# 16artbeat

**University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies** 

# FAST-TRACK FOR NURSE ANESTHETISTS





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features Toward a Healthy Home

provide integrative care for women recovering from depression, or substance abuse.

A Perfect Pairing SONHS nurse practitioner students learn to improve chronic disease outcomes through a connective high-tech academic-clinical partnership.

School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) nurse interventionists

spring 2017

contents

**Humanitarian Missions Go High-Tech** Innovative telemedicine system developed by a Doctor of Nursing Practice alumnus helps to deliver specialty care to patients in remote areas of Haiti.

26 Ahead of the Curve SONHS addresses shortage of Certified Nurse Anesthetists with new Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia Track.

# departments

Leadership

Interim Dean's Message

**Vital Signs** Major Gift for New Simulation Hospital • Civic Engagement Projects • Active Shooter Simulation • Pre-Pharmacy Shadowing Program • Health Care Meet-Up • Big-Screen Award-Winner

**Student Profile** Kristi Brownlee

**Faculty Updates** Faculty Honors and Achievements • New Faculty

Class Notes Good news from SONHS grads

**Alumni Profile** Valerie Manno-Shurr, B.S.N. '88, J.D. '92

36 Faculty Profile Régine Placide









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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.

# Message from the Interim Dean

It is my great privilege to serve as interim dean during this transformative time for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences (SONHS). I am continuously impressed by the quality of our students, alumni, faculty and staff and by the tremendous accomplishments that together we are achieving!

In this edition of *Heartbeat* you will see for yourselves some of the achievements I'm talking about. The cover story introduces you to a cohort of students that made history by graduating as the University of Miami's first B.S.N. to D.N.P. track nurse anesthetists from the first such degree

be a part of it."

program in Florida. We are proud to

have prepared these nurse anesthetists

to become leaders in anesthesia care

the Vital Signs section you will find

information on successful work being

with their doctoral education. In

done at other school levels and

divisions, from an "active shooter"

simulation to prepare our nursing

scenarios, to an expanding and

undergraduates to manage worst-case

innovative "shadowing" program aimed

"This is indeed an exciting time, maybe

the most remarkable moment, in school

history. I am honored and humbled to

at steering our health studies undergrads into careers as tomorrow's pharmacists, physicians, occupational and physical therapists.

Our programs' contributions extend across national borders. Turn the pages to learn about our students' and faculty members' novel use of technology to positively impact health care delivery and workforce training in Haiti. Closer to home, I am proud of our school's Engaged Faculty Fellows, and how one of them incorporated civic-mindedness

only to

only through the support of our donors, community

partners, and university leadership that the dream has become a reality. I invite you to read in this issue about one family whose generous support has already transformed health care not just at the University of Miami but throughout South Florida, and how their recent and major donation helped complete construction of our Simulation Hospital.

This is indeed an exciting time, maybe the most remarkable moment, in school history. I am honored and humbled to be a part of it. As a member of the SONHS family, you have much of which to be proud.

into SONHS curricula in a way that is promoting healthy behaviors and mental

health awareness at the campus level.

Even with all these successes, the SONHS' best days are ahead of us. I am delighted to announce that the long-awaited dedication ceremony celebrating the opening of our Simulation Hospital on school grounds will take place on September 28, 2017. I am hoping to see all the SONHS family at the ceremony, including our alumni. Of course, it is

Anne E. Norris
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Interim Dean and Professor
Associate Dean for the Ph.D. Program

2 heartbeat SPRING 2017 SPRING 2017 SPRING 2017

# Simulation Hospital Receives \$500,000 from Sylvester Foundation

**Since** *Heartbeat's* **last issue**, the new Simulation Hospital at the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) had its final beam installed and façade completed. Crews are finishing the interior of the five-story cutting-edge facility, slated to open in Fall 2017.

The ambitious project would not be possible without substantial support from the school's community partners and friends. A recent naming gift of \$500,000 to the building fund was contributed by UM Trustee Jayne Sylvester Malfitano on behalf of the Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation.

The Sylvester family has a long history of supporting UM's efforts to improve the South Florida community's health. In 1986, with the largest donation at the time ever made to UM, Malfitano's father, Harcourt Sylvester Jr., created the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Miller School of Medicine. The foundation has given over \$55 million to UM to support



# "We are deeply committed to health care education, research, and patient care in our community."

groundbreaking research and care, and with this recent donation focuses its generosity on the Simulation Hospital.

Heartbeat spoke with Mrs. Malfitano, co-chair of the SONHS Visiting
Committee, about her hopes for how the Simulation Hospital will revolutionize health care education.

HB: How does the Simulation Hospital advance the Sylvester Foundation's mission?

JM: We are deeply committed to health care education, research, and patient care in our community. That is why we are excited to be part of the Simulation Hospital. It's important for the public to understand that not just nursing and medical students will benefit from the training that the Sim Hospital will facilitate, but also students of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and social work—as members of inter-professional care teams. Engineering students will work on medical devices alongside health care professionals. Beyond that, it will be a place for training first responders and emergency personnel to address disasters. The Sim Hospital will also open its doors to train home health caregivers to provide skilled



and compassionate care. With our population's aging, this is crucial.

HB: What moved you to request that your gift name the Nilda (Nena) Peragallo

Montano Operating Wing on the third floor?

JM: Former SONHS Dean Peragallo

Montano was the project's driving force.

What impresses me about Peragallo

Montano – and there is much – is her compassion, her scientific contributions, her determination and her ability,

HB: Who or what inspired your commitment to philanthropy and your support of SONHS?

done that, we wouldn't be here.

through good business decisions, to set

aside the necessary funds. If she hadn't

JM: It was my dad, Harcourt M. Sylvester, Jr. He believed research is necessary to alleviate suffering. Scientific advancements bring hope, better outcomes, and improved patient care. That's why he helped establish the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. But research is only part of it. You need a place with well-trained providers and educators who care about that training. We know it will be a beautiful building, but the difference will be made by the people who are there, teaching and learning. The facility will position SONHS at the forefront of the next generation of compassionate health care professionals who perfect their skills there. It's a perfect match for our family's vision!

# Civic-Minded Students Raise Awareness About Depression, Tobacco Use

As a UM Office of Civic and Community Engagement Engaged Faculty Fellow, Assistant Professor of Clinical Linda Mays, B.S.N. '99, is committed to incorporating lessons of civic-mindedness and campus-level community service into the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) curricula. As part of the curriculum for NUR448, the required mental health course for all Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) students, Mays and 32 students played a central role in planning and implementing National Depression Screening Day and Great American Smokeout events last fall on UM's Coral Gables, Miller, and Rosenstiel campuses.

For the National Depression
Screening Day held on October 5–6,
tables with iPads were set up along
campus walkways, and more than 100
UM students completed an online
depression-screening test. The event
helped raise awareness that depression is
common among students and needs to
be identified and treated.

"If students scored as 'depressed' we referred them to the counseling center and gave them literature about depression and organizations they can contact for help," says B.S.N. student Amelia Swica. "But even students who weren't depressed wanted to be able to recognize the symptoms of depression in other students and reach out to help them. I kept hearing, 'It's cool you guys are doing this."

"There's a high incidence of depression and suicide on college campuses across the country due to factors such as homesickness and academic pressures," says Mays. "Yet students, as well as faculty and staff, may feel uncomfortable discussing it. I think we toppled some myths about depression and mental illness with these activities."

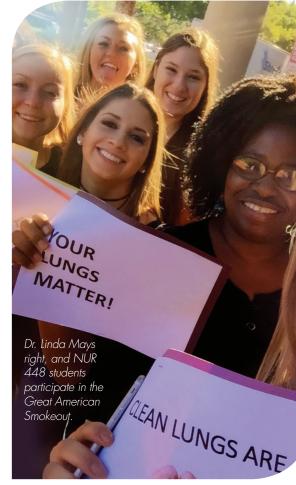
"Dr. Mays taught us how to talk with others about depression, especially students from groups that are vulnerable, such as freshman, transfer, LGBT, and minority students," adds Swica. "It was rewarding to incorporate what we've learned in class into an activity to improve the health of the campus community."

For the Great American Smokeout events, held on November 16–17, a set of decayed yellowed teeth, and a jar of disgusting phlegm depicting what our lungs look like when we smoke, sat on a table in the campus breezeway as students strolled by and stopped to get a closer look. "That's really gross!" exclaimed Kaity Cornish, a junior biomedical engineering student. The effort supported national smoking cessation awareness events initiated by the American Cancer Society and the Florida Department of Health's Tobacco Free Florida program.

After examining materials and talking with nursing students at the table, Cornish, a non-smoker, said she was "armed with facts" to get her friends to quit smoking.

New forms of tobacco use and tobacco delivery systems are on the rise among college students; including liquid tobacco, chewing tobacco, herbal shisha, e-cigarettes, hookahs, and vaporizers. "The activity was intended to start a conversation with students and increase their awareness about the harmful effects of these practices," says Mays.

The activity began with anti-smoking protests where UM student smokers often gather, violating the University's smokefree campus policy. Nursing students approached the smokers and invited them to visit the anti-smoking display in the breezeway; many did, and brought their friends. "It's important to reach this population because smoking during the college years can lead to a lifetime of



smoking," says Mays. "I feel we planted some seeds of awareness among the students who smoke."

The nursing students also developed an appreciation for their ability to speak out for a cause and to have a positive effect. "Before this event, many nursing students might have seen someone smoking and said nothing; but now that they see a change can be made, they're more likely to speak out," says Mays. "The power to effect change through civic engagement and involvement was the major learning experience for our students."

# Being Prepared: Nursing and Medical Students Collaborate in Active Shooter Simulation

Forty-nine dead and 53 injured in an Orlando nightclub; 12 dead and 70 wounded at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado; five dead and eight wounded at Ft. Lauderdale's airport. The numbers behind public mass shootings in the United States paint a bloody picture that nobody wants to see.

With the increased occurrence of such mass shooting incidents, the role of nurse-as-first-responder is being re-imagined. "As sad as it is to say, it's becoming much more prevalent, and we need to be able to respond appropriately," says Susana Barroso-Fernandez, Ph.D. '16, director of simulation operations for the International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research at the University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS). "We need to be able to prepare our health care professionals not for the 'if,' but for the potential of the 'when."

Under frontline conditions, effective triage means navigating a chaotic, high-pressure, and possibly dangerous environment—all while keeping patients safe.

Short of enduring the real deal, the best way to gain this experience is through simulation. At the SONHS, where nursing students are educated to become leaders in disaster preparedness,

simulation is a mandatory component of the clinical curriculum.

In October 2016, the SONHS partnered with the Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education at the UM Miller School of Medicine to hold a full-day, active shooter simulation.

This was the fourth in a series of large-scale catastrophic event simulations implemented by the SONHS, the Miller School, and community first responders. The University conducts these types of exercises when students are not on campus to prevent nonparticipants from contacting parents or posting false information on social media, which could cause panic in the community.

University police, Miller School of Medicine, and Jackson Memorial Hospital administrations were alerted that the exercise was taking place. Before setting foot on "the scene," nursing students completed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) modules, a first step in preparing them to become Medical Reserve Corp-certified volunteers. They attended a disaster preparedness lecture with triage principles





In what Barroso-Fernandez

describes as a "moving chessboard of

physical, mental, and emotional truths

that emerge from the unfathomable. For

instance, under the triage principle,

responders are expected to use limited

salvageable patients. For this exercise,

resources to treat the greatest number of

students had to face the ethical dilemma

of not treating patients who were coded

were not expected to survive and would

"black" when triaged, meaning they

have utilized resources that could be

used to treat injured victims with a

people," participants became first

responders. They confronted the





and an active shooter presentation by UM's Office of Emergency Management.

The Gordon Center was transformed into a hospital by UM nursing, medical, and public health faculty and emergency managers; local Emergency Medical Services agencies; and the Army Trauma Training Center. The "stage" included an emergency department, a medical/surgical floor, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and an intensive care unit.

Over 120 nursing and M.D./M.P.H. students played out two scenarios and took turns performing as providers and victims. The first scenario simulated an explosion with active shooters at Marlins Park. The second simulated an active shooter

in which they were hiding to treat victims, or to remain hidden, not knowing who or where the shooter was.

"A disaster exercise on this scale is pretty novel," says Ivette Motola, assistant director of the Gordon Center who helped plan and implement the event. "It's way ahead of the curve compared to the average health care provider education out there and the amount and quality of disaster preparedness in most other nursing and medical school curricula."

"In real life it would probably be very different, but it did put us in a position where we had to think quickly and put into play everything we've learned," said Karina Rico-Arango, B.S.N. '16. hard at work keeping up with those changes, tinkering and honing to give students the tools to tackle today's health care needs. The school's disaster preparedness programs will enter a new era this fall, with the opening of the new five-story, 41,000-square-foot Simulation Hospital.

"What we're trying to do is prepare our students to look at the world not just from a hospital/nurse-at-the-bedside perspective but from a community perspective as well, and to understand the role of nurses in public health and in the community when these things happen," says

Barroso-Fernandez.



## Pre-Pharmacy Students Shadow Professionals

In a conference room at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, a group of interdisciplinary health care professionals discuss the best way to get insurance companies to cover a booster medication. Seated around the table are Sylvester's assistant head pharmacist, two UM oncologists, an IT specialist, and Eric Sandler, a School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) pre-pharmacy student participating in the school's "shadow a pharmaceutical professional" program. The meeting breaks up after the team crafts a preliminary new procedure so insurance companies will cover the medication under discussion. Sandler describes the opportunity as "a great experience."

In place since 2014, the SONHS' shadowing program for pre-pharmacy heath science students gives future pharmacists the opportunity to spend one or two days shadowing a professional pharmacist at such partner institutions as Sylvester, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami Hospital, and Jackson Memorial Hospital.

"The profession of pharmacist is often misunderstood," said Blanca Rivera, executive director of pharmacy services for UHealth, who coordinates the program with SONHS Associate Dean for Health Studies Martin Zdanowicz. "Most students think that every pharmacist works in a retail pharmacy, but this could not be further from the truth. Our profession offers the ability to work in many settings, from governmental, to regulatory, to highly clinical. Students with an entrepreneurial bone can even start their own business someday. I love my

profession and want students to get to know more about it through this shadowing program," says Rivera.

"Pharmacy schools really like to see this type of shadowing experience during the admissions and selections process," says Zdanowicz. "We are offering students the opportunity to complete fundamental courses like chemistry, physics, and physiology, which they need to get into pharmacy school, but without these shadowing opportunities they don't have a way to actually observe the team-building and leadership skills that some professional clinical pharmacists utilize in their day-to-day activities."

The program's success has led to expansion discussions. While pre-pharmacy students get first choice, "Giving other health science students a chance to participate in the shadowing program is a way to let them see for themselves that not all pharmacists work behind the counter at drugstores," says Zdanowicz. "They get to observe firsthand the practice of hospital and research pharmacy, and decide if they want to purse a pre-pharmacy focused health sciences degree."

Health studies faculty are also discussing expanding shadowing opportunities to the new UM Lennar Foundation Medical Center, an ambulatory care facility that opened its doors on the Coral Gables campus in December. "We'd like to arrange for not only our pre-pharmacy students, but also pre-occupational therapy, pre-med and pre-physical therapy students to shadow seasoned professionals in their chosen occupations at this premier facility, right on our campus," says Zdanowicz.



# Health Care Meet-Up Provides Great Networking

A "culture of preparation" at the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) is helping students launch their careers as health care professionals. The school's Office of Student Services (OSS) is guiding this effort under the leadership of Sean Kilpatrick, A.B. '06, M.S.Ed. '09, assistant dean for student/ post-graduate support services. "It's never too early to start thinking about landing your first health care job or to start building relationships with potential employers," says Kilpatrick. "Our services don't stop at academics, but continue through career advisement and job placement."

In this spirit, students spoke with prospective employers in nursing, medicine, health sciences, health administration, and public health at a Health Care Meet-Up hosted by the OSS on October 24. The collaborative brainchild of the OSS and UM's Toppel Career Center, the meet-up allowed students to learn what employers are seeking, and what skills they need to enhance while still in school. It was held in the SONHS lobby so students could attend without taking time off from classes or clinical practicums.





"It was a great opportunity to get advice on job interviewing techniques and show employers my resume," says Patricia Jayakumar, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing student on the accelerated (ABSN) track. "Unlike an online application, employers could get a sense of my people-skills, personality, and compassion," adds Coral Frau, another ABSN student.

Prospective employers were enthusiastic, too. "We're here to engage the best and brightest nursing graduates to join our team," said Gail Kreon from Wuesthoff Health System.

"We want to help students start their careers and achieve their professional goals," added VITAS recruiter Davanna Frisbey.



- American Red Cross
- ATI Physical Therapy

SONHS students check in for innovative Health Care

Meet-Up to network wit

- o Biorasi, LLC
- City Year (AmeriCorps)
- DOSIsoft Americas
- Gaumard Scientific
- HCA (Hospital Corporation of America)
- HCR ManorCare
- o Jackson Health System
- Kendall Regional Medical Center
- Make a Wish Foundation
- MHM Services, Inc.
- Centurion
- Nicklaus Children's Hospital
- OpusCare of South Florida
- PhysAssist Scribes, Inc.
- ScribeAmerica
- St. Mary's Medical Center
- Palm Beach Children's Hospital
- Superior Bidet, LLC
- Tenet Healthcare
- UMH (University of Miami Hospital)
- UM Physical Therapy
- UM Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring Office
- UM Public Health Graduate Program
- UM School of Business
- United States Air Force
- United States Army
- VITAS Healthcare
- Wuestoff Health System

# Alumnus Uses the Big Screen to Start End-of-Life Dialogue

When School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) alumnus Leo Oliva, B.S.N. '06 set out to earn a degree in nursing, he wasn't thinking about turning his clinical experiences into a Hollywood movie. Although he did have a deep interest in entertainment, as a nursing student he was focused on learning how to provide the best possible care to people who were hurt or dealing with illness.

However, after graduating from the SONHS and moving to Los Angeles, Oliva's experiences as a nurse led him to think deeply about one of the most profound issues confronting health care providers: end-of-life care. The result is *The Shift*, an award-winning movie written and co-produced by Oliva, and starring Oliva and veteran actor Danny Glover.

"It is precisely because of my SONHS nursing degree and my years of experience as a registered nurse that I selected this topic," recalls Oliva after a recent campus screening of the film.

"The types of heart-wrenching decisions dealing with end-of-life, and quality-of-life matters depicted in the film— well, I saw these being made every day."

The ultimate goal of this film was

The ultimate goal of this film was to bring the reality of end-of-life choices to the attention of real people in an entertaining manner, and hopefully start a conversation, notes Oliva. "Ideally, someone who sees this film will realize the need to decide for themselves what they prefer in terms of quality-of-life, and end-of-life care, and prepare their paperwork laying out their wishes ahead of time, saving the ones they love from the burden of having to guess," he says.

Leo Oliva and Melanie Di Pietro



Co-producer Melanie Di Pietro, B.S.C. '11, says the film has already made a difference. "We showed the movie at a film festival in a Filipino-American community in California. This is a demographic that tends to be closed off to end-of-life issues, and cultural practices actively protect dying family members from knowing their terminal diagnoses, so we weren't sure how the movie would be received by this audience."

As it turns out, the screening generated so much discussion that the festival's organizer asked if they could show it again later that day, and one person who attended the morning screening returned to say he had made his end-of-life plans within an hour of seeing the film. "I don't know a greater reward as a filmmaker than to make that kind of impact and difference in people's thinking and acting on their end-of-life care options," says Di Pietro.

B.S.N. student Sangella Harris attended the UM screening which was followed by a live talkback session with Oliva and Di Pietro. Harris found the event, organized and hosted by the UM SONHS Alumni Association, both educational and thought provoking. "The one insight I gained from watching this movie, and which I will take with me, is that no matter how hard I fight, as a nurse I will not be able to save the life of every patient. But I can ensure that, in their time of distress, they depart comfortably and with dignity," Harris says.

# Perseverance Pays Off for Public Health High Achiever

**Growing up in the inner city of Memphis**, Tennessee, Kristi Brownlee felt her school life and her home life were often at odds. While her outstanding academic achievements in high school should have put her on the fast track to college, circumstances at home made higher education seem difficult to attain.

The student keynote speaker at the University of Miami 2017 Scholarship Donor Recognition Luncheon,
Brownlee recalls that during the day, she would fill out college applications and draft personal statements, and at night, do all she could to help her family work through some really tough times.

With faith, Brownlee's family mastered their struggles, overcame addiction and regained their strength, but even during the darkest times, Brownlee stayed focused on her goal of attending college. Encouraged by her high school counselor, she applied for the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, a need-based award that covers full tuition and most expenses for minority students with high academic achievement and leadership potential.

Brownlee's acceptance at the University of Miami—one of 10 universities vying for her attendance—was followed by notice that she had been awarded a Gates Millennium Scholarship and offered a UM President's Scholarship and a Mario Olivo Estate Scholarship. She took "a leap of faith" and came to Coral Gables despite never AMI having visited the campus.

UNIVERSIT

OF MIAMI

"Coming to the University of Miami was the best decision I could have made," Brownlee says, noting that her experiences as a School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) student have impacted her life in ways she didn't expect. For example, being exposed to the various ethnic groups living in Miami, which is so unlike Memphis, has enhanced her appreciation of cultural diversity.

For her part, Brownlee has enriched campus life through her involvement in several organizations. She is vice

president of the Yellow Rose Society, committee liaison for the Standing Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, and a peer advisor at the Toppel Career Center. She also volunteers with the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Christ Fellowship, and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. "No matter where I am or in what capacity I serve, service is at the heart of what I do," she says.

Brownlee will complete her Bachelor of Science in Public Health at the SONHS in May 2017. Through an accelerated program, she is also pursuing a Master of Science in Public Health with a concentration in public policy at the UM Miller School of Medicine, a program she expects to complete in 2018.

"To create sustainable change,
I believe we have to work at the policy
level," she says. "I would like to be
on the front lines of tackling health
disparities. So not only do I want
to work on behalf of the public's
and community's health, I want to
work on individual health as a primary
care physician in pediatrics or family
medicine."

Brownlee believes events throughout her life have shaped who she is today. "At the heart of what makes us human is the fact that we all face similar struggles, and no matter what obstacles you face, through faith and perseverance, you can accomplish anything," she says.

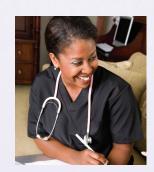
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

















# TOWARD A HEALTHY HOME

By Yolanda Mancilla



Dusk falls over Miami's Liberty City neighborhood as Chante Washington-Oates, B.S.N. '07, a McKnight Doctoral fellow and Ph.D. in nursing candidate at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SOHNS), pulls her car up in front of a small, wood-frame house with a cheerful, diminutive garden. She's here to visit "Beverly," a young mother who has been living with her parents and teenage sister since completing an inpatient rehabilitation program for addiction to opioid painkillers. In recovery for the past four months, Beverly is struggling to find a job, housing, childcare for her toddler and preschooler, and help for chronic back pain from a fall she suffered two years ago.

The case studies and names used in this article are fictitious and based on composite cases, and do not describe any specific study participant.



Five miles south in Little Havana, nurse Marlene Mora sits at a kitchen table in a modest apartment with 36-year-old "Violeta," who has struggled with major depression for the past 12 years. After a recent job loss, Violeta sank into a deep depression, drinking heavily and unable to get out of bed or care for her children. Alarmed, her 12-year-old daughter, Jimena, confided in a teacher. Authorities placed the four children with relatives, and now, three months later, Violeta must clear a daunting set of hurdles before the family can be reunited.

Washington-Oates and Mora are nurse interventionists for the Healthy Home randomized research study, funded by the National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities.<sup>2</sup> It is a partnership between the SONHS' Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro and Banyan Health Systems, a community-based provider that offers integrated substance abuse, mental health, and primary health care.

It is the nurses' job to help moms like Beverly and Violeta who are in recovery. The nurses support the mothers in navigating the complex landscape of family, social, financial, and health-related factors that place them at high risk for relapse, and link them to supportive community resources that can address their needs.

"We're navigators and connectors," says Washington-Oates. "When I think of Healthy Home, I picture a bridge.

<sup>2</sup>Funding for this program was made possible by NIH/NIMHD Grant No. P60MD002266 The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services or the U.S. Government. We're the bridge that helps connect family members to each other and to the resources they need."

Healthy Home is an adaptation of Structural Ecosystems Therapy (SET), a family intervention for minority women that has been shown to reduce drug relapse and psychological symptoms in mothers and their children. SET identifies and builds on a woman's strengths and helps improve the way she engages and interacts with her environment – from her children and other family members to the multiple health care, educational, employment, legal, and other settings and systems that are critical to her recovery and to her children's well-being.

"Like SET, Healthy Home focuses on improving relationships within the family and between the family and care providers, but Healthy Home differs from SET because nurses, not family therapists, visit the homes," says SONHS professor and associate dean for research Victoria Behar Mitrani, A.B. '80, Ph.D. '87, who serves as principal investigator of the Healthy Home research study. "It also adds a health assessment, education, and warm handoff referral component that can best be delivered by nurses."



### A UNIQUE ROLE FOR NURSES

Because nurses are holistic, family-centered, and knowledgeable about home-based care, they're uniquely prepared to implement the adapted SET model through Healthy Home. "Healthy Home builds onto nurses' toolkits by teaching them how to intervene in the family to strengthen family support for the mother's self-care and parenting so she can better care for herself and her children, as well as how to strengthen connections with health and recovery providers," says Mitrani.

Nurses are a perfect match for Healthy Home because they're a trusted, safe, and familiar presence in the lives of the families and communities they're visiting. "Nurses are viewed as nonthreatening," says Washington-Oates. "People see us as there to take care of them, not judge them."

"I always wear my uniform, and I'm regarded with respect when I have to enter an unsafe neighborhood, and when I arrive at the home," adds Mora.

It may also be easier for nurses to overcome mistrust and the barriers the mothers have learned to erect to protect themselves than it is for interventionists from other disciplines. "These are moms who feel stigmatized and marginalized," Mitrani explains. "Many are at risk of having their children removed from the home, and they're living in a situation of constant stress. But we're already finding that, compared to the SET studies where a family therapist was going to the home, the nurse-as-interventionist Healthy Home model is better accepted by the mother."

Healthy Home supports and supplements the mothers' existing substance abuse and mental health treatment. Most of the mothers are Banyan patients, and the Healthy Home nurses work closely with the mothers'

Banyan care providers to ensure they are keeping their appointments and maintaining their recovery. "A unique feature of Healthy Home is that we're the eyes and ears for the therapists who can't go to the home," says Washington-Oates. "We can help the therapist understand the barriers the mother faces at home, such as transportation problems, which prevent her from keeping appointments or following through on her treatment plan."

From Homestead to Hialeah, venturing into unsafe neighborhoods and taking South Florida's weather, traffic, and distances in stride, the Healthy Home nurses visit the mothers By the end of the session, plans are in place for Beverly to improve her employment prospects by completing her GED. She'll begin attending a pain management and support group at a local clinic. And Marla has been recruited to support her daughter Beverly's efforts to be a better mom; this week, Beverly will take her children to a nearby playground, and she'll take charge of their bedtime routine. "We come up with a customized plan to build on mom's strengths, and to address family interactions that aren't helping and that place her at higher risk for relapse," explains Washington-Oates.

During her home intervention visit, Mora is struck by Violeta's profound

"Nurses are a perfect match for Healthy Home because they're a trusted, safe, and familiar presence in the lives of the families and communities they're visiting. 'Nurses are viewed as nonthreatening. People see us as there to take care of them, not judge them."

every two weeks over a four-month period. In the living room at Beverly's home, Washington-Oates takes her vital signs and goes over her medical history. Washington-Oates gains the family's trust as she gently and respectfully guides a discussion of the family's goals and needs with Beverly, her parents, Marla and Walter, and her sister, Lilian. By identifying and reinforcing existing strengths and enlisting the entire family as supports for Beverly, Washington-Oates hopes to reduce the tendency to blame Beverly for her addictive behaviors and the resistance to allowing her to care for the children.

isolation from any supportive family or friends, and her chain smoking. Their intent is to have one of Violeta's neighbors who's been kind to her provide assistance, but, for now, Mora will serve as her primary support, checking in daily with a phone call. They develop an action plan for Violeta to meet the requirements to regain custody of her children: parenting classes, successful supervised visitation, and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. They outline the steps Violeta can take to start seeking employment. Violeta commits to her own self-care and recovery by agreeing to begin a smoking cessation program, to

14 heartbeat SPRING 2017 SPRING 2017 SPRING 2017

### A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

take her medications every day, and to call Mora immediately if she feels herself becoming despondent.

"Most of the moms are taking care of their kids conscientiously and want to be better parents," says Mitrani. "In fact, their children are their greatest motivation for staying in recovery. But we're finding that the greater the responsibility for taking care of her

The nurses meet weekly as a team with Enrique Sanchez, a psychotherapist at Banyan who serves as mental health clinical supervisor, to discuss each case. Together, they develop a plan that is tailored to each family, and identify resources to meet their needs. Mitrani attends the clinical meetings as well, to help keep the nurses faithful to the Healthy Home research model.

"She may be feeling like she's not capable or not worth it. She may have had family members and agencies give up on her. But we're not giving up on her."

"Dr. Mitrani is the heartbeat of Healthy Home," says Washington-Oates. "She fosters a team that values everyone's contributions and professional growth. She's an extraordinary mentor who wants you to succeed."

The nurses are equally enthusiastic about the role that Banyan plays in this community-academic partnership. "I always feel supported going out into the community, knowing I can call Enrique any time if I have any concerns," adds Mora. "I know the team has my back."

"Banyan sincerely wants to serve health disparity populations and to improve their quality of life," says Washington-Oates. "They have a comprehensive approach that addresses social challenges, and their integrative services model allows mom to get

success is the trusting bond that's forged between mom and nurse," says Mora. "I learned that if they trust you, they'll tell you the truth about their lives—and only then will you be able to help them."

"Despite the overwhelming challenges these moms are confronting, I learned they're capable of thriving," adds Washington-Oates. "They're embarking on difficult but wonderful journeys to improve their lives and the lives of their children."

In the end, the nurses gain as much as they give, learning new skills and realizing new insights.

"The key to Healthy Home's



The NIH-funded Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies is dedicated to the practice of community-based participatory research (CBPR). Beginning in 2013, El Centro and Banyan Health Systems joined forces to bring the Healthy Home study to the Miami community. It was a unique opportunity to rigorously test the effectiveness of an intervention for minority mothers as delivered in a community agency.

"CBPR was integral to our approach," says professor and associate dean for research Victoria

Behar Mitrani, A.B. '80, Ph.D. '87, who is the study's principal investigator.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

"The partnership and project aligns with our mission to provide integrated primary and behavioral care," says Juliette Graziano, Banyan's chief research officer and co-investigator. "So many of our clients are dealing with serious chronic health conditions in addition to mental health issues and substance abuse, but they need to connect with other community resources. So the project was a perfect match for our needs."

"This wasn't a case where an academic institution comes in and says 'this is how we're going to do it," says Emy Sirota, director of research and development for Banyan and study coordinator for Healthy Home. "We were involved in planning the study right from the beginning, and in making modifications through every stage of implementation."

"We problem-solved as a team," adds Mitrani. "We worked out every detail, from how to find and reach out to participants, to how to work with staff, to where to keep the study materials."

The ability to test an intervention in real-world conditions would not be possible without the investment of partners like Banyan. "Our leadership was on board, and that buy-in was essential to the success of the project," says Graziano about Bruce Hayden, president and chief executive officer of Banyan who has a 40-year history of research collaboration with the University of Miami. "He creates a culture of research, and makes sure Banyan is always research-ready."

The collaboration became a learning experience for everyone. "As I saw the study coming together, I learned about research, about gathering data and the importance of documenting everything," says Enrique Sanchez, a Banyan psychotherapist and clinical supervisor for the study. "Even if an intervention sounds promising, we still need the research to demonstrate that it works."

Bringing a promising intervention to the community is not without its challenges. "Within an academic environment things are more controlled," says Mitrani, "but when you implement a study in the community, it adds complexity, and the need to be flexible and roll with the challenges."

"Dr. Mitrani figured out how to adapt the intervention to make sure it worked in practice, and that flexibility was central to the project's success," says Graziano. "It would be so beneficial to implement Healthy Home agency-wide We're grateful for this project and hope to continue our collaboration."



# A PERFECT PAIRING

By Patricia Connelly

Nurse practitioner students at the School of Nursing and Health Studies learn to improve chronic disease outcomes through a successful high-tech academic-clinical partnership.

For Brenda Owusu, D.N.P. '11, assistant professor of clinical, the clinical affiliation with the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) and Duxlink Health is an ideal match.

As the school's director of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program, Owusu strives to expose her master's students to the widest possible range of patients to help them master the management of chronic disease.

Duxlink Health—dux is Latin for "leader"—connects leaders in medicine, technology, informatics, and service. Chief Medical Officer Michael Shen, pictured left, defines their mission as "to bring hospital level care to patients anytime, anywhere." A practicing cardiologist, Shen saw an opportunity to change the way care is delivered to patients when Medicare began reimbursing for telemedicine in 2015.



"When you look at the current health care system, a major problem is hospital readmission within 30 days of discharge," explains Shen. This is such a big problem that Medicare has now implemented regulations tracking readmissions, and financially penalizing hospitals whose readmission rates are deemed too high. "There are two main causes of this problem," he says. "First, patients are discharged from the hospital earlier than in years past; for example, length of stay for acute myocardial infarction and chronic heart failure without complications is usually set at three days. Second, facilities and services outside of hospitals can't provide 24-7 hospital-level care for these sicker patients. So when they have patients exhibiting symptoms such as chest pain, they send them back to the hospital."

Duxlink Health has established a network for the entire care process, encompassing hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, physicians' offices, and even patients' homes. M.S.N. nurse practitioner students from the SONHS may earn clinical practice hours at 50 Duxlink facilities in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, as well as participate in a new model of care.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Rather than send patients back to the hospital at the first sign of worsening chronic disease or acute event exacerbation, Duxlink Health provides the clinical caregiver with the technology and clinical services to care for the patient following national practice guidelines. For example, a patient experiencing chest pain in a hospital setting, according to American Heart Association guidelines, will receive: 1) evaluation, 2) electrocardiogram (EKG), and 3) lab work. The Duxlink model provides patients experiencing chest pain at nursing homes, or in their own homes, to have a nurse practitioner or physician evaluate them onsite or online, then get EKG and lab work results sent to the clinician's smartphone for immediate feedback. In many cases, the patient can be safely treated without being readmitted to hospitalization. If a patient is actually having a heart attack, then a

the ambulance is on the way.

training, education, and experience."

treatment will be started immediately while practice the entire process of care at Since heart failure presents one of the most common causes of readmission. cardiovascular disease is Duxlink's primary focus. However, the SONHS NP students completing their clinical practice placements a patient, but that is really only a there don't just work with cardiologists. They are also mentored by pulmonologists, endocrinologists, and other subspecialists who disease. So, when we provide for care work along with the cardiologists to manage co-existing chronic diseases in their patients. "We provide a very unique platform for our SONHS mentees," says Shen, "in terms of care in these different settings."

To date, 24 SONHS M.S.N. nurse practitioner students have conducted their clinical practice experiences at Duxlink Health facilities, and several graduates have since joined its staff. "The students are able to make connections to things they have learned in pathophysiology, the medication aspect, the diagnostic health assessment, and pull all of their education together in one place with the clinical practice experience," says Owusu. "The semesterlong experience also enables students to follow the same patients for 12- to 14-weeks, which allows them to see exactly what is going on with those patients as a whole, not just a set of symptoms. That is a great learning experience. It's hands-on."

Shen says that SONHS students benefit most by getting to observe and Duxlink facilities under the mentorship of the organization's seasoned health care professionals. "The hospital experience is good—you can learn how to stabilize fraction of the patient care. Most of it is on the continuum of care for chronic across that continuum, students are able to learn all the steps in the process and understand better the delivery of clinical



Dr. Owusu, left with F.N.P. students ingela Vacharakiat and enie Delva, both partici pated in the Duxlink clinical oractice experience as part of their adulthealth course.

## DIGITAL **ADVANCES**

Although his background is in technology, Shen realizes that technological advances are "not there yet" when it comes to treating patients remotely. Since most patients present with chronic conditions and acute events while at home, he asks, "How can we capture the data and get it to a physician to make an on-time diagnosis and provide on-time treatment before the patient physically reaches him? Finding a solution here is of great urgency, given that heart disease has been the worldwide number one killer for more than 100 years."

Shen envisions a large role for both nurse practitioners and high-tech care modalities in the rapidly changing landscape of health care delivery in the 21st century. "The younger generation of NPs who have grown up with the new communications and technology find it second-nature, and can bring it to bear on the adoption of guidelines and improvements in practice management," he says.

Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for master's programs and global initiatives, agrees that today's digital advances present opportunities to join forces with partners such as Duxlink Health to design innovative clinical practice models. "Our school's new state-of-theart Simulation Hospital is scheduled to open this fall and will provide expanded opportunities for collaboration with Duxlink," Ortega says, adding that in the pipeline is the creation of a first-ofits-kind program in telemedicine to supplement the clinical training of M.S.N. students.

## EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

In an exciting twist on the conventional model of university-clinical partnership, the SONHS and Duxlink Health are now in discussions about collaborating not just on providing students with clinical practice experiences, but also on scientific projects. Specifically, SONHS faculty and Duxlink teams want to collaboratively investigate the role of NPs as point-of-care providers. Since nurses spend the most time with patients, it is key to understand better how they engage changes in practice and systems. "This is where the rubber meets the road," says Shen, in efforts to shift the current fee-for-service healthcare system to a new pay-for-performance model that should lead to improved outcomes and lower costs.

Other possible research ventures focus on such topics as combining traditional on-site care with remote telemedicine as a new model for NP education, practice, and research; clinical and behavioral continuum of care integration to improve outcomes and lower costs; and a hospital readmission reduction pilot study integrating on-site care and telemedicine targeting high risk minority patient populations. "It makes sense that, since we are already working together successfully to enhance the clinical competencies of our students, then our program and Duxlink should look for ways to expand this collaborative relationship in a way that increases evidence-based practice and improves patients' health outcomes," says Ortega.



SPRING 2017 heartbeat 21 20 heartbeat SPRING 2017

# Humanitarian Missions Go High-Tech

By Lisa Sedelnik



Innovative telemedicine system developed by a doctor of nursing practice student at the School of Nursing and Health Studies delivers specialty care to patients in Haiti.

Ask Scott Paul Sloane, M.S.N. '15, D.N.P. '16, and he'll tell you there is a way to improve the lives of people living in the poorest country in our hemisphere and positively affect the health of an entire culture. And it's only as far as the next cellular tower.

Before graduating from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS), Sloane participated in the school's biannual trips to Haiti. Since 2013, Associate Dean for Master's Programs and Global Initiatives Johis Ortega and other faculty have led advanced practice nursing students on these missions, bringing training in primary care delivery and supplies to Haiti's health care workers, and delivering primary care to more than 6,000 patients at clinics in remote Haitian villages.





Participation in Ortega's Haiti program was fertile ground for Sloane's D.N.P. scholarly project, which he decided to focus on designing a system to incorporate telecommunications technology to diagnose and treat complicated cases involving Haitian patients in the field. This type of technologically facilitated remote diagnosis and treatment of patients is called telemedicine. What Sloane found could have a profound impact on health care delivery and training in Haiti.

In the far-flung reaches of the island nation, travel doesn't come as easy as a bus, taxi, or car. Most Haitians rely on their feet to get where they need to go—including seeking out treatment for major and minor medical issues. Many residents of Thomonde, a community in Haiti's central plateau, must walk up to five hours to reach one of two regional medical clinics there, making follow-up care difficult, says Sloane.

While mission volunteers and Haitian doctors typically offer preventive and primary care, access to specialty care is limited. "We've encountered medical conditions and disease processes that require specialty care physicians like dermatologists," Sloane says. "We also find patients who could use interventions by cardiologists or cardiovascular surgeons, but we haven't had a way to access such specialists."

After consulting with Haitian health care providers about the clinical areas of greatest need, Sloane determined he

would focus his project on dermatology. Armed with an Internet-connected iPad Pro, he visited Haiti to put his plan into motion in October 2016—just weeks after devastating Hurricane Matthew made landfall.

While public transportation is virtually nonexistent in parts of Haiti, cellular technology is more widely available. Tapping into this technology, Sloane hoped to use telemedicine for real-time video consultations between health care providers in Haiti and dermatologists in the United States.

In locations where cellular signals weren't strong enough, he used "store and forward" technology, emailing photos and details of each case to U.S.-based specialists through a third-party application.

"You go onto the application platform, upload the pictures, provide the patient's history, and send it to a dermatologist back in the U.S.," says Sloane.
"The dermatologist reads it within 24 hours and gets back to you with a recommendation for treatment."

The sample group included an 8-year-old girl who had endured crusty impetigo lesions on her feet for two weeks, and a 7-year-old boy who had lesions on his scalp for two months.

"It was very educational for us. Most of the time we diagnosed the cases correctly, but the specialists back in the U.S. gave us other things to think about, such as what could be causing the symptoms. They also provided treatment parameters we could add to what we had already prescribed," he explains.

Haitian patients and physicians widely accepted the telemedicine approach Sloane introduced to Thomonde. "We proved that the 'store and forward' email platform works and video consultations do function in areas

with stronger cellular coverage," he says. More importantly, it met a critical need.

"This is what we want our students to do—address issues," says Sloane's faculty advisor, Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for D.N.P. programs at the SONHS. "This was a challenging project because it involved many different entities, a host of logistics, a mission trip and a very rural area of Haiti. He was able to use his expertise and knowledge and develop contingency plans to make it happen."

Sloane has since written a scientific abstract about his

project and will present it at the Sigma

Theta Tau
International
honor society of
nursing biennial
conference in
Indianapolis,
Indiana in

October 2017. It's the next step in moving telemedicine from concept to reality in

rural Haiti. He suggests that his method is easily scalable and, with proper funding, could be used to access additional specialty areas such as cardiology, obstetrics, and radiology.

His innovative project typifies the University of Miami's ongoing commitment to Haiti, in that it is based on a partnership model that emphasizes teamwork between Haitian health care providers and UM healthcare personnel to improve health conditions and access to care for Haiti's people.

It's also indicative of the dedication and compassion the University strives to instill in its D.N.P. students. "We ask students to look at the evidence, look at the research that's out there, and address real practice issues, whether it is in clinical settings in the United States or around the globe," says Hooshmand.

"Once this concept becomes more widely used, it can make a world of difference in Haiti," says Sloane, for whom nursing is a second career. Before enrolling at the SONHS and earning his terminal D.N.P. degree, he served as a Miami Dade County firefighter for 30 years, and currently holds the rank of captain. Today, Sloane is driven by a sense of urgency, propelled by the patients he has seen in Haiti. "We've gone down there a number of times and found kids with heart conditions, and we just don't know how to get them the specialty care they need," he says. "As a nurse doing mission work, you need to find the answer."

The project's sustainability—the ability to diagnose and treat patients across a variety of medical specialties while training Haitian doctors and nurses to use technology to address similar cases in the future—is most promising. Sloane accomplished this by engaging Haiti's local health care providers in the project from planning to implementation. As a result, the telemedicine specialty consults will potentially remain available to local providers, who do not have to wait for the biannual SONHS mission trips to access dermatologists and other specialists.

"Our goal is to improve the health of the community and really make a difference over the long term. Once we increase the proficiency and the knowledge base of the nurses and physicians that are in Haiti, we might get to a point where they don't need us as much," he says.

"Wouldn't that be great?"





Ahead of the Curve

By Patricia Connelly

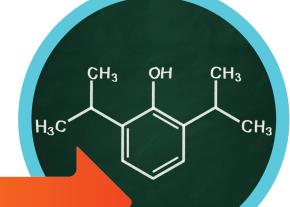
To address a severe national shortage of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies became the first in Florida, and among the first in the country, to implement a new three-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) to Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Nurse Anesthesia Track (B.S.N.-D.N.P.).

# UM SONHS graduates its first class of B.S.N.-D.N.P. nurse anesthetists

Well ahead of the 2022 deadline set by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) graduated its first class of 10 B.S.N.-D.N.P.-prepared nurse anesthetists on December 15, 2016. The new track replaces the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) as the entry-level degree into nurse anesthesia practice, as mandated by the COA.

"Our curriculum needs to keep pace with the trends and needs of today's health care arena," explains Mary Hooshmand, Ph.D. '10, associate dean for D.N.P. programs at the SONHS. "The best way to position our graduates to become leaders in anesthesia care is to prepare them with doctoral education that incorporates cutting-edge technological advances, a systems-level approach to quality improvement, and other topics that will define the field for anesthesia providers in the 21st century."









## A Nationwide Need

Reflecting the seriousness of the responsibility that administering anesthesia entails the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) is not only one of the best-paid nursing specialties, it is also among the most in demand. CRNAs administer approximately 43 million anesthetics to patients in the United States each year, and in over two-thirds of the nation's rural hospitals, they are the sole anesthesia providers. Moreover, a 2010 RAND Health team examining the U.S. labor market identified a serious nationwide shortage of anesthesia specialists. In keeping with the school's proud history of meeting the challenges of changing healthcare trends, Hooshmand, along with Rossana Bizzio, Ph.D. '16, director of the B.S.N.-D.N.P. nurse anesthesia track, and the rest of the faculty team got to work on elevating and expanding the nurse anesthesia program.

In designing the new three-year (9 semesters; 36 consecutive months) degree program, the faculty did not merely stitch the master's level anesthesia curriculum to the existing executive-format D.N.P. Rather the two curricula were integrated so that students take the D.N.P. core courses (e.g., health policy, nursing theory, research) at the same time as their anesthesia clinical practice experiences. This allows the students to apply the conceptual knowledge they are acquiring about nursing leadership, health policy, and health care administration and look critically at anesthesia practice issues as they arise in their clinical practice settings.

"This way," Hooshmand says, "they begin to think along their own lines as nurse executives before they even graduate from the program."

Bizzio, who has led the school's nurse anesthesia program since its inception in 2004, concurs: "They are expected to graduate as well-prepared nurse anesthetists AND nurse leaders. The ability to think critically is a must."

The elevation to the doctoral level not only made the program more rigorous and intensive but also escalated what were already strict admissions requirements. In addition to a bachelor's degree (nursing preferred) and an active (unrestricted) registered nurse (R.N.) license, applicants must have a minimum of two years of intensive care unit (ICU) experience within the last five years, and a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher, among other requirements. "Most applicants not only meet but greatly surpass even our admission criteria," says Bizzio. "The program has become very competitive."

# Meeting the Challenge

From the beginning the inaugural class was very motivated. They not only excelled at their own studies and clinical experiences, they were also very engaged in helping the new program take shape. Hooshmand and Bizzio held regular meetings with the students to learn how the program was progressing and what modifications might be needed. Students came up with ideas that improved the program, which is exactly the type of leadership they are expected to demonstrate as doctorate level nurse leaders. "The ability to do this," Hooshmand says, "means we've successfully elevated the role of nurse anesthetist to the doctoral level."

From brainstorming sessions with the inaugural students, Hooshmand and Bizzio learned that the anesthesia-track D.N.P. students preferred on-site lectures and classes to online learning. This is different from typical executive-format D.N.P. students who remain in the workforce and would rather do as much learning online as possible. In response to this feedback, online content was decreased and more face-to-face teaching and learning experiences were integrated into the curriculum.

"Time management or rather, the time commitment factor, is the most

challenging aspect of this program," says
Renee Longini, D.N.P. '16. "My most
rewarding experience in the program was
also my most surprising one: how well a
small class of 10 in the inaugural cohort
worked together in terms of being a unit,
giving feedback on this new program, and
supporting each other throughout the
rigor and challenge of it."

"Across the board," Hooshmand explains, "the students' most serious challenge was time management. The faculty worked to align the curriculum in a way that would alleviate this challenge to the fullest extent possible. Without the students' feedback and continuous open communication with them, we couldn't have done it."

## Collaborative Clinical Partnerships

Getting the new B.S.N.-D.N.P. program fully on its feet involved some other growing pains. Perhaps the greatest challenge at first for faculty was recruiting sufficient anesthesia and perioperative clinical practice sites. Multiple local primary sites and clinical preceptors were needed to come on board to give students exposure to a diversity of practice sites and different patient populations and the opportunity to pursue capstone projects.

"For many of the SONHS' community clinical partners, it was a new concept to allow B.S.N. level anesthesia students to design and implement pilot projects at their health care organizations. Therefore, in the beginning, the program was limited in the number of practice immersion sites at which students could develop perioperative-focused capstone projects. However, the strength of the SONHS's established partnerships in the community proved "key to resolving the issue," according to Hooshmand.

For example, Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH)'s chief executive officer David Zambrana, D.N.P. '09, provided critical assistance in helping to find

avenues for B.S.N.-D.N.P. anesthesia students to design and implement capstone projects at JMH. Others soon followed suit. Today the program's primary clinical partner sites are JMH and University of Miami Hospital, including rotations through the Ryder Trauma Center and high-risk obstetrics. Other sites include the Veterans Administration Hospital, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Jackson South Community Hospital, Mercy Hospital, South Miami Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Florida, Plantation General Hospital, Westside Regional Medical Center, and Kendall Regional Medical Center.

"Our clinical partners are clearly believers," says Bizzio, "given that the majority of our students received multiple job offers before graduation. "That's a reflection of the marketability of a nurse anesthesia degree from the SONHS," adds Hooshmand. In fact, one hundred percent of the graduating class passed the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) exam on their first try.

Program students in turn valued the wide variety of clinical practice experience sites available for them to foster professional growth, autonomy, and confidence. Because there are differences in the anesthesia care team model and processes used at each site, students must learn how to adapt and think

on their feet—skills essential to honing their practice as nurse anesthetists and nurse leaders. "You expect the challenge of the rigorous academic demands and huge time commitment, but having to adapt to differing workstyles and different procedures among the different clinical partners and practice sites was something I had not anticipated," says Alicia Wilson, D.N.P. '16. "You do learn to quickly adjust to constantly changing situations and environments."

"My personal favorite of all my clinical practice experiences," says Nicholas Chantarasaka, D.N.P. '16, "was at Jackson Memorial Hospital. As... one of the busiest trauma centers in the nation, nothing is ever straightforward in terms of patient care. Acuity levels are very high at Jackson. You have to fully use every aspect of your nurse anesthesia education, nursing skills, and scientific knowledge to respond quickly and appropriately... This makes for a phenomenal learning experience."

Bizzio credits SONHS faculty with playing a key role in the program's success. This is the first time that D.N.P. faculty and anesthesia program faculty collaborated in educating a single cohort of students. "We had lots of support from the faculty," says Chantarasaka. "Their doors were always open. If we had questions or concerns, we always felt comfortable that we could talk one-on-one, text, or email faculty about our issues."

Chantarasaka also gives rave reviews to the program's simulation education component. "Simulation gave us future nurse anesthetists the chance to learn and build our confidence in our skills before interacting with real patients; it enabled us to connect didactic learning to real-life situations, and to practice our professional communication skills with each other." The new Simulation Hospital, scheduled to open this fall, will be a great asset to the program as it will help maximize training opportunities for the program's growing number of students as well as provide expanded sites for simulation research in the field of anesthesia.

The significance of being a part of the program's inaugural graduating class is not lost on Wilson. "The importance to me... is the impact that we are going to be able to make on the field as doctorate-level nurse anesthetists, whether it's through designing and implementing quality improvement programs at our hospitals—which this program gave us skills to do—or going on to become faculty ourselves... and replenishing the pipeline with well-prepared nurse anesthesia professionals," she says.

Longini felt providing feedback in the budding program was significant. "I want future generations that come here for their D.N.P. in nurse anesthesia to get the best education possible, based on our constructive input as the first graduating class."



First B.S.N. to D.N.P. nurse anesthesia track graduates, left to right: Alicia Wilson, Damon Wells, Mallory Mendez, Nicholas Chantarasaka, Yanett Ramos, Megan Hord, Catherine Lewis, Aaron Goertzen, Renee Longini, Alice Dastrup

# Faculty Recognized for Scientific, Policy, and Teaching Achievements



Associate Professor Joseph P. De Santis received the competitive Researcher Recognition Award from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC), the leading HIV/AIDS nursing organization. The award is presented annually to a nurse researcher who has made a significant contribution to research affecting the quality of life and care provided by nurses to individuals infected with and affected by HIV. DeSantis is a nursing scientist internationally known for his contributions to reducing health disparities among sexual minorities in the U.S. and for international work on caring for children and infants with HIV infection. De Santis accepted the award in November 2016 at the 29th annual ANAC conference in Atlanta, Georgia.



The Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR) selected Associate Professor Rosina Cianelli from a national pool of applicants as one of 15 national FNINR Ambassadors. The FNINR is an independent nonprofit group that advances nursing research in the name of promoting the health and well-being of all Americans. Selection criteria included candidates' abilities to advance public, health professions, and policy-maker awareness of the National Institute of Nursing Research's critical research agenda. Cianelli is a globally recognized nurse researcher in the areas of health disparities, HIV prevention, culturally tailored interventions, and women's health.





The School of Nursing and Health Studies continues to be well represented among University of Miami Provost Research Award (PRA) recipients. This year, Drs. Jill Sanko and Denise Vidot were awardees. Sanko was funded to test the impact of "Friday Night at the ER®," an experiential team learning simulation, while Vidot will utilize her award to investigate the impact of marijuana use on cardiorespiratory fitness and cardiovascular disease risk. PRAs are designed to foster excellence in research and scholarship, and provide seed funding that is expected to contribute to the growth of the University's research portfolio.

## New Faces at SONHS





Falcon

Faculty members **Shayne Hauglum** and **Ashley Falcon** were selected as 2017 UM Faculty Learning Community (FLC) Fellows. The program recognizes faculty using information literacy and digital technology to enhance their teaching effectiveness. Falcon was recognized specifically for her work related to the "flipped classroom" teaching modality. The fellows will receive funding and opportunities to participate in workshops that advance their FLC work.



## Jeffrey Groom

Professor of Clinical and Associate Dean for the Simulation Hospital and the International Academy for Simulation and Research

Jeffrey Groom is a seasoned educator,

clinician, researcher, and consultant. Combining his clinical background and his doctorate in Instructional Technology focusing on simulation and patient safety, Groom has designed and incorporated immersive experiential learning and simulation-based instruction in his teaching for nurses, physicians, and allied health professionals for 30 years in emergency medical services, military, hospital practice, and academic settings. A frequent invited speaker, he is a founding member of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare where he serves on the Editorial Board for the Journal for Simulation in Healthcare. Groom was chairman of the Department of Nurse Anesthetist Practice at Florida International University from 2001 to 2016. He also served as adjunct faculty and a member of the Miami International Alliance for Medical-Education Innovation at the UM Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education since 1985. In 2016, Groom was appointed to the UM Miller School of Medicine Next Gen Med Ed Taskforce and the Interprofessional Education Taskforce.



### Christina M. Vera

Assistant Professor of Clinical Christina M. Vera, B.S.N. '05, M.S.N. '09, worked in the UHealth clinical system for over seven years. Having served as adjunct faculty in the school's nurse anesthesia program prior to her full-time appointment, Vera has taught both didactic and high fidelity simulation instruction courses. She has also practiced independently, providing anesthesia services for outpatient and office-based surgical settings, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree. Her primary research interests are perioperative blood loss and fluid management, outpatient and office-based anesthesia patient safety, and high-fidelity simulation as a modality to enhance patient safety among anesthesia students and professionals.

30 heartbeat SPRING 2017 SPRING 2017

class notes alumni profile

# 1950s

Ann Marie Bouse McCrystal, B.S.N. '59, was elected in November to fill an additional two-year term on the Hospital District Board of Trustees, the taxing authority for indigent care in Indian River County. She also received The Legion of Bronze Medallion Award from The Chapel of Four Chaplains in February 2017 in recognition of her lifetime service to the community.

# 1960s

Alice Humr Gross, B.S.N. '65, retired in 2006 after a "wonderful career almost entirely in a supervisory role and culminating as nursing director." She now enjoys traveling out of the country to attend her daughter's IronMan races. "I am still young at heart and enjoy my newest ride: a 2016 Laguna Blue Corvette convertible."

# 1970s

Clare Wolf Good, B.S.N.'70, celebrated her 88th birthday. She is still an emeritus member of the Florida Nurses Association (55 years), and the Florida Organization of Nurse executives (46 years). She enjoys driving to Greenacres, Florida to see her 2-year-old great, great granddaughters.

Veda Andrus, B.S.N. '73, presented a session "Growing an Integrative Nursing Practice in Acute Care" at the 2nd International Integrative Nursing Symposium in Tucson, Arizona this April, and in July will present "Building the Healing Organization: Strategies for Successful Implementation, Cultural Transformation, and Sustaining High Value Outcomes" at the 28th International Nursing Research Congress of Sigma Theta Tau International in Dublin, Ireland.

Christy Torkildson, B.S.N. '79, was inducted as a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing by the Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association at their annual assembly held on February 25, 2017.

# 1980s

Rose Marie Prince, B.S.N. '83, received her M.S.N. with an Informatics Specialty from American Sentinel University, and is a certified security compliance specialist, a certified HIPAA professional, and a certified information governance specialist. Prince serves on the board of directors for the New Mexico Chapter of the Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS), and the Board of the New Mexico Chapter of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

# 1990s

Susan Galeano Burton, B.S.N. '91, is pursuing a Master of Public Health degree at the University of Florida. She works as an infection preventionist at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida and is the mother of three grown boys.

Joyce McClintock, Ph.D. '96, has published a novel, *The Russian Plot*, available on Kindle. The main characters include a blustery tycoon who has startled the country by winning the U.S. presidency, and FBI agents who suspect the election was hacked by the Russians, but they must prove it in time.

Maria M. Ojeda, B.S.N. '97, M.S.N. '99, became Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM) through the American Association of Diabetes Educators credentialing program. She also earned a dual doctorate (D.N.P./Ph.D.) in nursing from the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College, St. Louis, Missouri, in December 2016, where she was also the recipient of the Anna Ikeda-Tabor Nursing Research Award.

# 2000s

Jamila Abdullah Mwidau, B.S.N. '98, M.P.H. '03, is a lieutenant commander at the U.S. Public Health Service, and regulatory project manager for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation Research.

Charles P. Buscemi, B.S.N. '99, M.S.N. '01, Ph.D. '05, was promoted to clinical associate professor at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Florida International University.

Anna Lozoya, B.S.N. '06, a registered nurse and attorney at law, recently published "Mandatory HIV Testing of Pregnant Women: Public Health or Privacy Violation" in the *Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy*.

Meagan Mulawka, B.S.N. '06, earned an M.S.N. with a focus in acute care (ACNP-BC) from New York University School of Nursing (NYU SON) in 2011 and is currently working as a nurse practitioner at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on hepatopancreatobiliary surgery service. She also teaches once a week in the NYU SON's Clinical Simulation Learning Center.

Sarah Anderson, B.S.N. '08, graduated with her D.N.P. from the SONHS in December 2016 and is board certified by AANPCB. She will be working as a women's health ARNP with Miami MDs for Women.

Orfirio Max Sanchez, B.S.N. '08, is working in the Comprehensive Treatment Unit, (CTU) at the brand new Lennar Foundation Medical Center on the UM Coral Gables campus. He says, "Please come and visit us, 'U' will be really impressed!"

# Goal-Driven Nurse Turned Lawyer, Turned Judge

When the father walked into the courtroom, Judge Valerie Manno Schurr, B.S.N. '88, J.D. '92, saw that his gait was off. When he spoke, she noted his garbled speech.

Manno-Schurr regularly uses the nursing education she acquired at the University of Miami (UM) School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) to help her carry out her responsibilities as a Miami-Dade County circuit court judge. "When nurses interview patients, we assess how they walk and talk, and look at their affect," she says. "When people come into court, I observe them like a nurse does. It's just automatic."

These nursing observation skills have proven critical to Manno Schurr as a judge, especially when reading medical records connected to court cases, interpreting medical expert witness testimony, and meting out justice.

Currently in the court's Family Division, Manno Schurr handles a lot of divorce and child custody cases, which sometimes involve assessing health care issues in children or parents. When she recognized a neurological issue in the litigant with the irregular gait and speech, Manno Schurr immediately inquired, "Are you on medication?" This allowed her to uncover more about the situation and determine whether the man was medically capable of being a full-time parent. "I don't know if a judge without the experience I have as

a nurse would have

noticed what I

picked up on," says Manno Schurr., who came to the SONHS with an R.N. degree from Miami-Dade College and seven years of hospital nursing experience. She was awarded a grant that, at the time, funded R.N.s to pursue their B.S.N. degrees at UM.

Until then, a higher degree was not on the horizon. Her mother died when she was 5-years-old, leaving her father to raise Manno Schurr and her six siblings. "Earning a B.S.N. from the University of Miami was a huge accomplishment, personally and professionally. It was especially exciting that I graduated as a Sigma Theta Tau, honor society of nursing inductee," she says. "My whole family came to see me graduate."

Seeing many fellow B.S.N. graduates pursue advanced degrees opened Manno Schurr's eyes to her own potential. She graduated from UM's School of Law in 1992 and worked for a law firm before starting her own practice with her husband-lawyer, Kenneth Schurr. They were also blessed with a daughter, Dori.

After pleading cases to judges for more than a decade, Manno Schurr started dreaming about sitting behind the bench. In 2006, she was elected circuit court judge, and served in the civil, criminal, and juvenile courts. She is now an associate administrative judge of the family division.

Looking forward, Manno Schurr is setting new goals, contemplating becoming a nursing professor, and pursuing a master's in liberal arts.

"I'm continually thinking about what I want to do in the future.

That's what my UM education did for me. I'm on a journey, and I always have something more in my mind to reach for."

Manno Schurr encourages SONHS students and alumni to recognize that a nursing degree is a great foundation. "You can do anything," she says.

SPRING 2017 heartbeat 33

# 2010s

Rose Knapp, D.N.P. '10, associate professor and M.S.N. program director at Monmouth University was awarded the 2016 Sigma Theta Tau (International Nursing Honor Society) Lambda Delta Chapter Hannelore Sweetwood Mentorship Award. The award recognizes nurses who have demonstrated special interest and guidance to colleagues, foster talent and development, and represent the best attributes in nursing practice. Knapp was also awarded the 2016 New Jersey State Nurses Association Forum of Nurses Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year award during the annual APN Education Day on November 18, 2016.

Christopher Slivka, B.S.M.A.S. '10, B.S.N. '11, completed his Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner M.S.N. degree at the University of Pennsylvania in August 2016. He accepted a position in the Cardiothoracic ICU at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle and is providing care for patients post CT surgery including heart and lung transplant, ECMO and MCS patients. He says he "loves the incredible opportunity to work with this patient population" and thanks the University of Miami for "providing the core of his nursing knowledge, as well as the motivation to make a difference within the nursing field."

Debbie Anglade M.S.N. '10, Ph.D. '14, serves on the UM Alumni Association Strategic Planning Council to develop the UMAA's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan. Anglade was also selected as one of 10 Jonas Scholar Alumni to serve on a new Jonas Scholar advisory council. She attended the February 2017 Southern Nursing Research Society Conference as a Jonas Alumni Ambassador in support of the Jonas Scholars presenting at the conference.

Colleen S. Campbell, D.N.P. '11, serves Christine Blanco, B.S.N. '13, M.S.N. as a member of the newly established Veterans Health Administration Office of Nursing Services' Evidence-Based Practice Field Advisory Committee (VA EBP FAC). The overall goal of the committee is to develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based practice in the VA. The VA EBP FAC will serve in an advisory capacity to the Office of Nursing Services for strategic planning, issues, and VHA activities related to EBP. The term of the appointment is three years.

Betsy Fernandez, D.N.P '12, starts a new position in May 2017 as director of satellite practice, Community Health Delivery Systems, at the UHealth Clinic at Walgreens.

Alyssa Mary Plisic, B.S.N. '13, was part of a Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York, and worked in the Pediatric ICU for two years. She is now a travel nurse, and works in the Pediatric ICU at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, California.

Maria Launa Sosa, B.S.H.S. '13, recently passed her nursing boards and has been working at University of Miami Hospital oncology floor for a little over a year now. "I'm interested in aquiring ICU experience and, possibly a few years down the road, getting my CRNA license." Sosa and Stefano Cillis, B.B.A. '10, are celebrating their first-year wedding anniversary and expecting a second baby boy "and future Cane" in late June.

## Send us your news!

Email Rosa Lamazares-Romero, SONHS Assistant Director, Communications and Marketing, at rmlromero@miami.edu

'16, got married in December after 10 years of dating her now-husband, Julio Martinez, a City of Miami police officer. They are expecting their first child September 2017.

Sarah Davidson, B.S.N. '14, started a residency program at Georgetown University hospital on a general medicine and telemetry unit, after graduating from the SONHS. "Since then I've transitioned to my current role in the float pool to learn more about pediatrics and critical care units. This fall I plan to go to Duke for my F.N.P.—after backpacking in Europe for a few months!" she says. "A lot to look forward to but it all started at the U!"

Christina Karapelou, D.N.P. '15, works at the Miami Transplant Institute via Jackson Memorial Hospital as a Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Nurse Practitioner in the pre and posttransplant clinics. "I have worked on a project to refine the wait list management process and have provided educational lectures to the nursing and allied health staff," she says. She also works with the Transplant Infectious Disease team to see all fresh transplant recipients prior to discharge from the hospital to evaluate both donor and recipient infectious exposures. She worked as a kidney and pancreas transplant nurse practitioner at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville prior to attending the SONHS.

Madeline Marie Evancie, B.S.N. '16, started a residency program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital where she is working in the ICU float pool.



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# Community Health Calling Comes Full Circle

Régine Placide, a lecturer in the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS), has pursued her calling as a community health nurse and educator with what appears to be single-minded dedication. Yet she tends to view the arc of her nursing career as a series of preordained decisions.

The first such decision dates back to Placide's childhood. Because she suffered from severe asthma, "I spent a lot of time in hospitals," she says. "That was my first exposure to health care, and I still remember the nurses who took care of me. I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Placide also knew from an early age that she wanted to teach as well as practice. After earning her B.S.N. from Florida State University, she pursued and earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Florida Atlantic University.

36 heartbeat

At that point, Placide was torn between pursuing an advanced nurse practitioner or a public health degree. After shadowing one of her registered nurse preceptors conducting tuberculosis surveillance in the prison system, she had

"I realized the huge variety of settings in which community health is practiced," Placide says. "I love one-on-one bedside care, but the opportunity to improve the health of entire populations and address health care disparities really fascinated me." So Placide went on to earn a master's degree in public health from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Before joining the SONHS last fall, Placide worked for more than nine years in maternal and child health for the Florida Department of Health, managing and overseeing care for families on Medicaid whose children had special needs. "We offered specialty clinics almost every day of the month," she says. "We paid house visits and made referrals. When families and caregivers were feeling overwhelmed, the level of coordination

we provided clearly helped."

Placide's next career defining "aha"

moment came when she was talking with a relative whose child has special

needs. She asked who was coordinating the child's care—and was shocked by the answer. "Nobody." My family member told me that they just called the pediatrician's office to see who could help, she said. The realization inspired Placide to select the dissertation topic for the doctorate she is now pursuing at FAU: a qualitative study comparing the experience of families of children with special needs who are on Medicaid with those on private insurance plans, which often offer little or no care coordination.

"I'll be encouraging my study participants to really tell their stories, not just fill out a survey," she says.

Each week, Placide supervises SONHS students in their clinical practice experiences at Camillus House, a downtown homeless shelter, and at the Miami Beach Senior Center. "For many students," she says, "It's their first exposure to community health." To learn how to engage patients and deliver health teachings in these settings, the students present and discuss various health topics with the facilities' visitors. "It's always nice when a student comes away and says, 'Hey, I think community health may be the area that I pursue down the road," she says.

"I tell my students that, in the course of their nursing careers, they will have dilemmas. They won't always know right away the area of nursing they will want to specialize, or which advanced degree to pursue," Placide says. Then, speaking from her own experience, she adds, "But just like I did, as they go about their tasks as health care professionals, they will have that 'moment of truth' and they'll know where they need to be."

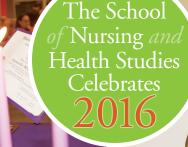














celebrated 119 graduates during the Fall 2016 awards ceremony. The newly minted Ph.D., D.N.P., B.S.N., B.S.H.S. and B.S.P.H. degree recipients participated in the traditional pinning of new graduates. The ceremony marked a milestone for the school, with the graduation of its first cohort of B.S.N. to D.N.P. nurse anesthesia track students. As their families friends and professors beamed with pride, awards for academic excellence, outstanding clinical performance, and leadership were also presented at this event in the Donna Shalala Student Center. On December 15, the graduates participated in the University of Miami's Watsco Center. Congratulations to all our graduates for your amazing achievements, and a warm "thank you" to the dedicated faculty that is educating our future generation of health professionals!

On November 5, 2016, the SONHS hosted the traditional annual Alumni Weekend and Homecoming Reunion. The timehonored tradition convenes graduates, students, faculty and friends of the school to renew bonds of friendship and reconnect to the school where they started their healthcare careers. The homecoming parade and fireworks took place on Friday, November 4, followed by the school's yearly Homecoming Breakfast and Morning Spirits Celebration on Saturday morning, which honors SONHS alumni and their amazing accomplishments.

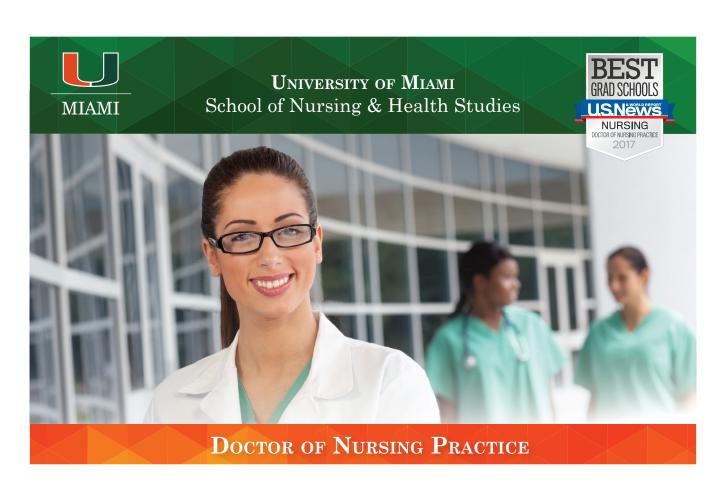












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