Serving Vulnerable Populations
Mark your calendars. The University of San Diego Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science’s

1ST ALL-CLASS NURSING REUNION WEEKEND

October 10th through the 12th, 2008.
At the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, San Diego, CA

Be on the lookout for more details in the near future.
Hope to see you there!
The Facts

Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science:

- **Top 7% of U.S. Graduate Nursing Schools**
- Doctoral- and Post-Doctoral-Level Faculty
- Four American Academy of Nursing Fellows on Faculty
- Over 1500 Alumni, including 150 with Doctorates
- Alumni direct Hospitals, Nursing Schools, and the Armed Services, including the First Nurse Admiral and Deputy Surgeon General

- **Degree Programs:**
  - Registered Nurse Master of Science
  - Master's Entry Program in Nursing
  - Advanced Practice Master's or Professional Doctorate
  - Executive Nurse Leader—MSN/MBA and/or PhD
  - Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing
- One of Only 5 PhD Nursing Programs in California

- **New Doctorate in Nursing Practice Program: Fall 2008**
  - Only Nursing Program in U.S. to receive ARCS Foundation Scholarships
  - First Migrant and Latino Health Care Programs in Southern California
  - First Master's Entry Program in Nursing in Southern California
  - New Palliative Care Course in June 2008 through partnership with San Diego Hospice

- **Unique International Nursing Program Serving Vulnerable Populations in San Diego, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Uganda**
  - Office of Nursing Research with focus on Translational Science and Evidence-Based Nursing Practice
  - State-of-the-Art Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory
  - Preceptor Program including over 200 Nurse Practitioner and Physician Preceptors
Dear Colleagues,

Over the past three decades, our graduate school has taken seriously its mission to educate intelligent, skilled, and ethical nurse clinicians, scientists, faculty, and executives. We have graduated over 1500 nurses, 150 with the Doctorate, who serve as healthcare leaders around the globe. We have doubled our number of student scholarships and now celebrate the largest student body in our school’s history.

Our ranking continues to be one of the world’s finest, and this is due to a stellar faculty, very talented students, a remarkably aesthetic setting, and our school’s special spirit. Our faculty now boasts four Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing—a most distinguished honor. Our faculty hold doctoral or post-doctoral degrees from the finest schools in the country. They publish widely in respected journals, preside as officers in national and international nursing organizations, and are skilled certified practitioners, specialists, or executives. Joining us this year are Lois Howland, DrPH, RN, Harvard University and Post-Doctorate, Virginia Commonwealth University; John Lantz, PhD, RN, Texas A & M and Post-Doctorate, Administration on Aging; Visiting Professor Karen Skerrett, PhD RN, Psychology and Human Development, University of Chicago; and adjunct Clinical Professor Ken Kern, MD, Harvard Medical School and MPH, University of Connecticut.

In the past year, we have launched our Office of Nursing Research, directed by Cynthia Connelly, PhD, RN, FAAN, and staffed with research methodologists, statisticians, and grant writers. Our new Office for International Nursing, headed by Anita Hunter, PhD, RN, FAAN, coordinates local and international health missions in which students and faculty join together in integrated research-learning-service projects that actualize our mission as a private school with a public conscience. Our Simulated and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory contains an array of simulation computerized mannequins, and houses our unique Standardized Patient Program, which uses specially designed case studies and actors to portray clinical cases for teaching and testing our students.

Susan Instone, DNSc, RN, CPNP, our Director of Advanced Practice Nursing Programs, and our faculty have designed our new Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Scheduled to begin in fall 2008, initially as a post-Master’s program, the DNP will include a Clinical Residency and Translational Science or Evidence-Based Clinical Research project. A most unique feature of our DNP program will be its option or bridge to the PhD in Nursing.

With county, state, federal, and foundation grants, and the generous gifts of alumni, faculty, staff, and other donors, we have renovated most of the school. We are thankful to our clinical partners Palomar/Pomerado, Scripps La Jolla, and Scripps Mercy, who have provided support for their top nurse executives and clinicians to enter our programs. We are grateful to over 200 San Diego Nurse Practitioner and Physician Preceptors, who donate their time and talents to prepare our next generation of Advanced Practice Nurses.

Our students are women and men who represent many faiths, ethnic groups, and geographical regions, but they all share certain things in common—intellectual curiosity, critical thinking skills, and a compassion for their patients.

Please mark your calendars for the weekend of October 10th through 12th, 2008, when we will celebrate the ALL-CLASS NURSING REUNION—the first in the history of our wonderful school! Watch for more information in the future.

Wishing you the best of health and the best in your professional career.

A Message from

Dean Sally Brosz Hardin, PhD, RN, FAAN

Sally Brosz Hardin, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
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USD NURSING TIMES
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Cover: Anita Hunter, faculty, sitting with children in church on Palm Sunday in Uganda.
Back Cover:
USD: A Leader in Advanced Nursing Education

For students choosing advanced nursing, the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science (SON) provides a highly relevant education by integrating teaching, research and practice.

The SON prides itself on educating advanced practice nurses who are capable of stepping into leadership positions within the changing field of nursing and healthcare. Our PhD program, for example, educates nurses to become nursing faculty and to educate other nurses, enabling us to help alleviate the critical nursing shortage. In addition, nurse practitioners are able to see patients in primary care settings, alleviating the shortage of primary care physicians. Moreover, other advanced practice nursing graduates are able to manage acute-care specialty areas, freeing physicians to use their skills in more specialized ways.

By providing outstanding and personalized teaching, exciting research opportunities with nursing faculty, and supervised practica in underserved communities (both in nearby San Diego, as well as in Mexico and Uganda), the SON graduates highly qualified nurses. In addition, helping these underserved communities is one way that the School of Nursing actualizes its commitment to being a “private school with a public conscience.”

The School has been educating nurse leaders for nearly 35 years and has graduated more than 1500 students, including 150 with doctoral degrees. It established one of the first nurse practitioner programs and the first doctorate in nursing in Southern California and the only one in the San Diego area. The School also has the first MEPN program in California outside the Bay area and the first migrant and Latino healthcare subspecialty. It is one of the first nursing schools in the country to offer standardized patient examinations, the gold standard in medical schools, but rare in nursing schools.

Because of its outstanding programs and faculty, and its supportive yet demanding environment, USD attracts high-quality students with a range of experience. Some, like Joanne Gribble, who has a doctorate and long career in communications, are new to nursing. Others, like Doug Elmore, have been in the field for many years and return for more education. Although Elmore was an RN for 14 years, he feels that the diverse faculty, curriculum, research and clinical projects gave him new perspectives.

“The program benefits everyone, no matter the level of their experience,” he says. Students have a wide range of interests, as well. For example, Matthew Simone, who recently received his master’s degree as a family nurse practitioner, is interested in helping vulnerable rural populations. He now is working in Kotzebue, Alaska, a town located about 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Other students, like Patricia Hanes, PhD, MSN, MA.Ed, came to USD in order to further her ability to conduct research and to teach. Hanes recently completed her dissertation on the readiness of nurses for dealing with combat casualties and methods to improve those skills.

“I love USD,” says Hanes, assistant professor at Azusa Pacific University. “It was a magnificent experience; a life-changing experience in a very supportive, nurturing program. I would say that I felt connected to USD from my first visit.”

Hanes chose the USD PhD program in part because it offered flexibility and autonomy other programs did not. She credits her USD doctorate for enabling her to become faculty moderator elect, equivalent to being head of the faculty senate, at Azusa Pacific.

“That is the kind of thing that is easier to accomplish with a PhD,” she says.

Whether close to home, or far away, whether in a clinical, research, or academic setting, USD nursing graduates are well prepared to be leaders in their chosen field.
The program trains actors of all ages, genders and ethnicities to portray specific types of clinical conditions. The nursing faculty trains actors to exhibit and complain about a standard set of symptoms with corresponding behaviors, so one actor does not exhibit more pain than another, for example.

“This is a very important way for nurse practitioner students to get hands-on experience without subjecting actual patients to their learning process,” says Karen Macauley, MSN, RN, CFNP, clinical assistant professor and standardized patient program coordinator. Macauley has written most of the clinical cases used in the program. Macauley also notes that having standardized patients is rare among nursing schools, but is the “gold standard” for medical schools. Recent data suggests that of the more than 600 accredited schools of nursing in the country, approximately 15 have standardized patient programs.

Diane Fatica, MSN, RN, CFNP, CANP, clinical assistant professor, trains and supervises the actors, which is enormously complex and time consuming.

Students are videotaped during their interactions with standardized patients, allowing faculty to coach, provide feedback, and assess the development of the students’ critical thinking and diagnostic skills, as well as their bedside manner. Standardized patients enable students to practice new skills and knowledge in a structured laboratory setting within a non-threatening, supportive environment.

Doug Elmore, a family nurse practitioner student with 14 years experience as an RN in an intensive care unit (ICU), says the experience was “a great way of transitioning into advanced practice nursing. My anxiety was through the roof at the idea of having a living, breathing patient and being videotaped,” he adds. “But we learned the fine tools of how to conduct yourself in front of patients. It was invaluable.”

Elmore notes that he learned a lot from the actor in the process of doing the pelvic exam. The actor made sure the students understood the vulnerability women feel during that exam and helped the students be much more sensitive.

The program is housed in the Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory. In addition to the standardized patients, nursing students of all levels have the opportunity to learn procedures on simulated patients, a.k.a. computerized mannequins.

The mannequins are very specialized with anatomical parts that enable students to place needles and catheters. Some are programmable to include physiological sounds and variable heart rates and respiration rates, for example. The high-end mannequins, which also have emotions and can cry or exclaim as if something hurts, are jokingly referred to as “Cadillac Man,” “Cadillac Junior,” and “Cadillac Baby.”

As with the standardized patients, simulations are standardized so that faculty can be sure that each student learns the essential skills and knowledge required to take care of patients in actual clinical settings. This year, thanks in part to a grant from the State of California, faculty hope to extend the standardized patient program and simulations curriculum to students in the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN). Macauley says that this spring MEPN students also will work with both the actors and the computerized mannequins by interacting with the actor and then performing a skill, such as inserting a tube, on the mannequin.

“Although the Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory is labor intensive and expensive,” says Macauley, “the education it provides is priceless.” The students agree.

“The experience you walk away with is irreplaceable,” says Elmore.
When Anita Hunter, PhD, RN, FAAN, and director of the Office of International Nursing, answered the knock on her office door one day in 2006, little did she know it would add another dimension to her international nursing experience.

Standing on the threshold were Tom Thomas, a member of the San Rafael Church in Rancho Bernardo, and Father Bonaventure, a visiting priest in San Rafael parish who lives in Mbarara, Uganda. Father Bonaventure brought with him a goal, shared by his Archbishop, Paul K. Bakyenga, to build a children’s hospital in Mbarara. They dreamed of saving thousands of children in Uganda from dying of malaria and other infectious diseases.

Thomas, chair of the Holy Innocents Children’s Malaria Hospital NGO, brought Father Bonaventure to the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science to see if someone there could help them. They came to Hunter’s door.

Hunter, a certified nurse practitioner, had spent close to a decade traveling to Ghana twice a year to help run a field clinic in the fishing village of Sekondi. As rewarding as that experience was for her and the nurse practitioner students she took with her, the travel was so grueling that she did...
Sometimes a hospital can be viewed as a place to die, not as a place to get better. It is crucial that the community views the children’s hospital as a place to get well.
Hunter noted that the most successful projects were ones in which western visitors served as educators and consultants, with the goal that a hospital or program become self-sustaining.

not expect ever to return to that continent.

However, after hearing about Father Bonaventure’s hopes, Hunter said, “I need to go there. I didn’t expect to go back to Africa but I felt called to this project.”

So last spring, just seven months after that first knock on her door, Hunter took six students — Matt Cerchie, Joanne Gribble, Robin Simms, Matt Simone, Dave Webb and Kelly Woods — on a special kind of spring break. Traveling to Mbarara takes two days each way, and once they arrived, the team scoured the 400 square miles of the region in five days to determine where a children’s hospital might be built.

On the sixth day of their trip, Hunter and the students (all of whom are in the master’s program and are either registered nurses or family nurse practitioners) presented a report to the 16-member Mbarara community advisory board. The advisory board, which includes physicians, nurses, and administrators from the other area hospitals and several priests and nuns, will oversee and guide the hospital once it is built. Hunter’s group concluded that the community truly put the welfare of children first, that they did believe a children’s hospital was important and that they would use it.

The next step is to determine ways in which the community can support and maintain the hospital. Although the church will help pay for the staff salaries, the community also needs to value and support the project.

“We need to find a way for the community to own this as their venture and to buy into it,” says Hunter. “It might mean being part of the construction team, or working to keep the hospital clean while their child is there. Anything to make them say ‘this is mine and I’m proud of it.’”

Hunter learned many things in Ghana that apply to the Mbarara project. She observed that if something were offered for free, it was not valued. In Ghana people abused the free services offered by the Ghanian government or western medical volunteers. Once patients had to pay a fee, abuses no longer occurred.

Hunter discovered that it was important to identify and embrace healthcare methods that already worked, including traditional medicines, which may have been abandoned in favor of western ones. She also learned how important it was for the community to buy into the hospital. Sometimes a hospital can be viewed as a place to die, not as a place to get better. It is crucial that the community views the children’s hospital as a place to get well.

In the spirit of teaching someone to fish instead of giving them a fish, Hunter also noted that the most successful projects were ones in which western visitors served as educators and consultants, with the goal that a hospital or program become self-sustaining. That approach is far more effective at reaching large numbers of people. In Ghana, for example, Hunter calculates that she helped impact the lives of 60,000 people. In Uganda, she imagines about 10,000 children a year will be helped.
“But this work not only helps those people,” says Hunter. “It helps our nursing students learn about and experience cultural diversity, and be prepared for what they will see in their daily lives in the U.S. as they deal with immigrant populations.”

The children’s hospital is not an SON project, Hunter points out, and this is key to its success, she says. Although members of the School of Nursing are lending their services and expertise, it is a project run by the community of Mbarara.

Still, the School of Nursing has generated a lot of interest throughout the campus for the project. When Hunter returns in January she will have not only four of the original six students with her, but Patricia Marquez, visiting professor of business administration, with four MBA students, and Jim Bolender, professor of chemistry, and two undergraduate chemistry majors. Nursing participants will work with physicians and nurses in Mbarara to make sure they are prepared to work in a specialty hospital; business participants will explore ways to sustain the hospital, perhaps through micro businesses; and the participants from chemistry will investigate ways to prevent water contamination from the hospital and to decrease mosquito breeding as a way to reduce malaria.

In addition, members of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice and the Youth Ministry Department hope to become involved in developing environmental, life skills or conflict resolution programs to help children and their parents live more successfully in a country besieged by violence.

This kind of collaboration among USD, the Mbarara community and the San Rafael Church benefits everyone, Hunter notes. “This project enables the School of Nursing to lead a consulting team to really help a community in need,” says Hunter. “In addition, faculty are able to lend their expertise in a wide range of ways and students not only provide valuable labor, but also learn critical skills.”

When it is built, the Holy Innocents Children’s Hospital will not be an American hospital, but a Ugandan one. Built on the model of a village, the community of parents can create a setting in the center of the hospital ground that mirrors their traditional community. In Uganda, parents and other family members come to feed, bathe and comfort their children during a hospital stay. “When the environment looks like home, families are more comfortable, they take better care of the facility and collaboration among the child, healthcare provider and parents is improved,” says Hunter.

The hospital will include these features:
- Single story
- Five pods, forming a circle
- Families stay in the circle’s interior
- Structure designed for comfort and to conserve resources
  - vents to enable air flow
  - rain collection units
  - solar panels, generators and electricity options
- Windows surround each pod
  - with screens
- 40-bed units in each pod
- Space for
  - community education
  - outpatient care
  - immunizations
Cynthia D. Connelly
Named Director, Office of Nursing Research

On July 1, 2007, Cynthia D. Connelly, PhD, RN, FAAN, was appointed director of the recently established Office of Nursing Research. This office will help strengthen the research efforts of faculty and students in the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science by supporting and encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, research, and scholarship.
Dr. Connelly is an active mentor to students and a role model for faculty with regard to research.
The creation of the office, as well as the expansion of the PhD nursing program, signals the School’s continued and growing commitment to research and translational science.

Research support services will be provided by Andrea L. Hazen, PhD, and Dale Glazer, PhD, methods and statistics; Michelle Totoris, budgetary and technical support specialist; Zoe Abrahams, librarian to facilitate literature searches; and Shanna Trenholm, foundation grant writer. Dr. Connelly will provide leadership and will oversee the research goals and general operations of the office.

Dr. Connelly is an active mentor to students and a role model for faculty with regard to research. She is increasing the school’s research efforts by initiating collaborations across healthcare settings. Several of her current projects include: 1) integrating palliative and curative care within pediatric intensive care in collaboration with Rady Children’s Hospital and Health Center; 2) improving the identification and treatment of maternal depression among immigrant women in collaboration with San Diego County Health and Human Services, Department of Public Health Nursing; 3) developing culturally relevant intervention strategies to reduce risks of cardiovascular disease and diabetes in overweight children and their parents in collaboration with Dr. Kathy S. James (PI); and 4) improving interventions to prevent drug abuse and intimate partner violence with grants funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

“Cynthia facilitates our whole research mission,” says Dr. Patricia Roth, EdD, RN, director of the PhD program. “She has been instrumental over the last few years in partnering with several major medical centers to encourage nurses to enter the doctoral program. That connection enriches us all. The students bring real-world problems here and take back ways to analyze and collect data to help solve those problems.”

Professor Connelly’s extensive research focuses on the health of families. She is internationally recognized for designing innovative strategies to identify and manage the triad of depression, intimate partner violence, and substance abuse in women. Dr. Connelly has been a leader in helping various support systems, such as community, pediatric, perinatal, child welfare, and legal, to work together to provide the best care for at-risk women and their children.

Dr. Connelly received her RN from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, MSN from the University of San Diego, and PhD from the University of Rhode Island – Kingston. She completed a NIDA-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is also a research scientist at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is an active member of the Society for Prevention Research and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

“She has been instrumental over the last few years in partnering with several major medical centers to encourage nurses to enter the doctoral program. That connection enriches us all. The students bring real-world problems here and take back ways to analyze and collect data to help solve those problems.”

Cynthia Connelly working with a student to develop her research project.
Dr. Kathy James’s research into childhood obesity is one of many projects being undertaken through the Office of Nursing Research. James is researching the effectiveness of a family oriented, culturally sensitive program to decrease obesity in low-income, ethnically diverse children. Childhood obesity, a growing health issue in our society, has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, and has been shown to predict obesity in adulthood.

Dr. James’s study, “Families on the Move Program” (FOMP), began in the spring of 2007. FOMP is a twelve-week interactive program that targets 7-12 year olds and their families, with follow-up over the course of a year to determine the program’s effectiveness. Dr. James has enrolled 24 families since the study began in an elementary school in San Diego. In her preliminary studies, she found that among the enrolled families, 75 percent of parents and children already had elevated cholesterol and triglyceride levels before beginning her project.

FOMP works to decrease sedentary activity, increase physical fitness, and improve the understanding of risks associated with obesity. The program also seeks to educate parents about behaviors that affect the diet, activity, and health of their families.

James is now in the process of fine-tuning her program for use with a wide variety of Hispanic populations. For example, she has had the parent workbook translated into Spanish, has provided on-site translators, and has designed the lessons to take cultural dietary differences into account. In addition, at the beginning of the program, mothers meet in focus groups to talk about their family health concerns, how they feel about becoming more active as a family, and the factors that make it hard to eat healthy. The groups also discuss family traditions and parenting practices that center around food.

“It’s been neat to see the transformation in reports from the children and their moms,” said Dr. James. “They aren’t watching as much TV, and are going for more walks and eating healthier. The mothers are taking control of their homes and the kids are becoming more active.”

The participants are learning how to read nutrition labels and understand what types of foods are healthy and what types to avoid. They are gaining valuable knowledge about how to create a healthier environment for their families. The families each set their own goals and are responsible for attaining them. Parents are becoming stronger and better role models for their children. The children also are enthusiastic about learning healthier eating habits.

One of the participants, Yolanda Chilapa, emphasized how the program has helped her family.

“[I have] learned how to read nutritional labels and the kids have as well,” she said. “They are the ones who read them in the store. They are putting in the effort to know what not to eat and how to eat healthy.”

Dr. James is an associate professor at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. She has 20 years of clinical experience providing weight management services to families in group and individual settings. Author of Dr. Kathy’s Health and Weight Loss Guide, Dr. James is also on the California Medical Association Foundation and California Association of Health Plans task force, which has completed a “Pediatric Overweight and Obesity Provider Toolkit.” She has published several articles and is well regarded as an expert in the care of obese families. Luz Gracia, a pediatric nurse practitioner student, and Nicole Morena, a PhD student, have helped Dr. James in her research.
However, little attention has been paid to the need for another important reform he proposes: the removal of bureaucratic measures that limit the public’s ability to choose a nurse practitioner, or NP, as a health care provider. The Governor’s proposal reflects policy recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, a think tank that provides evidence-based, independent advice about the state of the nation’s health. In the Institute’s 2001 report, Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century, the regulatory barriers to the full scope of NP practice were found to contribute to the shortage of primary care providers. Not much has changed since then.

There are currently over 14,000 NPs in California. NPs are licensed registered nurses who complete graduate programs that prepare them to provide comprehensive healthcare to individuals and their families by promoting wellness, preventing illness, and alleviating suffering. They are also educated to diagnose and treat patients who are acutely ill or dealing with chronic disease, and they are certified in their specialty through national board examinations. NPs collaborate with other health professionals, including doctors, through consultation and referral, in the same way that primary care doctors utilize specialty physicians and others when needed. Within a few years, NPs will earn a doctor of nursing practice - a doctoral degree similar to those now awarded in many other health professions, such as pharmacy and physical therapy.

As nurses first, NPs recognize that the attainment of good health can be an elusive goal that is often complicated by social, emotional, or spiritual crises that play havoc on physical well-being. That is why the hallmark of NPs’ practice is their ability to create a climate of trust with patients, respecting their dignity, cultural values, and spiritual needs. With this foundation,
NPs teach patients about their health and coach them to make lifestyle choices to feel better and stay well. These added dimensions of NP practice, beyond the diagnosis and treatment of disease, are how NPs distinguish their care from the practice of medicine, and why the terms “physician extender” or “mid-level provider,” ignore the full range of services NPs provide. If this sounds like the kind of care you would like for yourself and your family, you’ll have to look hard since under current California regulations NPs cannot own their own practice or be designated as primary care providers on most managed care plans. Few of us have the option to select a NP as our healthcare provider because of outdated regulations that do not recognize their 40-year history of safe and effective practice. Access to NPs in our state is limited by the requirement for physician supervision, even though there is no data to support the need for such oversight. However, 23 other states, including the District of Columbia, currently authorize NPs to practice independently. All of our neighbors to the north (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) and most to the east (Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico) are examples. Nevertheless, some physicians have suggested that the health and safety of patients would be at risk if they received care from NPs without a doctor in charge. In the absence of any evidence to support this assertion, it is curious why this myth is perpetuated.

Fortunately, the California legislature is following the Governor’s call for NP reform with a legislative agenda based upon a wide range of bi-partisan support. For example, Assembly Bill 1436, sponsored by Assemblyman Ed Hernandez, D – West Covina, proposes the creation of a nurse practitioner scope of practice (California is currently the only state without a definition of NP care) that authorizes NPs to obtain patient histories, perform physical exams, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and implement a plan of care, including prescribing medicines as needed, without physician supervision. The bill does require that NPs shall consult or refer the patient to a physician or surgeon or another health care provider if the referral will protect the health and welfare of the patient.

These reforms will make it possible for California NPs to play a greater role in the health and well-being of our citizens. Given the alarming rise in rates of obesity and diabetes, the high death toll from smoking, and the overuse of emergency rooms by non-critically ill patients, it makes sense to utilize the knowledge and skills of all health professionals in our state to the fullest. NPs should be no exception.

– Published April 27th, 2007 in the San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial Page
Lois Howland, DrPH, RN

We welcome Lois Howland, DrPH, RN, to our faculty as an associate professor. Dr. Howland earned her doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health with a major concentration in maternal and child health and minors in biostatistics and health policy. She received her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she majored in maternal-child nursing and completed training as a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Howland primarily is interested in understanding the impact of psychological stress within families. Her doctoral dissertation focused on how negative life events and stress affect the quality of life and immune function in children with HIV infection.

Howland also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical research at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing, where she explored ways to appraise maternal stress among mothers of hospitalized preterm infants. Biological markers of stress, such as stress hormone levels, immune function, and cytokines were measured along with behavioral measures such as level of depression, perceived stress, and social support. Her most recent paper, “Preterm Birth: Implications for Family Stress and Coping,” was published last year in Newborn and Infant Nursing Reviews.

Howland recently returned from leading a group of students on a trip to Miacatlan, Mexico, where they provided health screening and education to hundreds of children and adolescents at the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage. In future trips, Howland and students will explore ways to assess and decrease maternal stress among Miacatlan women.

In our master’s program, Howland teaches “Theoretical Foundations and Research” and “Nursing Practice with Mothers and Newborns.” To keep her clinical skills current, she also has a part-time clinical position in maternal/child health at Scripps Memorial Hospital.

“Since my arrival at USD,” said Dr. Howland, “I have been so happy to discover warm and enthusiastic support from the faculty in the School of Nursing. The students work extremely hard balancing work, school, and family. It is a privilege for me to support them in this process.”

Dr. Howland has been researching ways to identify and reduce stress and increase self-compassion among nursing students. Trained in “Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction,” an approach developed at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Howland has offered nursing students stress reduction training. She has demonstrated significant decreases in students’ perceived stress, and increases in self-compassion as well as improved attention and focus.

Dr. Howland serves on the board of directors of ServeHAITI, a faith-based nonprofit organization, which provides services to a socially and medically underserved population living in the mountainous region of Grand Bois, Haiti.

Dr. Howland has taught maternal/newborn and pediatric nursing at UCSF, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and West Virginia University. She also has taught at the Graduate School of Nursing, University of Massachusetts-Worcester, and has worked as a case manager and clinical research trials study coordinator in the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trial Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

We look forward to her long and mutually-satisfying career here at the University of San Diego!
Alumna Linda Urden Shows Power of Doctorate

Linda Urden (DNSc ’89), RN, CAN-BC, FAAN, is a strong proponent of the power of a nursing doctoral degree.

Her own nursing doctorate, one of the first awarded by USD, has enabled Urden to be both a scholar and to practice healthcare in clinical settings. As executive director of nursing quality, education and research at Palomar Pomerado Health (PPH) and clinical professor at USD, Urden believes having a foot in each camp is beneficial.

“Each one informs the other,” she says. “The ‘reality’ of the clinical setting helps me bring a different perspective to the classroom and the scholarly part of me brings new insight to the clinical setting.”

Urden believes doctoral nurse specialists will become a strong presence in the hospital setting and her passion has inspired others to earn their doctorate. For example, since joining PPH as the only nurse with a doctorate, six other nurses at the hospital have begun doctoral programs at USD. Some of them are participating in the doctoral scholar-in-residence program Urden established at PPH that supports nurses, both financially and with workload adjustments, to pursue a doctorate. Urden was the inspiration for a seventh nurse to pursue a doctorate in hospital administration.

Urden also inspires people in other ways. She is the co-author of two books on critical care nursing, each in its fifth edition. As the coordinator of USD’s Executive Nurse Leader Graduate program, Urden also shares her passion and experience with School of Nursing students. In that position, she helps prepare students for leadership positions in healthcare settings.

In her drive to excel and inspire others to excel, Urden also has poured a lot of energy into the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program, which “is a program that provides standards and, really, a roadmap to ensure that excellence in nursing practice is achieved.”

Alumna Ritha Bookert Opens Clinic in Rural Mississippi

School of Nursing Alumna Ritha Bookert, MSN, RN, FNP, knows about serving vulnerable populations. Bookert, who earned her master of science in nursing from USD in 1995, opened Langford Family Health, Inc. in March, 2007. The clinic, which is located in rural Mississippi, serves children who are eligible for Medicaid.

Mississippi provides free healthcare for children, ages birth through 21. The program, known as Mississippi Cool Kids, includes screening for vision, hearing, lead levels and developmental delay, as well as medical checkups, referrals and follow-up treatments. However, the number of Medicaid providers in the area has decreased and access to this kind of preventative healthcare is very limited.

“Access to care is improved because of me being here,” says Bookert, “I had a woman call me just the other day. She had called nine medical offices and not one of them takes Medicaid. When I told her we did she was just so happy.”

In Rankin County, where Bookert’s clinic is located, she is one of only about 10 such screeners. Bookert runs the clinic on her own, with the help of a part-time receptionist and some students in the medical assistant program at the nearby Virginia College. Bookert also has developed relationships with physicians in the Brandon area so that she also can provide care to adults, as a family nurse practitioner. Moreover, Bookert is working toward her doctorate in public health through Walden University.

Bookert had originally returned home to Mississippi to work at a rural community health clinic under the National Health Service Corps. She also developed her own non-profit healthcare education program in 2001. The program, “Sharing the Vision,” provided healthcare education in non-traditional settings such as churches and daycare centers.

Bookert attributes her success and perseverance to her faith in God, family support, and her former nursing instructors at Chicago State University and the University of San Diego, with whom she stays in touch.
As the new Director of Development, I want to introduce myself and say how much I appreciate the opportunity to work for the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. I have worked for more than 20 years in business development for medical groups, acute care hospitals and healthcare companies, both nationally and locally. I am excited to help the School of Nursing build its individual, foundation and corporate donor base. My most immediate goal is spreading the news about all the important things the School is doing. The more people learn about all the ways we are helping solve many serious healthcare issues, the more support we will have for our mission.

We are so grateful for the generosity of hundreds of donors who have helped to build this exceptional nursing program. Our donors give for many reasons. Alumni are grateful for the excellence of their academic experience and the personal mentoring they received from professors. Friends often are grateful for the nursing care provided to their loved ones during illness or hospice experiences. All of our donors share a love of the nursing profession and a respect for the unique contributions of the Hahn School.

Unique, we are! First and foremost, as a Catholic institution, we embody the best of Catholic Social Teaching, in which health care is considered a human right and the dignity of all persons is valued. These principles are the foundation of our curriculum. In addition, our educational approach is very “hands on.” Our students don’t just learn clinical skills in pristine settings. They also sharpen their skills while providing care to vulnerable patients in San Diego, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and in Uganda. Our nurses learn to care for vulnerable populations in difficult environments, with limited resources and cultural and economic challenges. Accordingly, we produce nurses with better judgment, more empathy, and stellar clinical skills.

Secondly, we are the only school of nursing in San Diego that educates nurses only at the graduate level. Why is this important? Because we are a driving force in solving the nurse faculty and advanced practice nurse shortage. Our PhD graduates become faculty, a key factor in addressing the nursing shortage. Our advanced practice nurses give direct primary care, and design and supervise hospital systems and specialty programs. Our master clinical nurses provide expert clinical nursing at the bedside.

Thirdly, as a School of Health Science, we also are dedicated to research. Our faculty, students and graduates conduct research that drives healthcare policy and evidence-based nursing practice in hospitals and other healthcare institutions. We are the only nursing program in the country whose students have received Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) scholarships. ARCS is a 50-year-old national educational foundation that last year distributed $4.5 million to 43 schools for the support of the graduate education of scientists.

We have been so successful in so many ways that we are bursting at the seams! Our enrollment is the highest it has ever been. Our new programs, the Office of Clinical Nursing Research and the Office of International Nursing, already are underway and are housed in faculty offices. The Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory is located in the annex down the hill from the School of Nursing and is filled to capacity. Faculty offices and classrooms are now fully utilized.

Consequently, our next development goal will be The Center for Clinical Nursing Research and Practice. This Center can house the Office of Clinical Nursing Research, the International Nursing Research and Practice Programs, the Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory, and offices and conference rooms for research faculty and doctoral students. We will need your support to make this goal a reality.

The beauty of nursing philanthropy is that your gift is multiplied thousands of times over by the number of patients and families touched by one nurse. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. For giving information please visit our website at sandiego.edu/academics/nursing/giving.php or contact me at (619) 260-4730.
Donor/Giving Spotlight

Martin and Carol Dickinson

Martin and Carol Dickinson understand the need for highly skilled nurses is at a critical level. One way to ease the shortage, they believe, is to invest in education.

Through the Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Foundation, named for Martin’s parents, the couple began donating to the University of San Diego’s Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science in 1999. The foundation has given generously to the school ever since.

“We’re impressed by the quality of students, their backgrounds, and they’re from all different walks of life,” says Martin, who is also the foundation president. “Every year when we meet the students who attend the school, we’re always greatly impressed by their passion for what they’re doing.”

The Dickinsons’ most recent scholarship donations have supported USD students in the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing. The program, launched in 2002, is geared toward people who have earned degrees in other fields and are seeking a new career in nursing. The University of San Diego is the first university in California with the program and still remains the only college in Southern California to offer it.

“In the medical industry there’s a crisis in nursing,” Martin says. “Of all the organizations dedicated to fulfilling this mission to help the nursing industry, we feel USD does the best job.”

Dick and Kaye Woltman

Because Kaye Woltman’s mother spent her career as a nurse, Kaye has always taken great pride in that profession.

It’s a big reason why Kaye and her husband, Dick, support education for nursing students and healthcare organizations. Dick Woltman was a trustee when the University of San Diego nursing school was established and currently is a trustee for Scripps Mercy Foundation Board of Trustees. Kaye is a member of the USD Board of Trustees, and also sits on the boards of Scripps Health and San Diego Hospice.

The couple has supported nursing education at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science in a number of ways, for example by donating to the innovative Master’s Entry Program in Nursing, which helps those who have been in other careers gain the education and training needed to become a nurse.

In addition to their investment in the university’s nursing programs, the Woltmans have also contributed to the nursing school’s capital campaign.

“We think it is essential to support education because it is one of the keys which will furnish the opportunity to unlock the American dream. Education is the opportunity to provide knowledgeable and thoughtful leaders,” Kaye says. “We have provided scholarship funds for nurses at Scripps Mercy Hospital and the USD nursing scholarship program; both are very worthwhile causes. Also, by providing graduate nursing education, this may help provide nurses who can one day become teachers and educators.”
Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science:
A Year in Pictures 2007

1. Students visiting Teotihuacan, Mexico while studying language immersion and healthcare in Mexico.
2. Clinical Placement Coordinator Nancy Gaffrey, MSN, RN, CNS (center) speaking with students at the 2007 Christmas Party.
3. Dr. Kathy James and Twila Noble enjoying the SON’s first Research and Poster Presentation Day.
4. Members of the ARCs Foundation presenting a scholarship check to President Mary Lyons (fourth from right), Director of the PhD Program Patricia Roth (third from right) and the ARCS Scholars.
5. Dr. Sandra Walsh signing one of her watercolor paintings at the 19th Annual Janet Rodgers Lecture.
6. Students enjoying the sunshine at the All-School Barbeque.
7. Student Sean Dullano presenting a research project outside the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.
8. Dr. Susan Instone congratulating Susan Marder at the 2007 Nursing Honors Convocation Ceremony.
9. (From Left to Right) Dr. Jaqueline Fitzpatrick, Barry Fitzpatrick, Dean Sally Brosz Hardin, Elizabeth Smoyer, Walter Smoyer, and Don Smoyer enjoying the annual Masters Entry Program Dinner.
Scholarly Review

Faculty, Student and Alumini Publications

PUBLICATIONS

2006 ----------------------


Faculty/Student Presentations

KEYNOTE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2006


2007


INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS:

2006


2007


James, Kathy. (2007, April). *Just for kids-A school based program to improve fitness and nutrition.* Podium presentation at the Western Institute of Nursing, Portland, OR.


Lo, Shu-Ling '06 (PhD), Birgersdotter-Green, Ulrika, & Roth, Patricia. (2007, November). *A critical analysis of predisposing factors of inappropriate shock in ICD recipients.* Paper presentation at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, Orlando, FL.


Mueller, Mary-Rose, & Instone, Susan. (2007, May). *Beyond the informed consent procedure: The informed consent process in human research.* Paper presentation at the 2007 Qualitative Analysis Conference, Atlantic Centre for Qualitative Research and Analysis, St. Thomas University and University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, NJ.

Rutkowski, Elaine. (PhD [c]). (2007, April). *The relationship among self efficacy, obesity risk knowledge and physical activity in families of adolescents.* Poster presentation at the Western Institute of Nursing Research Conference, Portland, OR.


Urden, Linda. (2007, October). *The staff nurse perspective on a change in skill mix.* Paper co-presentation at the International Nursing Administration Research Conference, Indianapolis, IN.


2007  ----------------------


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**2006  ----------------------**

**Georges, Jane.** (2006, October). *Navigating the IRB process at USD*. Paper presentation at the USD Center for Teaching and Learning, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA.

**Georges, Jane.** (2006, December). *Understanding new paradigms for nursing science*. Paper presentation at the Hahn School of Nursing, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA.


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**2007  ----------------------**


**REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS**

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**2008  ----------------------**

2008


Doctoral Dissertations


Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
Donor Honor Roll 2007

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science would like to acknowledge those who have contributed to the growth and success of our school in the past year. Your gifts have been greatly appreciated.

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