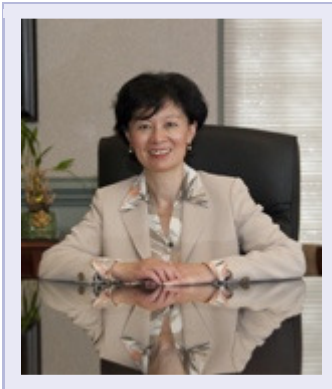


Horizons

Loewenberg School of Nursing

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS.

Salute to Nurses and Nursing Faculty!



In 2008 and 2009, I served on a panel of three judges in Massachusetts to select nurses who exemplified excellence, a program sponsored by Boston Globe. As I read each nurse's story, I was humbled by those whose excellence transformed the ordinary to extraordinary in the eyes of their patients and families.

- Nurse Gail was nominated by her patient; in his words, "Gail is my angle of Mercy. Her compassion and competence still brings tears to my eyes. I was not her only patient, but she made me feel I was..."
- Nurse Teresa, as her patient and family described, "... She has cushioned my heart through her caring hands..."

One has only to imagine for a moment a world without nurses to realize how vital nursing services are. The moment we interact with patients and their families, our presence, caring action, and application of knowledge brings healing to the wounded, a smile to the worried, hope to the hopeless, and health to the ill.

Nurses are saluted!

Nurses are frontline health providers caring for the patients and their families, in hospitals and ambulatory settings, in the inner city, in rural and metropolitan communities, in homes and on military posts. Nurses are working diligently to serve and to protect the health of our people, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Nurse educators are saluted!

The nation is experiencing a severe, unprecedented shortage of nurse educators. Compounded with the challenge of limited resources, nursing faculties have responded with the highest commitment to excellence: preparing competent and compassionate graduates to meet needs of an ever-changing health care environment. [Behind each nurse, there is a nurse educator who shapes one mind at a time, infuses state of the art knowledge, perfects skills, and inspires a new generation of nurses!](#)

Let us celebrate National Nurses Week!

Nurses and nurse educators have showcased remarkable contributions to promoting health for all and have continued to take the extraordinary journey of human caring and human compassion through the science of nursing.

Lin Zhan, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Students' Service and Achievements

Congratulations to our 37 Fall 2010 Graduates! Each graduate - 100% - passed the most recent National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). [Read more.](#)

And, a special congratulations to our Spring 2011 Graduates! We wish you all the best as you begin and continue your careers in Nursing!



SNA works with Special Olympians

Contributed by: Jean McIvor, MSN, RN, Clinical Associate Professor

In March, several SNA officers and members helped some Special Olympians prepare for upcoming competitions. The SNA volunteers got a real work-out playing basketball and volleyball. It was an uplifting experience. The nursing students and the Special Olympians practiced at the World Overcomers Outreach facility in Southeast Memphis. There were about a hundred athletes from all age groups and from across the Mid-South.

The Special Olympics is a world-wide initiative that assists those with special physical or learning needs to succeed in athletic endeavors. These athletes compete in a variety of sporting events. Many are quite talented; all work very hard. All of the participants get physical activity, social engagement with others, and a lot of affirmation from the many volunteers that assist them. They are all true winners!

First Place awarded to LSON Graduate Student Research Project

LSON graduate student, Virginia "Ginger" Smith, BSN, RN, represented her fellow classmates, Angela Ownings, BSN, RN, Marolyn Chambers, BSN, RN, and Elizabeth Perry, MSN, RN, at the University's 23rd Annual Student Research Forum in April. Smith presented the project, "The Combination of Chlorhexidine Baths and Mupirocin to Reduce Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus in Hemodialysis Patients." The project was the first LSON entry in the Annual Student Research Forum and won first place in the Health and Life Sciences category!

The project was developed by the group of graduate students in Dr. Shirleatha Lee's Advanced Nursing Research Course last summer. Based upon the research findings, the group presented the project to Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto administrators, with plans to also present the findings to the medical staff in hopes of developing a clear uniform policy with consistent procedures and implementation among the physicians, nurses, and the hemodialysis agency. "I am proud to see the impact that LSON students have had in the community as a result of this assignment," shared Dr. Lee. "It is a joy to share their passion for research."



Pediatric Nursing Students Weigh in Against Obesity

Contributed by: Jean McIvor, MSN, RN, Clinical Associate Professor

Photo by: Beverly West, MSN, RN, Clinical Assistant Professor



As part of their Child Health Nursing clinical, LSON students seek to improve the health of our children across the Memphis community. LSON has active partnerships with the Memphis Catholic Schools, Shelby County and Porter Leath Head Start Centers, and a variety of other daycare and child activity programs throughout Memphis. This Spring semester alone, LSON students assessed almost 2,000 children!

The nursing students use their physical assessment skills and perform height, weight and blood pressure assessments on children living in all areas of town. Anyone who works with children knows that assessment skills alone are not enough to talk a fearful child into having their blood pressure checked! Students also have to practice their communication and “people” skills to get the job done.

Students identify children who are obese - those growing faster than others their own age - by evaluating Body Mass Index (BMI). Students then send information home to all of the parents regarding healthy eating and physical activity. The Center for Disease Control reports that almost 17% of children nationwide are obese (CDC.gov). In Tennessee, the numbers are much higher with 43% of children at risk of being overweight or obese (Tennessee.gov).

Nursing students also teach children about Nutrition and Exercise. Student teams develop educational presentations for children that are creative, interactive, age appropriate, and fun. All over town, children have been reading, coloring, dancing, exercising, playing guessing games, working crossword puzzles, and creating healthy fruit salads! Professor Jean McIvor, MSN, RN, shares that “thousands of children’s lives have been touched by LSON students through this one course during this one semester.”

Beta Theta at Large Chapter Inducts Nursing Students

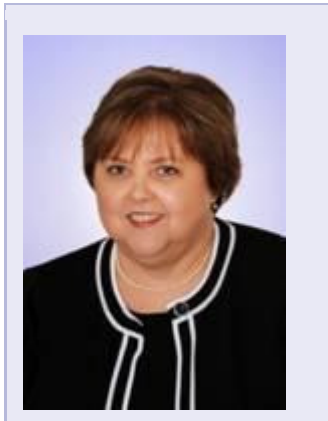
Contributed by: Susan Moore, BSN, MS, MSN, Clinical Assistant Professor

Forty MSN, BSN and faculty members were inducted into the Beta Theta Chapter at Large of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) during a lovely ceremony held at Lindenwood Christian Church on Thursday, April 4, 2011.

The spring induction was especially meaningful to Janelle Smalls, MSN, RN. A Clinical Assistant Professor for LSON, Smalls was selected for membership based upon her excellence in teaching in higher education, her promotion of community health and wellness programs, and her long-standing relationships with community health agencies across the city. The chapter consists of members from the U of M, Baptist College of Health Sciences, and UTHSC. If you feel you met the criteria for membership, please contact Susan Moore MSN, RN at samoore2@memphis.edu for more information.

Alumni News & Accomplishments

E-MSN alumna Reynae Bennett ('10) recognized as 2011 Nurse of the Year



Reynae Bennett, Mississippi's 2011 Nurse of the Year, is described as a "visionary leader" and an "individual dedicated to personal and professional growth" with a "willingness to lend herself and her time to mentoring." After only a few moments in her presence, you can clearly sense Reynae's heart for nursing and passion for leadership. But, Reynae admits that although she "always wanted to be in leadership, [she] didn't realize it" until recently. She simply wanted to "make things better for the people around [her]."

Reynae began her career as a nurse in 1981 after receiving an Associate Degree from Mississippi County Community College in Blytheville, Arkansas. She moved to the Memphis area and worked in the Baptist Memorial Health Care system for several years before earning her BSN in 2004 from the Baptist College of Health Sciences. Poised for growth in the Baptist Memorial Health Care system, Reynae sought another higher education degree, an [Executive Master of Science in Nursing \(EMSN\)](#) from the U of M.

A 2010 graduate of the first EMSN co-hort, Reynae feels that her graduate degree gave her the courage to walk through the doors that were opening before her. She felt confident in her knowledge of leadership and inspired to make strategic career moves. Associate Professor and co-developer of the EMSN, Dr. Joan Thomas encouraged Reynae to pursue the "job of [her] dreams;" which turned out to be the first Leadership Coach for Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation. In this new role, Reynae will help nurse managers from across the corporation develop into their positions through formal mentoring and career development opportunities.

Congratulations, Reynae!

Impact a Student's Life by Supporting LSON Today!

Originally from Little Rock, current LSON nursing student David Victor came to the U of M to remain close to family and friends. "Nursing is a great major for me because I deeply enjoy taking care of people and seeing the smiles on their faces when they feel better." David also enjoys theatre and fine arts, and finds that he is able to incorporate some of his creativity with the patients.

David is the 2010 recipient of the [Glazer Family Foundation Scholarship](#). As an out-of-state student, the scholarship helped him pay for the added expense of pursuing his dream at the U of M. After graduation in August 2011, David plans to become a nursing specialist for administering chemotherapy.

If you are interested in impacting the lives of countless LSON nursing students by contributing to an existing scholarship or establishing an endowed scholarship, please contact Lendon Ellis, LSON's director of development, at 901/678-5288 or lellis2@memphis.edu.

A Donor's Story, in His Own Words

Mark Bogan's career in nursing began at the U of M after a successful, 31-year career in a completely different industry. In his own words, Mark shares his journey to becoming a Loewenberg nurse and donor.

"My wife, Linda, is a nurse and has thoroughly enjoyed her career providing bedside care, as well as the flexibility of shift work. So, when it came time to consider a new career, I began exploring nursing for myself.

To be honest, the Loewenberg School of Nursing was not my initial choice of nursing programs. I thought I would simply become an R.N. through an associate degree program. However, I feel blessed that every time I made the "wrong" decision, the door would close, and I was forced to pick the right one. I learned of LSON's reputation for graduating prepared nurses and decided that LSON was for me!



The factors that really set LSON apart from other schools were the curriculum and the committed faculty. By the time I finished my clinical rotation, I had taken care of such a wide variety of patients, many of whom were quite critical, that I felt I had an advantage over other student nurses. In addition to the strong clinical experiences, the LSON faculty is loaded with committed, experienced teachers. Two faculty members in particular demonstrated 'going above and beyond' the call of duty: Professor Anita Langston, who lectured for the ICU rotation, and Dr. Lawrette Axley, who set the tone for incoming students and managed the Dominican Republic travel and service.

Ms. Langston decided that in order to offer the best experience she could to students, she needed experience where the most critical patients were located. So, even though she already had a comfortable nursing career, she went to work in the MED's ICU solely for the opportunity to be able to teach from first-hand experience.

And, Dr. Axley uniquely set the tone for incoming students with her ability to be demanding and nurturing at the same time. No one can prepare an incoming nursing student for the full schedule and demands of nursing school, but Dr. Axley encouraged, and consoled, while keeping the standard of excellence high as students prepared for the NCLEX exam. Likewise, her commitment to the Dominican Republic medical mission trip was without question. She gave so many students the opportunity to hone their nursing skills and to put to practice the "giving" aspect of nursing. Her level of commitment to the School's medical mission work made it easy for my wife and me to support the school's work through participation as alumni, as well as provide monetary support of the trip.

As a May 2009 graduate of LSON, my class was the first class to feel the 'economic squeeze' when it came to finding a nursing job. Suddenly, having a BSN was very important. I feel that having a BSN from the U of M Loewenberg School of Nursing really helped me get the job I wanted at LeBonheur Children's Hospital. When you retire from a 31-year career in the airline industry and begin a career in nursing at 50 like I did, it's nice to start someplace you really enjoy working!"

Mark Bogan, RN ('09)

Celebrate your enthusiasm for Nursing and the Loewenberg School of Nursing with a gift to further our mission and vision! [Make your on-line gift today](#), or contact Lendon Ellis, LSON's director of development, at 901/678-5288.

Faculty Scholarship & Innovative Teaching

Publications

Dr. Gloria Carr's manuscript, titled: "*Empowerment: A Framework to Develop Advocacy in African American Grandmothers Providing Care for Their Grandchildren*" was accepted for publication in a refereed journal of the International Scholarly Research Network. Dr. Carr's article presents a unique and innovative model for empowerment of African American grandmother caregivers. [Learn more about Dr. Carr and her research.](#)

Dr. Robert Koch, et. al., has published a report to the United State Department of Defense, titled, "Civilian Aeromedical Evacuation Sustaining Training: A Survey of Professional Regarding Curriculum Content, Format and Implementation." [Learn more about Dr. Koch and his research.](#)

Dr. Shirleatha Lee's manuscript, titled: "*Racial Differences in the Cardiac Autonomic Function of Overweight and Obese Youth*" was accepted for publication in the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research, Minority Health Specialty Edition, Volume 11; Issue #1. (April, 2011). Co authors include: Cowan, P. A., Wetzal, G. T., & Velasquez, P.A. [Learn more about Dr. Lee and her research.](#)

Scholarly Activity

Dr. Shirleatha Lee delivered the keynote address, "Childhood Obesity: Early Identification of Cardiovascular Risks," at the University of Tennessee-Martin's Nurse Excellence Day on April 25, 2011. Dr. Lee's address focused on the critical need for early identification of cardiovascular risks associated with childhood obesity.

Professor Susan Moore was invited to be one of the few judges on the panel to select international awards for the [Sigma Theta Tau International](#) at the Biennial Convention, October 29 - November 2, 2011 in Dallas, Texas. This is the second time Professor Moore has received such an honor. [Learn more about Professor Moore.](#)

Dr. Lin Zhan has been invited to serve on the editorial board for the on-line journal, *Nursing Reports* (United Kingdom based), and *Macau Journal of Nursing and Nursing Research*.

Kudos

Professor Joy Hoffman has been accepted to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's DNP program in the Public Health track. [Learn more about Professor Hoffman.](#)

Dr. Gayle Shiba passed the FNP board examination in April 2011.

Professor Kay E. Sims was honored on Certified Nurses Day™ at NTI, AACN's national conference for critical care nurses, along with 14 other nurses for her 30-year career as a CCRN. Certification affirms advanced knowledge, skill, and practice to meet the challenges of modern nursing. CCRN certification has only been available for 35 years, with the first exam administered in 1976. [Learn more about Professor Sims.](#)

Professor Janelle Smalls was inducted into the Beta Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International on April 7, 2011. [Learn more about Professor Smalls.](#)

Dr. Shirley Thorn successfully defended her PhD dissertation research, titled: "*Emergency Physicians' Perspectives on the Usability of Health Information Exchange.*" Based on this qualitative research, she will

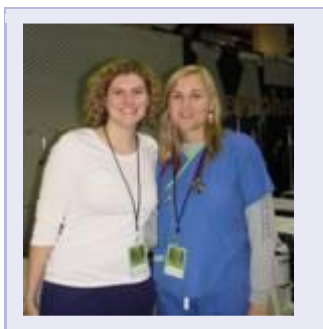
continue developing a program of research in the area of healthcare informatics. Her research study, indeed, is at the cutting edge as the nation's healthcare is moving toward using informatics as one of the strategies to improve safety and quality of patient care and to promote people's health.

Innovation, Creativity Enhance Students' Clinical Learning

Contributed by: Kay E. Sims, MSN, RN, BC, CCNS, CCRN, Assistant Clinical Professor

Success as a clinical instructor stems from students performing at their optimal levels and developing new skills with each new clinical experience. To achieve these outcomes, Assistant Clinical Professor Kay E. Sims, MSN, RN, BC, CCNS, CCRN, constantly strives to find innovative and creative ways to enhance student learning and application of knowledge. Over the course of this semester, Professor Sims has focused on three areas: communication skills, organizational skills, and patient safety awareness. "These are just three of the areas that I feel have contributed to successful clinical outcomes in my students," says Professor Sims. "However, I am always looking for new and better ways to motivate and coach students to perform at a higher level." Read more about Professor Sims' innovative student learning techniques at our website.

Community Engagement



Students and Alumni Volunteer at the St. Jude Marathon

Contributed by: Susan Moore, BSN, MS, MSN, Clinical Assistant Professor

Under the direction of Professors Joy Hoffman and Susan Moore, students from the Community Health and Advanced Adult Health classes volunteered their time at the St. Jude Marathon in the medical area on Saturday, December 4, 2010. The students were available to administer first aid and nursing care as the runners crossed the finish line. Experiences ranged from simple scrapes and blisters to severe muscle cramps and dehydration.

In addition to the nursing students, two LSON graduates volunteered as registered nurses. Amanda Martens (L) and Lindsey Perkins (R) returned for a second year to assist in the triaging and care of runners. Lindsey volunteered as a student three years ago and for the past two years brought Amanda for the experience. They stated a desire to continue with this tradition for years to come.

LSON returns to Memphis Union Mission for Summer Foot Clinic

Thanks to a generous donation from a close friend of the Loewenberg School of Nursing, our students were able to hold two Spring Foot Clinics and plan for at least two Summer Foot Clinics for the men and women of the Memphis Union Mission. We look forward to reporting more in the fall!

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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

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