

# HURRICANE nursing

The Newsletter of The University of Miami School of Nursing

FALL 2002

## From Bedside to Boardroom: Nurses Move to the Top

**M**ORE AND MORE NURSES ARE SLICING THROUGH THE GAUZE CEILING TO TOP POSITIONS IN THEIR ORGANIZATIONS. THEY'RE BECOMING CEOs, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, AND ENTREPRENEURS.

"There is a growing understanding of nursing's value to an organization," said Lee Schmidt, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing, who teaches courses in leadership and management at the School of Nursing. "In the health care environment, you want the captain of your ship to have a clinical background."

Take Mindy Shikiar, M.S.N. '89. Now the CEO of Kindred Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Shikiar found that after working for five years as a nurse in Boston hospitals, she needed a master's de-

gree to advance. After earning an M.S.N. and M.B.A. from the University of Miami, she worked in managed care, quality assurance, case management, and nursing management for various organizations.

Five years ago, she became chief operating officer of Vencor Hospital,

*Continued on page 4*



*Phyllis Sippel, Ph.D. '98, with Martin Memorial Hospital Board Member William Long (left) and Howard Helfman, M.D., chief of staff.*

## Meet Sharon Pontious, Interim Dean

**W**hen Sharon Pontious, Ph.D., R.N. became interim dean of the School of Nursing in June, she knew she had a lot of unfinished business to attend to. Among her



*Dr. Pontious and Mireline Baptiste*

many tasks? Secure student enrollment for the fall semester; balance the school's budget; energize alumni, students, faculty, and donors; and complete fundraising to begin construction of the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education.

"This is a superb nursing school with a great team in place," said Dr. Pontious, formerly assistant dean of the school's baccalaureate program. "I am looking forward to meeting and working with alumni, donors, community, and university leaders."

Prior to joining the University of Miami last year, Dr. Pontious was president and professor of the Jewish Hospital College of

Nursing and Allied Health in St. Louis, where she developed accredited multiple nursing and allied health programs. Additionally, she started Healthy Foundations, a group of nurse-managed health centers in six Jewish day schools, which featured health promotion and education for 1,200 children and their families.

"That experience translates very well to our school-based health centers in south Miami-Dade County," she said. "Working with an orthodox Jewish population in St. Louis, requires a great deal of cultural sensitivity."

Dr. Pontious plans to lead the School of Nursing through this interim period until a top nationally known nursing dean is recruited.

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE

### *It Takes a Team to Grow a Great Nursing School*

Serving as interim dean of this outstanding nursing school is a great honor. We are truly fortunate to have an extremely strong *team* of faculty, staff, alumni, donors, students, and volunteers working together to enhance this school. I sincerely thank each individual on our team for their experience, vision, and optimistic approach to enhancing our strengths and improving our outcomes in a cost-effective manner.

Our student enrollment this fall is up, particularly in the B.S.N. program. Enrollment in the other programs is holding steady. All incoming students are academically the strongest to date.

Faculty is the major strength of our school, as consistently identified by our students and graduates. They work hard to improve the student experience through early identification of student strengths and weaknesses, supplemental math seminars, building a strong cadre of student tutors, and individualized instruction focused on student needs. In addition, faculty improves patient care and satisfaction through their practice and research.

Our school's commitment to serve the community is strengthening. We are expanding our health promotion and education, early identification, and primary services to the children and families at R.R. Moton, Southwood, and Richmond schools due to recently obtained additional funding. This will allow us to better integrate our service, education, and research efforts in this community.

We are working closely with the Alumni Association to strengthen our P.R.I.D.E. in our school as Annmarie Waite describes on page 11. Our goal is to enhance the alumni's connection

with current students and graduates to strengthen the school's influence on the nursing profession in the community, region, and nation. Alumni are being asked to be alumni ambassadors, student mentors, and tutors.

Thanks to our generous alumni and donors, ground will break on the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education in Spring 2003! Without each and every contribution, we would not have reached the \$11 million mark. We are so grateful to the top donors who have helped us raise 85 percent of the required funds to date for phase one: Christine and Ted Schwartz for \$5 million, R. Kirk Landon for \$1.25 million, and Dr. Stephen Dresnick for \$1 million. Corporate support from health care systems and hospitals, as well as donations from foundations, faculty, alumni, and generous community leaders, brings our new building closer to reality.

Special thanks go to the campaign committee, who has given its time, energy, and dollars to this effort. Our campaign committee chairman, Dr. Dresnick, continues to provide endless hours of campaigning in every imaginable venue to help reach our ultimate goal of \$19.5 million to complete the building.

Teamwork among faculty, students, alumni, donors, and volunteers will continue to bring our school into the top 25. For that, I feel extremely fortunate.

Sharon Pontious, Ph.D.  
Professor and Interim Dean  
spontious@miami.edu



## Faculty Member Examines Art's Healing Potential

Caregivers of seriously ill cancer patients can relieve stress and anxiety by tapping into their creative side. That's what one nursing faculty member will investigate through her work on a general research support award from the University of Miami that measures the effects of art on caregivers.

*Art at the Bedside with Family Caregivers of Cancer Patients: A Pilot Project* strives to improve the well being of family caregivers of cancer patients through a creative arts intervention. Offered to caregivers at the actual bedside while family members are hospitalized at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, the research project is designed to reduce stress, lower anxiety, and decrease depression while improving

caregivers' quality of life.

"We believe that project participants are happier and have less anxiety—they essentially take a vacation away from their stress, at least momentarily," said Sandra Walsh, Ph.D., R.N, director of nursing research and the principal investigator on the study. Marianela Borsten, research assistant at the School of Nursing, assists Dr. Walsh in the Art at the Bedside project and acts as translator so that Spanish-speaking caregivers can participate as well.



"It helped take my mind off everything that was going on with my husband," said Marianne Razza, a caregiver who recently participated in the Art at the Bedside project. "Instead of sitting and worrying constantly, it gave me something fun to look forward to. I think the project is wonderful. It really brightens up your day and your life."

Art supplies are stocked on a rolling "ArtKart" for easy transportability. On the "ArtKart" is a creative art intervention package that Dr. Walsh developed as part of an earlier dissertation, which examined the effects of art on suicidal adolescents. The package has a variety of arts and crafts activities for caregivers to choose from including watercolor abstract monoprints, small silk wall hangings, and greeting cards.

Another potential benefit of the study is improved communication between the caregiver and patient. "The art provides a new focus. The patient and caregiver begin to talk about their favorite colors or the art project itself, rather than the sickness," said Dr. Walsh. "It certainly promotes well being and positive thoughts."

For more information on the Art at the Bedside project, contact Dr. Walsh at 305-284-1553 or by e-mail at [swalsh@miami.edu](mailto:swalsh@miami.edu).

*Dr. Sandra Walsh, left, and Marianela Borsten use the "ArtKart" to transport art to the bedside.*



## From Bedside to Boardroom: Nurses Move to the Top

*Continued from cover page*

which later became Kindred.

“When patients and their families find out that the CEO is also a nurse, they’re surprised and pleased,” said Shikiar, who was promoted to the top post last year.

Shikiar feels that being a nurse makes her more approachable among the clinical staff. “A nursing background helps me easily prioritize what has to be done from a patient care perspective,” she added.

Martha Sanchez, M.B.A. '95, B.S.N. '83, executive director of Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center (AHEC), agrees that her nursing background has kept her in contact with the needs of her organization's clients.

AHEC partners with colleges, universities, hospitals, and other organizations to address the community's most pressing health needs.

“Nursing's process orientation—adopting a practical approach when solving problems—and being able to substantiate statements to make effective plans, have been key to dealing with our board and funding agencies,” said Sanchez.

Sanchez credits former School of Nursing Dean Evelyn Barritt as her role model at the nursing school. “She promoted advocacy in everything she did, and that's where I am now. She led me to become an advocate for our profession and our patients,” Sanchez remembered.

Having a business degree is not a prerequisite for running an organization, however. Clara McElroy, B.S.N. '66, has started, managed, and sold several

health care businesses. Currently, she is president of First Call Medical, a home health agency on Florida's west coast. She also runs the Florida Academy of Health, a school for nurse's aides and entry-level health care workers, and



*Hurricane Leadership Team: Kindred Hospital CEO Mindy Shikiar, M.S.N. '89 (left) and Chief Nursing Officer Deborah Terry, B.S.N. '88, M.S.N. '91, A.R.N.P. '97.*

CEUonline.org, an Internet-based continuing education resource for nurses, nursing home administrators, massage therapists, and others.

McElroy started an ambulatory surgery center for United Hospitals in the Philadelphia area, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for adolescents, an urgent care center, and a nurse staffing firm. All became successful and were sold. She moved to Florida in 1992 and started her current businesses.

“My experience at UM gave me the confidence to do whatever I set out to do—and to not let obstacles get in the way,” she said.

Overcoming obstacles is a lesson Phyllis Sippel, Ph.D. '98, learned during her career in top management, most recently as vice president/hospital administrator for the 236-bed Martin Memorial Medical Center in Stuart, Florida.

“In 1974, I felt nurses did not have an advocate, which is why I went into administration,” Dr. Sippel said. “I learned later that you can't be an effective patient advocate unless you're a staff advocate.”

Dr. Sippel, who retired from her position last year, advises that nurses should broaden their education and gain a business perspective to see how business and patient care work together.

“But you must never lose touch with the patient at the bedside,” she added.

Being a nurse helped build rapport and gain the respect of the physicians in the hospital, according to Dr. Sippel. “We were always looking at things from a clinical perspective,” she said.

All four nurse-executives agreed that education is the key to advancement. Dr. Schmidt, a former director of nursing at Tampa General Hospital, added that as hospitals set out to recruit and retain nurses, they are investing in them, and part of that investment is education.

“More nurses will become CEOs of hospitals and other health care organizations,” he said. “Nurses are the constant in patient care—we're always there. And there's a growing recognition of that role.”

## Two Grads Launch NursesSTAT

**B**rian Virgo and Joshua Goode found a quick way to the top. They started their own company.

The Class of 2000 B.S.N. graduates took an idea, inspired by one of their classes at the University of Miami, and started NursesSTAT Inc., a professional management firm that provides computer-driven nursing management services for hospitals, clinics, outpatient facilities, and home health care organizations.

“As we entered the nursing field, both of us quickly became aware of the realities of the nursing shortage in hospitals and other health care facilities,” said Virgo.

“A project in one of our UM courses taught us to think out of the box,” added Goode. “It made us think about how we might make a change in nursing.”

Virgo and Goode are using online technology, interactive wireless communication, and proprietary, patent-pending task-management software to enable

hospitals to increase their in-house per diem employee pool and reduce the use of supplemental staffing. The system should empower nurses to set their own schedules, nursing supervisors to quickly find qualified per diem nurses, and hospitals to better track their expenses.

Since graduation, Virgo and Goode have been developing and testing the system and have had many meetings with investment bankers to get their idea off the ground. They are currently working with Holy Cross and Mercy Hospitals to develop a pilot application program.

NursesSTAT uses a series of electronic tools to link staffing administrators, per diem nurses, and selected agencies through a perpetual wireless connection. Two-way text pagers link hospitals with essential supplemental resources, so that assignments can be transmitted and filled in minutes. The



*Joshua Goode, B.S.N. '00 and Brian Virgo, B.S.N. '00, co-founders of NursesSTAT Inc.*

technology tracks nurse credentials, profiles, “supplemental” preferences and schedules, and integrates the data with hospital requirements to ensure staffing needs are met.

For additional information, visit [www.nursesstat.com](http://www.nursesstat.com).

## Alumna Leads P.A.T.C.H.E.S. Project into Law

**A**fter a two-year effort, what started as a class project at the School of Nursing has passed the legislature and is now on the brink of changing the way Florida deals with pediatric health care for special needs patients.

P.A.T.C.H.E.S., Pediatric Alternate Treatment Care Housing Evaluation Services, is the brainchild of Kyle Smith, B.S.N. '00, and promises to provide transitional care (between hospital and home) to chronically ill pediatric patients.

“Given current funding formulas, this program should save \$120,000 per child per year, improve their quality of life, and relieve stress on their families,” said Smith. “And

there are dozens of such kids in Miami-Dade county alone.”

For the second year, Smith led the charge in Tallahassee to convince the Florida legislature to pass the program. Almost the victim of legislative horse-trading, P.A.T.C.H.E.S. legislation passed and was signed into law on June 7.

Smith is currently working with the state’s Agency for Health Care Administration on policies and guidelines in addition to looking for space in south Miami-Dade county hospitals and nursing homes to start the 30-bed pilot program. She hopes to open the program in January 2003.

“Our goal is to get patients out of the hospital sooner, into the transitional unit for up to 90 days, and then home,” said Smith.

Parent education, Smith added, is key to making this program work. “We need to teach them how to deal with their child’s illness—to look for warning signs for decline—and to work with the equipment and technology for treatment.”

Smith, who has cared for two chronically ill children of her own, started working on the P.A.T.C.H.E.S. program idea as part of a community health nursing class as a student at the University of Miami. See *Hurricane Nursing*, Fall 2001, for more information.

## Summer Scholars Excel in University Environment

Forty-six dedicated high school students participated in the rigorous Summer Scholars Program health care course this past summer, and walked away with a wealth of knowledge on today's health care industry.

Students spent three intensive weeks learning everything from the basics of health promotion, health maintenance, rehabilitation, and disease prevention, to the specifics of critical issues in health care.

Students learned about a variety of topics such as the health care environment, politics and health care, growing older in America, violence and abuse in society, bioterrorism, complementary therapies, and pharmacological and research advances in health care today. Each topic was discussed within the context of the health care needs of society and the responsibilities of the health care provider.

"Every year I change the course so that the topics are relevant to health care today," said Lois S. Marshall, Ph.D., R.N., C.P.N., assistant professor in clinical



*Students of the Summer Scholars course Healthcare: A Process of Health Promotion, Maintenance, Rehabilitation, and Preventative Medicine.*

nursing at the School of Nursing and coordinator of the course.

Each class contained a lecture with active participation by the students. The students bring an enthusiasm to the class and many preconceived notions about the health care system, said Dr. Marshall. By the end of course, the students have had their "eyes opened" to the real world of health care.

During the last two days of class, students conducted debates on issues

they had been assigned and subsequently researched. Debate topics for this summer included needle exchange programs, the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes, stem cell research, the right to die/active euthanasia, the patient bill of rights, and prescription drug benefits for the elderly, among others.

In addition to the course work, students get a taste of university life and live in the dorms on campus for the three-week period. The students also adhere to the same School of Nursing grading policy and guidelines for paper presentations as their college-level counterparts.

According to Dr. Marshall, the students exceeded all of her expectations. "Our next generation of health care providers is very intelligent and hard working. They are willing to learn and study to make a difference in people's lives," she said.

For more information on the Summer Scholars Program, contact Brian Blythe in the School of Continuing Studies at 305-284-5078.

## To the Rescue: Faculty, Students Help with Walkathon

Nineteen School of Nursing faculty members and students volunteered their skills at rest stops for the March of Dimes walkathon last spring, just one example of students' community participation efforts.

Volunteers from the Black Student Nurses Association and a community health class helped dispense water to dehydrated walkers and bandaged blisters. They also administered first aid to those with skateboard and roller blade injuries, serious facial cuts, and a broken ankle, among other injuries.

"Students treated several very serious injuries including a broken leg and a small child thrown from a jogging stroller, so they were very rewarding experiences for them," said Jeanne Siegel, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., clinical instructor at the School of Nursing, who taught the community health course last spring.

Impressed with the students' professionalism and ability to respond quickly and accurately to emergencies, event organizers invited the School of Nursing to participate next year. Many students showed interest as

well. "All of the students requested to come back next year, even though many were not in my class," said Siegel.

Plans are being made to add a bicycle team of first-responder nurses to patrol the route to help those injured between rest stops.



*Volunteers Extraordinary: (left to right) Karina Garcia, Viviane Jeanlouis, Marie St. Vil, Latoya Lewis, Midlaine Richards, and Kimone Pusey*

## A Busy Year for Nursing Faculty

School of Nursing faculty have been extremely productive conducting research, writing for scholarly publications, and attending conferences. Here is a sample of their activities.

**Nancy Hogan**, Ph.D., professor, and **Lee Schmidt**, Ph.D., assistant professor, published "Testing the Grief to Personal Growth Model Using Structural Equation Modeling" in the September 2002 issue of the journal, *Death Studies*.

**Georgie Labadie**, Ed.D., professor, has been identified as a national expert in faculty competencies and certification of academic educators and participated in the plenary session on that topic at the National League of Nursing Education Summit September 19-22 in Anaheim, California.

**Elaine Kauschinger**, M.S.N., instructor, had her research on HIV and tolerability presented at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain on July 10. It was part of a multi-site research project and was the first nurse practitioner-based research funded by Abbot Labs. She also has been invited to be a guest presenter for *Advance for Nurses* journal to present a CEU segment on HIV/AIDS.

**Lee Schmidt**, Ph.D., assistant professor, has received two University of Miami research grants for this multi-method, multi-trait study of the relationship of patient satisfaction with nursing care, patient perception of nurse staffing, and patient self-report of adverse events. He also presented "The Development and Testing of a Measure of Patient Satisfaction with Nursing Care" to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Day at Barry University and to the Southern Nursing Research Society in San Antonio, Texas. His article, "A Clinical Ladder Program Based on Carper's

Fundamental Patterns of Knowing in Nursing," co-written with two former colleagues at Tampa General Hospital, has been accepted for publication in the February 2003 issue of the *Journal of Nursing Administration*.

**Doris Ugarriza**, Ph.D., assistant professor, published "Intentionality: Applications within Selected Theories of Nursing" in the July 2002 issue of *Holistic Nursing Practice*. Dr. Ugarriza's article "Elderly Women's Explanation of Depression" was published in the May 2002 issue of the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. In addition, her essay titled "Tele-Care Support for Postpartum Depressed Women" was selected from among 2,000 submissions for a book celebrating the University of Miami's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, *Bold Beginnings Bright Tomorrows: An Anthology of Faculty Writings*.

**Sandra Walsh**, Ph.D., associate professor and director of research, and **Nancy Hogan**, Ph.D., professor, have had their article "Oncology Nursing Education: Student Nurses' Commitment of 'Presence' with the Dying Patient and the Family" accepted for publication in *Nursing and Health Care Perspectives*. Dr. Walsh was co-investigator with Dr. Mark Rubert, (Department of Psychiatry and Principal Investigator) on the National Institute of Nursing Research Tele-Care Project collaborated to develop a "caregiver workbook" to assist caregivers during implementation of the project. In April 2002, Dr. Walsh gave a presentation: "Imaging Our Futures: Arts in Health Care," at Florida Gulf Coast University Nursing Honor Society Annual Meeting in Fort Myers. She will present her ongoing work at two international conferences this fall.

## Newest Faculty Member Enjoys Teaching, Conducting Research

**J**oAnn Trybulski, assistant professor of clinical nursing, is the newest member of the School of Nursing faculty. In addition to teaching the Health Assessment course for both nurse practitioner and registered nurse students this fall, Dr. Trybulski, who holds a Ph.D. from Boston College and an M.S. in Nursing from Simmons College, plans to continue pursuing her varied research and academic interests.

Besides editing a primary care text, currently in its second edition, Dr. Trybulski will continue conducting her dissertation research, which focuses on women who have experienced elective pregnancy termination.

"What I found is that even though many of these women would not have

changed their decision, often their thoughts about it (the pregnancy termination) surfaced at other times in their life, usually in conjunction with life events such as marriage, the birth of subsequent children, things of that nature," she explained.

Meanwhile, although only in its beginning stages, Dr. Trybulski will explore research that focuses on menstrual irregularities in women who have HIV by looking at these women in terms of their physiologic functioning.

As far as her spare time is concerned, Dr. Trybulski plans to spend it outdoors. "We've always wanted to live in Florida, so I look forward not only to teaching and conducting research but gardening year-round," she added.

## New School of Nursing Ceremony Provides Well-Deserved Recognition for Grads

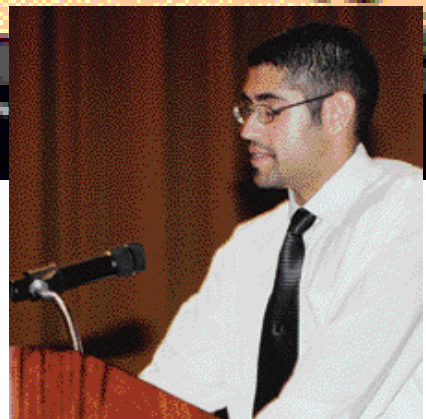
The Class of 2002 enjoyed a full day of pomp and circumstance, thanks in part to a new format for commencement instituted by University President Donna Shalala and the School of Nursing's decision to hold an intimate recognition ceremony the morning of May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Aptly titled "Honoring Our Graduates," the School of Nursing recognition ceremony was organized so students could be recognized and receive various community and school awards.

The ceremony began with a salutation and introduction by Dean Diane Horner, followed by distinguished graduate remarks from three top School of Nursing graduates. Presentation of awards and recognition of graduates followed. Those honored included 56 graduates receiving the traditional B.S.N. degree, 35 R.N.s who had completed the B.S.N. degree, and ten graduates receiving the M.S.N. degree.

"Today is a great day because we have gathered together to acknowledge accomplishments, recognize achievements, and formally join the ranks of those we most admire," said Shannan Calhoon, M.S.N., R.N., who received the M.S.N. Award for Excellence in Academic and Clinical Performance. "We take this responsibility with a spirit of optimism and with an unwavering determination that what we do will make this world, and the people in it, a healthier place for our children and for theirs," she concluded.

According to Carolyn Lindgren, Ph.D., associate dean of the School of Nursing, the ceremony was well attended and the response from students and their families was positive and very enthusiastic. The morning event was



Top left: Family and friends look on. Top center (left to right): Daneb Rizo and Luisa Angel. Center (left to right): Yenys Rodriguez and Nancy Villanueva, Ph.D. '97, B.S.N. '82, R.N., A.R.N.P. Top right: Viviane Jeanlouis with Dean Horner. Bottom center: Armando Silva, speaker for the R.N.-B.S.N. graduates.

the beginning of a great day of celebration for them.

“Those present from the community praised the ceremony,” said Dr. Lindgren. “They felt that it was more festive and more interactive—it was a real way for them to have contact with our graduates, and the graduates and



their families got to meet individuals from the community who were giving these awards.”

Representatives from various organizations and institutions including Baptist Hospital, Miami Children’s Hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital, the School of Nursing Alumni Association, the Veteran Affairs Medical Center, the United States Air Force, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society were on hand to present the community awards.

A new format for commencement was instituted last spring. In place of one university-wide ceremony, the University held a series of ceremonies, giving the 3,000 graduating students the opportunity to be recognized individually and walk across the stage for the conferral of their degrees.

According to President Shalala, who spearheaded the change, the new format was a way to make the graduation ceremony more personalized, since each student was recognized individually.

Commencement was divided into three undergraduate ceremonies held throughout the day on Friday, May 10, and one graduate ceremony held on Saturday, May 11. The Schools of Medicine and Law held their own ceremonies on May 11 and 19, respectively.

At each ceremony, the University awarded honorary degrees to seven distinguished individuals. This year’s recipients included Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, former President of Mexico; John Paul Corigliano, award-winning composer; Ruth L. Kirschstein, pioneering microbiologist; Alan S. Rabson, noted cancer researcher; Stephen M. Schwebel, retired judge on the International Court of Justice; I.M. Singer, innovator in mathematics and theoretical physics; and William Julius Wilson, renowned sociologist.

## 2001-2002 Student Awards

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Johis Ortega</b>              | B.S.N. Award for Excellence in Academic and Clinical Performance      |
| <b>Teresa Trent</b>              | R.N./B.S.N. Award for Excellence in Academic and Clinical Performance |
| <b>Shannan Calhoon</b>           | M.S.N. Award for Excellence in Academic and Clinical Performance      |
| <b>Latoya Lewis</b>              | B.S.N. Award for Excellence in Leadership                             |
| <b>Marjory Craver</b>            | R.N./B.S.N. Award for Excellence in Leadership                        |
| <b>Diana Graham</b>              | M.S.N. Award for Excellence in Leadership                             |
| <b>Yenys Rodriguez</b>           | Barbara Buchanan Memorial Community Impact Award                      |
| <b>Elizabeth Lipman</b>          | Compassion and Caring Award   |
| <b>Kristin Hackman</b>           | Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing Award                            |
| <b>Edna Madrigal</b>             | Outstanding Innovation in Undergraduate Study                         |
| <b>Victoria Klein-Olarte</b>     | Outstanding Achievement in Research                                   |
| <b>Dinorah Rodriguez-Bateman</b> | Jackson Memorial Hospital Academic Excellence Award                   |
| <b>Elena Isabel Santos</b>       | Miami Children’s Hospital Pediatric Clinical Excellence Award         |
| <b>Jillien Lee Downey</b>        | B.S.N. Alumni Award   |
| <b>Nadine Macko</b>              | R.N./B.S.N. Alumni Award  |
| <b>Teresa Camayd</b>             | M.S.N. Alumni Award   |
| <b>Andrew Urquhart</b>           | Excellence in Nursing Care of the Veteran Patient                     |
| <b>Jonathan Mirabal</b>          | Outstanding Achievement in Nursing from the Air Force                 |

## Dean Diane Horner Leaves Legacy of Growth, Progress

When Diane Horner became dean of the School of Nursing in 1990, its future was uncertain. University trustees were considering closing the school, which had for years been without a permanent home and a permanent leader.



“We had a lot to prove,” said Dean Emerita Horner. “We had to increase enrollment, donor, and alumni support, and our service in the community.”

During Horner’s 12 years as dean, the School of Nursing’s enrollment increased 27 percent with minority enrollment doubling to 70 percent; federal student financial aid increased 60 percent; endowment quadrupled to more than \$3 million; and \$11 million (out of \$13 million) was raised to begin construction on a new building.

The school’s numerous community service programs won national acclaim

following Hurricane Andrew, garnering millions of dollars in federal, foundation, and private funding, as well as numerous awards, including the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce’s Health Care Heroes Award.

New degree programs also were implemented during her tenure, including the nation’s first doctoral program in nursing using an intensive weekend format, weekend programs for R.N.s leading to B.S.N. and M.S.N. degrees, Florida’s only community health nursing program, and a dual degree program with Florida Memorial College to increase the number of African-American nurses.

“It is with great gratitude for her vision leading to the many accomplishments of the school over the past 12 years that we thank Dean Horner,” said Interim Dean Sharon Pontious. “We’re proud to have her as our dean emerita.”

When the effects of the nursing shortage were first felt in Florida, she convened the Nursing Shortage Consor-

tium of South Florida, a five-county organization of health care industry leaders, including nurse executives, deans, and directors of nursing programs, human resource directors, recruiters, and consumers. Working through schools, hospitals, and other organizations, the consortium is committed to ensuring an adequate supply of nurses in the region.

“After 12 years, it became a choice between career versus family,” said Horner, who is taking a yearlong sabbatical to get reacquainted with her husband, daughters, and grandchildren and to pursue new opportunities.

“Many fond memories of my colleagues on the faculty, and University administration and trustees, alumni, donors, students, and leaders in South Florida’s health care community will warm me this winter,” she said from her new home in Dallas.

Godspeed, Dean Horner.  
You will be missed.

## Search for Dean Spreading Nationwide

A national search is on for a new dean for the School of Nursing. The search committee hopes to have a slate of three finalists for University President Donna Shalala by the end of December.

“We’re looking for a dynamic, visionary leader with a strong background in nursing research and education to develop new programs and enhance existing ones, while building a critical mass to make our nursing school the top in the Southeast,” said Leo Twiggs, M.D., chair of the search committee, assistant provost for human subject protection, and associate dean for women’s health at the School of Medicine.

The University of Miami has a lot to offer

top candidates—an energetic president with a distinguished record in health care, a new nursing building, a qualified faculty from various backgrounds, a diverse and dynamic student body in B.S.N., M.S.N., and Ph.D. programs, and a large, research-oriented medical center, added Dr. Twiggs.

Rounding out the search committee are nursing faculty members Theresa Gesse, Ph.D., Lois Marshall, Ph.D., and Doris Ugarriza, Ph.D.; Sherrill Hayes, Ph.D., director of the division of physical therapy; and Robert Schwartz, M.D., chairman of the department of family medicine and community health.

The search committee has met

bi-weekly since June, has advertised the position in several upcoming journals and newspapers, and is contacting top nursing schools and their deans about the opening. They hope to interview candidates on campus beginning in October.

“We’ve received a lot of positive interest from across the country,” said Dr. Twiggs. “Some very good, high-level people are very interested in this opportunity.”

To nominate a candidate or to apply for the dean’s position, please contact Dr. Twiggs at 305-243-2576 or e-mail him at [ltwiggs@med.miami.edu](mailto:ltwiggs@med.miami.edu).

## Take P.R.I.D.E. in Your School

**M**y humble beginnings in nursing will stick with me forever—from that first scary clinical day in Level One to that patient who showed me what a special person it takes to be a nurse.

Those times taught me that nursing is not just a job that requires us to bathe or push pills on patients—it is a calling for someone who cares about the total well being of a person.

After the exams, lectures, and clinical days were behind me, I remembered the thrill of finally saying those words—"I am a nurse." That thrill lasted well into my first year of reality shocks and endured the disappointment of encountering some who did not exactly exemplify the nurturing qualities of our profession. However, my dreams for my career and my pride in nursing withstood it all.

This year the goal of the Nursing Alumni Association is to bring **P.R.I.D.E.** to our School of Nursing. Your support in alumni activities will help to establish a successful outreach program in the following areas:

- Professional and social networking
- Recruitment of students
- Improvement of school's infrastructure through support of the building campaign
- Devotion to community
- Education and mentoring programs for alumni

We can show our **P.R.I.D.E.** in a number of ways—by wearing School of Nursing T-shirts when exercising or out and about; by volunteering to become a mentor or ambassador for the school; by encouraging young people interested in nursing careers to apply to our school;



*University President Shalala and Annmarie Waite, B.S.N. '97, A.R.N.P., president of the School of Nursing Alumni Association*

and by getting involved in the fundraising campaign for the new M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education building.

Let's not be "sleeping giants." We are only as strong as our numbers. Your alumni association needs your support in many ways—both large and small.

We have many great activities planned for this year. The first such event is our Homecoming Breakfast at the Biltmore Hotel scheduled for October 12. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Annmarie Waite, B.S.N. '97, A.R.N.P., President, School of Nursing Alumni Association*

### Double Your Money: Alumni Top \$100,000 to Meet Dauer Challenge

**N**ursing alumni met the challenge and doubled their money, raising \$106,387 to meet a challenge pledge by Dr. Edward and Joanne Dauer.

From the fall of 2000 through December 2001, the Dauers have been matching all pledges and gifts up to \$100,000 by School of Nursing alumni for the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education.

"We are pleased that alumni have rallied around the school to raise funds for the new building," said Mrs. Dauer, M.S.N., R.N., a member of the school's Visiting Committee. "The School of Nursing can only succeed with strong alumni support."

Dr. Dauer, a Fort Lauderdale radiologist and University of Miami trustee, and his family have supported many programs and buildings across the University. The Richter Library's Dauer Clock Tower and Dauer Drive in front of the Convocation Center are the latest examples.

"The Dauers are a great philanthropic couple," said Cheryl Wade Quinlivan, M.S.N., R.N., director of development.

"They graciously extended the challenge's deadline to ensure that all of our alumni would have an opportunity to double their support to the school."



*Dr. Edward and Joanne Dauer*

## CLASS NOTES

**Janie L. Canty-Mitchell**, Ph.D. '93, M.S.N. '88, assistant professor of nursing at Indiana University, has been promoted and has received tenure.

**Cindy Dakin**, Ph.D., M.S.N. '79, is a course coordinator at Northeastern University School of Nursing in Boston. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 2001. She lives in Andover, Connecticut with her husband and four daughters.

**Lucie Dlugasch**, M.S.N. '93, School of Nursing instructor, has become certified in Gynecologic and Reproductive Health Care.

**Cynthia Gilliam**, M.S.N. '94, A.R.N.P., a 2001 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar to Australia, presented to the Rotary Club of Coral Gables upon her return. Ms. Gilliam attended the University of Western Sydney-Camletown and participated in research at the Centre for Applied Nursing Research in Liverpool.

**Janna A. Haesler**, B.S.N. '97, graduated with her M.S.N. in anesthesia from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Audra Hutton Lopez**, M.S.N. '93, B.S.N. '90, is the director for the surgical oncology clinic at the University of Miami Hospital and Clinics/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is attending the School of Nursing to complete

her degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She is expected to graduate in May 2003.

**Jennifer Jimenez**, B.S.N. '01, has been working at Baptist Hospital in the pediatrics department since July 2001.

**Sandy Lobar**, Ph.D. '94, has been a tenured associate professor at the Florida International University School of Nursing for 14 years.

**Patricia Larriou Briones**, M.S.N., B.S.N. '98, works with the University of Miami orthopedic oncology department, seeing pediatric and adult patients with complaints related to orthopedic pain and masses. She recently gave birth to beautiful twin girls, each weighing 5.2 pounds.

**Susan Martin**, B.S.N. '99, C.N.M., delivered more than 100 babies in her first year as a nurse midwife at the University of Miami/Jackson Medical Center. Martin was recently honored by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and was chosen as the student presenter at their 2000 annual meeting.

**Clara McElroy**, B.S.N. '65, has been busy with the home health agency and continuing education company she runs with her husband. [www.CEUonline.org](http://www.CEUonline.org), which provides continuing education for nurses, acupuncturists, nursing home administrators, cosmetologists, and home health aides. She also has participated on a

committee to create the curriculum for massage therapy schools for the State of Florida.

**Lori Santiesteban Farmer**, M.S.N., B.S.N. '84, is among the first 13 nurses in the nation to receive the new Advance Practice Nurse in Genetics credential from the International Society for Nurses in Genetics. She practices at the Carolina Center for Perinatal and Genetic Counseling in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Nancy Theroux**, Ph.D., M.S.N., B.S.N. '75, is the clinical director for the Division of Perinatology at University of California at Los Angeles and assistant clinical professor in the UCLA School of Nursing.

**Carolyn Ward Achata**, B.S.N. '67, worked for 25 years in public health nursing after graduation, first at the Dade County Health Department, two county health departments in Tennessee, and then at the state level where she worked in communicable disease control for 17 years. She earned her M.S.N. from the University of Tennessee, Memphis, and has been teaching for the past eight years at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

**Sally A. Weiss**, Ed.D., M.S.N. '86, and **Diane K. Whitehead**, Ed.D., M.S.N. '86, recently received the AJN Book of the Year Award for the second edition of their book, *Essentials of Nursing Leadership and Management (2001)*, published by FA Davis. Dr. Whitehead is nursing department head at Broward Community College's Central Campus in Davie. Dr. Weiss is associate professor of nursing at Broward Community College's Central Campus.

**Keep in Touch!**

Send us your news and contact information, so we can pass on employment and professional development opportunities, as well as news about the school and the health care industry. E-mail us at [nursing\\_\\_alumni@miami.edu](mailto:nursing__alumni@miami.edu).

**Alumni Association Events Calendar**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>October 12</b>  | Homecoming Brunch, 8 a.m., \$45 per person or \$350 for a table of 10.  |
| <b>November 14</b> | Alumni Tea, 4:30 p.m., no charge.   |
| <b>February 13</b> | Alumni Tea, 4:30 p.m., no charge.   |
| <b>April 12</b>    | Annual Spring Meeting and Workshop, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Breakfast and lunch provided along with four CEUs. No charge. |

All School of Nursing alumni events will be held exclusively at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. For more information, call 305-284-4096.

## Create a Lasting Legacy

One of the toughest—and often most avoided—life decisions is the creation of a will that leaves a meaningful legacy to family and favorite charities.

“These are decisions of a lifetime that could affect many people for years to come, and there is a certain degree of facing one’s mortality,” said Michael A. Dribin, a Miami attorney with Broad and Cassel, who specializes in estate planning. “But taking action of some sort is better than taking no action at all. Going back later and making a change is usually not as difficult or as expensive as one may think.”

Many School of Nursing alumni, in fact, have chosen to remember their alma mater in their estates. “What better way to show support of our school than to leave an endowment in our will,” said Sima Gebel, A.R.N.P. ’76, B.S.N. ’53. “It’s not just for bricks and mortar but what we do for those who live beyond us—the students.” Gebel’s will, for example, provides for grants and scholarships in support of the Ph.D.

program at the School of Nursing.

There are several options for making a bequest to an institution such as the School of Nursing. Gebel and her attorney designated Gebel’s bequest for a specific purpose.

Others may wish to structure their bequest as an unrestricted gift to be used where needed most. It is also possible to restrict a bequest to a designated purpose and then direct another part of it to fulfill a specific priority.

Once the type of bequest has been selected, there are several methods to determine how it will be identified. For instance, it can be identified as a specific item—such as a home, securities, a set amount of money; a percentage of the residual part of the estate (usually the amount remaining after all bills have been paid and specific bequests are



*Sima Gebel, A.R.N.P. ’76, B.S.N. ’53*

made); or as a contingent beneficiary who will receive part of the estate that would have passed on to another person had he or she been living. In the latter case, a will can indicate that everything will go to a spouse unless the spouse

predeceases the benefactor, in which case the assets, or a portion of them, could be assigned to the School of Nursing.

There also are ways of planning gifts and receiving some benefit during your lifetime. An irrevocable gift can be made with immediate tax benefits, and a charitable gift annuity can pay income to a beneficiary for the rest of his or her life.

For more information about these and other estate planning options, visit [www.miami.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.miami.edu/plannedgiving) or call Cheryl Wade Quinlivan, M.S.N., R.N., director of development, at 305-284-4096.

## Art Exhibit Raises Funds for New Building

The School of Nursing hosted an art exhibition last February—featuring original art by Sandra Walsh, Ph.D., R.N, director of nursing research—and raised nearly \$4,000 for the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education building fund in the process.

Over 50 people attended the exhibition including Christine and Ted Schwartz, who were very pleased by the turnout, according to Cheryl Wade Quinlivan, director of development for the School of Nursing. Twelve paintings were sold at the exhibit and an additional six more pieces have sold since then. The remaining paintings are on display at the School

of Nursing and are available for purchase.

With a few strokes of the paintbrush, and some creative vision, Dr. Walsh came up with the novel fundraising idea after traveling to France with a group of artists to paint last year. With more than 30 watercolor paintings in hand upon her return, she decided to donate them to the School of Nursing as a unique way to raise money.

In addition to these larger watercolor paintings, Dr. Walsh is currently completing a series of smaller paintings, depicting scenes of the Coral Gables campus and South Florida’s tropical landscape, which will be



*Sandra Walsh, Ph.D., R.N.*

used to create colorful note cards to be available at the School of Nursing. All proceeds from the sale of the note cards will go to the School of Nursing Building Fund.

For more information, contact Anna Castro at 305-284-4096.

## HONOR ROLL

**D**onations provide the resources to fund the finest in nursing research that can bring new treatments to the bedside; exemplary education for nurses and other caring professionals; health education into our communities; and much-needed resources to patients who cannot afford health care and its related expenses.

Thank you to everyone who donated to your School of Nursing.

### Merrick Society

**\$1 million or more**

Stephen J. and Abby Dresnick, M.D. '75  
R. Kirk Landon  
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### Ibis Society

**\$250,000-\$499,999**

The Kirk Foundation  
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### Society of Grand Founder

**\$100,000-\$249,999**

Baptist Health Systems of South Florida  
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Palm Springs General Hospital  
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### Society of Founder

**\$50,000-\$99,999**

Glenn L. Halpryn  
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### Dean's Circle

**\$25,000-\$49,999**

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<sup>†</sup> *deceased*

# HURRICANE nursing

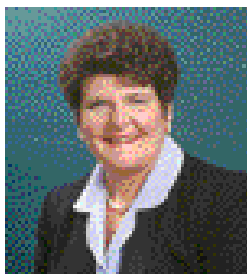
The Newsletter of The University of Miami School of Nursing

FALL 2002

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Seen as valuable assets, nurses are increasingly landing and excelling at organizations' top posts. Page 1



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After 12 years of dedicated service, Dean Horner steps down as dean. Page 10

### Art's Healing Potential

Pilot project investigates how fostering creativity can improve caregivers' outlook on life. Page 3



### Dauer Challenge Surpasses \$100,000 Mark

Nursing alumni raise substantial funds for the M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education. Page 11

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