

Conference Brings Together Nursing Educators

This summer, Southern hosted the Seventh-day Adventist Nurse Educators Conference, exploring the theme of “Transforming Adventist Nursing Education: Theory to Practice.” Sixty-two nurse educators—a record number—attended the three-day conference from eight Adventist colleges and universities: Andrews, Loma Linda, Oakwood, Southern, Southwestern, Union, and Washington.

Since the late '90s, various Adventist universities have hosted the event for nurse educators, helping them to be more effective teachers by continuing to strengthen their collaboration. This year was the third time that Southern's School of Nursing has hosted the conference. Barbara James, PhD, dean of nursing, and her team planned this event to be on par with any major professional nurse educators conference. The event featured peer-reviewed podium presentations and, for the first time, poster presentations.

“It's one thing to get together, socialize, and network like at past conferences, but now we have expanded the professional involvement by including poster presentations and a nationally known guest speaker,” James said. “We were not disappointed with the results of this new conference structure.”

Patricia Jones, PhD, and Edelweiss Ramal, PhD, of Loma Linda University presented the keynote address titled “A Distinctive Framework for Adventist Nursing,” followed by James, who had participated in the research and then applied it by developing a “Southern-specific” framework. This framework, which addresses the question of what makes Adventist nursing education distinctive, was designed as an option for existing or developing Adventist nursing programs globally to adopt.

In fact, in 2016 Southern's School of Nursing faculty adapted and implemented the framework, calling it “Southern's SDA Framework for Nursing Education Practice.” When applying this model in courses, James hopes to emphasize to students the core components: to be caring, connecting, and empowering. The model serves to assist professors in helping students view their patients holistically, as Christ would see each individual.



“Sharing this theoretical idea and showing how the framework can be applied was a very exciting part of the conference,” James said.

For many, a highlight of the conference was a popular guest speaker, Linda Caputi, EdD, author and nurse educator who presented “Teach Students to Think Like a Nurse.” Caputi's work has spanned more than 25 years of research and teaching experience, and she has presented her findings to nursing programs across the country. She has been awarded many times for her research. An additional 38 nursing professionals from the community joined the conference attendees to hear Caputi speak.

Participants also valued the opportunity to get together with other nursing professionals; the conference gave them time to connect and compare teaching strategies.

“This was my first Adventist Nurse Educators Conference,” said Terri Gibson, DNP, associate professor of nursing from Southwestern Adventist University. “In contrast to a national conference, it was nice to know that I shared similar values with those who attended. There were commonalities when interacting with those I didn't know.” 

Introducing a New Induction Ceremony

Launching a new Homecoming Weekend tradition, the School of Nursing will host a special event on November 3 at 4 p.m.—an induction ceremony to Rho Iota, Southern’s local chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI).

Membership is by invitation to those graduates who exhibit exceptional achievements in nursing. Belonging to this international organization provides a global framework for nursing—advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. Nursing leaders who become members of STTI are an elite group of nurses who conduct research, publish scientific papers, promote health for disparate populations, and have a vision for establishing health equity for all. The honor society provides a platform that allows nursing leaders to influence the conversation, inviting nurses to the table through organizations such as the United Nations and the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing.

If STTI membership interests you, please contact Linda Lechler at llechler@southern.edu with your name and contact information. 🌱

Patio Honors Alum

A new patio graces the hilltop in front of Florida Hospital Hall. Outlined by plants, with tables and chairs placed invitingly, the patio was donated by the family of Shirley (Belknap) Johnston in her memory. Johnston graduated from Southern with her AS in nursing in 1980. Years later, while working full time in Atlanta, she decided to return to Southern to earn her master’s in nursing. Johnston received her MSN in 2012; she passed away from cancer on November 9, 2014. 🌱



Nursing Adds Pediatric Simulation Area

Fenton Forest’s friendly inhabitants brighten the wall in the newly designed and open-for-business pediatric simulation room within the School of Nursing’s skills lab in Florida Hospital Hall. Fenton Forest’s author, Gordon Bietz, DMin, and the artist, Rebecca Johnson, were able to attend the opening celebration held on September 13, 2016.

Remembering Elvie Swinson

Elvie Fildes Swinson, retired professor and admissions coordinator of the School of Nursing, passed away April 19, 2017. In late 1969, Swinson became an integral part of the nursing faculty of Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University).

She and her colleagues were pioneers in creating the RN to BS program that is now ubiquitous at nearly every school of nursing in the country. She remained an active member of the faculty at Southern until her retirement in 1990. In her memory, Swinson’s family suggests supporting a worthy nursing student at Southern Adventist University via one of these scholarship funds:



- Association of Seventh-day Adventist Nurses (ASDAN) Nursing Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Katie Ann Towerton Lamb Nursing Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Carolyn Niemeyer Memorial Scholarship Fund

To contribute, visit southern.edu/give or call 423.236.2772. 🌱

Spring 2017 Mission Outreach

Rwanda

This May we were pleased to be able to donate nursing supplies to the Adventist University of Central Africa in Rwanda. As our nursing students finish their time at Southern, some donate their skills bags—in which they carried their nursing supplies while in the program—back to the School of Nursing. We were able to recycle and send 19 skills bags, stuffed with essential supplies, to enhance the nursing department in Rwanda. We are thrilled to be able to work with other schools like this, especially if we can be of service!

- Dana Krause, Skills Lab coordinator



Nicaragua

Twelve students—representing the nursing, technology, pre-med, and pre-pharmacy programs—traveled to Nicaragua this spring to serve in the village of Francia and surrounding villages. A nursing professor, technology professor, nurse practitioner, nurse, and interpreter accompanied the students as they helped at 12 medical mission posts, repaired several mission vehicles and houses, taught in local schools, and led out in church and Sabbath school.

- Jill Buchholz, associate professor of nursing



Haiti

During spring break, 22 undergraduate students, two DNP/NP/RN providers, and two sponsors traveled to Bohoc, Haiti, for a mission trip. In the clinic, we saw more than 400 people, ranging in age from 2 months to 90 years old. Every day we held VBS for the children, and on Sabbath we held Sabbath school, church, and lunch for more than 150 community members. The experience was life-changing.

- Ronda Christman, associate professor of nursing 



This February, Barbara James, PhD, dean of the School of Nursing (pictured center, front), participated in an International Board for Education site visit to Babcock University in Nigeria, where she reviewed the MS nursing program. “Casual Friday” gives the Babcock faculty an opportunity to wear their colorful traditional dress.



School of Nursing's 60-Year Diamond Celebration

Diamond comes from the Greek word “adamas,” which means unconquerable and enduring.

For the past 61 years, Southern’s nursing program has maintained a strong tradition of Christian nursing education, from the first class of 11 students in 1956 to the present 657 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs (877 when the additional 220 students enrolled in pre-nursing are included). Christlike caring has been the program’s hallmark.

During the 2016 Homecoming Weekend, the School of Nursing held a 60-year anniversary celebration—an evening for reuniting with classmates, friends, current and former faculty, former deans, and special guests. Attendees enjoyed scrumptious food, time to meet and greet, and historic nursing-themed memorabilia. The evening also included a School of Nursing video, awards, presentations, and even a surprise graduation.

Attendees were given an opportunity to help recent nursing graduates enter the workforce through the new Bridge to Success Scholarship. The scholarship helps students who have a financial need to prepare for, qualify for, and afford the NCLEX and licensing. To contribute to the nursing scholarship, visit southern.edu/give.

As years go by, there will be new students, new faculty, and new programs in the School of Nursing, but one element remains unchanging: an enduring commitment to nursing education with a strong component of Christian caring.

If you missed the diamond anniversary event, please join us this fall for Homecoming Weekend, November 2-5, as we celebrate Southern’s 125th anniversary! 🌿





New School Year Kicks Off Strong

As the 2017-2018 school year begins, I am pleased to report that the School of Nursing continues to thrive! This fall, our impressive numbers include:

- 220 pre-nursing students
- 292 AS students
- 164 BS students
- 170 MSN students
- 31 DNP students

Many who have declared nursing as their major intend to start the new BSN program in January (see back page).

That's a grand total of more than 870 students pursuing nursing degrees on Southern's campus! We pray for God's continued blessing on both our program and our students.

Sincerely,



Barbara James, PhD
Dean of the School of Nursing



Nursing Alumni Receive Recognition



Astrid Banegas (right)



Amy Cash



Jimmy Closser (left)

Astrid Banegas, AS '15

This summer Astrid Banegas received a Caring Spirit Award at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga after a grateful patient made a donation to the CHI Memorial Foundation in honor of the excellent care given by Banegas.

Amy Cash, AS '04

In March of this year, Amy Cash received the International Daisy Award from Memorial Hospital's Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit. The Daisy Award is given to honor the "super-human work nurses do every day." The Daisy Award nomination letter describes Cash's invaluable nursing and personal contributions: "In addition to being one of our more experienced charge nurses, Amy excels in caring for all those around her, whether it's her peers, her patients, or their families. THANK YOU, Amy Cash for being AMAZING!!"

Jimmy Closser, AS '11, BS '12

Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Department of Emergency Medicine awarded Jimmy Closser the Excellence in Nursing Award on June 3, 2016, for his work in the emergency services trauma unit.

Heather Magee, AS '10, BS '15

In May 2016, Heather Magee, who works at Children's Hospital at

Erlanger in Chattanooga, Tennessee, received the Nurse Excellence Award from Erlanger Health System, along with six fellow nurses. This award is given annually to what Erlanger describes as the "ultimate nurse." Award recipients are nominated and then selected based on their demonstration of the highest levels of caring, compassion, competency, commitment, and service excellence. An announcement released by Erlanger stated: "Working in the emergency department, Heather is constantly finding creative ways to improve her patients' experiences. Her innovation and good-natured spirit carry over into her interactions with coworkers as well. Serving as a source of encouragement for even the newest employees, Heather is always eager to help others."

Reglindis Ratteray, AS '13, BS '15

This June, Reglindis Ratteray received the Dr. Barbara Ball Public Health Scholarship from the Bermuda Ministry of Health and Seniors, along with nine other nurses. A government official in Bermuda said that from a pool of 50 applicants, those receiving the scholarships "stood out as having a combination of academic achievement, financial need, and choice of healthcare profession that would be most beneficial to public health in Bermuda." 🌍

Faculty and Employee Changes

Linda (Cannon) Peoples, AS '80, MSN '14, PhD, joined the university as a full-time faculty member in May of 2017. This fall she will be teaching Mental Health Clinical, Clinical Practicum I, and Lifestyle Strategies for Optimizing Psychosocial Health. After receiving her associate and master's educator degrees from Southern, Linda completed a master's in community counseling from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and a doctorate in Community Health from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. With interests ranging from farming to scuba diving to counseling, Peoples adds a unique flavor to the School of Nursing family.

Christina Shrode has been an adjunct clinical and simulation instructor at Southern since 2012. In January of 2017, she began teaching full time. This summer she taught Fundamentals of Nursing along with clinical and simulation, which she will continue to teach in the 2017-2018 school year. Shrode was born in Walla Walla, Washington, but was raised in Takoma Park, Maryland. She received her BSN from Washington Adventist University, an MSN in healthcare administration from the University of Maryland, and her MBA from the University of Baltimore. She has worked in critical care at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore and more recently in the ICU relief pool at Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga. She and her husband enjoy traveling and enthusiastically cheerleading their two sons and one daughter in their musical and sports endeavors.

Diane Proffitt, AS '76, served at Southern for more than 40 years before retiring this summer. Proffitt began working at Southern in the mail-purchasing-duplicating department even before starting college, driving a golf cart around the campus to deliver mail. Once

she began attending Southern, Proffitt worked in the Records Office for Mary Elam, processing admission applications, acceptance letters, and all re-admission applications that were required at the time. Nearing graduation with an AS in office administration, Proffitt initiated a significant conversation with Laurel Wells, who was then director of Student Finance: "I told her I was always in that office, so she might as well hire me. And she did!"

Starting as secretary to Wells and then becoming a student finance counselor, Proffitt worked in the Finance Department for 18 years. One special job perk she notes is that Wells introduced her to Eddie, who has been Proffitt's husband for 38 years.

Proffitt became part of the nursing family in January 1995 as faculty support secretary, and a few years later she added the role of graduate enrollment counselor. Subsequently, she devoted her time to the nursing graduate program, assisting graduate students as they navigated through the rigors of master's and doctoral education. Proffitt is grateful to Katie Lamb, former dean of Nursing, and Linda Marlow, former nursing admissions coordinator, for giving her opportunities for a different work challenge.

Jamie Thompson has stepped into the vacancy left by Diane Proffitt's retirement. Thompson is a familiar face on campus, having worked since 2005 in the English and History and Political Studies departments. Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Thompson admits she is a "Cheesehead" (Green Bay Packers fan). She married her high school sweetheart, moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and raised three sons and one daughter before moving to Southern. Thompson says that becoming a grandma recently and looking forward to another addition to the grandchild-fold are the highlights of her life. 🌱



Linda (Cannon) Peoples



Christina Shrode



Diane Proffitt



Jamie Thompson

Nominate a Deserving Nursing Alum

Southern's Homecoming Weekend, November 2-5, is rapidly approaching. "Alumni of the Year" recipients will be selected from honor classes 1947, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2007. Consider nominating a nursing alum

who has achieved distinction in practice, education/certification, leadership, and service. Please email your nomination to Barbara James at bjames@southern.edu or call 423.236.2942. 🌱

School of Nursing Adds Educational Options

Four-Year Bachelor of Science in Nursing – BSN

Southern has a rich history of baccalaureate nursing education, offering either pre-licensure (1956-1975) or RN-BS (1975-present) options since the program began. The School of Nursing is now re-establishing a pre-licensure baccalaureate program (BSN) in addition to the current AS, BS, and RN-BS programs.

The Institute of Medicine and other organizations have stated the goal that 80 percent of nurses will be BSN-prepared by 2020, and the School of Nursing is pleased to offer this second pre-licensure option for students in order to help meet these professional expectations. The program will launch January 2018.

Approval for the new BSN has been

granted by the Tennessee Board of Nursing, and accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) is in process.

Shortcut to Doctor of Nursing Practice – BS to DNP

Another new School of Nursing program beginning Fall 2017 is a BS to DNP. This program will provide alternate options for student entry and exit in accord with their professional goals. Recent graduates have expressed a desire to progress seamlessly from undergraduate nursing to graduate programs at Southern. This was not previously possible due to a work-experience requirement for MSN admission. The BS to DNP has been designed to allow students admission into

the program prior to RN work experience; these degree candidates may gain work experience during the BS to DNP program by achieving the required 4,000 documented work hours before beginning the clinical portion of the program.

Southern offers a wide selection of DNP emphases, with some offered on campus and others available online:

- Acute Care NP–Adult/Gerontology
- DNP/MBA
- Lifestyle Medicine
- Nurse Educator
- Primary Care NP–Adult/Gerontology
- Primary Care NP–Family
- Primary Care NP–Psychiatric Mental Health

Visit southern.edu/graduatestudies to learn more. 

Save the Date

Pharmacist William Carroll will present “New Bugs and a Few New Drugs” at Southern on October 31 at 8:15 a.m. in the Iles P.E. Center as part of the Florence Oliver Anderson series for continuing nursing education. To learn more, please call 423.236.2155 or email llechler@southern.edu.

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