at UM and returns to campus often, despite living in a different area of the

state. “Times have certainly changed since I attended night classes in nursing at UM so many years ago,” she recalls. “While I marvel at the way the campus has been transformed over the years, I’ve always felt at home at UM.

“My husband and I are particularly grateful that nursing has assumed such a prominent role in the life of the University,” she adds.

“This is such a special gift,” notes Laurie Reinhardt-Plotnik, PhD, MBA ’08, the school’s assistant dean for advancement and alumni affairs. “By donating their home to us, this alumna and her husband are truly and forever members of our family.”

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS A ‘CANE’S VIBRANT COMMUNITY SPIRIT

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS

The University of Miami Citizens Board awarded a special nursing scholarship this year in memory of Joyce Galya, AB ’73, MBA ’84, a loyal Miami Hurricane who served as director of the corporate fundraising arm of UM for nearly three decades. Long a champion of nursing and nursing education, Galya passed away last fall. The scholarship recognizes her passion for the University and deep personal commitment to improving the quality of life in South Florida through education.

Scholarship recipient Conchita Freitag, RN, BSN, BSC,



Conchita Freitag (center), with Gary S. Burman, Stewart L. Appelrouth, S. Samuel Hollander, and Henry Burnett, Esq., of the Citizens Board special projects committee, was awarded a special nursing scholarship by the philanthropic organization.

is a nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital with a gift for teaching. The scholarship will enable her to complete her MSN in clinical education at UM. A dedicated patient advocate, Freitag offers workshops on topics ranging from chemotherapy and substance abuse to healthy lifestyles for adolescents. She participates regularly in community health fairs and is a facilitator for the Quit Smoking Now program.

“Earning my MSN will allow me to become a more effective patient advocate, a better teacher, and a researcher for best practice,” says Freitag. “This scholarship gives me hope that, despite these tough economic times, prayers are answered!”

Meeting Goals, Making a Difference

The generosity of alumni and friends has nurtured the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies for six decades, making possible extraordinary achievements in teaching, research, and clinical care. As the school looks ahead to new challenges and exciting opportunities, those who make a commitment to the institution will make all the difference in its success.

The school works to ensure that donors benefit from their gifts. In addition to the satisfaction of knowing you have made a difference in the lives of others, the best gift plans improve your financial and tax situation, often right away. The Office of Estate and Gift Planning at the University of Miami can assist you in exploring opportunities that help you plan for tomorrow while receiving maximum benefits in these uncertain economic times.



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Always a Nurse at Heart

Kathryn Zeoli, BSN '75, MD '79, admits that she "wasn't the easiest student" when studying nursing at the University of Miami in the early 1970s. "I was always questioning everything," she recalls. "So one of my nursing instructors suggested that I consider going to medical school after getting my nursing degree!"

These days, with so many advanced nursing education options available, such a conversation might never take place. Still, Zeoli doesn't second-guess her choice. Perhaps that's because, even though she is now a dermatologic surgeon, she still considers herself a nurse. "Once a nurse, always a nurse," she says. "I take care of patients with an empathetic, whole-person approach. I just happen to have an MD after my name."

After earning her BSN, Zeoli found that she was extremely well prepared for medical education, and not just because of the premed courses she'd taken while in nursing school. "I was way ahead of the typical medical student when it came to patient teaching, empathy, and technical nursing and medical skills," she recalls.

In addition to maintaining a busy medical practice specializing in skin cancer in Pembroke Pines, Florida, Zeoli—married for 37 years and the mother of three grown



children—provides volunteer care for youngsters with severe skin diseases at summer camps run by the American Academy of Dermatology. She also donates her time at a summer camp for children with special needs and HIV-positive children run by classmate Joanne Riddick, BSN '75.

Zeoli encourages anyone interested in nursing to go into the field: "Nursing offers such variety, and dedicated nurses who know what they're doing receive tremendous respect in the health care workplace."

"With so much change these days in both social institutions such as marriage and the national economy, each of us should gain the skills that will allow us to achieve financial independence," she notes. "The time commitment is sizeable, but so are the benefits you'll reap from a good education. So whatever your dream, pursue it."

CLASS NOTES

1970s

Linda Keane, BSN '73, MSN, recently retired to join her family business after many years of teaching as an adjunct professor and working ED and ICU. She recently returned to the School of Nursing and Health Studies

for a tour and introduction to the new building.

Isabel Ayers, BSN '75, MSN '78, was recently promoted to vice chair of the ADN Nursing Program at City College on the Fort Lauderdale Campus.

Nancy Koppel Kuniansky, BSN '77, MSN, has had a very successful and rewarding career in public health and family practice. She now works at a church-

based health care center for the medically uninsured and aspires to earn her DNP in the future.

Donna Hoffman (Swansig), BSN '78, has been married for 28 years to Pat Hoffman. She has two sons, Matthew, 26, and Michael, 24, and one daughter-in-law, Raelyn. She has been working for the past seven years as a clinical service representative for SCA/Tena and currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee.

1980s

Henrietta J. Pace, BSN '81, works in private practice and has her own law firm, The Law Offices of Henrietta Pace, specializing in real estate transactions, foreclosures, and mortgage modifications. She is married and has three children: Samuel Jr., JoAnna, and Amanda.

Louise Santanna, BSN '82, MSN '91, MBA '91, is currently working as a senior interface requirements engineer for CardinalHealth CareFusion products. She first became involved with clinical information systems as an installation consultant and clinical business analyst on both the hospital and vendor side of applications.

Maria Elena Torres, BSN '84, MSN '89, is a family nurse practitioner and diabetes specialist at St. John Bosco Clinic in Miami, Florida. She was recently awarded the American Diabetes Association 2008 Valor Award. She was also a finalist for the South Florida Health Foundation's Concern Award, receiving \$10,000 to benefit St. John Bosco Clinic.

Helen Costa, BSN '86, MHSA, JD, received her master's degree in health services administration at Florida International University and her Juris Doctorate at St. Thomas University. She is currently at a law firm in Miami Lakes, Florida, and is the administrator and director of nurses for MediPro HomeCare Services, a licensed home health care agency in Miami-Dade County. She is currently working on Medicare and CHAPS certifications.

Dawn Holcombe, BSN '87, RN, recently relocated from Indianapolis, Indiana to Wellington, Florida, where her three daughters and five grandchildren

reside. She works as a full-time clinical project manager for Eli Lilly and Co., and will be traveling to Indianapolis regularly.

1990s

Audra Hutton Lopez, BSN '90, MSN '93, ARNO, FNP-C, CNS, is currently working as a nurse practitioner for the Liver Transplant Program at Broward General Medical Center. She is actively involved with the International Transplant Nursing Society and Life Alliance Board of Directors. She has been married to her high school sweetheart since 1990 and has three children.

Angela Parish Russell, PhD '92, ARNP-C, FNP-C, ANP-C, COHN-C, is currently division administrator/clinical coordinator for the Parkinson Disease and Movement Disorders Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Department of Neurology.

Robyn Farrington-Avila, BSN '98, was promoted to the position of trauma program manager at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center in February 2008. She continues to live in Plantation, Florida, with her husband and two children.

Natasha Hamilton Melbourne, BSN '98, MSN '00, was promoted to nurse manager of the Surgical Services inpatient unit at Miami Children's Hospital. She recently pursued her entrepreneurial spirit and purchased a mobile coffee café franchise with her husband. As part of the franchise's commitment to the community, they participated in KAPOW (Kids and the Power of Work) through Miami-Dade County schools. They sponsored several students for summer camps and participated in many

community fundraisers over the past year.

Julie Luengas, BSN '98, has accepted a clinical nurse informatics specialist position with the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Jaidee Salameda Saavedra, BSN '98, MSN, worked at Mercy Hospital in the open heart/intensive care unit after graduating with her BSN and went on to become the assistant nurse manager there. She then obtained a Master of Science in anesthesiology from Barry University in May 2007 and has since returned to Mercy Hospital to join the anesthesiology group Sheridan Healthcare, which has an anesthesia contract at Mercy.

Jane Denight, BSN '99, MSN '01, opened a small gynecology practice on South Beach called SoBe Gyn. She is a fellow of the ASCCP and was honored to be selected by Tom Cox, MD, a renowned cervical cancer and HPV expert, to be part of the ASCCP Committee on New Technologies and Generational Learning. Her SoBe Gyn practice was highlighted by ASHA for its unique health care approach and featured in the online publication *HPV NEWS*.

2000s

Sonique Sailsman, BSN '00, MSN, worked as a staff nurse resource in the cardiac ICU at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for eight years. She then obtained her MSN in nursing education from Drexel University in 2009 and is currently a clinical instructor at Georgia Perimeter College.

Karen O. Stewart, Esq., BSN '00, JD '03, graduated magna cum laude from the UM School of Law in 2003. She now practices

white-collar criminal defense and represents clients with catastrophic personal injuries at the Colson Hicks Eidson law firm in Coral Gables. She recently attended our Alumni Association meeting and looks forward to getting more involved in the school.

Fran Civilette Downs, BSN '01, MSN, recently became a doctoral candidate in the doctoral nursing program at Barry University. She is writing a qualitative research proposal on the lived experience of seasonal affective disorder and recently wrote an article for the Sigma Theta Tau International column, "Always a Nurse." She is very pleased to be acting as a community leader mentor to accelerated option UM student Luke Stokes.

Joan Tilghman, PhD '03, is the associate dean of master's education at Helene Fuld School of Nursing at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Julie M. Rodriguez, BSN '04, RN, is a nursing instructor for specialty critical care at Keiser College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Nikole Sanchez-Rubiera, BSN, EMBA '04, has worked at Miami Children's Hospital in several positions, including PICU RN, nurse manager, senior financial analyst, and director of nursing operations. Last January, she was promoted to administrative director of medical/surgical services and nursing operations.

Stephanie Becherer, BSN '05, MSN, graduated from Duke University School of Nursing in 2008 with her MSN as a

pediatric acute/chronic care clinical nurse specialist and is currently living in Durham, North Carolina.

Neelia Miller, BSN '05, FNP-BC, is currently working with Comp Health doing locum tenens. She is also working with college students in a walk-in/urgent care setting at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her next job will be at the University of California-Berkeley Alumni Summer Camp in Pinecrest, California, where she will be working with college students, postgraduates, and camp employees. "I recommend locums for anyone who would like to travel, see the country, make decent money, and get a taste for different practice environments," she says. "If you like change and are quick on your feet, it's a great opportunity."

Linda Blackburn Brown, BSN '06, has worked for the past six years as a care coordinator RN at South Miami Hospital. Recently, she has been spending most of her time in the OB unit, which recently opened a new NICU Level III 15-bed unit. She enjoys contributing to the school and keeping in touch as an alumna.

Beverly Fray, RNC, MSN '06, APRN-BC, was recruited to join the Center for Nursing Excellence in the Jackson Health System through the *Fresh Start for Nursing* grant from the Health



Foundation of South Florida, with Jackson's support. She is responsible for coordinating the activities of all the Unit Practice Councils (UPCs) in the system.

Courtney (Pfaff) Kimble, BSN '06, currently works as an ICU nurse at Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton, Virginia. She also works PRN in the emergency department at Culpeper Hospital in Culpeper, Virginia. She currently resides in Culpeper with her husband of three years, Chance, and daughter, Addison McKenzie.

Jane Denight, MSN '01, BSN '99; **Fran Civiletti Downs**, MSN, BSN '01; **Natasha Hamilton Melbourne**, MSN '00, BSN '98; **Josefina Munajj**, MSN '96; **Christine Pfeffer**, BSN '06; **JoNell Potter**, PhD '03, MSN '87; **Lucienne Debe Reese**, BSN '85;

Nikole Sanchez, MBA '04, BSN '99; and **Patricia S. Yali**, MSN '05, BSN '03, are mentoring current nursing students as part of the New Careers in Nursing program. Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the program provides scholarship and mentorship opportunities to highly motivated learners. (See article, page 3.)

FACULTY NOTES

Todd Ambrosia, PhD, DNSc, MSN, FNP-BC, FACC, assistant professor, has been appointed as a faculty ambassador with the US National Health Service Corps, HRSA, to represent the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies and schools with health-related pro-

grams. He had been active in this position for five years, while at the University of Maryland, and is now redesignated for the University of Miami.

Valerie Bell, MSN, MACP, CRNA, associate program director and director of simulation, nurse anesthesia program, recently presented "Use of Simulation to Promote and Evaluate Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist Learning: When the Learners Become the Simulation Providers: Preparing the Next Generation of Simulation Specialists" at the Society of Simulation in Healthcare and in the "Boot Camp: Preparing



MSN Students for the Unknown" session at the AACN Master's Education Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Rosina Cianelli, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, associate professor, has given several presentations nationally and internationally, including: "Knowledge Development for HIV Prevention in Latino Women as Part of El Centro" at the NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities in Washington, DC; "Issues for HIV Prevention Among Low-Income Chilean Women" and "Domestic Violence Substance Abuse and its Relation with HIV/AIDS Among Low Income Chilean Women" at the 19th International Nursing Research Conference: Facing the Challenge of Healthcare Systems in Transition in Jerusalem, Israel; and "Intervention Improves HIV Prevention Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors for Chilean Health Care Workers" at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, Mexico. She has published "Issues on HIV Prevention Among Low-Income Chilean Women: Machismo, Marianismo and HIV Misconceptions" in *Culture, Health and Sexuality*; "HIV/AIDS Issues and Mapuches in Chile" in *JANAC: Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*; and "Comunicación de Pareja y VIH en Mujeres en Desventaja (Partner Communication and HIV in Low-Income Women)" in *Revista Horizonte de Enfermería*.

Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, assistant professor, recently presented "Understanding the Relationship Between Cultural Factors and Substance Abuse, Violence and Risk for Sexually Transmitted Infections: A Syndemic Approach" and "Locating, Recruiting, Enrolling and Sampling Hispanic Men for Research" at the 20th International Nursing Research Congress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice, Sigma Theta Tau International, in Cancun, Mexico. She also presented "La Mancha Negra: Hispanic Males' Experiences with Substance Abuse, Violence and Risk for HIV" at the 34th Annual National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference in San Antonio, Texas. She has published "Contemporary Homicide Risk among Women of Reproductive Age" in *Women's Health Issues*; "Intimate Partner Violence, Depression and Resource Availability among a Community Sample of Hispanic Women" in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*; and "Trauma and Violence" in *Women's Mental*



Joseph DeSantis, PhD, ARNP, ACRN, assistant professor, recently published "Using an Integrative Literature Review to Explore the Concepts and Resilience in the Context of HIV

Infection" in *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice*; "The Relationship of Depressive Symptoms, Self-Esteem and Sexual Behaviors in a Predominately Hispanic Sample of Men Who Have Sex With Men" in *American Journal of Men's Health*; and "Depressive Symptoms, Self-Esteem and Sexual Behaviors in Foreign-Born and US-Born Hispanic Men Who Have Sex With Men: Implications for HIV Prevention" in *Hispanic Health Care International*.

Maria T. Garrido, MSN, FNP, instructor, recently presented "Using Videoed Simulation Case Scenarios as Method to Teaching Students in the Masters in Nursing Education on the Use of Clinical Evaluation Tools" at the AACN Master's Education Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Elaine Kauschinger, PhD, MS, FNP-BC, professor and clinical nursing instructor, published "A Participatory Action Research Pilot Study of Urban Health Disparities Using Rapid Assessment

Directing the DNP Dialogue

Faculty member Joanna D. Sikkema, MSN '78, BSN '72, is playing a leadership role in the national dialogue about Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) education. In her new role as chair of the writing committee of the American Nurses Association Council of Clinical Practice for the DNP, she will provide guidance and



oversight for the development of a position statement in support of the DNP as a terminal degree in nursing. The School of Nursing and Health Studies, which has offered a research-focused PhD in nursing since 1985, launched its DNP program this past January.

The ANA writing committee is composed of representatives working in both academic and clinical practice settings across the United States. The document they create will focus on articulating the complementary roles of the PhD and DNP in advancing nursing science and practice. It will also include a discussion of education, credentialing, and clinical practice issues surrounding the DNP. Upon completion, it will be posted on the ANA's Web site for public and professional comment.

Sikkema is a board-certified adult nurse practitioner who has practiced in administrative, clinical, and academic roles for over 30 years. She is past president of the Preventive Cardiovascular Nursing

Association and a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Nursing. She presently serves as a clinical instructor at the school and director of its acute care nurse practitioner program.

Sikkema recently coordinated a campaign in 12 cities across the U.S. for the Amer-

ican Nurse Association's *Take Action for a Healthy BP* blood pressure awareness initiative. The program "was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the influence of nursing on health prevention and promotion while providing health care services to thousands of people across the country," she says.

Sikkema will complete her own DNP degree later this year. Her thesis will focus on the influence and impact of family history, gender, and ethnicity on risk for cardiovascular disease in minority populations. "I believe the DNP will enrich my ability to provide expert clinical care and be a change agent on a systems/national level, increasing access to and providing quality health care," she says.

The school's DNP program "is unique in its integration with other University programs, such as the schools of business and education," Sikkema observes. "By enabling students to focus on specific practice areas, it will contribute significantly to the quality of health care in South Florida."

Response and Evaluation" in *American Journal of Public Health*. She was the only nurse/nurse practitioner involved in this interdisciplinary research journal article.

Denise M. Korniewicz, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and senior

associate dean for research, has given several presentations including: "Reduction of Needle Stick/Sharp Injuries During Surgery" and "A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial Examining the Effectiveness of a Protected Fluid Pathway Needle-free IV Connector

Paving the Way FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

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System in Reducing the Rate of Catheter Related Blood Stream Infection in Intensive Care Unit Patients" at the Nursing Consortium of South Florida in Miami, Florida, and "A Study in the Observed Practices of Asepsis with Perioperative Nurses as Scrub Nurses in the Operating Room" at the Nursing Excellence: Bringing Best Evidence to the Point of Care South Florida Winter Evidence-Based Nursing Conference in Miami, Florida. She published "A National Online Survey on the Effectiveness of Clinical Alarms" in the *American Journal of Critical Care: an Official Publication, American Association of Critical Care Nurses*; "Keeping Patients Safe: An Interventional Hand Hygiene Study at an Oncology Center" in the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*; and "Effect of Aloe-Vera Impregnated Gloves on Hand Hygiene Attitudes of Health Care Workers" in *MEDSURG Nursing*.

Maite Mena, PsyD, research assistant professor; published "Communication About Sexually

Related Topics Among Hispanic Substance-Abusing Adolescents and Their Parents" in *Journal of Drug Issues, Special Issue: Explaining Contemporary Hispanic Drug Use/Abuse: Issues and Challenges*; and "Extended Parent-Child Separations: Impact on Hispanic Substance Abusing Adolescents" in *Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing*.

Nilda "Nena" Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN, dean and professor; has given several presentations nationally and internationally, including: "The Global Nursing Shortage: Issues and Solutions for the 21st Century" at the National Institutes of Health Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities in Scottsdale, Arizona; "Intersection of HIV Intimate Partner Violence Among Latinas" at the 17th International Council on



Women's Health Issues Congress 2008 in Gaborone, Botswana; and "Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse and Its Relation with HIV/AIDS Among Low Income Chilean Women" at the International Nursing Research Conference in Jerusalem, Israel. She was invited as a panelist for the "Forum: Research on Patient Safety as a Public Health Issue" at the Asociación Ecuatoriana de Escuelas y Facultades de Enfermería (ASEDEFE) XI Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium in Quito, Ecuador. Dean Peragallo has recently published, "Effect of Emotionally Complex Roles on HIV-Related Simulated Patients" in *Medical Education*.

Daniel Santisteban, PhD, research professor; recently published "Culturally Informed Family Therapy for Adolescents: A Tailored and Integrative Treatment for Hispanic Youth" in *Family Process*; "Introduction to Family Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents: A Primer for Substance Abuse Counselors" in *Caribbean Addiction Technology Transfer Center*; and "Engaging Reluctant Family Members into an Adolescent's Substance Abuse Treatment: A Guide for Practitioners" in *Southern Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center*.

Jeanne H. Siegel, PhD, ARNP, assistant professor; recently presented "Predictors of Overweight in Children" at the South Florida Nursing Consortium Research Day at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. She published "Developing Clinical Research Projects: Novice to Expert" in *Perioperative Nursing Clinics*.

JoAnn Trybulski, PhD, ANP-BC, associate dean for master's and DNP programs; recently presented "I Survived MSN Boot Camp: Preparing Students for the Unknown" at the AACN Master's Education Conference

in Orlando, Florida. She published "Making Sense: Women's Abortion experiences" in the *British Journal of Midwifery*.

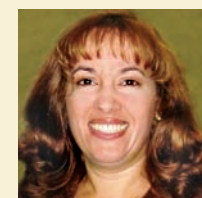
Elias P. Vasquez, PhD, FAAN, FAANP, associate professor; recently published "Health Disparities: Often More Questions than Answers," "Sharing the Burden: Health Disparities among Latinos," and "Risk-taking Behavior: A Concept Analysis" in *Hispanic Health Care International*, and "Methamphetamine Enhances HIV-1 Infectivity in Monocyte Derived Dendrite C-Cells" in *Journal of Neuroimmune Pharmacology*.

Gail McCain, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor; vice dean, and senior associate dean of academic affairs; recently published "Heart Rate Variability Responses to Nipple Feeding for Preterm Infants with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia: Three Case Studies" in *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*.

Alma Vega, EdD, MSN, ARNP-C, clinical assistant professor; has given several presentations, including:

"Learned Experiences of HIV Specialty Nurses: Exploring and Identifying Successful

Learning Strategies" at the International Sigma Theta Tau Conference in Cancun, Mexico, and "HIV Update for Medical Providers in Spanish," "HIV Update for Medical Providers," and "Obstetrical High Risk Complications" at the Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in Miami, Florida.



TEN QUESTIONS FOR DNP STUDENT JACQUELINE CEREIJO, RN, BSN '03

1. BACKGROUND/HOMETOWN: I was born in Cuba, the eldest of three sisters. I decided to immigrate to Miami during my last year of medical school. It was a difficult decision because I left behind my lifelong dream of becoming a physician. I have been studying ever since I arrived in February 1994. This country gave me the opportunity to be successful in my professional career and to enjoy the freedom I did not have in my original country.

2. DEGREES EARNED: Nursing Associate Degree, transitional program from Miami Dade College, 2000; Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UM, 2003; Master of Business Administration, Nova Southeastern University, 2008. I'm currently in the first class of DNP students at UM.

3. CURRENT POSITION: I'm the nurse manager of the OPD I/Spine Clinic at the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Among my many responsibilities, I supervise and optimize efficiency of clinic operations, supervise primary care nurses and other staff, help develop nursing standards for the specialized clinic, and develop and implement performance improvement programs in compliance with JCAHO standards and other regulatory agencies.

4. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UM? I think it's important to obtain a graduate degree from an organization that is a leader in research; offers excellent programs; has highly qualified doctoral faculty; offers a holistic, multicultural approach in its nursing curriculum; and embraces multicultural alumni. UM's nursing school is among the nation's best, and its programs are designed to accommodate working professionals while maintaining an excellent nursing curriculum.

5. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NURSING? Nursing embraces everything I want in a profession. It prepares you to do so many things—from research and teaching to bedside care, administration, and performance improvement. Nursing is more interesting and dynamic than any other career.

6. WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE UM EXPERIENCES AND HOW HAVE THEY CHANGED YOU? As an undergraduate in a community health class, I was assigned to work with a pregnant 14-year-old. I taught her about women's health, diet, and pregnancy development, as well as how to take care of herself and her baby while dealing with her difficult economic situation. This experience really broadened my view of nursing to encompass everything around our patients so that we provide quality care and ensure successful outcomes.

UM is also memorable for its flexible, accessible faculty. In one of my classes, I was able to go to Miami Children's Hospital to meet one of my professors at her place of work. She was always available to help us. That taught me that we can find time and space at any moment, no matter how busy we are, if we really want to help others.

7. CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Nurse of the Year from the Site Disease Group, UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, 2005; Member of the National Brain Tumor Foundation Financial Aid Committee Review, 2006; Trophy from UM/JMH for continuous participation as a nurse volunteer in the ING Miami Marathon, 2007.

8. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND HOBBIES: I love traveling, reading, and dancing. I volunteer for the yearly career day at Winston Park K-8 Center, where I speak about nursing. I'm also a volunteer parent for the Boy Scouts, since two of my sons are scouts.

9. FUTURE PLANS/GOALS: My current role as a nurse manager poses challenges that require me to enhance my knowledge about nursing theory and practice on a regular basis. That's why I chose to pursue the DNP. I enjoy making positive changes in my organization and the nursing profession. I have made it a personal goal to teach our community about nursing and encourage people to consider the profession as a career option.

10. ADVICE TO STUDENTS: Relish and take an active role in your education and professional life. Highly educated nurses are needed to make positive changes in our profession and our health system. You have the power to make a difference.

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