WINTER 2018 NUCATION. RESEARCH. PRACTICE. SERVICE. New Orleans

EMPOWERING NURSES

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

PG. 2 Filling Critical Shortages in Mental Health Care

PG. 10 Practical Experiences, Personal Connections

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PG. 14 Simulations Spell Success for Students



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LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing ranked among the best in the U.S. by Nursing Schools Almanac

Dean's Message

With one-third of the nursing workforce projected to retire by 2025, nursing shortages are reaching a critical juncture both in Louisiana and around the country. That's why the LSU School of Nursing is committed to being a national leader in educating the next generation of nurses. Through academicpractice partnerships we are working toward a common shared vision where every individual and community can reach their highest potential for health.

This year, we welcomed Dr. Rick Zimmerman as Associate Dean for Nursing Research, Scholarship and Science, who is helping to further our nursing research enterprise. This will give our nursing students and alumni even more unique opportunities to gain broad academic knowledge and clinical experience in research, education, service and patient care - areas where we already excel as the only nursing school in the state that operates within a health sciences center environment.

We have added new Nurse Practitioner concentrations in pediatrics, adult-gerontology and, most recently, psychiatric mental health. Our continuing nursing education programs have been expanded with more hands-on workshops, and we have increased the use of simulations throughout our academic programs. In fact, we are one of the only nursing schools in the region that has achieved full accreditation for simulation in teaching and education from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.

We are also continuing to expand our impact into the community through more recruitment efforts and service activities, with a focus on meeting rural and underserved health care needs. A \$1.3 million grant we received from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program is helping us train more nursing students and place them in ambulatory care settings where they are needed most.

The National Student Nurses' Association has recognized us as a Stellar School for our second five-year term – an award given to nursing schools that exhibit a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of their nursing students and faculty. We also recently received a Working Well in Louisiana Worksite Recognition of Excellence award from the Louisiana Business Group on Health.

This year, we celebrate our 85th anniversary. We are actively conducting a self-study for continued nursing accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) concluding October 2018. We look forward to maintaining our standards of excellence as we continue to grow and expand to meet the health care needs of the communities we serve.

Demetris Jorde

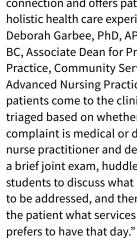
Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN Dean and Helen A. & James B. Dunn Professor Louisiana State University Health – New Orleans School of Nursing

Holistic Care, **Healthier Community**

A patient arrives for an appointment at the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing's nurse-managed Dental and Medical Primary Care Clinic (DMPCC) complaining of a dry mouth and bleeding gums. A dentist – aided by hygienists and shadowed by dental and nursing students - examines him, noting red, swollen and receding gums. The students ask the patient about his overall health, and he says he's frequently tired and thirsty and has experienced headaches with blurred vision. After a brief discussion, the dentist and students refer him to the nurse practitioner for a blood glucose test. His reading is over 200 mg/dL. He is given a preliminary diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, and is referred to the clinic's nurse practitioner for further tests and follow-up care.

This type of interdisciplinary health care is provided to patients in an underserved area of New Orleans each day through the DMPCC, an integrated primary and dental care clinic launched in 2016 as a collaboration between the LSU Health New Orleans Schools of Nursing and Dentistry.

"You can tell a lot about someone's health by looking into the mouth, and the clinic shows both nursing and dental students that systemic health



This patient-centered approach allows patients to be active participants in their care. It also offers a "one-stop shop" where a person can be examined by and discuss health issues with dental and medical professionals, undergo lab tests, access preventive care and wellness resources, and get referrals to specialists, as needed.

Practice-based, Collaborative Learning Benefits Students and Patients

Nursing and dental students ask patients questions at intake, administer screening questionnaires, sit in on many examinations and are involved in patient education based on the nurse practitioner's or dentist's advice.



connection and offers patients a more holistic health care experience," says Deborah Garbee, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, Associate Dean for Professional Practice, Community Service and Advanced Nursing Practice. "When patients come to the clinic, they're triaged based on whether their chief complaint is medical or dental. The nurse practitioner and dentist perform a brief joint exam, huddle along with students to discuss what issues need to be addressed, and then decide with the patient what services he or she

"Because they're also meeting with students, patients feel like they get more attention and interaction, someone to listen to their concerns and give them options to address those concerns. They don't feel hurried or like they're not being heard, which is a common problem in busy medical settings," says Dr. Garbee. "And, our students are getting these important interprofessional experiences that show them how important collaboration will be in their practice." Nursing and dental students learn to work on a team, communicate with other care providers and ensure that the care they provide is collaboratively focused on the patient's best possible outcome.

"They gain confidence, knowing that they can speak up and be respected and valued contributors to the care team," Dr. Garbee explains. "They get hands-on experience working beside experienced nurse practitioners and dentists. And they learn to interact effectively with patients."

Patients, practitioners and students have expressed a high level of satisfaction with this fully integrated model of care. Down the road, Dr. Garbee says it would be wonderful to add a behavioral health component to the clinic, addressing another community need.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH, PRACTICE, SERVICE,

Filling Critical Shortages in Mental Health Care

LSU School of Nursing Introduces Psychiatric Mental Health DNP Program

The shortage of mental health professionals is a huge issue throughout the nation. Far too many children who need assessments go undiagnosed, and the demand for substance abuse and mental health treatment for adults is great as well. In many places, those who need care can often wait months for mental health services.

Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana identified a major deficit in mental and behavioral health services. LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing made sure to address this pressing need by adding a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration to the BSN to Doctor of Nursing Practice program in an effort to provide vital services that many communities are currently without.

A Top-Tier Program in a Unique Health Setting

The DNP program, which was recently approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, is shaping up to be one of the best in the region, offering a range of clinical experiences across the lifespan. From pediatric primary care and school-based clinics to long-term care facilities for the elderly, nurses in the program will put in more than 900 hours in a psychiatric clinical setting – nearly double the national standard of 500 hours. In the classroom setting, coursework that includes neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and neuropharmacology creates the theoretical foundation for these nurses to excel in their practice.

The inaugural class for the Psychiatric Mental Health DNP program includes six students, with another 10 students expected to join next year.

Nurses Who Are Motivated to Make a Difference

"Half the students who are seeking enrollment in the program are already certified Family Nurse Practitioners," says Leanne Fowler, DNP, AG/ACNP-BC, CCRN, CNE, Director of Nurse Practitioner Programs. "And every one of them has told me how important it is that we're offering this program." According to Fowler, many nurses report having few local providers to whom they can refer patients who need mental health services, or wait times to see specialists that are far too long. This has led some nurses to take it upon themselves to get the degree they need to provide these services to their communities.

"The rise in substance abuse, the increased recognition of ADHD and autism spectrum disorders, and a large baby boomer population increasingly in need of mental health services are all creating a greater need for qualified mental health practitioners," says Dr. Fowler. "And since a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner can provide comparable care to a psychiatrist, this new program is critical to addressing the immediate need for more psychiatric mental health professionals." "Half the students who are seeking enrollment in the program are already certified Family Nurse Practitioners, and every one of them has told me how important it is that we're offering this program."

Leanne Fowler Director of Nurse Practitioner Programs



Promoting Patient-Centered Care Leadership and Men's Health

Emotional intelligence – the ability to identify and manage one's own emotions and the emotions of others is essential for effective practice and patient-centered care. That's why Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN, Professor and Dean of LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing, is working to integrate emotional intelligence into the school's culture.

Under his guidance, faculty and staff have completed emotional intelligence (EI) assessments, which the school is using to develop more effective teams. With Denise Danna, RN, DNS, NEA, BC, CNE, FACHE, Chief Nursing Officer at University Medical Center New Orleans, Dean Porche also developed an Emergent Nurse Leader leadership program based on the principles of EI. During the program, students engage in leadership discussions, complete a

battery of EI and related assessments and work on a leadership change project within their institution.

Beyond EI, Dean Porche has long helped develop men's health as a specialty area in health care. He has guided men's health course development on a national level, serves as chief editor of the American Journal of Men's Health, and provides expert consultation as needed to the national nonprofit organization Men's Health Network.

Currently, Dean Porche is also working to develop a system-level nurse research role with academic partner LCMC Health as well as collaborating in scholarly studies of hierarchical leadership with Jamie Wiggins, MS, RN, Chief Nursing Officer at Children's Hospital New Orleans and adjunct instructor in the School of Nursing.

Like his work with EI, these initiatives promote a more patient-centered nursing practice through self-reflection, regular assessment and improvement, as well as developing strategies for expanding care to underserved populations and overlooked health issues.



Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN Professor and Dean of LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing

Reducing Stress and Boosting Prenatal and Postnatal Resilience

Studies have shown that high levels of psychological stress and inadequate support can affect the health of pregnant and new mothers, fetal development and infant birth outcomes. Gloria Giarratano, APRN, CNS, PhD, Professor of Nursing, is studying interventions to promote positive mental health and resilience among women during pregnancy and after childbirth.

"Such interventions are especially applicable during times of disaster recovery but could be useful for all women experiencing high stress or anxiety during the childbearing year," explains Dr. Giarratano. "A colleague and I are piloting the CALM pregnancy support group as an intervention designed for use in post-disaster communities to build mental health resilience, strengthen psychosocial support systems and integrate future disaster preparation. It's also appropriate for any women who want to learn more about mental health selfcare to promote healthy pregnancies."

After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Giarratano and colleagues conducted three studies to capture experiences of women who'd been pregnant during and after the disaster. Through this research, she exposed the nursing challenges of working after widespread urban devastation and revealed the need for extensive psychosocial support and mental health care within prenatal care

Currently conducting community-based participatory research with Healthy Start New Orleans to learn what community interventions are most needed, Dr. Giarratano says that her goal is positive mental health for all pregnant women.

"It is achievable through psychoeducational interventions being aware of myths of motherhood and sources of stress; strategies such as mindfulness breathing, meditation, exercise and nutrition; and using available resources - like family, friends and health professionals – for support."

systems as well as improved disaster preparation for women returning to live in disaster-prone communities.



Gloria Giarratano, APRN, CNS, PhD Professor of Nursing







Ellen O. Beyer, DNP, RN, MN, MBA, PHCNS-BC, APRN, Instructor of Clinical Nursing, has been published in the International Archives of Nursing and Health Care with an article, "Improving Practitioners' Knowledge and Confidence to Identify High-Risk Medications with Older Adults: A Quality Improvement Intervention."

James Foley, RN, MSN-HCSM, Instructor of Nursing, has been awarded the Nurse Recognition Award by the Northshore District Nurses Association.

Deborah Garbee, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, was one of seven co-investigators whose paper, "Moving On Up: Team Training for Emergency Room Trauma Transfers," was awarded the 2017 SimHealth Best Paper Research Award from the Australasian Simulation Congress, presented in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Judith A. Gentry, RN, MSN, OCN, CNE, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, has been selected as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing.

Gloria Giarratano, PhD, APRN, CNS, Professor of Nursing, was inducted as a member and a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Khaleelah Hasan, MN, RN, APHN-BC, CNE, Instructor of Nursing, has been published in the Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice with an article, "Improvement in Interprofessional Student Learning and Patient Outcomes."

Jennifer Manning, DNS, APRN, CNS, CNE, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Nursing Programs, has been chosen to participate on the advisory committee of the American Nurses Association's connected health/telehealth professional issues panel.

Stephanie Pierce, PhD, MN, RN, CNE, Program Director for Baccalaureate Articulation, CARE, and Nurse Educator MSN programs, has received a number of recognitions:

- She was recognized by the LSU Health Sciences Center as a 2017 Innovator for her work to enhance the marketability of the Cornerstone of Cultural Competency During the Disaster Cycle Program that was funded by a LIFT² Fund grant in 2016-2017.
- She was selected as a member of the *Journal of Nursing* Education review panel.
- She did a podium presentation on the Cornerstone of Cultural Competency During the Disaster Cycle Program at the Southern Regional Education Board Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing in November. She will make the same presentation at the following conferences in 2018: the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Master's Education Conference, the Global Health & Innovation Conference and the Eighteenth International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations.

Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN, Professor and Dean of LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing, was inducted as a member and a Fellow of the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education.

Deborah St. Germain, DNP, RN, CNE, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, was elected 2018 president of the Louisiana chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses. In addition, Dr. Germain also presented "Forensic Implications in Primary Care" at the Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners this past summer.

Grant Funding

Congratulations are in order for the following faculty members and their recent grant funding:

Marsha Bennett, DNS, APRN,

ACRN, CNE, Professor of Nursing, was awarded \$36,423 from the Louisiana Board of Regents Proof of Concept Funding to create mobile applications for the Cornerstone of Cultural Competency During the Disaster Cycle Program. Co-principal investigators are **Denise Danna**, **RN**, DNS, NEA, BC, CNE, FACHE, and Stephanie Pierce, PhD, MN, RN, CNE.

Laura Bonanno, DNP, CRNA,

Program Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, was awarded \$56,973 in stipend support for the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship program.

Latanja Divens, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC,

Instructor of Nursing, was awarded \$1.3 million in funding from the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce. The funds will be used to create academic practice partnerships for the Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner programs, enhancement of simulation experiences for these programs, and scholarship support for students enrolled in these programs. Team members include Erin Bauer, DNP, CRNA; Jean Cefalu, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-C, CWOCN, CFCN, CNE; Dr. Barbara Doucet (Occupational Therapy-AH); Annette Hurley-Larmeu (Auditory-AH); Jessica Landry, DNP, FNP-BC; Susan Lee, FNP; and Michele Lowery.



New to **Our School**

Please welcome our new faculty and staff:

Stephanie Bush, MSN, APRN, CCRN, CPNP-AC, *Instructor-Adjunct*

Adele Harrell, MSN, RN, Instructor-Full-time

Jolie Harris, DNS, RN, Instructor-Part-time

Mariah H. Jackson, FNP-C, Instructor

Nanette A. LeBlanc-Morales, DNP, FNP-BC, Instructor

Linda M. Ledet, DNS, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, Assistant Professor

Mickey Pigg, MA, Academic Success Coordinator

Shondra C. Sears, Administrative Coordinator 3, in the Nurse Anesthesia Program

Lori Spradley, School of Nursing Designated Librarian

Jamie L. Wiggins, RN, MS, CCRN-K, NEA-BC, FACHE, Instructor-Adjunct

Rick Zimmerman, PhD, Associate Dean for Nursing Research, Scholarship and Science

Tiger Tracks to Wellness Program Wins 2017 Excellence Award

When it comes to health and wellbeing, the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing leads by example. Our Tiger Tracks to Wellness workplace wellness initiative that launched in May has been awarded the Working Well in Louisiana Worksite Wellness Recognition of Excellence 2017 award, as an outstanding employer in the small employer category. The recognition comes from the Louisiana Business Group on Health.

"About half of our faculty and staff are currently enrolled in the program," explains Jennifer B. Martin, DNP, CRNA, chairperson of the Faculty and Staff Life committee. "Our purpose is to inspire and empower individuals to take responsibility for their own health and to support a healthy culture of connection and engagement."

The Tiger Tracks to Wellness program encourages health, wellness and life balance for faculty and staff by providing a variety of initiatives to help participants be more physically active, more emotionally strong and more nutritionally minded. The goal for each participant is to develop daily healthy habits, like walking 10,000 steps, practicing 10 minutes of mindfulness and drinking 64 ounces of water.

"Participants meet together monthly and we have speakers to help encourage us in our goals," says Dr. Martin. "There are a number of walking groups that meet and walk every day and we all track our goals weekly via our Tiger Tracks to Wellness website."

The program is set to include students next year, and then to roll out campuswide in year three. Aside from Dr. Martin, additional staff instrumental in the program's implementation include: Jennifer Badeaux, CRNA, DNP; Jessica Landry, DNP, FNP-BC; Todd Tartavoulle, DNS, APRN, CNS-BC; and Alison Davis, PhD, RN, CHSE.

The Tiger Tracks to Wellness program encourages health, wellness and life balance for faculty and staff by providing a variety of initiatives to help participants be more physically active, more emotionally strong and more nutritionally minded.



Above left: Dr. Jessica Landry, center, accepts the Working Well in Louisiana award, presented by the Louisiana Business Group on Health for the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing Tiger Tracks to Wellness workplace wellness initiative. Above right: The writing team for the wellness initiative pose with the award (from left): Dr. Jessica Landry, Dr. Jennifer Martin, Dr. Todd Tartavoulle, and Dr. Allison Davis.

Coffee for a Cause Benefits Students and Community



Each Friday morning, before classes start and the business of nursing education gets underway, faculty and staff gather in the Dean's conference room for a casual 30-minute meet-and-greet, supportive fellowship opportunity. But what started as a way to build relationships and

communication within the School of Nursing has positively impacted both the Health Sciences Center and the community.

"We came up with the idea for our Coffee for a Cause program after reading a book on organizational culture," says Jennifer B. Martin, DNP, CRNA, chairperson of the Faculty and Staff Life committee. "It was an activity suggested in the book to enhance engagement and organizational citizenship. We launched the program last summer as a casual and fun way for faculty and staff who do not get to see each other during the work week to come together and just chat."

With a dozen or more people in attendance each week, conversation flows, ideas are exchanged and donations are received for community support projects.

"We ask for a \$1 donation, but attendees usually donate more," says Dr. Martin. Last year the initiative raised \$1,500 to replace textbooks, supplies and uniforms for nursing students affected by the devastating floods in the Baton Rouge area. This year donations are on track to reach \$2,000, and will be used to rebuild one of the community playgrounds in Baton Rouge that was destroyed by flooding.

When several faculty from other schools within the Health Sciences Center attended the event, they brought the idea to the Faculty Senate. "The entire Health Sciences Center has now instituted a campuswide Coffee for a Cause each month, which is helping to foster relationships across the entire Health Sciences Center of six schools," says Dr. Martin.

Free Health Screenings During National Night Out

LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing students and faculty volunteers met with neighbors and friends and offered free health screenings at the October 2017 National Night Out Against Crime event at Joe. W. Brown Park in New Orleans. The event gave participants an opportunity to support law enforcement and first responders and to get to know members of the community.



Community Service in Action



Members of the Student Nurses Association participated in the annual Touro Health Fair and taught high school students how to take a blood pressure and a pulse, normal ranges for these assessments, and what deviations from the normal range can indicate. They also talked to the students about what it's like to be a student nurse, including differences in studying, the various clinical experiences they have and what it means to really care for a patient and family.

Zoo-To-Do



LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing volunteers staffed the Tulane Pediatrics/Safe Kids Louisiana tent at the annual event that supports the Audubon Zoo.

Practical Experiences, Personal Connections

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Nurses practicing in New Orleans regularly care for patients facing an array of health and socioeconomic issues. The city's population has a high rate of chronic health problems like hypertension and diabetes, and Louisiana as a whole ranks fourth in the nation for stroke deaths. Like many other cities, its population also includes people who are uninsured or underinsured, veterans and individuals struggling with homelessness – all of whom present unique care challenges.

How can a new nurse practitioner, right out of college, be adequately prepared to care for these diverse populations and their complex conditions? A \$1.3 million grant recently awarded to the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing's Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program offers unique training opportunities for primary care advanced practice nursing students, through which they learn skills for working with underserved and challenging populations.

The grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce's Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program provides student recipients with partial tuition. It also funds simulation equipment so they can learn to care for disadvantaged and medically complex populations, as well as develop skills for working with stroke patients and people with communication disorders.

"These are eye-opening experiences that prepare nursing students for what they will face upon graduation and give them opportunities to develop skills for communicating with and meeting the care needs of these patients," says Latanja Divens, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Instructor of Nursing and principal investigator for the ANEW grant.

Partnerships Give Nursing Students New Perspectives

To offer nursing students experience working with underserved populations, the School of Nursing has partnered with University Medical Center New Orleans' ambulatory care clinics.

"Our practice partner serves underprivileged populations throughout the New Orleans region," says Dr. Divens. "Students funded by the ANEW grant spend half or more of their time at these clinics, learning tactics and techniques for caring for medically underserved patients. In some cases, when working with uninsured or even homeless patients, you don't know if you'll ever see them again, so you have to learn how to cover as many issues as possible in a single visit and try to ensure they leave in a positive state of health."

These experiences open students' eyes to new patient perspectives, the magnitude of the effects their care can have on these patients and the complexities of their health care needs.

The School of Nursing has also partnered with the School of Allied Health Professions' Occupational Therapy Neurology/Stroke Clinic and Department of Communication Disorders to give prospective nurse practitioners practical experience with medically complex patients.

"In the Neurology/Stroke Clinic, they learn the value of collaborative practice as they work with physical therapy and occupational health students and other providers to help patients facing significant disability," explains Dr. Divens. "They begin to understand the role of each member of the care team and learn more about what happens after patients they may have seen in the hospital progress to rehabilitative and follow-up care."

Partnering with the Department of Communication Disorders helps nursing students understand what services are available for their patients with conditions that affect hearing, communication, language and speech; who they can refer patients to for diagnoses and therapies; and how they can better communicate with and promote a better quality of life for these patients. Participation in this clinic further supports interprofessional education and collaboration, essential



"These are eye-opening experiences that prepare nursing students for what they will face upon graduation and give them opportunities to develop skills for communicating with and meeting the care needs of these patients."

Latanja Divens, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC Instructor of Nursing and principal investigator for the ANEW grant



elements of a nurse practitioner's practice and effectiveness in caring for vulnerable populations.

Grant recipients, 24 of whom are studying to become primary care family nurse practitioners and one who is specializing in adult-gerontology primary care, spend time training in all of these areas. Each recipient expressed a desire to work in a medically underserved area or with underserved patients during their interview process.

"This program increases our students' abilities to care for the diverse populations they will encounter after graduation," says Dr. Divens. "Each experience opens their eyes to what people in their communities really face and gives them the confidence and insight to do what they can to improve those patients' lives."

Small Gestures Can Make a Big Impact

Why One LSU School of Nursing Alum Gives Back

It's difficult to imagine that \$300 could change the course of someone's life allowing that person to begin a career that would change the lives of countless other people. But that's just what happened to August J. Rantz III.

Upon returning home from serving in the Vietnam War, Rantz enrolled in the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing with dreams of becoming a nurse anesthetist. But he soon found it difficult to support his wife and children while attending nursing school full-time. He knew what he had to do. So, he headed to the office of former Dean Helen Dunn to tell her he was dropping out.

Recognizing both Rantz's potential and his dedication to his family, Dean Dunn said she'd try to find a way to help. She asked him to come back a week later. When he did, the dean handed him a \$300 check, which helped relieve some of the short-term financial pressure he felt. Little did she know that it would help Rantz establish a long and successful career and – ultimately – found a multimillion-dollar company.

August J. Rantz III recently donated \$25,000 in support of the James and Helen Dunn Endowed Professorship at the School of Nursing, to help support more students as they pursue their passions.

From Struggling Scholar to Successful Entrepreneur

Rantz graduated from the LSU School of Nursing, and he eventually went on to earn a specialty degree and become Director of Anesthesia at an eye surgery center in Phoenix. He partnered with an anesthesiologist there to build outpatient surgical centers and a pain management company before moving on to co-found AMG Integrated Healthcare Management.

By the time he stepped down as chairman of AMG in 2016. Rantz had grown the company to include 14 long-term, acute-care hospitals and two acute rehabilitation hospitals that employ thousands of people who care for critically ill patients across the country.

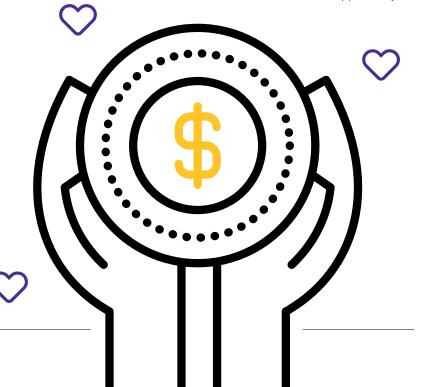
Giving Back to the LSU Community

Rantz hopes he can help inspire others to pursue their dreams and make an impact in their world, just as Dean Dunn did for him.

He recently donated \$25,000 in support of the James and Helen Dunn Endowed Professorship at the School of Nursing, to help support more students as they pursue their passions.

Rantz's story is one of a life and career shaped by personal dedication, perseverance and the strength and support of the School of Nursing family.

"Dean Dunn told me that things always have a way of working out and not to give up on my dreams," remembers Rantz. "She believed in me and really helped change my life. I want to offer someone else that same opportunity."



Congratulations, Alumni!



Decked Out in Derby Dress





Danny G. Willis (MN '94; DNS '04) has been named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. Previously, he was the department chair at Boston College's Connell School of Nursing.

Lander Coscarart (BSN '11; DNP '18) won third place for a poster presentation, "Implementation of **Clinical Guidelines for Depression** Screening in Adult Patients with Type II Diabetes in a Rural Outpatient Family Practice Clinic: A Quality Improvement Project." The poster was presented at the 9th Annual Evidence-Based Practice/Research Conference this fall.

Julie Stanford (DNS '02) has been inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Stanford is director of the School of Nursing at James Madison University.

Stay in touch with your classmates. Learn all about upcoming events and activities. Uphold our school's traditions like the white coat ceremony, pinning ceremony and graduation, and support nursing excellence.

other news.



Derby hats were on display during the New Orleans Summer Social Derbythemed School of Nursing Alumni Association annual lunch this past summer. Jenna Martin, DNP, CRNA, Instructor of Nursing, (in red) received the 2017 Nursing Alumni Association Alumnus of the Year award at the event.

Stomping Out **Pulmonary Hypertension**

Alumni walked, danced and discoed their way around the beautiful Peristyle in City Park this spring for the third annual Mudbug March to Stomp Out Pulmonary Hypertension (PH). The event helped boost awareness of this incurable disease, educated people about good self-care and helped raise almost \$12,000 to improve patient care, expand medical research and increase education about PH.



Stay Connected

Activate your Alumni Association membership today. And if you have already activated your membership, go online to learn about upcoming events and

Activate your membership now: give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/sonalumni

Simulations Spell Success for Students





Michelle Wydra never imagined she'd be able to do the kind of research she's currently pursuing as an undergraduate nursing student. Her study examines whether experiencing interventions in restricted mobility suits - which simulate changes that come with aging – will improve sophomore nursing students' attitudes toward and care of older adult and geriatric patients. Wydra's access to the technology and staff at the Simulation Center of the Nursing Skills and Technology Center at LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing made her project possible.

"I had the idea, but I didn't know what, if any, materials the nursing school had to help me do this," explains Wydra, a BSN candidate set to graduate in May. "I met with Dr. [Alison] Davis, who opened up the Simulation Center to me for my research and guided me to three simulation suits the Center had acquired, but had not had an opportunity to use until now. This is thousands of dollars of equipment I could not have procured otherwise.

Dr. Davis, along with my mentor Dr. [Jean] Cefalu and Health Assessment course director Dr. [Marie] Adorno, helped me focus my research question and tighten up my research design. This helped me immensely both in designing the study and getting through the Institutional Review Board process."

Student experiences like Wydra's show why the Simulation Center is such a critical contributor to the School of Nursing's mission. Its high-tech simulation equipment and dedicated staff help prepare nurses to function as generalists, advanced practitioners, educators, scholars and researchers who shape the delivery of nursing practice and education.

Its importance was recently recognized with a five-year accreditation in Teaching/Education from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. It is the first and only simulation center in Louisiana to receive this accreditation.

A Safe Place to Build Practical Skills and Confidence

The Society evaluated the Center against seven core standards: mission and governance, program management, resource management, human resources, program improvement, integrity and expanding the field. The Simulation Center was commended in all areas as well as for four teaching and education standards: learning activities, educational activity design, qualified educators and evaluation and improvement.

"For the School of Nursing, accreditation through the Society for Simulation in Healthcare recognizes that our Center is utilizing the best practices of simulation," says Alison Davis, PhD, RN, CHSE, Director of the Nursing Skills and Technology Center. "Accreditation opens more doors for grant funding opportunities, allows for expansion of programs for undergraduate and graduate nursing students and allows the Center to support additional research opportunities and additional simulation technologies. We've been recognized for both high-quality simulation activities and educators."



The Center offers training for both undergraduate and graduate students that complements courses associated with the simulation experience. Simulation is a safe learning environment that mimics reality to prepare students at all levels to care for patients of any age with various health conditions.

Dr. Davis and other staff have heard from students that participating in simulations helps them feel more comfortable and prepared for clinical experiences. They note that they can relate simulation experiences to similar situations in the hospital setting and benefit from opportunities to practice critical skills in a safe space before applying them to difficult or stressful situations in the real world.

"High-fidelity simulation helps says Dr. Davis.

increase students' confidence with nursing skills, such as medication administration, and their ability to provide safe, effective nursing care,"



"High-fidelity simulation helps increase students' confidence with nursing skills, such as medication administration, and their ability to provide safe, effective nursing care."

Alison Davis, PhD, RN, CHSE Director of the Nursing Skills and Technology Center



DAISY Day Stand-Outs

Taking extra time to explain a procedure to a frightened patient. Holding the hand of a frail senior at the bedside. Calming a parent whose child is ill. These are all the little things that nurses do on a daily basis, and which mean so much to the people they serve.

"One of the most important parts about being a nurse is demonstrating compassion," explains Helen Neil, RN, MSN, HCSM, CLNC, Instructor of Nursing. "Yet compassion is something that is rarely rewarded."

To recognize faculty and nursing students who go above and beyond in demonstrating compassionate care, LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing celebrates DAISY Day in the spring and fall. The Spring 2017 event, which was attended by more than 150 people, recognized six outstanding students with DAISY in Training Awards and six faculty members with the DAISY Faculty Award.

"We had 16 student nominees this year, which came from patients, preceptors and faculty. We had a hard time choosing the six award recipients, but were happy to celebrate all of our students," says Dr. Neil.

The spring 2017 DAISY in Training Award recipients were: Noah Cohen, Kelsey Molina, Emily Morris, Brittany Richard, Brittani Sanchez and Josh Sticker.

The DAISY in Training Award is designed to remind students, even on the hardest days in nursing school, why they have chosen nursing as a profession. "By recognizing nursing students for the above-and-beyond care and compassion shown to patients and their families, we celebrate what it truly means to be a nurse and honor the important nurse-patient connection that makes a difference," says Dr. Neil.

In addition to the student awardees, the six faculty who received the DAISY Faculty Award for their commitment and inspirational influence on School of Nursing students were: Katherine Carter, DNP, PHCNS-BC, Instructor of Nursing; Robert Cork, Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy; Latanja Divens, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Instructor of Nursing; Shelly Dolan, **MSN, RN,** Instructor of Nursing; Jenna Martin, DNP, CRNA, Instructor of Nursing; and Dr. Neil.

"One of the most important parts about being a nurse is demonstrating compassion... Yet compassion is something that is rarely rewarded."

Helen Neil, RN, MSN, HCSM, CLNC Instructor of Nursing



Representing at the **LASN Annual Convention**

It's called "Convention" and it happens to be a yearly highlight for LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing students who are members of the Student Nurse Association (SNA). This year's Louisiana Association of Student Nurses (LASN) Annual Convention in Baton Rouge gave attendees an opportunity to lend their insight to association resolutions that will guide the organization in the coming year, learn about new patient care techniques and post-graduation opportunities, and have a little fun.

"Being an active member in the SNA helps our students develop important professional skills and to be ready to lead in the profession," says Marirose Bernard, MN, APRN, NE-BC, Instructor of Nursing and SNA faculty advisor. "Attending Convention helps students network with other students and faculty from across the country to share experiences, seek advice and get energized about the wonderful profession of nursing."

The three-day convention was attended by students from 20 other SNA chapters and included decision-making about policy that affects nursing students throughout Louisiana, local and national speakers sharing expertise about nursing practice, and opportunities to learn about employment opportunities, nurse residency programs and graduate programs of study.

says Bernard.

LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing SNA members who attended the convention included: Morgan Buras, Elizabeth Carter, Maria Colina, Kelly Derise, Banaz Hejazi, Nicole Koppi, Lena Nguyen and Jaymalisa Whatley. SNA Executive Board officers also attended: Andrew Giardina, Daniel Lacy, Lauryn Richard and Christina Russell.

Award-Winning Student Nurses

Baton Rouge:

The following students were elected to serve on the LASN Executive Board for the 2017-2018 term:



"Attendees always come home with fresh ideas for our chapter, as well,"

"Being an active member in the SNA helps our students develop important professional skills and to be ready to lead in the profession."

Marirose Bernard, MN, APRN, NE-BC Instructor of Nursing and SNA faculty advisor

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses (LASN) Annual Convention in

• Nicole Koppi – Student Nurse of the State

• Katelyn (KK) Freyou – Recognized as an LASN Honorary Member, the most prestigious award given by the association

• Our SNA chapter - Best Newsletter Article award, authored by Nicole Koppi, and Best Community Outreach award for our Delivering Hope NOLA service project

• Daniel Lacy, CARE XVI, re-elected as IT director

• Lauryn Richard, CARE XVI, elected as vice president; previously served as Breakthrough to Nursing director

• Banaz Hejazi, CARE XVI, elected as Region IV director

Ramping Up **Recruiting Efforts**



In addition to visiting health and career fairs, Gibbs has also set up tours for families and student groups, and put together a Minorities in Nursing event for high school students.



"I am proud to educate about the nursing profession, mentor people as they develop a plan, and encourage them to never give up on their dream of becoming a nurse."

Jillian Gibbs Nurse Recruiter & Marketing Developer Since Nurse Recruiter & Marketing Developer Jillian Gibbs joined the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing staff in 2016, she has been in a constant state of momentum that has helped her reach tens of thousands of prospective nursing students. Her travels have taken her throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, where her passion for education and nursing comes through as she speaks to people at more than 100 career fairs and other events, sharing the innumerable opportunities LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing has to offer.

Reaching out to everyone from middle schoolers to health professionals looking to further their career, Gibbs explains the different career paths nursing offers. "Planting the seed early helps them consider a career path they might not have thought about otherwise," she says.

Prioritizing Recruitment for Minorities and Underserved Populations

Recruiting and retaining a diverse and inclusive student body is one of the School of Nursing's major strategic goals. This has led to a number of initiatives designed to increase the enrollment of minority students and students from underserved rural areas.

"It's heartbreaking the number of individuals who are not considering a career in nursing because of financial, social or environmental obstacles," says Gibbs. "I am proud to educate about the nursing profession, mentor people as they develop a plan, and encourage them to never give up on their dream of becoming a nurse. Seeing the look in a person's eyes when they realize that their aspiration can be in reach is really rewarding."

In addition to visiting health and career fairs, Gibbs has also set up tours for families and student groups, and put together a Minorities in Nursing event for high school students. Ninety students attended the event, where they were given a tour, had the opportunity to ask questions and discovered what it's like to be a nurse firsthand through the School of Nursing's state-of-the-art Simulation Center. The event was such a success that the school is planning to start hosting two or three of these events per year.

Offering Hands-On, Immersive Experiences

Collaborating with the LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine, the School of Nursing also offered a three-day immersive experience for those seriously considering a career in nursing. The experience, called Future Nurse Institute Camp, consisted of several lectures, question and answer sessions with different types of nurses, time in the Simulation Center, and more.

The impact Gibbs has had is already starting to be seen. Leila Rad, a student currently enrolled in the accelerated Career Alternative RN Education (CARE) program, says that Gibbs' personal touch really made her decision easy.

"I had been thinking about going into nursing for a while," explains Leila, "but the career fair was really the first time I seriously considered it. Ms. Gibbs was so open and friendly. She answered all my questions and gave me her number. I called the next week and she walked me through the accelerated program and application process. She made it all so easy." Gibbs plans on returning to the schools and career fairs she has already visited, and she continues to add new events. She's also had plenty of help from current nursing students, who are always willing to lend their support. "Reaching out regularly and having actual nurses share their experiences with the next generation is essential to the future of nursing," says Gibbs. "It will help provide a long-term solution to the nursing shortages we face in our community." In 2017, the School of Nursing held or participated in events at:



Caring to Commit

Student Volunteers Make a Difference in the Community



"I beam with pride that 29 School of Nursing students were eligible for the IPSA award this past spring and I look forward to this becoming a trend in semesters to come.

Nicole Koppi IPSA Head of Program Evaluation From devoting more than 600 hours of community service in the greater New Orleans area, to providing time and talent in leading campus organizations in collaborative initiatives, the students in the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing have proven to be a major influence in the Interprofessional Student Alliance (IPSA). IPSA supports the many exceptional LSU Health Sciences Center student-run community outreach projects that address health disparities in underserved communities in the greater New Orleans area.

"Nursing students make up over a guarter of all currently active students in interprofessional organizations on campus," explains senior Michelle Wydra. "For our students, participating in IPSA means taking their personal time to volunteer, so that shows a true commitment to interprofessional collaboration."

This past year, IPSA volunteers have been instrumental in a number of student-run projects that have supported adults, children and families throughout Louisiana. Some of the initiatives students have helped with include educating public school

children about reproductive health, staffing health care clinics at local shelters, teaching cooking and nutrition education in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and partnering with the Louisiana Children's Museum to host a special museum event for children with disabilities and their families.

In acknowledgment of their dedication, a total of 63 School of Nursing students earned the IPSA Award of Interprofessional Distinction this past spring and fall. Two additional School of Nursing students were awarded the inaugural IPSA Leadership Award: Nicole Koppi and Vanessa Shields.

"I beam with pride that 29 School of Nursing students were eligible for the IPSA award this past spring and I look forward to this becoming a trend in semesters to come," says Koppi, who started participating in IPSA during her freshman year and who now is the IPSA Head of Program Evaluation. "I absolutely love the opportunity to be involved in community service that allows for direct patient care, and be of service to those in need in the New Orleans area."



IPSA Award of Interprofessional Distinction Winners:

Courtney Alonzo Lauren Arrigo Lauren Atkins Stacie Barbetta **Claire Battle** Ashley Becnel Danaye Brignac Mary Coote Martha Cossich Heather Duke Brie Dyess

Elizabeth Edwards Taylor Jones Mikael Estis **Beesan Joudeh Brittany Fontenot** Sophie Junak Katelyn Freyou Taylor LaFargue Margaret Gambel Paige Latimer Stephanie Grace Kelly Magill Jason Maradiaga Thomas Gray Alexandra Harvey Krystalynn Merrells Jillian Michel Jacob Holt Lauren Hudak Cara Morgani Kayla Jacomine Kristem Morvant

Michael Muller Marc Musso **Michele Mutter** Grace Nabasabala Nikki Nguyen Chinyere Okogoue Raven Omuemu Shivani Patel **Brooke Pemberton Caroline Prather** Jessica Prest

Mary Rhorer **Brittany Riley** Megan Riviere Marissa Rizzotto Alyssa Rose Elena Santora **Brandy Schwarth** Vanessa Shields **Courtney Smith** Lindsay Smith Sharron Smith

Jennifer Staples Lily Tran Jordan Tucker Julie Viguerie Brooke White Kailah Wicker Jennifer Yeager Caitlin Zaffuto

MAY 2017 Graduation Awards

Valedictorian Samantha Oubre

Salutatorian Lauren Arrigo

Highest Academic Honors CARE Program **Corey Smith**

Academic Recognition CARE Program Mikael Estis

The Theresa Bittenbring Marque and John Henry Marque Award -**Traditional BSN Graduates**

- Lauren Arrigo
- Lauren Atkins
- Amy Guillot (Fall 2016)
- Samantha Oubre
- Jill Toepfer (Fall 2016)

The Theresa Bittenbring Marque and John Henry Marque Award – **CARE BSN Graduates**

- Jordan Braswell
- Mikael Estis
- Madison Malaschak
- Corey Smith
- Evelynne Zatta

Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society Award -Undergraduate Samantha Oubre

Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society Award -Graduate Paul Mallet

NODNA Leadership Award Katelyn Freyou

Student Nurses Association Graduate Award

- Katelyn Freyou
- Kiera Smith

Student Government Association Award McKay Jordan

Alumni Association Recognition of Class Spirit Award – Undergraduate Thomas Gray

Alumni Association Recognition of Class Spirit Award - Graduate Jada Metoyer-Foley

Faculty Recognition Award -Undergraduate, sponsored by Elsevier McKay Jordan

Faculty Recognition Award -Graduate, sponsored by Elsevier Aimee Maestri

Writing Excellence Award sponsored by F.A. Davis, Publisher Luke Pitre

Dolores Scheerle Entrepreneurial Award – Undergraduate William Sinclair

Dolores Scheerle Entrepreneurial Award – Graduate Robert Wheaton

Jo Ellen Smith Memorial Award Sophie Junak

Patricia Losee Memorial Award Benjamin Dalferes

Outstanding Nursing Caring Award - Undergraduate Stephen Lewis

Outstanding Nursing Caring Award – Graduate Gladys Machuka

Reverend Dr. James A. Ertl Clinical Excellence Award Amanda Hill

Outstanding Doctor of Nursing Practice Award Jessica Teachworth

Outstanding Family Nurse Practitioner Award Shannon Manzella









Louisiana Association of **Nurse Anesthetists Outstanding Graduate Award** Adam Graham

Nurse Anesthesia Outstanding Graduate Award Matthew Bovia

Nurse Anesthesia Program Clinical Excellence Award Algin Adap

Nurse Anesthesia Program Director's Award Julie Duke

Chancellor's Award Vanessa Shields



DFAN'S LIST

Jordan Adams

SPRING 2017 Dean's List



Maria Amaya Ryan Anderson Haleigh Armstrong Kyle Arocha Lauren Arrigo Kandace Atkins Lauren Atkins Brian Baase Alyssa Babin Cayla Baker Stephanie Baker Flem Ballet, Jr. Stacie Barbetta Ann Bates **Claire Battle Reagan Binning** Jessica Blackletter Caitlin Blaise Alexis Blanch Callie Bond **Brielle Bordes** Amanda Bourgeois Sarah Bourgeois Dyanna Boyd Kaela Brand Jordan Braswell Lindsey Breaux Marjorie Breda Lorenzo Bridgewater Jr. Danaye Brignac Alyssa Brubaker Lauren Brumfield Cory Bruner **Brooklyn Buras Ryan Burdick Taylor Burdick**

Julie Butts Lisa Campbell Lauren Capone Michael Carpini III Lisa Casper Mary Claybrook Amber Clement Noah Cohen Jordan Coleman Amber Constant Martha Cossich **Benjamin Dalferes** Kayla D'Angelo James Davis III Rachel deJonge Brittany Delaneuville Lauren Dickson Sam Dieu Brittani Dvess Natalie Edwards Kathryn Ehle Margaret Ellender Logan Encar Danielle Engolia Mikael Estis **Carmel Fargason** Joshua Favaloro Kelsey Federspill Ashley Fisette Tavlor Fisette Anna Foltz Margaux Fontana Brittany Fontenot Elise Fourchy Nvesha Franklin Blake Freeman Madeline Gabb Maura Goldfeder Katherine Gonzales Stephanie Grace Thomas Gray Jr.

Ciara Green Ashley Gregoire Braiden Grzych Blaire Guidry Taylor Guillory Shelby Guinot **Emily Gundlach** Shelbie Gwinn Jill Handel Maria Hanley Jessican Hanzo Taylor Hausler Megan Hebert Sara Heidingsfelder Laura Holland Jacob Holt Lauren Howley Lauren Hudak Emily Ingrassia Antonina Irwin Kayla Jacomine Emily Jaunet Carly Johnson **Kirsten Johnson Raven Johnson** Monica Jones Taylor Jones McKay Jordan Sophie Junak Brooke Juneau Carley Katzenstein Amanda Keller Meghan Kelly Moriah Kissinger Cristina Kline Kelsey Kuehne Katherine Labonte Sarah Laiche Morgan Landry Anna Lanier Paige Latimer Austin Laurent

Taylor LeCompte Christina Leggio Robin Lem Jenni Levine Clare Levy Laney Lewis Mercedes Lewis Stephen Lewis Abbie Lutenbacher Jessica Macaluso Madison Malaschak Madison Mallorv Mary Manning Jason Maradiaga Georgina Martin Christine McCool Katelyn McDonald Colleen McDuff Krystalynn Merrells Olivia Metz Megan Meyer Jillian Michel **Bailey Miller** Carrie Milner Jeston Mitchell Kira Moreau **Rachel Morgan** Emilv Morris Brandi Morvant Micheal Muller Alexandra Musso Michele Mutter Grace Nabasabala Katherine Nelson Mary Nelson Colt Neyrey Linda Nguyen Tien Nguyen Taylor Odum Jordan Ohlsen

Chinyere Okogbue Jordyn Olson Anthony O'Neal Kacie Orso Samantha Oubre Lauren Owens Shivani Patel Sarah Patterson Brooke Pemberton Brandon Petkovich **Crystina** Pham Sarah Pick David Pickus Jade Pizzo Sarah Player Hannah Pohorelsky Marciano Raziano Amelia Reeves Mary Rhorer **Christina Ricks Brittany Riley** Marissa Rizzotto Devin Robinson Jessica Rodrigue **Rhett Rogers** Yvonne Rongey Alyssa Rose Amanda Salles Natalie Schleismann Ashlyn Schneider Claire Schoennagel Kathryn Schoennagel **Taylor Schwab** Madison Seay Emily Serpas Vanessa Shields William Sinclair

Cory Smith **Courtney Smith** Kiera Smith Lindsay Smith Maile Smith Tance Sonnier **Ashley Sorrells** Whitney Sprague Jennifer Staples Scott Stevens Patrick Stewart Joshua Sticker Shae Stire Victoria Stokes Christian Stone **Courtney Stoufflet** Joey Swinson Nicole Tassin Katie Teague **Amy Thomas** Alexandra Timphony Jessica Tran Jody Trapani Ashley Trosclair Huong Truong Jordan Tucker Natassha Valente Julie Viguerie Sara Weber Bonnie West Kailah Wicker Katelyn Williams **Emily Winters** Michelle Wydra Jennifer Yeager Ann Yu Caitlin Zaffuto **Evelynne Zatta** Yue Zhang



Candace Burgard

Dennis Burke II

Morgan Bush



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