
Innovations

Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing
Publications

Winter 2016

Innovations Volume 1: Issue 2

Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing

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INNOVATIONS

College of Nursing



Dean Combines Her Two Loves: Nursing and Academia

NSU Now Available on

GOOGLE MAPS STREET VIEW

Earlier this year, there were strange things occurring on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, which became evident when students and faculty and staff members reported seeing people wielding odd-looking contraptions and riding around in bizarre-looking vehicles.

spent several days at NSU to record nearly every square foot for Street View, which means visitors or those interested in taking a virtual tour can now use their cell phones or computers to navigate their way around the campus. ■

The strange sightings turned out to be a team from Google that was mapping NSU's campus to be part of its popular Street View program. To capture the needed footage, a Google Trekker

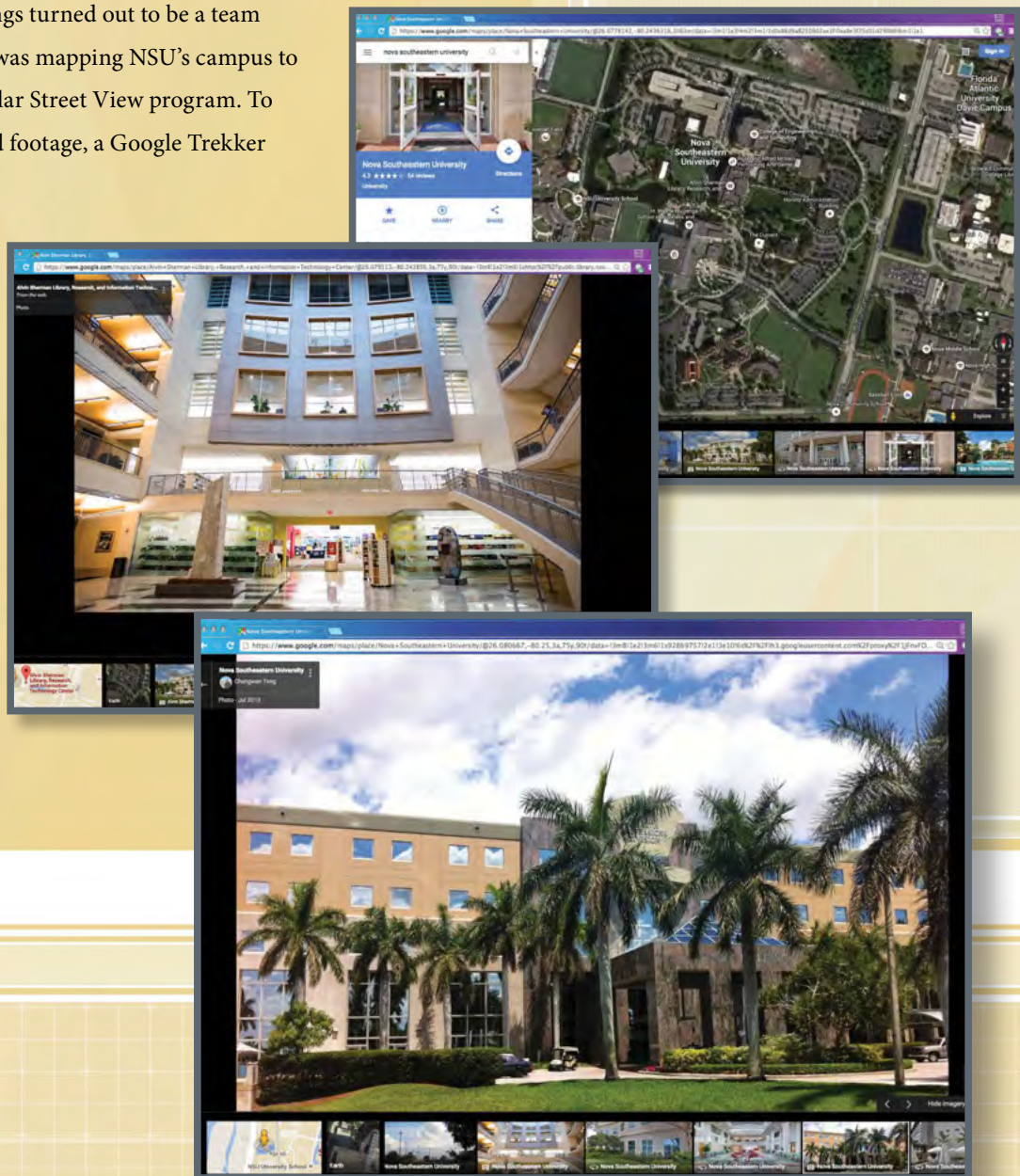


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Dean's Message



The College of Nursing (CON) graduates from Nova Southeastern University (NSU) are exceptional. Each day, they are challenged to grapple both intelligently and courageously with various issues as they address their patients' myriad health care problems. How do we prepare exceptional nurses? We do many things to help shape and educate our students for tomorrow's health care model, and the two key drivers responsible for students excelling are achieved by offering the highest-quality nursing faculty to guide them and experiential clinical experiences in all programs.

Our high-quality faculty members are dedicated to producing nurses who possess the passion, creativity, integrity, curiosity, and intelligence required to become the leaders of tomorrow. Each faculty member's credentials highlight the varied experiences in research, clinical specializations, and educational expertise that all nurses can achieve in their field of study. Most importantly, our faculty members achieve fulfillment and demonstrate their genuine pride when they welcome these students as colleagues into their profession and/or area of specialization.

Nursing is an art and a science, and this challenges educators to apply their highest energies, always striving to understand and remain relevant to today's requirements for the nursing role. Tomorrow's nurses will be called on to work in many areas of specialization, to interface with every member of the health care team, and to offer culturally sensitive care to diverse patients with various needs.

All of the CON programs offer clinical experiences in various environments that challenge students to stretch and utilize what they have learned. In these clinical hours, capstone projects, practice projects, and dissertations, NSU faculty members assess the readiness of each student for practice. The college's programs also offer students an opportunity to seamlessly progress toward higher academic goals.

NSU's College of Nursing graduated more than 425 nurses in the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral nursing programs during the past year. We are proud of our nursing alumni and know that we have been able to witness their ability to fulfill their educational dreams of becoming exceptional nurses.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcella M. Rutherford". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., R.N.,
Dean, College of Nursing
Nova Southeastern University

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Chancellor's Communiqué



Now that all the new students in our various Health Professions Division (HPD) programs have had a chance to settle into their academic routines, it gives me the opportunity to reflect on when we first merged with Nova University in 1994 and came to the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus with about 1,900 full-time students. Today, that number has grown to approximately 9,500 full-time students in our multifaceted HPD programs.

The wonderment of walking around our hallways and seeing the rainbow of white-coat patches and scrubs unmistakably indicates the diversity of our programs. It's a scenario that will only continue to increase with the recent approval by the NSU Board of Trustees to establish the College of Allopathic Medicine, which will exist alongside our esteemed College of Osteopathic Medicine. As a result, the HPD will consist of eight colleges in the not-too-distant future.

Because NSU has always endeavored to be at the forefront of educational innovation, the university took the bold step last year to realign many of its colleges and programs. As part of this realignment, a number of the university's undergraduate programs were relocated to other NSU colleges, including the HPD's College of Health Care Sciences. This was a wise move in my opinion, because I believe it will serve as a catalyst to increase the number of dual-admission opportunities for our students.

During the past several months, five academic degree programs that were formerly housed at other NSU colleges were repositioned into the College of Health Care Sciences. These include the B.S. in Speech-Language and Communication Disorders, the M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology, the SLP.D. in Speech-Language Pathology, the B.S. in Athletic Training, and the B.S. in Exercise and Sport Science.

This realignment also brings tremendous efficiency to presenting education to our undergraduate students, because it creates an atmosphere of mentorship and collegiality between the undergraduate, graduate, and first-professional students. As a result, we're helping to set the educational paradigm for the rest of the nation.

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Chancellor, Health Professions Division
Nova Southeastern University

one nurse's

*Marcella M. Rutherford
reflects on her
multifaceted career*

BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR,
HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL
COMMUNICATIONS AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS

As a child growing up in northern Ohio, Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., R.N., who has served as dean of NSU's College of Nursing since 2012, was exposed to an important aspect of health care at an early age while working in her father's community pharmacy in her hometown. It wasn't until she began volunteering as a candy striper while she was in middle school, however, that her interest in a nursing career was ignited.

"I became a candy striper at the hospital in which all my brothers and sisters were born," said Rutherford of her large family, which includes five sisters and two brothers.

"My mother, who worked in the library of the Catholic grade school my family attended, encouraged my interest in the sciences," she said. "I guess she saw my potential when she gave me a doll that you could paste on measles, place a cast on its leg, and bandage its body. I enjoyed the hospital environment even at an early age and thought it was exciting. When I helped a patient with an amputated limb reposition himself in bed, I remember thinking that taking care of patients was something I could do."

story

After earning her associate's degree in nursing, Rutherford began her nursing career in earnest in Ohio. It would continue later in South Florida. Across her 41 years thus far as a nurse, she practiced as a medical-surgical nurse, a nursing supervisor, an operating room nurse, and an emergency life-flight team supervisor. She spent 10 years of that time in hospital finance and hospital and physician practice administration. During those 10 years, Rutherford began teaching. This moved her into the third phase of her career—focusing her interests on academia.

In her nursing positions, Rutherford rose through the hospital's administrative ranks and earned her Bachelor of Health Services degree, with a concentration in Health Administration, from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in 1990. Her pursuit of advanced degrees continued in 1997 when she earned her Master of Business Administration from FAU.

"I decided to get my M.B.A. after I did a study on cataract surgery reimbursement as an assignment for my bachelor's degree," she said. "To complete this data, I needed to show how the new reimbursement policies were going to affect patients. A change in outpatient reimbursement rules and surgery fees, also known as prospective payment, would change the types of lenses that were being utilized. The project also focused on greater quality and efficiencies of care," she added.



"I sought out the hospital controller with questions, gained exposure to the hospital cost report, and was later offered a position in the hospital finance department," she continued. "Eventually, my role included preparing the monthly financial statements, overseeing the hospital charge master, creating cost-accounting reports, and analyzing state data. Obtaining an M.B.A. degree supported these job responsibilities and resulted in advancements related to finance, accounts receivables, managed care, and risk management."

After working at Boca Raton Community Hospital for 19 years, Rutherford accepted



Top: Marcella Rutherford shows off her regalia from Florida Atlantic University, where she earned four degrees.

Center: Rutherford chats with John-Mike Rujimora, B.S.N. ('12), in the Nursing Education Center at NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

Bottom: Rutherford and George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and CEO

“...Our program’s capacity for research, experiences in academic service partnerships, and strategies used to teach a very diverse nursing population of students, positions NSU’s College of Nursing to become a highlighted premier program.”

—*Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., R.N.*

a position with Surgical Associates of Palm Beach County in 2000, serving as the organization’s director of operations. During this time, she earned a second master’s degree from FAU. This time it was in nursing.

With her varied career experiences in nursing, Rutherford—whose hobbies include reading, swimming, and painting—made yet another bold step when she returned to FAU to pursue a fourth degree. She received a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing in 2007. This academic experience would prove to be quite providential, as it laid the groundwork for her to become dean of NSU’s College of Nursing.

“I returned to school to obtain my Ph.D., with a goal of enhancing nursing knowledge and scholarship in the area of finance. I felt nurses were at a disadvantage when funding decisions were being made, yet much of their firsthand knowledge would improve the efficiencies and quality of health care,” she explained. “I started teaching in FAU’s master’s in nursing program and enjoyed expanding nurses’ understanding in these content areas.”

While she was pursuing her Ph.D., Rutherford met Diane Whitehead, Ed.D., M.S.N., R.N., who was an administrator at what was then called the NSU College of Allied Health and Nursing. “She had hired Patricia Dittman, Ph.D., M.S.N., who was in my Ph.D. in nursing program, and offered me a job at NSU as well,” Rutherford said. “I liked NSU and felt the environment would allow me to teach across all nursing programs in those areas that led me to my doctorate—health care finance, policy, and economics.”

After launching her NSU career as an assistant professor in 2007, Rutherford would progress up the leadership ladder quickly, becoming interim associate dean and associate chair of the nursing program. In 2012, when the College of Allied Health and Nursing branched off

into separate colleges, Rutherford was named dean of the rechristened College of Nursing.

Although she never set out to become a nursing school dean, Rutherford admitted that she always seemed to end up in an administrative role after her first year as a nurse.

“I have always been involved in creating charge masters, preparing business impact studies and projections related to adding new service lines, and creating patient plans to enhance efficiencies,” Rutherford said. “I believe this interest in organizing was part of the attributes that led me to my position. Collecting and analyzing data, overseeing budgets, and creating accreditation reports was in my skill set. I found that teaching nurses, and working on curriculum design that resulted in enhancing the relevance of the education outcomes of the students, was rewarding.”

Under her guidance, the college has continued to grow. It offers a full array of undergraduate and graduate programs for individuals wishing to enter the profession and to licensed nurses looking to enhance their credentials. Maintaining the status quo, however, is not what Rutherford envisions for the College of Nursing’s foreseeable future.

“I would like to see the college grow in national recognition for the high-quality programs it offers,” she explained. “In addition, our program’s capacity for research, experiences in academic service partnerships, and strategies used to teach a very diverse nursing population of students, positions NSU’s College of Nursing to become a highlighted premier program. I believe that Dr. [Diane] Whitehead and Dr. [Sally] Weiss began the vision of creating this nursing program that has now grown to produce the most competent and confident graduate nurses in the state. I want to take the legacy they started and move it forward.” ♦

Getting to Know

Marcella M. Rutherford



CHILDHOOD DREAM: I always wanted to live on the water. I was a lifeguard, taught swimming, and loved boating and waterskiing.

FAMILY BIO: My husband, Tom, and I met at Boca Raton Community Hospital when I was working in the operating room. He was a hospital administrator, and we met when a contractor fell down the elevator shaft at the facility and the operating room team was called. We married seven years later. He is currently a project manager for a firm in Boca Raton. We have one son, James, who is a junior at the University of Central Florida and is seeking an engineering degree. We also have a large, 11-year-old labradoodle named Snow.

INTERESTING FACT FROM HER PAST: I played basketball all through grade school, high school, and college. In my early years, I was called a roving guard. In my high school and college years, the sport evolved to allow all the team players to cross the center court line. I was more known for my ball handling than my shooting—my 5-foot 2-inch height may have contributed to this.

MOST FULFILLING ASPECT OF BEING A NURSING PROFESSIONAL: In my early nursing career, I worked in an operating room that had one of the earliest Life Flight [medical transport] programs in the United States. Many of the surgical residents had been in the war, and I had the great opportunity to oversee the trauma team. As many of the emergency cases we saw were directly from Life Flight, those years were very rewarding and challenging, because I experienced caring for patients with multisystem- and multispecialty-related injuries.

PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS: I remain an educator and nurse at heart. My greatest satisfaction comes when I speak with students I have taught or helped during their time in our college. In addition, I feel happiness when I think of some of the patients I cared for in the operating room.

FUTURE GOALS: I want to improve on my ability to spend more time with my family, both in Ohio, and here with my husband and son. I also seek to improve my ability to enjoy the moment and to clear my mind of those next projects—things that need to be completed. In addition, I would like to spend more time on my scholarship by publishing and presenting information that could help other nurses. ♦



BY KELLY HENSON-EVERTZ, D.N.P., CTTS,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENTRY B.S.N. PROGRAM, AND
MARY MITES-CAMPBELL, PH.D., M.S.N., CTTS, CCHP,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DOCTOR OF NURSING
PRACTICE PROGRAM

Breathing Easier

STUDENTS TAKE ON TOBACCO DEPENDENCE AND SMOKING CESSATION

Tobacco dependence is a chronically relapsing condition and a global health problem. According to statistics provided in 2014 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 480,000 Americans die prematurely every year from a tobacco-related illness, with 42,000 of those being nonsmokers exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.

Individuals who are tobacco dependent die at least 10 years earlier than non-tobacco users. Since the first surgeon general's report in 1964, more than 12 million people have died prematurely from tobacco-related illnesses. If current trends continue, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates there will be one billion tobacco-related deaths worldwide in the 21st century. Consequently, tobacco-dependent individuals need appropriate education, counseling, and medications to quit.

As nurses comprise the largest group of health care workers in the United States, with more than 2.8 million registered nurses in the workforce, they can significantly impact tobacco quit rates when trained in tobacco-

cessation strategies. There is a gap, however, in U.S. nursing curricula with regard to teaching tobacco-dependence treatment education. Although many schools of nursing address the health consequences of tobacco use, most lack formalized cessation education. Without this, nurses may lack the necessary knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy to help patients quit tobacco.

The College of Nursing (CON), which recognizes the serious problem of tobacco dependence and the lack of tobacco-cessation-specific content in the nursing curricula, took action to address the 22 percent of the U.S. population that is dependent on some form of tobacco product. In January 2015, the CON—in collaboration with the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program at the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, and through funding received from the state of Florida—began integrating comprehensive and evidence-based tobacco-dependence treatment education in all levels of the nursing curricula.

The CON programs provide this education to students across four NSU campuses to increase their knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy

to help tobacco users quit. Providing tobacco-dependence treatment education in nursing curricula is an exception to the majority of nursing programs in the country, and is just another reason why NSU's CON is so outstanding. Nursing students who graduate from NSU will now be armed with the necessary tools to help patients become tobacco free, which will improve patient outcomes and save health care dollars.

BACCALAUREATE LEVEL OF NURSING EDUCATION

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Program provides tobacco-dependence treatment education to all students beginning in the third semester of the nursing program, when students take their first adult medical-surgical clinical course (NUR 3180). Education is provided via a six-hour, interactive, didactic class taught by a multidisciplinary team of tobacco-dependence treatment specialists from NSU's CON and College of Psychology and the AHEC Tobacco Program.

Class content utilizes best practices and is evidence based according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence Clinical



NSU College of Psychology
faculty member Linda Sobell, Ph.D.,
ABPP, teaches first-year students
motivational interviewing skills.

the need for nurses to promote and protect the health of patients through policy and anti-tobacco advocacy, to collaborate interprofessionally, and to serve as advocates to the public in order to meet health needs. The AHEC Tobacco Program specialist provides a comprehensive overview of *Tobacco Free Florida* and the free cessation services available to all Floridians who want to quit, as well as AHEC's efforts to promote changes in health care systems to improve the treatment of tobacco dependence.

In the second adult medical-surgical clinical course, nursing students attend a four-hour simulation experience that incorporates a review of motivational interviewing techniques and cessation medications that were addressed in the previous medical-surgical course and utilize case studies with role playing of simulated patient cessation counseling. Differentiation of treatment plans for high-risk populations is covered through different case studies on medical-surgical patients, pregnant women, and patients with histories of mental illnesses.

GRADUATE LEVEL OF NURSING EDUCATION

According to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, there are approximately 350 academic institutions with advanced practice registered nurse (A.P.R.N.) practitioner programs, including

Practice Guidelines: 2008 Update and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs. Students also receive an additional four hours of tobacco-dependence treatment education via cessation simulations during their second adult medical-surgical nursing course (NUR 4110).

In order for students to have a comprehensive understanding of tobacco use and dependence, they learn about and kinesthetically explore samples of various tobacco products and delivery systems, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco products (e.g., chew tobacco, snuff, snus, orbs, strips, and sticks), electronic cigarettes, hookah, shisha, bidis, and kreteks.

The marketing of tobacco products in the United States is also addressed, including the \$26 million spent each day to market these products, as well as the specific targeting of youth; women; and racial/ethnic, underserved, and priority populations. Tobacco statistics are shared about

use across all populations, ages, and educational levels. Related disparities and the health and economic costs of tobacco dependence—approximately \$300 billion annually—further illuminate the significant public health impact of tobacco dependence and help students identify and meet patient-specific needs.

Course content also includes discussions on the neurobiology of tobacco addiction (because all tobacco products contain nicotine—a highly addictive substance); components other than nicotine found in tobacco products; the health consequences of tobacco use; and behavioral/emotional/cultural factors associated with tobacco dependence. To assist patients with cessation, students learn motivational interviewing techniques, coping strategies, and the seven federally approved pharmacologic cessation products—including indications/contraindications, dosing, guidelines, and side effects.

Finally, the American Nurses Association's (ANA's) Code of Ethics (2015) is incorporated to underscore

NSU's A.P.R.N. program, which began in 2012 with an academic specialty in family nurse practitioner. In the fall of 2015, the college added the Gero-Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program to its offerings.

These programs focus on health promotion and maintenance, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic illness, as well as addressing exacerbations of complex medical conditions. Additionally, the academic curriculum is congruent with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner

and course discussions on the effects tobacco has on altering the structure and function of the pulmonary system.

As students move into their third semester, the Advanced Pharmacology course contains content to reflect tobacco-related pharmacological interventions and nicotine replacement therapy. The pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of tobacco abuse and their impact on the cardiovascular, hematologic, respiratory, endocrine, renal, autonomic/central nervous, and musculoskeletal

systems provide the basic science of tobacco and treatment outcomes.

In the fourth semester, with the Advance Health Assessment/Differential Diagnosis course, the students encounter advanced practice assessment strategies used by nurse practitioners in actual clinical practice. The taking of a comprehensive history from several patients is a requirement of the course. Students learn to use the five A's of tobacco intervention (ask, advise, assess, assist, and arrange) and the five R's of tobacco motivation (relevance, risk, reward, roadblock, and repetition) in the 60 hours of clinical practicum required for this course.

In the subsequent course semesters of Adult I and Adult II, students will review the risk factors for tobacco abuse, discuss differential diagnoses, interpret chest X-rays and

pulmonary functions, and actually implement smoking-cessation plans with their patients. Additional required courses in the nurse practitioner curriculum will provide continuity to tobacco cessation. For example, Mental Health Across the Lifespan will address smoking as an addictive behavior. Pediatrics will look at the effects of secondhand smoke exposure on children, while Women's Health will focus on the effects of smoking during the prenatal period.

To monitor outcomes of this comprehensive tobacco training program and ensure use of smoking-cessation strategies in actual practice situations, both baccalaureate- and graduate-level students are required to address tobacco-cessation with patients in clinical settings and document the interventions on a clinical tobacco-cessation log. As part of these interventions, the students assess, motivate, and refer their tobacco-dependent patients to an appropriate cessation resource, including the statewide AHEC cessation program. ♦



From left: Sheri Schour, Kelly Henson-Evertz, and Linda Sobell taught tobacco-cessation classes at NSU.

Faculties in that it addresses the reduction of morbidity and mortality across the spectrum of life-threatening conditions. Although tobacco abuse was included in the A.P.R.N. program, faculty members reviewed the curriculum to ensure a strong theoretical foundation, as well as skills in tobacco cessation.

The A.P.R.N. students' first encounter with tobacco content occurs in their second semester with the Advanced Pathophysiology course, which allows the students to engage in online synchronous meetings

Individuals who are referred by a health care provider to the free, statewide AHEC group support classes of *Tobacco Free Florida*, which include free nicotine replacement therapy, are three times more likely to quit. For more information on referring patients, family, or friends who use tobacco to the free I-Quit with AHEC cessation program, please visit <http://www.ahectobacco.com> or call 877-848-6696.

Vital News

New Gero-Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program Established

BY ANDRA HANLON, PH.D., A.R.N.P., CPNP
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

In August, the College of Nursing welcomed students to a new nurse practitioner specialization—the Gero-Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. The program is designed to provide nurses with a foundation for safe, competent, and quality practice as acute-care nurse practitioners, with an additional focus in gerontology. The gero-adult acute care nurse practitioner will provide advanced clinical assessments and interventions that improve patient outcomes in rapidly changing clinical situations, whether in a hospital setting or a specialty practice.

The program is based at NSU's Palm Beach Campus and features core Master of Science in Nursing courses that will be completed online. Other courses will be presented in a hybrid format that combines online and face-to-face content with the family nurse practitioner (FNP) clinical specialization, while the specialized gero-adult acute care clinical courses will be taught face-to-face in an executive format of two full immersion days (weekends) once per month.

The purpose of the executive program format is to make the program more accessible to nurses who are employed full time. All clinical courses require a specific number of hours spent in preceptor-directed patient engagement related to the population focus of the course. The program will also be open to nurse practitioners already nationally certified in another specialty who wish to be certified as gero-adult acute care nurse practitioners. Nurses who complete this program will be eligible to sit for the national certification exam. The College of Nursing's FNP program students sit for the national certification exam and have an outstanding pass rate.



Stefanie La Manna, Ph.D., M.P.H., A.R.N.P. (wearing pink ribbon), is shown with A.P.R.N. students at the Palm Beach Campus.

There are currently nine hospitals in Palm Beach County, as well as additional hospitals in the Broward Health, Memorial Healthcare System, Baptist Health South Florida, and Jackson Health System, that utilize nurse practitioners in various advanced roles. Gero-adult acute care nurse practitioners are not only needed now, but it is anticipated that by 2030, 18 percent of the nation's population will be at least 65 years of age. In fact, this population has an additional 20 years of life expectancy after age 65. With this longer life expectancy, additional health care services will be needed, because many of these individuals will have chronic and complex diseases.

The demand for health care providers for this population is thereby increasing while the number of physicians is decreasing. According to a 2013 American Medical Association report, 16 percent of doctors are age 65 or older. Within physician specialty practices, 1 in 3 practicing physicians expect to retire in the next 15 years. This underscores the need for qualified health care providers with the knowledge and skills to care for an increasingly aging population. The gero-adult acute care nurse practitioner is the ideal health care provider to meet this need. ♦



Generous Donors Help Burnish the College of Nursing's Legacy

The College of Nursing is committed to providing educational opportunities for those who want to enter this exciting profession and for those practicing nurses seeking to advance their careers by obtaining higher degrees. Our undergraduate programs provide students with the ability to enter the nursing profession as a B.S.N. beyond the acute care environment. Our graduate programs offer nurses opportunities to pursue careers in education, health systems leadership, informatics, research, advanced practice, and executive roles in health care (to name a few).

Financial hardship is a leading barrier to academic pursuit and success. Through the vision and generosity of a number of individuals and organizations, many deserving students at the college have benefited from scholarship support. Without philanthropic gifts, the majority of our students would not be able to complete their education, achieve career success, and begin to make contributions to the communities they will serve. We are grateful to those individuals and organizations who have joined the College of Nursing in helping our students to realize their potential in new and innovative roles in today's changing health care system. ♦

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(The above donations reflect contributions given in the 2014–15 academic year.)

Vital News

Faculty Choice Awards Honor Excellence

Each April, the college selects faculty members who show excellence in teaching and ability to express collegiality among all faculty members. The Faculty Choice Awards are displayed at each of the College of Nursing campuses in recognition of the following recipients, who were chosen by their peers to receive these accolades.



Camille Baldwin, M.S.N., R.N.
Assistant Professor
Entry B.S.N. Program
(Fort Myers Campus)



Lynne Bryant, Ed.D., R.N.
Associate Professor
M.S.N. and Ph.D. Programs
(Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus)



Linda Fritzing Hearn, M.S.N., R.N.
Assistant Professor
Entry B.S.N. Program
(Miami Campus)



Kelly Henson-Evertz, D.N.P., CTTS
Assistant Professor
Entry B.S.N. Program
(Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus)

Introducing New Faculty Members

Sarah Koplow

Sarah Koplow, Ph.D., M.S.N., who serves as assistant professor for the Entry B.S.N. Program on the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, received her Ph.D. in Nursing Science and her post-master's adult geriatric nurse practitioner education from the University of Illinois—Chicago.



Timothy O'Connor

Timothy O'Connor, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N., joined the college in 2015 as an assistant professor for the Entry B.S.N. Program at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from the State University of New York—Buffalo School of Nursing.



Chitra Paul Victor

Chitra (Felts) Paul Victor, M.D., M.S.N., is an assistant professor for the Entry B.S.N. Program at the Fort Myers Campus. She received her medical degree in India and her B.S.N. and M.S.N. from Christian Medical College.



Vital News

Nurse Practitioner Week Celebrated in November

BY ANDRA HANLON, PH.D., A.R.N.P., CPNP
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Every November, one week is set aside to honor and recognize all that nurse practitioners (NPs) do to improve health care outcomes and delivery for the populations they serve. In 2015, Nurse Practitioner Week took place November 9–15 and featured multiple campaigns and activities to increase awareness of the clinical expertise, responsibilities, and contributions of NPs. The week also serves as a time of year when NPs meet with local, state, and federal officials to provide education on the impact NPs have on the nation's health.

In 2014, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners cited that there were more than 192,000 practicing nurse practitioners in the United States, with an estimated 14,000 new NPs completing academic programs in 2012–2013. Most NPs work in primary care, with 96.8 percent of them holding national certification. It is recognized that NPs provide high-quality, cost-effective care, with more than 916 million health care visits to NPs each year.

NSU's College of Nursing graduated 66 new family nurse practitioners (FNPs) in August 2015 and admitted 87 new NP students in the fall to both a new specialty—gero-adult acute care (9 students)—and to our FNP program (78 students).

We are extremely proud that all faculty members teaching in the NP programs are board-certified, practicing clinicians who work in the clinical practice environment one day each week to ensure that our students will be exposed to the most current practice knowledge possible. ♦



Stefanie La Manna, Ph.D., M.P.H., A.R.N.P. (left), and Loretta C. Ford, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, FAANP, attended the Florida Nurse Practitioner Network Conference, which was hosted by the Nurse Practitioner Council of Palm Beach County.

NSU Commemorates National Nurses Week

BY MARCIA DERBY-DAVIS, PH.D., R.N.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Each year, nurses around the world celebrate National Nurses Week, which was held May 6–12 last year to recognize the contributions nurses and the nursing profession make to the community. The American Nurses Association plays a key role in promoting the nursing profession at the state and national level and supports and encourages National Nurses Week recognition through state and district nurses associations, specialty nursing organizations, independent health care companies, and educational facilities.

The College of Nursing annually celebrates the event at the NSU Fort Myers, Palm Beach, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale/Davie campuses. To commemorate the week, faculty members and students at each of the campuses receive a gift from the administrative team at a luncheon. During that celebration, faculty members share stories of their nursing experience, while students ask questions about the profession. ♦



Claudia Sanchez, B.S.N. ('15), left, and Judy Rossington commemorate National Nurses Week at the Fort Myers Campus.

College of Nursing Hosts Dean's Luncheons at NSU Campuses

BY ANDREA WRAY, M.S., DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

As part of her duties as dean, one of the activities Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., R.N., enjoys most is meeting and conversing with NSU's nursing students. Currently, the college has programs located in Orlando, Fort Myers, Palm Beach, and Miami, as well as at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

The challenge for students at distance sites is that they do not have immediate access to converse with the dean in the hallways or stop by her office, which is located at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. To address this situation, during each fall semester, Rutherford travels to the other campuses to attend a luncheon with the students and faculty and staff members. This tradition, which began more than eight years ago, features a different annual luncheon theme, complete with a menu and décor that mirrors the theme. In 2015, the theme was Viva Italia. ♦

Community Outreach



Undergraduate Students Showcase Care for the Community

Right: College of Nursing students participate in the waterway cleanup in March 2015 at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park.



Above: Deann Pink ('15) and Joe Digiorgio ('15) make kale salad for a Thanksgiving basket distribution.

Right: First-year students Julia Adams and Woodley Bernard distribute food to help promote healthy nutrition.



- During the past year, students and faculty members participated in multiple community activities. In March 2015, Mary Ellen Mitchell-Rosen, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, and 28 students participated in the 38th Annual Marine Industries Association of South Florida Waterway Cleanup held at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Dania Beach. Faculty members and students also participated in a healthy food demonstration at the Dan Marino Foundation, while the Entry B.S.N. students had an excellent turnout for the Relay for Life event held at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.
- In June, a number of students traveled to Jamaica to participate in a medical outreach trip as part of an interdisciplinary team that provided needed health services in rural communities. The students were accompanied by Blondel Martin, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N.; Nicole Laing-Joseph, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.; and Debbie McGregor, Ed.D., R.N.
- In September, 78 nursing students and faculty members from the Fort Lauderdale/Davie, Miami, and Fort Myers campuses participated in the NSU A Day for Children event, which attracts families from all areas of Broward County and focuses on providing information on health and services available for children. ♦

Community Outreach



A.P.R.N. Program Conducts Outreach in Underserved Local Communities

BY JESSICA GRANATA, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., FNP-BC, CLINICAL COORDINATOR, A.P.R.N. PROGRAM

The college's A.P.R.N. students were invited to participate in the Redemptive Life Fellowship Health Fair in August 2015 in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County. During the health fair, which was held at the Redemptive Life Church in West Palm Beach, NSU students, along with their A.P.R.N. preceptor, were able to provide back-to-school physicals for an underserved community.

One student was able to complete 35 pediatric school physicals for children who would not have been able to start school without having this screening done. Numerous licensed providers volunteered their time for

the event, which also provided vaccination services, referrals to specialists, and lunch for all the participants. The college's A.P.R.N. program is always looking for new community outreach experiences for students and hopes to participate in more events in the future.

A.P.R.N. students are also completing clinical experiences at multiple underserved sites in Central and South Florida. Family nurse practitioner students provide care to underserved patients at these sites while completing their required training hours. Most students provide at least 10 percent of their required 540 hours at underserved sites. ♦

R.N. to B.S.N. Student Provides Care to the Homeless Community

BY DENISE HOWARD, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, R.N. TO B.S.N./M.S.N. PROGRAM

R.N. to B.S.N. student Valerie Fox, who serves as the faith community nurse coordinator at Holy Cross Community Outreach, has had the privilege and opportunity to provide care to the homeless community. The homeless population is vulnerable to multiple health conditions due to difficulty with accessing health care services. Consequently, chronic and emergent health conditions associated with access to care often lead to potentially avoidable, medically adverse events, which result in emergency room visits.

Many of these health care conditions could have been prevented if these individuals had been able to access routine health care services. Important aspects of being a faith community nurse are providing preventative health education, access, and support to individuals who are in need of care.

Taking the time to listen to, and understand, the concerns of homeless individuals regarding access to care provides insight into the obstacles they face while attempting to receive treatment. Walking step by step with these individuals ensures they receive the assistance required to access health care services.

Their appreciation for the assistance they receive is what motivates Fox to continue working with this population.

“My experience working with the homeless community has been one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences of my career,” said Fox, who looks forward to extending these services once she earns her B.S.N. degree. ♦



Community Outreach



Nursing Student Association Attends Community Events

The purpose of the Nursing Student Association (NSA) is to prepare and develop students for professional responsibilities, interests, and leadership in nursing. In August 2015, the NSU nursing campuses elected new officers to serve on the executive board for the 2015–16 school year. Because intercampus collaboration is essential for establishing goals and joint projects, teams from each campus attend quarterly videoconferences to make this a reality.

The fall semester was packed with activities that included the annual state convention, community events, projects, and fund-raisers. In October, the students participated in breast cancer awareness events and walks, while each campus sponsored students to attend the 61st Annual Florida Nursing Student Association Convention in Daytona Beach. In November, students were involved in the men's health initiative called

Nursing News

Left: Fort Myers nursing students pose with one of the speakers, who discussed men's health issues.

Below: Fort Myers nursing students pose with guest speaker, Miss Colorado, at the 61st Annual Florida Nursing Student Association Convention in Daytona Beach.



College of Nursing and Lee Memorial Health System Partner to Provide Scholarships

BY LINDA STROMMEN, ED.D., M.S.N., B.S.N.
FORMER ASSOCIATE DEAN OF OPERATIONS

In 2014, the College of Nursing partnered with the Lee Memorial Health System (LMHS) to provide scholarships to nurses working in the LMHS for completion of the R.N. to B.S.N., nonclinical M.S.N., and D.N.P. degree programs. The purpose of these collaborative scholarships was to recognize and reward nursing employees in the LMHS who wanted to advance their nursing education. To qualify for the scholarships, applicants must be employees in the LMHS who are in good standing and meet all of the NSU admissions requirements, based on each specific program. Applicants are selected by an advisory committee and scholarships are awarded based on overall academic achievement, work performance, essay submission, interview, and financial need.

In January 2015, 15 R.N. to B.S.N. applicants and 14 nonclinical M.S.N. applicants were awarded scholarships. The second cohort of scholarship recipients will be starting in winter 2016. The first cohort of R.N. to B.S.N. scholars will graduate in May 2016. The partnership between NSU's College of Nursing and the Lee Memorial Health System supports the Institute of Medicine's 2011 Future of Nursing initiative by providing nurses with the opportunity to achieve higher levels of education and increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020. ♦

Movember, which gave them the opportunity to advocate and enlighten the community regarding men's health issues. As the winter holidays approached, NSA members showcased their humanity by volunteering their time to coordinate food and toy drives for those in need.

With the start of the winter semester in January, the NSA looks forward to the REACH Fair, the Relay for Life, Community-Fest, and the National Student Nurses' Association Annual Convention being held in Orlando, Florida, in April. When the summer semester commences, activities slow down, allowing the NSA to focus on building new leaders for the upcoming school-year elections. Each year, the students work hard to build cohesive teams and serve as the voice of the student body at each campus. ♦

Nursing News



Adjunct Lorena Kaelber, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., teaches at NSU's Palm Beach Campus.

Adjunct Faculty Members Make an Impact at NSU

BY ANDRA HANLON, PH.D., A.R.N.P., CPNP
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Years ago, when I first entered teaching, adjuncts were likened to substitute teachers, as they substituted for full-time faculty members, primarily in clinical sections when there were no full-time faculty members to supervise students in those settings. At that time, adjuncts simply had to prove they were nurses who were practicing, and therefore, knowledgeable, about hospital units, policies, and procedures.

As we fast forward to today, the adjuncts of the NSU College of Nursing's graduate programs are highly valued and much-appreciated individuals. Full-time and adjunct faculty members work closely together and are in frequent contact to ensure the best possible learning environment for the students.

The college is highly selective when choosing adjuncts, who must have terminal degrees (Ph.D., D.N.P., or Ed.D.) in a specialty area and experience teaching at the graduate level. Clinical adjuncts in the nurse practitioner programs hold both a terminal degree and must be practicing clinicians in their area of national certification. Our adjuncts generally are employed full time elsewhere as nurse scientists, informaticists, leaders in health care agencies, nurse educators, or practicing nurse practitioners. However, they are also fully committed to the college in providing the best possible educational experience for our students.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our community of adjunct faculty members, please visit our human resources website at www.nsujobs.com. ♦

Nursing Graduates Return to NSU as Adjunct Faculty Members

BY GALE WOOLLEY, ED.D., A.R.N.P.
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ENTRY B.S.N. PROGRAM

Nothing can be more satisfying to a nursing faculty member than to see his or her graduates not only practice as safe practitioners, but also embrace their profession with passion and enjoyment. Such is the case for the Entry B.S.N. Program faculty members as they mentor their former students in their new roles as clinical adjunct faculty members.

We beam with pride as our graduates bloom and grow, but we are also greatly indebted to them, and our other long-term adjunct faculty members, as we would not be able to successfully educate our current students without their service. In the Entry B.S.N. Program, we strive to maintain a 1:8 clinical instructor to student ratio, so our students can receive adequate attention and supervision from the adjunct faculty members teaching them. Given that our class sizes now range up to 90 students in specific cohorts, there is no possible way we would be able to meet the needs of each student without the support of our adjunct faculty members.



Valessa Joseph, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., who graduated in April 2007, was a member of our second cohort. After working in the neuro-telemetry unit at Broward Health North, she transferred to Florida Medical Center, where she worked in both the renal and neuro-intensive care units. She completed a nurse practitioner program at Indiana State University and received her M.S.N. in 2012.

“I decided to go into teaching and saw the opportunity at NSU,” Joseph said. “I was so excited to return to my roots and home. The NSU nursing program, along with teaching the essential foundations of nursing practice, provides education that is centered on students’ success. I am so grateful and proud to be a part of this team.”



Roderic Rettig, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., who graduated with our third cohort in August 2007, immediately went to work in the intensive care unit at Memorial Regional Hospital, where he stayed for a number of years. During this period, as well as the entire time Rettig was our student, he continued to work as an American Airlines flight attendant. In 2013, he enrolled in the University of Miami’s nurse practitioner program, graduating in 2015. One of his top priorities was to return to NSU to teach.

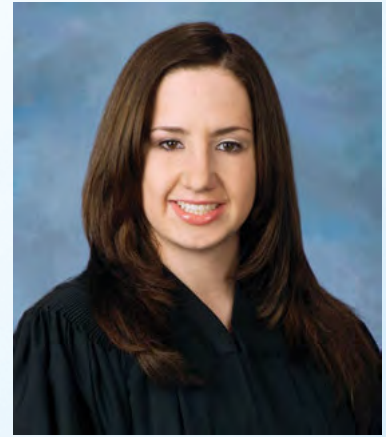
Nursing News



Obed Bello, M.S.N., was in the first cohort of Baptist Scholars at the NSU Miami Campus and graduated in December 2009. After earning his degree, Bello went to work in the Baptist Hospital Emergency Department, where he remains today. He has received two major awards for outstanding nursing care—the DAISY Award in 2011 and the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award for Emergency and Trauma Care in 2014. Bello earned his Master of Science in Nursing from NSU in 2013 and began teaching for us the following fall.



Nirvanni Chatoori, M.S.N., who is board certified in maternal newborn nursing and graduated from our program in 2007, fulfilled one of her life goals by becoming an obstetrical nurse. After earning her M.S.N. in Nursing Education from Florida International University in 2011, she returned to us in 2012 as an adjunct faculty member. Chatoori is currently working as a perinatal nurse educator at Memorial Regional Hospital and has been actively involved in the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses, where she currently serves as leader of the Broward County chapter. Currently, she is in her second year of a Ph.D. program at Barry University.



Heather Miller Katcher, B.S.N., attended our Entry B.S.N. Program and began her career at Miami Children's Hospital, where she remains today. In fact, she has stayed on the renal, endocrine, and gastrointestinal unit since she began her employment there. In 2009, Katcher became a certified pediatric nurse.



Ashley Lutchman Rivera, M.S.N., graduated from NSU's program in December 2008 and went to work at Broward Health Medical Center in the liver transplant unit, receiving the peer-nominated Nurse Excellence Award for two consecutive years. Realizing she loved teaching, Rivera entered NSU's M.S.N. in Nursing Education Program and graduated in May 2014. Today, she is spearheading the College of Nursing's Alumni Steering Committee, working one day a week at Cleveland Clinic on a telemetry floor, and taking Ph.D. classes at Florida Atlantic University, where she also works as a research assistant. Rivera manages to accomplish all this while also teaching our Entry B.S.N. students two days a week.



Juna Seraphin, M.S.N., FNP, a graduate of our December 2009 cohort, came to us with a harrowing tale of leaving her native Haiti, where she served as chief editor at a well-known radio station. Fortunately, she was able to apply for political asylum in the United States in 2001 because of the danger that stemmed from her reporting about the events occurring in her country. After graduating from NSU, Seraphin worked at Longwood Medical Center and at Boca Raton Regional Hospital before deciding to pursue her master's degree from Florida Atlantic University. She now works as a family nurse practitioner in a private internal medicine practice, in addition to serving as an NSU clinical adjunct faculty member.



Juliet Tamez, M.S., FNP, graduated from NSU's Entry B.S.N Program in May 2008 and worked for Memorial Regional Hospital in the intensive care unit for four years. She then went on to pursue her M.S. degree, also receiving a family nurse practitioner certificate, in 2012. She currently works as a primary care provider in three different offices in South Broward five days a week and teaches at Nova Southeastern University's College of Nursing on weekends.

Nursing News

Research, Scholarly Activity Gain Recognition

BY JO ANN KLEIER, PH.D., ED.D., A.P.R.N.
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

The College of Nursing is extremely proud of what its faculty members and students accomplished in 2015 in the areas of research, program funding, and scholarly activity. Featured below is a summary of their achievements.

- **Vinette Alexander**, D.N.P., A.R.N.P., and **Barbara Barrett**, D.N.P., A.R.N.P., coauthored the article, “Medical-Surgical Nurses’ Perception of Psychiatric Patients: A Review of the Literature with Clinical Applications,” that was published in the *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*.
- **Lynne Bryant**, Ed.D., M.S.N., R.N., and **Diane Whitehead**, D.N.P., Ed.D., R.N., received an NSU Health Professions Division grant to investigate “Entry B.S. in Nursing Program Registered Nurse Students’ Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes Related to Nursing Informatics.” In addition, Bryant; **Lisa Soontupe**, Ed.D., R.N.; and **Kelly Goebel**, D.N.P., A.R.N.P., received an NSU Health Professions Division grant to conduct a pilot study regarding “Accuracy in Student Evaluation by Adjunct Medical-Surgical Clinical Faculty.”
- **Robin Chard**, Ph.D., R.N., and **Melissa Tovin**, Ph.D., PT, from the College of Health Care Sciences, received a grant from the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses for the project, “Using Focus Groups to Define Intraoperative Nursing Errors.”
- **Randy Denis**, B.S., R.N., who is a student in the college’s M.S.N. program, is a member of a research team composed of NSU faculty members and students from the College of Pharmacy and the College of Osteopathic Medicine that received an NSU President’s Faculty Research and Development Grant to investigate the project, “Assessing High-Risk Sexual Behaviors Among Users of a Gay Sex Mobile Application.”



The College of Nursing headed up an interprofessional team with the College of Pharmacy to provide community-based diabetes self-management education. From left are Andrea Levin, Pharm.D., BCACP, assistant professor; Isabel Gonzalez, fourth-year student; and Devada Singh-Franco, R.Ph., Pharm.D., CDE, associate professor.

- **Marcia Derby-Davis**, Ph.D., R.N., had her article, “Nursing Faculty Shortage: Predictors of Job Satisfaction and Intent to Stay in Academe: A Review of the Literature,” published in the *Journal of Nursing Care*.
- **Patricia Dittman**, Ph.D., R.N., CDE, and an interprofessional team of faculty members and students from the College of Nursing and other NSU colleges and programs received an NSU Quality of Life Grant to implement the “Community-Based, Interprofessional Diabetes Self-Management Education Project.” The American Diabetes Association serves as a community partner that will provide continued resources for the participants of the education program. She also had her article, “Chemical Dependency and Nursing Students: A Complicated Process Calling for Nurse Leader Involvement,” published in the *Journal of Addictions Nursing*.



Patricia Dittman, Ph.D., R.N., CDE, and Jo Ann Kleier, Ph.D., Ed.D., A.P.R.N., present the findings of a diabetes research study at South Miami Hospital.



Claire Marie Baptiste ('15) and Edme Kersaint, third-year student (on left), assisted with translating an English version of a research instrument into Haitian Creole.

- **Sarah Koplw**, Ph.D., R.N., recently coauthored two articles, “Family Caregivers Define and Manage the Nursing Home Placement Process” in the *Journal of Family Nursing* and “A Case Study Approach to Nursing Home Placement: Smooth and Difficult Cases and Implications for Nursing” in *Gerontological Nursing*.
- **Mary Ellen Mitchell-Rosen**, Ph.D., R.N., received a grant from the Presbyterian Hunger Program for the project, “Garden at Lauderhill Point,” and is serving as a coinvestigator for the project, “Community Gardens for Special Needs and Nursing Home Communities,” that was funded by an NSU President’s Faculty Research and Development Grant.

The M.S.N.—A.P.R.N., Family Nurse Practitioner Program has partnered with the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry to serve as one of four colleges of nursing in Florida to be funded to test the newly developed educational modules—Preparing Primary Care Nurse Practitioners to Meet the Needs of Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

Family nurse practitioner students will begin completing the modules in January 2016 and provide information to measure the effectiveness of the educational modules in improving primary health care providers’ understanding of the unique needs of this vulnerable population.

- **Eglintine Rigaud**, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., had her article, “Human Papillomavirus: Not Just a Woman’s Concern,” published in *Urologic Nursing*.
- **Heather Saifman**, M.S.N., R.N., had her coauthored article, “Factors That Lead Generation Y Nurses to Consider or Reject Nurse Leader Roles,” published in *NursingPlus Open*.

We continue to encourage individuals and community organizations to contribute to scholarship funds for our nursing students. We gratefully acknowledge the addition of the Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation, which has generously provided scholarship funds for nursing students focusing on pediatrics and genetics. ♦

INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE COLLABORATION ON DISPLAY IN

JAMAICA



During the past 15 years, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine has conducted biannual medical outreach trips to Jamaica in June and December. Over the years, this excursion has grown to include the colleges of Dental Medicine, Optometry, Health Care Sciences, and Pharmacy.

In keeping with the College of Nursing's mission of becoming "nationally and internationally recognized for preparing transformational leaders in health care who are valued for excellence in nursing practice, education, and research," faculty members Marcia Derby-Davis, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., and Blondel Martin, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., joined prior trips in 2012 and 2013 to determine how nursing could get involved and actualize the "One NSU" vision. On June 6, 2015, through the efforts of Derby-Davis and Martin, a team of four nursing faculty members and eight nursing students traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, to work with their health professional counterparts in the primary role of health promotion and education.

The team consisted of faculty members Nicole Laing-Joseph, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.; Blondel Martin; Donna Williams Newman, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.; and me, as well as students Diannelly Aquino, Quetaica Green, Ari Ho, Stephanie Joseph, Serge Labissiere, Rachel Lounsbury, Valerie Terlingo, and Renaldo Wizzard.

Once they arrived in Jamaica, the team members connected with the rest of the College of Osteopathic Medicine's health care contingent. The journey then continued on to the northern coast of the island to the parish of St. Ann, which is where the second leg of the outreach trip took place.

DAY ONE

After a 6:30 a.m. roll call, our team was transported to rural parts of St. Mary. During breakfast, the College of Pharmacy led the educational charge, teaching the large group about medications. The health care contingent was then divided into three groups to match the three designated venues for the day—Flint River, Marlborough, and Bethel Church. At each site, the nursing team triaged patients and provided much-needed health-promotion education on topics such as oral hygiene, diabetic care, hypertension monitoring, medication adherence, self-breast examinations, STD prevention, nutrition, obesity reduction and prevention, glucose screenings, and basic health treatments such as ear lavage and cardiac monitoring.



BY DEBBIE MCGREGOR, ED.D., R.N.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENTRY B.S.N. PROGRAM

DAY TWO

The College of Nursing led the educational charge, discussing diseases in Jamaica before the groups dispersed to Bethel Church, Flint River, and Zion Hill. The nursing students did their part, as well, educating their health colleagues on dengue fever and chikungunya, which are both diseases caused by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. They also came prepared with teaching aids and tools to reinforce their teaching, along with a mini quiz at the end.

DAY THREE

This would be our last day out in the field. By now, we all had the routine down pat, so we were on the go early. Following an education update from the College of Dental Medicine, we were off to Dean Pen, Flint River, and Zion Hill.

DAY FOUR

We began the day with an in-house health fair for the hotel staff, where we offered health promotion discussions and body-mass-index screenings. Fortunately, the afternoon was left open for us to go shopping, sightseeing, and enjoy some much-needed rest. The day concluded with a farewell reception in Ochos Rios that was hosted by the Sandals Resort in appreciation for the health care efforts of the entire NSU team.

Although the Jamaica medical outreach trip had existed without a nursing presence for more than a decade, we made up for lost time and gained ground through our health promotion activities, as well as earned a new respect from our collaborating health professional counterparts. The trip's purpose was to provide medical care and



education to the underserved. Never could we have imagined, however, the awakening of personal affirmations it provided, reminding us of why we chose to become nurses. As much as we may have thought the experience was to provide care for the wonderful people of St. Mary, they gave us so much more. ♦

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top, from left: Diannelly Aquino (third-year student), Stephanie Joseph (third-year student), Nicole Laing-Joseph, and Quetaica Green (third-year student) prepare for a day of triage and assessment at one of the three sites.

Bottom: Third-year students Rachel Lounsbury (left) and Valerie Terlingo (right) educate a patient about healthy living.

THIS PAGE

Top: Second-year student Renaldo Wizzart (right) observes as a College of Optometry colleague checks a patient's eyesight.

Bottom, from left: Quetaica Green (third-year student), Blondel Martin, Renaldo Wizzart (second-year student), Stephanie Joseph (third-year student), and Ari Ho (third-year student)

Alumni Connection

ENTRY B.S.N. PROGRAM

2009 Alumnus Garners Accolades

BY GALE WOOLLEY, ED.D., A.R.N.P.
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ENTRY B.S.N. PROGRAM

Obed Bello, M.S.N., who was a student in one of the first NSU Miami Campus classes to graduate from the Entry B.S.N. Program, was hired by the Baptist Hospital Emergency Department (ED) and placed in the hospital's yearlong Versant Residency Program. According to *Versant.org*, the program is an all-inclusive educational system established to help transition new graduate nurses from students to safe and competent professionals. During his first year, Bello received the internationally recognized DAISY Award for nursing excellence, skills, and compassion.

Upon completing his first year as a nurse, he was accepted into the college's Master of Science in Nursing Program and was soon elected president of the college's Sigma Theta Tau International chapter. After earning his M.S.N. degree, Bello remained connected to NSU by becoming an adjunct faculty member at the university's Miami Campus.

Bello, who was chosen to be part of the inaugural Baptist Health South Florida Nursing Leadership Institute and received his emergency nurse certification in 2005, enjoys working as an advanced nurse for the hospital's emergency department and plans on becoming a charge nurse in the near future.



As part of the hospital's ongoing quality assurance programs, he is involved with the blood culture, safety and disaster, triage, trauma, and emergency department collaborative committees. In 2015, he trained with the Counterterrorism Operations Support Center for Radiological Nuclear Training at the Nevada National Security Site in order to prepare ED staff members on how to deal with the aftermath of a terrorist attack on the nuclear power plant located at the Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station in South Florida.

Not surprisingly, his accolades are indicative of many of the college's nursing graduates. Bello has excelled due to his provision of quality care, dedication to hard work, and the education he received through NSU in collaboration with Baptist Hospital and the Versant Residency Program. ♦



R.N. TO B.S.N. PROGRAM

2011 Alumnus Credits NSU for Career Success

BY DENISE HOWARD, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.

R.N. TO B.S.N. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

David Barrett, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., was working as a registered nurse in Winter Haven, Florida, prior to starting the college's online R.N. to B.S.N. Program. Although he had a number of accredited bachelor's degree programs to choose from, Barrett selected NSU's College of Nursing based on the advice of a nurse educator, who told him that NSU possessed an excellent reputation and had a distance program that was geared toward the working R.N.

Since his academic dream involved becoming a nurse practitioner, Barrett was unable to continue his education at NSU to earn his master's degree (as NSU did not offer that at the time). But he recently graduated from the University of South Florida's nurse practitioner program with a specialization in adult gerontology acute care. Barrett, who works at Lakeland Regional Health Systems' Surgical Intensive Care Unit, also plans to pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

"The R.N. to B.S.N. Program at NSU was instrumental to my character and professional development," Barrett said. "Faculty members like Dr. Theresa Parenteau and Dr. Denise Howard pushed me to maximize my potential and surpass my own self-imposed limitations. Even when I was in my graduate program at the University of South Florida, I often consulted Dr. Howard for counsel and direction in terms of organization and academic clarity when I was befuddled by the exhausting workload. I believe my success in my master's degree program was a direct consequence of the unparalleled foundational preparation afforded to me by Nova Southeastern University." ♦



"I believe my success in my master's degree program was a direct consequence of the unparalleled foundational preparation afforded to me by Nova Southeastern University."

—David Barrett

Alumni Connection

A.P.R.N. NURSING PROGRAM

Mother and Daughter Duo Celebrate Milestone Achievement

BY CHRIS ORTON, PH.D., A.R.N.P., FNP-BC
A.P.R.N. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

August 21, 2015, proved to be a special day for Angela John, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., FNP, and Tiffany Wilson, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., FNP, R.N., as mother and daughter, respectively, walked side by side during the college's commencement ceremony to receive their advanced practice registered nurse degrees, which featured a concentration in family nurse practitioner.

John lives in Plantation and works at the Northwest Medical Center Cardiovascular Progressive Care Unit in Margate, while Wilson resides in Coral Springs and splits her time working in intensive care units at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

John and Wilson, who are both registered nurses, decided to go back to school to advance their careers and take on leadership roles in patient care and preventative health care. They chose to pursue advanced nursing degrees rather than other advanced health care options due to the caring and compassionate characteristics of nurses. "Nurses understand the idea of hands-on care at the core level," said Wilson. "We will soon be able to help direct the care of our patients, but we will still be able to jump in and help our nursing colleagues when we need to."

Because they both possess a business background, they hope to open a primary care or urgent care practice together one day, which will help them manage their own business while doing what they love. "Age should not prevent you from doing what you believe in," John said. "If you can conceive it, you can do it." ♦



“Age should not prevent you from doing what you believe in. If you can conceive it, you can do it.”

—Angela John

PH.D. IN NURSING PROGRAM

2012 Alumna Gives Back as an Adjunct

BY PATRICIA DITTMAN, PH.D., M.S.N.
D.N.P. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Tracy A. Ortelli, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, is applying the education she received from the college's Ph.D. in Nursing Program in her new role as an adjunct faculty member at NSU. Ortelli began her doctoral studies as a member of the initial cohort in the college's Ph.D. in Nursing Program, which she selected due to its nursing education focus and the flexibility it offered by delivering online education.

When she began the program, Ortelli was employed at the National League for Nursing (NLN), serving as manager of the Academic Nurse Educator Certification Program. In this role, she served as a contributing author to the 2005 edition of the *Scope of Practice for Academic Nurse Educators* and was responsible for overseeing the initial development and delivery of the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) examination.

The doctoral education she received at NSU prepared her to conduct research on national data provided by the NLN for the purpose of analyzing candidates' performance on the CNE examination. She has presented the results of a study related to this issue at national conferences, including NSU's 2015 Health Professions Educational Research Symposium.

Ortelli's professional nursing career has spanned clinical practice, nursing education, and higher education

leadership. She also has expertise in test development, which she gained nearly 20 years ago when she served as a test developer and medical-surgical content expert for the Chauncey Group International—a subsidiary of the

Educational Testing Service. In her six-year role as a test developer, she contributed to the development of the computer-adaptive version of NCLEX-RN. Over the years, she has shared her test development expertise by presenting at faculty development workshops throughout the United States.

In early 2007, Diane Whitehead, D.N.P., Ed.D., M.S.N., R.N., ANEF, who has retired from the CON, invited Ortelli to present a test development workshop to the college's faculty members.

It was during this event that Ortelli learned about the Ph.D. in Nursing Program that would soon be launched at NSU and made the decision to pursue her doctoral education. Upon graduating from the program, she was asked to serve as the commencement ceremony speaker.

Ortelli, who resides in central New Jersey with her husband and two children, earned her B.S.N. from The Ohio State University and her Master of Science in Nursing from Columbia University. In addition to being a member of the Academy of Nurse Educator Fellows and Sigma Theta Tau, she serves as a commissioner for the NLN Certification Commission and as a New Jersey League for Nursing board member. ♦



NSU News of Note



Oscar Padilla, D.D.S., associate professor (left), and Sirisha Giovindeiah, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident (right), treat pediatric patient Silas Golubchik.

CDM Gets Nearly \$3.4-Million Autism Grant for ASD Training

Dentists and other health care providers who treat patients with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) require special training to understand the skills and techniques needed to care for this growing population. To assist in this effort, NSU's College of Dental Medicine (CDM) received a \$3,398,452 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide training to pediatric dentistry and advanced education in general dentistry residents over a five-year period.

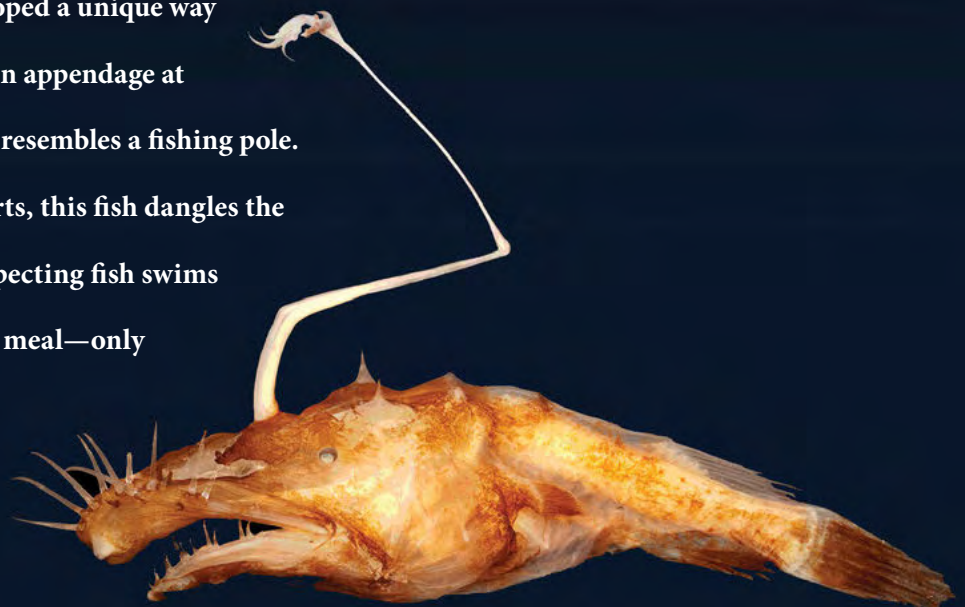
The program will include the development of a curriculum addressing the transition of children and adolescents with ASD to adult dental care and aims to increase access to dental care for children and adolescents with special health care needs such as ASD. Currently, NSU's College of Dental Medicine has pediatric special needs dental clinics at NSU's Mailman Segal Center for Human Development in Davie, NSU Dental Care at Kids In Distress in Fort Lauderdale, and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, along with an adult special needs dental clinic in North Miami Beach. ♦

This project is 100% financed by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number D88HP20126 and Postdoctoral Training in General, Pediatric and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene for \$3,398,452. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

NSU Researcher Discovers a New Deep-Sea Fish Species

An NSU research specialist from the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography recently discovered a never-before-seen anglerfish species from the deep waters of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The three female specimens found ranged in size from 30 to 95 millimeters in length.

Because of the ocean's depth where this species was found, there is no sunlight, which means the only available radiance emanates from creatures that produce bioluminescence (generate their own light source). Additionally, because the fight for food is incessant, they have developed a unique way of attracting prey—from an appendage at the top of their heads that resembles a fishing pole. Like its human counterparts, this fish dangles the appendage until an unsuspecting fish swims up thinking it has found a meal—only to quickly learn that it has become the actual meal.





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A photograph of a modern university building with a large pond in the foreground. The building has a prominent entrance with a canopy and is surrounded by palm trees and other greenery. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text 'NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the top of the image.

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING

MISSION STATEMENT

NSU's College of Nursing provides quality undergraduate and graduate educational programs within an atmosphere of scholarly inquiry, professional values, interprofessional collaboration, and community service.

VISION

NSU's College of Nursing will be nationally and internationally recognized for preparing transformational leaders in health care who are valued for excellence in nursing practice, education, and research.