From the Dean

This has been a tremendous year as the School of Nursing continues to grow enrollment, expand partnerships and enrich learning opportunities. Our overall enrollment has reached an amazing 1,701 students, and our retention and graduation rates continue to impress. Additional hospital systems and community colleges are joining us as corporate partners for the RN to BS program and now also for our graduate programs. Over the last three years, 530 nurses have graduated from our RN to BS program, and we continue to maintain enrollment of over 700 students. Our Simulation Learning Center is the center of innovative student simulations for each of our undergraduate clinical courses and for the graduate programs as well.

At the graduate level, we have increased our overall enrollment by 40 percent since fall 2017, and this year we are preparing new programs to add to our list of offerings. In May we graduated the first cohorts in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) nurse anesthesia and family nurse practitioner specializations. We are proud to tout that our 2018 certification pass rates for both of these cohort specialties remained at their historically consistent highs, with 90 percent for the nurse anesthesia graduates and 100 percent for the nurse practitioner graduates. These outstanding results far exceed the 2017 national averages for both specializations, which stand at approximately 82 percent each.

In this edition of the Dean’s Report, you will read about many of the exciting initiatives in place at the School. Hear from students about their recent service trip to Costa Rica. Read about the acquisition and incorporation of state-of-the-art, virtual cadaver technology into our simulation lab. Learn about the innovative research of Dr. Angela Andrews, and find out about our latest corporate partnerships.

On behalf of the School’s faculty, staff, and students, I want to thank our alumni, agency and community partners, and University community for their continued support. It is with the combined efforts of all of our supporters that the School’s legacy for excellence can, and does, continue.

Here’s to another successful year!

Sincerely,
Laura Bernaix, PhD, RN
Dean

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

Just a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of more than 13,000. SIUE awards degrees in undergraduate and graduate programs encompassing the arts, sciences, nursing, education, health, human behavior, business and engineering. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award first-professional doctoral degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and pharmacy (PharmD). Cooperative PhD programs in history, environmental resources and policy, engineering science and computer engineering are offered with SIU Carbondale.

School of Nursing at a Glance

- U.S. News and World Report ranked the School of Nursing among the top 100 in its 2018 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list released in January. The School improved 10 spots from a year ago to #84 among 159 schools nationwide and is the top rated public institution in Illinois.
- Online publication College Choice has named SIUE’s School of Nursing the most affordable nursing degree in Illinois.
- The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master’s degree program in nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.
New Partnerships Offer Online Graduate Programs to BJC HealthCare, SSM Health

Corporate partnerships, or exclusive contractual agreements between SIUE and companies, exist solely to build mutually beneficial relationships that align industry needs with University resources. By providing educational opportunities to the employees, clients or other well-defined groups of stakeholders, corporate partnerships allow the University to extend its student-centered learning community outside its traditional campuses while improving the life, economy, healthcare and environment in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area and beyond.

The School of Nursing has been steadily creating corporate partnerships for the online RN to BS program since 2014. Expanding on those partnerships, nurses in the BJC HealthCare and SSM Health systems now may also pursue graduate degrees through the School’s online programs.

The partnerships enable nursing professionals to pursue Master of Science, nurse educator and Master of Science, healthcare and nursing administration degrees. Both programs are offered fully online.

Both master’s programs comprise 11 courses, with the nurse educator program including 270 hours of clinical experience, and the healthcare and nursing administration program including 315 hours of clinical experience.

In addition, BJC HealthCare nurses may also pursue an online Post-Master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. This is the first time SIUE has offered any of its doctoral programs through a corporate academic partnership.

“It is incredibly exciting to know SSM and BJC nurses now have an opportunity to take advantage of these educational offerings.” — Andrew Griffin, PhD, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs, School of Nursing

The organizations have also collaborated to offer qualified nurses discounted tuition and a convenient payroll deduction option for tuition payments.

B.J.C. HealthCare is one of the largest nonprofit healthcare organizations in the United States, delivering services to residents primarily in the greater St. Louis, southern Illinois and mid-Missouri regions. BJC’s nationally recognized academic hospitals, Barnes-Jewish and St. Louis Children’s, are affiliated with Washington University School of Medicine.

SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system serving the comprehensive health needs of communities across the Midwest. With care delivery sites in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, SSM Health includes 20 hospitals and more than 60 outpatient care sites. SSM Health is one of the largest employers in every community it serves.

Nursing Students Combat Opioid Crisis in Highland

Drug overdoses killed over 63,600 Americans in 2016, with nearly 66 percent of the deaths involving a prescription opioid. Over the last year, emergency rooms in Illinois saw a 66 percent increase in opioid overdoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Highland, Ill., a town of 10,000, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Chief Brian Wilson is one of many town officials and representatives working in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Highland EMS administered NARCAN, the life-saving treatment for suspected opioid overdoses, 32 times in 2017.

In order to prevent further abuse and educate the city’s teens about the dangers of opioids, Highland partnered with the University for a yearlong SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC). Through an SSCC, community partners identify sustainability and livability projects that would benefit from SIUE expertise. Faculty then incorporate these projects into their courses, and engage graduate and upper-level undergraduate students in the SSCC.

“For Highland, the first student cohort in fall 2017 conducted a needs assessment that the second cohort built upon in the spring semester,” said Charlotte Chance, DNP, clinical assistant professor of family health and community health nursing.

“In our research, we found that children as young as 13 have started using drugs,” said senior Shannon McGinnis of Liles, Ill. “It is vital to be aware of the problem so we can fix it. If we get information into schools and educate the students, we prevent the problem before it starts.”

The SSCC opioid education and prevention project in Highland targets teens ages 14-18. Under Chance’s guidance, 10 School of Nursing students presented “The Opioid Epidemic: Community Engagement and Awareness” to Highland city representatives in February.

As part of the presentation, the students identified references, resources and tools using best practices for drug use prevention and supporting families with addicted members.

Wilson knows first-hand the ripple effect that opioid addiction has on a family. His daughter is now drug-free after a long battle with drug and opioid abuse.

“When we see a crisis, and this is a crisis, we want to try to help the users and the families,” Wilson said. “We want to get the addict the resources to get well, but we also want to help the family find resources to cope.”

“The opioid crisis is real. There isn’t a single community immune to it, and we have an obligation to do something about it.”

Lisa Peck, Highland Assistant City Manager
Postcards from Costa Rica

Over spring break, more than 30 students and faculty members from SIUE’s Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Education, Health and Human Behavior exchanged their week-long break from classes for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage in service-learning projects led by Central American Mission Projects (CAMP) in Costa Rica.

Thirteen nursing students and six faculty and staff members provided vital healthcare and volunteer services throughout the week, including:

Volunteering to feed young children in El Infiernillo

“On our first night there, we pulled up on the side of this busy road outside a poor village. Then, all of a sudden, all these kids start emerging. We made sure they had something to eat and drink that night. I met this little girl named Maria, and I just held her the whole time. It was such an eye-opening experience.”

Erin Brueggemann, Bartelso, Ill., BS ’18

Serving 80 patients in the Santo Tomás Clinic at Santo Domingo de Heredia

“At the first day of the clinics, I was scared beyond belief but also really excited. This was everything the School of Nursing had been preparing me for. Going to Costa Rica has already made me a better nurse. Now, I feel almost no anxiety going into clinical settings.”

Robert Ehrhardt, Troy, Ill., Senior

Conducting head-to-toe physical assessments and hearing and vision exams for more than 200 students at Hogar Roblealto in San José

“The students showed love, passion and positive attitude throughout the entire experience. They stepped up and were rock stars at fulfilling all of their duties. They initially wrote their findings in English, and then met with the translator to translate their findings into Spanish for the school nurse.”

Valerie Griffin, DNP, Assistant Clinical Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program Coordinator

Volunteering at Niño Con Cariño Orphanage in Alajuela

“Everyone was genuinely grateful for everything we did for them. Even the little bit of painting we did at the orphanage was huge to them. After we finished painting, I played with one girl and I will never forget her sweet little face. She will have a special place in my heart forever.”

Jaylyn Lowrance, Bethalto, Ill., BS ’18

Research Seeks to Impact Medication Adherence

According to the American Heart Association, heart failure impacts nearly six million people and is the most common cause of hospitalization in older adults. Medications are crucial for those living with heart failure to alleviate symptoms, prolong life and reduce admission to the hospital.

Despite the importance of medications, nearly 50 percent of people with heart failure do not adhere to their medication regimens, which leads to increased healthcare costs and poor patient outcomes. Angela Andrews, PhD, assistant professor of primary care and health systems nursing, seeks to improve those statistics through her research.

“Numerous studies have tested the use of interventions to improve this significant problem. Results have shown only a modest improvement in adherence rates,” Andrews said.

Andrews conducted a mixed-methods feasibility study utilizing the SystemCHANGE™ self-management intervention in older adults with heart failure. SystemCHANGE™ focuses on changing a person’s environment and uses trial-and-error “experiments” to help them achieve a specific goal.

“SystemCHANGE™ has been effective in improving sleep and eating behaviors, and increasing exercise, but is newer to medication adherence,” Andrews said. “This intervention is individualized to each patient. They list their daily, weekly and monthly routines, and medication-taking is then placed within the routine. The patient does not have to remember to take their medications, because their medications are in the right place at the right time based on their daily routines.”

Lessons learned from this study will guide the protocol revisions in future studies on this population.

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Anatomage Table Revolutionizing Simulated Experiences

The School of Nursing’s new technological centerpiece, an Anatomage Table, is enabling students to explore the human body like never before. The life-size, 3D, virtual dissection table has a fully interactive touch screen and is the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization system on the market. “The visualization and interactivity of the new Anatomage Table enhances students’ understanding of anatomy both in general and clinical concepts,” said Kevin Stein, DNP, program director and assistant professor of the nurse anesthesia program. “It allows our students to virtually dissect and study the human anatomy and structural relationships in ways that were previously inaccessible.”

The 2011 Institute of Medicine report details how access to high-quality, cost-effective care is elusive for many of the 100 million Americans who suffer from chronic pain. That’s more than the combined number of Americans with diabetes, heart disease and cancer. The lack in access to care is in part to a severe shortage of pain medicine specialists.

Given the current economic factors impacting healthcare delivery in the state of Illinois and across the country, the School of Nursing believes it is imperative to continue to utilize highly skilled and cost-effective nurse anesthetists to better improve access to care and create health equity in its communities.

“Research demonstrates that advanced practice nurses are well positioned to meet the demand for access to surgical, pain management are taught within the nurse anesthesia specialization.”

Kevin Stein, DNP, Program Director and Assistant Professor of Anesthesia Specialization

Recognizing Our Donors

We are grateful to the following donors for your generous support of the SIUE School of Nursing during fiscal year 2018. Your philanthropic gifts provided much needed and deeply appreciated scholarships and professional development experiences for our students. Your contributions also directly advanced our Dean’s Leadership Society’s top strategic initiatives, specifically, global education experiences, simulated learning center enhancements and the SIUE We Care Clinic innovations.

We thank you for partnering with our School to achieve excellence in nursing education, research and service for the benefit of students, patients and providers in this region, state and nation.

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.

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Alumna Speaks on Impact of Donor Support

The School of Nursing celebrated generous donor support and outstanding student achievement at its 11th annual Scholarship Luncheon held in April. More than $31,000 in annual and endowed scholarships was presented to 32 student recipients.

Guest speaker Mackenzie Schutt, BS ’17, received last year’s Nursing Alumni Heritage Scholarship. She now works at Mercy Hospital in the Med Surg Intensive Care Unit.

“I know firsthand the impact of the financial support you are receiving as scholarship recipients,” Schutt said. “I am honored to stand in front of you all today, as a nurse, and say that I made it. But, I did not make it without the generous contributions of our donors.”

To the donors in attendance, Schutt said, “On behalf of myself, the School of Nursing and its students who will be the face of nursing in the future, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support, encouragement and financial support to the profession that we all love so dearly.”

Inaugural scholarships at the event included the Gloria Perry Graduate Nursing Excellence Award, presented to Samantha Dinkirk, of Morrisville, and the Airman Dale Lee Jenkins Scholarship, presented to Kendra Tracy, of Alton.

2018 Scholarships and Recipients

Ann Helen Wharton Memorial Nursing Award ($400)
Serena Strullmyer
Anthony Oliver & Felissa Lashley Award in Nursing ($500)
Emily Gabbard
Cecil Howard Griffin & Florence Bowmaster Griffin Scholarship ($500)
Serena Strullmyer
Dr. Dr. Jacquelyn M. Clement Scholarship in Nursing ($3,000)
Shatara Ellis
Dr. Omololu D. Kafiswano
Sarah O’Leary
Gloria Perry Graduate Nursing Excellence Award ($1,000)
Kimberly Daum
Kendra Tracy
Serena Strullmyer
Kaitlyn Brown
Emily Gabbard
Serena Strullmyer
Taylor Wieneke
Dr. Omololu D. Kafiswano
Brittany Hardwick
William Buekner
Shirley Strohmeyer Memorial Nursing Award ($200)
Courtney Zamarione
Sara O’Leary
Dr. Omololu D. Kafiswano
Katheryn Britt
Serena Strullmyer
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Faculty Achievements

AWARDS AND GRANTS
Andrews, A. (2017). Impact of SystemCHANGE™ Intervention on Medication Adherence in Older Adults with Heart Failure: A Pilot RCT. SIUE School of Nursing Faculty Scholar Award. ($2,408).


FACULTY PUBLICATIONS
Dr. Angela Andrews

Dr. Mary Lee Barron

Mrs. Tracy Cooley

Dr. Kay Gaehle

Dr. Chaya Gopalan


Dr. Andrew Griffin

Dr. Rebecca Luebbert

Dr. Rebecca Luebbert
Dr. Ann Popkess

Dr. Ann Popkess
Dr. Christine Durbin

Dr. Rebecca Luebbert
Dr. Amelia Perez

Ms. Kelly McGuire

Dr. Linda Omondi

Dr. Kim White


BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS, INVITED WORKS
Dr. Mary Lee Barron

Dr. Mary Ann Boyd


Dr. Kay Gaehle

Dr. Chaya Gopalan


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS
Dr. Jerrica Ampadu

Dr. Angela Andrews
Andrews, A., & Russell, C.L. (2017). Impact of SystemCHANGE™ Intervention on Medication Adherence in Older Adults with Heart Failure: A Pilot RCT. Poster presentation at Sigma Theta Tau International St. Louis Regional Consortium, St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Mary Lee Barron

Dr. Laura Bernaix

Dr. Charlotte Chance
Dr. Rhonda Comrie
Dr. Charlotte Chance


Dr. Michelle Ertle

Ertle, M. (2017). Poster presentation at the 11th Annual Nursing research Symposium: Symphony of Evidence, Belleville Memorial Hospital, Belleville, IL.

Dr. Kay Gaehle


Dr. Chaya Gopalan


Dr. Lisa Green

Green, L. (2017). The influence of HIV knowledge and HIV attitudes on drug use among African American women’s decision to be HIV test. Poster presentation at MNRS 41st Research Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. Valerie Griffin


Dr. Debra Jenkins


Dr. Rebecca Luebbert


Ms. Deanna Martin

Martin, D. (2017). Content Mastery Exams: An Option to Replace Faculty-Generated Final Exams. Poster presentation at Nursing Education Institute, Branson MO.

Ms. Kelly McGuire


Dr. Linda Omondi


Dr. Amelia Perez

Perez, A. (2017). Arthritis community presentation. Presentation in Spanish for a Hispanic population at Fairmont City Library, Fairmont City, IL.


Dr. Ann Popkess


Ms. Amy Reed

Reed, A. (2017). Using technology to enhance student interactions: Using available resources to augment engagement between faculty and students. SIUE SON Faculty Presentation, Edwardsville, IL.


Ms. Bernadette Sobczak

Sobczak, B. (2017). iPad Distraction and Immunization in the Primary Care Setting. Quality Improvement. Poster Presentation at Maryville University, St. Louis, MO.


Sobczak, B. (2017). iPad distraction and immunization in the pediatric primary care setting: A quality improvement project. Oral presentation at Maryville University DNP Scholars Day, St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Kevin Stein

Stein, K. (2017). Exploring the impact of the flipped classroom in a nurse anesthesia educational program. Presentation at the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesiology, Nashville, TN.

Stein, K. (2017). Nurse Anesthesia Education: An Evidence Based Case for Reform. Presentation at the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesiology, Nashville, TN.

Dr. Kim White


White, K. (2017). Why should be worried about lead poisoning and what do we do about it? Presentation to the Vivian Adams School parents group, East St. Louis, IL.

White, K. (2017). The importance of having a medical home. Presentation to the Vivian Adams School parents group, East St. Louis, IL.

Retirements

Charlotte Chance
Clinical Assistant Professor
8 years of service to the School of Nursing

Rhonda Comrie
Associate Dean for Academic Programs
27 years of service to the School of Nursing
Upcoming Events

**Fall Commencement**
Friday, Dec. 14, 2018

**Spring Commencement**
Friday, May 10, 2019

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