


# The Scope

Editors: Ashlee Dotson and Briana Bush

Bi-annual newsletter for SUU Nursing  
7th Issue—Fall 2011

**NURSING AT SUU • CEDAR CITY**



**100%**

**NCLEX-RN  
EXAM  
PASS  
RATE**

**CONGRATULATIONS** *to our May 2011 graduates!*

Join our many successful students in southern Utah's four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Application deadlines are Feb. 10, 2012 for Fall 2012 and Sept. 14, 2012 for Spring 2013.

**SUU** SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY  
[www.suu.edu/cose/nursing](http://www.suu.edu/cose/nursing)

## SUU Nursing NCLEX-RN Results Update

By: Ashlee Dotson class of Dec. '11

Congratulations to the Spring 2011 graduating class for achieving Southern Utah University's 2<sup>nd</sup> 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN examination!!!!

As of September 2011, the average national pass rate for Baccalaureate Degree educated nurses was 89.91%. Two of the last three SUU classes have obtained 100%. SUU's program prepares students to pass the nursing boards the first time. SUU has great teachers who are very knowledgeable and passionate about the nursing profession. At SUU, students are prepared for the NCLEX-RN from day one. Nursing students learn to become comfortable with computer testing by utilizing Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI), an online test taking forum and study guidance. ATI testing helps prepare students for boards because it is accessible from any internet connection, even our phones. Also, SUU students get a wide variety of clinical experiences, across the state of Utah, to apply knowledge gained from the classroom. The graduating class of December 2011 looks forward to the challenge to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> class to get a 100% first time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN and the first class to have a back to back 100% pass rate for Southern Utah University Department of Nursing!!

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# SUU Nursing is FINALLY Out of the Basement

By Ashlee Dotson class of Dec. '11

The time has finally come! SUU Nursing has finally moved into the new Center for Health & Molecular Sciences which opened Fall semester of 2011!!

From the beginning of SUU's Nursing Program the General Classroom building's basement has been the home of nursing students. We felt trapped in the basement with no windows. The program has been in great need of an update to get bigger classrooms, and a larger practice and validation lab so that we can visualize our skills in a setting that is more like a hospital or long term care facility.

As a level four student, it is exciting to see the changes that have come to the program this semester. Of course, there is some jealousy that we were not able to utilize this facility and the awesome lab for four semesters like the graduating class of May 2013. We are so grateful for all of the new updates. The new space provides nursing students with the opportunity to better prepare themselves for post-graduation work, easier transition into the practice setting, and builds confidence for some of us to continue our nursing education to a master's or doctorate level, perhaps becoming educators ourselves.

The SUU Department of Nursing thanks all who made this new Science building a reality through their hard work and many donations.



## Spotlight: Shelley Sanderson

Biography by: Shelley Sanderson Compiled by: Ashlee Dotson class of Dec. '11

Professor Shelley Sanderson is married with four grown children. She grew up in Southern California in the San Gabriel Valley just east of Los Angeles. Shelley earned her Associate Degree in Nursing from Weber State University and also her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Weber State University. She later attended the University of Utah where she received her Master's degree in Nursing.

Shelley decided she wanted to work in healthcare because she had a strong desire to take care of people. She says, "I have always had a propensity for it and it comes easily to me." Previously Shelley has worked in numerous RN jobs at a hospital, health department, hospice and home care, school nursing and long term care. As a Nurse Practitioner she has worked at the City of Hope and University of Utah Kidney clinic. Throughout her career, Shelley has always wanted to teach. She started her degree in Elementary Education and always hoped she would find a way and opportunity become an educator. The reason she chose to teach at Southern Utah University is because she respects the high standard that the University holds. She said, "The nursing school is the best in the State and one of the best in the nation. I feel very fortunate to be here."

Professor Sanderson currently works as a Nurse Practitioner at the Enterprise Clinic. She loves to be with her family, go swimming, celebrate the holidays and listen to music, especially music by the Beatles.

We are so excited to have Professor Sanderson as a new addition to the Department of Nursing faculty and staff at SUU. We know that her background in nursing and her current practice as a Nurse Practitioner is going to make us all better Nurses.



# Level Updates

## Level 1

As first level nursing students, we are overwhelmed, frustrated, stressed, clueless, exhausted, and busier than ever. We are thrilled if we get 4-5 hours of sleep, but also very excited for this new journey we've just begun.

It has been a very hard adjustment for all of us to figure out when to do what assignment, when to fit in time to read all the chapters, how to study for all our tests, and having time to go to the lab to practice skills we are learning. We are still becoming familiar with the whole process, but I think we're slowly catching on.

We love learning the new material and know we will be able to apply what we are learning into our future career. We had our pledge ceremony the 10<sup>th</sup> of this October and it turned out to be a success. There was a great turn out of faculty, family, and friends and the program went great. We just finished up clinicals at Kolob Regional Care and Rehabilitation and now get to start clinicals at Valley View Medical Center. We are excited about what we are doing and are looking forward to becoming nurses!

**By: Jaclyn Waters**



**What was your favorite part of this semester?**



Jason Avery—Level 1  
“The best part about level one, was finally being able to do clinicals in the hospital, in real life situations.”



Bryn Wood- Level 2  
“I love clinical and all the things I have been exposed to this semester”

## Level 2

This semester is quite hectic and we frequently found ourselves caught between studying for tests, driving to St. George for clinical, or sneaking in a moment of sleep. We are learning TONS and are LOVING the experience. I think we can all agree that we are anxiously awaiting the Christmas Holiday!

**By: Alicia Harris**



## Level Up-

### Level 3

The class of Spring 2012 has been enjoying level 3. We are happy to say that we have no more validations...EVER! We've been busy in the community as well as in the classroom with our many, many presentations. Our class was able to participate in the Huntsman Senior Games this month. It was an awesome experience and we all had a lot of fun. It has been an exciting/interesting transition from learning about disease processes to learning about babies and older adults, but we are all enjoying the experience. We are learning so much from all of our wonderful instructors. We'd like to thank Professor Tipton for sharing all of his knowledge on aging with us! ;) Thank you Professor Pearson, Professor Rasmusson, and Professor Kreipl for all of your help in shaping us into the best nurses we can be. We'd also like to thank S-Dawg (Selwyn) for continuing to help and laugh with us this semester. The class of Spring 2012 is enthusiastic about our future and excited to be a



**What was your favorite part of this semester?**



**Ian Dempsey-Level 3**  
“Finally there is light at the end of the tunnel”

### Level 4

We can't believe that time has passed so quickly! Two years has flown by for most of our group. Many things have happened in those two years to bond us stronger as friends and peers. All twenty nursing students that started out together are finishing together. This semester has given us a chance to show our clinical abilities and prove ourselves as future nurses. Already many of our class members are enrolling in graduate schools and interviewing for prospective jobs. We have had fun in our classes and are learning how to impact society through management and government. We added Aja James to our portfolio this semester. What a wonderful and insightful teacher with so much to offer. Who knew that blowing up lungs could be so exciting. Thank you to the entire faculty that has helped us along the path of nursing school. Southern Utah University is truly the best nursing school in Utah.



**Emma Banks-Level 4**  
“I love 4th level because it's so hands on and prepares us to be a real nurse”

**By: Michelle Rees, Level 4 Class Historian**

## Level Updates - Continued

### RN to BSN

Our RN to BSN year is cruising by fast! It seems like we just started and now we only have one semester left. SUU's program has been a great experience for us. It is giving us the finishing touches to our associate degree nursing practice we need to become even better nurses. We are so glad to have a quick, thorough program that works around our busy lives.

Unlike the rest of the nursing program, we are lucky enough not to have the dreaded NCLEX-RN looming over our heads, but good luck to all of you that do. You should feel comfortable knowing that you are in a program with a 100% pass rate!

We are close to being done with our schooling and can focus on our careers, and we are getting one step closer to our goal. We would like to thank the instructors of the RN to BSN program for helping us achieve these goals.

**By: Virginia Fischer**



## Utah Nurses Association (UNA) Announcement

The Utah Student Nurses' Association is excited to announce the 60<sup>th</sup> annual convention, "Oh the Places You'll Go in Nursing: A world of Possibilities Awaits" on Saturday, February 4, 2012, at the Utah Valley University campus in Orem, Utah. USNA is able to provide two \$500 scholarships, \$50 to \$500 grants, and great leadership opportunities for student nurses. Log on to [www.utahstudentnurses.org](http://www.utahstudentnurses.org) for more information and to register for this year's convention.

We look forward to seeing you there!



# Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Re-Accreditation

By: Briana Bush class of Dec. '11

Congratulations are in order to the Southern Utah University Department of Nursing for securing re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) November 10, 2010 for another ten years. This is an excellent achievement for the SUU nursing program. This accreditation allows students to be eligible to go on to master and doctorate level programs and recognizes the excellence in the baccalaureate nursing program here at SUU.

For those of you who were not part of the SUU nursing family when the accreditors were here last Fall, it was much like being audited at a place of employment. There were three accreditors who came to visit our school and they stayed for about a week. Students and faculty were on their toes for any questions they might be asked. Those questions ranged from positive and negative feelings about the program, clinical scheduling and experience, the essentials to a baccalaureate nursing education, faculty & staff satisfaction. You name it, they asked it. Also while the accreditors were in town they held several meetings with the faculty and one meeting with the students. This was a very tense time for our program in that we were all nervously awaiting a verdict. When announcement came that we were to be re-accredited it was a celebration and a huge weight off of everyone's shoulders.

So once again CONGRATULATIONS to the SUU Department of Nursing, for doing a great job in meeting and surpassing the national standards set for baccalaureate nursing education. WE DID IT!!!

## Special Thanks

By: The Graduating Class of Fall 2011

The graduating class of Fall 2011 would like to give a special thanks to all of the Faculty and Staff of the SUU Nursing Program for all of their dedication to our education and the hard work they have put in for each and everyone of us. We have learned so much from each of our professors. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and experiences that you have had as nurses. We truly appreciate all that has been done for us and hope that each and every one of us will make you proud as SUU Nursing Graduates and Professional Nurses.



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