

THE SCOPE

SUU DEPARTMENT of NURSING

Celebrating 10 Years!

by Jacqueline Kent-Marvick

The Southern Utah University Baccalaureate Nursing Program celebrated ten years of Nursing Education this fall. This marks the 10th anniversary of Southern Utah University's full-fledged baccalaureate program, though a nursing program has been present at the university for four decades.



SUU Nursing faculty members (from left to right): Selwyn Layton, Shelley Sanderson, Alan Pearson, Ray Munson, Daphne Solomon, Rebecca Rasmusson, Donna Lister and Kevin Tipton

SUU's nursing program began in the 1970s as a cooperative program with

Weber State University and Dixie State College; Dixie split off in the 1990s. In 2002, then-SUU President Steven Bennion sought approval from the Utah System of Higher Education's Board of Regents for a new baccalaureate nursing program at SUU – hard work that brought approval for the program to begin August, 2004.

SUU Department of Nursing Chair, Donna Lister, said, "The establishment of a strong program that prepared nurses not only to pass the NCLEX licensure exam, but also to gain the clinical education and skill preparation to be excellent entry-level nurses was the primary goal in program development." These goals remain primary priorities for the nursing department faculty and staff. One example: Assistant Professor of Nursing, Kevin Tipton, responded to the first graduating class of students with a 100-percent NCLEX pass rate by reminding them that achieving this goal is far easier than maintaining it. Lister shared that making that 100-percent pass rate and excellent educational preparation, "must remain the primary focus of our work."



Staff members (from left): Vikki Robertson, Necia Lister, Betsy Hatfield and Teresa Higbee

Tides are turning for the SUU nursing program, and changes are on the horizon, including the admittance of additional students for spring semester. Thirty students have been admitted for the spring semester – 10 more than the usual 20. This was made possible through a new partnership with Intermountain Healthcare, who will provide a clinical faculty member. SUU nursing has been considering adding a master's program for a couple of years now. With the coming 50-percent increase in the program's enrollment and a continued commitment to excellence, SUU's Nursing program has good reason to look forward to another successful decade of learning.

Graduate Stories

Evan Whipple

by Jacqueline Kent-Marvick



Evan Whipple, top left, with Mayo Clinic externs

Fall 2014 graduate, Evan Whipple, was one of 50 nursing students and the only Utah nursing student, selected out of 800 applicants to secure a spot in the Mayo Clinic Summer III Externship. This externship program provides nursing students with one-on-one work experience with an RN at the Mayo Clinic while earning an hourly wage.

When asked what he thought set him apart from other candidates, Whipple stated that because there was no interview, he thinks a particular essay question was what did the trick. Whipple explained that one essay question required applicants to create and answer their own question. Anticipating that most applicants would answer why they picked nursing as their profession or who their life role models were, Whipple decided to answer the unconventional question of who his favorite superhero was and why. Whipple wrote that Captain America was his favorite and described how Captain America’s traits applied to himself.

He says that doing his first chest compressions was a highlight of the program. Whipple admits, however, that being around death took its toll. One of the most affecting experiences he took away from his summer externship is that “people come first.” *“I didn’t expect my first code to be on a 20-year-old. When we were unable to save his life, I will never forget the pure grief his mother expressed. She yelled out in anguish her son’s name, ‘Come back! Come back! Come back to me!’ I learned in that moment, my patients are not patients, but people. Life is about people and they come first!”*

Whipple completed his externship with two additional honors. First, Whipple was asked to be one of three speakers at the closing celebration. To top the summer off, he was offered and accepted a position in the Mayo Clinic Medical-Cardiology ICU.

Brittney Stackhouse

by Jacqueline Kent-Marvick

Spring 2014 graduate Brittney Stackhouse will report as an officer to Alabama’s Maxwell Air Force Base in mid-January to begin the Air Force Nurse Transition Program. This program is designed to enhance and enforce the newly graduated nurse’s education while also establishing nurse-officer development. When she has successfully completed the program she will be awarded the Air Force Specialty Code and will be a fully qualified Air Force nurse.

Stackhouse didn’t always dream of being an Air Force officer, but after researching the program she became excited about the opportunities associated with pursuing this course. “They provide you with excellent training,” she said, “and there are endless opportunities for advancement.” Attaining this goal was not as easy as deciding she would like to join the Air Force, though. Stackhouse said the interview process was a long and complicated one, and she attributes her success to many faculty members:



Stackhouse with Patrick Gilroy

“Getting into the Air Force NTP would not have been possible without the education and amazing professors I had at my time at SUU. SUU’s nursing program is truly one of the best, and I’m just so thankful I was able to be part of that program.” Stackhouse was informed in September that she was accepted to the prestigious program’s medical-surgical route. This year only 35 students were accepted nationwide to the program.

Camp Kesem at Southern Utah University

by Lindsey Larsen

Camp Kesem is a non-profit organization that leads summer camps for children of parents with cancer. There are now 63 chapters on college campuses across the United States, all with the same goal: to make magic in the lives of children, and allow student leaders to give back to the community. Sounds like a win-win situation, right?



Camp Kesem kids and counselors during the Summer 2014 event

We are aware of the great financial strain that comes with having a parent with cancer, so we fundraise throughout the entire year to make camp completely free for families. According to Camp Kesem National, it takes about \$500.00 to send each child to camp. Last year, Camp Kesem Southern Utah University had 75 registered campers from all over Utah. This year, we have 110 spots open for campers!

We also organize fundraisers such as the Delete Blood Cancer Drive, a fall fundraiser, and Make The Magic, scheduled for February 27th, 2015, which is our black-tie dinner event.

DEPARTING FACULTY: a fond farewell



Janet Warner

My nursing career started in 1969 when, with a BSN from BYU, I was offered a position as a Public Health Nurse with the Health Department in Salt Lake. My uncles, who were in the AF Reserve at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, convinced me to join the medical reserve unit. After 2 years, I went active duty. I received orders for Tan San Nhut Air Force Base, in Saigon, Vietnam, and while there I became a Captain.

I met the man I wanted to marry in Vietnam, but at that time I could not be married and remain in the Air Force. We moved frequently for his assignments - Maine, Oklahoma, Arizona, Germany, and Colorado. I worked at local hospitals or for a Nursing Service

Agency. After stints as DON at separate facilities in Monticello and Richfield and as an instructor at Snow College, I completed a Master's Degree of Nursing with the University of Phoenix. After 6 years, I took a faculty position with the Weber/SUU nursing program, and moved to Cedar City, where I taught Fundamentals Clinical until my retirement in July 2014. I am grateful to all the great students I have had the privilege to share in their nursing education.

NEW FACULTY



Ray Munson

I have many teachers in my family, and it is a job that I have always wanted to pursue, but I started out teaching high school students and hated that. As I was doing my prerequisites, I worked as a TA for Mary Jo Tufte in the Biology department, and was reminded again how much I loved teaching, but it was better now because I was working with college students, who were a little more mature and had a greater desire to learn. Once I got into the nursing program, I could tell that I had found a place for the type of teaching I wanted to do. I started speaking with Donna

Lister about teaching here during the last few weeks of school. She helped me plan my education; I entered Weber State's Master of Nursing Program in the Spring of this year.

It took me until I was 52 to discover a profession that I could pour my whole heart and soul into. I am currently employed at Beaver Valley Hospital, a small hospital where nurses do a little bit of everything. I work in the ER, provide care for Med-Surg patients, I deliver babies, and sometimes assist in emergency surgery.

This job is magical! It is very rare to meet a nurse that doesn't absolutely love their job. Many times I am driving home from a shift and I think, "I can't believe I get paid to do this job!" It is a fulfilling and exciting life that you are embracing. ■

Heidi Schneider



I graduated from Twin Falls High School somewhere around 1925. Maybe it was closer to 1992, I forget. I graduated with my BSN from Idaho State University in 1997- very pregnant with my first daughter, Meg. I moved to Des Moines, Iowa two days after graduation to join my husband who was in his first year of medical school. I got my Iowa nursing license and started working in the postpartum/newborn unit. I soon moved to labor and delivery and loved it! After medical school we relocated to the beautiful White Mountains of Arizona and I managed my husband's general surgery practice. To this day it's the only job I've ever hated! I went back to the hospital and worked in OB once again.

Four years ago, I moved here to Cedar City (minus one husband) and began working in the ER. I never thought I would like anything more than OB, but I was wrong. I love the variety, the fast pace, and the people. I earned my Master's Degree in Nursing Education from Walden University this past April and joined the faculty here at SUU full-time this fall. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with! (Not just saying that, in case Donna reads this!)

I am currently teaching the OB section of Care of the Family (my favorite) and it's clinical. I also teach Pharmacology (trying my best to make it fun, but it's tough), and I oversee some of the level 4 students for their preceptorships. ■

USNA Reminder: Please mark your calendar for the annual USNA Convention, which will take place on February 7th at the Weber State University campus. The theme will be "Nurses: Coming Alive!" More details will be announced in the coming months, but it's going to be a blast (SUU's own Amber Swann, the Convention Director, guarantees it!)

USNA President Ryan Obremski

