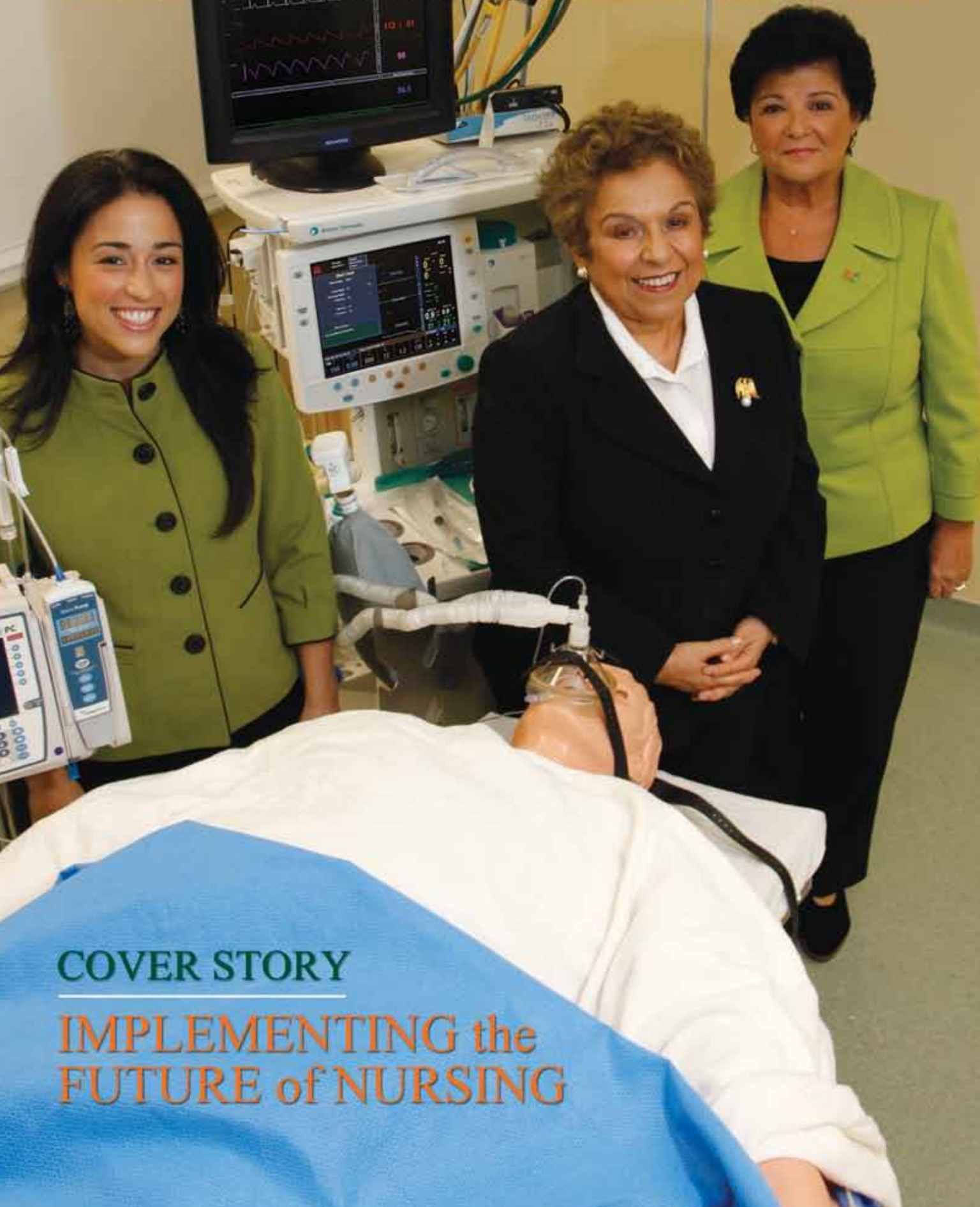


HEART BEAT

SPRING 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES



COVER STORY

**IMPLEMENTING the
FUTURE of NURSING**

HEARTBEAT

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES



Dean and Professor

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Spring 2011

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What an exciting time to be a healthcare professional at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. Never before has nursing assumed a more prominent role and the University of Miami is leading the way. The School is rated by the National Institutes of Health as the top School of Nursing in Florida (based on research funding) and in the Top 20 nationally. As a nationally ranked research university, the school benchmarks against leading institutions on metrics ranging from NIH funding to graduation rates and retention. We are proud of these accolades outlining our dedication and commitment to healthcare education.

Teaching and research are the lifeblood of all great universities. Our mission is to prepare students to address the challenges of contemporary healthcare through a curriculum that balances clinical education and theory with exposure to cutting edge research. Our commitment to providing a world class education can be seen not only in national headlines but also in our national certification rates. I am delighted to report that our entire class of Nurse Anesthesia graduates in March passed their certification exam; at the same time our NCLEX-RN test scores continue to be among the highest in Florida.

In this edition of Heartbeat Magazine, our cover story on “The Future of Nursing” (Page 13), provides a behind the scene look at the School of Nursing and Health Studies contribution to the historic Institute of Medicine (IOM) blue print to redefine the role of nursing in our country – UM President Donna Shalala served as the Committee Chair, and Dr. Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda served as a committee member. Their perspective, on the need to develop “Nurse Leaders” should serve as a catalyst to end the debate over the scope of practice, I encourage all of you to read the story and the committee report.

As one of the nation’s premier academic healthcare centers – our school, faculty and students will continue playing a prominent role defining the future of nursing by investigating problems, developing solutions and delivering quality care to our local and global community for years to come. The excitement of scientific inquiry is contagious. Take great pride in your school and our collective accomplishments, it’s never been more exciting to be a Miami Hurricane or Alumnus of the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Heartbeat Magazine.

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“As one of the nation’s premier academic healthcare centers – our school, faculty and students will continue playing a prominent role defining the future of nursing in our country.”

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Nilda (Nena) P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

National Recognition for the School

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies is being recognized as a national leader in the field of healthcare education by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and US News and World Report.

After years of hard work and a major commitment to cutting edge healthcare research, the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies is now listed among the top Schools of Nursing and Health Studies in the country based on funding from the National Institutes of Health. The School is currently listed at number 20 in the nation and number one in the state of Florida.

Dean and Professor Nilda (Nena) P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN, says this is wonderful news for the School and especially for our faculty who have worked very hard to identify and request grant funding from the National Institutes of Health. According to Dean Peragallo, "these grants provide critical funding for research focused programs like the Center for Culturally-Tailored Hispanic Health Disparities Research, Increasing Capacity at Hospital Universitaire Justinien (HUI) in response to the Haiti earthquake relief efforts, and a Culturally Informed Family Based Treatment program for adolescents, a Culturally Informed Tele-Intervention program for minority high

risk youth and parents and numerous other research projects.

At the same time US News and World Report is now also recognizing the School for excellence in healthcare education. There

are over 350 nursing schools across the nation but only a select few are listed by US News and World Report as "Best In The Country". In April, the national publication listed the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies on their Top 100 list at #79.

The national ranking is based on data evaluating such categories as curriculum, faculty resources, graduation and retention rates, peer assessments, admissions test scores and financial resources. According to Dean Peragallo, "We are delighted to be recognized by US News and World Report and the National Institutes of Health for our tremendous growth, dedication to research and commitment to excellence in

healthcare education. Our goal is to create the finest healthcare education program in the nation and these type of acknowledgements indicate we are certainly moving in the right direction. This tremendous growth and recognition of our program

would not be possible without the tireless dedication and commitment to academic excellence made by our faculty, students, staff and the administration."

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Health Studies in the
country based on (NIH)
research funding.**

*National Institutes of Health,
February 2011*
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A Culturally Tailored Mental Health Program in Cap-Haitien

It will take billions of dollars and years to repair the physical damage caused by the January 12, 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. Over 250,000 people lost their lives and tens of thousands were injured. In the first few days after the earthquake, the immediate focus was rescuing victims with life threatening physical wounds, bruised tissues and crushed limbs. Finding help was much harder for those with mental health issues, bruised psyches or a crushed will to live. One year later, the battered bodies may be mending, but the mental health issues, and flashbacks still linger.

Dr. Rosina Cianelli, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, an Associate Professor and researcher in the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies, says "estimates are that two out of five Haitians witnessed severe trauma including images of back yard amputations, severe physical injuries, and destroyed homes and businesses. Many have lost everything including their will to live and are in desperate need of psychological care."

Cap-Haitien is Haiti's second largest city and has the nation's second largest health center. Hospital Universitaire Justinien (HUI) is the primary sole hospital serving Cap-Haitien and is also the referral hospital for the entire Northern Health Department of Haiti, serving a population of more than 1 million people. While the HUI's physical structure is intact its capacity is severely strained by the evacuees who are suffering from serious

injuries and mental trauma sustained in the earthquake. To deal with the influx of patients requiring immediate mental health issues, the HUI has requested assistance

from the University of Miami to establish a "culturally adapted" educational program to train healthcare professionals in Cap-Haitien on how to identify and treat mental health patients.

The new program funded by a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health Disparities (NIMHD) to El Centro, began last month. Cianelli, and a team from the School of Nursing and Health Studies including Dean and Professor Nilda (Nena) Peragallo,

DrPH, RN, FAAN, Dr. Victoria Mitrani, PhD, (El Centro Research Director), Dr. Carole Roseau, DNP, MSN, RN and Dr. Andree Vulcain from the School of Medicine, and Dr. Guerda Nicolas, a Haitian-American psychologist who is Professor and Chair of Educational and Psychological Studies at the University of Miami School of Education.

Nicolas, who over the past 14-years has implemented similar culturally adaptive and linguistically translated programs in Haiti, will direct the mental health component for the project – provide training, support and supervision, and provide direct psychological services. Nicolas will lead a team composed of Haitian-American mental health professionals including psychologists, social workers, nurses and mental health counselors, all of whom are experienced in disaster response and provid-

ing trauma-related services.

According to Cianelli, who serves as Project Director, "mental health, as defined by western psychiatry and psychology, has never been a priority in Haiti, a PAHO/



Dr. Guerda Nicolas and Dr. Carole Roseau with class in Cap-Haitien



Dr. Rosina Cianelli and Dr. Carole Roseau meet with class in Cap-Haitien



Dr. Roseau meets with first class in Cap-Haitien

WHO report counted just a handful psychiatrists working in the Cap-Haitien region providing care for over 1-Million residents. This program for the first time will focus on training healthcare professionals to treat the mind along with the body.”

The program will educate 125 nurses, physicians and social workers in Cap-Haitien and the rural areas to identify the signs of mental health illness and offer immediate support for patients in need. The second phase will be to identify and provide more advanced training to a selected group of 25 – “on-site trainers,” who will expand the network of mental health services further into the region to sustain the long-term capacity-building at HUI.

Dean Peragallo says this is a perfect example of how our long standing relationship with Haiti is making a difference, “there is a great need to expand the (HUI’s) mental health services and expand mental health services to the (HUI’s) five satellite centers which serve the greater Northern Haiti region. The lack of mental health services not only results in patients not being treated for mental health problems but also results in a misuse of resources because many patients are tested and treated for physical ailments, and cases of depression and anxiety diagnoses are missed.”

Nicolas agrees with Peragallo saying, it is critical to establish a sustained mental health effort in Haiti, “Haiti is my home and I want Haitians to understand that mental health is not a stigma but a legitimate medical issue and not to be afraid to talk with a healthcare professional, and ask for assistance.”



Dr. Rosina Cianelli



Dr. Guerda Nicolas

.....
“Haiti is my home and I want all Haitians to understand that mental health is not a stigma but a legitimate medical issue and not to be afraid to talk with a healthcare professional, and ask for assistance.”
.....

Dr. Guerda Nicolas



Canes Giving Back to the Community

“We are providing preventative healthcare for hundreds of local residents who have nowhere else to turn,” says Vivian Padron-Fajardo, PhD, ARNP. According to Fajardo, “community healthcare is not just my specialty, but also my love. I am truly humbled by the incredible opportunity these events have afforded myself and my beloved nursing students. We are providing a service which accomplishes the general goals for screening and early detection of severe health disorders.”

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Florida has the second-lowest rate of health insurance for people younger than 65 in

According to Fajardo, Community Healthcare is a calling to help those in need with nowhere else to turn for professional healthcare. “Consistent with our mission as nurses, we have an obligation to serve our community members. Some of our patient’s haven’t seen a doctor in several years. We have a chance to make a real difference in their lives by catching a potential life-threatening condition like heart disease, hypertension or diabetes early on. As I often tell my students, this is a major commitment and a calling to serve patients; we should never take that gift for granted.”

The School of Nursing and Health Studies Community Healthcare program was initially



the country, trailing only Texas. Excluding Medicare-eligible senior citizens, one in four Floridians lives without any form of medical coverage. According to Fajardo, “people who are underemployed or even unemployed are fighting to get by daily and for many preventive healthcare is not an option.” Fajardo says the numbers come as no surprise, “we are seeing patients with dangerous blood pressures above 220, high blood sugar levels that are walking time-bombs who haven’t seen a doctor or nurse practitioner in years.”

started in 2004 by Rosemary Hall, PhD. In 2008, Fajardo, says she developed a plan to expand on the excellent work accomplished by Hall, and “give back to the entire community.” Fajardo, wanted to bring preventative healthcare directly to the people by nearly doubling the number of community health fairs. According to Fajardo, “the Health Fairs serve as an opportunity to implement secondary preventive care to individuals in need.”

However, in many cases, we are these patient’s only option for healthcare. We

screen for hypertension, hypercholesteremia, obesity, visual deficits, hyperglycemia and discuss HIV/AIDS and the potential of sexually transmitted diseases. We serve a population who are in much need of early diagnostic assessments and the vast majority of our patients have no primary care provider or even health insurance. I have seen the numbers of patients triple over the past few years."

Fajardo says she works closely with Cecilia Calderon Salzburg, Health Access Coordinator in Human Resources to identify patients across the community "we are focusing on independent contractors (not employees) who provide cleaning services, landscaping and even food preparation at the University who often struggle to visit primary care providers because of their financial constraints, a lack of time, or in some cases, a lack of any health insurance.

Although our mission is not to replace necessary primary care, we do have a unique opportunity to reinforce medication adherence or recommend further follow up with primary care physicians and nurse practitioners. These individuals count on us to provide them with guidance for their healthcare needs. Many of these independent contractors have no other healthcare, and in some cases may be afraid to seek care because of their perceived immigration status.



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**"Community healthcare is not just my specialty,
but a calling to help those in need with nowhere
else to turn for professional healthcare."**
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Nursing students as part of a class requirement, are staffing the health fairs and providing services ranging from blood pressure and blood sugar screening, to cholesterol checks, hypertension, Vision checks and Body Mass Index (BMI). "This program is making a difference in the community by catching health problems early allowing us to recommend alternatives to a healthier lifestyle by changing eating habits, creating a greater focus on nutrition, exercise and fitness, cholesterol reduction, healthy cooking, weight management and stress management."

As part of the clinical requirements for students enrolled in the "Population Focused Nursing" NUR 440 course, nursing students are required to attend the health fair events. Nurses from the school are on the front lines working one-on-one with these patients gaining valuable skills and critical experience interacting with patients and at the same time to help improve the health of each one of their patients."

There is nothing more rewarding than catching a problem early and preventing a heart attack or stroke. Fajardo and her small healthcare army of nursing students, have many friends and countless success stories of patients who they have touched throughout the Miami/Dade County community who are in a much healthier state today than they were just a few years ago when they first attended a health fair. "By providing each individual with teaching as they move from one screen station to the other, nursing students partner with each participant and demonstrate what I believe to be the crux of nursing: compassion, caring and commitment to serve."

As the number of health fairs has grown, so too has the number of patients making return visits. "As nurses, our true reward is not financial but instead an emotional reward worth more than any amount of money. It is the hope that we have made a difference in at least one patient's life. These health fairs provide my nurses with all the riches we need. Our students walk away with much more than they ever expected after these valuable events. My students are making a difference daily in our community."



State of the Art Technology



A mannequin that can blink, breathe, convulse and go into full cardiac arrest. The Human Patient Simulator (HPS) is the next generation of Anesthesia simulation training and education at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

"It's been over a decade, since the groundbreaking report "To Err is Human" issued by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 1999 indicated that as many as 98,000 Americans die each year from medical errors and 70% of the errors can be attributed to "human factors." Inadequate training provisions at all stages of a clinician's career is widely recognized as one of the contributing factors to why medical errors occur. The School of Nursing and Health Studies is committed to reducing the number of medical errors by utilizing state of the art technology like HPS to help identify potential training issues in the lab, long before a student ever provides patient care.

"We have the technology with our simulation program and HPS to replicate just about anything that can go wrong during patient care," says Jordan Halasz the new Technical Director of Simulation Services at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

The HPS is the only patient simulator with the ability to provide respiratory gas exchange, anesthesia delivery and full patient monitoring with real physiological clinical monitors. The key features include: pupils that automatically dilate and constrict in response to light, thumb twitch in response to a peripheral nerve stimulator, automatic recognition and response to administered drugs and dosages, variable lung compliance and airway resistance, chest tube drainage and simulated urine output. Repeatedly run the most complex

cases with ease—and tailor the difficulty to match the skills of every student."

According to Halasz, "the HPS features such as tremors, secretions and pupillary responses to light will allow us a broader range of scenarios to be created and ultimately make them more realistic." This cutting edge tool and technology comes with a very high price tag. However, thanks to a grant to the School from the Hugoton Foundation, the first new HPS is being utilized by students.

"As a nurse for over 50 years, I feel privileged to be able to support nursing education, which is unfortunately poorly funded, but is vitally needed for the health of everyone in the United States," says Joan Stout, RN, President and Managing Director of the Hugoton Foundation. Stout, a member of the School of Nursing and Health Studies Visiting Committee, hopes the new simulator will "better prepare nursing students to be clinically competent at the bedside."

Halasz says "this technology is allowing our students to learn from their errors in simulation without any adverse impact to patients. I am confident saying the possible errors we are preventing daily with this technology will save lives in hospitals across the country. We allow students to make the errors in the lab and make certain they learn from their mistakes. The bottom line is utilizing education to reduce medical errors and save lives."

Stout is encouraging others to follow her lead and invest in the future of Nursing, "with the shortage of nursing which will continue and grow, everyone interested in the future health and well-being of the citizen's of our country, should support nursing education."



Joan Stout
Hugoton Foundation

NURSE ANESTHESIA

No Longer the Best Kept Secret in Healthcare

What is the common bond between a Tampa Bay Buccaneers professional dancer, a Russian linguistics teacher, a Chinese engineer with a PhD and a performing concert vocalist? They are all professionals who decided to change careers and entered the Certified Nurse Anesthesia Program at the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

"I have my PhD in mechanical engineering and had a very successful career until the auto industry in Detroit turned upside down," say Jianxin Yang, PhD, MS, and BSN. "I did a lot of research and decided to go back to school at the age of 42 to become a nurse." Yang, is not alone, many professionals with master's and doctoral degrees in fields other than nursing are taking a close look at Nurse Anesthesia program as a new career.

The CRNA profession is one of the fastest growing careers in healthcare. Today, More than 40,000 CRNAs administer 30 million anesthetics in the United States each year. CRNA's work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

According to Rossana Bizzio, MS, CRNA, Nurse Anesthesia Program Director, Clinical Partners Liaison "the UM CRNA programs are recognized as one of the top 40 programs in the country and we hope to be in the top ten by 2012. Our simulation labs and surgical operating suite are among the most technically advanced in the country. If a complication develops during an anesthetic, we can duplicate the process, allowing faculty to provide an un-matched learning environment. This program is prompting many professionals to take a



Irina Lapchina, SRNA



Georgia Brown, SRNA



Robert Beck, SRNA

second look at their careers."

"Russian is my native language" says Irina Lapchina MS, BSN. "I earned my master's degree in education and linguistics in 2000 at State Linguistic University, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia. I was working as a part-time teacher in Russia. However, I decided to pursue my piece of the American Dream and entered an exchange program to come to the United States." According to Lapchina, "learning never stops." She obtained her BSN in 2005 and then applied to the School of Nursing and Health Studies CRNA Program to get into a more challenging and rewarding field.

Robert Beck, BSN, CCRN had a very successful professional career as a vocalist and musician, he was performing before audiences by the age of 18. "I performed at the Fort Worth Opera, in Texas at the age of 18," says Beck. "I had a promising future. However, I decided I wanted a more fulfilling career giving back and caring for others. I decided to change direction and the CRNA program at UM was very appealing. Today, I know it was a smart decision."

Georgia Brown, BSN was a professional dancer for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers when she decided to go back to school to obtain her BSN. "I was always interested in nursing, my step-mother was a nurse." Brown looked into the CRNA program at UM and found the perfect new career. "The work is very challenging but rewarding, these patient's lives are in our hands and you develop a special bond with your patients. I have learned so much in this program and am ready to put my skills to work and provide outstanding patient care," says Brown.

According to Bizzio, these four students actually reflect many of the applications she receives from students around the world, who for a variety of reasons are taking a closer look at nursing and the CRNA

Program, "I have an accomplished surgeon from China who after an outstanding career in research has applied for acceptance into our program."

The goal of the program is to make sure graduates are ready for the challenges ahead. According to Valerie Bell MSN, CRNA, Nurse Anesthesia Associate Program Director and Simulation Coordinator, "this program does an excellent job of providing students with real world experience through simulated life and death experiences in a controlled environment. We want to correct mistakes in their thinking and subsequent actions, before students go into clinical."

The didactic curricula of nurse anesthesia programs provides students the scientific, clinical, and professional foundation upon which to build sound and safe clinical practice. The basic nurse anesthesia academic curriculum and prerequisite courses focus on coursework in anesthesia practice: pharmacology of anesthetic agents and adjuvant drugs including concepts in chemistry and biochemistry.

Reflecting the level of responsibility, CRNAs are one of the highest paid nursing specialties. However, Brown says the financial rewards are only a small part of why she loves this profession "we have a tremendous responsibility, patients are putting their lives into our hands and counting on us for professional patient care. I want my patients and their loved ones to be reassured, knowing they are dealing with a skilled professional who has received the most intensive training and education and is prepared for anything that may develop during their procedure.

The Schools CRNA program annually receives about 200 applications but due to class size limitations, only 40 are accepted. However, for those accepted, the CRNA field offers endless possibilities and one of the most rewarding careers you will ever find. "We expect from students absolute professional commitment and dedication to patient care as our primary admission goal into our program," says Bizzio. A point echoed by Jianxin Yang, "so far there have been challenging times but this program has strengthened my perseverance and dedication to quality care. I have a long way to go, but I have found my new profession and encourage others not to be afraid to reach for your dreams, even at the age of 42."

Jianxin Yang, SRNA

The CRNA profession is one of the fastest growing careers in healthcare. Today, More than 40,000 CRNAs administer 30 million anesthetics in the United States each year.



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"It's time to take the handcuffs off
advanced practice nurses and let these
professionals practice to the full extent of
their education, training and competence."
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LEADING CHANGE, ADVANCING HEALTH



*T*he numbers are staggering, an American Association of Medical Colleges' report in December, projected by 2015, we will be dealing with a shortage of over 65,000 physicians in this country. At the same time, the National Institutes of Health indicates that as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 32-million Americans will need healthcare coverage beginning in 2014. In addition, there are over 78-million baby boomers in the United States born in the 1940s and 1950s growing older requiring more healthcare services. The current healthcare system can't absorb the influx of patients and provide the same level of quality patient care.

Still hampered by workforce shortages and barriers that impede their ranks from delivering quality healthcare to the full extent of their education and training, nurses across the country may have finally received a much needed shot in the arm to transform their profession. In October, a committee commissioned by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), released the results of a 500-page report recommending sweeping changes to improve and advance the nursing profession and patient care.

The report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," is the product of a committee chaired by University of Miami President Donna Shalala, recommends four key steps: Nurses should be allowed to practice to the full extent of their education and training, Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through advanced degrees and an improved educational system that promotes seamless academic progression to Nurse Leaders, Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other healthcare providers in redefining healthcare in the United States, and improved workforce planning and policy making tied to better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.



"This is, we believe, a landmark report," President Shalala said at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., where she and a contingent of other committee members including Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, an Assistant Professor at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies, detailed the major recommendations of the document. According to Shalala, "this report will usher in the golden age of nursing in which nursing takes its rightful place on the front lines in leadership positions with physicians to design the blueprint for a new American healthcare system."

The School of Nursing and Health Studies since January, has held two large public forums with President Shalala, Dean and Professor Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, Dr.PH, RN, FAAN, Doctor Gonzalez-Guarda, and world renowned nursing and medical experts to discuss that healthcare "blue print" along with revisions to the SONHS curriculum to implement the Committee recommendations. The (IOM) report is really about the future of healthcare for the American public," explained Gonzalez-Guarda.



nurses and nurse practitioners expanded scope of practice claiming, "increasing the responsibilities of nurses is not the solution to the physician shortage." Various, physician's organizations argue that physician's longer more intensive training means that nurse practitioners cannot deliver primary care services that are as high-quality or safe as those of physicians.

However, the Future of Nursing committee addressed that issue, calling for higher levels of education and training for nurses to be able to meet the new areas of responsibilities dealing with advanced patient care. In specific, the committee is recommending that the proportion of nurses in the United States who hold at least a bachelor's degree be increased from current levels around 50% up to 80% by 2020. At the same time the committee is calling for doubling the number of advanced practice professionals with doctoral degrees.

Gonzalez-Guarda says there is no data supporting the AMA argument that NP's can't deliver the same level of care as physicians."The committee looked at states that impose greater restrictions on nurse



The IOM report is really about the future of healthcare for the American public," explained Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda. "The 18-member committee is comprised of an interdisciplinary group with expertise in nursing, public health, medicine, economics, business administration, technology, workforce planning, healthcare consumers, managed care experts and others in pertinent health related areas. The nature of the committee, coupled with the IOM process of only providing recommendations based on strong evidence help ensure that these recommendations are not self-serving and consequently respected."

The report calls for the elimination of regulatory and institutional obstacles including limits on nurses' scope of practice which are state rules about what care people who are not physicians can provide. According to Gonzalez-Guarda, "it is critical to allow nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training. When nurses and nurse practitioners are used to their full capacity and allowed to make quality of care decisions for their patients, it frees up doctors to be involved in more advanced patient care and critical care resulting in better health outcomes for the American public."

As soon as the report was issued, the American Medical Association (AMA) issued a statement reiterating its opposition to giving



practitioners to see if there was any data indicating those states provide safer and better care than nurse practitioners in less restrictive states and the findings indicate, "there is no correlation between stricter guidelines on NPs and improved patient care."

American Nurse Association (ANA) president Karen Daley in a published report in the American Journal of Nursing indicated, "It's important to understand we're not looking to expand NP's scope of Practice. What we want is full utilization of their skill, knowledge and experience. That means when NP's and other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN's) are qualified to function in an advanced practice role, such as primary care provider, they are allowed to do so. We do not want to be doctors. We simply want to remove the barriers that exist in the regulatory arena and the private payer system."

Sixteen states plus the District of Columbia have already rewritten their scope of practice regulations and today allow nurse practitioners to practice and prescribe independently. According to Shalala, "Florida remains in the restrictive category, somewhere in the middle of the pack requiring direct physician supervision. It's time to take the handcuffs off advanced practice nurses and let these professionals practice to the full extent of their education, training and competence."

Gonzalez-Guarda says, "in order to optimize the use of nurses in a reformed healthcare system, bedside nurses and nurses in all levels and areas of practice need to step up to the plate and assume leadership positions. They must initiate changes that will translate into better care for patients. They must be part of the decision making of health care organizations. However, in order for this to be possible, leadership positions need to be available to nurses. This is why the IOM Committee report calls for opportunities to be expanded for nurses to lead and coordinate collaborative efforts to improve patient care."

Nilda (Nena) P. Peragallo, Dr.PH, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor, University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies says fighting the expansion of nursing leaders and scope of practice is no longer a defensible strategy. "Nurses need the ability to practice to the full extent of their education and training. Why are we prohibiting highly educated and trained professional advanced practice nurses from making independent decisions to benefit their patients? The increased need for primary care, the deficits in primary care providers and all the research supporting the safety, quality and effectiveness of primary care provided by advanced practice nurses weighed heavily in the committee's recommendation that nurses need to play a greater role in patient care."

Many of the committee recommendations are already part of the SONHS curriculum and the school plans to continue increasing nurse education at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels. Peragallo says "increasing the number of nurses with advanced practice and doctoral degrees will help to address nurse attrition and insure we have enough nurse (faculty) to educate the next generation of healthcare providers."

Committee members say that along with education, the next critical component is retention of new nursing graduates. The report cites a high rate of nursing turnover, as many new graduates reference a lack of preparedness for their new responsibilities. The report calls for State Boards of Nursing, accrediting bodies, the federal government, and health care organizations to take actions to support nurses' completion of a transition-to-practice program (nurse residency) after they have completed a pre-licensure or advanced practice degree program or when they are transitioning into new clinical practice areas.

Shalala is a supporter of establishing a nurse residency program, "nurse retention, along with advanced education and training are critical. We cannot create significant improvements in the quality of healthcare or coverage unless professional highly educated nurses' who are on the front lines of patient care, are transitioned into new system and moved front and center in leadership, education, training

and design of the new healthcare system. We can't be fighting with each other if we are sincere about building a new and improved high quality system that we can afford."

With the IOM committee recommendations on the table, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is moving to the next phase, working with all 50-states to implement the recommendations. The RWJF has formed ten Regional Action Committees to move the key healthcare workforce-related issues forward at the local, state and national levels. California, New Jersey, New York, Michigan and Mississippi launched the initial regional action committees last year. Florida

is in the second wave with Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New Mexico, Virginia and Washington.


In the United States, 2.9-million nurses represent 80% of the total number of healthcare providers. According to Shalala, "based on their sheer numbers alone, nurses have a powerful voice for change. The nurses who comprise the vast majority of employees in the healthcare system underscore their importance and impact on the delivery of patient care. Their numbers combined with their

direct proximity to patients, and knowledge about what patients need, makes them particularly suited to advance strategies for improving care and saving resources."

The Committee is not alone in calling for an increased role for nurses, the Macy Foundation is supporting broader scope of practice boundaries, increased education and leadership positions for nurses and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is now also supporting a broader role for nurse practitioners in primary care.

The Committee is calling for healthcare providers to provide leadership development, mentoring programs, and opportunities to lead for all members. Nursing education programs should integrate leadership theory and business practices

across the curriculum, including clinical practice. Public, private, and governmental health care decision makers at every level should include representation from nursing on boards, on executive management teams, and in other key leadership positions.

Dean Peragallo says, "This report should serve as a catalyst for nurses to turn these recommendations into regulations. Nurses with the education and skills must be placed in leadership positions. The time has come to work together to implement an affordable health-care system providing outstanding patient care that promotes patient safety and is accessible to all patients. I am hopeful that we will find common ground and take a major step forward to improve patient care in the United States." 



.....

"In the United States, 2.9-million nurses represent 80% of the total number of healthcare providers."

.....



A NURSING PIONEER

Still Giving after 70-years:

When you think of South Florida Nursing Pioneers, the name Sima Gebel needs to be at the top of your list. Over 60-years after she first walked through the doors at the old University of Miami School of Nursing, Sima Gebel is still committed to her profession and giving back to the School she loves. "If I can encourage one new nursing student to dedicate their career to caring for patients... I will have accomplished my final chapter."

The Chapter's in a book about Sima Gebel, would trace the history of the advent of modern day nursing. Gebel despite endless career obstacles and discrimination, moved forward in a brilliant career confronting everything from racial quotas limiting the number of Jewish nursing students in her program, to the pain of the Great Depression, she challenged Segregation and lead the charge for African American Nurses in South Florida's (District 28) by welcoming "with open arms" the first black nurses in the Civil Rights Movement.

Gebel received her RN in 1945, and describes nursing at the 2000 bed Cook County Hospital in Chicago. She was there when due to the war, the nursing staff of 400 was cut to 80. She worked 7-days a week, around the clock for months at a time caring for the sick and dying. "I think back on those days and wonder how I was able to care for so many patients, and get bed pans to hundreds of patients daily... across the decades we never have enough nurses," says Gebel.

In 1951, she started her nursing career in South Florida and became one of first graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Science degree nursing program at the University of Miami. "I was so proud to start my career at the University of Miami Student Clinic," says Gebel. Her first of many management positions developed one year later, she moved to Variety Children's Hospital as Director of Nurse Education and started dealing with the polio epidemics eventually becoming skilled with the Iron Lung. According to Gebel, "I will never forget, we had rooms full of the Iron Lungs for victims of polio, especially children stricken with paralysis and unable to breathe on their own." She remembers the development of the Salk vaccine and the lives

that were saved.

Over the next 20-years Gebel stayed focused on three key areas, Nursing Education, Pediatrics and giving to the School. In 1975,





.....

**“If I can encourage
one new nursing student
to dedicate their career
to caring for patients...
I will have accomplished my
final chapter.”**

.....

Gebel joined the UM School of Medicine as an instructor in Pediatrics, while at the same time advancing her own education at the School of Nursing working to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. Three years later in 1978, she became an instructor in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. Gebel says, “a lot has changed over the years, today, I am so proud to see so many advances in the field and nurses finally becoming leaders. These new nurses are so smart and talented, but I wish they didn’t have to do so much paperwork...the paperwork takes away from patient care. Nothing is more important than caring for patients and giving back.”

Caring and giving are the two words that depict Gebel’s entire career. At every step in her career she gave back to the University of Miami, from small donations as a young nurse, to annual donations, donations to build the new School of Nursing and Health Studies building, the establishment of a nursing student loan program in the name of her late brother Irving Gebel, and in 2006 she established the “Sima Gebel Doctoral Nursing Scholarship Fund” to support the advancement of nurses seeking advanced degrees as Doctor’s of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctors of Philosophy (PhD) to become the next generation of nurse leaders.

“Advanced Degrees for nurses are critical to continue the growth and progression of our profession. We need more nursing leaders and that takes education. I created the scholarship for doctoral students to encourage nurses to pursue the same dreams I had to provide outstanding patient care. You must always remember to give back to your School.” And she is continuing to give with an even larger commitment. Gebel has included the School of Nursing and Health Studies in her estate plans in the form of a gift to support the Doctoral Nursing Scholarship fund for years to come. “In the Jewish faith we call it Mitzvot, you need to always give to receive. After just celebrating my 88th birthday, I have received so much during my career, I have a lot more giving planned.”



Guest of Honor

Courtesy E-Veritas



University of Miami President Donna Shalala has many celebrities to her home...but this may be the first simulator. Meet "Sim Man 3G" a School of Nursing and Health Studies mannequin who made a "House Call" last month to mingle with more than a dozen donors, trustees, alumni, and community leaders during a private dinner and classroom-like learning experience. "It sounds just like a real heart," according to Betty Alvarez, a retired nurse who earned her degree from the University of Miami in 1965 before starting a career as a certified diabetes educator and clinical researcher. The dignitaries gathered to personally examine the guest of honor and listen to his chest sounds, take his pulse, and peered into his pupils.

Sim Man can breathe, cry, sweat, register a pulse, catch a cold, and even bleed. Two of the school's other mannequins can give birth to babies that coo, turn blue, and exhibit a host of other emotions. UM trustee Marta Weeks cares for Baby Hal an infant patient simulator, one of 17 patient simulators at the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Simulators are changing the way student nurses are trained, teaching them how to catheterize a patient, hook up an IV line, care for a patient with an amputated leg, and even help deliver a baby in distress—all before going into the clinical setting. "We

get theory in the classroom," said nurse educator Susana Barroso, who helped explain many of the lifelike functions. "Simulation allows us to put it into practice." During a semester, as many as 100 nursing students will train on one of the school's high-tech mannequins over an eight-hour shift.

They will make their fair share of mistakes, "but the beauty of this is that it's a simulation, and the students learn from their errors," said Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor of the School of Nursing and Health Studies. To aid in the teaching process, training sessions are videotaped and observed by instructors and other students in a separate room, and teams are debriefed after their shifts end, learning what they did wrong and where they can improve."

"Simulation is revolutionizing the future of health care in this country because it allows both nurses and doctors to have vibrant experiences in health care before they actually go out into the field," said Kim Greene, executive director of the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation, which funds initiatives at the Miller School of Medicine and a network of school health clinics in Miami-Dade. "The ability to learn something and say, 'I'll never make that mistake again' is heightened because they're in a situation where they know they're being looked at and critiqued."



PhD Student applies for National Research Service Award

Is there a connection between stressful life events and an increase in the risk of HIV infection for gay men? New research out of Canada indicates gay men testing HIV-positive were more likely than those who tested HIV-negative to report five or more recent stressful events. In an effort to better understand the relationship between stress and HIV infection for gay men, Aubrey Florom-Smith, a doctoral student at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, has applied for an NIH research grant and received the highest score possible from NIH reviewers to study a stress process model.

According to Florom-Smith, "gay and bisexual men with HIV infection may experience discrimination that negatively impacts their health. My dissertation will test a stress process model predicting depression and high risk sexual behavior. By looking at the pathways between different forms of discrimination and the outcomes of depression and high risk sexual behavior, within the context of social support and life events, I hope to better understand the possible influence of discrimination on these outcomes, and also to possibly identify potential points of entry for future intervention development."



**Aubrey Florom-Smith,
PhD Student**

Florom-Smith has applied for the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Predoctoral Fellows in Nursing Research (F31) from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). The purpose of this program is to train future generations of outstanding nurse scientists who are committed to research careers in scientific health-related fields relevant to the programmatic interests of the NINR.

According to Dean and Professor Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, Dr.PH, RN, FAAN, "we are thrilled to see Aubrey moving forward with initial approval for the Ruth L. Kirschstein Research Service Award."

Florom-Smith is currently waiting for final approval from the NIH and hopes to begin her study in the coming months.

Visiting Committee Helps Further School's Mission

The School of Nursing and Health Studies' Visiting Committee comprises members of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, community leaders, and healthcare professionals who are charged with assisting the school in furthering its mission of healthcare excellence.

The Visiting Committee serves the school in a external advisory capacity, encouraging and supporting the work of the school, its faculty students and alumni.

The following members have been appointed to serve on this committee for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Jayne Sylvester Malfitano, Chair*

President, Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation

Edward A. Dauer, MSBE '01, MD '75, BSEC '72*

President Florida Medical Services, Inc.

Enrique C. Falla, Sr., BBA '65*

Former Executive Vice President
Dow Chemical Company/Guidant Corporation

Pamela J. Garrison, RN

Community Leader

Thelma Anderson Gibson, BSN*

President Emeritus
Theodore R. Gibson Memorial Fund, Inc.

Jacquelin Gonzalez, ARNP, MSN '87, NEA-BC, FAAN

Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, and Patient Safety Officer
Miami Children's Hospital

Kim Greene, LCSW

Executive Director
Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation

Leah Kinnaird, EdD, RN

Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer Jackson Health Systems

Roger J. Medel, MD, MBA '89*

Chief Executive Officer
MEDNAX

Deborah S. Mulvihill, MSN, RN, FACHE

Corporate Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer
Baptist Health South Florida

M. Christine Schwartz, MSN, MS, RN*

Community Leader

Maria Lamas Shojae, AB '85*

Chief Executive Officer
Shoma Development Corp.

Ronald G. Stone, BBA '73*

President
The Comprehensive Companies

Joan K. Stout, RN

President and Managing Director
Hugoton Foundation

David Zambrana, DNP '10, MBA, RN

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer
University of Miami Hospital

Nilda (Nena) P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

Nancy Castleman-Dion, MALS '04

Executive Director for Advancement
University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

* University of Miami Board of Trustees

Open House Brunch and Tour



2011 Save the Date

The reels of progress have been spinning since 1948, capturing the indelible imprint each student makes on the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. Come celebrate YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY as we roll the credits to honor all alumni at Alumni Weekend and Homecoming 2011!



School of Nursing and Health Studies Schedule:

Friday, November 4, 2011

Homecoming Parade- Alumni Walk in the Homecoming Parade

Saturday, November 5, 2011

School of Nursing and Health Studies 63rd Annual Alumni Breakfast and Morning Spirits Celebrating Class Reunions

Homecoming Game- Duke University vs. University of Miami

Sunday, November 6, 2011

Golden Ibis Society Celebration Brunch



Stay in touch:

www.miami.edu/alumniweekend

SONHS

Advancement Office

305-284-1892

ncastlem@miami.edu



Homecoming 2010

Celebrating

Homecoming Parade



62nd Annual Alumni Breakfast and Morning Spirits Celebrating Class Reunions





Faculty Member heads to the Dominican Republic:

Kenya Snowden, MSN, ANP, ACNP-BC

When you think of a weekend getaway with the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) to the Dominican Republic the first vision is white sandy beaches, gentle azure waters, and a resort. However, to Kenya Snowden, MSN, ANP, ACNP-BC, Faculty Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, her resort, was rapidly replaced by a small hospital.

Snowden and a team of 33 volunteers including six-physicians and nurses from Miami, make the semi-annual medical mission to the Hospital Manuel J Centurion at the non-profit ILAC Center, Licey al Medico medical facility in the Dominican Republic every six months, to provide medical assistance to thousands of patients just a few miles outside Santiago de los Caballeros. The team includes specialists in cardiology, pediatric medicine, gynecology, urology, infectious disease, internal medicine and Snowden. "We saw well over one-thousand patients."

"We see poor people who have traveled for hours to be seen for hypertension, diabetes, and coronary artery disease. This last trip we arranged for a 15-year-old boy to get a pacemaker, and two additional children, one nine-years old and the other nineteen were able to get open heart life saving surgery arranged free of charge. This mission allows me to use my training to provide life saving care for those in desperate need."



The Influence of Cultural Factors on Sexual Behaviors:

Dr. Joseph De Santis, PhD, ARNP, ACRN

Dr. Joseph De Santis PhD, ARNP, ACRN, Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing and Health Studies has obtained a grant from the Developmental Center for AIDS Research (D-CFAR) at the UM Miller School of Medicine to explore the influences of cultural factors on HIV risk factors.

According to the Center for Disease Control, while

Hispanics/ Latinos represented 15% of the total United States (US) population in 2006, they accounted for 17% of new HIV infections in the 50 states and the District of Columbia during that same year. The rate of new HIV infections among Hispanics/Latinos in 2006 was 2.5 times that of whites.

According to De Santis, "the numbers are of great concern. Hispanic/Latino men made up three quarters (76%) of new infections among all Hispanics/Latinos. The rate of new infections among Hispanic/Latino men was more than double that of white men. The goal of the study will be obtaining information to assist in the development of a culturally-appropriate intervention to address the intersection of high risk sexual behaviors, substance abuse behaviors, mental health, and violence that disproportionately affect Hispanic men. De Santis will be collaborating with South Beach AIDS Project on this study, and will be assisted by Dr. Diego De Leon and PhD student Aubrey Florom-Smith.



Outstanding Recent Graduate Award:

Rosa Maria Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, MPH, RN, CPH

In March, Johns Hopkins University recognized Dr. Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, an Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing and Health Studies as their "Outstanding Recent Graduate." Melinda Rose, the Director of Alumni Relations at Johns Hopkins University indicated "we are pleased that the university has recognized your outstanding work improving the health of minorities throughout the world."

Faculty Members Tackle Adolescent Depression Research:

**Dr. Daniel Santisteban, PhD
Dr. Maite Mena PsyD**

20% of teens in our country at some point in their lives will experience some form of depression but less than one-third will receive treatment. Dr. Daniel Santisteban, PhD and Dr. Maite Mena, PsyD, have obtained three grants from the National Institutes of Health for research that provides early treatment of depression,



ADHD, and Conduct Disorder. The programs focus on Hispanic and African American teens and will provide free treatment to 500-minority families. To date, the program has already served over 150 adolescents and families.

According to Santisteban, “the goal of the research project is identify and treat at risk adolescents. Early identification and aggressive treatment of emotional behavioral problems is essential to avoid the paths of destruction that many families in our community are dealing with daily. Untreated, Depression, ADHD and Conduct Disorder have been found to increase the risks of serious problems such as drug use and risky sexual behavior among adolescents.”

Faculty Members attend QSEN Conference:

Dr. Jeanne Siegel, PhD, ARNP
Dr. Denise Korniewicz, PhD, RN, FAAN
Mary Asher, MSN, CS, CPAN



Jeanne Siegel, PhD, ARNP, Denise Korniewicz, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Mary Asher, MSN, CS, CPAN attended the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) faculty development train the trainer institute March 16-18, 2011 in Chicago, IL.

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as Phase III of QSEN, these enrichment opportunities are

designed to better prepare faculty to teach quality and safety content in entry-level registered nursing programs. The interactive coursework will focus on six core competencies: Patient-Centered Care, Teamwork and Collaboration, Evidence-Based Practice, Quality Improvement, Patient Safety and Informatics.

New Technical Director of the International Center for Clinical Simulation:

Jordan Halasz, Technical Director of Simulation Services



After 17 years at the Center for Medical Simulation (CMS) at Harvard, Jordan Halasz has joined the staff at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. Mr. Halasz designed and was the senior instructor for the Technical Track of the Institute for Medical Simulation (IMS). The IMS is a jointly sponsored endeavor of CMS and the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology; which offers courses for simulation leaders and educators. The SONHS has 3 graduates from that program with several more scheduled in the future. Halasz brings his simulation experience to a program that is already regarded as one of the top simulation programs in the country.

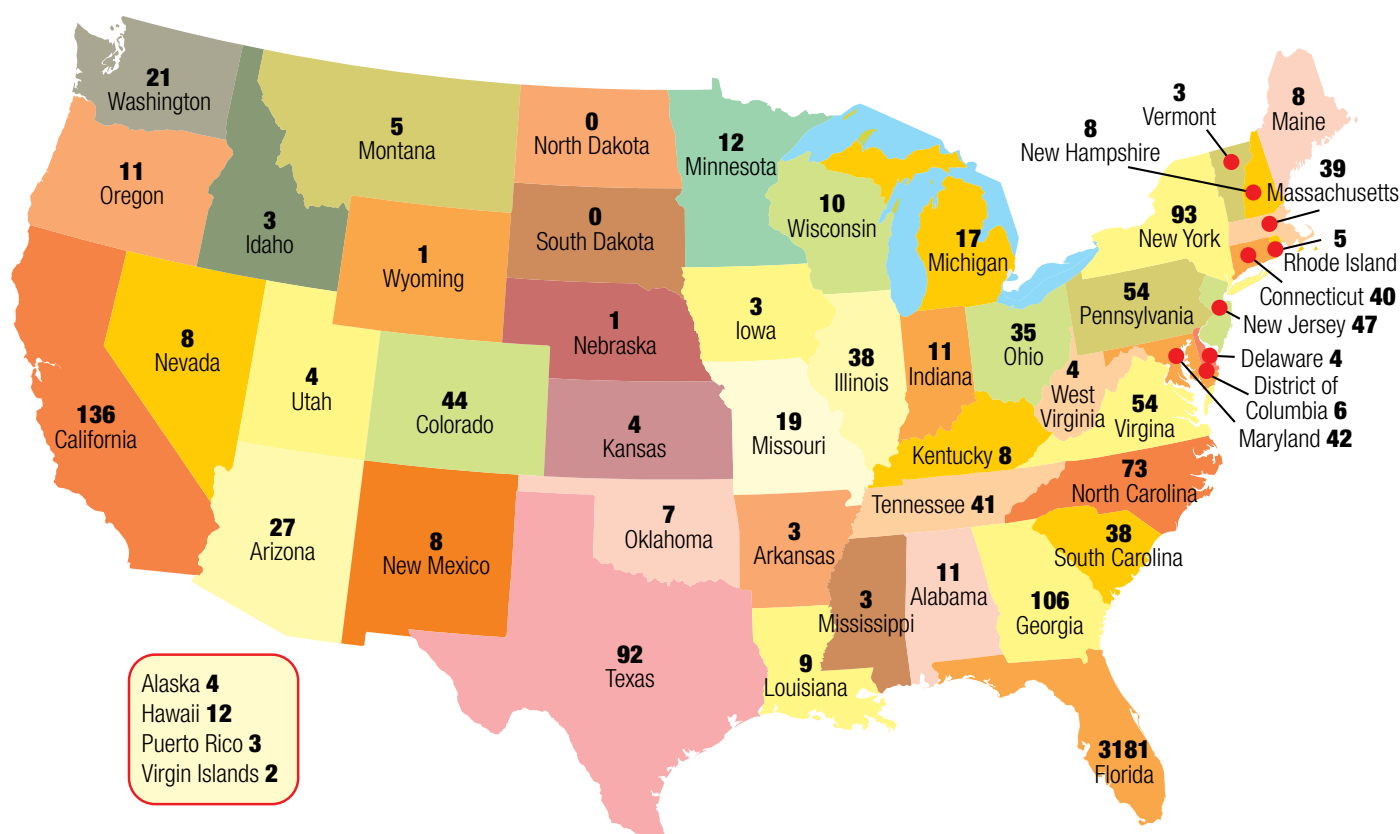


Where Are ?

University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies alumni are in every corner of the USA and the world. We want U to network, share information, mentor new alumni, but mainly stay connected.

As a graduate of the School of Nursing and Health Studies you are our most important asset and our greatest strength. We encourage you to stay connected with other alumni, current and former faculty, and students. Increase your involvement in our healthcare community by participating in your class reunion, organizing an alumni event in your city, and by giving financially.

Join the School's Alumni Association to benefit from the depth of the alumni networking as you seek connections, employment guidance and continuing education throughout the country after graduation. Every Cane has something to offer!



If you are interested in joining the School of Nursing and Health Studies Alumni Association please contact:

Nancy Castleman-Dion, MALS '04
Executive Director for Advancement
Office: 305-284-1892
Email: ncastlem@miami.edu

Join us for a
SONHS alumni gathering
near 

ALUMNI EVENTS





CONGRAT LATIONS



1963

Betty J. Severyn, BS

I treasure the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies for the education I received there and the encouragement and help I received from the faculty. I was 39 when I graduated from the university. U of M started me on a very rewarding career. I have been so proud of all that has been accomplished in Nursing Education at the U of M since my early days in Miami and read with interest the Alumni news. I continued to be active in the Nursing Community here in Tennessee including service on the Board of Nursing and the Commission on Aging and Disability. The faculty made the difference. THEY CARED!

1976

Ann M. Thrailkill, CNP '76

I'm currently an NP @Palo Alto VA in women's health doing Gyn and primary care. I live in Sunnyvale Ca. and have a son, patent attorney/chemist with a biotech firm. My daughter and 2 grandchildren live in Boston.

1979

Shirley Ryan, BSN '79, RN

Graduated class of '79, with my BSN, at the age of 46, and am now retired, living in Dana Point, CA. I worked in PACU for the last 10 years of my career in nursing and am now enjoying the relaxed life, traveling with my husband and working as a hospital volunteer. My current position is in PACU and Preop as a go-between for surgery patients and their families. Getting my nursing degree was one of the best things I have ever done.

1980

Judith Fields, BSN '80, RN

Graduated in 1980. Worked at Baptist Hospital Miami, FL until 2002. Retired with husband John to Palm Coast, FL in 2002 and have been very active in community, civic, church and schools in Flagler County.

Melody Ann Watral, BSN, '80, RN

(1990 – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, SON), BSN (1980 – University of Miami SON), RN, CPNP-PC (Post-Master's Certificate – UNC-CH, 1995), CPON. Presently the 'President-Elect'

for the National Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses, to begin 2 year term as President starting September 2011. Works at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC in the Outpatient Pediatric Neurosurgery Clinic as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

1981

Barbara Berry, BSN '81, MSN '86, PHD

Retired from Director of Nursing, Mailman Center for Child Development, University of Miami. Presently enjoying be a grandmother, the BEST VOCATION OF ALL.

1986

Lissette M. Exposito, BSN '86, RN, MHSN

Master in Health Services Administration from FIU 1983. Active in the home health care field and part of the Health Care Delegation task force for South Florida, helping to secure and shape the health care field for today & tomorrow.

1995

Richard Cuming, MSN '95, RN, EdD, NEA-BC

Completed his doctorate in adult education from FIU in December 2009 and is now a Vice President at the Jackson Health System and Chief Administrative Officer at Jackson South Community Hospital.

1996

Claudia M. Torres, BSN, '96

I will be graduating from the University of South Florida with a Master's of Library and Information Science in May 2011.

1997

Robin Korth, BSN '97, MSN '99

Is the publisher and creative force behind Insights On Aging (IOA), an online magazine that celebrates living. The research and teaching skills she learned in nursing school were fundamental to the launching of this project. Robin uses the IOA platform to teach and inspire others through keynotes, workshops, seminars and mentorship. She is also a writer and published author; her book, *The Guts of the Matter*, is available at her website, www.insightsonaging.com.



2000

Sonique Sailsman, BSN '00, MSNED

I was competitively selected to be a member of the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board-CPN Standard Setting Committee which carries a three year commitment. This committee sets the minimum passing score for the Certified Pediatric Nurse Examination.

2001

Lee Schmidt, PhD '01

Lee Schmidt (PhD '01), published an article in Nursing Research in November 2010. The title of the article was "Making Sure: Registered Nurses Watching Over their Patients." He also received a grant from the American Nurses Foundation/Southern Nursing Research Society in 2010 to conduct a study focused on registered nurse surveillance. He presented the findings from that study at the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives annual meeting in November 2010, and the Midwest Nursing Research Society meeting in March 2011.

2003

Caridad V. Mendoza, FNP

Working at UM as FNP. Location Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in the department of



Anesthesia and surgery, LOVE IT! 2 grown children also graduates from UM. My daughter married recently. Here are some pics with my family and the new addition. Life can't get any better! Well... grandbabies will make it even better..

2004

Marjay Jackson-Randall, BSN '04

I graduated in spring 2004, have worked med/surg, oncology, nursing informatics, and psychiatric mental health nursing. Also, I was selected in 2008 to help train staff of Stanford University hospital in transforming from traditional to electronic charting. Currently enrolled in Georgia State University Masters in Nursing program specializing in Adult and Behavioral Mental Health.

Jeanette Reyes, BSN '04

I graduated May of 2004. I have been living in Chicago Illinois since November 2004 and has been working at Illinois Masonic Medical Center in The Emergency Department. AIMMC is a Level One Trauma Center and is centrally located in the city of Chicago. I am also engaged to be married in July 2011 to a fellow UM alumni Alex Aguilar.

Julie M. Rodriguez-Gomez, BSN '04

Currently I work at University Community

Hospital in Women's Center Recovery, Tampa, Florida. And, I am working on my MSN in adult nurse practitioner at University of South Florida, class of 2012.

2005

Denver Bullard, BSN '05 and Coleen Prevostnik Alvarez, BSN '05

Will graduate from Philadelphia area Nurse Anesthesia programs this fall. Denver will receive his master's degree from Villanova University and Coleen will receive her master's degree from St. Joseph's University.

Beth Biele, BSN '05

Working for baptist health as an ER nurse and also fly for air ambulance professionals where we transport patients internationally and domestic for med-evac. Recently gave birth to my first child on December 29th - Anthony Mason Maragh

Monica Mudyano, BSN '05, RN

I work as a staff nurse at Miami Children's Hospital in the NICU. I serve as treasurer for the Southeast Florida Association of Neonatal Nurses. I am currently pursuing my MSN (Neonatal Nurse Practitioner track) at UF and should hopefully graduate in December! I also gave birth in 2009 to my beautiful baby girl, Alyssa.

Marissa Quest, BSN '05, RN

I graduated from UM in 05' with a BSN. I was also a cheerleader on the all girl squad from 2001-2003. I live in Staten Island and I have been working for the NYC DOE as a School Nurse for the last 4 years.

2006

Sharese Dixon-Banks, BSN '06

MSN is from Florida International University Currently an ARNP/CRNA, works @ New York Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia) in NYC.

Christopher A. Espinosa, BSN '06, RN

Currently working as a registered nurse at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center's Inpatient dept. which provides services in a 40-bed medical/surgical oncology unit for

patients with needs throughout the entire continuum, ranging from disease prevention, diagnosis, and end of life care.

Meagan Mulawka, BSN '06

I am currently working as an RN in NYC at NYU Langone Medical Center in the PACU/CVSCU. I will graduate this May 2011 from New York University with my MSN specializing in Acute Care.

Leonel Oliva, BSN '06

After graduating in 2006, I spent a year and a half working @ Mount Sinai Medical Center Before starting Travel Nursing to move to Los Angeles and pursue my Acting Career. My latest endeavor is a Full Length Feature Film I wrote and plan on Producing, Acting and maybe even Directing(to preserve the authenticity) this coming June based on what I have learned and experienced these last 4 years as a Nurse.

Courtney Pfaff Kimble, BSN '06

My husband and I married in September 2006 after graduation. We currently live in Palmyra VA just outside of Charlottesville VA. I am a clinical coordinator for the emergency room at Henrico Doctors Hospital in Richmond VA. My daughter is 2 and I am currently pregnant with our second child who is due March 30th.

2009

Yael Soberman, BSN '09

I am currently living in NYC and getting my masters in nursing and becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn.

2010

Jacqueline Cereijo, BSN '04, DNP '10, MBA, RN

Recently promoted to director at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Kendall satellite. Interim position from 7/2010 to 1/2011 and permanent position approved on 2/2011.

Carrin A. Crissey, BSN '09, RN

I graduated from the Accelerated BSN program in May 2009. I began working as an RN in the Emergency Department at the University of Miami Hospital in August

of 2009. There, I received unparalleled experience, developed critical nursing skills, and created lifelong friendships. Recently, in February 2011, I transferred to the UM Miller School of Medicine, Department of Medicine/Hepatology, where I work as a Nurse Specialist/Research Coordinator at the Center for Liver Diseases. I am amazed at the different career opportunities that nursing offers, am humbled by the patients who rely on us for their care, and appreciate the various challenges that we face as nurses. I am proud to be a Cane Nurse!

**Conchita S. Freitag,
MSN '09, BSC, RN**

Currently the coordinator of the Nursing Research & EBP Lunch and Learn at Jackson Health System. Also she is a currently a professor of the University of Phoenix School of Nursing, South Florida Campus. She remains to be the Nurse Educator for Ambulatory Services Division covering Special Immunology Clinic/ Hematology/ Oncology Clinic and the Infusion Center, Special Immunology Corridor D and Respiratory Clinic, Medical Clinics A, B and C including Jefferson Reaves Health Center and the Downtown Medical Center.

Diana J. Lankenau, BSN '10, RN

I graduated from University of Miami School of Nursing accelerated BSN program on August 2010, passed my NCLEX immediately on October (75 questions!). I am currently a Senior Registered Nurse for the State of Florida Department of Corrections at the Infirmary Department. I am proud to be a Cane!



Jennifer Prosnowski, BSN '10

I am working as a school nurse at Stratford Middle School in Bloomingdale, IL.

2011

**Carolina Figueredo,
BSN '05, MSN '11, RN**

Spine Nurse Specialist II, Department of Neurological Surgery. I graduated with a 4.0 GPA from the Nurse Education graduate program and I received the Clinical and Academic Excellence award for 2010 nurse educator from UM.

I will start a new Adjunct nursing instructor job at South University at Royal Palm Beach in June and am extremely excited. I will relocate to Palm beach County with my family to pursue my career long goal of teaching nursing.

**Tara Mendieta, DNP '11,
MSN, ACNP-BC, ANP**

I graduated in December 2010, passed boards two weeks ago and am now in UM's DNP program. Doctorate of Nursing Student

Make a Donation and Help Pave the Way

LEAVE A LEGACY BRICK CAMPAIGN

As an alumnus student or dedicated supporter of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, you have a unique opportunity to honor those who have made a difference in your academic and professional endeavors or to memorialize a special occasion.

By claiming a brick paver with a personalized commemorative message, you will leave a legacy for generations to come. Not only will your one of a kind paver become a permanent part of the schools courtyard, your generous donation will provide vital funding for innovative programming, student scholarships, as well as updates and enhancements to facilities at the school.

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School of Nursing and Health Studies
Advancement Office • Phone: 305-284-1892
Email: ncastlem@miami.edu



It's Easy to Leave a Legacy!



Through a bequest in your will, you still retain full use and control of your assets during your life. It's easy – just ask your attorney to draft a codicil to your existing will or, if you don't have a will, now is a good time to have one prepared. Your bequest to the School of Nursing and Health Studies can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or trust or you can designate specific property to be given to the School. You don't have to be wealthy to leave a legacy – any size gift can make an impact for generations to come.

By naming the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies as a beneficiary in your will, you can fulfill your philanthropic goals and support a cause at the School such as:

- ✓ Scholarships to recruit a diverse and talented student body and create a school community where every student is prepared to achieve success and find meaning in an increasingly complex global world.
- ✓ New research grants in the areas of health disparities, telemedicine and community based participatory research, and patient safety.
- ✓ Minimize your taxable estate.
- ✓ Simplify the probate process.

To learn more, or for assistance with sample bequest language, please contact:

Cynthia L. Beamish
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cbeamish@miami.edu

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PAST & PRESENT



60 Years of
Nursing Excellence

