

SCHOOL OF NURSING

CHRIST-CENTERED EXCELLENCE, CARING – CONNECTING – EMPOWERING

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING IS ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION IN NURSING

FALL 2024

100% NCLEX Pass Rate

Congratulations to the Fall 2023 AS Cohort!
We are so proud of these new registered nurses.



The School of Nursing graduated 203 students in 2023: 99 AS, 21 pre-licensure BSN, 52 RN-BSN, 28 MSN, and 3 DNP degrees. The total number of graduates was up from 186 in 2022. God has blessed our graduates.

100% PASS RATE. The fall AS graduates achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN. Their success was celebrated with a delicious homemade lunch. A financial reward is another benefit, if they tested within 90 days of graduation and had a “green light” predictor of success in their ATI study/review program.

MORE GOOD NEWS. We had 18 pre-licensure BSN students graduate in May 2024. All 18 have passed the

NCLEX-RN. This is the first pre-licensure BSN group to achieve a 100% pass rate for their cohort. Additionally, almost all the May 2024 AS graduates have taken and passed the NCLEX-RN too – so far, another 100%. We’re on a great roll!

Graduate student success on Nurse Practitioner certification exams for graduates of December 2023 and May 2024 also stands at 100%

We have an outstanding faculty team who set students up for success. We are proud of our dedicated students who go out and make a difference in the world!

GIVING DAY SUCCESS (MILLER HALL/SIMULATION LAB UPDATE)

Thank you to everyone who generously donated this year to the School of Nursing during Giving Day 2024. Of the \$36,212.06 in gifts and prizes from our campaign, \$13,422.06 was designated for general use in the Miller Hall simulation center project, and \$16,080.00 was donated to a named conference room in honor of former faculty and staff. Additional funds have been received since Giving Day. Friends and family of Bonnie Hunt '54, are ensuring students will have a beautiful and comfortable lounge and study area through their donations. Four patient beds and two stretchers just arrived from AdventHealth. The interior demolition is nearly complete, and electrical, plumbing, and other renovations are progressing. We anticipate moving in and beginning use of the center in the fall of 2025.



FOND REMEMBRANCES

Gary Roberts, '00 and '01, (1977-2024) was born in Kenya to missionary parents Bob (a pilot) and Jan Roberts (a nurse), Gary grew up in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) immersed in mission work. Following in his father's footsteps, he obtained his pilot's license. When he arrived to Southern as a freshman in 1997, he met his future wife Wendy Byard, '01, in his first pre-nursing course, Anatomy & Physiology. Their paths would cross again in nursing classes where love blossomed. They graduated nursing together with their BSN degrees in 2001. And they even got engaged at a local airport before uniting their lives and pursuing mission service together.

Gary and Wendy served in Guyana for four years. Their family grew during this time to include their two children, first Kaleb, and shortly after leaving Guyana, their daughter Cherise. They then accepted God's call to Africa, spending nine months in Cameroon before moving to Chad. In Chad, Gary ran the new aviation program while Wendy set up a nutrition center

Photos: (Top) Gary with his plane.

(Bottom) Gary and Wendy at their graduation from Southern Adventist University in 2001.



for malnourished babies. It was during their time in Chad that tragedy struck, and they buried their 4-year-old son Kaleb in 2009. Only five years later, in 2014, heartbreaking loss hit again when Gary's father died in a mission plane crash in Indonesia.

In the wake of deep loss, Gary, Wendy, and Cherise moved to Indonesia, where Gary stepped up to serve in his father's place for Adventist Aviation Indonesia for 10 years. He even flew the replacement mission plane over 10,000 miles to bring it to Indonesia. This was not the first or the last time that Gary would fly a plane thousands of miles to deliver it to a mission station. His daughter even got to accompany him on one of his recent transcontinental delivery flights.

Gary's countless mission stories will be shared with generations to come: from delivering a baby while flying a plane in Guyana, to airlifting a baby elephant when he served in Africa, to discovering a "Sabbath-keeping" dog in a remote village in Indonesia. Through his work across multiple continents, he repaired and maintained planes and supported countless villagers, missionaries, and medical workers with medical aid, supplies, transport, and encouragement. He is missed deeply by his family: his wife Wendy, daughter Cherise, mother Jan, brother Eric, sister Stephanie (14), and his extended family and many friends. He leaves a legacy of service — an example for all — of how God can work through one person who is dedicated to Him and willing to serve without hesitation.



Ina Longway, prior chair of the nursing department during the Southern Missionary College years from 1975 to 1981 passed away at the age of 99 on June 25, 2024. Born in Singapore to missionary parents, Gustavus and Norma Youngberg,

Ina grew up in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Observing her parents teach the local people about Jesus, agriculture, and healthy living, as well as seeing her parents minister to the sick and needy inspired Ina for her lifelong journey of teaching, providing nursing care, and leading.

Ina was an eager learner who received her BS degree in nursing from Loma Linda University, and then went on to get her master's and doctoral degrees in nursing (San Jose State University in California and University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama respectively). She taught nursing, held leadership positions in nursing education at several locations, and used her expertise as a nursing education consultant. Her last 15 years before retirement were spent helping establish graduate education including public health at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines.

Ina served her church in many ways. She loved Pathfinders and youth. She housed students and provided financial support to many students. Her 99 years modeled our School of Nursing values of caring, connecting, and empowering.

NURSING HONOR CLASS ALUMNI HONOREES

The School of Nursing recognized several nursing alumni during the 2023 Homecoming Weekend for distinction in practice, education/certification, leadership, and/or service.



**Class of 1973
(ASN 50 year)
Callie McArthur**



**Class of 1973
(BSN 50 Year)
Beverly Spurgeon
Bretsch**



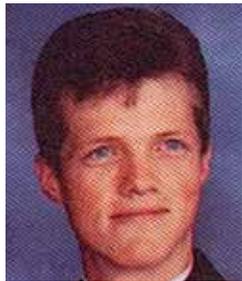
**Class of 1983
(BSN 40 year)
Ruth Sandstrom
Kamieneski**



**Class of 1993
(BSN 30 year)
Heidi Hansen
Donavan**



**Class of 1998
(BSN 25 year)
Laura Hunt Ashlock**



**Class of 2003
(BSN 20 year)
Beaver Eller**



**Class of 2013
(MSN 10 year)
Angela Coates**



**Class of 2013
(BSN 10 year)
Kayla MacLafferty
Goia**

Southern's next Homecoming Weekend will be October 24-27, 2024! "Alumni of the Year" recipients will be selected from honor classes 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2014. Consider nominating a nursing alum who has achieved distinction in practice, education/certification, leadership, and service. Please email your nomination to the nursing office at barbj@southern.edu or call 423-236-2155 and leave a message.

OTHER ALUMNI RECOGNITIONS

Christopher Chandler, '01, '07, and '10, MSN, was presented with the Amazing Person and Provider Award for December 2023 at CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. "Chris is a valued member of our hospitalist team, and we are blessed to have such an advocate in our organization," said one of Christopher's colleagues. He received his master's degree with a Family Nurse Practitioner emphasis in May 2010.



Judy Dedeker, '86, '91, '06, and '19, DNP, received Southern Adventist University President Ken Shaw's President's Award for Community Service Excellence. Dedeker is a volunteer family nurse practitioner at the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) clinic, which serves the uninsured and underinsured in the Chattanooga area. She has volunteered for almost 10 years,

typically doing two or three clinics per month, providing approximately 500 hours or more per year. Dedeker received her DNP degree as an Acute Care Specialist in May 2019, teaches in the School of Nursing graduate program, and is the Graduate and MSN Program Coordinator.

Adelaide Durkin, '21, DNP, and Andrew Richards, PhD, RN, had an article published in the March 2024 edition of *PubMed National Center for Biotechnology of Information, National Library of Medicine* titled: "Sleep Quality and the Intention to Modify Sleep Behavior Among Night-Shift Nurses."

Nickie Sink Rosario, '14, '16, '18, MSN, was presented with the Amazing Person and Provider Award for March 2024 at CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. "Nickie is excellent in providing care for her patients. She will spend time answering questions, talk with the family and make sure everybody feels at ease with their plan." She received her master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner in December 2018.

WELCOME

Thankfully, God blesses us with good people and lots of talent to replace those who leave. This summer we are welcoming four new people as faculty and staff.



MICHAEL JORDON

Jordan and his wife Karla recently moved to the Collegedale area from California where Michael was working at Adventist Health-White Memorial as director of integrated research and bioethics. He has more than 30 years of nursing experience in various settings and is a PhD candidate at Duquesne University. He states God placed it on his heart to serve Adventist nursing students and his community by devoting the duration of his nursing career to educating the next generations of nurses.



SCOTT VANDIVIER

Vandiver is not new to the School of Nursing as he lives in the community and has been a clinical instructor for the Southern for several years. His nursing career has included work in emergency, critical care, cath lab, and other settings. Most recently, he has been a clinical coordinator for Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, where he worked with all the local schools to schedule their clinical rotations within the hospital. At Southern, he will work on the other side as our undergraduate clinical coordinator, ensuring students have clinical placements at various agencies. Scott has a master's degree in nursing education.



JOHN SINGLETARY

Singleton comes from Texas with a rich background in community health, hospice, palliative care, nursing leadership, and clinical staff development. He has completed associate's and bachelor's degrees in nursing and brings the additional benefit of having a bachelor's degree in theology. He anticipates completing his master's degree in nursing within the next few months. His outgoing personality and engaging teaching style are sure to make students love community health.



EDELWEISS VON MAACK

Von Maack, '93 and '94, is not a stranger to Collegedale or the School of Nursing, having received two nursing degrees (AS and BSN) and a post-master's certificate from Southern. She has an MSN degree from the University of Maryland in nursing administration. Edelweiss is a certified adult-gerontology nurse practitioner with a rich background as an RN, and in advanced practice roles, and leadership. She moved from Washington state to join our graduate faculty.

RETIREMENT AND FAREWELLS

It is hard to say goodbye to those who are retiring or leaving, but we choose to focus on the joy of having them with us for many years. We have been richly blessed!



HOLLY WALKER

Walker, '03 and '05, joined the School of Nursing faculty in 2018. She was one of the first graduates of our accelerated RN to MSN FNP program. Her journey as a student here helped her learn more about Jesus and the Adventist church and created a desire to give back through teaching. She has taught FNP and AGNP students, sharing her clinical expertise, life lessons, and love for Jesus. We will miss her but know her family and patients will appreciate her additional availability.



BECKIE RETZER

Retzer, '14, joined the School of Nursing faculty in 2016 and has primarily worked to help students learn community nursing. She initiated mission trips to Kentucky, where students work alongside AdventHealth personnel to serve individuals with significant health and social disparities. Students note how impactful these trips are. We wish her a happy retirement.



RONDA CHRISTMAN

Christman, PhD, joined the School of Nursing faculty in 2013 and has taught at undergraduate and graduate levels. She has never met a stranger, is a talented networker, is always cheerful, and has a

ready smile. Her love for Jesus shines strong, and we wish her the best in her new undertakings.

FRANCES JOHNSON



Johnson, '79, DND, spent 15 years in the School of Nursing teaching various graduate classes, coordinating the DNP program, coordinating all nursing graduate programs, and then serving as associate dean. This past year she left to fill the interim position of Associate Academic Vice President – Dean of Graduate and Adult Studies for the university. We still counted her as "one of us" as she continued in adjunct roles with curriculum and evaluation activities, shared teaching assignments, and DNP project oversight. She will be deeply missed as she retires.



CHRISTINE MONIYUNG

Moniyung, '20, PhD, taught for 19 years in the School of Nursing. She has been a favorite teacher of undergraduate students, teaching their last adult health course before graduation. Having both family and psych-mental health NP certifications, she is working full-time for the V.A. system as a PMHNP, gaining rich experience to share with students in the future, and enjoying some additional family life opportunities.

Message from the Dean

Summer is flying by here in the School of Nursing. Sometimes, people ask me how it feels to be on vacation all summer. They don't know what life is like in the teaching world! There may not be a lot of students in our building, but this is the time for repairs, equipment upgrades, course revisions, new faculty onboarding, classroom and clinical activities, and so many other projects. It's a busy time made more cheerful by the almost daily announcements of another new RN.

We hope you saw our Giving Day video this year, "Nurses Can Do Anything," which can be found on YouTube. Our nursing team had a great time working with the university videographer and doing some demolition inside Miller Hall, the building next door, which will soon be our new simulation center. We have come a long way in our fundraising and first steps of the extensive remodel project, but there are still opportunities to help. We welcome your ongoing support. Writing a dean's note always creates



renewed gratitude for God's many blessings on the School of Nursing. We are blessed with many eager students and the opportunity to help them grow personally, professionally, and spiritually. We have a highly qualified, dedicated, hard-working faculty and staff. The university administration is very supportive. Healthcare agencies and their staff help our students gain valuable clinical experience. Our alumni and friends pray for and support us. God is so good! We look forward to seeing some of you at Homecoming Weekend in October.

Holly Gadd, PhD
Dean of the School of Nursing



MISSION OUTREACH

MANCHESTER, KY

Over the last two semesters, Beckie Retzer, associate professor, and Andrew Richards, professor, have led students from the Population & Community Health Nursing course on a service trip to Manchester, Kentucky. They partnered with AdventHealth Manchester and Healthy Homes Initiative (HHI), which provides residents with comprehensive home assessment, repairs, and evaluations. Students observe and aid in each of HHI's three steps: complete home assessments for issues, work on fixing problems and making needed repairs, and assist with completing home evaluations once the improvements are complete. Christianity is not embraced in many of the homes students visit, creating a ministry and witnessing opportunity. Students also conduct a health fair where they checked patients' height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, and more. Then, they work with each patient to improve their health. Such an experience gives student nurses a broader understanding of the communities they serve.



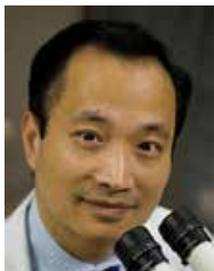
LIMA, PERU

May 10, 2024, 12:30 a.m., found a group of university students gathering in the School of Nursing for a mission trip to Lima, Peru. Students included nursing, biology, theology, and music majors prepared to do four days of medical missions followed by ten days of evangelism. Each student was assigned to a church in the Lima area. Much preparation for these trips occurs here and at the mission site.

The trip is organized by the School of Religion Evangelism Resource Center, which has partnered with the School of Nursing for the past two years to include medical clinics and health education as part of one of their summer evangelism trips. This year, we went to Lima, Peru. We left in the early morning hours amidst tornado warnings and experienced significant flight delays; but God was good, getting us safely to our destination with all but one suitcase. We left the airport with our supplies; not one suitcase was checked. During the four days of clinic, students participated in registration processes, took vital signs, did lab tests (blood sugars and urine checks), assisted with translation for English-speaking providers, helped with procedures (freezing lesions, suturing, etc), directed patients through the clinic, and worked in the pharmacy dispensing vitamins and medications and providing patient education. We were able to help more than 700 people during our clinics.



Sometimes, we wonder what good it does to provide a few weeks of medicine. That amount can be the perfect bridge to further resources. Coupled with the evangelism and our prayers, God is at work. He is working on the hearts of those who received our care, and attended the evangelistic meetings, and on the hearts of the students who sacrificed to go on this trip.



SAVE THE DATE

Florence Oliver Anderson Lecture Series

Ming Wang, MD, PhD

FAITH AND SCIENCE HAVE COMMON GROUND

Ming Wang is a Christian philanthropist and world-renowned surgeon. Growing up in Hangzhou, China, Wang came to the United States in 1982 after securing a teaching assistantship at the University of Maryland. He earned two doctoral degrees—one in laser physics and one in medicine—and graduated with highest honors from Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wang invented the amniotic membrane contact lens, which holds two U.S. patents and has been used by tens of thousands of eye doctors in nearly every nation throughout the world to restore the eyesight of millions. Wang is co-founder of the nonprofit Common Ground Network, and the film “Sight” is based on his autobiography “From Darkness to Sight.” He also founded the Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration, which has provided sight-restoring surgeries free of charge for patients from 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries. Wang is passionate about another type of vision as well, helping others to see that science and faith are friends, not foes.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Iles P.E. Center on the campus of Southern Adventist University

COST: **FREE** to current Southern students, faculty, and staff. The cost for community guests and alumni is \$30 per person if a continuing education certificate is requested.

Visit southern.edu/academics/nursing for updated information.

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School of Nursing
PO Box 370
Collegedale, TN
37315-0370
nursing@southern.edu

