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School of Nursing Newsletter

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Summer 2020

## **School of Nursing Newsletter Summer 2020**

Southern Adventist University School of Nursing

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## SCHOOL OF NURSING



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SUMMER 2020

## Nursing Building Renamed AdventHealth Hall

by Holly Gadd, PhD

Many Southern nursing alumni from the mid-1970s onward remember “growing up” in Herin Hall or even down in Orlando, Florida. Over the years, as the School of Nursing programs expanded, Herin Hall no longer provided sufficient space. In 2011, thanks to generous gifts from alumni and friends of the university, our School of Nursing was privileged to move into a beautiful, new, state-of-the-art building, Florida Hospital Hall. Southern selected this name in recognition of generous support from Florida Hospital that provided a primary source of construction funding.

In January of 2019, Adventist Health System—which included Florida Hospital—rebranded and adopted the name AdventHealth. The partnership between AdventHealth, Southern Adventist University, and the School of Nursing remains strong, as evidenced by \$2.5 million in gifts from the health system to endow a chair of nursing education. The nursing building is being renamed AdventHealth Hall in recognition of the organization’s ongoing support.

We are immensely grateful for our AdventHealth colleagues and look forward to many more years in this lovely building. 🌱



## Zooming Into the Virtual World

by Ronda Christman, PhD

Southern’s annual Research Day, which showcases students’ evidence-based scholarly activities, is not only a highlight for many but a required part of the School of Nursing BS, BSN, and MSN curriculum. The scheduled date this year was April 16, so when Southern moved to distance learning in March,

followed in April by an EF-3 tornado that disrupted the local community, the nursing leadership had to re-think end-of-semester presentations.

The solution was to create an online Research Day on April 16. The event utilized the Zoom video conferencing platform, with nursing faculty assigned as hosts and moderators. Attendees were able to watch, comment, and ask questions of the presenters both verbally and through the chat function.



As a result, 71 nursing students were able to present their scholarly work: 18 poster presentations by BS and BSN research students, 28 MSN oral presentations, and 25 MSN capstone oral presentations—all recorded for later viewing. Overall, evaluations and comments on this new format were positive, and the Fall 2020 School of Nursing Research Day will likely follow the same format.

The School of Nursing used the same virtual format for seven Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) students’ scholarly project presentations in early May. These presentations were the culmination of the DNP educational process. Once again, post-event feedback by faculty and students showed that the Zoom format was a success and provided an excellent platform for presenting and engaging with a remote audience. 🌱

## Message from the Dean: A Summer of Change

Greetings from a relatively quiet campus and nursing building. What a year 2020 has been so far! While the COVID-19 pandemic had a serious impact on our winter semester and on student clinical activities, we have been very blessed. When Southern transitioned to distance learning at Spring Break, our innovative faculty members utilized their flexibility and adaptability to create an effective online learning experience for our students.

Thankfully, more than 50% of pre-licensure students had completed their clinical activities prior to Spring Break. Those unable to complete the necessary requirements during the winter semester have the opportunity to re-engage this summer.

Despite the pandemic-related challenges, this year the School of Nursing has graduated 107 undergraduates (53 associate and 54 bachelor's), 31 master's, and 8 doctoral students. The Class of 2020 included our first BSN pre-licensure students. We pray that—in spite of current circumstances and delays in NCLEX-RN and NP testing—our graduates will find joy and

fulfillment in their new roles and success as they take their exams.

We look forward to having our students back on campus for the fall semester! Southern has developed careful plans to allow for face-to-face instruction while mitigating the risk of COVID-19 infection, if possible. Please keep us in your prayers during these challenging times.

Thank you!

**Holly Gadd, PhD**  
Dean of the School of Nursing



## School of Nursing Gives Back

In response to the national shortage of medical supplies due to the spread of COVID-19, this spring the School of Nursing donated personal protective equipment to two local hospitals, CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga and AdventHealth Gordon in Calhoun, Georgia.

The supplies included N95 and surgical masks, gowns, and gloves, which would ordinarily be used in simulation exercises in the university's nursing skills lab. With Southern's transition to distance learning for the remainder of the winter semester, the School of Nursing wanted to put the supplies to good use and reached out to some of their local healthcare partners.

"Even though the resources we have to offer are limited, we know that every little bit helps," said Holly Gadd, PhD, dean of the School of Nursing. "We value all of the partnerships we have with healthcare agencies, and we want to do our part. We are a team, all trying to pull together during difficult times and meet needs when and where we can."

The School of Nursing has a close working relationship with many local medical facilities, where both professors and upper level nursing students regularly work in clinical roles. 🌱



Kerry Allen, nursing professor, left, and Holly Gadd, dean, prepare to deliver the School of Nursing's donated supplies to local hospitals.

## Faculty Updates

### Achievements

**Andrew Richards**, associate professor, is the latest School of Nursing faculty member to earn his doctorate, a PhD from Capella University. Richards joined the nursing faculty last fall, and on October 18, 2019, he defended his dissertation, "The relationship between job satisfaction, mentoring satisfaction, and retention of nursing faculty."

**Beth Snyder**, associate professor of nursing, achieved the DipACLM (diplomat of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine) in November of 2019. With this certification, she joins Lilly Tryon, DNP, and Cindy Rima, DNP, who earned this esteemed recognition in 2017. The certification preparation is rigorous but beneficial in the classroom, clinical setting, and for life. This contributes to the DNP program in lifestyle medicine offered by the School of Nursing. It features an evidence-based approach that includes the use of a predominantly whole-foods, plant-based diet; regular physical activity; restorative sleep; stress management; avoidance of risky substances; and positive social connections.

### Joining the Nursing Faculty

**Jacquyn Huse**, '93, '94, and '03, PhD, is rejoining the nursing faculty as a full-time professor. Previously she taught many of the BS level classes along with a number of MSN classes; she is a talented teacher and an experienced and currently-practicing nurse. She will be teaching Adult Health II and Professional Development, among other courses.

### Retiring/Leaving Southern

**Dana Krause**, '80 and '82, is retiring after working in the School of Nursing for more than 27 years. Following her graduation from Southern in the '80s, she obtained her master's degree at Texas Women's University. Through the years, she taught a wide range of classes, from obstetrics to massage and hydrotherapy. Many of her immediate and extended family have also attended Southern, including 23 who have gone through



the nursing program. In retirement, she plans to enjoy what lies ahead with life, family, and adventures, the same way she has enjoyed her teaching experience and the many students who she feels privileged to have known.

**Loirella (Crago) Howard**, '70 and '74, came to Southern Missionary College to finish her bachelor's degree and was invited to stay on as a clinical instructor. A few years later, she began teaching the Foundations of Nursing class. During that time, she met her future husband, Larry, a student who was working his way through college, and they married in 1973. After earning her MSN degree at Vanderbilt University in 1977, Howard returned to Southern's nursing faculty, teaching Foundations, Pediatrics, Med-Surg, and Assessment at various times; however, her first love was the beginning student. In the '80s, Howard took a 10-year hiatus from the university, before returning to Southern in 1994, where she taught full time until the summer of 2019. She "retired" after 35 years of teaching at Southern and has blessed the department by continuing to work part time. She and her retired physician husband enjoy their three grown children and three grandchildren who all live locally.



**Ruth Saunders**, '72, retired in January 2020 after serving as coordinator for the School of Nursing Learning Resource Center for more than 25 years. While earning her bachelor's degree at Southern, she met her husband, Dean. In retirement, she looks forward to spending more time gardening, making things, and hanging out with her daughter and 6-year-old grandson, Samuel.



**Sonia Wrate**, '83, '86, and '11, has been a valued part of the nursing faculty for seven years. During that time, she taught and coordinated clinical experiences for Population and Community Health. Most recently, she provided leadership in the simulation lab, coordinating complex technology and implementing effective debriefing and other teaching modalities to assure students were well prepared for common clinical scenarios. Wrate's attention to detail and love for students will be missed.

# Nursing Alum Loses Battle With COVID-19

John “Derrick” Couch, ’16 and ’20, dreamed of becoming a family nurse practitioner (FNP), and on May 10 this year, he made that dream a reality, graduating from Southern with his MSN degree with an FNP emphasis. Tragically, not long after completing his degree, Couch contracted COVID-19. His wife, Karol, took care of him at home for eight days before he required hospitalization. For the next 38 days, he fought the virus in the hospital—most of the time on a ventilator. On July 4, he passed away, leaving behind his wife of 30 years; two sons, Bron and

Chase; and many other loved ones.

His extended hospital stay left the family with enormous medical expenses; to help cover these costs, a GoFundMe\* account has been set up for the Couch family: [gf.me/u/yfi23u](https://www.gofundme.com/u/yfi23u). Any contributions would be greatly appreciated by the Couch family.

*\*GoFundMe is independent of Southern Adventist University.*



## Facing Loss

Following personal loss, a member of Southern’s nursing community created a network to connect those in similar situations. Alison Tucker, ’11 and ’16, had graduated from Southern with her AS and BS nursing degrees and was continuing her education in the School of Nursing, earning her MSN/MBA. However, last year she had to take a temporary leave from the program due to a complicated pregnancy, which sadly resulted in her son being stillborn in September 2019.

Through her grief, she created the organization Calen’s Heart, which is an outreach network for bereaved families following pregnancy, infant, or child loss.

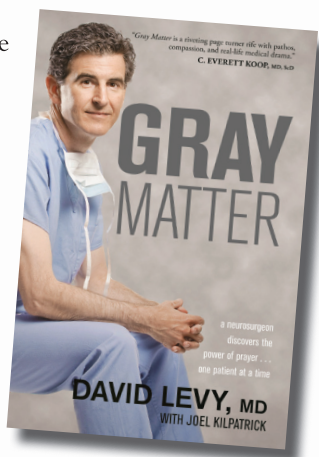
Through her website and Facebook page, Tucker offers resources and a platform where those who have experienced similar loss can share their personal stories. So



far, hundreds of bereaved women and families have connected at [facebook.com/calansheart](https://www.facebook.com/calansheart).

## Florence Oliver Anderson Lecture Series POSTPONED

Due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Florence Oliver Anderson Lecture Series with special guest David Levy, MD, which was planned for October 27, 2020, will be postponed until October 2021. Please watch for more information next year.



## Update Your Contact Information

We are proud of our nursing alumni and want to stay connected with you. Take a moment to let us know how you are doing and update any contact information by visiting [southern.edu/nursingalumni](https://www.southern.edu/nursingalumni).

# Creating Community *by Kerry Allen*

Throughout the school year, the School of Nursing strives to create an atmosphere of community through various social activities. The 2019-2020 year got off to a good start with the department's "Welcome Back" party. Nursing faculty and staff enjoyed putting on a carnival themed event that included popcorn, cotton candy, and a photo booth. It was a great time to welcome back returning nursing students while getting to know new nursing majors as well.

Additional School of Nursing and Nursing Club events during the year included an off-campus vespers, a Sabbath afternoon hike ending in an evening worship, free donuts in the lobby, a fall festival, manning a medical tent at the Sandy Erickson 5K run, the annual School of Nursing Thanksgiving meal, decorating Florida Hospital Hall (now AdventHealth Hall) for Christmas, and the annual Nursing Club Pancake brunch.

As employees and students all headed different directions at Spring Break, knowing that they would not all be back together that semester due to the pandemic, the faculty and staff committed to maintaining the sense of community. They continued to reach out to the nursing students in different ways to stay connected through Zoom and social media. The entire department looks forward with much anticipation to the return of nursing students in the fall!



Dedication service at the end of fall semester (above and below)



Welcome Back to School celebration in the School of Nursing



Students decorating AdventHealth Hall for Christmas



Blessing of the Hands ceremony held in the front foyer of AdventHealth Hall



Thanksgiving meal served by staff to students