



Nursing gems

A new millennium has begun - 2010.

This year we are participating in the census that is required every ten years; hopefully showing some economic recovery; beginning to dissect the new health care legislation and its impact on nursing; starting our first nursing class at our regional campus in Carbondale in the fall, 2010 semester; and admitting the first Doctor of Nursing Practice cohort in the spring of 2011! The latter is pending approval by the Higher Learning Commission, the last hurdle to initiation of the program. Clearly, the operative word is "change!" That nothing is static in nursing or education seems to be the nature of the disciplines. They are always dynamic and the trick is, if not to stay ahead of the curve, to at least stay abreast of it. The economic downturn has played havoc with higher education and public universities in particular. We are all striving to maintain the academic integrity and quality of our programs under uncertain fiscal times. Here at SIUE and in the School of Nursing, we continue to move forward. At some point each and every one of us will need a nurse, and we want to be the ones to prepare the areas' finest! Consequently, we continue to expand as noted by the regional program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. We will continue to look for other entrepreneurial opportunities as well which will serve to sustain our programs economically.



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

I would like to acknowledge two SIUE nursing alums who were inducted into the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame this past year. Ed Curtis (BSN, '75) is currently the President and CEO of the Memorial Health System in Springfield, Illinois. Ed noted in his acceptance remarks that he loved staff nursing and never quite envisioned himself achieving the stature he has. He felt strongly that his nursing education was foundational to moving him forward in his career and the profession. Michele Brown (MS '90) retired after 34 years of service to the VA in St. Louis. She too moved through the ranks of staff nurse, nurse manager, supervisor, to eventually being the Chief Executive for Nursing when she retired. In her acceptance remarks she noted her pride in being a nurse and how important her education was to her achievements. Two great inductees who definitely personify the best in nursing and we are so proud to claim them as "our gems!"

We are blessed with having great students highly committed to wanting to be nurses. A December, 2009 Nurse Anesthetist Graduate, Emily Zimmerman wowed us with her volunteer work in Haiti in the role of Nurse Anesthetist. There were 47 undergraduate students who participated in a "clean up East St. Louis" program spearheaded by the seniors doing their public health rotation in ESL. Recent BSN graduate, Breanna Closen, did a summer internship at Mayo Clinic and has a keen interest in complementary therapies. She is looking forward to starting a BSN to PHD nursing program next year. Faculty achievements have been laudatory as well. Dr. Valerie Yancey represents the first ever School of Nursing educator to receive

the University's prestigious Teaching Excellence Award for 2010. She will be the commencement speaker at the fall, 2010 graduation. CRNA Director Andrew Griffin is now Dr. Griffin, as are Primary Care and Health Care Systems Department faculty, Ann Popkess and Becky Luebbert. This summer we face the loss of Assistant Dean Jacquelyn Clement to the role of retiree. We wish her well and will miss her spirit and knowledge of SIUE.

We will continue to strive in providing our nursing students with the best education possible. We are after all a premier nursing program of which all of you should be proud. I want to thank all of our alumni and friends in particular who sustain us both financially and through speaking highly of the nursing program here at SIUE. Your support and promotion of our programs have a far greater reach than you will ever realize. Enjoy this E-newsletter and learn more about what is going on in your school! SIUE Nursing, Excellence in Action!

Marcia Maurer, PhD, RN

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

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Student Nurses Association Update

The SIUE School of Nursing is proud to have an actively engaged Student Nurses Association (SNA). Each year the SNA students participate in numerous service activities. Their biggest annual initiative is a toy and gift collection drive in November that benefits a local shelter (see photo).

In April, seventeen representatives of the SIUE School of Nursing SNA attended the 58th Annual Convention of the National Student Nurses Association in Orlando, Florida. Their comments after the trip centered on their appreciation for the excellent caliber of speakers and the range of topics, their improved understanding of their role as an advocate for nursing in the political realm, as well as the opportunity to take advantage of the NCLEX review sessions.

Thanks to the outgoing SNA Officers: **Carrie Neville**, *President*; **Ali Davis**, *Vice President*; **Sharron Wise**, *Treasurer*; **Rachel Holtgrave**, *Public Relations*; and **Sara Rekasis**, *Secretary*.

And welcome to the new SNA Officers: **Rachel Holtgrave**, *President*; **Ashley McNeil**, *Vice President*; **Amanda Roberts**, *Treasurer*; **Christina White**, *Public Relations*; and **Maegan Bosler**, *Secretary*. A great deal of planning is already underway for the upcoming academic year.



SNA members deliver gifts.

We would love to hear from those of you who were involved in SNA in the past. SNA is looking for stories and photos from years-gone-by for their scrapbook. Please contact Angie Peters at 618-650-3906 or angpete@siue.edu to share how you were involved in SNA.



Student Highlights



KeNicia Dones

KeNicia is the recipient of the 2010 MLK Jr. Scholarship and Humanitarian Award. She is a sophomore who has been involved in numerous service initiatives. Also at SIUE, Dones has been

a member of the Johnetta Haley Academy, on the Dean's List since fall semester 2008 and involved in the Access and Excellence Scholarship during summer last year. Dones also is a member of the Student Nursing Achievement Program and the Student Nurses Association. For as long as she can remember, Dones says she has heard the stories about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his contributions to society. "I remember two values from Dr. King's speeches: '...nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time' and when he quotes from the U.S. Declaration of Independence: '...we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.' I have made a commitment to these two values, especially because I have learned that we live in a society in which violent actions have seemingly become the norm," Dones said. "Violence may seem to be an easy route to solve problems, but I have found it's easier to take the non-violent way out. I believe in the second value because it helps me understand that no matter what the other person's race, gender or belief system, we are all human and equal."

(Greg Conroy, SIUE News)

Sarah Jimenez

Sarah Jimenez has been selected for a nursing residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) in Nashville, Tennessee, beginning in July.

Among all of the 800 online applications VUMC received for the residency, 600 were contacted for follow-up. Some 350 of those were asked to visit the campus. During that final phase of the process, Jimenez was among the approximately 100 chosen for the VUMC residency.

Jimenez explained the nursing residency is a way for VUMC to improve retention of first-year nursing graduates. She will participate in the Adult Critical Care residency, which will allow her to rotate through five ICUs, an emergency department and a burn unit, all in her first 12 weeks. For the remaining year, she will select a work setting preference from among any of her given rotations.

Jimenez is currently with the emergency department at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, which is similar to VUMC as a Level 1 Trauma Center with comparable patient volume.

(Greg Conroy, SIUE News)

Alicia Mascote

During her senior year, student nurse Alicia Mascote was recognized in an issue of Christian Hospital's *Neighbors in Health* publication by a former patient of the hospital. The patient specifically named Alicia as one of the nurses during her stay commenting that, "I never felt so good in a hospital because your staff treated me so well. It was amazing!"

Amy Reed

Prior to her graduation in May, Amy Reed was offered a fellowship at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis in Women and Infants. The fellowship program lasts 20 weeks and is a transition program involving both clinical and didactic activities. Fellowship participants are also assigned a preceptor who is a mentor throughout the fellowship period. There was an extensive application process which produced 96 applicants, out of which only a few were selected for the fellowship. Amy was offered the position at the conclusion of her interview.

Amy stated that she is, "very excited and honored to have this opportunity. I feel that my nursing education at SIUE prepared me well for what ended up being a rather intense interview, including many difficult questions pertaining to medical scenarios specific to the OB setting."

Lorilee Sebesta

Lorilee Sebesta received one of only two Undergraduate Research Scholars' Awards given annually by the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS). The purpose of these awards is to encourage MNRS undergraduate student members to present their research that advances nursing science and practice. Lorilee was recognized during the MNRS Award Ceremony in April at the Annual Conference of MNRS.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA)

Breanna Closen, Ron Kister and **Lorilee Sebesta** were all accepted as associates in the URCA program and presented their scholarly work in April. URCA is designed to get undergraduate students more involved in research and creative activities. As associates, the three nursing students were involved in separate research projects of their own design. They worked with a mentor to see their projects through during the academic year.

For the upcoming academic year, students **Rachel Holtgrave** and **Kelley Humphrey** have been accepted as URCA Associates.

Alumni News

1960s

Karen Stefaniak, Ph.D., R.N. (BS, '67) retired as the chief nursing officer/associate hospital director and assistant dean for clinical affairs at University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. She currently serves as assistant professor in the UK College of Nursing.

1970s

Ed Curtis (BS '75) was inducted into the SIUE Alumni Association Hall of Fame for the School of Nursing on October 10, 2009.

1980s

Vera Bloomquist (BS '89) was recognized by Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois for attaining her Medical/Surgical Nursing Certification.

Susan Flake (BS '86) attained her Pediatric Nurse Certification and was acknowledged by her employer, St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Dr. Charlotte Herrick (MS '82) was presented with the Melva Jo Hendrix award at the 2010 International Society of Psychiatric Nurses meeting.

Scott Johnson (BS '83) is an ICU/CCU Nurse in Cordova, Alaska where he lives with his wife and children.

Cynthia Kerber (BS '80) is an assistant professor for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Diana Kraus (BS '83) was appointed to the State of Missouri East Central Regional EMS Committee, and is also serving on the State of Missouri State Advisory Board as the Pediatric Sub-Committee Chair. Diana works at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

H. Catherine Miller (MS '86) is the Associate Dean of Health & Human Services and Director of Nursing for Education at Heartland Community College in Normal, Illinois.

Jamie Penrod (BS '81) is an instructional assistant professor for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Linda Walters (BS '85) retired from the McDowell Hospital in Marion, North Carolina. Prior to that she had worked at the Mission Hospital complex in Asheville, at the St. Louis VA Hospital and as a PRN in metro-St. Louis.

1990s

Yvonne Barnes (BS '92) co-authored an article titled, "Early Outcomes After Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation in Pediatric Patients with Hematologic Malignancies Following Single Fraction Total Body Irradiation," that was published in *Bone Marrow Transplantation*.

Staci Beck (BS '92) gave a presentation on behalf of Children's Hospital in St. Louis, entitled, "Ambulatory Procedure Center," at the AORN National Multispecialty Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Michele Brown (MS '90) was inducted into the SIUE Alumni Association Hall of Fame for the School of Nursing on October 10, 2009.

Ann Donze (MS '94) presented, "Clinical Practice Guidelines: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice," at the National Nurses Mother-Baby Conference in Washington, D.C. Additionally, she made other presentations at the regional and national level, as well as co-authoring the article, "Fad, Frenzy, or Future? A Review of the Institute of Medicine's Report of the Direction of Evidence-based Practice," which was published in the *Neonatal Network*. Ann is a Nurse Practitioner at Children's Hospital in St. Louis.

Melissa Hlava (BS '91) is a member of the Magnet team at Children's Hospital in St. Louis, MO. She co-wrote an article that appeared in the Winter edition of *Pediatric Perspectives* on "Quality of Care" as it relates to the Magnet redesignation process for the agency.

Linda Robert (BS '90, MS '95) wrote an article called, "Emergency Unit Offers HIV Screening," which appeared in *Pediatric Perspectives*, a publication of the St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Johanna Schloemann (BS '84) received funding from the SLCH Foundation to co-conduct a study at St. Louis Children's Hospital (with Ann Donze, see 1990s) called, "Comparison of Noise Levels in Private Rooms vs. Open Pod Unit Designs in a NICU Internal Research Grant."

2000s

Julie Adkins (BS '85, MS '01) is the CNP for UltiMed Plus in West Frankfort, Illinois. Julie also served as the President for the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing last year.

Janice Becherer (MS '08) was named as Chief Nurse Executive at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Bethany Clutts (BS '08) is employed with Memorial Hospital in Carbondale, Illinois. Bethany wrote an article entitled "Recognition and Management of Complications Following Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass: A Guide for Health Care Workers in Non-Bariatric Hospitals" that was published in *MEDSURG Nursing*.

Bridget Duah (BS '09) is employed with Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis on the Short Stay Surgery Floor.

Vicki M. Ellinger-Colonius (MS '06) works for St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois as a Clinical Documentation and Coding Nurse Manager.

Casey Griffith (BS '03, MS '07) is a CRNA with Wabash General Hospital in Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Rick Harmon (MS '08) is the Human Patient Simulator & Nursing Lab Coordinator for Richland Community College in Decatur, Illinois.

David Jansen (MS '05) is an instructional assistant professor for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Alumni News *(continued)*

Toni Johnson (BS '88, MS '09) received a St. Louis American Salute to Excellence in Health Care Award for 2010. There are eight awardees named annually.

Amanda Jones (BS '03) gave a poster presentation on behalf of Children's Hospital in St. Louis at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sarah Landt (BS '06) is employed with Memorial Hospital in Carbondale, Illinois in the ICU.

Holly Langster (MS '03) is the Director of Nursing for Baptist Health Medical Center in Heber Springs, Arizona. She also serves on the board of directors of the Arkansas Organization of Nurse Leaders.

Karen Looper (BS '01) gave a poster presentation at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jeremy Martin (BS '04, MS '08) is a CRNA with Wabash General Hospital in Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Corey Meyer (BS '08) is employed by St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois.

Blanca Miller (MS '05) was accepted for PhD program at Nova Southeastern University

Bill Rodgers (MS '07) wrote an article entitled "Performing PCI in a Hospital Without Heart Surgery Backup," that appeared in *Cath Lab Digest*.

Valerie Rogers (BS '83, MS '09) was elected to the position of president-elect of the Mid-State Region of the Illinois Association of School Nurses.

Jamie Rosenthal (BS '08) is a nurse on the Women's Health Unit at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis.

Ashlee Sloman (MS '07) is an instructional assistant professor for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Grant Van Meter (BS '03, MS '08) is a CRNA at Crawford Memorial Hospital in Robinson, Illinois.

Tara Weirich (BS '04, MS '07), and her husband, are the proud parents of a baby girl.



Upcoming Events

Save the Dates

Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala

October 1, 2011

Alumni Heritage Walk for Scholarships

September 22, 2012



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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)

Marleen Popovic (BS '71, MS '74)

Mistie Thompson

Barb Wagner (BS '66)

Mary Anne Wehrle (BS '66)



Dr. Mabunda, center, accepting an award from the Meridian Society in 2008.

Dr. Gladys Mabunda Dies; Was Associate Professor In School Of Nursing

Gladys Mabunda, an associate professor of family and community health nursing in the SIUE School of Nursing, died suddenly of a heart attack May 29 while visiting her sister in South Africa.

The ninth of ten children and reared by a single parent in South Africa during the era of apartheid, Mabunda fought for a college education and eventually came to the United States to earn additional degrees. Undaunted by obstacles put in her path, she earned master's and doctoral degrees at Saint Louis University. Mabunda joined the SIUE School of Nursing faculty in 1996. A member of the national organization of Transcultural Nursing as well as international global nursing and public health organizations, Mabunda's research and publications reflected

her interest in African emigrés and their adaptation to America, particularly in terms of health-seeking behaviors. She held office in the international scholarship organization, Sigma Theta Tau, and the SIUE School of Nursing chapter of Epsilon Eta.

During her tenure at SIUE, she taught public health theory and clinical nursing to undergraduates as well as the RN-to-BS students. Mabunda also taught epidemiology to graduate nursing students. "The School of Nursing faculty and staff are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Mabunda," said Nursing Dean Marcia Maurer. "A memorial service is being planned when all faculty return and students are also in class so that all can remember Gladys." The service will be held on August 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the SIUE Religious Center.