

# Horizons

Loewenberg School of Nursing

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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IN THIS ISSUE...

SPRING 2010

[Message from the Dean](#)

[Join us April 27, LSON Outstanding Alumni to be Honored](#)

[Students in Action](#)

[Making a Difference Locally and Globally](#)

[Recent Faculty Accomplishments](#)

[Subscribing To This Newsletter](#)

**Send Us Your News!**

E-Mail: [nursing@memphis.edu](mailto:nursing@memphis.edu)

**Save the Date**

**Upcoming LSON Events**

Outstanding Alumni Luncheon  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM

Dean's Retirement Reception  
April 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM

Nursing Convocation  
(Pinning/Hooding)  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

## Message from the Dean



### Message from the Dean

I am pleased to share with you the Spring 2010 Loewenberg School of Nursing e-Newsletter! The School's enrollment and graduation rates continue to grow; therefore, it's necessary to share our news with alumni and friends in a timely, cost-effective, and electronic manner.

Please enjoy this e-newsletter and share it with your friends. We have several celebrations and reasons to gather this spring; so, I hope you will make plans to join us!

Two important steps forward in fall 2009 have positioned us for continued growth in 2010:

- In August, I welcomed eight alumni and friends to the Dean's Advisory Council, which promotes the teaching, research, and service of the School on the local, state, and national levels. These leaders play an important role as advocates for nursing and health care across the Mid-South. Please click [here](#) for a listing of Council members.

- In October, the School welcomed a team of evaluators from its accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The evaluators thoroughly reviewed our baccalaureate and master's degree programs for three days, and we anticipate sharing CCNE's accreditation decision in late May 2010. (update information on accreditation page)

Also in the fall, I officially announced my retirement as Dean of the Loewenberg School of Nursing. While it was not an easy decision to make, I am confident that the national search for a new Dean will result in a successor who is equally focused on program excellence, growth, and service.

As always, please consider your annual support of the Loewenberg School of Nursing. Your gift, in any amount, makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our students. Click [here](#) to make your gift online today!

### Join us April 27, LSON Outstanding Alumni to be Honored

The Loewenberg School of Nursing Alumni Chapter will recognize two alumnae, Dr. Paula T. Spears and Dr. Paula M. Dycus, on April 27 during its third annual Outstanding Alumnae Luncheon in the new University Center on campus. These women are noted for their tireless work on behalf of nurses, patients, and the profession. [Read more ...](#)

**Dr. Paula T. Spears** (BSN '81) has held various clinical, faculty, and management roles during her thirty years of professional nursing practice. As the current Executive Director for the Nursing Institute of the Mid South, Inc. (NIMS), a non-profit organization of local hospitals and nurse education institutions, Dr. Spears works collaboratively and strategically with member organizations to facilitate a quality regional nursing workforce.

**Dr. Paula M. Dycus** (BSN '97) has had a varied nursing career since 1977. Dr. Dycus' current position as Administrative Director of Professional Practice and Research at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital allows her to focus on her passions - improving the quality of nursing care and improving the work environment for nurses. Prior to this position, she held a variety of management positions at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Baptist Memorial Health Care.

Make plans today to join us for this special occasion! Reservations for the luncheon are \$25 and can be made by contacting Shawn Carter, Loewenberg School of Nursing Alumni Chapter Coordinator, at [smcarter@memphis.edu](mailto:smcarter@memphis.edu) or 901-678-5016.

### Students in Action



Simulation in the classroom has proven to build students' skills and prepare them for practice in the real world.

This wasn't the way Tara Miller thought she would begin her career in nursing school. "I heard the thump. It was just behind me and I saw that it was Jordan and I called his name and he did not respond," said Miller, a second semester student in the Loewenberg School of Nursing. "I immediately went down and checked for a pulse. I asked his friends who knew him better if he has diabetes or could be suffering from a seizure - you are not supposed to do CPR on a person who is having a seizure. [Read more...](#)

Similarly, LSON student, Rachel Fesmire, helped administer H1N1 vaccinations in the Lifeblood Center in the V. Lane Rawlins Building on campus. Our students are also actively involved in the Community; just look at all the [community agencies](#) our students work with!

Our graduate students are equally active. Iva Scroggins and Ramona James, two Nursing Education graduate students, have been named members of the new Mid-South chapter of the Society of Pediatric Nurses. Iva and Ramona will be part of a group to travel to Orlando in April for the National Symposium and will accept

recognition for the chapter opening.

## Making a Difference Locally and Globally



Once again, Dr. Lawrette Axley led a team of students and faculty to the Dominican Republic. For the first time, faculty and students from the School of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology participated in the trip. Twice a year, the Loewenberg School of Nursing at the University of Memphis takes a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic to provide health care screenings that focus on the family as a unit. [Read more...](#)

Locally, Teresa Richardson and Dr. Jill Dapremont have been active in their professional Nursing societies. Clinical Assistant Professor, Teresa Richardson, who is due to graduate with her doctorate in May, was instrumental in the addition of the Mid-South Chapter of the Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN). She was named the Nominations Chair of the new chapter, which is said to be the largest new chapter of SPN. Dr. Jill Dapremont, an Assistant Professor in the LSON, is on the board of directors for Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) and holds the role of Secretary for the 2009-2011 term.

## Faculty Accomplishments

### Publications

#### **Ginger Ferguson**

- Ferguson, G. H. Case Study--Surviving and thriving in emergency department chaos, in *Optimizing Emergency Department Throughput*. Shiver, J. M. & Eitel, D. (editors), CRC Press, New York, 2010.

### Presentations

**Dr. Carolyn Speros** was accepted to present her paper 'Promoting health literacy: an advanced practice nursing imperative' at the International Council of Nurses' Advanced Practice Nursing Conference in Brisbane, Australia in September.

**Dr. Nancy Mele** and Lori Stone had their abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 10th Annual Nurse Educator Institute in Branson, MO this April. Nancy is an Associate Professor in the LSON. The topic of the poster is using a Wiki in graduate nursing education. The poster will report their experiences as well as 3 semesters of student survey data.

**Dr. Gloria Carr, Dr. Jill Dapremont** and former LSON student, Brenda Steen, presented a poster at the 2009 Tennessee Nurses' Association (TNA) Annual Convention. Their poster was titled, "A guide to understanding substance abuse among the nursing profession."

**Dr. Belinda Fleming**, Clinical Assistant Professor, received the award for Best Minority Health Poster at the Southern Nursing Research Society's Annual Conference in Austin, TX, which took place February 3-6. The poster was entitled "Endothelial and thrombotic markers of cardiovascular risk in African-American adolescents."

#### **Shirleatha Lee**

- Lee, S. & Dapremont, J. Nurse Educator Institute. Baccalaureate Nursing Student Perceptions of Audience Response System Use in Large classroom Settings. (April 13-15, 2010). J. Branson, MO.
- Lee, S., Cowan, P. & Velasquez, P.A. Southern Nursing Research Society, Health Care Challenges in the Next Decade. Electrocardiogram Screening for Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Overweight-Obese Youth with Prediabetes and Elevated Blood Pressure. (February 2010). Austin, TX.

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### Contact Us

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### About This E-Mail

The LSON Horizons Newsletter has been converted to an electronic format for the alumni and friends of the Loewenberg School of Nursing. Our goal is to keep you informed about the alumni activities, student successes, and faculty accomplishments of the Loewenberg School of Nursing. Please share your comments and suggestions by emailing us [nursing@memphis.edu](mailto:nursing@memphis.edu)

*The University of Memphis is one of 45 institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, the sixth largest system of higher education in the nation. It is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.*