

VOLUME 4 2020-22

Nursing Columns

Northwestern State University, College of Nursing



Resilience

-- the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.

**NSU Nursing Alumni
surviving and thriving**



Messages



Hello Nursing Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the 4th issue of Northwestern State University's (NSU's) Nursing Columns. The 2019-2020 issue, entitled *70 Years of Heroes* was published in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the College of Nursing's 70th Anniversary. This 4th issue is intended to provide you, our alum, with an overview of the achievements of the College of Nursing (CON), CON alumni, CON faculty, and CON students from 2020 to 2022.

This 4th issue of NSU's alumni columns is dedicated to a CONSAH nursing student champion, Ms. Debbie Moore. Ms. Moore graduated from NSU in 1991 with her BSN and returned to earn her MSN in 1994. Ms. Moore, served the CON in many roles, including the Director of Student Services from 1994 to 2015. Although Ms. Moore unfortunately passed away in 2021, she will always be remembered by countless numbers of CON students, whose lives she positively impacted.

I would like to introduce all of you to the new Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health (CONSAH), Dr. Joel Hicks, and the new Senior Director of Nursing, Dr. Anna Morris. I stepped down as Dean at the end of 2020 so that I could move to South Louisiana and live with my husband who had patiently waited for me to move for 8 years. Although deciding to step down as Dean took prayerful consideration, having two very capable leaders ready to step into crucial administrative roles was a blessing. In my 20 plus years as a nurse educator, I have never encountered stronger student advocates than Dr. Hicks and Dr. Morris. Both of these wonderful leaders are passionate about the profession of nursing, NSU, and most importantly NSU's students. I have the utmost confidence in their leadership ability.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the CONSAH and thank you for letting me share how fantastic our faculty, staff, students, and alumni are with all of you in the first four editions of the Nursing Alumni Columns newsletters. Mrs. Alice Blue, an MSN faculty member and wonderful nurse practitioner, helped me co-edit this edition of the newsletter and will be assuming the role of editor for the Nursing Alumni Columns 5th edition.

The theme of this 4th edition of the Nursing Alumni Columns is *Resilience*. Dr. Hicks wisely chose this theme, as he believes it represents students, faculty, staff and alumni from 2020-2022. We hope you enjoy this edition and reading about some of the best and brightest of NSU's College of Nursing! As Always, Fork 'Em Demons!

Dana Clawson

Dana Clawson, DNS, WHNP-BC (1990, 1996, 2000)
Professor of Doctoral Studies in Nursing



Hello Nursing Alumni,

Whenever I address an incoming group of nursing students, I begin by thanking them for choosing Northwestern State University. I then follow by thanking them for choosing to

enter the field of nursing. I remind those students that nursing is more than a job or career, but a calling. Not only a calling, but one of the highest order.

To serve your fellow human as a nurse means providing expert medical care while constantly maintaining empathy and compassion. Further, this care is often provided during the most stressful of times. These things define our faculty, students, and alumni.

During the past couple of years, we have certainly faced many stressful times. The challenges of a pandemic have placed a great stress on the world and our nation. Within our state, multiple natural disasters have added to the challenges faced by our citizens. Yet through it all, nurses have remained steadfast in their calling.

I am continually inspired by the resiliency of our students, faculty, and alumni, who make a difference in the lives of those they serve. I am truly humbled to be part of this college and to serve as their Dean.

Dr. Joel Hicks
Dean, College of Nursing and
School of Allied Health



Hello Nursing Alumni,

At the close of each semester faculty are asked to identify a graduating student with an intriguing personal story that demonstrates perseverance in overcoming obstacles to obtain their nursing degree. The University President then shares these stories at graduation. During the 2021 and 2022 academic years, the College of Nursing (CON) had so many graduates who overcame obstacles to graduate, the selection of a single graduate's story was very difficult. During the past two years CON students battled a pandemic, cared for the ill during a pandemic, endured personal serious health issues, cared for sick or dying loved ones, returned from or left on military deployments, rebuilt homes destroyed by weather calamities, and endured near constant COVID induced shifts in the educational process. Yet, despite these hardships, nursing students continued to come to class and do their best-maybe not their overall best, but the best they could give each day.

Although the students themselves may not recognize it, the character trait they have been demonstrating is Resilience. As nursing alumni, you recognize that Resilience is a common trait of most healthcare professionals, but particularly nursing. In fact, despite working in a pandemic, a historical nursing shortage which requires nurses to work short-staffed, and the constant personal risks to your mental and physical health, YOU our nursing alumni, just like our nursing students continue to work and serve others, demonstrating Resilience. Yes, nurses are the personification of Resilience.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Nursing's Alumni Columns and the theme of Resilience. More importantly, I hope you our nursing alumni, recognize the importance of balancing that resilience with self-care. Too often nurses give too much of ourselves, and as a result we suffer both mentally and physically. There's not an easy solution to this problem but I would like to make a suggestion to move us in the right direction. Until we get better at taking care of ourselves, ask your nursing colleague a really important question. How are YOU doing? Then take the time to listen. Although you cannot and should not try to solve their problems, you can offer encouragement and support. To remain Resilient, we must take care of ourselves so that we can continue to take care of others.

Thank you for supporting NSU Nursing and for being one of our many Resilient nurses!

Dr. Anna Morris
Senior Director of Nursing

SNAPSHOT

Volume 4 - Year 2020-22

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Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialists, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Northwestern State University.

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ENROLLMENT

Fall 2020 CONSAH total - **3270**

Fall 2020 CON total - **2833**

Fall 2021 CONSAH total - **3136**

Fall 2021 CON total - **2658**



Undergraduate Degrees Awarded in 2020-2021 Academic Year

Fall 2020 **234**

Spring 2021 **145**

Summer 2021 **154**

Graduate Degrees Awarded in 2020-2021 Academic Year

Fall 2020

8

**3 DNP
3 MSN
2 PMC**

Spring 2021

67

**4 DNP
54 MSN
9 PMC**

Summer 2021

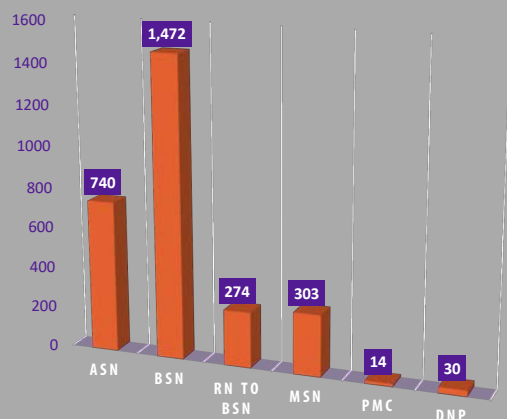
5

**2 DNP
3 MSN**

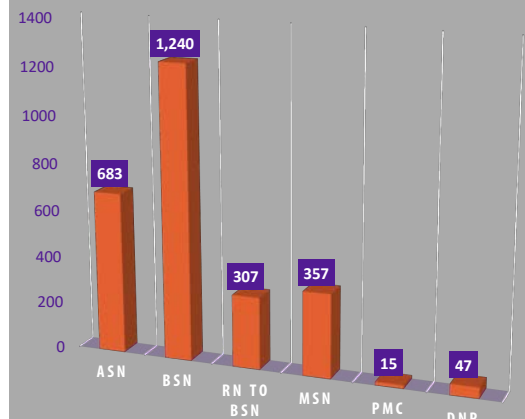
Undergraduate Clinical Students (Fall 2021) by Campus



ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM 2020



ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM 2021



In the 2020-2021 Academic Years

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH AWARDED



533 undergraduate degrees



80 graduate degrees

SNAPSHOT

National Accreditation Reviews of Nursing Programs

In September 2020 the College of Nursing underwent a national accreditation virtual site visit from the **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)** for the BSN, (including RN to BSN and BS to BSN concentrations), MSN, (including nurse practitioner, nurse educator and nurse administrator concentrations), Post-Masters Certificate, and DNP (including organizational systems leadership and nurse anesthesia concentrations) programs. The virtual site visit reviewers found all programs in compliance with national accreditation standards. In May 2021 CCNE's board of commissioners confirmed the reviewers' positive report, and the nursing programs were awarded national accreditation status until June 30, 2031. Congratulations to administration, faculty, staff and students, for their hard work and support during this accreditation period.

Additionally, in November 2020 a separate national accreditation virtual site visit was held to review our new DNP-NA program. Again, the virtual reviewers were pleased with the self-study report and found no compliance concerns. **The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA)** awarded accreditation to the nurse anesthesia program at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA, effective May 19, 2021. Congratulations to program administrators, faculty, staff, students and our community partners on their hard work and ongoing support during this accreditation period.



#1 ranked online allied health program 2022

(by intelligent.com)



#1 Producer of licensed registered nurses in Louisiana in 2020/2021

(2020-21 NCLEX report)



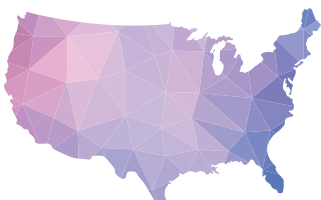
#1 Most Affordable RN-BSN program in Louisiana

(RNtoMSN.org)



#1 Producer of Nurse Practitioners in Louisiana

(2020 LSBN Report)



#11 BEST Radiologic Science program in U.S.

(bestvalueschools.org)



#1 Nurse Practitioner program ranking

(by Intelligent.com 2020)



#4 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program in the US.



US News and World Report TOP 100 "best masters in nursing online program" 2021

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

NSU initiated BSN to DNP program

NSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program began in 2014. Initially the DNP program only admitted students who had earned a masters degree in nursing and were returning to learn organizational and systems leadership skills. However, In January 2021 the DNP program excitedly admitted the inaugural cohort of baccalaureate (BSN) prepared nursing students into the new BSN to DNP-Nurse Anesthesia program. Students enrolled in the DNP-NA program engage in three years, or nine semesters, of rigorous coursework which includes DNP core courses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse core courses, Nurse Anesthesia courses, and clinical courses. At program completion, the BSN to DNP-NA students are prepared to successfully complete the national certification examination and begin practicing in the advanced practice role of nurse anesthetist.

Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for more than 150 years and represent more than 80% of the anesthesia providers in rural counties/parishes across America. NSU's nurse anesthesia program was developed in response to the needs of NSU's community health partners who approached NSU about the shortage of anesthesia providers in Louisiana, especially in the state's rural areas.

Currently the program has two cohorts enrolled, while admissions are underway for the third cohort with the deadline for completed applications July 15, 2022.

Go to nursing.nsula.edu/nursing-programs/ for more information. As of May 15, 2022 the program has over 180 applications in process for the 3rd cohort.



Program Highlights & Accolades

● Numerous Clinical Partnerships

- Clinical partnerships have been established at Shreveport, CENLA off-site learning campuses to offer innovative primary clinical site rotations.
- Indirect clinical experiences are occurring at a new state of the art Innovation Lab Operating Suite at the Willis Knighton Innovation Center.
- Student stipends of \$45,000 each are awarded to numerous students to support their education

● Innovative, Affordable Curriculum

- Nationally accredited program
- Hybrid curriculum plan where the first 2 semesters of the program are offered 100% online

- The program length is 9 semesters in 3 calendar years
- The program is composed of 128 total credit hours
- Tuition: Flat rate/fee per semester (\$8,335) for total program cost of \$75,000
- Current Enrollment: 37 students
- Enrollment Plans: To admit a maximum of 20 students per cohort per year
- Minimal Student Travel Requirements: program offerings from CENLA and Shreveport campuses decrease travel requirements of students.
- Clinical Sites include facilities where CRNAs have full scope of practice and rural rotations with CRNA only model (only anesthesia providers at site are CRNAs)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BSN to DNP Program

Nurse Anesthesia students with their faculty, Dr. Aimee Badeaux and Dr. Katrina O'Con, practice new clinical skills, including intubation, at the Willis Knighton Innovation Center. Community partners like Willis Knighton Health System are providing state of the art Operation Room (OR) simulation learning equipment/rooms to ensure NSU students are receiving the best available educational experiences.



ALUMNI MAKING NEWS

Dr. Kathy H. Baldrige DNP, APRN, FNP- BC, FAANP

- Degree(s) earned at NSU (campus)
 - 2006: BSN – Alexandria Campus
 - 2009: MSN, FNP - Shreveport
- Role in LANP
 - President 2018-Present
 - See CV for other positions held
 - Started serving on the board, 2010
- Work (practice as an NP)
 - Advanced Practice Education Assoc. Director of Psychometric Analysis
 - Christus Community Clinic Alexandria Primary Care, Part-Time



Most rewarding nursing experiences:

I have loved every single aspect of my nursing career. There have been opportunities I sought, and those that sought me. I have never backed down from a challenge and marched forward even in situations where I did not feel the most confident and those turned out to be some of the most rewarding experiences.

I feel most rewarded when I help to improve patients' health, when I help someone die with dignity, when I help a new nurse successfully integrate into our profession, and when I advocate for my patients and my profession.

Advice would you give to nurses looking to become NPs:

Recognize the leader you are and the impact you can have on healthcare in Louisiana. Becoming an excellent leader doesn't begin when you gain all the "skills" to be a leader. It begins when you have a clear vision for the impact you wish to have on your world and those in it. Knowing your "why" will help you stay motivated, take risks to get ahead, and have a full and rewarding career. Always be a change agent. Healthcare is in constant flux and nursing needs to lead the way of that change. We have the power to change the face of healthcare!



Speaking at the NPCAE conference

Need for NSU's Nurse Practitioner Program continues to grow

Written by Dr. Kathy H. Baldrige, DNP, APRN, FNP- BC, FAANP

Louisiana is sick. In 2021, we were ranked the least healthy state by the United Health Foundation in the categories of health outcomes and social/economic factors (America's Health Rankings, 2021). The problem is access to care. There are four critical components of access to care: coverage, timeliness, services, and qualified health providers. With the Affordable Care Act and expanded Medicaid, more citizens have access to the healthcare system because they have coverage, however, we have learned that having health coverage does not equal having health care. Sixty-three of Louisiana's 64 parishes is considered a primary care health professional shortage area and 100% is classified as a psych-mental health professional shortage area.

Louisiana consistently has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the nation. Of the 64 parishes in Louisiana, 24 have been identified as "maternity care deserts." These are parishes without any obstetric providers. This means that many Louisianans do not have services in their communities that provide them a usual source of care. When that is lacking, preventive screenings, timely services for health-care problems, and early intervention and management of diseases is delayed. Thus, increasing morbidity and mortality. The last component of access to care is qualified health providers.

Nurse Practitioners are the solution.

Educated at an advanced nursing level, NPs are well educated and clinically prepared, qualified healthcare providers. Advanced practice education for nurse practitioners is built on a solid nursing foundation. Nurses are known for establishing trusting, caring relationships with their patients while exhibiting excellent assessment skills and critical thinking. This foundation, combined with advanced education has proven through more than 40 years of research that NPs provide accessible, safe, cost-effective health care that yields improved patient outcomes.

Louisiana has more than 5,000 nurse practitioners with approximately 80% of those prepared in a primary care focus

(e.g., adult, family, pediatric, women's health). NPs are educated and prepared to take care of Louisiana, to fill the gap in access to care as qualified health providers. NPs are filling some of those gaps now, despite regulatory barriers in Louisiana. With removal of those barriers, I am confident that access to care in Louisiana will improve and we will experience a healthier Louisiana.



MSN Pediatric primary care NP graduates

ALUMNI MAKING NEWS

Dr. Wendi Palermo, RN

(c/o 1999 and 2002) serves as the Chief Education and Training Officer and Chief Academic Officer (CAO) for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). It has been said that she is the first nurse in our state to hold this position. The LCTCS is comprised of 12 community and technical colleges serving a diverse student population seeking workforce development training, academic programs of study, and the high school equivalency. The LCTCS serves over 160,000 students and over 30,000 graduates annually. Dr. Palermo develops and maintains high quality training programs of study that meet the needs of the state's existing and prospective employers including



BPCC Spring 2022
Commencement speaker

curriculum alignment between academic, workforce, and adult education units to employment of graduates. She currently serves on the LA State Board of Nursing (LSBN) as well as several state wide commissions and councils. She serves as the Vice President of the Lake Charles District Nurses Association and most recently served as the May 2022 Commencement speaker for Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC).

Prior to LCTCS, she served as Dean of Nursing and Allied Health at SOWELA Technical Community College in Lake Charles, La. She continues to serve as adjunct nursing faculty at NSULA in the Doctoral program.

She is married to her college sweetheart, Kent, and they have two beautiful daughters, Isabel and Celia.



SOWELA Award Ceremony



Dr. Palermo's daughters, Isabel and Celia

Are you an alumnus of NSU nursing and have information you would like to share with us? If so, please complete the form below, place it in the enclosed envelope and mail it back to us OR email us at nursingnews@nsula.edu.

PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL NEWS

Briefly describe any professional and personal activities that you would like to share with your classmates:

or email your news to Nursingnews@nsula.edu

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Name at Graduation _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

NSU Degrees: _____ADN/ASN _____BSN _____MSN _____DNP

Date of Graduation _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Employer _____

Position _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

ALUMNI MAKING NEWS

2021 Nightingale Award for Outstanding Nursing School Administrator of the Year

In 2021 Dr. Dana Clawson won the Louisiana State Nurses Association's Nightingale Award for Nursing School Administrator of the Year. This prestigious award is only awarded to one nursing school administrator in the state per year.

In 2000 Dr. Clawson began her teaching career at NSU. During her teaching tenure at NSU, Dr. Clawson served as an undergraduate coordinator, the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) program coordinator, the Director of Graduate Studies in Nursing, and Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health. While in the role of full time faculty member, Dr. Clawson also provided care for over 15,000 patients as a WHNP.

During her tenure as Dean, Clawson developed a faculty/staff team that increased enrollment in the College by more than 50 percent and was instrumental in the development of numerous undergraduate and graduate nursing and allied health programs including a Doctor of Nursing Practice program, an accelerated BS to BSN program, a military medic/paramedic to ASN program and a new BSN to DNP-Nurse Anesthesia program.

As Dean, Clawson engaged with numerous clinical partners to receive more than \$4.1 million in grants and funding, and fiscal support for 12 full time faculty positions to enhance academic programs. Additionally campus improvements were made to nursing facilities to enhance the learning environment, provide amenities and improve safety for students, faculty and staff.

According to Dr. Greg Handel, "During Dr. Clawson's tenure as Dean, the College experienced tremendous growth in its program offerings, enrollment, public and private partnerships, and engagement with health professionals throughout the region. She has been a strong voice of advocacy for nursing and the allied health professions in Louisiana, has served on

boards, and been a liaison to accreditation agencies on best practices in Nursing. Her energy and enthusiasm vaulted the College to new heights, and her influence has shaped the forward motion of the College."

Clawson served as chair of the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education, president, vice president and a board member of the Martin Luther King Community Health Clinic, and an on-site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In 2019 Clawson was inducted into the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans Nursing Hall of Fame and in 2020 she was given the 2019-2020 Service and Leadership Appreciation Award from MLK Health Center and Pharmacy.

Dr. Clawson, returned to a full-time professor position in the DNP program in January of 2021, after moving to Jennings, Louisiana.

When asked to name her three greatest accomplishments while Dean of NSU, Clawson stated:

1) changing the culture from one of "only a small portion of the students will graduate" to "we expect everyone who does the work to graduate,"

2) garnering funding for faculty positions to be able to admit ALL qualified applicants to our RN programs, and

3) working with outstanding faculty, staff and administrators who shared a vision for developing student friendly, high-quality programs that would change people's lives.

"I am grateful for all of those who have been on my team and supported me. I am convinced that given the chance, nurses and allied health professionals hold the answers to our nation's numerous healthcare problems. I am also convinced that given the opportunity, voice, and legitimate authority, nurses can change the world."

Clawson looks forward to continuing her work with fellow faculty, staff and students.



Dr. Dana C. Clawson
DNS, WHNP-BC, CNE



Clawson with first DNP graduating class



Clawson with other nursing deans from LSU, ULL, ULM and Loyola, and President of American Association of Nurse Practitioners, at Library of Congress American Association of Colleges of Nursing event.

"I am convinced that given the opportunity, voice, and legitimate authority, nurses can change the world."

ALUMNI MAKING NEWS

Dr. Simmons receives 2020 Nightingale Award for Outstanding Community Achievement

Northwestern State University Senior Director of Nursing Dr. Pamela B. Simmons has received the 2021 Nightingale Award for Outstanding Community Achievement from the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

The criteria for the award required the recipient to demonstrate exemplary leadership in voluntary activities within community organizations such as schools, churches, agencies, etc., have demonstrations of significant accomplishments in the community, have evidence of activities that have yielded a positive impact on the health and welfare of the community and its citizens and participation in professional/community organizations.

Simmons has served at Life United (formerly Word of Life Center) in several capacities over the past 36 years, including serving on the Women's Executive Board, participating in choir as part of the praise and worship team and choir president, and serving in a variety of activities including women's activities throughout the year. She has worked with Mary J. Pickens Ministries since 2006, editing the ministry's newsletters, books and brochures. Simmons and her husband purchase, prepare and serve food to the homeless in downtown Shreveport.



Dr. Simmons, at right, with Nightingale Award for Outstanding Community Achievement from the LSNA

She served as a member of the Board of Directors and co-chair of the Health Education Committee of the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission, developing a health education program for homeless residents. Simmons is a member of the Board of Directors for Pick It Forward for Orphans, Inc. which gives support to children who are orphaned or are in foster care.

Simmons was a member of the Louisiana Action Coalition Diversity Think Tank Planning Committee in 2015 and is a member of the Louisiana Action Coalition Diversity Steering Committee. She was a volunteer APRN for the Arterberry Family Care Center from 2014-2016 and served for three years as camp nurse at a religious summer camp in Texas. Simmons volunteered as a science fair judge at Princeton Elementary

School for a number of years and was a Boy Scout and Girl Scout Adult Volunteer/Troop Leader.

Several hundred residents have benefitted from the classes she developed for the homeless population at the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission. Other ventures included initiating and implementing the "sock drive" for the mission, a service learning project that NSU students supported widely. Through her volunteer work with Pick It Forward for Orphans she has helped provide uniforms to orphans in Tanzania, housing and schooling for pregnant/new mothers in Panama and playground equipment for orphans in Panama. With the assistance of various local churches, the organization was able to build a classroom, equipped with a kitchen to teach reading, math, social skills, and homemaking skills to the pregnant teens unable to attend school. The organization also makes needed donations to children in foster care in the regional community, including providing support to foster families in the form of diapers, baby equipment and respite childcare. Simmons and her husband have supported children in New York City and the Philippines for more than 30 years.



Dr. Pamela B. Simmons

One of our own CONSAH 2020 graduates, Miranda Wells, was recognized as a 2021 Rapides Regional Medical Center Nurse Excellence Winner - Rookie of the Year. We are so proud of her!



Miranda Wells, BSN, RN
Rookie of the Year (Staff Nurse, 4 South)

ALUMNI MAKING NEWS

Group Learns of UK Healthcare Pioneers and Advancement



Standing: Anne Jones (NSU Alum and DNP student), Dr. Linda Nichols (Leesville Campus Coordinator), Pam Holcombe (NSU Alum and NSU's Undergraduate Nursing Coordinator), Dr. Bea Launius (NSU MSN and DNP Alum and NSU's Adult Gerontology NP Coordinator). Seated: Tiffany Rogers, NSU MSN Student and NSU's Student Health Clinic Nurse and Rhonda Perez, NSU FNP Student and NSU BSN faculty member.

During Nurses Week, a group of NSU faculty and alumni travelled to London, England, to learn about the United Kingdom healthcare system and some of the pioneers of the nursing and medicine professions. During their stay, they visited the Royal College of Nursing as well as the Royal College of Physicians. They visited museums dedicated to the pioneers and advancements made in both fields. Some of the visited sites included the Gordon Museum at King's College of London, the Old Operating Theatre Museum, the Wellcome Collection at the University of London, and the Florence Nightingale Museum housed at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. They attended several presentations throughout the week that focused on the National Healthcare System and the delivery of health services in the UK. Some of the highlighted moments included a Florence Nightingale walking tour, as well as visiting the only standing operating theatre built in the 17th century. Although most of the trip was centered on learning about the UK's health system, this group definitely had a fun time.

*Photos courtesy of
Tiffany Rogers*



Standing operating theatre built in 17th century



Florence Nightingale Museum housed at St. Thomas' Hospital

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alexandria Campus Outstanding Alumni Dr. Ryan Taylor Moore – BSN Class of 2015

Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and why you chose nursing as a career? Also, specifically why you chose NSU nursing on the CENLA campus.

My name is Dr. Ryan Taylor Moore, and I am a native of Pineville, Louisiana. I came from a strong Christian home where helping others was not only taught but demonstrated by my parents throughout my daily life. After working in various jobs, I became determined to find an occupation that would allow me to make a difference in people's lives. I started my healthcare work journey at Rapides Regional Medical Center as a radiology transporter and an Emergency department technician/clerk. This journey pushed me towards becoming a registered nurse. Eventually, several of my friends and I applied and were accepted to NSU's BSN program on the CENLA. Choosing NSU's nursing program was easy because NSU has a great reputation for producing strong nurses. NSU offering the program on the Alexandria campus allowed me to stay local and complete my BSN degree. The BSN program teachers were amazing and I still talk to them on a regular basis.

What has happened in your nursing career since graduating from NSU? Where are you now and what plans do you have for your future nursing career?

Before graduating I married the love of my life, Mrs. Lindsay Birkicht Moore. I then started working in intensive care units, obtained my critical care RN certification, and began my preparing for anesthesia school. At this time, I also helped the Cajun Navy with Hurricane Harvey of over 600 people from the flood waters in Houston. Before applying to anesthesia school, I was awarded ICU Nurse Excellence, The Daisy Award and the HCA Hero Award. I was accepted to TCU and graduated in December 2020 with my Doctor of Nursing Practice in Anesthesia. During anesthesia school we welcomed our first child, Miss Liv Taylor Moore to the family. I currently work at Rapides Regional Medical Center for Mid Louisiana Anesthesia Consultants. I love every minute of my time in the operating room. I was recently promoted to clinical coordinator of incoming CRNA students, including those from NSU. Life is good and I hope to continue teaching others that perseverance in this field pays off.



Taylor, Lindsay and daughter Liv

Do you remember one thing about the education you received at NSU that you want to share for future nursing students on the CENLA campus?

The education I received on the CENLA campus, including outstanding nursing faculty, is what pushed me to complete nursing school. At NSU's CENLA campus you are not just a number; you are a part of a family. Each of the faculty is dedicated to making sure you are prepared to become an outstanding nurse. This program is second to none and if you are considering pursuing nursing as a career, look no further. This is the place to be.



The education I received on the CENLA campus, including outstanding nursing faculty, is what pushed me to complete nursing school. ... This program is second to none and if you are considering pursuing nursing as a career, look no further. This is the place to be."

– Taylor Moore



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Leesville Campus Outstanding Alumni Shelby Royer – ASN Class of 2020

Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, why you chose nursing as a career, and why you chose NSU nursing on the Leesville campus?

My name is Shelby Royer. I grew up in Merryville, a small town in Beauregard Parish. Today my husband and I are raising our two beautiful children in Merryville. I chose nursing as a career for several reasons, one being my mother. Although my mom is not a nurse, I saw her taking care of my grandparents throughout my life and recognized the caregiver role within myself. Also, my mother is a NSU graduate of 2001 and 2006, so I've always had a little Demon pride! A second reason I chose nursing as a career was my attendance at a 2012 AHEC program at Beauregard Health System (BHS), where I was able to shadow different nurses throughout the hospital. Lastly, I chose nursing as a career because of the excellent nursing care I received during the birth of my child at BHS.

In 2017, I realized I could attend NSU at the Leesville campus and earn my associate degree in nursing close to home. I remember meeting Dr. Nichols for the first time and feeling hopeful and supported by the small community at the NSU Leesville campus. I fell in love with the close-knit community and always felt like I belonged. I am grateful for the wonderful advisors and staff on the Leesville campus. I feel especially grateful to Mrs. Hickman, Dr. Nichols, and Dr. Joslin for believing in me and shaping me into the nurse that I have become.

What has happened in your nursing career since graduating from NSU? Where are you now and what plans do you have for your future nursing career?

After graduating from NSU in May 2020, I immediately began my nursing career at BHS working on the Medical-Surgical floor during the COVID-19 pandemic. After working on the medical surgical unit, I transferred to the Labor/Delivery/Postpartum (LDRP) Unit where I work today. Recently, I was named Assistant Director of Maternal-Child Services. In this new role I am able to continue my work on the LDRP unit and help my director, Haley Feazell, make needed unit improvements. In the future, I hope to further my education and continue to provide great care to the mothers in my community.

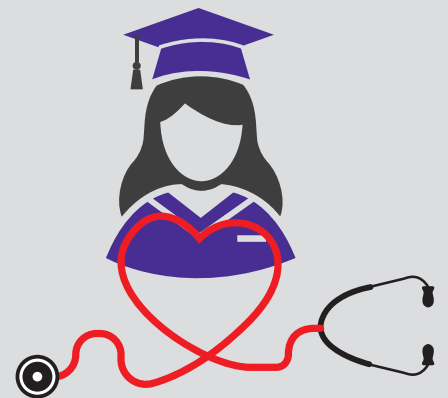
Do you remember one thing about the education you received at NSU that you want to share for future nursing students on the Leesville campus?

The education I received at NSU Leesville was top-notch. Although nursing school seemed overwhelming, I now know that all the instruction I received shaped me into the nurse and person I am today. Future nurses, take in every piece of information your instructors are willing to give because one day it may make a critical difference in a life or death situation. The best advice I can give is to take it one day at a time, work hard, and be teachable. You are the future of nursing and I wish you all good luck in your future careers!



“The education I received at NSU Leesville was top-notch. Although nursing school seemed overwhelming, I now know that all the instruction I received shaped me into the nurse and person I am today.”

– Shelby Royer



HEALTHCARE HEROES
Thank you

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Shreveport Campus Outstanding Alumni Joey Presley – Paramedic to ASN 2020

Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, and why you chose nursing as a career? Also, specifically why you chose NSU nursing on the Shreveport campus.

I am 51-year-old, non-traditional, student who was a graduate of the 1st class of NSU's Paramedic to RN transitional ASN Program. Prior to enrolling in NSU's Paramedic to RN program, I was a 1988 Huntington High School graduate who has been a paramedic and Shreveport Fire Fighter for 31 years. I have been married to my wife Tracy for 27 years and have 2 children. My son is 23 years old and currently in the police academy for Arkansas Game and Fish. My daughter is 19 years old and currently attends Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia Majoring in Animal Science.

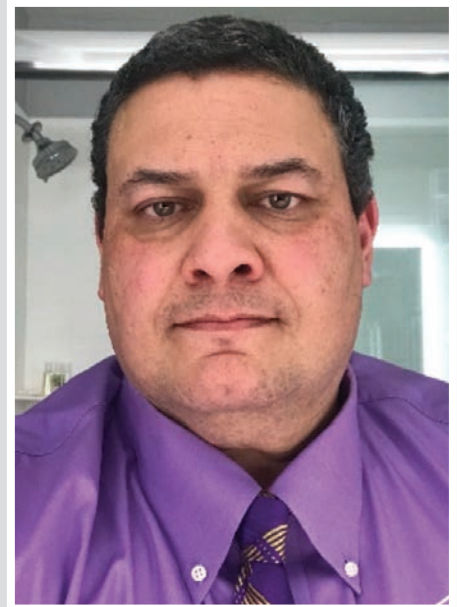
Since graduating from NSU Nursing in Shreveport in December 2020, I have worked at Ochsner LSU's Emergency Department as an Emergency Room RN. I believe that enrolling and graduating from NSU's Paramedic to RN program was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Becoming a nurse was a natural transition for me, because I love caring for people! Caring for people is my passion. I chose NSU because of the Paramedic to RN transition program.

What has happened in your nursing career since graduating from NSU? Where are you now and what plans do you have for your future nursing career?

After graduating from NSU's Paramedic to ASN program, I began working towards my BSN at NSU. I am also strongly considering continuing my education to become a Critical Care Nurse Practitioner. I am also considering becoming a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. I hope to use my advanced knowledge to help meet the ever-increasing mental health needs of my colleagues in Fire, Police and Military professions. I am praying for God to put me where I am supposed to be and use me to serve others.

Do you remember one thing about the education you received at NSU that you want to share for future nursing students on the Shreveport campus?

If there is one thing I could share with future students it would be to develop good study habits now. Being an older student that had been out of school for a while I had forgotten how to study. Learn how to study and hone those skills as you continue in nursing.



"I believe that enrolling and graduating from NSU's Paramedic to RN program was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Becoming a nurse was a natural transition for me, because I love caring for people!"

– Joey Presley



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Natchitoches Campus Outstanding Alumni Sarah LaCour – ASN 2005, BSN 2017

Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, and why you chose nursing as a career? Also, specifically why you chose NSU nursing on the Natchitoches Campus

I have always had a desire to help people. I and my six siblings had a wonderful role model, my mother, who worked her entire life as a nurse. My desire to help others and the example of my mother guided my choice of nursing as a career. I choose the nursing program on NSU's Natchitoches because the program was the closest to my hometown and I knew I could complete my entire college education at home.

What has happened in your nursing career since graduating from NSU? Where are you now and what plans do you have for your future nursing career?

After graduating from NSU in 2005, I began working at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, where I remain employed today! During my nursing career I worked numerous years caring for patients in the medical-surgical and surgical settings. I also worked numerous years in quality control and in nursing management. I am now the Chief Nursing Officer at NRMHC. In the future, I plan to obtain more ANA national certifications and may eventually consider returning to NSU's DNP program when my children graduate high school.

Do you remember one thing about the education you received at NSU that you want to share for future nursing students on the Natchitoches campus?

One of the things I remember about the education I received at NSU's Natchitoches campus is how I felt like a part of a family. All of the professors truly cared about each of us and our success.



“One of the things I remember about the education I received at NSU’s Natchitoches campus is how I felt like a part of a family. All of the professors truly cared about each of us and our success.”

– Sarah LaCour



OUTSTANDING ALUMNA



Dr. Pamela Simmons
Outstanding Alumna 2020-2022

I grew up the oldest of seven children. My dad served in the U.S. Navy until he retired. My parents pushed us towards getting a “good education.” A quote frequently cited in my household was “What you learn no one can take away from you!” Going to college was my parents’ expectation for my siblings and me. My parents grew up when attending college was not an option for them due to segregation. However, my siblings and I grew up during the 60s, a time when schools were being integrated. My parents shielded us from many things, including the reason why the three oldest children had to attend school across the city and were the only students of color in our respective 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classes. I share this because it is an important part of who I am and influences my current perspective. Recently, my best friend and I laughed about the fact that when she was growing up, her family was excited to stop at a Travel Lodge (a basic motel) when visiting Alabama and when I was growing up my family was excited to stop and rest under a huge oak tree, so daddy could finish the drive to Louisiana. I was an adult before I learned that we only stopped under that tree because very few motels accommodated people of color.

I attended elementary and junior high school in Norfolk, VA. As I rode past the Old Dominion campus on my way to whatever school I was being bused to each year, I dreamed of attending Old Dominion. But at the end of my 8th grade year, daddy was transferred, and we moved to Zion, Illinois. I went to high school in North Chicago and attended my first couple years of college at Illinois State University where I was a state scholar (i.e., I received a full tuition scholarship). I loved being at Illinois State where I might have sowed a wild oat or two. In fact, I made my first D during my freshman year. However, after seeing the disappointment on my mother’s face, I quickly made school a priority and improved my grades.

While in college, my parents retired and enticed me to come to Louisiana by saying I would grow taller (Not true), and that I would make better grades (Very true.) On my 20th birthday, I arrived in Louisiana. Living in Louisiana and interacting with people outside of my family was a definite culture shock. In fact, because I did not feel I would receive support to get into medical school in the south, I changed my major from pre-med to nursing. Once I decided to be a nurse, I chose NSU because it was known for quality nursing programs and because I had seen the beautiful Natchitoches campus several times on summer visits to my grandparents, who lived just ten or so miles from the campus.

As soon as I received my NSU catalog, the summer before my first semester, I remember laying across my bed and reading everything about nursing, nurs-

ing scholarships, and nursing organizations. That day I decided I would work to become a member of Sigma Theta Tau international (STTI). Although I didn’t know a thing about STTI, I worked hard to become a member. Years later, I eventually became president of that esteemed organization! Being part of STTI was a catalyst to my becoming interested in research and to presenting my research across the US and around the world. Making that small decision to become eligible for an invitation to join STTI, led to many opportunities that I might have otherwise missed.

Back to my history! In the Fall of 1976, I began my nursing school journey. Attending nursing school was not easy, but I have always been a high achiever and hard worker even though I generally had little confidence in myself. So, I worked



**Dr. Simmons’ parents,
Essie and Walter Beavers**

hard academically and was active in student government. Our class birthed the SSGA and the pinning ceremony that occurs at the end of each semester. I also worked as a nursing assistant to help pay for college as by this time, three or four of my siblings were also in college. Money was very tight. Again, these

experiences shaped me and later I used those experiences to encourage students to not give up when money is tight. I encourage students to consider options such as loans and part-time work, and to prioritize their education. I know what it feels like to think that I might have to quit school due to finances. But again, I also know what it’s like to have parents, who supported me and readily sacrificed on my behalf so that I could continue in school without worry. No one gets to

Dr. Simmons’ Words of Wisdom: Do good. Be wise. Be fair. Be thankful. Be generous. No drama.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNA

where they are by themselves. We rest on the shoulders, support and work of others.

I graduated from NSU, passed nursing boards the first time, married, and got my first nursing job working nights on an oncology unit. I loved that job but found it stressful in many ways. As a new nurse, a young adult, and just a naive person, I learned a lot. I learned not all nurses are compassionate. I learned death is hard but living before dying can be even harder. I learned there was a lot I did not know. I learned what it meant to have a nursing staff that supported you when a physician got aggressive or rude. I learned about fair and unfair working conditions. I even learned about public transportation. I learned that nurses can make a huge difference in whether a patient has a good or poor healthcare experience.

After a couple of years, I decided to go back and get my master's degree at NSU. However, during that first semester, I became pregnant with my first child, Jennifer. Most people who know me also know Jennifer. Jennifer is my special child, who has grown into a wonderful young woman. Jennifer is the reason I understand living with and caring for a child with special needs.

While working as a nurse, one of my mentors, Sylvia Rayfield, asked me several times to come teach at



Pamela with her daughter Jennifer

NSU. Eventually I applied, and the rest is history. Although becoming an educator was a huge learning curve, I was a sponge and loved my work. Weekly, Sylvia would meet with me, guide me, and help me “see or seek” solutions when there didn’t appear to be easy answers. I’ll always remember her saying to me on more than one occasion, “It’ll be interesting to see how you handle that!” Dr. Pat Thompson also served as my faculty mentor and was a great source of encouragement. Teaching allowed me to be creative, passionate, and share my clinical expertise while modeling what I thought a nurse with integrity who cared for and about patients should be. I took seriously the promise to do no harm. Working as a team with great faculty peers also helped me tremendously. I am grateful to have been a part of research teams with Diane Webb (NSU), Lou Murphy (LA Tech), Patsy Bourgeois (LA Tech), Shirley Payne (LA Tech), Dr. Katheryn Arterberry (NSU), Vicki Wissing (NSU), and Dr. Laura Aaron (NSU).

One of the many sayings I live by is “seek wise counsel.” One piece of advice that I was given, was to obtain my doctorate before I was 40 years old. A few years after receiving that advice, a colleague asked me to consider attending Texas Woman’s University (TWU) with her for a single summer semester. I agreed but I had two small children, the youngest was 18 months old, so I was not serious about returning to college. I attended 3 academic sessions that summer semester and earned 18 credit hours. I had a blast and was hooked! With major support of my husband, mom, peers, and family I managed to earn my PhD! I’ve always said that my husband David earned that degree with me, because many weeks he would drive me the four hours to Denton, TX and back home again.

Once I earned my PhD, I found myself in administrative jobs at the local academic health sciences center. Here I learned to lead with a servant’s heart,



Pamela and her husband David

pray for wisdom, and that a leader’s voice is louder and has a wider ripple effect, so leaders must meter out their words cautiously and thoughtfully. I have been blessed to work with a lot of great teams, but I had the rare opportunity to serve with a “creme de la creme” team in my role as staff development director. For over seven years, my team of people like Jamie Jett, DeAnna Kamphius, Cheryl Blackshire, Dr. Bea Launius, Tammy Bradford, Betty Meadors, Cindy Rowell, and Lucille Bedford thrived in the development of healthcare professionals. To be a part of such a goal-oriented, high achieving, like-minded group of clinical and policy experts is a force to be reckoned with! The team helped me learn that wise leaders hire and promote great people who the leader then supports to get the job done. Nothing is ever perfect, but my staff development team was close to perfection!



Dr. Simmons and some of her “dream team” members- left Deanna Kamphius and right Jamie Jett.

Seek peace. Be excellent. Serve others. Help someone. Forgive.

LEADERSHIP'S THOUGHTS ON DIVERSITY

Thoughts on Ensuring a Diverse College of Nursing – Dr. Joel Hicks, Dean

Do you believe NSU and the College of Nursing adequately highlight diversity, equity, and inclusion as a core value within its faculty and staff?

NSU has demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by establishing the Office for Inclusion and Diversity and the position of Vice-President of Inclusion and Diversity. Additionally, DEI has been added as a strategic focus area of the University, meaning that DEI is part of every strategic planning decision the university makes.

To ensure DEI is a central focus of the University, The Office for Inclusion and Diversity provides ongoing support to students, staff, and faculty through various programs. An example of student support is the “Call Me MiSTER” program designed to address the shortage of male teachers and to attract teachers from diverse backgrounds. An example of faculty and staff support is provision of numerous presentations to raise awareness of DEI topics presented by the Northwestern Inclusive Coaching Seminar Series (NICSS).

Within the College of Nursing, DEI is embraced as a core value. In fact, our mission statement begins with our desire to serve an “increasingly diverse student population” and included within our core values is our pursuit to value diversity. Each year, as our College makes plans for the future, DEI is an integral part of the decision-making process.

Despite the College’s commitment to DEI there is always room for improvement. We hope that by intentionally focusing on the recruitment and retention of a more diverse faculty, staff, and student population, which is reflective of the communities we serve, our graduates will be more prepared to meet the healthcare needs of our state.

Tell me why recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty is so important to NSU and the College of Nursing.

A more diverse faculty is important to NSU and the College of Nursing because it provides a welcoming environment for all students. A diverse faculty also brings diverse perspectives and opinions, which is critical to



Dr. Joel Hicks with Spring 2022 Community Health Fair group

learning. Ultimately, diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

In what ways do you show your commitment to retaining and recruiting faculty that is more representative?

Found within the College of Nursing’s ‘Core Values’ are our commitments to value diversity and promote inclusion. To accomplish this, the College of Nursing has endeavored to recruit and retain a diverse workforce by promoting open and honest communication between faculty and administration. Through these things, we hope to continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all faculty and students.

What do you hope to accomplish in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the coming years?

As a college, we are dedicated to increasing our efforts to recruit and retain a diverse faculty that promotes inclusion for all students and embraces new and creative solutions to improving healthcare for all. We seek to have honest and respectful discussions among faculty and students and grow in our understanding of one another.



LEADERSHIP'S THOUGHTS ON DIVERSITY

Dr. Anna Morris, Senior Director of Nursing, shares her thoughts on diversity

Have you ever stopped to consider the conflicting messages of “don’t judge a book by its cover” but “make a good first impression?” Is it because we know that human nature is to judge that we caution ourselves to put our best face forward? Or is it because we want people to see something in common with us and recognize us as “good people?”

I think some of us are hard wired to look for commonalities while others always look for differences. Personally, I look for commonalities because so many times in my life, my family or I have been judged by differences. Growing up in a military family, it was hard to feel like I belonged in the small Louisiana town we settled in about 40 minutes from base. We weren’t related to anyone (which is a big deal in small towns) and we were referred to as the “new people” even after living there for 10 years. To add to the “being different,” my family also had a fair number of relatives with mental illness (bipolar, schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, alcoholism, drug addiction) that would visit often. In addition, several family members are multiracial or of a different race than me.

Of course, as an eight-year-old child, I wanted to fit in and not be seen as different. I didn’t talk to many people outside of the family about my alcoholic father, bisexual uncle, or schizophrenic aunt. I had a hard enough time convincing people that my biracial sister was indeed MY sister!

It wasn’t until I went to college that I began to realize that I didn’t need to hide my family’s differences from others. My family helped shape me, my empathy and my ability to understand and relate to others who are faced with similar challenges. My family’s differences helped me be a better Christian, nurse, and educator.



Dr. Anna Morris and her family

When I look at someone for the first time, of course I notice their race. However, this isn’t the only thing I’m noticing. As a nurse, I’m also assessing a lot of things, including any veins that I could use to potentially start an IV! As a human, I’m looking for commonalities. If I don’t notice any apparent commonalities, I typically start a conversation to find a few. Interestingly, the fact that I am a middle-aged white lady is NEVER the topic of these conversations, and in my opinion nor should it be, because it is the least interesting thing about me!

To me recognizing diversity includes recognizing and honoring obvious differences such as race and gender, but it also includes recognizing and honoring differences in upbringing, values, morals, and lived experiences that shape who we are as human beings. I want NSU faculty, staff, and students to be representative of all those differences, the obvious and the not so obvious, but also to honor those differences in others. I believe recognition and valuing the things we have in common and the things that make us different make us a stronger, more empathetic group of people, better educators, better nurses, and better humans.



FACULTY

NSU College of Nursing and School of Allied Health's EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR



Tammy Curtis, Ph.D, RT(R)(CT)(CHES)

*Professor and Director of the
BS Radiologic Sciences Program*

How did it feel to be nominated and chosen by your peers as NSU's Educator of the Year?

Very humbling and unexpected!

What do you think has contributed to your success as an educator, nurse and/or faculty member?

Always keep in mind that the student's are our first priority!

What advice do you have for new nursing/non-nursing faculty?

Always give students the benefit of doubt and always listen to their side of the story. Always put the student's best interest first.

What has been your most rewarding faculty experience so far?

Attending graduation! Graduating a class each year and seeing the students excel in their career.

What would you tell someone if they wanted to become a health professions faculty member?

Do not pursue a career as a higher education educator for money, instead choose this career for the difference you can make in students' lives and for internal rewards that money cannot buy.



Melissa Rennie RN, DNP

How did it feel to be nominated and chosen by your peers as NSU's Educator of the year?

I was honored, shocked and truly humbled.

What do you think has contributed to your success as an educator, nurse and faculty member?

Great role models, wonderful faculty mentors, faith in God, and unconditional family support.

What advice do you have for new nursing faculty?

You need to ensure there is mutual respect between faculty and students. Often, it is more important to demonstrate caring and professional behaviors than it is lecture about them. Finally, you need to learn to meet students where they are, not all students start at the same level of knowledge/experience.

What has been your most rewarding faculty experience so far?

To see students I have taught, graduate and become members of the nursing profession- a profession which has given so much to me

What would you tell someone if they wanted to become a health professions faculty member?

First, make sure you are called to be a faculty member. Next, get ready for the challenge of a lifetime. Nothing you have experienced thus far will prepare you for this role, but it is absolutely the best!

FACULTY

NURSE OF THE YEAR

Tiffany Rogers, BSN, RN, CCRN

How does it feel to be nominated and chosen by your peers as NSU's Nurse of the Year?

I am overjoyed and overwhelmed (but in a good way) that my peers selected me and recognized for my work. I am excited to be NSU's CONSAH's Student Health Coordinator, and to be able to make a long-lasting impact on others.

What do you think has contributed to your success as a nurse?

I truly think my work ethic and sense of compassion have contributed to my success. From a young age, my parents taught me the foundation and principles of hard work. The installation of this foundation is embedded in everything I do. As far as compassion, this trait was acquired over the span of my life and I like to always remember to treat others how I would like to be treated.

What advice do you have for current nursing students?

I would tell nursing students to make the most out of their careers. One way to do this is by joining professional organizations, becoming involved in your community, and by networking. For many years I just worked as a nurse, completed my shifts, went home and then did it over and over again. I wasn't involved with organizations outside of work. Later I realized that this lack of engagement was one of the biggest reasons I wasn't getting the most out of my career. Becoming involved will contribute to your success.

What has been your most rewarding nursing experience so far?

While I enjoy my current position as CONSAH's Student Health Coordinator, the most rewarding experience has been, working as a Critical Care nurse. The immense feeling you get taking care of patients that you've helped save is so rewarding and overwhelming. I've had many patients over the years while working Critical Care that we didn't think would make it, and to see them leave the ICU days later and to form bonds with their families was an unbelievable experience. It made all the rough days worth it. I definitely left the ICU with a greater appreciation for life.

What would you tell someone if they wanted to become a nurse?

If someone was interested in becoming a nurse, I would tell them to go for it! The profession of nursing will provide you with endless possibilities. I would also tell them to get ready for the greatest ride of their lives. You will experience many ups and downs through school and throughout your career, but in the end, you would have appreciated every moment of it.

thank you
Nurses



More about Tiffany...

- A nurse for over 11 years
- Bulk of career in Critical Care
- CCRN
- Previous member of AACN
- Current member of Beta Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau (inducted 2022)
- Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- I have this joke with my husband that all my degrees come from schools off the I-20 Corridor in Louisiana.
ASN – Louisiana Tech University
BSN – Grambling State University
MSN – NSU, pending
- Married 2 children

“If someone was interested in becoming a nurse, I would tell them to go for it! The profession of nursing will provide you with endless possibilities.”
– Tiffany Rogers

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP & ACHIEVEMENT

**Dr. Jessica Amsden, DNP, RN**

Earned Doctor of Nursing Practice in Healthcare Systems Leadership at Chamberlain University February 2022

Dr. Aimee Badeaux, PhD, CRNA, APRN, CNE

*Earned Initial Certification as Certified Nurse Educator December 2021
Podium Presentations at C&H Educational Systems Anesthesia Update April 2022*

Alice Blue, MSN, FNPC

*Awarded Louisiana Nurse Practitioner Foundation Scholarship December 2021
Awarded Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education Grant 2020, 2021
Certified as Telehealth Provider and Educator April 2021*

Sandra Blake, MSN, RN

*Presented at NSULA's 34th Annual Research Day April 2021
Presented at NSU's Spring Faculty Development February 2021*

Sharon Burnes, Ed.D, CRNA

*Published Indian Journal of Anesthesia, 2020
Published American Association of Nurse Anesthetists April 2021
Poster Presentation at American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Assembly, 2021
Published in Journal of American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, January 2021
Published in Respiratory Care Journal, 2021*

Dr. Dana Clawson, DNS, WHNP, CNE

*Louisiana State Nurses Association's Nurse Education Administrator of the Year 2021-2022
Martin Luther King Clinic Service and Leadership Appreciation Award 2019-2020
Recertified as WHNP by National Certification Corporation 2021*



Dr. Renee Downey receiving her DNP from NSU.

Myra "Michelle" DeBose, PhD, MSN, MEd, CNEcl

*Earned initial certification in Certified Academic Clinical Nurse Education January 2021
Published book chapter in Evidence Based Policy Making April 2021*

Dr. Renee Downey, DNP

Completed Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree program, 2021

Rebecca Harrell, MSN, RN-BC

*Presented at LA League for Nursing February 2022
Recertified by ANCC as Medical-Surgical Nursing RN January 2021*

Windy Jaep

Completed doctor of nursing practice degree program, 2022

Dr. Donald Johnston

*Clinical Trial Initiation at NSU & Ochsner/LSU Health January 2022
Presented at STTI Honor Society National Conference Nov. 2021*

Dr. Myla Landry, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NPd-BC

Presented at National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates, Feb. 2022

Dr. Leah Pearce, DNP, RN, CNE

Earned Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

Alyea Pollard, MSN, RN, CNE

*Published in International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship October 2021
Coughlin-Saunders Endowed Professorship Holder March 2022*

Dr. Robyn Ray, DNP, APRN, FNP-BS, CNE

Textbook Reviewer Jones and Bartlett November 2020



Windy Jaep, center, completed the DNP degree program, pictured above with Dr. Susan Steele-Moses, left, and Dr. Donald Johnston, right.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP & ACHIEVEMENT



Dr. Allyson L. Spence, PhD

Awarded Honorary Induction into Phi Lambda Sigma May 2020
Awarded Regis University Teacher of the Year May 2020
Presented at Haven of Hope, September 2021
Presented at Regis University School of Pharmacy June 2021
Presented at Regis University School of Pharmacy March 2021
Presented at Regis University School of Pharmacy August 2021
Presented at Tanzania January 2021
Presented at AmeriCorps January 2021
Presented at Team-Based Learning Collaborative Conference March 2022
Presented at American College of Clinical Pharmacy Conference July 2021
Presented at American College of Clinical Pharmacy Conference October 2021
Presented at American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Conference July 2020
Presented at American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Conference July 2021
Published in Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy January 2022
Published in Best Practice and Research Clinical Anesthesiology October 2021
Published in Drugs and Therapy Perspectives December 2020
Published in World Journal of Clinical Oncology 2022
Published in Med Docs: Annals of Gastroenterology and Digestive System Nov. 2020
Published in Jesuit Higher Education November, 2020
Published Chapters in Essentials of Blood Products B, March 2021
Published Chapters in Basic Topics on Anesthesiology, 2022
Published Chapters in Pain Control in Academic and Non-Academic Ambulatory Surgery Centers 2022



Dr. Joel Hicks, Dr. Anna Morris, Dr. Myla Landry, and Mrs. Ashley Briggs at NSU for the ULS For Our Future 2022 Conference.

Dr. Susan Steele-Moses

Published in Journal of Informatics Nursing, 2022
Published in Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, 2022
Published: Predicting work satisfaction and intent to stay among Medical-Surgical nurses. Nursing Management, 52(8), 16-25. 2021
Published in Phoenix Scholar, 2020
Presented at the Qualitative Report 13 Annual Conference, January 2022
Presented at Knowledge Without Borders Annual Research Summit, August 2021
Presented at International Leadership Association Healthcare Leadership Conference May 2021
Presented at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University Research and Scholarship Showcase April 2021
Invited Speaker at LSU Health New Orleans, St. Charles Professorship, April 2021
Presented at Qualitative Report's 12th Annual Conference, January 2021

Dr. Danita Potter

Published in International Journal of Caring Sciences 2021
Published in International Journal of Caring Sciences 2020
Presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International 46th Biennial Convention 2021
Speaker at Lambda Mu's Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society's Induction Ceremony 2021
Speaker at Morehouse Community Medical Center 2020

Dr. Melissa Rennie

Completed Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program 2021

Anna Kathryn Vaughn

Certified Nurse Educator Initial Certification December 2021

Dr. Mary Zapczynski, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNN, CNE

Published in Lupine Online Journal of Nursing and Health Care April 2021



Dr. Melissa Rennie receiving her DNP from Dr. Jim Henderson, left, and Dr. Chris Maggio, right.

STUDENTS

NSU NURSING STUDENTS have been the epitome of Resilience during the last two academic years. Students successfully navigated daily shifts between online and in class educational experiences as well as cancelled and make up clinical days. Even during these turbulent times, the students managed to GIVE BACK, GIVE FORWARD and shine. The below pictures represent just a small portion of events the students have participated in during the Pandemic. NSU nursing students have always been and will always be the most highly skilled, caring nursing students. #youcanteachcaring



Spring 2022 ASN and BSN graduates honored at a pinning ceremony



October 1, 2021 Covid-19 vaccination clinic



Community Health Fair at Sci-Port Discovery Center March 12, 2022



LPN-RN students in CENLA campus Simulation Lab February 28, 2020



NSU CENLA Community Event at CENLA Pregnancy Center February 23, 2022

2022 MSN PILT Virtual Poster Presentations



The NSU MSN students and faculty invite you to view their PILT presentations in virtual form. The list with accompanying links here: nsu.la/2022PILTposters

STUDENTS



Community Healthcare Education Network Scholarship event May 5, 2022
Nursing Student Scholarships Kenya Mahoney and Anna Hooper

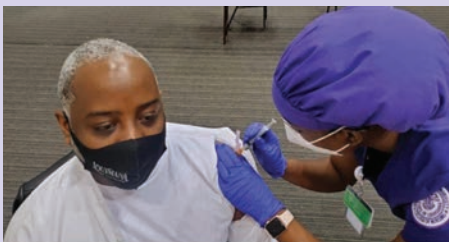


Ashley Sandel RN, BSN Nurse Anesthesia Program, was the recipient of the 2022 AANA Foundation Maria Roach CRNA Scholarship of \$3,000. The AANA Foundation received 2,456 competitive student scholarship applications this year, and 80 scholarships were awarded totaling \$225,000.



Alice Blue MSN, APRN, FNP-C, Assistant Professor of Graduate Studies in Nursing, was presented the NP to DNP Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 by the Louisiana Nurse Practitioner Foundation (LNPF) on January 22, 2022 at the LANP Awards Event and PAC Fundraiser in Alexandria, La. Based on her outstanding application, she was granted this most prestigious award. We applaud Alice for her accomplishments and progress toward achieving her career goals.

Natchitoches Nursing students help administer vaccinations, stand out on the Natchitoches Campus



Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams received his first COVID-19 vaccine from nursing student Keshayla Jackson.

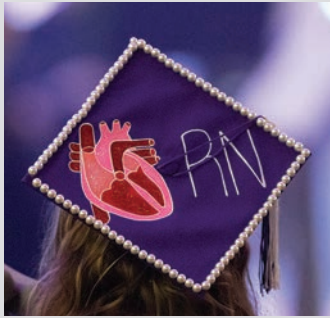


Megan Downey, student, displays her sticker after getting vaccinated at the NSU vaccine clinic.



STUDENTS

August 2021 Undergraduate Graduation



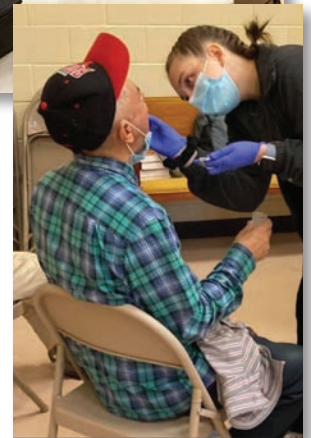
Students Participate in Florida Medical Mission Trip

In June 2021, NSU's undergraduate and graduate nursing students and Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) students participated in a medical mission trip to provide medical care to 170 Colombian migrant farm workers and their families working in the Florida farmlands. Many of these immigrants have lived in Florida for many years and have no access to medical care, except for emergency room visits which are costly. Often, the immigrants must choose between feeding their families or paying for needed medications. The healthcare team consisted of a medical doctor, two registered nurses, a psychologist, counselor, professor, minister, several nursing students, pre-medical students, and interpreters. Prior to traveling to Florida, the team coordinated assignments and various details of the trip. Nursing faculty and students met with the AED students in the nursing skills lab on main campus to teach them basic assessment skills. The AED students coordinated Spanish classes to help the team learn common words. Generous donations and student fundraising made purchasing needed supplies possible.

Once the team arrived, they resided at a local church and the Salvation Army provided portable showering facilities. While in Florida, the team provided the migrant workers with medical assessments and evaluations, first-aid kits, fluoride treatments, eye screenings and reading glasses, medical equipment, valuable health information, and mental health and spiritual counseling.

A physician preceptor helped teach the students about how to perform assessment and diagnostic techniques without the use of modern medical equipment, laboratory, radiology, or referral services. Students were able to build upon the assessment techniques learned in NSU's Nurse Practitioner assessment course and use available community resources to assist this population. Students learned that often there is not a public health system for this population to access. The students were overwhelmed by the community's thankfulness at the care they received. The community provided the students with wonderful meals to thank them for their service. The students and each team member stated the experience was unforgettable and that they hope future students engage in upcoming mission trips. Each member of the mission team stated they received far more than they gave!

Excerpts taken from trip summaries written by Mrs. Alyea Pollard (NSU Faculty) and Mrs. Shawna Longoria (NSU NP graduate student).



Providing medical care to migrant farm workers and their families working in the Florida farmlands.

IN MEMORIAM



Mary Eve Baskerville
August 26, 2021



**Roxanna Kay "Roxie"
Miller Beard**
March 12, 2022



Sandra Townsend Bounds
December 10, 2021



Tammy Bradford
January 31, 2021



Susan Gail Gallagher
July 16, 2021



Brenda Joyce Hicks
February 16, 2022



Deborah "Debbie" Moore
March 22, 2021



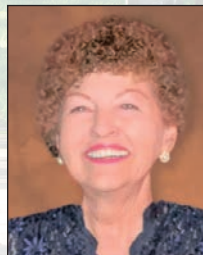
Anabell Passaniti
September 6, 2021



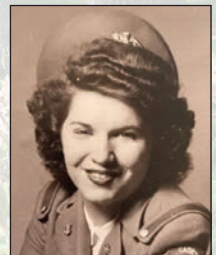
Linda Sletterink Powers
June 25, 2021



Nova Ruth Rachal
April 5, 2022



JoAnn Bourg Ross
February 1, 2022



Mildred Louise Adkins Walker
December 9, 2021



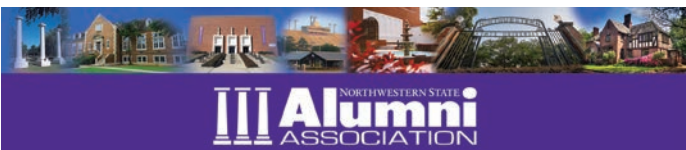
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Twitter: @NSULAShreve



Instagram: @nsulashreveport



Please make sure we have your latest contact information so that you can receive upcoming issues of the Nursing Columns. In addition, send us news and upcoming events to nursingnews@nsula.edu.

New Building Campaign Fund



Due to the rapid growth of nursing and allied health, over 40% growth in the past five years, we have outgrown the Nursing Education building on the Shreveport campus.

Primary areas that are lacking in space are the clinical laboratory where students learn to perform patient caretaking skills. Further, College of Nursing is preparing for the addition of a Nurse Anesthesia program and will need additional clinical learning space.

Additionally, the nursing school needs eight modern, large, interactive, compressed video classrooms. A modern library that only utilizes digital technology is also needed.

The overall goal is to provide a contemporary, spacious learning campus designed for students to practice their clinical skills, engage in interactive learning, become experts in use of modern patient-care technologies, and become enthusiastic members of a caring, holistic, professional collegiate community.

The building will enlarge the Shreveport campus footprint and add more than 40,000 square feet of space to accommodate growth. The building will be located on Elizabeth Avenue across from the existing Shreveport buildings.

To contribute to this fund, go online at: northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/nursing/

For more information contact: Cindy McGuire, College of Nursing, Director of Grants and Planning, at mcguirec@nsula.edu or Erica Reynolds, Facilitator of Nursing and Allied Health Academic Operations, at reynoldses@nsula.edu or 318-677-3073.



Photo courtesy of ACSW Architects

Natchitoches Campus new Kyser Hall design revealed

ACSW Architects shared several digital renderings for the design of the new Kyser Hall at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches campus.

Situated on top of the hill, this new student-centric academic and health science building will house smart classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, simulation suites for nursing and allied health along with clinical spaces for social work and collaboration spaces to improve education outcomes and community outreach. The new Kyser Hall replacement will be the new front door of the NSU campus.