



Nursinggems

Greetings Alumni, and friends of SIUE Nursing. The New Year has welcomed the School of Nursing (SON) with new programmatic developments. The most exciting for the School is the approval of our Doctor of Nursing



*Marcia C. Maurer
Ph.D., RN - Dean
SIUE School of Nursing*

Practice (DNP) Degree. Getting a new degree program approved seems like trying to get FDA approval for a new drug! The Program had to be approved by the SON Curriculum Committee and then the entire SON faculty. From there, it moved to the Graduate School's Curriculum and New Programs' Approval Committees. The Provost's office was the next approval point, followed by the Chancellor, the University President and finally the University Board of Trustees. However, that was simply the internal process. Next, the program had to be submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and then to the Higher Learning Commission. Both of these agencies required extensive self-studies and external reviews. This entire process took approximately two years in length from SON development to the final approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

The School of Nursing is extremely proud of our newly-approved DNP program, and we are pleased to offer the first practice doctoral degree on the SIUE Campus. The Schools of Pharmacy and Dental Medicine offer the PharmD and the DMD. While they are doctoral degrees, they are the first professional degree.

The DNP is an advanced degree with a focus on advanced nursing practice. The terminal project is not a dissertation as is required for the PhD. Rather, it is a high level project intended to change practice. The first class will be composed of post-master's students who will matriculate this fall. Eventually, the SON will move from a post-BSN to DNP option.

The School's Nurse Anesthesia Program continues to grow beyond and exceed expectations. The last graduating class (N = 22) who completed the program received a 100% pass rate on the CRNA board examination. Our CRNA students and graduates are sought after by many of the hospitals in central and southern Illinois and in the City of St. Louis. The demand for entry into the program is so high that we are increasing the number of students admitted annually.

The first cohort of regional nursing program students is in the second semester of their sophomore year on Carbondale's campus. Twenty-three students comprise this inaugural group, and are currently enrolled in foundational courses which prepare them for the specialty courses that they will begin taking in their junior year.

I wish to extend my special thanks to the SON Alumni Advisory Board, chaired by Mary Jo Guinn (see Mary Jo's letter on page 2). These men and women have been faithful in attending board meetings and have brought a new sense of vision and commitment to the Board.

October 1, 2011 marks our 6th Jewels of Nursing Gala (more information on page 6).

It is our hope that many alumni will attend and invite colleagues from their graduating classes as well. The SON would love to see tables of alums from a variety of graduating years. The gala is also a time to recognize alumni, friends and agencies who have advanced nursing and the SIUE SON. Come and join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie.

Sincerely,

Marcia Maurer, Ph.D., RN

*Marcia C. Maurer, Ph.D., RN
Dean, SIUE School of Nursing
RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow - Alum*

Accreditation

SIUE School of Nursing undergraduate and graduate programs received ten-year (2009 — 2019) full re-accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

SIUE School of Nursing received ten-year (2010 — 2020) full re-accreditation for the Nurse Anesthesia program from the Council on Accreditation on Nurse Anesthesia Educational program (COA).

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Message from the School of Nursing Advisory Board Chair

My name is Mary Jo Guinn, and I am proud to be the current President of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing Advisory Board. I graduated from the School of Nursing in 1999 and am thrilled to be back and a part of the School's explosive growth. So many exciting changes have occurred lately and many more are on the way! I look forward to working with the School of Nursing, the alumni and the current students to help continue the stellar local and national reputation.

I would like to invite you to join our Facebook group, which can be found at [Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing Alumni](#). It would be a pleasure to hear from you about where your nursing journey has taken you since graduation, whether you are a new graduate or one who walked with our first class in 1966.

Best,
Mary Jo Guinn, BS '99

SON Undergraduate Profile



Megan Murphy

Megan Murphy

Thriving Under Pressure: Balancing Academics and Athletics

On any given day, Megan Murphy could be found studying for her next NURS 475 Care of Populations test or practicing with the SIUE softball team. Megan, a senior nursing student and centerfielder for the SIUE softball team, constantly juggles the demands of challenging curriculum and Division One softball.

Megan began playing competitive softball at the age of 10. Growing up in a sports-minded family, she always knew sports would be part of her life. During her senior year of high school, Megan was recruited by several universities and ultimately chose the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with the intentions of studying pre-veterinary sciences. However, once school began, Megan decided nursing was what she truly wanted to do.

Without much debate, Megan transferred to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. "I knew SIUE had an excellent nursing program, and that is what I wanted. They also had a talented softball team,"

Megan said. "My decision was an easy one."

Fast forward two years, and Megan is thriving in both worlds. In the fall, Megan was announced as a Division 1 Scholar Athlete by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She credits her success with dedication, time management and planning ahead. "Nursing school is very demanding, as is softball. The key is time management," she explained. "I need to know what is in store for the coming semester and athletic season, and always expect to perform to the best of my ability in both."

Christine Emling, SIUE School of Nursing instructor, has been extremely impressed with Megan's work ethic and dedication. "Her professional, focused approach to her studies and her excellent care of her patients are but precursors to a most promising career in nursing for her, I am sure," Emling stated. "She raised the bar for class performance for the other students in class, even those who did not have to contend with juggling sports and nursing classes and being away for certain days. She is a great example of the best of young student athletes."

Excelling in academia and softball brings an immense amount of pressure, though Megan says it isn't a distraction. "I felt the pressure the first time I entered a patient's room, and the first time I administered a vaccination. I felt pressure the first time I stepped out onto a collegiate softball field. Thankfully, it doesn't bother me."

When Megan's senior year comes to a close, she has her eyes set on continuing her education. "I will work for a year or two, and then plan to apply to a Nurse Anesthesia program," Megan explained. "I love the OR setting, which is where my draw to nurse anesthesia came from. I like to be in control of things."

Megan Murphy is definitely in control of her life right now. Even though she is immersed in her most difficult semesters in nursing school and is preparing for a rigorous 2011 Division One softball schedule, there is no doubt she will continue to thrive in both arenas. "I like the challenge, and I'm ready!"



SON Graduate Profile



Lisa Downs

Lisa Downs

Nursing Career Was No Accident

By the age of six, Lisa Downs knew she wanted to be a nurse. “I saw a picture of a woman dressed in the bright white nurses’ uniform and hat, and knew that I wanted to wear that outfit someday,” Lisa explained. “I never thought of being anything other than a nurse.”

Life continued to send her along that path. In May of 1985, Lisa began her career as a registered nurse (RN) at Culbertson Memorial Hospital in Rushville, IL. Working her way up the ranks, Lisa became the interim Director of Nursing in January of 2001. And after various administrative turnovers, she officially became Culbertson Memorial Hospital’s Director of Nursing two months later, the title she continues to hold.

Following the transition to a 25-room critical access hospital in 2004, Lisa stumbled upon a SIUE School of Nursing brochure. “I found the brochure on my desk. Intrigued, I discussed the possibility of going back to school with my boss and a colleague. With their encouragement, I enrolled in the SIUE Option in Nursing Management program, a former professional development

certification, in January 2005,” Lisa said.

On January 13, 2005, while Lisa was driving to SIUE to pay her tuition and attend her first class, her life was forever changed. Lisa was involved in an off-campus near head-on automobile accident caused by snow and ice. Remarkably, Lisa and the other driver walked away physically unharmed.

Though the accident was quite serious, Lisa was determined to get to SIUE to attend her first class that same evening. Thanks to eye witness, Mark Sturkel, and SIUE Textbook Services supervisor, Bonnie Elmore, Lisa was able to do just that. “I was, and am still, so grateful for their help that day,” Lisa explained. “They were a crucial part of my beginnings at SIUE.”

Lisa’s determination, along with her passion for nursing, was the driving force behind her nursing education. After completing the Option in Nursing Management program in May of 2006, Lisa enrolled in the RN to BSN program. She graduated with her BSN in May of 2008, and then was accepted into the Master of Science, Health Care & Nursing Administration program. She graduated in the December of 2010 class.

Karen Kelly, Associate Professor in Nursing, acknowledged Lisa’s determination and great achievements. “Lisa was an excellent student who persevered over a five year period of studies as she served as the chief nursing officer for a critical access hospital,” Karen stated. “Leading nursing services in a rural, critical access hospital demands that one be an executive, a staff nurse when needed and always a leader. I was incredibly proud to see her walk across the stage at convocation and delighted to be the one that hooded her!”

Overcoming the near-tragic first day of school, determination carried Lisa through her collegiate studies. “I was anxious about starting school again,” Lisa explained. “But after the collision, I figured if I could survive that accident, I could survive anything.”

Lisa continues in her position as Director of Nursing in Rushville, and is implementing new programs that were conceived while at SIUE, as well as thinking about the future. “Looking back on the last 5 years, I wonder how I had time for school. Truthfully, I’m going to miss it,” Lisa said.

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing is pleased to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree beginning Fall 2011. Learn more about this transformative learning process created to enrich and deepen your nursing specialty practice.

Visit siue.edu/nursing for more information or contact Dr. Kathy Ketchum, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs, at 618-650-3975 or via email kketchu@siue.edu.

Employment Opportunities

With a dynamic environment to learn and study the profession, the SON has proven its commitment to providing students with educational excellence through teaching and curriculum, mentoring, simulation, clinical experience and student service.

Nurses with a master’s degree, DNP or Ph.D. interested in a career as a nurse educator are encouraged to [apply](#) to the School of Nursing and join our “family.”

Community Nursing Service Update

In collaboration with Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU-SM) Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (CADRD), the SIUE Community Nursing Service (CNS) will begin offering "Promoting Family Members of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Skills in Basic Care and Coping Strategies" program in March 2011. This educational program, offered through the initiative of the SIU-SM Memory and Aging Network Education Grant, will be conducted on a monthly basis over the course of eight months at the CNS East Saint Louis classroom.

A combination of approaches, including lectures, hands-on techniques and discussions, will be utilized to provide meaningful educational experiences to caregivers of those affected by Alzheimer's disease.

For more information on this program or any activities at the Community Nursing Service, please call Kathi Thimsen at (618) 482-6939 or email her at kthimse@siue.edu.

Student Nurses Association Update



SIUE students register to "Get Swabbed" at the Bone Marrow Registry Drive in the Morris University Center.

The SIUE Student Nurses Association (SNA) welcomed the Fall 2010 semester with activities benefiting the community and their career development. Fundraisers, professional speakers and holiday festivities kept the SNA busy, and the Spring 2011 semester is shaping up to follow suit.

On February 16, SNA sponsored the first Bone Marrow Registry Drive on SIUE's campus, organized by senior nursing student, Casie Bonham. This Drive, implemented by DKMS, recruited 202 potential bone marrow donors for leukemia patients. Thanks to all who "got swabbed!"

In the remaining months of the Spring 2011 semester, SNA will be offering a Girl Scouts workshop and will be participating in the Relay for Life at Ralph Korte Stadium and SIUE's annual Springfest. Fundraising opportunities include the selling of SNA fleece jackets, sweatpants and first aid kits.

A special "thank you" to SNA's 150 members for participating in community service activities, relationship building and engaging interaction between nursing

students year-round. SNA meets monthly throughout the school year.

Current SNA Officers: Rachel Holtgrave, *President*; Ashley McNeil, *Vice President*; Amanda Roberts, *Treasurer*; Christina White, *Public Relations*; and Maegan Bosler, *Secretary*.



Nursing senior Casie Bonham and Faculty Advisor Kay Gaehle



Hope for Haiti 2010

In case you missed it . . .

Recent nurse anesthetist graduate, Emily Zimmerman, traveled to Haiti to assist the injured in the aftermath of the 2010 devastating earthquake. She shares her experiences in "Bonjour from Haiti."



The Pride of Five



The School of Nursing has a new scholarship offering to add to its list, thanks to the camaraderie of five proud alumni. Zach Davis, Cody Gowler, Mike Hentze, Nick Hogan and Jordan Priebe are graduates of the SON Class of 2009. These friends

have established the *Nursing Gems of 2009* scholarship, an annual award of \$1,250 to be granted to a student pursuing a nursing degree, with preference given to a male student.

The idea of creating a scholarship was conceived while the “five guys”, as they are affectionately referred, were still undergraduates. “It was ultimately Nick’s idea,” said Cody Gowler. “He came to us with the concept of creating a scholarship and offering it to a nursing student who is similar to us. In that moment, we all committed to being a part of it.”

Though the scholarship is open to all nursing students, the “five guys” would like to present the award to a male student. “Some scholarships are based on where you’re from, what you’ve done or the field of study you are pursuing. We wanted ours to be about men in nursing,” Nick Hogan explained.

Giving back was instilled into Nick at a very early age. “My parents have always given back to the community, and ingrained that into me,” Nick shared. “My mom, Dyanne Ferk, is also contributing to the scholarship award. She is an alumna of SIUE and is happy to contribute to the SON.”

“This scholarship is a way for us to contribute to our school,” Nick explained. “We wanted something that

would encourage other students, like ourselves, to be more involved in the School of Nursing. Hopefully, this scholarship can create a stronger connection between the students and SIUE, especially once they become alumni.”

Angie Peters, director of development for the School of Nursing, explains that one of the most gratifying parts of her role is working with alumni who want to stay connected to the School, the faculty and the students. “Nick Hogan visited with me during his senior year to inquire about how he and other soon-to-be-alumni might establish a scholarship,” Angie noted. “Now, their first year after graduation, these “five guys” have not only established a scholarship, but grown it to be the second largest in our unit. We are grateful to these generous alumni and proud that they are giving back so soon after becoming RNs.”

While talking with two of the “five guys,” pride is a word that kept coming to mind. They are extremely proud to be alumni of SIUE and of the School of Nursing, and look forward to being involved with the University in the years to come.

“We were first year graduates when this scholarship became a reality,” Cody said. “Giving back to the School of Nursing was an easy decision and an easy process. With a little time and effort, anyone can do it. The SON gave us a great education. We are happy to help others who want the same, quality education in the field of nursing.”

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

SIUE Regional Nursing Program in Carbondale

The inaugural cohort of 23 students began the SIUE traditional nursing program on the SIUC campus in the Fall of 2010. The program utilizes a combination of in-class and teleconference classes, as well as a simulated/skills laboratory to prepare students for professional nursing. The Regional Nursing Program is housed in the SIUC Student Health Center.



Dr. Susan Winters pictured with the inaugural class



Silent and Live Auctions with Student Fashion Show

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Hilton Garden Inn O'Fallon/Shiloh
400 Regency Park
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Time: 5:30pm

Tickets: Individual: \$70
Table of 10: \$700

All proceeds benefit SIUE School of Nursing scholarships.

Award Nominations currently being accepted for:

- Outstanding Friend to Nursing
- Outstanding Hospital or Health Care Agency
- Outstanding SIUE School of Nursing Alumna/us
- Outstanding New SIUE School of Nursing Alumna/us

Download nominating forms [here](#).
Deadline for Nominating Awardees: May 31, 2011

For more information, contact Kris Heather, special events facilitator, 618-650-2551, kheathe@siue.edu.

SON CLASS NOTES

1960s

Jane Bruker (BS '67, MS '78) passed away on December 15, 2010. She was a faculty member at Lewis & Clark Community College and was president of Tenth District INA. Jane's advocacy and presence will be greatly missed in the nursing profession.

1970s

Dr. James Cato (BS '78) was inducted into the SIUE Alumni Association Hall of Fame for the School of Nursing in 2010. Dr. Cato is the newly appointed Chief Nursing Officer for the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Carole Hennessey Martz (BS '78) was inducted into the SIUE Alumni Association Hall of Fame for the School of Nursing in 2010. Carole serves as the Clinical Coordinator for the Living in the Future (LIFE) Cancer Survivorship Program for NorthShore University HealthSystem.

1980s

Kandi Gillis (BS '83) delivered the presentation, "Building Meaningful Care Plans: An Evolutionary Process," at an Eclipsis conference. Kandi was also involved in an HIMSS TIGER initiative and was included in the acknowledgements of the TIGER book entitled: Nursing Informatics Where Technology and Caring Meet.

Lori Spangenberg (BS '86) gave key presentations at the 15th Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) Foundation International Patient and Family Conference in St. Louis.

Maggie Wolf (BS '86, MS '96) made a presentation entitled, "Debriefing: It's Use in Simulation and Beyond," at the Seventh Annual Nursing and Allied Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference in St. Louis with Ann Donze.

1990s

Julie Botterbush (BS '93) is the director of Mederi Caretenders Home Health in Godfrey, Illinois.

Jennifer Cordia (BS '93) has been selected to serve as the Chief Nurse Executive of Christian Hospital.

Ann Donze (MS '94) presented, "Debriefing: It's Use in Simulation and Beyond," at the Seventh Annual Nursing and Allied Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference in St. Louis with Maggie Wolf.

Dana Jewell (BS '97) was recognized by St. Louis Children's Hospital with the Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award.

2000s

Caitlyn Chappell (BS '09) appeared in the Annual Report of St. Louis Children's Hospital Annual Report, for her work in the NICU concerning optimal outcomes for patients.

Zach Davis, Cody Gowler, Mike Hentze, Nick Hogan and Jordan Priebe, classmates who completed their BSN degrees in 2009, established the Nursing Gems of '09 Scholarship in the SON.

Shelley Harris (BS '07, MS '10) a graduate from the Health Care Nursing Administration program, presented her work with RN residents at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois, at the Sixth Annual Versant Client Conference in September, 2010. Her podium presentation was titled, "RN Residents in the CCU: Agents of Change." Shelley was named Interim Chief Nurse Executive for St. Elizabeth's in February, 2011.

Crystal Lask (BS '04) co-organized the annual BJC Nursing Leadership Conference in St. Louis.

Krista Miller (BS '04) has been accepted into the anesthesia program at University of Alabama Birmingham.

Keith Patten (BS '09) served on Nurse Satisfaction Advisory Committee for St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Kristen Ray (BS '08) was acknowledged in the St. Louis Children's Hospital Annual Report for her work with therapeutic hypothermia in the NICU.

Jennifer Schmidt (MS '10) had her master's project accepted for publication in the Nurse Practitioner journal. The title of the manuscript is: "Seborrheic Dermatitis: A Clinical Practice Snapshot." SIUE SON faculty member Dr. Roberta Harrison was her Chair and Dr. Rhonda Comrie was her reader.

Sherieda Stewart (MS '01) established the Lorraine D. Williams Memorial Scholarship to honor Lorraine's memory and help to support nursing excellence for SON students from underserved areas. Sherieda is a Nurse Practitioner and the Director of Nursing for Los Angeles Christian Health Centers.

Veronica Wright (BS '09) addressed the 7th Annual Nursing and Allied Health Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference in St. Louis with her presentation, "Brief Motivational Interviewing in Childhood Asthma to Improve Utilization of Asthma Action Plans."

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compassion to care courage to serve excellence in action curiosity to learn creativity to teach life-long learning



Upcoming Events

2011 Dates to Remember

Project Presentation Day, Spring 2011
April 22, 2011

**School of Nursing Convocation
Spring Commencement**
May 6, 2011

Dedication to the Profession
September 18, 2011

**SON Gala and Awards Banquet,
Hilton Garden Inn, O'Fallon, IL**
October 1, 2011

Please contact Angie Peters, angpete@siue.edu, or Kris Heather, kheathe@siue.edu for more information about these events.



Contact the SON

Marcia C. Maurer, PhD, RN
Dean & Professor
mamaure@siue.edu

Anne Perry, EdD, RN, FAAN
Assoc. Dean Academic Programs
saperry@siue.edu

Kathy Ketchum, PhD, RN
Asst. Dean Graduate Program
kketchu@siue.edu

Mary Mulcahy, RN, EdD
Asst. Dean, Undergraduate &
Alternative Programs
mmulcah@siue.edu

Susan Winters, PhD, RN
SIUE Regional Nursing Program Director
suwinte@siue.edu
618-453-4401

Angie Peters
Director of Development
angpete@siue.edu

School of Nursing Advisory Board Members

Michele E. Brown (MS '90)
Jennefer Gelbaugh Delkus (BS '93)
Senda Guertzgen (BS '67, MS '90)
Mary Jo Guinn (BS '99)
Julie Jackson
Maxine Johnson (BS '69)
Karen Kelly (BS '72, MS '77)
Candi LeDuc (BS '08)
Amy Lehman (BS '06)

Karen Mayes (BS '79, MS '91)
Carrie Neville (BS '10)
Tom Oreskovich (BS '85)
Marleen Popovic (BS '71, MS '74)
Mistie Thompson
Ed Travis
Barb Wagner (BS '66)
Mary Anne Wehrle (BS '66)

compassion to care courage to serve excellence in action curiosity to learn creativity to teach life-long learning