In this issue:

- [ Service Under Fire ]
- [ Alumni Mentors ]
- [ Helping UM Workers Stay Healthy ]
- [ Patient Safety Initiative ]

Have you considered a planned or estate gift to the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies? Bequests and other planned gifts help to increase scholarship opportunities, expand academic programs, and support innovative research for years to come. Planned gifts may offer you savings and other benefits in the areas of income tax, capital gains tax, and/or estate taxes and provide you or another beneficiary with income now and in retirement.

Leave a legacy of caring and healing.

The University of Miami can assist you with your gift plans. For information, please contact:

- Advancement and Alumni Affairs • School of Nursing and Health Studies • 305-284-8462
- Office of Estate and Gift Planning • 305-284-3914 • 800-529-6935 • www.miami.edu/estateandgiftplanning
AMBITIOUS GOALS, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The University of Miami has a distinguished record of leadership across the spectrum of health care, from education and research to clinical care and service for the local and global communities. As the national dialogue on health reform intensifies, our school is marching forward with ambitious goals and strong support from University leadership. Our president, Donna E. Shalala, was recently named chair of a new Institute of Medicine Commission on the Future of Nursing. Supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this commission will draw on the collective wisdom of nursing leaders and others from various private and public sectors to develop a blueprint for action that includes changes in policies at the national, state, and local levels.

This spring our school launched a bold agenda to strengthen the nursing workforce and improve patient safety throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. As one of just 11 World Health Organization (WHO) Nursing Collaborating Centres in the United States, the new center at UM will focus on initiatives tailored to the needs of our neighbors throughout the WHO/Pan American Health Organization region.

The school’s WHO Collaborating Centre offers unparalleled opportunities for University of Miami students to contribute to programs that advance the quality of care on the front lines of global health. From designing safety initiatives for individual health systems to creating programs that address unique educational needs to learning from nursing leaders from other regions, the center will broaden the range of learning experiences we provide to nursing and health science students.

We live in an era of unprecedented change. The need for highly educated leaders able to consider complex health care issues from a global perspective has never been greater. Thank you for your support, which enables us to prepare health care professionals with the skills, knowledge, and perspective to serve as positive agents for change.

Our WHO Collaborating Centre offers unparalleled opportunities for University of Miami students to contribute to programs that advance the quality of care on the front lines of global health.

Service Under Fire

Alumnus helps soldiers cope with battlefield tragedy and trauma

•SPRING 2009 •
Honors PT program provides unique opportunity for high-achieving students

Joint Partnership

More people surviving into old age. Athletically inclined “boomers.” A growing number of joint replacement surgeries. For varied reasons, society’s need for physical therapists is on the rise.

The University of Miami is helping meet that need through an accelerated honors program in physical therapy. Based on test scores and grades, eligible applicants to the freshman class are invited to apply to the program. Those admitted receive early admission to the Miller School of Medicine’s highly regarded Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program after completing specific requirements.

Following their first year in the BSHS pre-physical therapy track, students who have achieved a 3.7 GPA may also apply to the physical therapy scholars program, which allows them accelerated access to the DPT.

“This is a great way to recruit exceptional students because you can offer them an accelerated program and a streamlined process for getting into physical therapy,” says Sherrill Hayes, PhD, PT, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the Miller School.

Students are often drawn to careers as physical therapists because of personal experiences. “Many of our students are former athletes who received physical therapy for career-ending injuries,” Hayes says. “Then they became interested in PT as a career.”

Brittany Oliver and Haley Gordon are health studies honors students on the fast track to careers as physical therapists.

The program’s location in the School of Nursing and Health Studies “creates a nice atmosphere, and the advising is amazing,” says freshman Haley Gordon, who looked at several schools before choosing UM.

Freshman Brittany Oliver—a former dancer who became acquainted with PT while receiving therapy for her own injuries—says the program “is exactly what I wanted, and was a huge factor when deciding whether to come to UM.”

“It’s a great program for students who are sure that they want to have a career in PT to get ahead of the game.”

The University of Miami is among the first institutions in the nation to receive funding through the prestigious program.

The program’s mentorship component complements the role modeling and mentoring already provided for students by the school’s highly diverse faculty, which includes many Hispanic, African-American, and male professors and instructors.

“One of the primary goals of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to promote nursing as a profession,” says Dean Nilda P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN. “The mentorship program enriches the educational experience of our students because it enables seasoned nursing leaders to share their insight with emerging nursing leaders.”

In January, the school invited several alumni to provide support, guidance, and encouragement to students as part of the program. Josefina Munajj, MSN ’96, welcomed the opportunity.

Munajj, who recently retired after 35 years as a nurse midwife, recalls that the mentoring she received as a student from an obstetric nursing instructor at UCLA had a lasting impact on her life and nursing career.

“Having someone you can ask whether the steps you’re taking are the right ones is so valuable,” Munajj says. “And it’s important to give back by sharing your own experiences with someone else.”

“If I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Student Betty Angerville, who has been paired with Munajj, says conversations with her mentor will help her to clarify her career path: “I value Josefina’s input about the different areas of nursing and my various career options.”

Natasha Hamilton Melbourne, BSN ’98, MSN ’00, is also serving as a mentor through the program. She says that it took her several years—some of them devoted to another course of study altogether—to discover that nursing was her true vocation.

“I always told myself I would not let other people go through what I went through,” says Melbourne, now a nurse manager in the Surgical Services Department at Miami Children’s Hospital. “So if I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Nursing student David Lee Bridges, who has been paired with Melbourne, hopes to gain knowledge about the local job market. “It’s great to know somebody who knows the places where you might seek employment,” Bridges says.

When Melbourne recently received a promotion at work earlier this year, she shared the news with Bridges.

“I wanted to let David know that, even in this rough economy, nursing offers opportunities for advancement,” she explains. “That sort of information is really encouraging for students who are wondering what their future holds.”

Alumna Natasha Melbourne shares her insights with BSN student David Bridges through the New Careers in Nursing mentorship program.

DPT PROGRAM DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANKING</th>
<th>Consistently among the top 10 nationwide; currently #7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>Department of Physical Therapy, Coral Gables Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACULTY</td>
<td>19 academic faculty members, as well as 13 clinical faculty who are practicing physical therapists at University of Miami Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNSHIPS</td>
<td>Available at more than 400 sites around the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICENSURE PASS RATE</td>
<td>92–98 percent over the past five years, compared with national mean of about 80 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALUMNI MENTORS PROVIDE VALUABLE ADVICE

Illuminating Conversations

In January, the school invited several alumni to provide support, guidance, and encouragement to students as part of the program. Josefina Munajj, MSN ’96, welcomed the opportunity.

Munajj, who recently retired after 35 years as a nurse midwife, recalls that the mentoring she received as a student from an obstetric nursing instructor at UCLA had a lasting impact on her life and nursing career.

“Having someone you can ask whether the steps you’re taking are the right ones is so valuable,” Munajj says. “And it’s important to give back by sharing your own experiences with someone else.”

“If I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Student Betty Angerville, who has been paired with Munajj, says conversations with her mentor will help her to clarify her career path: “I value Josefina’s input about the different areas of nursing and my various career options.”

Natasha Hamilton Melbourne, BSN ’98, MSN ’00, is also serving as a mentor through the program. She says that it took her several years—some of them devoted to another course of study altogether—to discover that nursing was her true vocation.

“I always told myself I would not let other people go through what I went through,” says Melbourne, now a nurse manager in the Surgical Services Department at Miami Children’s Hospital. “So if I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Nursing student David Lee Bridges, who has been paired with Melbourne, hopes to gain knowledge about the local job market. “It’s great to know somebody who knows the places where you might seek employment,” Bridges says.

When Melbourne recently received a promotion at work earlier this year, she shared the news with Bridges.

“I wanted to let David know that, even in this rough economy, nursing offers opportunities for advancement,” she explains. “That sort of information is really encouraging for students who are wondering what their future holds.”

Alumna Natasha Melbourne shares her insights with BSN student David Bridges through the New Careers in Nursing mentorship program.

Academicspotlight

Honors PT program provides unique opportunity for high-achieving students

Joint Partnership

More people surviving into old age. Athletically inclined “boomers.” A growing number of joint replacement surgeries. For varied reasons, society’s need for physical therapists is on the rise.

The University of Miami is helping meet that need through an accelerated honors program in physical therapy. Based on test scores and grades, eligible applicants to the freshman class are invited to apply to the program. Those admitted receive early admission to the Miller School of Medicine’s highly regarded Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program after completing specific requirements.

Following their first year in the BSHS pre-physical therapy track, students who have achieved a 3.7 GPA may also apply to the physical therapy scholars program, which allows them accelerated access to the DPT.

“This is a great way to recruit exceptional students because you can offer them an accelerated program and a streamlined process for getting into physical therapy,” says Sherrill Hayes, PhD, PT, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the Miller School.

Students are often drawn to careers as physical therapists because of personal experiences. “Many of our students are former athletes who received physical therapy for career-ending injuries,” Hayes says. “Then they became interested in PT as a career.”

Brittany Oliver and Haley Gordon are health studies honors students on the fast track to careers as physical therapists.

The program’s location in the School of Nursing and Health Studies “creates a nice atmosphere, and the advising is amazing,” says freshman Haley Gordon, who looked at several schools before choosing UM.

Freshman Brittany Oliver—a former dancer who became acquainted with PT while receiving therapy for her own injuries—says the program “is exactly what I wanted, and was a huge factor when deciding whether to come to UM.”

“It’s a great program for students who are sure that they want to have a career in PT to get ahead of the game.”

The program’s location in the School of Nursing and Health Studies “creates a nice atmosphere, and the advising is amazing,” says freshman Haley Gordon, who looked at several schools before choosing UM.

Freshman Brittany Oliver—a former dancer who became acquainted with PT while receiving therapy for her own injuries—says the program “is exactly what I wanted, and was a huge factor when deciding whether to come to UM.”

“It’s a great program for students who are sure that they want to have a career in PT to get ahead of the game.”

The program’s mentorship component complements the role modeling and mentoring already provided for students by the school’s highly diverse faculty, which includes many Hispanic, African-American, and male professors and instructors.

“One of the primary goals of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to promote nursing as a profession,” says Dean Nilda P. Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN. “The mentorship program enriches the educational experience of our students because it enables seasoned nursing leaders to share their insight with emerging nursing leaders.”

In January, the school invited several alumni to provide support, guidance, and encouragement to students as part of the program. Josefina Munajj, MSN ’96, welcomed the opportunity.

Munajj, who recently retired after 35 years as a nurse midwife, recalls that the mentoring she received as a student from an obstetric nursing instructor at UCLA had a lasting impact on her life and nursing career.

“Having someone you can ask whether the steps you’re taking are the right ones is so valuable,” Munajj says. “And it’s important to give back by sharing your own experiences with someone else.”

“If I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Student Betty Angerville, who has been paired with Munajj, says conversations with her mentor will help her to clarify her career path: “I value Josefina’s input about the different areas of nursing and my various career options.”

Natasha Hamilton Melbourne, BSN ’98, MSN ’00, is also serving as a mentor through the program. She says that it took her several years—some of them devoted to another course of study altogether—to discover that nursing was her true vocation.

“I always told myself I would not let other people go through what I went through,” says Melbourne, now a nurse manager in the Surgical Services Department at Miami Children’s Hospital. “So if I can help guide people and let them know what nursing truly has to offer, I will do it.”

Nursing student David Lee Bridges, who has been paired with Melbourne, hopes to gain knowledge about the local job market. “It’s great to know somebody who knows the places where you might seek employment,” Bridges says.

When Melbourne recently received a promotion at work earlier this year, she shared the news with Bridges.

“I wanted to let David know that, even in this rough economy, nursing offers opportunities for advancement,” she explains. “That sort of information is really encouraging for students who are wondering what their future holds.”

Alumna Natasha Melbourne shares her insights with BSN student David Bridges through the New Careers in Nursing mentorship program.
Whether caring for children and families in rural Haiti or designing a curriculum to improve patient safety in Latin America, the School of Nursing and Health Studies plays a pivotal role in shaping health care throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. With its recent designation as a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Collaborating Centre, the school is poised to extend its leadership even further. One of just 11 such centers in the United States, the school’s WHO center will pursue a vast and varied agenda designed to advance patient safety and workforce development. “The global nursing shortage and the migration of nurses out of their home regions are critical workforce issues that impact patient safety,” says Nilda P. Peragallo, DRPH, RN, FAAN, dean and professor, who serves as director of the center. “Collaborating with international leaders in the profession will greatly increase our ability to find solutions and ultimately improve patient safety throughout the Western Hemisphere.”
The United States has made great strides in creating a culture of patient safety. Peragallo says, and the University plans to share those lessons with regional leaders through a culturally tailored, virtual course in patient safety. The University also will invite regional faculty to workshops on patient safety and to explore recruitment and retention strategies.

Five years ago, Peragallo reached out to the National University Andrés Bello, in her native Chile, to help develop the nation’s first doctoral nursing program. The program graduates its first eight students this year.

“The program is critical to preparing new researchers and visionary leaders, and the involvement of the UM School of Nursing and Health Studies has been integral to its development,” says Luz Angelica Muñoz, dean of Andrés Bello’s nursing school. Andrés Bello plans to develop a doctoral in nursing practice program like that recently launched by the school.

The school also plans to create other postgraduate training opportunities such as post-baccalaureate certificate programs at partner institutions around the hemisphere. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti faces unique health care challenges, including high rates of HIV infection and maternal mortality. With just one physician for every 17,000 people, much of the health care falls to auxiliary nurses who receive only the most basic training, says Marie Chery, a faculty member who lives year-round in Haiti’s Central Plateau.

According to Chery, nurse anesthetists, in particular, are at a prime in the Haitian countryside. “Having more [nurse anesthetists] available in rural areas will make it possible to perform more surgeries in a timely fashion,” she says. “This will help save many people’s lives.” Ultimately, whether geared to improving clinical nursing resources or designing new curricula, all of the programs developed by the school’s WHO center will be tailored to the working conditions and culture of the countries in which they’re implemented.

“We do not have all the solutions,” Peragallo says. “Countries have their own challenges and must develop their own strategies to address them. But we can share insights that we have gained from our experience.”

Marika Lynch is a freelance writer in Miami.
Nursing students help UM workers stay well

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

The contract employees who maintain University facilities and infrastructure have direct access to some special maintenance services themselves, thanks to a series of health fairs staffed by UM nursing students.

Conducted since 2004, the sessions are part of UM’s Contract Employee Enrichment Program, which offers educational and health assessment and awareness classes for workers employed by UM contractors. Offered on the Coral Gables, Miller School, and Rosenstiel School campuses in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, a series of health fairs last fall and this spring drew more than 150 employees. UM nursing students provided presentations on varied health concerns as well as cholesterol, vision, blood pressure, and body-mass index screenings.

“The health fairs allow us to provide hands-on, highly diverse experience to our students while helping Human Resources meet its outreach goals,” says faculty member Rosemary Hall, PhD, RN. She notes that the students who work at the fairs have received appropriate training through coursework, skills labs, and clinics. “Any student who is interested in participating will have an opportunity to do so,” Hall says.

“The caring and professionalism of the nursing faculty and students create a sense of trust among our workers,” says Cecilia Calderon Saleburg, contract employee health care coordinator for human resources at UM.

Senior Erica Vergara conducted screenings and educational sessions at three employee events last fall. “I enjoyed the opportunity to raise awareness on health issues while building my skills,” she says.

Andrew Jett, an accelerated BSN student, handled glucose and cholesterol testing at health fairs on both the Gables and medical campuses. “The experience was very gratifying,” he says. “It opened my eyes to the need for community health screenings and the possibilities of providing for the uninsured.”

“I enjoyed the opportunity to raise awareness on health issues while building my skills,” says student Ivette Cardelli.

Insights to Improve Outcomes

Improved documentation of medical errors over the past several years has inspired tough new standards for health care reimbursement—and added urgency to the ongoing quest to improve patient safety around the nation.

The recently launched Patient Safety Group, a collaboration between the School of Nursing and Health Studies and University of Miami Hospital, will nurture patient-safety-oriented studies designed to advance nursing knowledge and improve patient outcomes. “We have an opportunity to do important work together that will benefit both the school and the hospital,” says Denise Korniewicz, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior associate dean for research and director of the initiative.

“Our two organizations have a strong commitment to working together to implement evidence-based research to improve nursing care delivery,” says David Zambrana, MBA, RN, chief nursing officer at University of Miami Hospital.

In addition to enhancing patient outcomes and improving hospital care, Zambrana points out that such efforts yield rich learning opportunities: “Nursing students are our future nurses. It’s our job to provide access to all the learning experiences that we offer.” Zambrana’s commitment to nursing education has a personal component: He is a member of the first cohort of the school’s recently launched Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Opportunities for improvements in patient safety are legion, says Korniewicz: “They range from ways to increase compliance with hand hygiene procedures to new technologies that prevent medication errors, pressure ulcers, and even falls among patients.”

“As technologies grow more complex and pressures to move patients through the system intensify, the problem grows exponentially,” Zambrana says. “Making sure we have the right patient at the right time for the right procedure involves elements including team communication, patient identification, and patient education and empowerment.”

Even research projects that focus on seemingly straightforward low-tech interventions are extremely time-intensive. “It takes a long time to develop a study design and evaluate the outcomes,” Korniewicz says. “We need to account for faculty time.”

Group members have submitted research proposals for projects ranging in duration from one to three years to professional organizations, foundations, and the National Institutes of Health. The national stimulus plan, which allocates dollars to patient safety initiatives, is another potential funding source.

According to Zambrana, University of Miami Hospital itself will likely underwrite some of the group’s initiatives, such as a study to demonstrate the effectiveness of the hospital’s nurse-based vascular access program for patients who require intravenous medication after discharge.

“An important angle is that nursing is usually thought of as a cost anchor because we don’t generate revenue,” Zambrana observes. “We’re in an excellent position to demonstrate that advanced practice nurses working with evidence-based research can positively impact both outcomes and the bottom line.”
Alumna and her husband support the school with unique gift

Charity Begins at Home

“By donating their home to us, this alumna and her husband are truly and forever members of our family.”

The University of Miami Citizens Board awarded a special nursing scholarship this year in memory of Joyce Galya, AB ’73, MBA ’84, a loyal Miami Hurricane who served as director of the corporate fundraising arm of UM for nearly three decades. Long a champion of nursing and nursing education, Galya passed away last fall. The scholarship recognizes her passion for the University and deep personal commitment to improving the quality of life in South Florida through education.

Scholarship recipient Conchita Freitag, RN, BSN, BSC, is a nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital with a gift for teaching. The scholarship will enable her to complete her MSN in clinical education at UM. A dedicated patient advocate, Freitag offers workshops on topics ranging from chemotherapy and substance abuse to healthy lifestyles for adolescents. She participates regularly in community health fairs and is a facilitator for the Quit Smoking Now program.

“Earning my MSN will allow me to become a more effective patient advocate, a better teacher, and a researcher for best practice,” says Freitag. “This scholarship gives me hope that, despite these tough economic times, prayers are answered!”

The generosity of alumni and friends has nurtured the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies for six decades, making possible extraordinary achievements in teaching, research, and clinical care. As the school looks ahead to new challenges and exciting opportunities, those who make a commitment to the institution will make all the difference in its success.

The school works to ensure that donors benefit from their gifts. In addition to the satisfaction of knowing you have made a difference in the lives of others, the best gift plans improve your financial and tax situation, often right away. The Office of Estate and Gift Planning at the University of Miami can assist you in exploring opportunities that help you plan for tomorrow while receiving maximum benefits in these uncertain economic times.

For further information, please contact: Cynthia L. Beamish, Esq., Executive Director Office of Estate and Gift Planning University of Miami (305) 284-2914 or toll-free (800) 529-6935 cbeamish@miami.edu

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS A ‘CANE’S VIBRANT COMMUNITY SPIRIT

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS

Meeting Goals, Making a Difference

Charity Begins at Home
Always a Nurse at Heart

Kathy Zeoli, BSN ’75, MD ’79, admits that she wasn’t the “easiest student” when studying nursing at the University of Miami in the early 1970s. “I was always questioning everything,” she recalls. “So one of my nursing instructors suggested that I consider going to medical school after getting my nursing degree!” These days, with so many advanced nursing education options available, such a conversation might never take place. Still, Zeoli doesn’t second-guess her choice. Perhaps that’s because, even though she is now a dermatologic surgeon, she still considers herself a nurse. “Once a nurse, always a nurse,” she says. “I take care of patients with an empathetic, whole-person approach. I just happen to have an MD approach. I just happen to have an MD nurse,” she says. “I take care of patients herself a nurse. “Once a nurse, always a nurse.”

After earning her BSN, Zeoli found that she was extremely well prepared for medical education, and not just because of the premed courses she’d taken while in nursing school. “I was way ahead of the typical medical student when it came to patient teaching, empathy, and technical medical skills,” she recalls. “I was way ahead of the typical medical student when it came to patient teaching, empathy, and technical medical skills.”

The 1980s

Henrietta J. Paca, BSN ’81, works in private practice and has her own law firm, The Law Offices of Henrietta Pace, specializing in real estate transactions, foreclosures, and mortgage modifications. She is married and has three children: Samuel Jr., JiVanna, and Amanda.

Louise Santanna, BSN ’82, MSN ’91, MBA ’91, is currently working as a senior interface requirements engineer for CardinalHealth CareFusion products. She first became involved with clinical information systems as an installation consultant and clinical business analyst on both the hospital and vendor side of applications.

Maria Elena Torres, BSN ’84, MSN ’89, is a family nurse practitioner and diabetes specialist at St. John Bosco Clinic in Miami, Florida. She was recently awarded the American Diabetes Association 2008 Valor Award. She was also a finalist for the South Florida Health Foundation’s Concern Award, receiving $10,000 to benefit St. John Bosco Clinic.

Helen Costa, BSN ’84, MHA-SA, JD, received her master’s degree in health services administration at Florida International University and her Juris Doctorate at St. Thomas University. She is currently at a law firm in Miami Lakes, Florida, and is the administrator and director of nurses for MedPro HomeCare Services, a licensed home health care agency in Miami-Dade County. She is currently working on Medicare and Children’s Health Insurance Program modifications. She is married and has one child.

Dawn Holcomb, BSN ’87, RN, recently relocated from Indianapolis, Indiana to Wellington, Florida, where she has three daughters and five grandchildren.

She resides. She works as a full-time clinical project manager for Eli Lilly and Co., and will be traveling to Indianapolis regularly.

The 1990s

Audra Nutton Lopez, BSN ’90, MSN ’93, ARNP/CNP/C, CNE, is currently working as a nurse practitioner for the Liver Transplant Program at Broward General Medical Center. She is actively involved with the International Transplant Nursing Society and Life Alliance Board of Directors. She has been married to her high school sweetheart since 1990 and has three children.

Angela Parish Russell, PhD ’92, ARNP-C, FNPC-C, ANP-C, COHNC-C, is currently division administrator/clinical coordinator for the Parkinson Disease and Movement Disorders Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Department of Neurology. She was promoted to the position of trauma team manager at Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Ryder Trauma Center in February 2008. She continues to live in Plantation, Florida, with her husband and two children.

Natasha Hamilton Melbourne, BSN ’98, MSN ’00, was promoted to nurse manager of the Surgical Services inpatient unit at Miami Children’s Hospital. She recently pursued her entrepreneurial spirit and purchased a mobile coffee cafe franchise with her husband. As part of the franchise’s commitment to the community, they participated in KAPOW (Kids and the Power of Work) through Miami-Dade County schools. They sponsored several students for summer camps and participated in many community fundraisers over the past year.

Julie Luengas, BSN ’98, has accepted a clinical nurse informatics specialist position with the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Jaidee Salameda Saavedra, BSN ’98, MSN, worked at Mercy Hospital in the open heart intensive care unit after graduating with her BSN and went on to become the assistant nurse manager there. She then obtained a Master of Science in anesthesiology from Barry University in May 2007 and has since returned to Mercy Hospital to join the anesthesiology group, Sheldon Healthcare, which has an anesthetics contract at Mercy.

Jane Denight, BSN ’99, MSN, opened a small cosmetic practice on South Beach called Solee Gyn. She is a fellow of the ASCCP and was honored to be selected to join Tom Cole, MD, in a renowned cervical cancer and HPV expert, to be part of the ASCCP Committee on New Technologies and Generational Learning. Her Solee Gyn practice was highlighted by AHA for its unique health care approach and featured in the online publication HIV NEWS.

The 2000s

Sonique Sailman, BSN ’00, MSN, worked as a staff nurse resource in the cardiac ICU at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta for eight years. She then obtained her MSN in nursing education from Drexel University in 2009 and is currently a clinical instructor at Georgie Peiere College.

Karen O. Stewart, Esq, BSN ’10, JD ’03, graduated magna cum laude from the UM School of Law in 2003. She now practices white-collar criminal defense and represents clients with catastrophic personal injuries at the Collison Hicks Edlund law firm in Coral Gables. She recently attended our Alumni Association meeting and looks forward to getting more involved in the school.

Fran Civitelle Downs, BSN ’01, MSN, recently became a doctoral candidate in the doctoral nursing program at Barry University. She is writing a qualitative research proposal on the lived experience of seasonal affective disorder and recently wrote an article for the Sigma Theta Tau International column. “Always a Nurse,” she is very pleased to be acting as a community leader mentor to an accelerated option UM student, Luke Stokes.

Joan Tligman, PhD ’03, is the associate dean of master’s education at Helene Fuld School of Nursing at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Julie M. Rodriguez, BSN ’04, RN, is a nursing instructor for specialty clinical care at Keiser College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Joanna Solorzano Saavedra, BSN ’05, RN, worked for the past seven years as a care coordinator and director of medical/surgical services in the MICU Level III 15-bed unit. She recently pursued her entry-level certification through the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and is currently working in the cardiac ICU at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta for eight years. She then obtained her MSN in nursing education from Drexel University in 2009 and is currently a clinical instructor at Georgia Perier College.

2010s

Donna Hoffman (Swang), BSN ’78, has been married for 28 years to Pat Hoffman. She has two sons, Matthew, 24, and Michael, 24, and one daughter-in-law, Raelyn. She has been working for the past seven years as a clinical service representative for SCA/Tena and currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee.

Isabel Ayers, BSN ’75, MSN ’78, was recently promoted to vice chair of the ADLN Nursing Program at City College on the Fort Lauderdale Campus.

Nancy Koppel Kuniansky, BSN ’77, MSN, has had a very successful and rewarding career in public health and family practice. She now works at a church-based health care center for the medically uninsured and aspires to earn her DNP in the future.

Donna Hoffman (Swang), BSN ’78, has been married for 28 years to Pat Hoffman. She has two sons, Matthew, 24, and Michael, 24, and one daughter-in-law, Raelyn. She has been working for the past seven years as a clinical service representative for SCA/Tena and currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee.

Linda Blackburn Brown, BSN ’06, has worked for the past six years as a care coordinator RN at South Miami Hospital. Recently she has been spending most of her time in the OB unit, which recently opened a new NICU Level III 15-bed unit. She enjoys contributing to the school and keeping in touch as an alumna.

Beverly Fry, RN, BSN ’92, is currently working for the Center for Nursing Excellence at the Baptist Health System through the Fresh Start for Nurses grant from the Health...
Facility Notes

Todd Ambrosio, PhD, DNSN, MSN, FNP-BC, FACC, assistant professor, has been appointed as a facility ambassador with the US National Health Service Corps, HRSA, to represent the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies and schools with health-related pro-
grams. He had been active in this posi-
tion for five years, while at the Uni-
versity of Maryland, and is now rede
gnated for the University of Miami.

Valerie Bell, MSN, MACP, CRNA, associate program direc-
tor and director of simulation, nurse anesthesia program, recently presented “Use of Sim-
ulation to Promote and Evaluate Student Registered Nurse Anes-
thetist Learning, When the Learners Become the Simulation Providers: Preparing the Next Generation of Simulation Specialists” at the Society of Simulation in Healthcare and in the “Boot Camp: Preparing MSN Students for the Unknown” session at the AACN Master’s Education Conference in Orlando, Florida. Resina Gianelli, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, associate professor, has given several presentations nationally and internationally, including “Knowledge Development for HIV Prevention in Latino Women as Part of El Centro” at the NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities in Washington, DC; “Issues for HIV Prevention Among Low-Income Latino Women” and “Domestic Vio-

cence Substance Abuse and its Relation with HIV/AIDS Among Low Income Latino Women” at the 19th International Nursing Research Conference: Facing the Challenge of Healthcare Systems in Transition in Jerusalem, Israel; and “Intervention Improves HIV Prevention Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors for Chilean Health Care Workers” at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, Mexico. She has published “Issues on HIV Prevention Among Low-Income Latino Women: Machinismo, Marianismo and HIV Misconcep-
tions” in Culture, Health and Sexuality; “HIV/AIDS Issues and Mapuches in Chile” in JANAC Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care; and “Comu-
nicación de Parajos y VIH en Mujeres en Desventaja (Partner Communication and HIV in Low-Income Women)” in Revista Horizonte de Enfermería.

Joseph DeSantis, PhD, RN, AIRNP, ACNP-Adult-Gerontological, assistant professor, recently published “Using an Integrative Literature Review to Explore the Concepts and Resilience in the Context of HIV Infection” in Research and Theory for Nursing Practice; “The Rela-
tionship of Depressive Sympto-
tomes, Self-Esteem and Sexual Behaviors in a Predominately Hispanic Sample of Men Who Have Sex With Men” in Ameri-

can Journal of Men’s Health; and “Depressive Symptoms, Self-


Maria T. Garrido, MSN, FNP instructor, recently presented “Using Videoed Simulation Case Scenarios as Method to Teaching Students in the Masters in Nurs-

ing Education on the Use of Clinical Evaluation Tools” at the AACN Master’s Education Confer-
ence in Orlando, Florida. Resa Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, assistant profes-
sor, recently presented “Understanding the Relationship Between Cultural Factors and Substance Abuse, Violence and Risk for Sexually Transmitted Infections: A Syndemic Approach” and “Locating Recruiting, Enrolling and Sam-
ping Hispanic Men for Research” at the 20th Interna-
tional Nursing Research Con-
gress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice, Sigma Theta Tau International, in Cancun, Mexico. She also presented “La Mancha, Marrano and Hidalgo: Narrative Knowledge of Health among Spanish Speaking Hispanic Men” at the 34th Annual National Associa-
tion of Hispanic Nurses Con-
ference in San Antonio, Texas. She has published “Contempo-
rary Homicide Risk among Women of Reproductive Age” in Women’s Health Issues; “Intimate Partner Violence, Depression and Resource Availability among a Community Sample of His-
panic Women” in Issues in Men-
tal Health Nursing; and “Trauma and Violence” in Women’s Mental Health: A Clinical Guide for Primary Care Providers. Elaine Kaaschinger, PhD, MS, FNP-BC, professor and clinical nursing instructor; published “A Participatory Action Research Pilot Study of Urban Health Dis-
pairing Using Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation” in American Journal of Public Health. She was the only nurse/nurse practitioner involved in this interdisciplinary research journal article. Denise M. Korniewicz, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and senior associate dean for research, has given several presentations including “Reduction of Needle Stick/Sharp Injuries During Surgery” and “A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial Examining the Effectiveness of a Protected Fluid Pathway Needle-free IV Connector.”

Faculty member Joanna D. Sikkema, MSN ’78, BSN ’72, is playing a leadership role in the national dialogue about Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) education. In her new role as chair of the writing committee of the Ameri-
can Nurses Association Council of Clinical Practice for the DNP, she will provide guidance and oversight for the development of a position statement in support of the DNP as a ter-

minal degree in nursing. The School of Nursing and Health Studies, which has offered a research-focused PhD in nursing since 1985, launched its DNP program this past January.

The ANA writing committee is com-
posed of representatives working in both academic and clinical practice settings across the United States. The document they create will focus on articulating the complementary roles of the PhD and DNP in advancing nursing science and practice. It will also include a discussion of education, credentialing, and clinical practice issues surrounding the DNP. Upon completion, it will be posted on the ANA’s Web site for public and professional comment. Sikkema is a board-certified adult nurse practitioner who has practiced in administrative, clinical, and academic roles for over 30 years. She is past president of the Preventive Cardiovascular Nursing Association and a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascu-
lar Nursing. She presently serves as a clinical instructor at the school and director of its acute care nurse prac-
titioner program.
Ten Questions for DNP Student
Jacqueline Cereijo, RN, BSN ’03

1. BACKGROUND/HOMETOWN: I was born in Cuba, the eldest of three sisters. I decided to immigrate to Miami during my last year of medical school. It was a difficult decision because I left behind my lifelong dream of becoming a physician. I have been studying ever since I arrived in February 1994. This country gave me the opportunity to be successful in my professional career and to enjoy the freedom I did not have in my original country.

2. DEGREES EARNED: Nursing Associate Degree, transitional program from Miami Dade College, 2000; Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UM, 2003; Master of Business Administration, Nova Southeastern University, 2008. I am currently in the first class of DNP students at UM.

3. CURRENT POSITION: I’m the nurse manager of the OPD! Spine Clinic at the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Among my many responsibilities, I supervise and optimize efficiency of clinical operations, supervise primary care nurses and other staff, help develop nursing standards for the specialized clinic, and develop and implement performance improvement programs in compliance with JCAHO standards and other regulatory agencies.

4. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE U M? I think it’s important to obtain a graduate degree from an organization that is a leader in research; offers excellent programs; has highly qualified doctoral faculty; offers a holistic, multicultural approach in its nursing curriculum; and embraces multicultural alumni. UM’s nursing school is among the nation’s best, and its programs are designed to accommodate working professionals while maintaining an excellent nursing curriculum.

5. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NURSING? Nursing embraces everything I want in a profession. It prepares you to do so many things—from research and teaching to bedside care, administration, and performance improvement. Nursing is more interesting and dynamic than any other career.

6. WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE UM EXPERIENCES AND HOW HAVE THEY CHANGED YOU? As an undergraduate in a community health class, I was assigned to work with a pregnant 14-year-old. I taught her about women’s health, diet, and pregnancy complications; as well as how to take care of herself and her baby while dealing with her difficult economic situation. This experience really broadened my view of nursing to encompass everything around our patients so that we provide quality care and ensure successful outcomes.

UM is also memorable for its flexible, accessible faculty. In one of my classes, I was able to go to Miami Children’s Hospital to meet one of my professors at her place of work. She was always available to help us. That taught me that we can find time and space at any moment, no matter how busy we are, if we really want to help others.

7. CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Nurse of the Year from the Site Disease Group, UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, 2005; Member of the National Brain Tumor Foundation Financial Aid Committee Review, 2006; Trophy from UM/JMH for continuous participation as a nurse volunteer in the ING Miami Marathon, 2007.

8. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND HOBBIES: I love traveling, reading, and dancing. I volunteer for the yearly career day at Winston Park K-8 Center, where I speak about nursing. I’m also a volunteer parent for the Boys Scouts, since two of my sons are scouts.

9. FUTURE PLANS/GOALS: My current role as a nurse manager poses challenges that require me to enhance my knowledge about nursing theory and practice on a regular basis. That’s why I chose to pursue the DNP! I enjoy making positive changes in my organization and the nursing profession. I have made it a personal goal to teach our community about nursing and encourage people to consider the profession as a career option.

10. ADVICE TO STUDENTS: Relish and take an active role in your education and professional life. Highly educated nurses are needed to make positive changes in our profession and our health system. You have the power to make a difference.