

The Scope

**Southern Utah University Nursing
Fall 2015**

Fall semester marked the beginning of a second decade of baccalaureate nursing education at Southern Utah University. Interactions with students, colleagues at SUU, and southern Utah community members as well as traveling to national nursing education conferences continually reinforce the unique opportunity it is to serve as the Chair of the Department of Nursing. Our students, faculty and Southern Utah community are truly exceptional. It is a privilege to be a part of all that is Southern Utah University Nursing.

Two significant changes were made as we began this academic year. First, some curriculum changes were made to better organize educational experiences for students. Second, because of a partnership with Intermountain Healthcare, we increased the number of students admitted to the program from 20 to 30 per semester. When this change is fully implemented through all four semesters we will have 120 pre-licensure students and up to 30 RN to BSN students in the program. This represents a 50% increase in our student body. We appreciate Intermountain and all of our community partners. The experiences they provide to our students are irreplaceable in quality nursing education. Thank You!

During the last week of fall semester we learned of another noteworthy accomplishment by our Department of Nursing faculty. In a conference call with Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, Rebecca Rasmusson, President of the SUU Nursing Honor Society Board of Directors, and her team learned that their work of establishing the honor society and application to STTI was a success.

Southern Utah University Department of Nursing will officially become a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing fall semester 2016.

The annual Alumni Day activities will be combined with the induction ceremony which we anticipate will be on a Thursday in September. Please plan to join faculty, current students and alumni to celebrate the initiation of Sigma Theta Tau in southern Utah. Specific dates and times will be sent out when details are available. If you hold a bachelor's degree in nursing and would like to join Sigma Theta Tau International please contact the Department of Nursing at nursing@suu.edu. This is a great way to wrap up fall semester and a great way to start this academic year.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season and a productive and happy 2016!

Donna J. A. Lister PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE
Chair, Department of Nursing
Southern Utah University

Welcome: New Faculty Fall 2015

SheriDawn Neilson MSN, RN, CEN, CRFN



SheriDawn Neilson's most favorite and current RN position is working as a flight nurse for Classic Air Medical based out of Page, AZ and Kanab, UT. She loves the high acuity aspect of the job and developing close relationships with her crew members. "It's hard to beat flying in helicopters and airplanes and calling it a job!" SheriDawn pursued a nursing career because her husband said their family needed a nurse for his hypothetical end-of-civilization prepper group, and that she should be the nurse. No joke. As she explored nursing, she found she was really interested. She loves being a nurse because she is happy to help others, and enjoys thinking and problem solving. "A good day is when I am able to save a life or just help in some way that makes a difference to someone." SheriDawn is married with five boys. (The fifth is the family dog.) She and her family enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, shooting, hunting, boating, hiking, and biking. Before she got too busy with school and work she was a member of a women's competition shooting team and really enjoys shooting. What she is most excited for this semester is to learn more about teaching and sharing her experiences and helping students learn about nursing.

Donna De Silva MSN, APRN, FNP-C



"Nursing is the most amazing occupation and has been extremely fulfilling". Donna lives with her husband and together have a blended family. Their children and grandchild live in multiple states, Hawaii to Missouri. Donna and her husband both are from Southern California and enjoy living in Southern Utah's rural area. They recently invested in an antique tractor and joined the Color Country Antique Machinery Association and are excited for the adventures that await them. Donna enjoys reading, gardening, and taking their three big dogs on walks. Donna is excited to be part of the Department of Nursing and is excited to see her level 1 students begin their clinicals and grow. "Being hired at SUU is truly a blessing and I am so happy to be part of the amazing Nursing Department faculty!"

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Selwyn Layton for completion of his D.N.P.

Congratulations to Kevin Tipton for completion of his Ph.D. (though waiting for the "official paper")

Eighth Annual Celebration of Southern Utah Nursing

The Department of Nursing is currently accepting nominations for outstanding nurses to be recognized at our annual Celebration of Southern Utah Nursing which will be held February 2016. Please help us identify those nurses who should be recognized for their excellent work in home health/hospice, medical/surgical, critical care, community/public health, labor & delivery, long term care, or small hospital generalist nursing. To nominate a nurse for any of the awards please submit their **name, contact information, and reason for nomination** to: nursing@suu.edu. Please nominate a deserving nurse today. The deadline for nominations is January 27, 2016.

Student Nurses Associations!

Utah Student Nurses Association



The Utah Student Nurses' Association (USNA) is a student run organization that bridges the gap between the National Student Nurses' Association and individual Utah nursing

school cohorts. The purpose of the USNA is to aid in nursing education and to be an advocate for students state-wide. This organization helps provide students with early exposure to professional associations, give opportunities for service and leadership, and provide ways to expand educational knowledge and state-wide networking. The Board of Directors for the USNA are all current nursing students from across the state and are elected every spring during the annual USNA Convention.

Some of the responsibilities of the Board are to attend monthly meetings, set and report progress on goals, vote and make decisions for the USNA, review and edit the state bylaws, and collaborate with different organizations such as the American Nurses' Association and the Utah Nurses' Association. The USNA is currently working to finish their preparation and planning for the upcoming USNA Convention to be held **February 6, 2016**, at Utah Valley University.

If you have any questions or input related to the Utah Student Nurses' Association, or would like more information, do not hesitate to contact me, the Regional Director for Southern Utah.

Melissa Wilkey
tidwellme1@gmail.com
Region 4 Director
USNA Board of Directors
Southern Utah University



Southern Utah University SNA



Southern Utah University's Student Nurses Association is excited for a new year and we have a lot planned! SUUSNA participated in the Iron County Fair Parade on Labor Day where they enjoyed interacting with the community. SUUSNA also participated in the SUU Homecoming Parade on September 26th by building a giant ambulance for a float. The 14 foot ambulance was built out of cardboard solely by the students. We had over 20 nursing students walking in the parade and it turned out very well. The association even won the first place award for best float in the parade! The school year has just begun and SUUSNA is excited for all that is to come.



LEVEL 1

Adjusting to the long hours in lecture and keeping track of our assignments was a little rough for the first couple of weeks, but we've just about got it figured out! We're loving our professors, and we especially enjoy spending time in the lab with Betsy, SheriDawn, and Donna De Silva. After several hours of hard work and a few hours of nerves, all 30 Level 1 students passed their first validation! We finally get to start going into the clinical setting, and we're excited to put our new skills into practice. Although the nursing program is difficult, we are still grateful to be here. – Katie Nelson



LEVEL 2



Things are going really well in Level 2. Clinicals are in full swing and everybody loves the hospital and community sites. We enjoy the opportunity to learn as much as we can. The most rewarding experiences are the ones with the patients. Having the chance to help the people, and knowing the reasoning behind what we are doing, really makes nursing a rewarding practice. The most difficult thing about this semester is how much time and effort is required. There are a lot of assignments and work that is involved, however it is very rewarding. I think most of the Level 2 students are looking forward with anticipation to the next semester

because it will be the start of our last year in nursing school. Our advice for the next semester is don't be scared, you really can do it! It is a ton of skills and information however, you really can make it! Just take it one week at a time and don't try to do everything at once.

Current Level Updates



LEVEL 3

This semester all of the Level three students are super excited to be in the second year, and getting ever closer to graduation. We are enjoying learning about elderly, moms, babies, and children during this semester. All the level three students seem to be neck deep in papers, and class projects/presentations, working tirelessly to get things done. We have also started throwing ideas around for our fund raiser this semester, and everybody should be getting excited for the new swag that will be coming out. Good luck to all. – Nathan Butler

LEVEL 4



As fourth level nursing students, we have started our last semester enthusiastic about the great opportunity to work alongside a preceptor, a registered nurse, for eleven shifts of clinical work to better solidify nursing skills. We learn how to combine all the skills developed throughout our nursing experience and put them into practice as we take care of patients. We also take classes that improve our ability to become a greater nurse leader and manager, better understand contemporary issues in nursing, and help us acquire skills and knowledge for high acuity nursing care. We then have the opportunity to work alongside nurses in emergency rooms, intensive care units, neonatal intensive care units, and other areas of nursing that require skills necessary to take care of patient's needing more critical care. It is a great experience to be a part of such an incredible program that has allowed us to excel in a life-changing profession. We look forward to continue learning all we can this semester before graduating in December. We'd like to thank all our incredible teachers who have helped us in our journey to becoming proficient nurses! – Katherine Hiatt

RN to BSN



Hello from the RN to BSN class! We have been keeping very busy since starting the program in May. Obviously, we are all Registered Nurses and many of us work full-time while finishing our BSN degree. We have classmates that are currently working in the ICU, ER, NICU, CVU, Oncology, Behavioral Medicine, Home Health, and Hospice. All (but two) of us commute each Tuesday to class from either the St. George or Richfield areas. You might see us around on Tuesdays which is the day we spend at least 10 hours commuting or in class. This semester, we are taking classes on Health Assessment, Geriatric, and Community Health Nursing. You will see us at the health fair on September 29th - don't be afraid to talk to us and ask any questions you might have. We only look like we will bite. Good luck to all of you while in nursing school, we understand how challenging it is!

- Carleigh Corey

Child Abuse Conference

Primary Children's Hospital graciously invited Level 3 and 4 SUU nursing students to attend the Child Abuse Workshop held Saturday, September 18th 2015.

The conference was held at Valley View Medical Center in Cedar City and was broadcasted to SUU students on campus. At the conference, guest speakers Jeff Prince, Karen Hansen, and Brooks Keeshin spoke to members of the healthcare team and law enforcement about Child Abuse.

This conference was very informational. Knowing about child abuse and signs to look for could save a child's life. If child abuse is ever suspected, call the Division of Child and Family Services or the Police Department. The number for the DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline is 1-855-323-3237.

Dominican Republic Volunteer Trip

In May 2015, 12 nursing students along with a group of rural health scholars provided medical services in the Dominican Republic. Hosted by Solid Rock International, they resided in a Christian bunk house in San Juan de la Maguana. For seven days the group provided basic health care to the Dominican Republican natives by assessing patient health concerns, health histories, and treating basic health care needs. In the mornings the group would travel into the villages via buses and trucks where they would set up for the day. The students provided basic assessments and referred them to the volunteer physician. The students then educated the natives about their condition, medications, and hygienic practices. At the end of their service days the group traveled home to enjoy the rest of their summer break.



SUU's Nursing Program greatly appreciates your support and any donations and scholarships in assisting our students financially. To help support SUU's Nursing students please contact Vikki Robertson at robertsonv@suu.edu.

Student Editors: Lauren Tatton, Ryan Obremski, Courtney Kirklin & Elizabeth Jones