

# heartbeat

Fall 2017

University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies



**SIMULATION  
HOSPITAL**  
An eye toward  
the future



NEW DEAN • • • PARTNERING TO CARE • • • HIGHER DOSE OF LEARNING



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## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

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### LEAVE YOUR MARK AND **TAKE A SEAT!**

The University's new Simulation Hospital at the School of Nursing and Health Studies has opened, yet there's still a seat waiting for you in the state-of-the-art auditorium.

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A gift of \$250 or \$500 will allow donors to name a seat in the auditorium in honor of their

time and accomplishments at the School, as a tribute to a family member, or as a commemoration of a special memory. The nameplate, mounted on the back of a seat, will be installed upon completion of the project in 2017.

**Only 300 seats are available, and many of them are already claimed.**

To make a gift online, visit [www.miami.edu/sonhs-takeaseat](http://www.miami.edu/sonhs-takeaseat) or call the Advancement Office at 305-284-5435.



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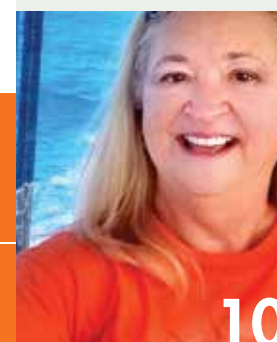
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Greetings from the New Dean

**“Save one life, you’re a hero. Save a hundred lives, you’re a nurse.”**

With those words, University of Miami President Julio Frenk concluded his remarks at the dedication ceremony for our school’s new Simulation Hospital. President Frenk’s words ring truer than ever when I reflect on the whirlwind of events that have accompanied my first few weeks as dean of this incredible school, and my great admiration for the faculty, students, staff, alumni, clinical partners and friends of the school who have dedicated their lives to producing new generations of health care professionals.

**“We have a strong foundation, and are well positioned to move forward!”**

I am very pleased to welcome you to the fall 2017 issue in my first *Heartbeat* message. As I arrived on the verdant UM campus, I was struck both by the warm reception I received from the UM community at large and by the profound sense of family here at the SONHS. This feeling of togetherness was particularly evident when, only a few short weeks after my arrival, Hurricane Irma ripped through South Florida.

In the wake of the devastating storm, I was impressed by how quickly and seamlessly our school family came together. Essential staff worked tirelessly to make our facilities safe for return to normal operations. Dedicated faculty went above and beyond the call of duty to design new and creative ways for students to make up lost clinical and classroom time while ensuring our budding health care professionals were supported in dealing with the aftermath of the natural catastrophe.



During the recovery process, our school joined its surrounding community in demonstrating strength and resilience. Along with debris removal and restoration of infrastructure, a profound sense of excitement marked the reopening of our school, no doubt stemming from the fact our students returned just in time to celebrate the opening of the Simulation Hospital. The cover story details the Sim Hospital dedication, and how this largest-scale accomplishment in our school’s history solidifies our position among health care education programs worldwide.

I am honored to take the helm of a school with such outstanding accomplishments, and aware

that it is only through the vision and generosity of our donors, and the hard work of our students and faculty, that we have arrived at this propitious moment in our school’s trajectory. We have a strong foundation and are well positioned to move forward!

I thank you for helping the SONHS get where it is today. As your dean, I pledge to always place the interests of our students and our school first. I will work with you, and for you, to ensure we achieve even greater heights and prepare culturally competent leaders to provide safe and innovative health care service to our community, the nation, and the world. I have been a Miami Hurricane for only a short time, but I am a proud one, and look forward to our accomplishing great things together at the SONHS! GO ’CANES!

**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



## SONHS Students Garner Valuable Clinical Experience at Lennar

**Beginning in June 2017**, small groups of Accelerated B.S.N. students from the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) assembled at UM's Lennar Foundation Medical Center to participate in single 12-hour day clinicals where they observed and assisted across the spectrum of ambulatory patient care, from intake to discharge. The sessions were broken into two six-hour segments with nursing faculty on hand to provide guidance. By summer's end, more than 80 Accelerated B.S.N. students had completed clinical days at the cutting-edge facility.

"The clinical practice experience at Lennar exposes our students to the role of the nurse in the outpatient setting," said Mary McKay, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '09, assistant professor and associate dean for nursing undergraduate programs at SONHS. "It is important for the students to experience the needs and coordinated care of patients outside of the acute care and hospital environments. Ambulatory care is diverse, and the opportunity to conduct hands-on patient care under the mentorship of seasoned clinicians at Lennar expands their repertoire of clinical competencies."

**"The clinical practice experience at Lennar exposes our students to the role of the nurse in the outpatient setting."**

McKay and her SONHS faculty colleagues found enthusiastic partners for the new Lennar clinicals among nursing leadership and staff members at Lennar, which administers many UM outpatient clinics.

"Lennar is really like a mini-hospital—our charge nurses have enormous responsibility in each clinic," says Kathy Zanelli, executive nursing director at the center. "Serving as clinical practice site for UM SONHS students has been a priority for us since we opened."

Zanelli emphasized that the clinicals are also designed to underscore the importance of attributes that go beyond technical expertise. "We are dedicated to creating a positive culture here," she says. "Solid skills are great, but successful nurses also need compassion and teamwork."

As a growing number of clinical services once found only in hospitals migrate to outpatient settings, nurses play a leading role in providing health-promoting, patient-centered care at ambulatory clinics. Lennar, home to the largest variety of University of Miami Health System specialties under one roof, provides for extraordinary learning opportunities for SONHS nursing students to experience clinical care right on their own campus. Feedback from the experience has been enormously positive.

"It was great to spend time in a care setting that is growing rapidly in popularity," says student Nicole Niefeld, a B.S.N. candidate. "The nursing staff was so welcoming, and the experience helped me realize all the potential settings I could practice in after I graduate."

Lennar clinicals for traditional B.S.N. students begin this fall. "We are still staffing up some areas and plan to get certified as a research site," says Jessie Desir, Lennar's senior nursing educator. "So students doing clinicals with us will have even more options in the future."

## When a Door Is More Than a Door—Nursing and Architecture Students Collaborate

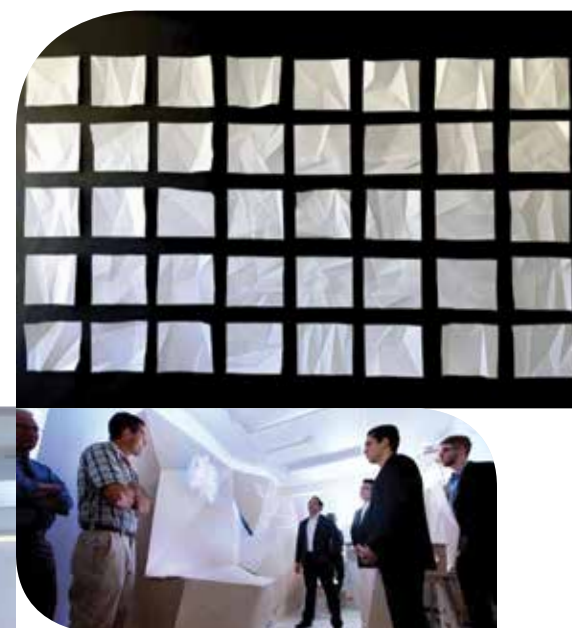
**Until Elizabeth Horn**, B.S.N. '17, began collaborating with students at the University of Miami School of Architecture (SOA) last spring, a door in her eyes had always been, well, a door. But after reviewing drawings and 3-D models with her architectural classmates, Horn began to see implications beyond "open and close."

"I have been in rooms that did not feel private enough for patients, but this was the first time I had thought about how to improve the situation," said Horn, on realizing how a door opened purposefully can block an exam chair and provide patient privacy.

The interchange between nursing and architecture students was arranged by SONHS Assistant Professor Yui Matsuda and SOA Assistant Professor Juhong Park. Both sought to give their students a multidisciplinary learning experience beyond what textbooks or journal articles provide. As part of the collaboration, architecture students were tasked to design an innovative exam room for a health care practice, and SONHS nursing students provided feedback on the initial designs.

As part of Matsuda's public health nursing course, nursing students studied how ergonomic design can prevent occupational injuries and researched how facility design affects patient outcomes.

The collaboration helped make the learning more relevant. "As nurses, we are so focused on our patients that we may overlook the power of environment in improving patient care delivery," Matsuda said. "Talking with the architecture students helped the nursing students realize how important room design can be to patients' well-being."



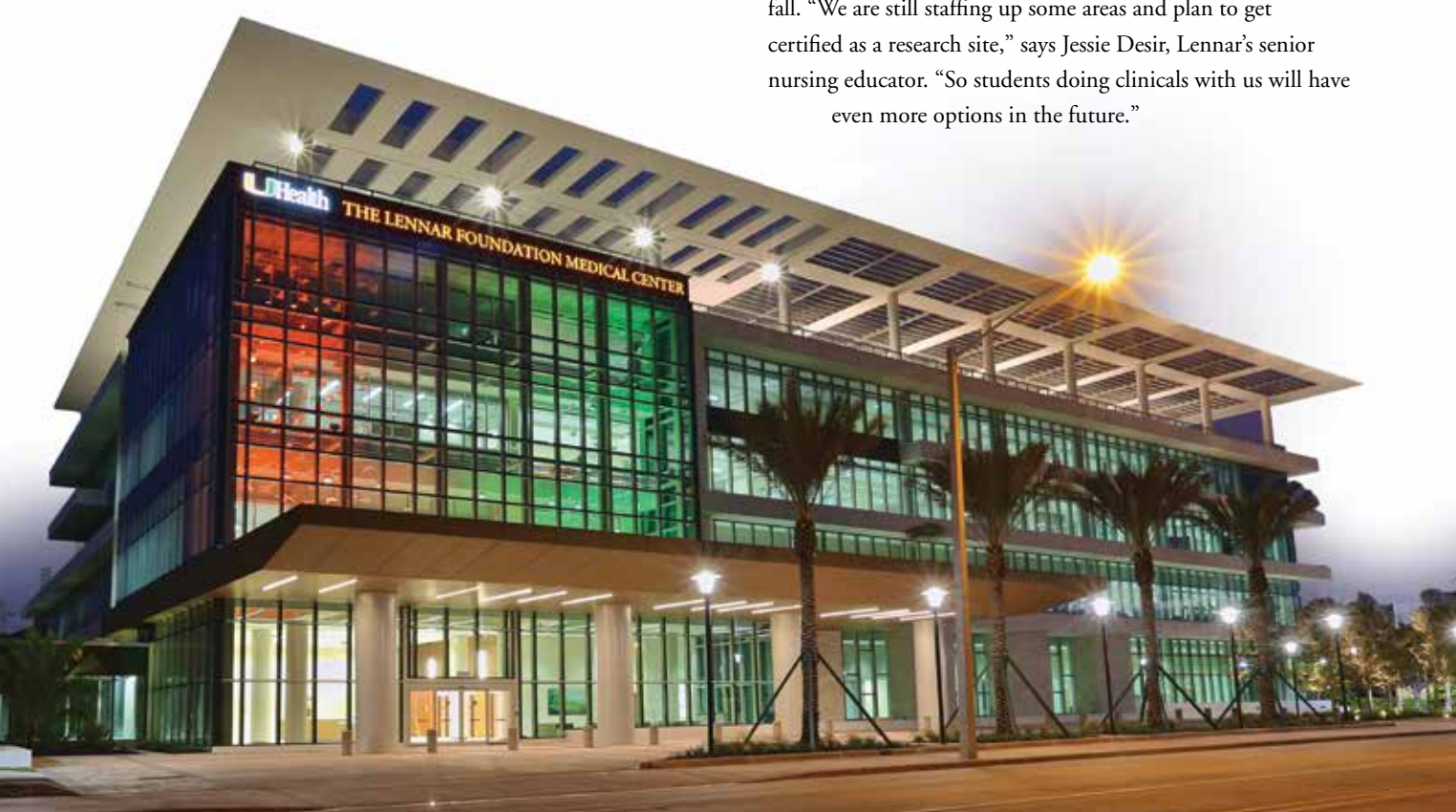
*SoA students designed a range of projects, such as this patient exam room, then, after careful deliberation, debated ideas with their SONHS peers on how to improve their model usability.*

Horn was especially impressed with an exam chair that converts to a bed and memorizes a person's dimensions, making it easier to position patients. Another design idea, universally embraced by the nursing students, was a media board that projected onto a wall, enabling patients to view entertaining or calming images while they waited, and clinicians to pull up lab results or educational materials to review with patients.

The learning curve for architectural students was equally sharp. For an innovative "hidden sink," nursing students helped them understand that countertops in exam rooms are potential sites for contamination, and that sinks must be kept separate so that handwashing does not spread disease. "As architects, we are limited by our own experiences," Park said. "That's why it's invaluable to get input from professionals, in this case nurses in training, who work in the settings we design."

The architecture students began the assignment by reflecting on their own exam room memories. Many described the experience as stark and factory-like. "They felt like they were on an assembly line, and thought the rooms focused on sanitation at the expense of patient comfort," Park said.

To make the exam experience more comfortable, architecture students incorporated wood and other natural materials into their designs, and softened adjustable lighting to relax patients, or brightened it for clinicians' exams. "From the wall color to the artwork, they tried to make the patient feel more at home," said Samantha Bennewitz, B.S.N. '17. The budding architects also incorporated computer technologies such as voice recognition and motion sensors into their exam room models.





## SONHS Student Brings Water Filtration Technology to Haiti

In the commune of Thomonde, in Haiti's mountainous Plateau Central, a single river serves for drinking, bathing, and washing. Waterborne diseases are hard facts of life—and death.

Today, however, the benefits of clean water are flowing into the region—thanks to the School of Nursing and Health Studies' (SONHS') efforts to care for the people of Haiti and the vision of one determined student.

"The school's Thomonde missions each fall and spring do great things, but we're only there a few times a year," says Kenya Snowden, M.S.N. '10, D.N.P. '11, assistant professor of clinical. "I'm always wondering what we can do that

would have a more lasting impact."

During her visits to Thomonde, Snowden was troubled by the area's lack of clean water. So when student Tiffany Ann Ojea, M.S.N. '17, suggested a possible solution, Snowden agreed to help champion the cause.

A few months earlier, Ojea had launched a digital campaign seeking funds to purchase additional medical supplies for the school's next Haiti visit, which was delayed by Hurricane Matthew. Her online fundraising page drew nearly \$4,000 in philanthropic support.

It also drew the attention of the international nonprofit Waves for Water, which delivers water filtration units to

underserved regions around the globe.

"These filters can take dirty black water and make it crystal clear," Ojea says, noting that the units are also extremely economical, last for years, and require no energy beyond gravity to operate.

Waves for Water, which has placed the water filtration units in other parts of Haiti, suggested that Ojea bring the devices to Thomonde. Though there wasn't time to organize delivery of the filters before last fall's mission, Ojea returned from Haiti determined to do so the following spring.

While SONHS played no official role in the project, Snowden offered Ojea suggestions and guidance during the

process, as did SONHS staff member Jude D'Haiti, a native of Haiti, and Paul Sloane, M.S.N. '15, D.N.P. '16, a veteran of several SONHS Haiti missions. Ojea raised enough funds to buy 20 filters, then created bilingual training materials for fellow students and the families who would receive the units.

As a result of Ojea's efforts, SONHS volunteers arrived in Thomonde with the water filtration units tucked in among their usual supplies and ready to educate the community in their use. "People understood what the filters would mean for them, and they were super enthusiastic," Ojea says.



## adidas \$10,000 Scholarship Celebrates Mother-Daughter Duo

An extraordinary benefactor, a standout nursing student and athlete, and an inspiring tale of determination and perseverance converged at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies to generate a legacy that will benefit students for years to come.

With Mother's Day 2017 on the horizon, sportswear company adidas Women contacted universities across the country looking to celebrate a special mother-daughter athlete duo. At UM, the sports icon found their ideal tandem: soccer player and nursing student Mary "Gracie" Lachowecki, B.S.N. '17, and her mother, Marian "Kay" Lachowecki, a breast cancer survivor.

Determined to both play soccer and pursue a career in nursing, Gracie enrolled at the only school willing to facilitate her participation in these two time-intensive endeavors. UM's customized program allowed her to make up tests and clinical practice that she had missed during soccer games and practice, while dedicated advisors helped her manage her busy schedule.

Gracie excelled both on the field and in the classroom, and earned the Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami Children's Health System Pediatric Excellence Award at graduation. Back home in

Indiana, mom Kay successfully battled a difficult breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"Kay Lachowecki is more than a breast cancer survivor, she's a devoted mother and the inspiration behind Gracie's recent successes as an accomplished nursing student and standout soccer player with the Miami Hurricanes. On this Mother's Day, we celebrate their story," adidas Women posted on their Facebook page.

To honor the special duo, adidas Women treated the pair to an all-expenses-paid Mother's Day trip to Chicago. And then one final surprise: a \$10,000 scholarship in Kay's name to benefit two SONHS undergraduate students.

"It's so surreal that adidas is helping me show my mom how much she means to me," Gracie said. "It's amazing."





## Exchange Agreement Heralds New Era for Nursing in the Dominican Republic

In the spring of 2017, School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) faculty members and advanced practice nursing students traveled to the Dominican Republic (D.R.) to meet with the leadership of Clínica Unión Medica, a full service hospital in the Caribbean nation. The educational and research collaborative exchange agreement between the two institutions signals the beginning of a new era for nursing in the D.R., where the care of hospitalized patients remains largely physician-centered, and the role of nurses, particularly in intensive care units (ICUs), continues to evolve.

“Improving patient outcomes, using whatever resources you have or can get, is our mutually shared goal.”

In addition to signing the new agreement, SONHS nurse practitioner students rotated through the hospital's departments. Students who provided hands-on care to the sickest patients, those in the ICU, were especially impacted. SONHS students worked alongside Clínica Unión Medica physicians and medical residents to perform intracranial intubations, central line placements, incisions, suturing, and drainages.

“To expand the idea that the nurse's role and nursing education are critical to the survival and well-being of the

hospitals' sickest patients, we also made formal presentations on critical-care topics,” said Assistant Professor Juan Gonzalez, who presented the fundamentals of Basic Life

Support, including crash cart demonstration and an interactive component where the D.R. nurses practiced chest compressions and ventilations on mannequins.

Acute care nursing student Myriam Lopez, M.S.N. '17, presented on vascular access and nursing care, a topic she chose for its importance, given the number of complications that nurses must be able to recognize and manage in patients with central lines. She explained about biopatches and other techniques that keep central lines infection free, while emphasizing that it doesn't require a lot of resources or special equipment to learn the techniques. Nurses in the audience asked how they could obtain the biopatches.

“Interacting with nurses in a resource-limited facility really drove home for me that whether we are practicing nursing in the U.S. or the D.R., our priority is quality care,” Lopez said. “Improving patient outcomes, using whatever resources you have or can get, is our mutually shared goal.”

Gonzalez said the lectures not only transmitted valuable evidence-based knowledge to the D.R. hospital's workforce, but were also important for two additional reasons. First, a lecture delivered by an advanced practice nursing student is significant and unusual in and of itself in a country where nurses are not yet viewed as critical care providers or educators. Second, all available nurses attended, not just the hospital's physicians and medical students. “Including nurses in educational activities represents a paradigm shift in that hospital's culture,” said Gonzalez. It appears the creation of a new model that elevates the education and visibility of nurses in the D.R. is well underway.

The SONHS and Clínica Unión Medica have been collaborating for years to promote advanced practice nursing in the D.R. The signing of the accord marks the latest collaboration.



## Florida Blue Market President: “Today Is a Transformation Time in Health Care”

This past April, Penny Shaffer, market president of Florida Blue, visited with students, alumni, and faculty from the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) to explore the vast and innovative professional opportunities in health care, a sector that represents a fifth of the national economy and one of the country's fastest growing industries.

“This is one of the most transformational times in health care, with innovation, collaboration, convergence, and technology driving unprecedented change,” Shaffer told her audience. “Florida Blue offers a variety of jobs and careers in patient care, clinical administration, quality, executive management, and other areas.”

Calling health care in Florida “a leading economic driver, and critical to the health and wealth of our region,” Shaffer drew from her own experiences to illustrate the dynamism and diversity of the health care landscape. In addition to serving as regional president for the state's largest insurance plan, Florida Blue, Shaffer is past chair of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and serves on the Executive Board of the Beacon Council of Miami-Dade, as well as leading a variety of other nonprofits and community organizations.

Students learned about non-traditional nursing careers, such as professional nurse lobbyists, who advocate for legislation and governmental policies that advance the nursing profession. David Friedman, B.S.N. '17, a nursing student, found the focus on nursing from a business and insurance perspective stimulating. “Ms. Shaffer really knew her subject matter,” he said, “and it made me think there should be more events like this targeting students.”

## Five SONHS Nursing Students Receive CVS Health Foundation Support

Five SONHS' Master of Science in Nursing program students achieved their academic goals thanks in part to assistance from the CVS Health Foundation. The scholarship program, launched in 2017, aims to reduce the nationwide shortage of primary care providers.

Catherine Nadeau, M.S.N. '17, a trilingual recent grad selected for one of the awards, expressed her appreciation to the CVS Foundation. “My experience as a student in the SONHS' graduate program reinforced my belief that nurse practitioners are in a great position to make a difference in our national health care system,” Nadeau said.

“We are proud of our nurse practitioner students' accountability to health equity and appreciative of CVS' support in replenishing the national pipeline of culturally competent primary health care providers,” said Assistant Professor Juan Gonzalez, who directs the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program.

Scholarship requirements included working with underserved populations, good academic standing, and interest in an FNP career. While CVS stipulated that 25 percent of recipients be bilingual, at the highly diverse SONHS, all recipients met this requirement.







# EYES AHEAD, NEW DEAN CINDY MUNRO TAKES THE HELM

By Michael R. Malone

**DECADES OF SAILING** as a pastime and life on the water have instilled in new Dean Cindy Munro the instincts of all good sailors—eyes ahead and scanning the horizon, an uber awareness of your surroundings, and a deep appreciation and trust for the capabilities of your team. ⚓ Those instincts proved invaluable when the blustering winds and spiraling surf of a nasty storm engulfed the family sailboat during an outing on the Chesapeake Bay. ⚓ “Brett [Stevenson, her husband] and I actually saw St. Elmo’s fire on our mast,” she recalls. “You could feel the hair on your arms stand up as the static electricity built up” then discharged into a glowing ball of light. “It was a scary thing,” the dean remembers.



**There’s not much that scares Munro**—in South Africa she once did a cage dive with great white sharks as part of a “bonding experience” with family members. A penchant for adventure and keen instincts embody the new dean, who assumed leadership of the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) on August 15—just one month prior to the dedication of the new Simulation Hospital.

Dean Munro joins the U after six years as associate dean of research and innovation at the University of South Florida, and previously, a stellar nearly two-decade career in professorship and research at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, Virginia. She earned her B.S.N. from

Millersville University in Pennsylvania, an M.S. from the University of Delaware, and her Ph.D. and an Advanced Nurse Practitioner Certificate from VCU.

The dean, who names Louis Pasteur among her heroes and cites a favorite quote by the renowned scientist—“chance favors the prepared mind”—says her own career has been favored by chance. “It’s not been a straight path, but it has been a pretty interesting one,” she laughs.

In her first year in college at Millersville, she took an elective cultural anthropology class and was given a field assignment to observe care provided at a Planned Parenthood facility.

“The assignment put me in the right place to see what the work

of nursing was like and to really find a passion for it,” she says. “Those nurses and nurse practitioners were so engaged and had so much power to change lives. I thought, ‘That’s what I want to do.’”

For her master’s studies, she specialized in cardiopulmonary disease. Early in her doctorate work at VCU, she remembers flipping through an issue of *Heart and Lung* to serendipitously land on an article about an organism connected with dental caries and its role in endocarditis, inflammation of membranes that line the heart cavities. She had just begun investigating that same organism in the lab.

“It was a wonderful confluence. Here was an organism associated with a cardiac

problem that I could really investigate. That piqued my interest and started me looking at oral organisms as a source of systemic diseases,” says Munro who went on to focus her Ph.D. on endocarditis.

Munro has earned an impressive and incredibly varied list of achievements—Best Commentary Award, Outstanding Research Achievement Award, Outstanding Graduate Student—yet the one she’s most proud of proved to be a lifesaver.

In the 1990s, about one in four patients on a hospital ventilator breathing machine contracted pneumonia and half would die. Munro and her team spent five years of study through an NIH award looking at ways to reduce

the organisms related to the infections. Their findings promoting the use of microbial mouthwash prompted a change in the regulations.

“That to me was so powerful—that we had been able to do research on how patients were cared for that made a difference in the risk they encountered,” Munro says.

It wasn’t easy to leave the bucolic mountains of Virginia. “I loved every minute there,” Munro says. “I’ve never really had a job that I didn’t love and feel engaged in. I’m lucky that way and now I’m here—another place I already love.”

The dean is not new to Miami. Her son graduated from UM. And while she’s not a huge football fan—“it’s an acquired

taste, and I grew up in a high school that didn’t have a team”—she remembers watching some of the “best football I’ve seen” while visiting her son at UM.

While the dean is excited to root for the ‘Canes again, her horizon is far more expansive. The launch of the Simulation Hospital poses a wonderful adventure that she’s eager to undertake together with the SONHS crew.

“The school has such great potential to make an impact locally, hemispherically, and globally in teaching, research, and in service,” she says. “I have some ideas, but the mission and vision have to be co-created with the faculty and the staff. I want us to create a vision together that moves us forward.”



# OPENING TO THE FUTURE: SIMULATION HOSPITAL

# HERALDS NEW ERA FOR HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

By Maria Padron and Michael R. Malone | Photography by Jenny Abreu



SIMULATION  
HOSPITAL  
DEDICATION  
DAY  
HIGHLIGHTS  
REAL-LIFE  
SCENARIOS



“Does anyone know the patient?” The gunshot victim stretched on the gurney was slipping away—pulse rate plummeting and breath faltering, and the emergency room doctor needed personal information. University of Miami President Julio Frenk stepped through the curtain. “He’s my cousin,” Frenk said, “what do you need to know?” ■ With Frenk supplying critical information, the emergency medical team applied triage procedures, providing oxygen and fluids, pumping the heart to resuscitate, connecting the EKG and cardiac monitor, and treating the wound. After several minutes of tense, fast-paced, coordinated care, the doctor announced the good news to the president: “Your cousin will survive.” ■ The scenario—staged, of course—was one of a series of emergency and medical care demonstrations performed by School of Nursing and Health Studies students and staff as part of the dedication opening of the Simulation Hospital on September 28. Intended to be as cutting-edge as the new facility itself, the opening gave nearly 300 guests a glimpse of the real-life applications that simulation technologies afford. Even the welcome and opening remarks sparkled with drama. As part of his presentation hyping the benefits of the new hospital for community partnerships, Miami-Dade Chief Fire Officer Edward Erickson, M.S.N. ’16, feigned an emergency call and then screened a “this-is-happening-live” video on the uber high-resolution screen. ■ The images were so lifelike that new SONHS Dean Cindy Munro, who presided at the welcome, and the guests were left pondering what was real and what was simulated—precisely the razor-thin edge where the new Simulation Hospital resides.



GUESTS AT THE DEDICATION DAY OPENING WERE TREATED TO A SPECTRUM OF EXPERIENCES THAT INCLUDED A DRAMATIC VIDEO AT THE WELCOME, A LABOR AND DELIVERY SIMULATION, THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY, AND OTHER SIMULATION CARE DEMOS THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE IMMENSE BENEFITS OF THIS NEW FACILITY.





(TOP TO BOTTOM) SHAYNE HAUGLUM, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL, IN ONE OF THE SIMULATION SUITES; FORMER SONHS DEAN NILDA (NENA) PERAGALLO MONTANO, WHOSE VISION HELPED TO LAUNCH THE SIMULATION HOSPITAL; AND NURSE SPECIALIST GLORIA TRUJILLO OBSERVING A "PATIENT" IN THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT.



"Today marks a giant leap forward in our school's contributions to the University's common purpose of transforming lives through teaching, research, and service," said Munro. "The Simulation Hospital is an academic space that anchors our commitment to innovative educational, scientific, and service activities, and offers us the opportunity to have a global impact."

The opening of the five-story, 41,000-square foot Simulation Hospital changes the landscape of health care education at SONHS and, with its potential for partnerships, expands the University's impact across South Florida and, indeed, beyond. Touted to be the largest existing simulation hospital space with permanently dedicated simulation rooms, this fully functioning, fully equipped, cutting-edge technology hospital replicates the true flow of activities in real-world hospital, primary care clinic, and home health settings.

President Frenk acknowledged the SONHS' leadership, past and present, who conceptualized and helped drive the hospital's completion. "Our Simulation Hospital is an exciting example of education innovation at its most tangible and humane level," Frenk said. "Students, health professionals, and patients throughout the hemisphere will benefit from this revolutionary learning facility."

Former SONHS Dean Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano, who traveled from North Carolina to attend the opening, is credited with providing the vision and for convening UM leadership, administrators, architects, and engineers to advance the hospital's construction. Groundbreaking took place in November 2015, and Associate Dean Anne E. Norris, in her capacity as interim dean, navigated the project through the construction phase and helped to stabilize strategy. Now Dean Munro, who joined the SONHS team in mid-August, is poised to usher in a new era in health care education at the University.

"This space helps to anchor the school's activities in both education and research in a way that's very unique," said Munro. "It allows us to serve as a resource for our partners at the University—not only our exceptionally important partners in medicine but also those at the School of Law, the School of Business Administration and many other groups that could expand the way we think about interdisciplinary education and the way that people think about the problems in health care and how to solve them."

Since expanding its degree offerings to health sciences and changing its name to the School of Nursing and Health Studies in 2005, the school has been a front-and-center advocate for collaboration among the health care professions. The new facility solidifies this commitment, with plans to offer interprofessional learning, licensure/certification and other continuing education opportunities in basic and advanced life support, anesthesia provision and additional specialties to nurses, physicians, emergency medical service providers, cardiac care specialists, anesthesiologists, and other health care professionals.

"Simulation allows us the ability to bring students in to practice over and over again, and to ask questions so they can understand exactly how they're doing something and why," explained Nichole Crenshaw, D.N.P. '14, professor of clinical and director of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program. "We can show them a procedure from beginning to end, all the way from putting your gloves on to be able to intubate someone or place a central line safely and appropriately, and to show them landmarks on a mannequin—all within a controlled setting where they feel safe asking questions and making mistakes, and they never have to put a patient in harm."

## Expanding Educational Mission

The new facility expands the SONHS' educational mission to encompass new audiences and to broaden partnerships beyond the student population and into the community.

"The Simulation Hospital offers unique opportunities to engage our community partners in innovative projects, particularly hospitals, health systems, and community care providers," says Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. "Our hope is that we can look at the Simulation Hospital as a center for all, a caregiver academy where we can work with families."

The simulated home environment within the facility enables training of family caregivers in how to care for loved ones living at home with previously nonsurvivable or life-altering events, such as a premature birth resulting in ventilator dependency, a stroke, or a traumatic brain injury.

"Currently our expectation of families when they have a loved one who comes into the hospital is that they receive teaching in the hospital, then they go home and provide care. Yet at home they're alone; there are no providers around them," says Hooshmand, whose expertise focuses on families of children with special needs.

"So imagine the day that we can actually do simulation scenarios for these families to better prepare them in terms of skills, even simple things like being able to engage with their providers. The Simulation Hospital gives us the opportunity to not only educate them but also practice these skills in a safe setting with clinical providers and then actually follow up with them."

## Fostering Disaster Response Preparedness

The timing of the hospital's opening was ironically apropos. Just two weeks prior, Hurricane Irma ripped through South Florida and the Caribbean, leaving a wake of damage, injuries, and even death. Among the many benefits the hospital offers is to provide a venue for community partners, corporate partners, and different University departments to convene and develop rapid and effective responses to emerging infectious diseases, disaster, terrorism—and hurricanes.

Part of what distinguishes the Simulation Hospital is its capacity to take disaster response training to a new level. Other simulation centers nationwide provide disaster response training, but none have a full-scale facility that can seamlessly simulate a functioning health care system.

"The Simulation Hospital is not just a building—it's a concept," says Susana Barroso-Fernandez, Ph.D. '16, director of Simulation Operations. "We have infinite possibilities of what can be done in this space. If you look outside of just teaching, we can work with health care professionals—first responders, disaster response teams, fire departments, police departments, the community, and families that have patients with injuries who have to go home and be able to take care of them. We have the opportunity to have a global impact on health care education."

"The real world is very messy," she continues. "It's very difficult as a nursing student to be thrown into that messy real world and know how to respond. Here we can create a simulated environment where the phone is going, physicians are giving you orders, and the patient is telling you they don't feel good—sort of organized



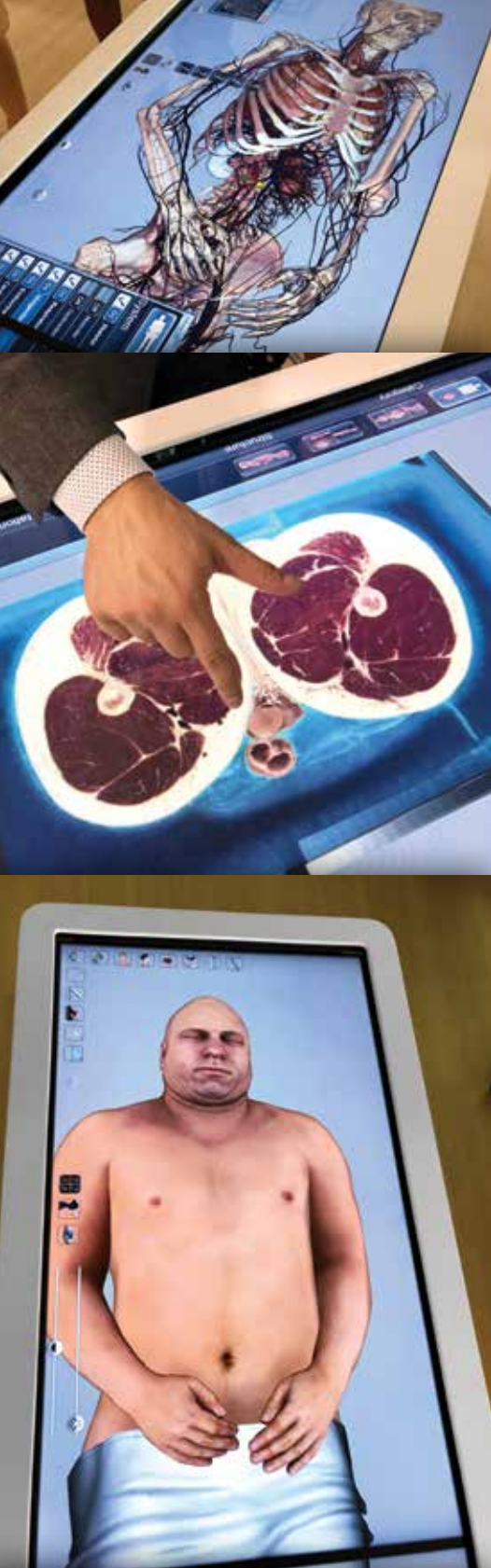
SUSANA BARROSO-FERNANDEZ, DIRECTOR OF SIMULATION OPERATIONS, OVERSEES INSTRUCTION IN THE SUITES THAT INCLUDE THE HOME HEALTH TRANSITIONAL CARE APARTMENT (TOP PHOTO).

chaos—where you have the time to think about what you're going to do, to respond, and then have the time immediately after to debrief and reflect on what you did—that's a very powerful environment."

Erickson, currently pursuing his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and a speaker at the dedication, highlighted the attention that the Simulation Hospital has generated among the first responder community.

"As both chief fire officer and a nurse practitioner, I see firsthand the rapidly evolving needs within the communities we serve and the challenges facing our health care providers," he said. "Even though nurses aren't first responders in the traditional sense, they're at the front lines of every major disaster."





PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA KUEHNLE

THE ANATOMAGE TABLE, AN ADVANCED ANATOMY VISUALIZATION SYSTEM, PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH REAL-LIFE IMAGES OF THE HUMAN BODY AT EVERY LEVEL OF DISSECTION.

## Opportunities for Synergizing Entrepreneurial Innovation University Assets and Advantages

In addition to its educational benefits, another huge boon that the Simulation Hospital provides is to function as an innovation space and, with that, the opportunity to collaborate with new partners.

"We're really interested in public-private partnerships, particularly around the idea of disaster response, and how we might be crucial players in that field. We also see lots of opportunities to work with corporate partners in product development for patient safety and patient care, lots of new opportunities that wouldn't be available to us if we didn't have this beautiful space and the faculty expertise to really make it happen," Dean Munro says.

Jeff Groom, associate dean for Simulation Programs, oversees the exciting opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation and research afforded by the new facility.

"Whether it's innovating for new products, new protocols, new procedures, new equipment, or new technologies, the Simulation Hospital offers a venue where we have a realistic setting without putting patients in harm's way," says Groom.

"By partnering with other units on campus or with external partners in the business community, or health care or biotechnology areas, we can get together at the product development stage or the product testing stage or at different stages along the line if there's compliance or usability testing that's required," Groom adds. "All to best help that product get to market or improve patient safety or patient quality."

The Simulation Hospital amplifies the University's ability to leverage its powerful academic assets. Campus partners from the engineering, medicine, business administration, communication and architecture schools, together with South Florida industry partners, will collaborate at the Simulation Hospital to improve disaster response, health care delivery, and the health care experience.

"Most of the care that's provided in the real world happens not just by the care provided by a single discipline, but by multiple disciplines working together to achieve the patient's goals," Dean Munro says. "This space gives us a place to practice working with other disciplines. We will really focus on interprofessional education so that we are working with students from multiple disciplines and helping them to learn to work together before they ever get out to the patient environment."

In this same spirit of innovative collaboration, and in keeping with the Roadmap to Our New Century initiative and the University's vision to optimize its hemispheric advantage, the Simulation Hospital will set out a welcome mat for the international community.

"An ongoing need expressed by our nurse educator partners in Latin America and the Caribbean is for more experiential learning through simulation training," says Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for the SONHS Master's Programs and Global Initiatives and director of its World Health Organization Collaborating Centre. "Our school has historically contributed to nursing education capacity worldwide, and it is exciting that the Simulation Hospital will allow us to expand these efforts."



In today's complex and global world, no single institution, organization or even country can even begin to remedy such entrenched complex socioeconomic challenges as the provision of quality health care. Partnerships and collaborative innovations offer the only viable hope. The new Simulation Hospital adds value and heightens the collaborative collateral of not only the SONHS but also the University, our South Florida community, and hemispheric partners.

"We anticipate that our relationships with Latin America and the Caribbean will be even stronger because of what we'll be able to offer to our partners here in the simulation environment," says Dean Munro. "Miami is a perfect spot for this hospital to be placed and the SONHS the perfect school for it to be placed in. We have an opportunity to grow and expand, and to make our mark on the map in a way that no one else in the country can."

### CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

If simulation is the bridge between classroom learning and clinical practice for health professions students, then the staff members who run the simulation operations are the beams that sustain that structure. At the SONHS, six students generally participate in a simulation encounter—two interacting with the simulated patient and four watching and analyzing the encounter via streaming video. A debriefing session follows. The support of the school's simulation staff, composed of nurse specialists and simulation technologists, is vital to the success of this process. At the new Simulation Hospital, these high-performing teams will continue to perform their essential functions.

"The nurse specialists contribute across the simulation experience, from scenario creation to implementation to the all-important debriefing sessions, where they guide students to identify what they did right, what they could have done better, and how they will improve their performance in the next simulated or real patient experience" explains Jeff Groom, associate dean for Simulation Programs. "Sometimes the nurse specialists contribute to the reality of simulation scenarios by performing as embedded actors. They may play a distraught family member, a nurse practitioner or a nursing assistant in a hospital room, giving students the chance to practice patient care delivery in an environment that is as close as possible to the real world. Since our nurse specialists are experienced nursing professionals, their feedback is invaluable to the teaching goals of the simulation."

Simulation technologists, meanwhile, are primarily responsible for integrating, maintaining and operating the computer and audio/video technology that goes into simulation, including state-of-art mannequins and medical equipment. Groom explains that the techs set up and stage simulation scenarios, and run all the scenarios' technical aspects, including, for example, providing the simulators' voices or vital signs responses.

Michelle Osso, one of the nurse specialists who helps run the school's simulation operations, cites teamwork, communication, and trust as the pillars of her job functions.

"Teamwork is an essential part of simulation," she says. "There has to be great communication between the simulation technologists and the nurse specialists before, during, and after simulation to make the scenarios run smoothly. There also has to be a level of trust within the team and with the students. It's that trust level that allows the students to feel the sense of urgent realism, yet in a safe environment. That is the essence of simulation."

"Our nurse educators and simulation technologists provide the support that enables faculty to concentrate on the students' simulation learning experience," says Groom. "They are really the glue that will continue to hold it all together and ensure the success of the Simulation Hospital."



# Medweb DONATES TELEMEDICINE SOFTWARE to SONHS' SIMULATION HOSPITAL

Web-enabled remote patient diagnosis tool expands teaching curriculum and research capacity

By Lisa Sedelnik, M.A. '00

**In a move that reaffirms** both organizations' status as health care pioneers, technology leader Medweb, which specializes in telemedicine and tele-radiology solutions, is partnering with the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) to offer education in telemedicine at the school's new Simulation Hospital. Medweb's donation of state-of-the-art telemedicine software to the revolutionary facility will enhance the training of students in how to use 21st-century health care delivery methods and solutions.

"Medweb's donation of telemedicine software to the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies' Simulation Hospital is in keeping with our company's commitment to philanthropy and humanitarian works all over the world," says Peter M. Killcommons, founder and CEO of the 25-year-old company.

Telemedicine, or telehealth, uses telecommunication and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance. A game-changer in this high-priced industry, telehealth increases patient access, extends the reach of health care services, and reduces overall medical costs.

The two major categories of telemedicine are asynchronous, whereby medical information is stored and transferred to health care providers without live interaction, and synchronous, which is live videoconferencing and real-time transmission of biomedical data using devices

attached to patients. The software donated by Medweb will train learners to use these two modes of telemedicine.

Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D. '10, SONHS assistant clinical professor and associate dean for Doctor of Nurse Practitioner (D.N.P.) programs, is excited about integrating telemedicine into the University's simulation-based health care education. She says the immediate and ongoing advantages of this partnership could be immense.

"Our CRNA [certified registered nurse anesthetist] students will benefit from potential applications of telemedicine in the anesthesiology field," Hooshmand says. "Our Master of Science in Nursing family nurse practitioner students benefit also because telemedicine has applications in critical care. Our D.N.P. executive track students are already incorporating telemedicine into their capstone

projects, and we envision Ph.D. students designing dissertation research studies that utilize telehealth applications."

Scott Simmons, Medweb's chief telemedicine business architect and former director of telehealth at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, says Medweb's interest in partnering with the SONHS can be categorized around four core elements: 1. contributing to the infrastructure of the Simulation Hospital; 2. providing hands-on training to both graduate and undergraduate nurses to address the

telemedicine preparation gap that exists in all health sciences education; 3. setting up a platform for telehealth-based research; and 4. partnering with SONHS on regional, national, and global telehealth-based humanitarian and charitable projects, to which both organizations are committed.

Though not yet ubiquitous, telemedicine is already being used in cardiology, behavioral health, dermatology and other specialties to provide

enhanced care to underserved and isolated patient communities. With its cadre of web-enabled platforms, Medweb is at the forefront of these endeavors.

"We are thrilled about the donation of this software because telehealth is the wave of the future," says Hooshmand. "We need to be able to educate our emerging health care professionals in the use of this cutting-edge technology so that they are comfortable and have telemedicine utilization skills by the time they graduate. Medweb's gift is enabling us to do this."





**The nurse wheeled her cart into the hospital room,** paused to verify the patient's identity and prescribed medications, then prepared two syringes. While the two medicines—Dilaudid and a steroid—looked identical and called for the exact same dosage, each advised different indications and administration protocols.

The patient and his visitor watched as the nurse proceeded to administer first one, then the other medicine. In seconds, the patient's blood pressure dipped. He felt dizzy and faint. The nurse had administered both medicines at the same brisk rate, ignoring the guidelines that specify that Dilaudid should be given slowly over a span of two to three minutes to avoid the exact effects the patient experienced.

Thankfully, the patient's blood pressure normalized. Later, when feeling better, he told his visitor: "This is the second time today that the nurse pushed that medication and I felt horrible afterward."

While the patient suffered no lasting ill effects, that is not always the case when such errors occur. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University reported in 2016 that medical error is the third leading cause of death in the United States, and numerous studies have shown that mistakes involving medications comprise a considerable proportion of these errors. In addition, adverse drug events (ADEs) are the most common nursing error, and the average hospitalized patient is subject to at least one medication error per day.

A pharmacology simulation study designed by two UM assistant professors shows promise to address the growing problem of adverse drug events (ADEs)



# A HIGHER DOSE OF LEARNING

BY VIRGINIA PICKLES



The preceding scenario is not a hypothetical case. The patient was the father of UM School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) Assistant Professor Jill S. Sanko, Ph.D. '15, who witnessed that drug administration error firsthand.

Sanko, together with Mary McKay, associate professor of clinical, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '09, have been studying safety concerns like these and potential gaps in nursing education for years. Improving patient safety has been a recurring theme in their collaborative research, which often employs simulation in nursing education.



In 2013, the pair designed an electronic system for anonymously reporting medical errors in simulation, the first of its kind. Their work garnered a Program Innovation Award from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare and is now a permanent part of the curriculum at the SONHS.

A routine analysis of the data from that simulated adverse event reporting system and from the SONHS clinical near-miss reporting system found ADE rates similar to those reported in the literature. This information led Sanko and McKay to design their next research project.

The two noticed high numbers of errors related to medications in both reporting systems. Conversations with instructors further confirmed their findings and prompted the research duo to explore the potential for simulation-based activities in pharmacology education, according to Sanko.

Sanko and McKay found a dearth of research in simulation as a pharmacology-specific teaching tool. With funding from the Florida Blue Foundation, they designed a study to examine the impact of simulation not only on nurses' confidence and competence in medication administration but also on reported ADEs and observed medication administration actions.

## The Study

Sanko and McKay developed three new data-collection tools specifically for this study: a self-reported competence and confidence scale, an observation tool, and a post-intervention evaluation. They recruited 120 students from the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program who were enrolled in a required pharmacology course. The intervention group (n=60) received simulation-enhanced pharmacology during the first semester, while the control group (n=60) received "teaching as usual." Both groups were monitored for three semesters.

Both groups of students completed the usual clinical simulations, and they had the same opportunities to report into the anonymous electronic simulated adverse event reporting system every time they participated in simulation.

Students in the intervention group participated in four mannequin-based scenarios focused on medication administration skills aligned with Quality Safety Education for Nurses safety and patient-centered care competencies, including: calculating dosages, following high-alert medication procedures, performing proper hand hygiene, donning personal protective equipment, researching medication information, and checking appropriate lab values/vital signs before administering medi-

cations. Students administered subcutaneous insulin, oral anti-arrhythmic drugs, intravenous heparin, corticosteroids, and piggy-back antibiotics. They also were required to explain each medication's purpose and possible side effects to the simulated patient.

Insulin and heparin, the drugs used in the simulation study, were specifically chosen as they are commonly used in nursing and both are considered "risky" in terms of patient harm, according to Sanko and McKay.

"We had been hearing from both the simulation faculty and the clinical faculty that students could benefit from additional clarity about insulin, specifically differentiating short-acting versus long-acting insulin," Sanko says, adding, "a nurse really needs to recognize which type of insulin is appropriate for a situation and must be prepared to question the ordering provider if there is any uncertainty. Those aspects were all embedded into our scenarios, so the students were obliged to think about those choices or ask questions."

Pairs of students completed the simulations, which were facilitated by an instructor; either were permitted to pause the action at any time to ask questions or course-correct if necessary. Faculty-led debriefings are a vital part of the simulation teaching modality to help students align with scenario objectives. After completing the simulated pharmacology interventions, students continued to visit simulation as part of their other courses.

"Every simulation encounter is recorded, so we were able to observe all subsequent encounters for both cohorts of students," Sanko says. "This enabled us to determine whether the students from the intervention group were using the skills they learned in pharmacology simulations. After every simulation experience, students also used the anonymous adverse event reporting system to report whether or not they had an error. We were able to pool those data for the rest of their nursing school program to gain a longitudinal view of what this intervention might do for students."

## The Findings

Students who received simulation-enhanced pharmacology demonstrated important improvements in medication administration safety. For example, they performed proper hand hygiene and infused medications over the correct times more often than students in the control group, and the differences were statistically significant. They also administered correct medications and checked vital signs more often than students in the control group, showing a favorable trend.

Sanko and McKay found the control group reported more adverse events coded as errors, more incorrect medication administration events, and more incorrect route events than the intervention group. The control group also reported difficulties handling medication events and the medication administration record, and they reported events caused by knowledge deficits and events related to feelings of personal work overload.

Differences in confidence and competence between the two groups were not statistically significant. Sanko and McKay suggest that simulation may improve self-awareness of knowledge and skill deficiencies, thus explaining the lower confidence and competence scores of the intervention group at graduation.

"It is conceivable that simulation does not just change participants' medication administration actions but also their perceptions of the process and the inherent risks involved," McKay says.

Sanko adds, "Practicing medication administration in simulation and receiving immediate feedback may change how students feel about their competence. They may have become more aware of the various places in the process where they could commit errors, and this increased awareness may have influenced how they rated their confidence and competence."

While a decrease in confidence may seem to be a disappointing outcome, McKay poses that this may not be a negative. "It may mean that these students will be more vigilant about their practice," she says.

Students themselves overwhelmingly found simulation-enhanced pharmacology to be beneficial and valuable. In post-intervention evaluations, 95 percent reported that simulation improved their medication administration safety, while 96 percent agreed that simulation fostered the integration of previously learned pharmacology skills and knowledge.

"The study participants told us they derived a lot of value from the pharmacology simulation and want more of it," Sanko says. "Their comments alone were enough to support continuation of a program similar to this."

Among those comments: "The simulations have helped me understand what I am learning in lab by actually being able to do it hands-on, and I learned from the mistakes I made"; and "I appreciate the fact that we get to see proper administration of drugs, and that experience will definitely help us in the hospital setting. Please do more of this. This is great."

Owing to Sanko's and McKay's comprehensive study and positive findings, the SONHS has incorporated simulation-enhanced pharmacology into its nursing education curriculum.

## Building a Strong Foundation

Simulation has been a part of nursing education for many years—Sanko recalls using an orange to hone her injection skills—yet the processes and techniques have become increasingly sophisticated. The new SONHS Simulation Hospital serves as a striking example of this trend.

According to Sanko, a landmark study by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing showing that similar learning outcomes were achieved when high-quality simulation was substituted for up to 50 percent of clinical hours sets the stage for simulation to emerge as an integral part of nursing education. "Many boards of nursing are now revising their

requirements regarding the number of clinical versus simulation hours nursing students may complete during their education," she says.

Simulation provides a unique learning environment where errors can be corrected immediately. "The saying, 'practice makes perfect', is more than a time-worn platitude, Sanko says. "If you practice something the wrong way enough times, the wrong way becomes embedded in your brain and is difficult to undo. In simulation, we want to foster the idea of positive rather than negative learning."



McKay adds, "It's really important for us as nursing educators to make sure future nurses are taught correctly from the very beginning in a nonpunitive way so those good habits form a strong, safe foundation on which they can build their careers. A study such as ours on the results of simulation training in a specific clinical area, in this case pharmacology, helps educators realize that it is not just what you learn—but also how you learn—that matters."



# PARTNERING TO IMPROVE CARE

By Barbara Pierce, M.A. '10

**SIMULATION IS A POWERFUL TOOL** for the preparation of today's health care professionals, and the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) is a national leader in the use of sophisticated simulation technologies and techniques to improve nursing education.

**SONHS simulation training hones skills of entry-level nurses at UM Hospital**



The school's robust cohort of high-tech patient simulators, complete with breathing, blinking, and vital signs, can replicate an array of chronic and acute health conditions that students must address in real time. The "sims," in turn, respond to the students' interventions—for better or worse. In this living laboratory, difficulties or errors become teachable moments in post-scenario video debriefing sessions. The resulting experiential learning cycle—react, evaluate, apply newly gained insights—improves both basic and advanced nursing skills.

Imbedded within the SONHS curriculum, the school's superb simulation resources are now being deployed to optimize the skills of nurses entering the workforce through an educational and training partnership with University of Miami Hospital (UMH). The trainings are a first for both SONHS and UMH, where nurse educators previously used only in-house assets to orient their new-to-practice nurses.

The program was sparked by a suggestion from UMH nurse educator Jessica Joseph, B.S.N. '11. "As a graduate of SONHS, I know the quality of the school's simulation education equipment, facilities, and personnel," Joseph says. "So I suggested that we explore opportunities for our new nurses to benefit from these outstanding training resources."

Joseph's UMH colleagues, aware of both the benefits of simulation training and SONHS's extraordinary simulation capabilities, were receptive to the idea. They reached out to SONHS, and the two institutions developed the program together.

The program launched last May as a series of three training modules attended by 22 UMH nurse residents, recent graduates of SONHS and other R.N.-granting institutions. The sessions were led by Susana Barroso-Fernandez, Ph.D. '16,

assistant professor of clinical and director of simulation operations at SONHS. Three SONHS nurse specialists performed roles during simulations and provided feedback during debriefing sessions; SONHS simulation specialists oversaw the technical components. Joseph and her UMH nurse educator colleagues Afreen N. Kisten and Shana Russey, along with Joseph Falise, UMH's director of organizational learning, worked closely with the school throughout the development and implementation of the program.

## SHARPENING SKILLS FOR STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

As the sessions got underway, the newly hired UMH nurses talked about the stresses they were already experiencing on the job. Many spoke of beginning a shift having "done their homework" and feeling fully prepared, only to discover that a patient's condition had completely changed—and that they needed to adapt their care plan on the spot.

Learning how to meet such challenges, says Barroso, is exactly the point of the UMH-SONHS simulation training. "It's OK to feel a lot of frustration as a new nurse," she says. "Nursing school taught you conceptual knowledge and clinical skills; your first year on the job teaches you how to be a nurse."

The lessons to be reinforced are often as much about communication as they are about strictly clinical skills. One simulation scenario, for example, focused on a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease inpatient awaiting hospital discharge orders and his overwrought wife, whose anxiety was disrupting the process.

"The debriefing video showed the distance that the nurses tended to place between themselves and the agitated family member," Joseph says. "They could see the difference between acknowledging the family member's concerns solely with words as opposed to also conveying empathy by closing the physical space between them."

"As a new nurse, I've discovered that stressful moments with family members happen all the time," says UMH nurse resident Antonia George. "After this training, I feel like I can now walk into a patient's room and assess the situation with much more confidence."

"The connection between this experience and the patient care we provide is real and immediate," says Julia Frank, B.S.N. '16.



"We know that we're going to incorporate what we've learned into our practice right away."

UMH nursing trainee Carey Kaplanek agrees. "I've already noticed myself incorporating these concepts while interacting with my patients," she says.

UMH nurse educator Falise notes that the impact of the training is intensified by the close relationship between the two institutions. "SONHS simulation labs have the same IV pumps, beds, and ventilators as those at UMH," he says. "So SONHS is an ideal setting for teaching our nurse residents UMH-specific protocols, policies, and practices that they can seamlessly transfer over to the patient care setting."

"The time and effort both institutions have devoted to implementing this marriage of academia and hospital-based practice will allow our nurses to better perform their roles not only in our hospital, but wherever they go afterwards," Joseph says. "Ultimately, the training has the potential to improve outcomes among all the patient populations whom these nurses care for throughout their nursing careers."

## BIDIRECTIONAL BENEFITS

The program is also yielding valuable information for the SONHS simulation team. "The process of helping new nurses to become more highly skilled in their work is a learning opportunity for us as well," Barroso-Fernandez says. "By observing how they react in the clinical simulation sessions, our faculty sees what may be lacking in the undergraduate nursing curriculum. We can then propose curriculum modifications to address those gaps."

The new SONHS's Simulation Hospital holds the potential to dramatically expand this novel training program and others like it. The extraordinary new facility uses the latest simulation technology to provide SONHS students, public health professionals, and practicing nurses with the highest-quality health care education in a wide variety of simulated clinical environments.

"It is our responsibility as educators preparing the nursing workforce of tomorrow to see what's going on in the real world of health care after our graduates enter the field," Barroso-Fernandez notes. "We can then integrate that understanding into our nursing education 'best practices,' and better prepare nurses to care for patients in a safe manner. It always comes back to patient safety."



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## Education Awards, Recognitions, and Achievements



Victoria Mitrani

### Mitrani Named Honorary Member of Sigma Theta Tau

**Victoria Mitrani**, A.B. '80, Ph.D. '86, SONHS professor and associate dean for research, was named an Honorary Member of The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). Honorary stature is conferred by the STTI board of directors to those demonstrating superior achievement in a chosen field and a commitment to the ideals and concerns of nursing.

Mitrani exemplifies these qualifications through her work and dedication, according to STTI Chief Executive Officer Patricia Thompson. "It is our honor to celebrate you for mentoring junior nursing faculty on a breadth of behavioral topics and promoting a cycle of excellence. Your exceptional support of nurses and their research is inspirational," Thompson said.



Mary McKay

### Two SONHS Faculty Members Receive Excellence in Educational Research Award

Congratulations to SONHS associate professor **Deborah Salani**, B.S.N. '86, M.S.N. '89, D.N.P. '13, and associate professor and associate dean for nursing undergraduate programs **Mary McKay**, B.S.N. '88, D.N.P. '09, whose presentation on "Utilization of Innovative Teaching Strategies Following a Nursing Education Certificate Program in Guyana" won the 2017 Excellence in Educational Research Award from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The award was presented on July 27, 2017, during the opening plenary session of STTI's 28th International Nursing Research Congress in Dublin, Ireland.



Denise Vidot

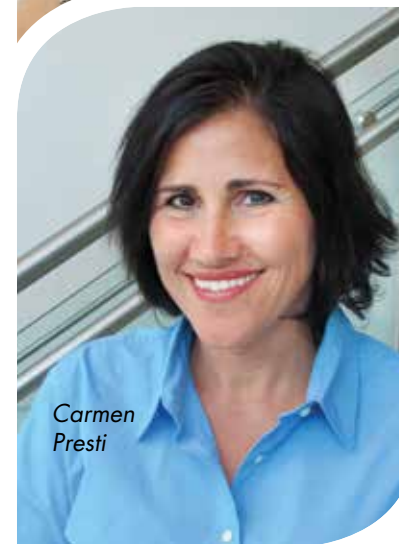
### Vidot Is Summer Scholar

Assistant Professor **Denise Vidot**, A.B. '08, Ph.D. '15, was selected as a SUNY PRIDE-CVD Scholar and, as such, participated in the 2017 Summer Institute Training Program at State University of New York. Funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research, collectively referred to as PRIDE, were established to provide junior scientists and other groups currently underrepresented in biomedical research with opportunities to gain the knowledge and tools needed to carry out independent and meaningful research and advance their careers. Vidot utilized the award to develop her scientific work investigating the impact of marijuana use on cardiorespiratory fitness and cardiovascular disease risk.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ILM LAMAZARES-ROMERO



Jill Sanko



Carmen Presti

### 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.

### Presti: Engaged Faculty Fellow

The UM Office of Civic and Community Engagement honored Assistant Professor of Clinical **Carmen Presti**, D.N.P. '12, as its 2017-18 Engaged Faculty Fellow. Fellows receive summer stipends and the opportunities to participate in civic engagement workshops and service learning, and are selected for their commitment to linking the classroom and community through hands-on, experiential, and transformative education.



Andrew Porter



Susan Prather

### Honored for Teaching Excellence

To a chorus of student cheers, **Andrew Porter** and **Susan Prather** were announced as recipients of the SONHS' Teacher of the Year and Clinical Faculty Excellence Award, respectively, during the spring 2017 awards ceremony. The awards, which acknowledge the faculty members' excellence as public health and health care educators in the classroom and clinical sites, are especially meaningful because students determine the awardees.



Deborah Salani

### President-Elect of APNA

**Deborah Salani**, B.S.N. '86, M.S.N., '89, D.N.P., '13, has been named president-elect of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Florida Chapter Board of Directors for 2017-18. Following the APNA model, the Board reflects all groups of psychiatric-mental health nurses, and advances the science and education of psychiatric-mental health nursing in Florida.



# Bridge Work Roles Create Synergy and Connection Between Sylvester and SONHS

**Assistant Professor of Clinical Debbie Anglade, M.S.N. '10, Ph.D. '14,** has a unique multifaceted role at the University of Miami, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

An innovative model of a completely hospital-based faculty position has Anglade functioning as nurse research scientist for the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, while also devoting time to introducing undergraduate School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) students to the clinical care of acutely ill patients.

As a nurse scientist at Sylvester, Anglade works closely to initiate and implement evidence-based practice projects and nurse-led research activities in collaboration with the hospital's nursing personnel. As a member of the SONHS faculty, Anglade serves as clinical instructor to UM SONHS Bachelor of Science in Nursing students enrolled in Adult Health courses and undertaking their clinical practice experiences at Sylvester.

Rather than viewing these two roles as separate, Anglade appreciates the synergies they create among students, nursing staff, and SONHS faculty.

"While working with the students at Sylvester, I may also interact with the nursing staff about their research projects," Anglade explains. "During these exchanges, the students see firsthand that the staff nurses clearly are excited about their projects as they strive to improve patient care and outcomes through their research. While the students may be studying evidence-based practice in a classroom at the University, here at Sylvester they can more fully appreciate how those practices translate to the clinical setting."

Anglade also feels she is well positioned to serve as a "bridge" connecting the SONHS faculty with the nursing staff at Sylvester, tapping the unique assets of each group to effect positive change in the nursing discipline.

As an example, she cites her current work with Assistant Professor of Clinical LaToya Lewis-Pierre B.S.N. '02, on a study of horizontal violence and bullying in the nursing workforce of an oncology and outpatient clinic academic center.

Anglade is dedicated to still another role she plays at the University of Miami. As president of the SONHS Alumni Association, she strives to strengthen and engage this important network, again serving as a bridge between various professional groups and organizations. For example, during her doctoral studies, Anglade was named a Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar, and in that role, she became active with the Florida Action Coalition, created in 2011 with Co-Leads of the Florida Center for Nursing and the Florida Blue Foundation, formed to advance the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing recommendations in Florida. Recently, she facilitated an event hosted by the SONHS Alumni Association to bring together representatives of the Coalition and nurses throughout the South Florida region.

"We invited all nurses in the South Region as well as students from the various schools to join us at a reception for the Florida Action Coalition leadership," she says. "Our goal was to identify and discuss issues of interest to the nurses here in the South Region. That event was a tremendous success."

Anglade doesn't merely balance her various roles but seeks to make strong connections between her students and her colleagues, fostering collaboration in the interest of advancing the nursing profession. "I'm pleased to move our discipline forward by developing others through my roles as a faculty member and as a nurse researcher," she says.



## 1970s

**Claudia M. Hauri, F.N.P. '76,** continues to work as a consultant with friend Mary Smolenski as her supervisory consultant. "Wishing all the grads that I taught a safe, healthy & wealthy life with love & laughter," says Claudia.

**Ann M. Thrailkill, C.N.P. '76,** continues to work in primary care and women's health as a nurse practitioner at the Veterans Administration hospital in Palo Alto, California. She is also the maternity coordinator for the medical center, where she does C+P exams for gyn and precepts Stanford medical residents and Nurse Practitioner students from the University of California, San Francisco. She's proud of her grandson, who graduated from Harvard, and her granddaughter, who finished her sophomore year at Boston College and will study in Spain in the spring.

## 1980s

**Dawn T. Holcombe, B.S.N. '87,** moved to Indiana. She has grandchildren in Florida whom she dearly loves, which "makes it a challenge to be in both states."

## 1990s

**Dawn Garzon Maaks, B.S.N. '90,** who attended the U as Dawn "Harrison," recently married and on July 1 began her appointment as president-elect of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Her three-year commitment includes a year as president-elect, next year as president, and the third year in 2019-2020 as past president. Dawn is thrilled to represent her professional organization and attributes her professional success to her beginnings at UM. Go 'Canes!

## 2000s

**Bobby Kwong, A.B.S.N. '06,** works as a staff nurse surgical services / Davinci Robotics Coordinator at Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach, Florida.

**Anna Lozoya, B.S.N. '06,** is employed as in-house counsel for a real estate investment firm in Chicago, handling all aspects of commercial and residential real estate transactions. Previously she has been a worker's compensation defense attorney and credit union auditor for a CPA firm. She holds the position of recording secretary for the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, deputy president of the Hispanic Bar Association, and is council member of the Health Law Committee of the Illinois State Bar Association.

**Nicole Nazon Donnelly, B.S.N. '07,** recently graduated from Barry University and relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina, to work in the mental health/substance abuse field as a nurse practitioner.

## 2010s

**Vada Parke-Gaskin, B.S.N. '11,** graduated, got married (yeahhh!) and now has two sons. In 2016, she graduated from Florida Southern College with a 4.0 GPA and her M.S.N. with a specialization in gerontology. In January 2017, she passed her ARNP boards. She is currently working with the government in Orlando, Florida, where she lives with her family.

**Yamile Zayas, B.S.N. '11,** is now working as a nurse specialist in the Oncology Service line at the University of Miami Hospital. Yamile's beautiful daughter Olivia was born April 5, 2017.

**Betsy Fernandez, D.N.P. '12,** began her new position as director, UHealth Clinic at Walgreens, in May 2017.

**Kimberly Hines-Hires, Ph.D. '12,** was appointed director of the Doctor in Nursing Practice Program at the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing & Health Professions at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. She has been named editor-in-chief of *Project Nightingale Magazine*, a quarterly publication of LifeLong Media with articles written exclusively by nurses for nurses.

### Send us your news!

Email Rosa Lamazares-Romero,  
SONHS Assistant Director  
Communications and Marketing,  
at [rmlromero@miami.edu](mailto:rmlromero@miami.edu)



**Lina Hernandez, B.S.N. '14**, graduated and moved to her dream city – New York City. After a stint of odd jobs in the Big Apple, she landed her first nursing job, working on a general medical surgery floor. She strengthened her nursing skills for a year before stepping out to pursue her passion to become a pediatric nurse. It took persistence, but now she's been in her position in the PICU at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital for more than a year. "I'm so proud to be a 'Cane and to be working in the critical care unit in one of New York's best hospitals," she says.

**Andrew Street, B.S.N. '15**, is grateful for his "incredible" experience at the U, which laid the foundation for a challenging and rewarding career as a registered nurse. He was "privileged to work in the Surgical & Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital for two years" and recently joined the Rapid Response Team to prevent and address emergencies throughout the hospital. Garnering the skills and knowledge to work in the ICU isn't easy, but he persists. "I'm grateful for my instructors at the U who never encouraged us to settle for 'easy,' but instead set an example in both conduct and aspirations," he says.

**Erica Banos, B.S.N. '17**, recently graduated from the traditional 2017 B.S.N. Program. She passed her NCLEX with 75 questions (yay!) and is currently employed as an RN by UFHealth Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.



### 'CANES NURSES ALUMNI BOARD

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies Alumni Association Board continues to build upon the foundation laid by generations of 'Cane nurses by hosting student and alumni events, sponsoring programs and preserving history. In June, the Board held its annual strategic planning meeting, where members developed new initiatives and programming designed to keep alumni involved and engaged. For this academic year, they hope to accomplish the following:

- Increase the number of alumni participating in all events, including expanding into Broward and Palm Beach Counties
- Engage with alumni through social media channels
- Launch an alumni ambassador program this spring
- Support the school through fundraising, especially during Madness in March!

To learn more about ways that you can get involved with the Alumni Association please visit [www.sonhs.miami.edu/alumni-and-giving](http://www.sonhs.miami.edu/alumni-and-giving) or email [sonhs-advancement@miami.edu](mailto:sonhs-advancement@miami.edu)

## A Nursing School President and Dean Follows His Path to Leadership

**Todd F. Ambrosia, D.N.P. '13**, today the president and dean of the Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York City, looks back appreciatively at a "serendipitous" string of events early in his career that shifted his professional trajectory. A biochemistry and nutrition major in graduate school, Ambrosia was performing bench research in a hospital lab when he chanced to observe nurse practitioners in the intensive care unit.

The experience so inspired him that he shifted gears and enrolled in an M.S.N. bridge program at Vanderbilt University. "It was a very intense 24 months," he recalls. Soon after graduating, Ambrosia landed his first job as a nurse practitioner in a family practice in Baltimore.

The physician with whom he worked, a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, recognized Ambrosia's potential as an educator and introduced him to the university's nursing faculty. That next fall, Ambrosia was teaching in the university's Family Nurse Practitioner (F.N.P.) program while continuing his clinical practice focused on adolescent and young adult health.

He advanced to director of the F.N.P. track at University of Maryland. After nine years, seeking new challenges, he moved to Miami and joined the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) in 2008 as an assistant professor in the master's programs.

In 2013, after applying for and receiving a faculty scholarship from the Florman Family Foundation, Ambrosia reached another milestone when he earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree at the SONHS.

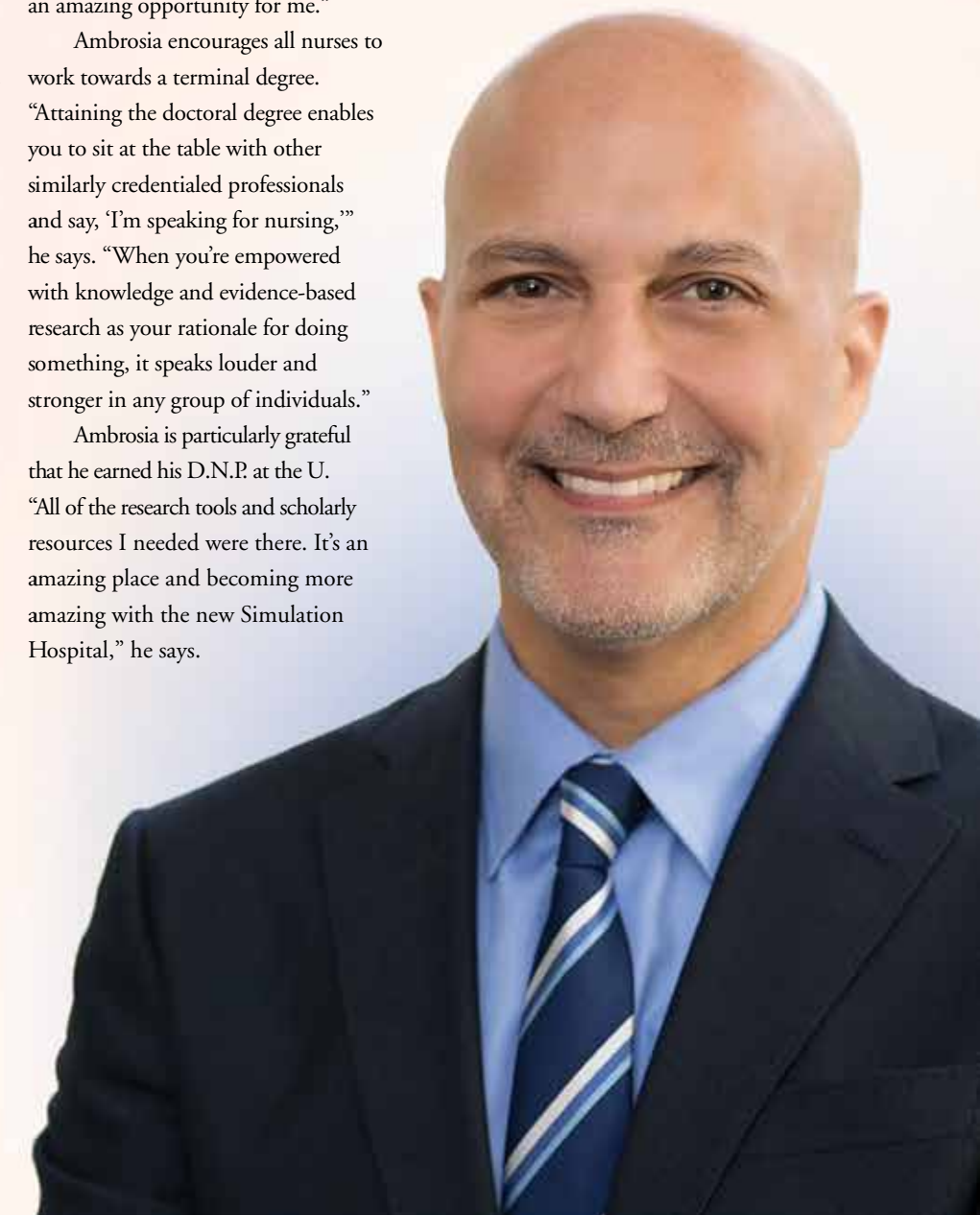
"I wanted to validate all of my knowledge as a professional nurse and a nursing academic with a doctoral degree," he says. "Having been named associate dean of master's programs, I felt this was an amazing opportunity for me."

Ambrosia encourages all nurses to work towards a terminal degree. "Attaining the doctoral degree enables you to sit at the table with other similarly credentialed professionals and say, 'I'm speaking for nursing,'" he says. "When you're empowered with knowledge and evidence-based research as your rationale for doing something, it speaks louder and stronger in any group of individuals."

Ambrosia is particularly grateful that he earned his D.N.P. at the U. "All of the research tools and scholarly resources I needed were there. It's an amazing place and becoming more amazing with the new Simulation Hospital," he says.

Ambrosia, who had participated in the planning for the new Simulation Hospital, visited the SONHS recently and was impressed on seeing the progress in construction.

"When I left UM two years ago, they hadn't even broken ground yet. So when I saw the structure, it was pretty emotional," he says.





# Helping to Change the Stigma Around Mental Illness

As a volunteer and board member for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Miami-Dade chapter, Carlos A. Larrauri, M.S.N. '17, spends countless hours helping the mentally ill and their families, both on the front lines working with patients and behind the scenes raising awareness and funds. In addition to his persistent advocacy, Larrauri has managed to earn two nursing degrees in the last few years.

"Carlos amazed me with his passion for the profession, especially working with psychiatric populations," said Aracelis Loffredo, M.S.N. '17, a fellow student of Larrauri's in the School of Nursing and Health Studies' (SONHS) Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program.

Larrauri decided to pursue a career as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner after working in Miami-Dade County's Jail Diversion Program, which provides mentally ill people arrested for misdemeanors with community-based treatment and helps them obtain needed resources, such as housing. Later while pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.), Larrauri worked at a maximum security forensic hospital, helping people with schizophrenia and other mental disorders become stable enough to stand trial.

"I found that I really enjoyed working with marginalized populations, such as the homeless, and individuals who had serious mental illnesses," Larrauri says.

He also spends most of his free time volunteering to help these populations. In May, Larrauri helped organize the second annual Reel Minds Miami Mental Health Film Festival at the University of Miami, which was sponsored by NAMI Miami-Dade. More than 600 people attended the single-day festival to view an array of films featuring characters affected by a variety of mental illnesses, including eating and bipolar disorders.

The film fest is just one example of Larrauri's contribution to NAMI, the nation's largest advocacy organization for individuals with mental illnesses and their families. As a board member of NAMI's Miami-Dade chapter, Larrauri helps secure needed financial

support for the nonprofit via fundraising events and partnerships with major donors, including the Health Foundation of South Florida and South Florida Behavioral Health Network.

Larrauri is also spreading awareness of mental health issues among his fellow nursing students. In June, he gave a presentation on mental illness to an Advanced Practice Nursing Integration class at the invitation of faculty member Adrian Mesa, B.S.N. '06. "The mentally ill are often seen as aggressive individuals or depicted as homeless and outcasts from society," Mesa says. "Carlos' presentation helped shatter that stereotype among our students. He presented a different perspective that demonstrated the severity of mental illness, but without the stigma."

In between his studies and volunteer work, Larrauri enjoys playing guitar in a band called Fogdog, named to describe the bright clear light sometimes viewed through a breaking fog. "People with psychosis often talk about being in a fog. We're trying to be that light of hope and inspiration for people going through challenging times, whether related to mental health or not," Larrauri explains.



Celebrating  
Commencement  
2017

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNY ABREU

On May 12, 2017, the SONHS awarded 175 Ph.D., B.S.N., B.S.H.S., B.S.P.H. and post-master's Certificate in Mental Health program degrees. The new degree recipients join the more than 6,000 SONHS graduates who are conducting health care research, bedside nursing, and public health interventions or pursuing graduate studies in just about every corner of the country—and around the world.

On August 10, the school celebrated another cohort of graduates—148 new nurse practitioners graduated from the adult gerontology acute care, adult gerontology primary care, and family nurse practitioner Master of Science in Nursing programs.

The SONHS applauds these students and their accomplishments, and is especially appreciative of our exceptional faculty's commitment and dedication to the success of a new generation of health care leaders.







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