

SCHOOL OF NURSING

CHRIST-CENTERED EXCELLENCE, CARING – CONNECTING – EMPOWERING

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING IS ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION IN NURSING

WINTER 2022

Dean of Nursing Receives Awards for Volunteerism and Community Service

School of Nursing's Holly Gadd, PhD, dean and AdventHealth Chair of Nursing Education, received the 2021 Champions in Health Care Volunteer Award.

While recognizing excellence and promoting innovation, the Champions in Health Care program educates the Chattanooga community about best practices to enhance the value and quality of health care in the area.

Gadd has a long history of using her nurse practitioner training to serve the needs of others, both locally and abroad. For 14 years she has been the lead nurse practitioner at Volunteers in Medicine Chattanooga, an organization that meets the medical needs of people with no health insurance or access to health care.

Joel Henderson, executive director of Volunteers in Medicine Chattanooga and a 1994 Southern graduate, nominated Gadd for the award.

"She has been instrumental in the development and organization of many medical protocols, practices, and programs for the clinic," Henderson said. "She's also our primary volunteer recruiter for her nurse practitioner peers and other medical professionals."

Henderson cited more than just Gadd's time and talents as reasons for the nomination. "Holly is incredibly compassionate and exudes Matthew 25, the biblical foundation on which our clinic was founded. This embodies Holly's ceaseless advocacy for the greater community, where she makes a positive impact to the medically underserved and most vulnerable."

Gadd officially accepted the award on September 8 during a virtual program. Visit [timesfreepress.com/champions](https://www.timesfreepress.com/champions) to view the ceremony online.

On Southern's campus, Gadd received the President's Award for Community Service Excellence, presented to her by university president Ken Shaw, EdD, at the Employee Christmas Brunch on December 5.



Holly Gadd, PhD, received two awards in 2021 for her professional contributions to the community.

Letter from the Dean

Happy New Year! January is a welcome time of new beginnings: new year, new students, new semester. This year promises to be eventful, especially as we continue to deal with COVID-19 and all of its variants. We know who holds our future, and we trust that God will continue to guide and uphold each of us in this new year, through the good and the bad. He will be there for us.

We decided to do a mid-year newsletter this year to celebrate the good things that are happening. The School of Nursing has many illustrious alumni near and far—some retired, some working in the trenches, some here on the home front, some serving in mission areas. We are proud of all our graduates and love to keep up with you. We welcome emails, calls, and visits with news about your lives. Each year we celebrate a few alumni who have made significant contributions in

nursing practice, education, research, administration, mission service, or service within their churches and communities. This newsletter highlights our recent honorees.

Wishing each of you a safe and healthy 2022!



Holly Gadd, PhD
School of Nursing
Dean



School of Nursing Honorees

Pictured from left to right are 2021 School of Nursing alumni honorees David Allen, Darleen Elkins Handal, Sara Cash Turk, James Closser, Jessica Zanes Pardo, Dorinda Harris, and Sonja Johnson. (Missing from the photo are Judith Osborne Crabtree, Gary Blinn, Beverly Keyes Collins, and Juan Class.) See the following pages for profiles on all of these gifted alumni, who are shining stars from our School of Nursing!

Help Honor Professor Hunt During Giving Days

April 6-7, 2022

Since 1977, Southern nursing students have been taught, encouraged, and challenged by Professor Bonnie Hunt. For 45 years, she has shared her passion for nursing through courses in medical-surgical nursing, pharmacology, and leadership. A forward thinker, she initiated and manages the ASAP program (Assisting Students to Achieve Professionally) in the School of Nursing. Through this tutorial service, Hunt has helped many students pass their nursing courses and the NCLEX-RN competency exam.

Professor Hunt retired in 1997 but still works nearly every day. She keeps up with changes in nursing and course content, tutors students, reviews tests, and shares encouragement during all interactions.

On February 2 this year, Bonnie turns 90 years old. She may well be the oldest nursing faculty teaching in the Adventist school system—perhaps in the whole world! We invite you to celebrate a remarkable friend, colleague, student mentor, and our nursing matriarch by honoring her service during April's Giving Day with a gift of \$9, \$900, \$9,000, or anything in between.

Every year during Giving Day, you have an opportunity to give back to the School of Nursing and be a part of the future of our program. This year, we will focus on fundraising for simulation equipment and tutorial services that promote nursing student success.

Please mark your calendar and make your gift between April 6 at 8 a.m. and April 7 at 12 p.m. to help us take advantage of special bonuses available for the school or department with the highest number of donors. With your support, this can be our best Giving Day ever and a special honor to Professor Hunt.

You are encouraged to personally greet and celebrate this special faculty member emeritus on **February 2** through card or email. Address cards to *Bonnie Hunt, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315*. Send email birthday greetings to bhunt@southern.edu.



School of Nursing Honorees

Sonja Johnson – 1970 (50-Year Honoree)

Sonja graduated with her BS from Southern Missionary College in 1970 and began her nursing career at Florida Hospital in Orlando. Until 2017 she worked in at least 24 of the 50 American states, in hospital settings, free-standing clinics, and multiple agencies. She gained experience in the areas of emergency, post-surgical, maternity, nursery and general medicine, gastroenterology/internal medicine, and home health. While working at Takoma Home Health Services in Greeneville, Tennessee, she saw patient need for the Life-Line program and was instrumental in implementing the program for Greene County.

Beginning in 1982 she specialized in home health care, moving from staff nursing roles to director, reimbursement coordinator, performance/improvement/compliance director, clinical services director, and finally ending her career as a knowledgeable and valued consultant in home health. Her broad expertise made her a highly valued professional, able to guide agencies in developing an orientation program and policy, using appropriate billing/coding to maximize reimbursement, and obtaining excellent compliance with long-term care accreditation standards, such as for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

She has participated in three mission trips to Ecuador and has volunteered in her community and church as Home and School leader, Sabbath School superintendent, kindergarten leader, Pathfinder counselor, First Impressions ministry team leader, and in additional church offices. She is the mother of two sons, Gregory and Eric Johnson, and a daughter, Tanya Jansen. She enjoys spending time with her seven grandchildren and friends, as well as traveling both abroad and in the United States.



Judith Osborne Crabtree – 1971 (50-Year Honoree)

Judith graduated in 1971 with her BS in nursing and worked at Florida Hospital in Orlando for two years. After her husband, James, finished his university degree, the couple moved to Avon Park, Florida, where she had the privilege of working with her father in his OB-GYN practice.

In 1980, her husband became the youth pastor in Sacramento, California, and they spent 17 joyous years in youth ministry. This involved multiple Mexico mission trips, community day camps, a youth riverboat, hiking, backpacking, and hang gliding. Influencing young people for Jesus was a very rewarding time in their lives. During these years, she obtained a master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, and in 1993 she received a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner degree from San Jose State. She worked in a private OB-GYN practice, taught childbirth classes, and was a doula, coaching women through childbirth. In 1997, her husband became the senior pastor of the Mount Shasta Seventh-day Adventist Church. She had a wonderful opportunity to work in Redding, California, with Robert A. Greene, MD, a world-renowned author, lecturer, estrogen researcher, and reproductive endocrinologist who mentored her in hormone management and infertility.

In 2015, she opened Perfect Balance, a boutique consultation practice specializing in bio-identical hormone replacement and other complex endocrine issues. Her focus is healing with integrative medicine methods involving lifestyle management, supplements, nutrition, and exercise. She is a member of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine and has been employed in women's healthcare for more than 50 years. She and her husband care for her mother, Irene, who is 105 years old.



Darleen Elkins Handal – 1976

(45-Year Honoree)

Forty-five years have passed since Darleen graduated from Southern Missionary College with her BS in nursing. She launched her career at Loma Linda University Medical Center, working pediatrics and pediatric ICU. Since then, her career path has been a combination of public health nursing in Honduras, locum nursing positions, and office nursing in various specialties. She has had the opportunity of giving back to her alma mater by teaching a course in Mission Nursing at Southern. She has provided nursing care on mission trips to Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Honduras, often guiding and inspiring nursing students in their first mission experience.

Darleen has spent the last seven years volunteering countless hours as the North American Division's Chattanooga coordinator for Adventist Muslim Friendship Association, which specializes in reaching out to Muslim refugees. This group helps refugees integrate into Chattanooga by visiting them, creating a community, helping establish a cottage industry for the ladies, providing medical assistance when necessary, advocating for them and helping with needs, coordinating volunteers, and so forth. Seeing God in action and His incredible love to all has been beyond amazing, keeping her excited about her life and faith.

She and her husband, Albert, have four adult children and six grandchildren, with another grandchild on the way. She enjoys hiking, quilting (has made over 45 quilts for friends and family), and spending time with family and friends. Speaking of an incredible God is her biggest joy.



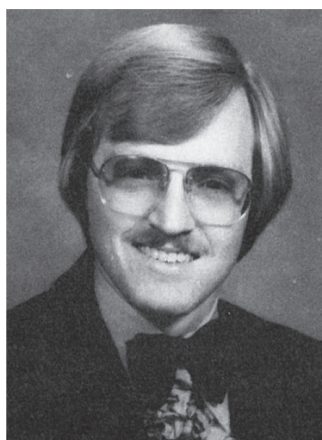
Gary Blinn – 1981

(40-Year Honoree)

Gary received his BS from Southern College in 1981 and continued his education at the Erlanger Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia, earning a diploma in nurse anesthesia in 1983. He received an MSN from the University of Tennessee at Memphis in 1995, then worked as a freelance Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and staff CRNA for about seven years. He has served as chief nurse anesthetist for the Anesthesiology Consultants Exchange since 1990.

He additionally shares his expertise through education of CRNAs, holding the positions of assistant director, director, and clinical coordinator for the School of Anesthesia at Erlanger Hospital and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga from 1991 to 2016. He is active in professional organizations, having spent nearly 20 years as a board member, vice president, president elect, and president of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists at various times. He was awarded the Patty Cornwall Practitioner of the Year in 2012.

He married Laurey Wilcox, CRNA, '77, and they have two children, Justin and Jordan, both of whom are alumni of the School of Nursing at Southern and live in the Chattanooga area. Justin is an anesthesiologist who specializes in cardiac anesthesia, and Jordan is a CRNA. Gary and Laurey have been blessed with six grandchildren.



School of Nursing Honorees, continued

David Allen – 1991
(30-Year Honoree)



David graduated in 1991 with an AS in Nursing. Following graduation, he started working in Neuro ICU at Florida Hospital. He went on to the University of Alabama, where he obtained his BSN in 1995 and later attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, graduating in 1999 with an MSN as an Advanced Practice Nurse. David worked for eight years as an RN in ICU and ER, and he has been working for the last 22 years as a family nurse practitioner in family, urgent, and primary care settings. He has guest lectured at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and at Southern, and he enjoys mentoring students when he has opportunity.

While at Southern, David met the love of his life, Kerry Vetne. He and Kerry have two children: Noah, 21, and Kiley, 18. He is an active member of the Collegedale SDA Church, where he serves as an elder and volunteers in Children's Ministry, Marriage Ministry, and First Impressions Ministry. He enjoys spending time with family, hiking, backpacking, camping, and reading.

Beverly Keyes Collins – 1991
(30-Year Honoree)



Beverly received both AS (1989) and BS (1991) degrees in Nursing from Southern. Her early career began in staff RN and home health care in the Chattanooga area. She did a year of mission nursing work in Thailand following her BS graduation. Gradually Beverly's career path moved from home health to geriatrics. She obtained an MSN degree from Clemson University in 1999 with a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner specialization. She has worked as a geriatric nurse practitioner for over 22 years, providing care in skilled nursing, post-acute care, and assisted living facilities in North Carolina and California. Currently she is doing podiatry and wound care in skilled nursing facilities.

Beverly is married to Shawn Collins, who is also a nurse and holds an administrative position at Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

Sara Cash Turk – 1996
(25-Year Honoree)



Sara, a 1996 BS graduate, began her career as a staff RN in oncology/gynecology, primarily caring for post-surgical patients and patients receiving induction chemotherapy or dealing with complications from chemo or end-of-life cancer issues. She is currently employed by Tennessee Oncology as an outpatient chemotherapy nurse and clinical team lead. Her job responsibilities include patient care, education, research, and administration. Sara offers expertise to drug advisory panels, and an acuity-based staffing model she developed is now used company-wide. She is certified as an Oncology Certified Nurse and sits on the Nursing Practice Council for TNONC.

Sara married Peter Turk in 1995, and they have two children: Derik, 25, and Calle, 22. Sara is a member of the McDonald Road SDA Church and has served her community and church. She enjoys camping, gardening, reading, quilting, loving on the family dogs, small-group Bible study and ladies group, spending time with local family, and renovating their old house built back in 1900.

Jessica Zanes Pardo – 2001
(20-Year Honoree)



After graduating with an AS in Nursing in 2001, Jessica worked in Chattanooga at Memorial Hospital as an RN in the cardiac stepdown unit while completing her BSN. She worked at both Memorial and Parkridge Hospital until May 2003, then she did travel nursing near Loma Linda, California, and enrolled in Loma Linda University's MSN/FNP program. Jessica moved to Denver, Colorado, upon completing her MSN in 2007. She worked in a variety of areas, including corrections, urgent care, pediatric, and primary care. Most recently Jessica has balanced family and part-time FNP work in House Calls programs and has provided vacation/sick coverage for nurse practitioners at Southern's health center and at McKee Foods. She has also worked in remote/telehealth triage and has monitored employees with COVID exposure/symptoms as well as COVID-19 patients after they are discharged from a hospital.

Jessica married Erik Pardo in 2009, and they had their first daughter in 2013. They welcomed their second daughter in 2019. She recently added health coaching to her busy life.

James Byron Closser II – 2011
(10-Year Honoree)



Jimmy graduated in 2011 and 2012 with AS and BS nursing degrees, respectively. Following his AS graduation, he worked at Erlanger Medical Center and gained RN experience in the orthopedic and neuro areas. An interest in emergency services and volunteer work for Collegedale's Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department led him to complete an advanced EMT course.

In 2013, Jimmy moved to Nashville to work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the trauma ICU. He transitioned to the adult ER and added LifeFlight Event Medicine and Critical Care Transport activities to his areas of expertise. Since 2018, he has coordinated the Stroke Services at Vanderbilt. Jimmy volunteers with Box 55 Association (Rehab 55) Fire/Police/OEM on-scene rehab services and the Metropolitan Nashville Office of Emergency Management's ESU Unit (Dive and Swift Water Ops) Local Disaster Response.

Jimmy has received numerous awards and enjoys speaking at schools and fire departments. His hobbies include scuba diving, camping, traveling, aviation, music, and ice hockey.

Juan Class – 2011
(10-Year Honoree)



Juan began his medical career in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard as an EMT/medical specialist in 1992. Following his military time, he served as an ER and critical care technician until completing community college and diploma nursing programs in 2002. He then worked in the emergency department and trauma areas, first in Trenton, New Jersey, then at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. While at Erlanger, Juan enrolled at Southern and completed his BS in Nursing in 2009 and an MSN with specialization as an acute care nurse practitioner (ACNP) in 2011. Since then, Juan has continued to practice at Erlanger in the ER as a nurse practitioner.

When tornados struck the Chattanooga area in April of 2020, Juan hiked several miles through storm-torn areas—where roads were blocked by trees, debris, and flooding—in order to get to the emergency room to work. His dedication to work and community are selfless and honorable.

Juan is married to Patricia Class, also a graduate of the MSN program at Southern.

School of Nursing Honorees, continued

Dorinda Harris – 2011
(10-Year Honoree)



Dorinda has received multiple degrees from Southern: a BS in Biology with a pre-med emphasis (2003), an AS in Nursing (2006), and an MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner emphasis (2011). As a lifelong learner, she is currently enrolled in a Master of Public Health program at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, expecting to graduate in May of 2022. Dorinda's early RN experience took place in Chattanooga, where she worked for six years on a cardiothoracic stepdown unit as a staff nurse, weekend charge nurse, and BLS/ACLS instructor. During this time she received a Nurse Excellence Award (2009).

As a family nurse practitioner, she has worked primarily in the Chattanooga area in family practice/primary care and most recently at Southern's University Health Center, managing COVID-19 illness, doing campus contact tracing, and providing general primary care health services to students. Prior FNP experience allowed her to work in Oregon and Washington, which included homeless healthcare and training in EPIC medical record systems. Additionally, she has held positions as a clinical lab instructor, adjunct professor, and graduate assistant.

Her hobbies include playing banjo, taking portraits of her friends' children, building model railroads and farms, reading, hiking, biking, and watercolor painting.

School of Nursing
PO Box 370
Collegedale, TN
37315-0370
nursing@southern.edu



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHATTANOOGA, TN
PERMIT NO. 1114