Creativity to Teach

Curiosity to Learn

Courage to Serve

Compassion to Care

In a Diverse and Complex World

SIUE Nursing: Excellence in Action!

2008 Dean’s Report
The SIUE School of Nursing is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the gold standard for baccalaureate and graduate degree nursing programs. The Certified Nurse Anesthesia Program is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs.
SIUE is being recognized nationally for the excellence of our programs and development of professional and community leaders.

For the fourth consecutive year, the University has been recognized in *U.S. News & World Report* “America’s Best Colleges” for the Senior Assignment Program, our integrative learning experience required of all seniors prior to graduation. *U.S. News* also lists SIUE among the top 10 public universities in the Midwest-Master’s category for the second consecutive year and in the top one-third of all public and private Midwestern universities.

While the University emerges as a national leader in higher education, the School of Nursing continues to implement bold, strategic thinking and innovative, creative programs. The University’s values of Excellence, Openness and Wisdom are evident in the School’s commitment to revise and enhance the nursing curriculum. We are proud to reflect our values of Citizenship and Integrity by providing highly-skilled nurses for the region, as well as the nation.

Enjoy this glimpse into one of the many outstanding programs at SIUE. I encourage you to plan a visit to campus and witness excellence in education as we develop tomorrow’s leaders.

Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor
Like the nursing profession, the SIUE School of Nursing is dynamic—continually evolving and expanding in scope. To keep pace with this vibrant profession, the School has undergone a major curriculum revision.

Two critical shifts took place in fall 2005 when the first cohort of nursing students began their journey through the completely revised undergraduate curriculum. A philosophical change occurred as courses moved from a primarily lecture format to a learner-centered focus. The second shift took place as the curriculum changed from a medical model to a nursing model based on Gordon’s Functional Health Patterns, a method used by nurses to provide a more comprehensive patient assessment.

The cohort of students who completed the newly revised curriculum each received a bachelor of science in nursing in May 2008. This class of 127 achieved a 95 percent pass rate, compared to an 88 percent national average pass rate, on the National Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses—affirmation that the curriculum revision was the correct path to take.

In the following pages you will read more about the creative teaching strategies our faculty are bringing to the classrooms and the clinical settings. Thank you to our alumni, donors and friends who support our commitment to excellence.

Sincerely,

Marcia C. Maurer, Ph.D., RN
Dean and Professor, SIUE School of Nursing
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow
More than 65 percent of SIUE School of Nursing graduates practice in Illinois, contributing to the economy while helping address the regional shortage of skilled nurses.

Our Mission

The School of Nursing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, comprised of graduate and undergraduate programs, prepares professional nurses through creative teaching by fostering

- Curiosity to learn through engaging students in scholarship of inquiry and practice and dissemination thereof
- Courage to serve through collaborative practice, professional leadership, and advocacy for the sake of patient care
- Compassion to care for clients served in multiple and diverse settings
- Respect for all peoples through cultural awareness in order to provide competent nursing care to diverse populations
- Life-long learning and commitment to the advancement of the nursing profession
A New Focus

When the administration and faculty in the SIUE School of Nursing decided that the curriculum model needed to be revised, they turned to Mary Mulcahy, assistant dean for undergraduate programs. A nurse educator for 40 years with experience as a curriculum restructuring consultant, she was more than qualified to lead the effort.

The new curriculum is designed to help students better identify with the nurse’s role as a member of the health care team. “Students still learn how a disease is diagnosed,” said Mulcahy. “Our main focus is helping students understand how a particular diagnosis may affect a patient and ways to provide support and enhanced patient care.”

The curriculum has four parts

- **Course Content:** The learner-centered curriculum model engages students in active learning and focuses on the nurse’s role on the health care team.

- **Portfolio:** Students write about three critical incidents each semester, reflecting upon a patient care experience that had a significant impact on them as a student. They are encouraged to consider how these experiences may impact their career as a nurse.

- **Service Commitment:** Students perform 15 hours of service work per semester. They answer the question, “What will you learn from this experience?” before having their selected project approved by faculty.

- **Faculty Mentor:** Each student is assigned a faculty mentor who provides support throughout the course of study.

The Senior Assignment Program is the culmination of everything a student has learned through the course of study. Senior nursing students work closely with a mentor to design a project that is researched and presented to faculty and peers.

“The philosophy behind the School of Nursing curriculum is to meet students where they are and help them move to where they want to be,” Mulcahy said.
The number of full- and part-time School of Nursing faculty has grown from 32 to 65 over the past five years. In 2003, 19 faculty members had doctoral degrees; that number increased to 30 in 2008.

Engaging Students

School of Nursing faculty members are embracing the newly revised curriculum and moving away from the traditional lecture format to engage students in their own learning. From writing mock research grants to coordinating instructional fairs, Assistant Professor Roberta Harrison is bringing student-centered learning alive.

Harrison’s pathophysiology students are given a condition or a disease and asked to explain the disease process, complete an assessment, discuss any pharmacological interventions, and develop a nursing diagnosis and patient care plan. Student groups present their findings in an instructional fair setting.

“I see so much creativity and enthusiasm for the projects,” Harrison said. “Students make meaningful connections and develop an understanding of the holistic role nursing plays in patient care, which I believe results in a better nurse.”
Creativity to Teach

Enhancing Educational Opportunities
The American Academy of Colleges of Nursing recommends that by 2015 all nurse practitioners entering advanced practice earn the doctor of nursing practice (DNP).

“Research shows a clear link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes,” said Jackie Clement, assistant dean for graduate programs.

The School of Nursing has identified the development of a DNP program as a vital part of the discipline’s future and is preparing to offer the degree. The practice-focused DNP, an alternative to research-focused doctorates in nursing, prepares advanced practice nurses for leadership roles by educating them in evidence-based practice, economics and health policy.

“DNP graduates will be prepared to implement innovative practice strategies and facilitate change to significantly impact patient care outcomes,” said Valerie Yancey, associate professor and chair of the School’s graduate curriculum committee. “With the addition of a DNP program, we will provide a full range of educational opportunities for nurses in the region.”

Supporting Faculty Development
“For some faculty members, our learner-centered curriculum is a new concept,” said Jean Auffarth, School of Nursing instructor and coordinator of the School’s new faculty orientation and ongoing faculty development program. “Faculty members must first understand the curriculum in order to be effective teachers.”

As faculty development coordinator, Auffarth organizes full-day orientation sessions for new nursing faculty members, as well as weekly meetings for new and established faculty, and an annual faculty retreat. Experienced faculty members often join the sessions, which fosters the sharing of ideas and facilitates learning and collaboration. Topics include creative instructional strategies, learner-centered syllabus development, student assessment and more.

To complement the curriculum, Auffarth uses a learner-centered model for faculty development. “Just as faculty members facilitate student learning, I facilitate faculty learning by helping them understand the curriculum and directing them to useful resources,” she said.
Learning from Experience

Simulated learning laboratories have reached an exceptional level of complexity and are becoming an essential part of the School of Nursing curriculum. Simulated patients guide students through skill development and decision-making scenarios in a safe and structured environment.

“Students are more confident and have a much better clinical experience if they have first practiced their skills and engaged in self assessment in a virtual environment,” said Sheila Pietroburgo, coordinator of the School’s Simulated Learning Center.

School of Nursing students are coming back to the simulated lab to supplement their clinical experiences. Unlike a clinical setting, the simulated learning environment is not influenced by low census or a lack of patients with various conditions or illnesses. “We can create scenarios to meet the learning needs of our students,” said Pietroburgo. “For instance, if students don’t encounter an actual congestive heart failure patient, they can treat that ‘patient’ in the simulation room.”

Interacting through Technology

Marjorie Baier, associate professor in the School of Nursing, believes it is important to keep pace with educational technology. “I can more effectively engage my students when I use the technology that is familiar to them,” she said.

When SIUE Library and Information Services (LIS) librarians asked for volunteers to try Web-based conferencing technology in an online class, Baier volunteered. Headsets and webcams were purchased for faculty and students with funds from an Illinois State Library grant which was obtained through a collaborative effort between LIS, Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy faculty, and the Faculty Technology Center.

“I’m able to poll the class to check their level of understanding and keep them engaged,” said Baier. “The Web-based technology turns an online class into an interactive learning experience.”
In her first semester at SIUE, Assistant Professor Melanie Rowbotham describes teaching in the School of Nursing as exciting. “I love to think outside the box for ideas for teaching,” she said.

Committed to a learner-centered teaching style, Rowbotham encourages her students to take an active role in the learning process. Instead of lectures, she utilizes group activities, presentations and group discussions. “Learning is an active process. As an educator, it is my role to facilitate learning for my students,” she said. “It is so rewarding to watch them succeed.”

The teaching environment within the School is certainly conducive to Rowbotham’s teaching style. The School uses a learner-centered philosophy as a framework for curriculum development. “The collaboration among faculty members and administration allows me to work with others to develop new and exciting ways to teach,” Rowbotham said.

This supportive environment, combined with the University’s teacher-scholar model, are what brought Rowbotham to SIUE. With both a master’s in nursing education and a doctorate in adult education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, her research focuses on how teachers perceive themselves, how students perceive the classroom environment and how these perceptions work together to influence the learning process.

“SIUE recognizes the importance of my research and how it enhances my teaching methods. The ultimate goal is student success.”

Melodie Rowbotham, SIUE School of Nursing first-year faculty member
Mary Ann Boyd, who joined the School of Nursing in 1977 as an assistant professor, will retire at the end of May 2009. Having worked her way through the academic ranks, she is currently professor and associate dean for academic programs. “I’ve been given so many opportunities for growth and the flexibility to take on increasingly challenging roles,” she said.

Boyd has written numerous journal articles and books, including the widely used textbook Psychiatric Nursing: Contemporary Practice, and also practices at the St. Louis VA Medical Center – Jefferson Barracks Division.

Boyd has seen many changes in health care and nursing education during her more than 30 years with the SIUE School of Nursing. The School has weathered the changing health care market, including three nursing shortages and times when nursing graduates found it difficult to find a place to practice.

“School of Nursing faculty members have always been on the leading edge and provided leadership in teaching methods,” she said. “Today’s students are more global and self-directed. They are competitive and driven to reach their professional goals.”

As she reflects on her time at SIUE, Mary Ann believes that the best is yet to come. “The nursing profession is more respected and revered than ever before, and the School of Nursing is a very exciting place to be,” she said. “Our students are energetic, creative and excited about nursing. They are committed to making a difference in the lives of their patients. Faculty members can count on strong support from administration and opportunities for leadership and professional growth.”
The Confidence to Succeed

When she started her senior year as a student in the SIUE School of Nursing, Nicole (Pelczynski) Borrenpohl, ‘07 BSN, didn’t know what area of nursing she wanted to pursue. “This made every clinical experience much more interesting,” she said. “I would go in thinking, ‘Is this going to be the area for me?’”

Nicole became involved in the Student Nurses’ Association (SNA) and attended the SNA Illinois convention where she met recruiters from various health care facilities, including Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She applied at Mayo, and instead of applying for a specific job, she filled out an inventory which looked at areas of interest and offered interviews accordingly.

A week later, she was offered an interview for an inpatient psychiatry position on the mood disorders unit. “I enjoyed my psychiatry clinical, but I was unsure, I’ll admit,” Nicole said. “I decided to go for it and got interviewing advice from SIUE School of Nursing faculty and Dean Maurer.”

The Mayo Clinic conducts behavioral interviews, which means the interviewee is required to give specific examples from past experiences. This type of interview can be difficult for nursing students who often haven’t had a lot of experience. “Between SNA and my clinicals, I had plenty of experiences to draw from,” Nicole said. “One of SIUE’s greatest strengths over other nursing schools is the wide variety of clinical settings students enter.”

As the mood disorder unit supervisor described the nursing unit and the RN’s role to her, Nicole realized this was the perfect position for her. “What I love most about nursing is the patient interaction,” she said. “I walked out of the interview very much wanting the position.”

Nicole joined the Mayo Clinic in June 2007. “It was a little intimidating, but my experiences at SIUE gave me the confidence to step into this environment,” she said. “After all, I had spent the last three years learning from very experienced nursing faculty.”

Graduates of the SIUE School of Nursing have made significant contributions as leaders in the nursing profession.
The fourth annual Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala and Awards, held in April 2008, honored nursing as a profession and those who recognize nursing’s vital role in health care. Nominations were made by alumni, health care agencies, health professionals, School of Nursing faculty and staff, and friends of nursing.

2008 Outstanding Hospital or Health Care Agency
The St. Louis VA Medical Center
The St. Louis VA Medical Center (VAMC) is moving toward national recognition as a leader in the nursing field. The St. Louis VAMC is partnering with the School of Nursing to address the nursing shortage by providing excellent clinical facilities for student experience and faculty practice and research.

2008 Outstanding Friend to Nursing Award
Francis “Frank” Purcell
As the senior director of federal government affairs for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Frank promotes advanced practice nursing at the federal level. He is well known among United States Congressmen and Senators through his work on Capitol Hill.

Outstanding New SIUE School of Nursing Alumna
Crystal Lask
Crystal received a BS in nursing from SIUE in 2004. After only two years as a staff nurse, her manager described her as a true leader. Crystal was recently promoted to nurse manager Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital. Prior to that she was a patient safety/quality improvement coordinator where she met with key physicians and nurse leaders to share information about evidence-based practice and in so doing, improved system-wide scores from seventh in the BJC system to second.

Outstanding SIUE School of Nursing Alumna
Nancy Weston
Nancy earned a BS in nursing at SIUE in 1977 and an MS in nursing 1993. She currently is serving as vice president for nursing at Memorial Hospital in Belleville, Ill. She has implemented shared governance, created a nursing research council, championed a nurse recognition program, inspired nursing staff to pursue educational growth and increased nurse satisfaction scores.
About the School

SIUE School of Nursing 2008 Scholarship Recipients

Meaghan Adams was the first recipient of the St. Clair County Medical Alliance Scholarship.

Breanna Clossen, Ronald Kister, Amanda Kriesel and Sarah Schoenbaum all received Pre-Clinical Nursing Student Scholarships.

Andrea Cross, Richelle Dillon, Kelly Hille and Rebekah McCoskey all received Nursing Alumni Heritage Award Scholarships.

Kaycee Fischer was awarded the Shirley Strohmeyer Memorial Nursing Award.

Julie Gauch received the Pearl Morgan Award in Pediatric Nursing.

Ashley Hamm received the Roberta Lee MacDonald Dial, RN, BSN Award and the Stacey Jo Probst Memorial Nursing Award.

Amanda Hatch was the recipient of the Cecil Howard Griffin & Florence Bowmaster Griffin Award, in its inaugural year.

Caitlyn Knight received the Rose M. Juhasz, RN, Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

Lindsay Marion received the Janice M. Bloomfield Memorial Award.

Lindsey Parker was awarded the Ann Heiden Wharton Memorial Nursing Award.

Tracy Stephenson was the first-time recipient of the Dr. Gloria Perry RN-BS Student Achievement Award.

Jodie VanMeter was the recipient of the John Louis Condellone & Flora Burgassi Condellone Award.

“Professors are available to help us grow, both as students and future nurses. I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything.”

Martin Hevesy
Junior, SIUE School of Nursing
Scholarship Support

With your charitable support, our rapidly growing student body will continue to receive an educational experience like no other. Please consider giving to the SIUE School of Nursing this year. Make a difference in the lives of our students and inspire the future of nursing.

For more information on scholarship giving, visit www.siue.edu/nursing or contact Angie Peters, director of development, 618-650-3906, angpete@siue.edu.

Student Enrollment

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Snapshot of the Fall 2008 Class

- 87 percent female
- 13 percent male
- 82 percent White Non-Hispanic
- 7 percent Black Non-Hispanic
- 3 percent Asian/Pacific Islander
- 2 percent Hispanic
**Faculty Highlights**

**Rita Arras**


“Evaluating Outcomes from Prostate Cancer Alliance Project.” East Side Health District and St. Clair County Health Department, IDPH. $32,000 Grant.

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**Laura Bernaix**


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**Mary Ann Boyd**


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**Rhonda Comrie**


Arleen Fearing

+ Riley, M. & Fearing, A.


Louise Flick


Kay Gaehle


Andrew Griffin


Presentations (* Data Based)
Publications (+ Refereed)
Rosanne Griggs


Robert Harrison


Karen Kelly

+ “From Apathy to Savvy to Activism: Becoming a Politically Active Nurse.” American Nurse Today, 2(8), 55-56. (2007).


Competitive paper. “From Apathy to Action: Moving Graduate Students to Policy and Political Activism.” 12th Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educators Conference, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville. (2007).


Rebecca Luebbert


Frank Lyerla


Pamela Newland

+ “Pain in Women with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS) and Healthy Women.” Journal of Neuroscience Nursing. (2008).


Anne G. Perry


Ann Popkess


Marguerite Riley


Cynthia Schmidt


Mickey Stanley


Richard Yakimo


Valerie Yancey

“Stress Management in the Caring Professions.” 4th Conference of ELCA Bishops, Mercy Center, St. Louis, Mo. (2007).

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Alumni Hall, Room 2117
Box 1066
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1006

2008-2009 Dates to Remember

School of Nursing Convocation
December 19, 2008

Commencement
December 20, 2008

Open House for Prospective Students
February 14, 2009

5th Annual Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala & Awards
April 25, 2009

School of Nursing Convocation
May 8, 2009

Commencement
May 9, 2009

Alumni Heritage Walk for Nursing Scholarships*
September 19, 2009

Dedication to the Profession
September 20, 2009

Contact Angie Peters, angpete@siue.edu, 618-650-3906, for more information about these events.

* If you are a graduate of the class of 1970, 1971 or 1972, we are looking for you! These classes will “host” the Alumni Heritage Walk in 2009 and walk with the upcoming graduates for the Classes of 2010, 2011 and 2012.

www.siue.edu/nursing

For 45 years, the SIUE School of Nursing has provided students exceptional educational opportunities and hands-on learning experiences, preparing them to step into their critical role in total patient care and wellness.