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School of Nursing Newsletter

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## School of Nursing Newsletter June 2013

Southern Adventist University School of Nursing

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## SCHOOL OF NURSING

CHRIST-CENTERED EXCELLENCE, CARING - LEARNING - SERVING

JUNE 2013

SOUTHERN  
NURSING

## Dean's Message

Each semester, as an important part of ongoing assessment, the School of Nursing (SON) participates in "end-of-program" evaluations. The graduates' perspectives, having completed the AS, BS, or MSN program, provide important feedback for continual monitoring of all aspects of each respective program. Comments are reviewed by the faculty and decisions made whether or not to modify or revise specific facets of the curriculum, schedule, sequence, or method of teaching.

However, we know that words can tear down or build up. The word "evaluation" can strike terror in the heart of a teacher. Why? The definition provided by merriam-webster.com is 1: to determine or fix the value of 2: to determine the significance, worth, or condition of usually by careful appraisal and study. By this definition, the value is determined by the evaluator and his or her choice of words.

Feedback from the spring 2013 end-of-program BS evaluations proved helpful, as always. But, what I wish to share are the words—full of affirmation and encouragement—received from these graduates. Comments, too numerous to count, remind me that "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver" (Proverbs 25:11 KJV).

I have never attended a school where faculty are so accessible and enthusiastic about what they do. The student body is an amazing aspect as well. I have made lifelong friends as I developed my nursing skills. I am very grateful to have made the decision to be a part of this nursing program. It is a decision that I would never change!

This program prepares you very well for the outside world. There is a lot of support from the nursing faculty.

My SON program is not only preparing me to become an efficient nurse, but it's also molding me to become a Christ-like nurse.

...getting an excellent continuing education while attending a school where all of the teachers genuinely care about us.

When professors take the time and initiative to come and approach me to ask how I am outside of class because they see that the trials in my life have been negatively affecting my school work, I know God is working in this place.

May we all, regardless of circumstances, choose our words carefully that they may be "as apples of gold in pitchers of silver."

*Barbara James*

# Linda Marlowe Retiring



Marlowe helps each student plan a course of study that enhances their likelihood of admission to nursing classes. She coaches students to meet their goals, celebrates their accomplishments, weeps with them in times of loss, and encourages them to find God's plan for their lives.

She has received the Distinguished Service Medal (2000), President's Award for Customer Service (2004), Adviser of the Year (2009), Elvie F. Swinson Award for Serving Nursing Alumni (2012), and the President's Award for Commitment to Student Success (2013).

Asked what she will do in this new chapter of life, Marlowe replied, "I know that God has plans for us that we are not aware of. I look forward to spending time with Jim, my husband of 44 years. We will continue with his photography business on a scaled-down basis, spend time with family and friends, and maintain our involvement with our church and community. And we just may become Lights Volunteers for Southern."

After 40 years of service to Southern, Linda Marlowe will retire from her position as the SON's admissions and progressions coordinator this October. In 1972, Marlowe began at Southern as the AS nursing secretary. Three years later, she became the office manager, a position in which she served until assuming her current role in 1990.

In managing the admissions process, Marlowe sees possibilities where others see problems. While not every applicant is accepted, Dean Barbara James says, "First and foremost, she advocates for students and offers support to them all."

## Senior Recognition

AS and BS seniors received awards at the Senior Recognition Banquet in April. Awards were presented to graduate students Beaver Eller, Jennifer Gibbs, Neeta Javer, Joan Manzella, and Marie Raedisch at the Nursing Dedication Ceremony.



### AS and BS seniors

#### Front Row:

Everson Marcondes, Jessica Wold, Brooke Firestone, Elani Richards, Kristen Downs, Michelle Martin, and William Walden

#### Second Row:

Kayla MacLafferty, Maricel Zamoras, Mariah Gage, Jeremy Pastor, Vincent Verzosa, Josue Yin Herrera, and Michelle Contarino

#### Not Pictured:

Melissa Allen, McKenzie Smartt

## Local Alumni in the News

NaLonna Covrig and Bonnie Oetman were named Elvie F. Swinson Nursing Alumni of the Year during 2012 Alumni Homecoming Weekend.



NaLonna Covrig, Dean Barbara James, and Bonnie Oetman

Shawn Collins is the Interim Associate Director for Western Carolina University's graduate nursing programs. Collins completed his Ph.D. in Leadership from Andrews University in 2012, receiving the School of Education's Outstanding Dissertation Award for his dissertation, "The Emotional Intelligence Profiles and Cognitive Measures of Nurse Anesthesia Students in the Southeastern United States."

# Mission Trips



Tim Ryder, Brittany Ryder, Michelle Contarino, and Amber Abernathy with a Nicaraguan patient

Nursing students made three mission trips this school year. In the fall, students held clinics and provided health education in several orphanages around Port au Prince, Haiti. During spring break, students participated in mission trips to both Brazil and Nicaragua. In Brazil students worked with Amazon LifeSavers Ministry, founded by Southern alumni Bradley and Lina Mills. They traveled the Amazon River by boat, holding mobile clinics in the villages on the river and aiding in construction of a church in one of the villages. In Nicaragua students worked at the Tasba Raya Adventista Clinica, also founded, in part, by Southern alumni. Mobile clinics were set up to facilitate the distribution of care to the communities in the area, which is heavily populated by Miskito Indians. These mission trips provided a great opportunity for students to make a difference in the communities they visited.



Above: Layla Suzuki, Seth Sutherland, Edna Moreno, Maricel Zamoras, and Tucker Anderson with Brazilian children

Left: Josselline Garcia and Sarah Anderson play with children at a Haitian orphanage

# Simulated Disaster at The Grand Event

The Grand Event, held in Iles P.E. Center during Parents Weekend, showcased some of the projects and learning opportunities available to Southern students. The School of Nursing and the School of Social Work collaborated with Campus Safety to create a living disaster scene, with students and faculty portraying victims, responders, and members of the trauma triage team. Thanks to students from Heritage Academy in Monterey, TN, the “victims” were moulaged (had make-up applied to simulate injuries) for the disaster scene.



# Unique Final Exam

On Tuesday, April 23, the MSN students enrolled in NRS 527 prepared to take the final exam for their research course. All the articles had been read and critiqued, matrices completed, and papers written. This final exam would be like no other exam. The students had to choose between one of two options: an 18-mile bike ride or walking the greenway from the University to the Imagination Station and back, about 4.5 miles.



Frances Johnson (center) gets students ready to bike.

Eleven students chose the biking option, led by Frances Johnson, professor, and billed as the “Second Anniversary of the Tornado Tour.” The students biked out Apison Pike, meandered to Bill Jones Road and then further still to Salem Valley, Friendship Road, and hard-hit Cherokee Valley Road, before returning to campus via Prospect Church Road. Tiffany Potter shared these comments prior to the ride, “I think your final is a wonderful idea with great intent to promote healthy activity during school. It gives the thought to somehow incorporate ‘mandatory’ or healthy lifestyle obligations within the program for every NP student to graduate.”

Sixteen students chose to walk. “Thank you. I never knew how peaceful and beautiful the Greenway is! I plan to bring my family up there this summer and make a day of it. Best Final Ever!” stated Matt Adams. Tom Curtis shared, “I really enjoyed the walk today. It made me realize how out of shape I am. The scenery was beautiful.”

# Japanese Nursing Students Visit Southern

In Summer 2012, the SON, along with Southern's English Department, hosted nursing students from Japan for the fourth year. A total of 20 students and a sponsor arrived from Saniku Gakuin College, a Seventh-day Adventist school, and Red Cross University. The students spent three weeks at Southern to complete a cross-cultural practicum and learn conversational English.

The students lived with host families so they could see firsthand how Americans live, work, worship, eat, and play. They attended English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the morning and Nursing Assessment classes in the evening. The students became CPR certified and had the opportunity to interact with current nursing students. In order to experience the U.S. health care system, they toured Gordon and SkyRidge Hospitals, Life Care Center of Collegedale, and The Lantern Alzheimer's Memory Care

Center. The students also relaxed and played tourist at the Incline Railway, Chattanooga Aquarium, and Dollywood.

The experience culminated in a farewell banquet for the Japanese students, host families, and teachers. The students wore colorful kimonos, sang songs in Japanese and English, and received CPR cards and English Bibles. At the end, everyone took a walk down memory lane through a slide show of their experience.

This spring, SON faculty Jillian Wills traveled to Japan with English Department faculty Amanda Jehle and Laurie Stankavich to meet with administration, faculty, and prospective students at Saniku Gakuin. As a result of their visit, enrollment for the this year's program increased from 10 to 14 students at this school. The Southern faculty also visited with previous students, including one who was recently baptized.



# DNP Students On Campus for Memorial Day

This Memorial Day, the eight students of the inaugural cohort of Southern's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree passed up the usual festivities to come to campus for their second intensive. Though weary from traveling (from as far as Minnesota) and from completing a "grueling and rigorous" semester, as described by student Monica Chamberlain, they were excited and energetic.

This intensive, a mixture of classes and labs beginning before sunrise and sometimes ending after suppertime, marks the midpoint in their program. Having completed courses such as Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Genetics and Environmental Medicine, they were ready to begin studies in their specialties. Students in Lifestyle Therapeutics spent

hands-on time with Harold Mayer (School of Physical Education, Health & Wellness) in the physiology lab for their Exercise Modalities for Lifestyle Change course. Those in the Acute Care track had primary training from local experts during the Emergency and Disaster Management course and prepared to begin clinicals in preparation to sit for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner boards.

Taking advantage of the expertise across Southern's campus, the students also enjoyed Michael Cafferky's (School of Business) Christian Leadership course. Future courses will include Christianity and Ethics for Professional Practice from Stephen Bauer (School of Religion) and Healthcare Economics from Robert Montague (School of Business).

After four intense days, the students returned home to continue their studies. "The perspectives [the professors] provide have empowered me to deliver a level of care that is truly wholistic in nature," said student Catherine Marcum. "The Christian-based component is an asset in education that I feel privileged to have experienced. The faculty is eager to facilitate learning, holding high expectations of performance to strengthen and grow us into this exciting role."

Please keep these and all of the SON's students in your prayers as they prepare to face an increasingly ill population in a time of uncertainty and change.

## Southern Offers Online RN-BS

Southern now offers three ways to complete a BS in Nursing: on campus, consortium off campus, and a new online track for working nurses or off-campus students. This new program is based on the same philosophy, outcomes, and mission as the traditional on-campus undergraduate program with courses designed for AS or diploma nurses seeking a BS in Nursing, built by SON faculty, and supported by Southern's Online Campus.

The SON is keeping abreast of the national trend to increase the number

of nurses with a baccalaureate degree from 50 to 80 percent by 2020, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine. We want our past and future nurses to be competitive in the workplace and meet the enhanced job requirements of the health care industry.

If you have been thinking about taking the next step and getting your BS degree, let Southern come to you! The online degree includes cognates, general education, and required nursing courses. Contact Sylvia Mayer or Jillian Wills at 423.236.2940 for more information.

## Standardized Patient Program

This year the SON debuted its standardized patient (SP) program. SPs are volunteers trained by nursing faculty to act as patients and simulate a set of symptoms or problems. They interact with students to allow them to hone their clinical and conversational skills for actual patient encounters.

SPs donated around 50 hours of their time to portray patients in Nursing Assessment, allowing students to practice taking health histories and performing regional systems assessments. They also played their roles in a simulated home environment to help orient students in Community Health Nursing to home visits. This past semester, these students conducted over 140 home visits with patients in the community.

Student feedback about interaction with the SPs has been positive. One Community Health student wrote: "It really helped to prepare me for the real thing. I had a better idea of how to interact and what questions to ask, and got a feel for how a visit should go.

I was really nervous about the home visits, but after the simulation I was much more confident." Another student commented that the SPs "had a HUGE impact. The simulation helped get us comfortable with going into someone's home and talking with them about their health issues and other problems that they might be experiencing."

The SON is grateful for the contribution of the SPs, most of whom are Lights Volunteers, to increasing our students' knowledge and experience. In upcoming semesters, the SON will continue to use SPs for BS clinicals.



Standardized patients Colleen Barrow, John Durichek, and others attended a thank-you luncheon in Florida Hospital Hall.

## Alumni Celebration

Join your classmates at the October 24-27 Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Honor years are 1943, 1953, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993, and 2003.

Do you know an alumnus who exemplifies nursing at its best and serves the profession and church with excellence? If so, please send his or her name to [Imarlowe@southern.edu](mailto:Imarlowe@southern.edu) by September 1 to nominate him or her for the Elvie Swinson Nursing Alumnus of the Year award.

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## Faculty Showcase



Lilly Tryon, Ronda Christman, and Sonia Wrate

### NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY

Joining the SON full time are three faculty who have been teaching here on an adjunct basis. Ronda Christman will be teaching in both the BS and MSN programs; Lilly Tryon will teach clinicals in the BS and MSN programs while completing her DNP; and Sonia Wrate will teach in the BS program. It is interesting to note that all three faculty completed the AS program right here at Southern.



Linda Marlowe, Holly Gadd, and Bonnie Hunt with their awards at the May 2013 Commencement

### HONORS

Special honors are awarded to faculty and staff at each spring commencement. Nursing honorees for 2013 are:

- Holly Gadd, Distinguished Service Medallion
- Bonnie Hunt, President's Award for Commitment to Student Success
- Linda Marlowe, President's Award for Commitment to Student Success