**From the Dean**

As the School of Nursing continues to thrive, I’m pleased to share some highlights of the exciting accomplishments and initiatives going on.

Our undergraduate program on both the Edwardsville campus and the regional campus in Carbondale, as well as the accelerated bachelor’s in nursing program, maintain full cohorts. Our RN to BS program, with its unlimited capacity, sustains an enrollment of over 600 students, while graduating over 60 graduates every six months.

This year, our graduate program enrollment has experienced a 40-percent increase. For the third consecutive year, both the RN to BS program and our graduate programs were ranked nationally by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The global reach of our school will take on new meaning this year. There are three faculty/student service trips and one student exchange program planned that will span four different countries. We are excited to offer these learning opportunities for our students and to contribute to international healthcare delivery.

Our Simulated Learning Center for Health Sciences, otherwise known as our student lab, is completing its third contract year with Laerdal Incorporated to enhance and expand simulation capabilities. We now have specialized and comprehensive simulation scenarios to enhance student learning in all of our clinical courses. In addition, an IT support specialist works in our lab to support our coordinator and faculty with the design and delivery of more simulation capabilities.

In April 2018, we will participate in our next accreditation visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Having always been accredited since 1970, the School looks forward to once again touting its excellence in nursing education.

On behalf of the School’s faculty, staff, and students, I thank our alumni, agency, community partners, and the University community. Through their continued support, the School’s legacy for excellence can, and does, continue. Here’s to another successful year!

Sincerely,

Laura Bernaix, PhD, RN
Dean

**From the Alumni Board**

Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is time for a new school year filled with new opportunities and excitement! As the SIUE School of Nursing continues to grow and welcome more students, it is even more important to find ways to stay involved and learn more about exciting new opportunities.

The School’s alumni advisory board is a perfect way to serve as a liaison, as a volunteer for student and alumni events, or as an ambassador between the School and community. With the board, you can be a part of bringing the School’s mission to life. If you would like to join, please email Kris Heather at kheathe@siue.edu. Students, the board, and I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout this academic year. We wish you all the best!

Best wishes,

Rachel Smiley
President, SIUE School of Nursing Alumni Board

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**School of Nursing at a Glance**

**Points of Pride**

- National ranking from *U.S. News and World Report*: online graduate programs and RN to BS program
- Fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nurse Education and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- 40 percent increase in new enrollment in graduate programs for fall 2017
- Record overall enrollment for fall 2017 semester

**Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollment by Program (enrollment numbers for each) for 2017**

- Nursing Bachelor of Science - 697
- Accelerated Bachelor of Science - 77
- Accelerated RN to BS - 612
- Family Nurse Practitioner Master’s* - 50
- Health Care and Nursing Administration Master’s - 31
- Nurse Anesthesia Master’s* - 20
- Nurse Educator Master’s - 37
- Family Nurse Practitioner Doctor of Nursing Practice - 51
- Nurse Anesthesia Doctor of Nursing Practice - 69
- Post-Master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice - 19
- Post-Master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice and MBA - 2

*Reflects students admitted prior to program transitioning from master’s to doctoral

**Fellowship Opportunities**

**About the School of Nursing**

The vision of the SIUE School of Nursing is to educate and develop nurses as care providers, scholars and leaders able to meet the health challenges of a diverse and complex world. The School values compassion, integrity, excellence, inclusivity, collaboration and creativity.

**About SIUE**

SIUE awards degrees in undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs encompassing the arts, sciences, nursing, education, health, human behavior, business and engineering. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award doctor’s first-professional degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and pharmacy (PharmD). Doctoral programs are available in nursing practice and educational leadership. Cooperative PhD programs in historical studies, environmental resources and policy, engineering science, and computer engineering are offered with SIU Carbondale.
The School of Nursing continues to garner national attention for its online programs.

In U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 Best Online Bachelor’s Programs list, the School’s RN to BS program was ranked 68th among 311 schools, placing it among the top five online bachelor’s programs in Illinois. The program jumped 43 percent from its previous ranking.

The School’s online graduate degree programs, including a family nurse practitioner doctor of nursing practice (DNP), post-master’s DNP, and master’s degrees in health care nursing administration and nurse educator, was ranked 94th among 140 schools.

Dr. Laura Bernaix, dean of the School of Nursing, said the School’s online learning opportunities provide students with high-quality education through the use of small class sizes, strong faculty mentoring and support, and robust program content.

“The U.S. News rankings reflects our continued commitment to providing excellent academic programs that prepare nurses to practice in a challenging and dynamic healthcare environment,” Bernaix said.

Aside from its online programs, the School’s record undergraduate enrollment of 1,371 students also assisted SIUE in its ranking as a Top 15 Midwest Regional Public University within the magazine’s “Best Colleges of 2017” issue.

Rankings were based upon faculty credentials and training, student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, and student services and technology.

DNP Program Preparing Expert Nurses for Leadership

With emphasis on evaluating evidence for practice and strengthening policy expertise, the School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares expert nurses for leadership in professional nursing practice and patient-centered health care delivery. Specializations include post-master’s DNP, family nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia.

Amy Shaw, post-master’s DNP ‘16, spent an extensive amount of time researching DNP programs before choosing SIUE.

“I take care of very sick babies in the NICU,” Shaw said. “I felt a degree of moral obligation to take better care of these patients, and it seemed to me that the DNP was the best way to garner these skills and improve my practice.”

Shaw found ample opportunities to learn, grow and connect with faculty members and colleagues through the online program. The format enabled her to fit her education into her busy schedule, and clear expectations and timelines kept her progressing to completion.

“I encourage anyone asking themselves whether or not to pursue a DNP to take the opportunity,” Shaw said. “It will profoundly impact how you approach your patients, their families and your mission in work in ways you can’t even imagine.”

Regional Program Meeting Needs in Southern Illinois

To address a statewide nursing shortage, the School of Nursing established a regional baccalaureate nursing program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) in 2010. The dual-enrollment program allows students to fulfill their undergraduate requirements and complete the SIUE nursing curriculum at SIUC. Clinical experiences are held at facilities in the Carbondale area, including Southern Illinois Healthcare, VA Medical Center and Heartland Hospital. Bachelor’s degrees are conferred by SIUE.

“We saw the opportunity to meet a need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses in this region,” said Melodie Rowbotham, PhD, director of the SIUE Regional Nursing Program in Carbondale, and associate professor of family health and community health nursing. “This regional program enables us to efficiently meet students’ needs and strengthen healthcare in southern Illinois.”

Since its inception, program enrollment has quadrupled. The School continues to increase clinical opportunities, enhance the simulation lab and develop fellowship opportunities.

Trio Joins Staff at World-Renowned Mayo Clinic

Madisson Haake, Courtney Levo and Bradley Marcum are using the skills they gained in the School of Nursing to serve patients at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic. The alumni joined the nursing staff of the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., soon after graduating in May 2017.

Influenced to enter the field by her mother’s journey through nursing school, Haake is a critical care nurse in the clinical surgical trauma intensive care unit (ICU) and progressive care unit.

Levo, a nurse in the medical surgical transplant ICU, was inspired to become a caregiver after experiencing the hope Mayo Clinic gave her family regarding her brother’s disabilities when all other options had failed.

Marcum, a critical care nurse in the cardiac surgery/heart and lung transplant ICU, realized his passion for nursing when he was a patient. After undergoing lung surgery during his freshman year at SIUE, he immediately shifted his academic focus to nursing.

“Graduating from the School of Nursing has allowed me to land this position in an elite ICU at a number one hospital,” Marcum said. “It’s a dream come true.”
Faculty Collaborate to Improve Practice

For area hospitals and health systems striving to implement evidence-based practice (EBP) and achieve better patient outcomes, the School of Nursing’s faculty serve as an excellent resource from which to draw. Since 2011, Kay Gaehle, PhD, associate professor of primary care and health systems nursing, has worked with staff nurses and nurse clinicians at Memorial Hospital Belleville to improve practice and evaluate change.

“I’m an expert resource for the clinicians and staff,” Gaehle said. “They identify problems or develop ideas, and I help them refine those according to research literature. Essentially, I’m doing scholarship that impacts other scholars, and the people I’m working with are truly focused on improving patients’ experiences.”

For example, staff realized that patients with undiagnosed sleep apnea were at high risk for post-operative respiratory depression. Nurses, clinicians, surgeons, healthcare informatics experts, and the anesthesia and sleep study departments implemented screenings to identify surgery patients who may have undiagnosed sleep apnea. Those patients are treated appropriately for optimal care during and after surgery. Patients who participated in a sleep study after recovering from surgery were indeed diagnosed with sleep apnea.

Similarly, regional health care system SSM Health approached the School two years ago, seeking to initiate an EBP project that would allow staff nurses to influence their practice. Ann Popkess, PhD, chair and associate professor of family health and community health nursing, began working with SSM nursing staff to address problems in treating alcohol users. When alcohol-using patients come into the hospital for unrelated issues, complications frequently occur due to alcohol withdrawal.

“We were able to train roughly 400 nurse educators, pharmacists, informatics specialists, nurses and approximately 100 physicians to screen patients for alcohol dependency,” Popkess said. “We also developed an online training module and have trained staff and physicians.”

Two SSM hospitals are now implementing a pilot of the EBP project, aiming to reduce complications, including seizures, falls and violence, and measuring outcomes.

“This is change occurring from the bottom up, because it’s staff-identified,” Popkess said. “Many large organizations are not designed to implement change in this way. It’s a credit to SSM, because of their commitment to successfully implement this project.”

Collaboration Focuses on Campus Suicide Prevention

Utilizing a $299,442 Campus Suicide Prevention Grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SIUE is in its second year of implementing the iCARE suicide prevention initiative. The initiative is managed collaboratively by the Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy, and Counseling Services.

iCARE increases awareness and education in recognizing at-risk behaviors of students in crisis, improves campus policies and procedures for assisting these students, and reduces negative stigmas of counseling and help-seeking.

“This next year we will continue working on standardized training for faculty, staff, and students,” said Rebecca Luebbert, PhD, associate professor of primary care and health systems nursing. “I am also interested in exploring barriers to seeking help for suicidal thoughts and behaviors within the LGBTQ community on campus.”

Retirements

Paul Darr
Clinical Assistant Professor
11 years of service to the School of Nursing

Karen Kelly
Associate Professor
15 years of service to the School of Nursing

Marietta Bell-Scriber, Instructor
5 years of service to the School of Nursing

In Memory

Haley Nicole Michel, of Bethalto, died Saturday, April 29, at age 20 following a short but valiant battle with stage four non-Hodgkins lymphoma and hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare immune condition.

Michel was extremely passionate about her nursing education, serving as a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. She was also recognized on the Dean’s List. In her free time, Michel enjoyed running, hiking, biking and spending time at the gym. Her dedication to her education was inspiring, and her loss is felt deeply within the School.
Students and Faculty Grow Through Global Initiatives

Global experiences, including international exchange programs and service-based trips, provide students and faculty with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to provide patient care to populations in need all around the world. These experiences will also prepare students for the vast array of challenges they may experience throughout their career. The School is now providing a variety of global learning experiences for its students.

Guatemala

Through ER Abroad Mission Impossible, Deborah Horton traveled to Antigua, Guatemala, earning clinical hours toward her master’s in the family nurse practitioner program. There, she saw diseases in advanced stages that are rarely seen in the United States.

“The diverse clinical experience greatly enhanced my assessment skills,” Horton said. “I learned about the culture and lifestyle of the local population and how to teach them to prevent disease and injuries.”

Haiti

Valerie Griffin, DNP, assistant clinical professor, and Chontay McKay, FNP-BC, lecturer, traveled to Haiti separately with medical teams to set the groundwork for future faculty-led medical mission trips for students in the family nurse practitioner (FNP) program.

“Global missions will allow FNP students at SIUE to have a unique and interprofessional clinical experience,” Griffin added. “Through global leadership, students learn service, diversity and compassion for underserved populations.”

Costa Rica

The Schools of Nursing, Education, Health and Human Behavior; Dental Medicine, and the Office of International Affairs are partnering with Central American Mission Projects to create new opportunities for global student experiences. Faculty and students will provide health screenings, health education and dental care.

“It is our goal to enrich students’ learning and expand our reach in new, incredible ways,” said Laura Bernaix, PhD, dean of the School of Nursing. “We don’t want to limit our impact on health to only this region, so providing health screenings in Costa Rica offers tremendous opportunity for our students.”

Australia

Beginning next fall, Nursing students have the opportunity to participate in a newly developed student exchange program with Holmesgen Institute in Melbourne, Australia. Two SIUE students will visit Holmesgen in two weeks in July. In turn, two Holmesgen students will visit SIUE for two weeks in late October.

“Students in the program will visit classes, attend clinics at a variety of agencies, and observe clinical practices of multiple healthcare providers, all with the goal of comparing and contrasting differences and similarities in healthcare delivery models, healthcare systems, and provider roles and scope of practice,” Bernaix said.

To support students’ academic and personal growth through the Global Experience initiative, visit siue.edu/nursing/giving, or mail a gift using the envelope provided.

Recognizing Our Donors

The School of Nursing is grateful to the following donors for their generous support during fiscal year 2017. These gifts provided scholarships and professional development experiences for students, and directly advanced global education experiences, simulated learning center enhancements and WE CARE Clinic innovations. Thank you for partnering with the School to achieve excellence in nursing education, research and service.

For more information on how to give to the SIUE School of Nursing, use the enclosed envelope, visit siue.edu/nursing/giving, or contact Patricia McDonald at pmcdona@siue.edu or 618-650-3906.
The School of Nursing celebrated student achievement and gratefully acknowledged its donors during the 10th Annual Scholarship and Award Luncheon held in April. Scholarships worth approximately $26,000 were awarded to 39 students.

“The luncheon celebrates the wonderful partnership our scholarship donors and recipients are forming,” said Patti McDonald, senior director of development. “Philanthropic partnerships change lives. We are incredibly thankful to each of our donors for supporting our students on their path toward future success in nursing.”

President of the alumni advisory board Rachel Smiley, BSN ‘11, MS Health Care and Nursing Administration ‘15, emphasized that donor support for nursing students “helps humanity.”

“The best part of this annual event is seeing the promise we have in our future nurses,” she said. “Our profession will be in great hands. We thank our donors for their generosity and support. They are helping us achieve their dreams—which really are about helping people.”

To scholarship recipients, she added, “Believe me when I say, these awards are truly gifts that will propel you in your nursing journey.”

2017 Scholarships and Recipients

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2017 Scholarships and Recipients
Faculty Achievements

GRANTS

Dr. Jerrica Ampadu

Dr. Rhonda Comrie

Dr. Andrew Griffin

Dr. Valerie Griffin

Dr. Rebecca Luebbert


Dr. Ann Popkess

Dr. Melodie Rowbotham
Rowbotham, M. & Beard, R. (2016). Faculty Scholar Award, $1,500. Principle Investigator, School of Nursing, SIUE

Dr. Carole Sullivan
Sullivan, C. (2016). SIUE Excellence in Undergraduate Education internal, competitive award titled “Integrating Simulation in Pediatrics in a Prelicensure Baccalaureate Nursing Program.” ($4025.00)

Dr. Kim White

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Mary Lee Barron


Dr. Chaya Gopalan


Dr. Lisa Green

Dr. Valerie Griffin

Dr. Rebecca Luebbert

Dr. Cynthia Schmidt

Dr. Andrew Griffin

BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS, INVITED WORKS

Ms. Jill Cash

Dr. Chaya Gopalan


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Angela Andrews

Mr. Nicholas Curdt


Dr. Chaya Gopalan


Dr. Valerie Yancey


Dr. Debra Jenkins

Jenkins, D. & Meuser, T. (November, 2016) Exploring attitudes and beliefs of the advanced practice nurse’s role with older adults drivers, podium presentation, Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Karen Kelly


Dr. Rebecca Luebbert


Dr. Frank Lyerla


Dr. Amelia Perez


Perez, A., & Luebbert, R. (2016, March). Differences in health literacy and health behaviors among diverse college students. 22nd annual Memorial Medical Center Annual Research Conference, Springfield, IL; Podium presentation.


Dr. Ann Popkess


Dr. Melodie Rowbotham


Dr. Valerie Yancey


HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. Rachael Beard was honored as a 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader, Illinois Nurses Foundation, 2016.

Dr. Mary Boyd received AIN Book of the Year Award First Place for *Psychiatric Nursing: Contemporary Practice* (5th ed. Enhanced), Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins, and AIN Book of the Year Award Second Place for *Essentials of Psychiatric Nursing* (1st ed.) Philadelphia: Wolters & Kluwer.

Dr. Kay Gaehle was named 2016 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award for Education.

Dr. Chaya Gopalan received the STEM Faculty Research Fellowship and the Faculty Scholar Award.

Dr. Amelia Perez was saluted for her teaching skills and accomplishments with the 2016-2017 SIUE Teaching Distinction Award.

Upcoming School of Nursing Gala to “Honor the Past and Empower the Future”

Alumni, faculty, staff, students, community partners and friends are encouraged to mark their calendars for the School’s upcoming bi-annual “Honor the Past—Empower the Future” gala. The all-alumni reunion and campaign recognition gala will be held October 27, 2018 at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium located in Forest Park in St. Louis.

The gala will feature a cocktail reception, dinner and entertainment.

The gala will celebrate the ongoing successes and advancements made by current and former School of Nursing alumni who are nursing clinicians, educators, administrators and leaders throughout the region and beyond.
Alumni Hall, Room 2117  
Campus Box 1066  
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1006

Upcoming Events

School of Nursing Convocation  
Friday, Dec. 15, 2017

School of Nursing Fall Commencement  
Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

School of Nursing Spring Convocation and Commencement  
Friday, May 4, 2018

School of Nursing Gala  
Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018

siue.edu/nursing