

SBU life

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University Summer 2016



From dream to reality

State-of-the-art Nursing and Health Sciences Training Center ready to welcome students this fall



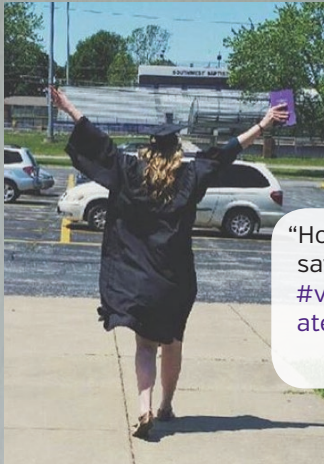
ALSO INSIDE:

New provost poised to listen and guide the direction of SBU academics

Health science students give back locally and serve around the globe

» Be Social

Read what people are sharing about SBU.



“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” -Winnie the Pooh
#vsco #sbuniv #moseniorseason #collegegraduate #mamaimadeit #sbualumni

God really did something when He placed me at SBU ❤️

@LittleB_6

@SBUniv absolutely loved the campus and everyone was so nice. Glad my daughter is going there next year. #SBUniv



Asa's first track meet today supporting Uncle Marshall and the SBU Bearcats. Looks like we might have a future pole vaulter on our hands! #SBUTF #bearcatroar #polevault #babyasa #aunttori #unclemarshall [via @23tori on Instagram]



Thankful.

Graduation day May 14th, 2016

B.S. Exercise Science

Check out **“The Hub”** - Southwest Baptist University's website showcasing what people are saying about SBU on social media. Go to social.SBUniv.edu to see Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and news release postings all in one place.

And be sure to use **#SBUniv** when you post about SBU on social media and you may see your post featured on “The Hub” as well!



Be social with SBU on Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and Instagram. **#SBUniv**



Guess Who?	3
The art of healthcare	4
Mercy College mission projects	8
Community outreach	10
MSN program projects	12
5 Questions: Paula Steiert	17
Graduation and retiring faculty	18
SBU welcomes new provost	20
Keeping in Touch	23
Recommended Reads: Rebecca Carlson McCall	24



14 SBU builds new state-of-the-art Nursing and Health Sciences Training Center

Volume 101 Issue 3
USPS 507-500

PRESIDENT
Dr. C. Pat Taylor

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Charlotte Highsmith Marsch '97

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Holly Bridge '08

DESIGNER
Alyssa Glasgow '15

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Stephanie Benoit;
Denise Elson Tucker '89
Rebekah Wright '10

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Charlotte Highsmith Marsch '97;
Alyssa Glasgow '15, Meg White;
Gregory Harrison

ADDRESS CHANGE
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
SBU 1600 University Avenue,
Bolivar, MO 65613-2597

HOW TO REACH US:
Phone: [417] 328-1803
Fax: [417] 328-1808
Web: www.SBUuniv.edu
Email: cmarsch@SBUuniv.edu
Mail: 1600 University Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613-2597

SBUlife [USPS 507-500] is published in February, April, July, and November. It is distributed free for alumni, parents and friends of Southwest Baptist University by the Office of Marketing & Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. Periodical postage paid at Bolivar, Mo., and additional mailing offices.

SBUlife highlights the University's mission: to be a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. SBU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status in employment, admission, access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities, except to the extent permitted by religious exemptions recognized by law.

Inquiries concerning SBU's compliance with federal and state laws and guidelines regarding discrimination should be directed to the Vice President for Administration, the Vice President for Student Development, the Dean for Enrollment Management or the Director of Human Resources at 1600 University Avenue, Bolivar, Missouri 65613.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear alumni and friends,

Our men's basketball coach, Clark Sheehy, ends all text messages and emails with "It's a great day to be a Bearcat." I agree; this is indeed a great day to be a Bearcat. We certainly have multiple challenges, but when I analyze the state of our University, the positives certainly outweigh the negatives.

An accreditation team from the Higher Learning Commission visited our campus in November, resulting in continued accreditation from the HLC with our next comprehensive visit to be in 10 years. I have been on several accrediting teams and have been involved in accreditation for a long time and have never seen a better or more complimentary report than we received.

We have had another outstanding year of student achievement. Our Enactus team placed in the top 20 in the Enactus USA national competition. Our computer science students continue to outperform other institutions in our region and often win competitions against universities with doctoral programs. Our forensics team also continues to be very competitive.

Two of our student athletes received outstanding recognition for their athletic and academic accomplishments. Junior Natalie O'Keefe won the national indoor track championship in high jump, and placed second in high jump at the national outdoor track championship. She also won the Elite 90 Award at the outdoor championship, which recognizes the student athlete with the best academic record. A week later she won the Ken B. Jones Award at the MIAA (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association) awards ceremony. The Ken B. Jones Award (which is based on athletic performance, academics and community service) recognizes the top female and male athlete in the conference. Senior Christian Binger was selected as the Academic All-American, signifying that he was an outstanding baseball player with an outstanding academic record. This was a great honor for our baseball program and the University for Christian to be recognized as the top scholar athlete in the nation for baseball.

Within this issue, you will read about the nursing and health sciences program on our Springfield campus. You will read about students and faculty serving the community and demonstrating our mission of being servant leaders in a global society. You also will read about the new facility we are opening on the Springfield campus this fall with a state-of-the-art simulation lab and learning resource center. This cutting edge facility will help increase enrollment on the Springfield campus and provide our students with a more interactive education.

On March 26, my life dramatically changed when the love of my life transitioned from this life to her eternal life. As much as I miss her and want to be with her, I would not bring her back. She has no tremors now and she is at peace. For more than three years, she battled a horrible neurological disease with grace and dignity. 1 Corinthians 2:9 has served as an inspiration for me during this difficult time. The outpouring of love and support from the SBU family has been unbelievable. Judy truly loved people, loved life, loved her family and loved God. I pray that I can love like Judy always did. My family and I have felt so loved during Judy's illness and death. Your support has encouraged me and nurtured me when I most needed it.

We have great people at SBU, including our alumni and friends. Because of our people at SBU, I can declare that it is indeed a great day to be a Bearcat!

C. Pat Taylor

C. Pat Taylor
SBU President

Guess Who?

Each year SBU recognizes employees who have reached milestone years of service to the University. The individuals pictured below are celebrating significant anniversaries of employment at SBU.

Can you name any of them?

1



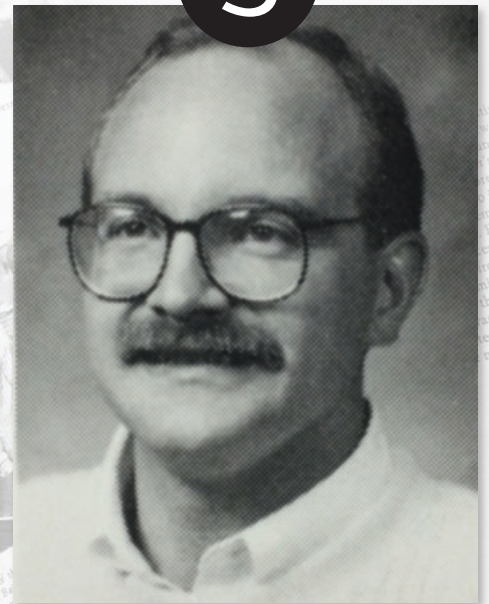
15 years of service to SBU

2



15 years of service to SBU

3



25 years of service to SBU

Everyone who correctly identifies at least one of these employees will be entered into a prize drawing. Submit your guesses by email to SBUcommunications@gmail.com or by mail to: Office of Marketing and Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar MO 65613. Entries must be received by Friday, August 19.

Thank you to all who participated in the previous Guess Who contest. The pictured Life Beautiful recipients were Betty Jo Mulberry, Florian Toma and Dr. Darrell Strait.

The following all submitted correct responses: Juanita Boro, Maeanne Browning, Christy Burchett, Douglas Hamilton, Jason Hankins, Jennifer [Swartz] Hayes, Allison Holcomb, Patricia Jameson, Chris Keller, Kimberly [Conner] LeMoine, Brenda McGill, Angela [Sheppard] McGowan, Pamela Mendenhall, Amy [Rader] Margeson, Mike Roy, Margaret Schweer, Gloria [Day] Simpson, Jeanne Stehr, Bruce Story, Carrie Turpin, Bruce Walker, Heather Walker

Congratulations to Heather Walker, who won the prize package!

The art of healthcare

The Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

Nineteenth-century health-care pioneer Florence

Nightingale once described the nursing profession as an art form requiring the devotion and preparation of a painter or sculptor. Rather than practicing in canvas or marble, however, a nurse's medium is "the living body, the temple of God's spirit," she said, making it among "the finest of Fine Arts."

The Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences (MCONHS) of Southwest Baptist University trains students in this and other key healthcare professions, preparing them to become competent, caring practitioners who embody the healing ministry of Christ and can care for diverse populations in a variety of settings.

"Our mission statement is that we are faith-based, educating students to be competent and caring healthcare professionals engaged in the healing ministry of Christ through servant leadership," said Dr. Kezia Lilly, college dean. "Everything you are doing is geared toward helping others—that is the foundation of everything we do."

That training is especially important now due to the nursing shortage occurring across the country in various degrees for decades—and which is about to worsen. From an increased need for care as the Baby Boom generation ages to the large number of nurses nearing retirement, numerous factors are coalescing in a demand expected to outpace supply, with more than 1 million vacancies expected to emerge by 2022, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics projections.

In the Ozarks region specifically, healthcare is the highest growth industry, with demand

for registered nurses (RN) expected to increase 13 percent, according to the Missouri Hospital Association's 2015 Workforce Report.

"The evolution of healthcare is ever-changing, and it is growing," Lilly said. "The demands and the type of patients we are experiencing these days with more vast chronic diseases requires more nurses and healthcare professionals at the bedside. As healthcare demands grow and expand, so do the needs for those healthcare positions."

Early beginnings

SBU first began offering college-credit courses in Springfield in 1984 and in the early 1980s, SBU and St. John's Health Center (Now Mercy Hospital Springfield) contracted for a feasibility study of a bachelor of science in nursing completion program. The study ultimately pointed to the need for such a program in Springfield, offered in a Christian environment.

"We have been working with Mercy since the mid 1980s," Lilly said. "MCONHS of SBU was basically an effort to combine our efforts to meet the nursing education needs of the local and regional community."

In May 1996, the long working relationship between St. John's and SBU-Springfield culminated with the Springfield Center joining with St. John's School of Nursing and moving to the J.F. Johnson Building on South Fremont.

Health sciences and radiography

In 2012, the college was renamed the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU in recognition of the diverse variety of programs

offered by the school outside the arena of nursing, such as radiography and health sciences.

"The college has progressed through the years, and now we are a college of nursing and health sciences," said Stacy Soden, director of health sciences. "In healthcare, we work as a team. It's the EMTs, the paramedics, the nurses, the physicians and so on. I was a radiologic technologist and I collaborated with nurses every day, and in higher education we are still collaborating about what's best for our students and healthcare."

Many of the health sciences degrees offered by the college are designed to help students advance in their careers and explore their options in healthcare. For example, an associate's degree in applied science allows healthcare professionals with certificates to progress further in their professions, while the health sciences associate's degree helps students gain a better understanding of what they would like to do in healthcare.

Similarly, the bachelor of science in health sciences—in which many associate's in radiography students dual enroll—helps students advance in their careers and prepare for future roles by giving students a broad, well-rounded education on the bachelor's level, which many believe soon will be the standard degree level required in healthcare.

"Anybody that works in healthcare has to be able to make that quick decision within seconds—the more education and the more exposed you are, the better you will be able to make those quick decisions," said Soden of the benefit to healthcare professionals pursuing bachelor degrees.

In 2015, the college added new tracks to the bachelor of health sciences degree, including

leadership and management and advanced imaging (CAT scan, MRI, and interventional procedures), both of which will provide students with valuable education to take the next steps in their careers.

“The leadership and management track is for students who would like a degree in healthcare that’s generic and can help them do things like go on to apply for physician assistant school, so it’s a segue for different things,” Soden said. “For radiologic technologists, we encourage them to come back and get the advanced training track so they can become certified and practice in advanced imaging. People who have been doing this profession for 20 years can still continue in their education.”

The next steps in education

In addition to the high demand for healthcare workers, the college anticipates continued growth as more and more nurses and other professionals return to school to obtain advanced degrees so they can advance in their careers, as well as prepare for educational shifts in the industry. For example, Institute of Medicine has launched an initiative to have 80 percent of all nurses progress beyond an associate’s degree to be bachelor-degree prepared by 2020.

“The research has shown that with bachelor’s-prepared nurses there are fewer medical errors in the hospitals and improved levels of quality of care at the bedside,” Lilly said. “We are making every effort to push toward that initiative.”

One way the college is working to meet this goal is by bringing a pre-licensure bachelor of science degree in nursing to the Bolivar and Springfield campuses, with a goal of the first cohorts entering in Fall 2017, contingent upon approval from the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

Another looming shift in the industry includes a projected shortage of nursing educators in the coming years. Nursing education requires at least a master’s-level degree, which the college offers in two possible tracks: nursing administration, for those planning to go into management, and nursing education, for those planning to teach.

Other possible programs—such as a family nurse practitioner program and doctorate of nursing practice in educational leadership—may be brought forward in the coming years.

“I hope that our students realize that service is not just about that bedside patient care—it’s their ability to make a difference in the community by giving back.”

Dr. Kezia Lilly, dean of the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU



ALUMNI PROFILE

Chelsea Houser: Nurse manager at community health clinic

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

Chelsea Houser, who earned both her ASN and BSN from MCONHS of SBU, gained valuable experience as a student during clinical rotations like Jordan Valley Community Health Center, which works to improve community health by providing high quality and accessible medical, dental and behavioral health services to patients, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured.

Now, after five years working on the Pediatric floor and in the Pediatric ICU at Mercy Hospital Springfield and just two years since earning her BSN, Houser is back at Jordan Valley working as nurse manager, a role she assumed in 2013.

“Community health nursing has been very rewarding to me,” she said. “I feel like I make a difference in our community and I would like to continue working within that realm in some way.”

Looking back, Houser believes that her education was essential in preparing her for her career by instilling the skills and confidence needed to treat patients and

work in a variety of settings.

“I gained a lot of knowledge in my program and was well prepared to take care of patients in our community,” she said. “I graduated with confidence and understanding of what was expected of me as a nursing professional. I also received a variety of diverse experiences within the BSN program that have helped me prepare for my career.”

In the future, Houser has considered progressing even further in her education, and in the meantime is enjoying serving the community at Jordan Valley Community Health Center.

“I see myself continuing my education and growing in my knowledge and nursing skills to better care for those that I serve,” she said. “I have thought about going back to school but am unsure which path I would like to take, so right now I’m just soaking in all that I can.”





FACULTY PROFILE

Cindy Todd: A true servant leader

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

"I love the family atmosphere of the college and that feeling carries over at the university in Bolivar," said nursing instructor Cindy Todd, who teaches in MCONHS of SBU's online RN-BSN program and obtained her ASN, BSN and master's in nursing education from SBU.

Initially drawn to MCONHS of SBU because of its affiliation with Mercy and the hospital system's reputation for excellence, Todd continued there to pursue advanced degrees because of the mentorship of SBU's faculty and staff.

"The personal connection and availability of the faculty and staff in all three programs is really what made the experience worthwhile," she said. "They displayed true servant leadership as they mentored me through my educational journey. It felt like home and I knew that I would get a personalized educational experience."

After obtaining her ASN and BSN and working as a nurse at Mercy Hospital, Todd felt led to teaching and became an instructor in SBU's ASN program, a part-time clinical educator and an adjunct instructor for the RN-BSN program. She then transitioned into her current full-time role in the RN-BSN program and began a doctorate in nursing practice at the University of Missouri-Columbia, which she will complete in 2018.

Todd believes that embracing lifelong learning is an essential aspect of the nursing profession, a belief that was modeled for her by MCONHS of SBU faculty and which she hopes she can similarly instill in her students.

"Healthcare is never static; it is dynamic," she said. "Educators cannot afford to be stagnant; they are leaders who must lead by example through adaptation and innovation while their students make the transition from classroom to practice or advance their own current practice. I wanted to be a part of that process."



"In addition to the bachelor's degree initiative, the Institute of Medicine report is pushing for hospitals to have a higher percentage of nurses who are advancing to get master's and doctorates as well," Lilly said. "Because we are looking to have a shortage of nurse educators and the doctorate degree doesn't exist locally, it is one that I would like to see us develop in order to take that next step to prepare educators."

Moving forward and making a difference

As the number of programs, faculty, staff and students at MCONHS of SBU continue to grow, so too will the ability for the college to make a difference in the community and around the world by training the next generation of servant leaders in healthcare.

"I hope that our students realize that service is not just about that bedside patient care—it's their ability to make a difference in the community by giving back," Lilly said. "That is a strength of the college: students aren't just exposed to that clinical experience at the bedside. They are exposed to helping out community members."

Whether it's at the bedside, in the community, or on the mission field, MCONHS of SBU students are being prepared to be servant leaders in a global society as they step into a profession which, at its core, models the healing ministry of Christ.

"Healthcare, whether it's nursing, health sciences or radiography, is one of the most selfless professions out there," Lilly said. "I envision servant leadership as truly putting the needs of others before your own. Students give back and demonstrate that servant leadership not only at the bedside but within the community." ■

The Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of Southwest Baptist University offers coursework and degree programs for students in nursing, radiography and health sciences.



Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN)

A four-semester degree program that prepares students to become registered nurses (RN) upon successful completion of the coursework and the NCLEX-RN licensing examination. The College also offers a bridge to ASN program for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and licensed paramedics.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

This online degree-completion allows a nurse to pursue advanced degree and professional opportunities.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

1. Nursing Administration track for nurses to prepare for management and administrative positions in healthcare
2. Nursing Education track for preparation as a nursing instructor or nurse educator



(includes pre-requisite sciences and general education coursework)

Community Paramedic Certificate

A certificate program for licensed paramedics who desire to serve a local community in assessing and developing community health services.

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

This degree is available to students who are licensed and/or certified allied healthcare providers and work in areas such as emergency medical technology (EMT), paramedics, radiologic technology, surgical technology and respiratory technology.

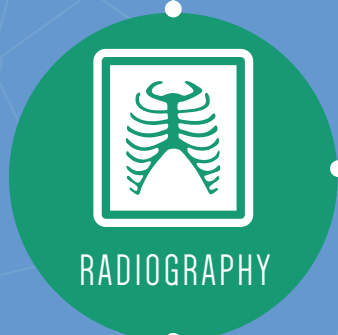
Associate of Science in Health Sciences (ASHS)

A general degree for students interested in the health sciences or for students who have not yet decided which area of health science to pursue.

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS)

The BSHS degree has four possible degree tracks:

1. Leadership and Administration – For students who want to pursue management and administrative positions within the healthcare industry
2. Computed Tomography – An advanced-imaging degree for Radiologic Technologists to pursue certification in Computed Tomography (CT Scan)
3. Magnetic Resonance Imaging – An advanced-imaging degree for Radiologic Technologists to pursue certification in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
4. Interventional Procedures – An advanced-imaging degree for Radiologic Technologists to pursue certification in Interventional Procedures (Angiography)



Associate of Science in Radiography (ASR)

A two-year program that leads to certification in radiography upon successful completion of the coursework and certification examination.



Serving Across the Globe

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

Since its inception, instilling hearts of service in students has been a key component of the MCONHS of Southwest Baptist University. One of the exciting ways that focus has taken shape is through medical mission projects done in collaboration with SBU's Center for Global Connections, which coordinates domestic and international ministry projects and is one of the largest short-term volunteer programs in the U.S.

For Dr. Kezia Lilly, college dean, medical missions serve a key purpose for students: exposing students to the health disparities that exist outside of the country and the needs of populations living outside of our borders.

"In healthcare, and especially in southwest Missouri, it is easy for us to get acclimated to what we are used to," Lilly said. "We don't really know or see firsthand what is going on in other countries. As we are educating students to serve in a global society, it is important for us to see the healthcare issues outside of the U.S. By offering students medical mission projects—whether they are international or even within our borders—it exposes students to the different populations out there that need help."

Even before arriving at MCONHS of SBU, God had written missions on the heart of ASN clinical instructor Carol Zimmer, who expressed her desire to do a medical mission trip to students almost as soon as she arrived on campus.

"When I introduced myself to the clinical groups at the beginning of the semester, I said was really interested in missions and had a student come up to me right away and say 'if you go on a mission trip I am interested,'" Zimmer said. "So the interest was there."

Haiti was selected as the destination, and in May 2015, Zimmer and 11 students traveled to Les Cayes, Haiti, to do physical screenings on the children living in an orphanage there. Although they had to adjust their plans, they learned to submit to the tasks that God had for them—namely, reorganizing the chaotic patient chart filing system.

"It took the 12 of us two full days to fix the filing system," she said. "I know the team was kind of discouraged at one point because we didn't come to do filing, so we had to get motivated and realize that this is the work that we needed to do before we could do what we wanted to do."

After the charts were in order, the team saw hundreds of children over three days and performed everything from eyesight tests to listening





to their lungs. Beyond what they were able to accomplish, the team was blessed by the relationships that formed in Haiti.

“The project was a success because we did what we intended to do, but it was more about the relationships,” Zimmer said. “The students bonded with the children.”

Additionally, they were blessed to see how God used their newly acquired nursing and radiography skills to great effect.

“We came with stethoscopes, pen lights, and pens, and that was it,” Zimmer said. “You learn how to do an assessment your first semester as a nursing student, and it was like ‘OK, we are just going with what we know,’ and it was put to good use. The students really got to see that these first-semester skills were already useful.”

Zimmer believes that another important benefit for students was witnessing the joy of the Haitian people, despite the poverty and hardship they experience.

“When you go to another country, you realize what we have in the U.S.,” Zimmer said. “We have everything that we could possibly want, and yet maybe we are not a happy people necessarily. But these people are happy despite having very little, whether it’s healthcare or food, and there’s still joy.”

.....

This summer, the most recent MCONHS of SBU mission project took faculty and students to Panama, where the team set up a clinic to do physical assessments of people there. For Lilly, who led the trip with her husband, the trip was especially meaningful.

“This was something my husband and I had always wanted to do,” Lilly said. “We are making it a goal at our campus to have one medical mission trip per year, and I believe that as dean this is something that I need to have experienced for myself.”

She hopes that students who take part in mission projects will be powerfully affected by the experience and that they will encourage other students to take advantage of the opportunity to participate.

“I hope that the students have an amazing experience and that they are able to share their experiences with other students to encourage them to do it and step out there,” she said. “I also hope they will consider missions in the future after they graduate—that they will take this forward and use it as an opportunity to give back down the road.” ■

STUDENT PROFILE

Lauren Hargus: Inspired by international service

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

“I had always wanted to serve outside of the U.S., but just wasn’t quite sure how to make it happen,” said Lauren Hargus, a MCONHS of SBU student who completed an associate of science in radiography in May and is finishing the bachelor of science in health sciences program. “So when I first saw the flier about the Haiti trip and prayed about it, the Lord made it

pretty obvious that I had to go.”

Not long after, Lauren was in Haiti serving alongside other students and a faculty member at the Pwoje Espwa orphanage. She loved the opportunity to care for the medical needs of the



children there, as well as bonding with them and connecting while they played soccer, learned Creole, did crafts and had fun together.

Later that year she joined another SBU mission project, this time in Guatemala at the Casa Bernabe orphanage, where they did chores and maintenance on the property and looked after the children to give their house parents time to rest. Looking back, she sees how God taught her important lessons during each mission project.

“In Haiti, I saw what it meant to have pure joy in the Lord—the children had nothing from a worldly standpoint, yet were some of the most compassionate, genuine, and joyful people that I’ve ever known,” she said. “Through the many service projects at Casa Bernabe, the Lord gently restored my heart and mind by showing me what it means to have a true servant’s heart.”

Inspired by her time serving internationally, Lauren hopes to pursue Mercy’s Ultrasound Advanced Training Program and use those skills to serve in ministry in the future.

“I feel like a completely different person because of these trips,” she said. “So many things that I used to deem as important no longer have significance or precedence in my life. I now have a passion and urgency in my heart to carry out the Great Commission, whether it be in another country or with my classmates here. I am so grateful for MCONHS of SBU and the SBU Center for Global Connections for making these trips possible.”





Giving Back

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

At the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of Southwest Baptist University, the goal is to train students for a lifetime of servant leadership, the preparation for which takes place both in and out of the classroom. Students in all of the college's programs have the opportunity to get involved in the community and grow while serving others and preparing for their future careers.

"Students are able to take the skills and traits that they developed in school and apply it back to the community," said Dr. Kezia Lilly, college dean, of the service done by students at a variety of local organizations. "Students volunteer their time and really get embedded in local disparities that we are experiencing in Greene County, and we are able to help with those things."

Students stepping up

One of the key groups facilitating community involvement is Student Organization of Health Professionals (SOHP), a student leadership committee that meets regularly to learn and organize different ways to give back both on and off campus. Between meetings, SOHP members help communicate and promote those efforts to other students.

"The whole purpose of this organization is to see how we can help the students as well as the community," said Amanda Doneski, a health sciences faculty member who oversees the group as leadership chair.

SOHP has facilitated countless outreach projects, from packing food at the annual Meals-a-Million food drive to raising funds for the Springfield Heart Walk to serving at the Mercy Hospital Ronald McDonald House.

In addition to promoting these and other service opportunities on campus, SOHP also provides another key benefit to students: opportunities for leadership.

"SOHP provides diverse opportunities to participate in different areas of need, which has taught me so much about servant leadership," said dual-enrolled ASN and BSN student Leslie Whitley. "These experiences show us not only how we can make an impact by giving of ourselves, but also how



rewarding it is to make a difference in others' lives. This principle will carry forward in my career as a registered nurse and will continue later as I become a nurse practitioner."

Serving diverse populations

Last spring, 35 ASN Honors Society students gathered after mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Springfield, where they dedicated three hours to care for the largely Spanish-speaking Hispanic congregation.

The students organized and presented education on a variety of topics such as hypertension, diabetes, car seats and bike and helmet safety, as well as provided health services such as blood pressure screenings. Additionally, Vatterott College students provided child oral screenings, and a dietitian from the Hammons Heart Institute educated attendees about heart-healthy cooking.

One important aspect of the event for students was learning how to communicate important information effectively with participants, some of whom did not speak much English.

"A big educational opportunity for the team was not just learning how to converse and create informational handouts, but also learning how to provide

care to another cultural group,” said Patricia Hansen, a clinical instructor and assistant professor of MCONHS of SBU who helped organize the event and develop the partnership with Sacred Heart.

The nursing students also demonstrated several nursing skills to young people in the congregation such as listening to a patient’s heart and lungs and doing an IV in an effort to introduce them to the profession.

Later that fall, students returned to the church on a regular basis for several weeks to continue doing blood pressure checks and direct people to appropriate resources in the community if they needed further care.

Hansen says that she hopes to continue the partnership with the church so that students can continue to serve that population, many of whom do not have reliable access to healthcare services for various reasons.

“There’s the human aspect of it—there are members of this population who have needs that are not being addressed because of certain barriers,” Hansen said. “We are trying to break down some of those barriers. That was a significant thing that we accomplished.”

Educating today’s youth

Students and faculty alike serve the community by providing education and services at the annual Homeschool Health and Science Education Fair, which provides health screenings (such as vision, hearing, blood pressure, dental screening and fluoride varnish applications, and scoliosis screenings), interactive educational experiences, and education on topics such as illness prevention, healthy eating and safety.

The fair began with a phone call from a father with children in a local homeschool co-op, who inquired about having nursing students do hearing and vision screenings for the students. That idea then developed into hosting a full health fair at the college and inviting a few other co-ops to participate. Now, between 150 and 200 students attend the event annually with their parents, and the event requires more than 50 volunteers.

“The event began as a community service-learning project for our BSN stu-

“I love the fact that servant leadership is so important in our programs. It is a win-win situation when we give back to the community because we grow and we learn from that experience but then we are also helping our community and making it a better place.”

Cindy Reed, MSN '14
Learning Resource Center coordinator

dents, but it has evolved into all levels of nursing students participating including the ASN, BSN, and MSN students,” said Dr. Dana Hunt, an associate professor in the MSN program who was responsible for beginning the fair and has served as either chair of or been a member of the event planning committee since its inception in 2007.

In addition to providing valuable screenings and education to the community, the event has become a valuable educational opportunity for MCONHS of SBU students, who help in all aspects of planning and putting on the event at the college.

“Participating in the event allows the students to learn about providing health education, health promotion opportunities, health screenings and referrals, as well as planning for and executing a large

community event,” Hunt said. “In addition, students learn about the home-schooling community and any potential health needs they may have.” ■



MSN ALUMNI PROFILE

Cindy Reed: Community servant

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

The MCONHS of SBU opened the door for alum Cindy Reed—who earned both her BSN and MSN from MCONHS of SBU—to not only discover her passion for teaching, but also for serving in the community in meaningful ways like the Homeschool Health and Science Education Fair, so much so that she chose to focus on the fair for her MSN final project.

“I like community service, and when I was working on my master’s degree I found a passion for the community and community nursing, so it fit well,” said Reed, who has worked in a variety of nursing settings and currently works with students as the Learning Resource Center coordinator at MCONHS of SBU.

Reed was encouraged to get more deeply involved in the fair by the MSN faculty members like Dr. Dana Hunt, who mentored Reed as she worked on the project, which centered on improving and evaluating different aspects of the fair.

“The focus of the project was providing the health screenings and expand-

ing the health education we gave, working with and getting more community partners, reworking survey tools and looking at the data to see how many people we served,” she said.

Looking back, Reed enjoyed the opportunity to develop her skills and abilities while serving the community and has come to deeply appreciate the emphasis placed on giving back at the MCONHS of SBU.

“I love the fact that servant leadership is so important in our programs,” she said. “It is a win-win situation when we give back to the community because we grow and we learn from that experience but then we are also helping our community and making it a better place.”





MSN program: Developing servant leaders in healthcare

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

This May, 10 students from the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU masters in nursing program

walked the stage at the graduate commencement ceremony hosted on the Bolivar campus. In addition to accepting their diplomas, those students have another tangible memento of the rigorous program they just completed: their master's project.

"The project is the culmination of all of their hard work throughout the program," MSN program director Dr. Cozi Bagley said of the project, which is done by the program's two tracks, nursing administration and nursing education. "They get to put together everything they have learned in the classroom and apply it to the real world."

Bagley is proud of the work that MSN graduates have accomplished in and out of the classroom and believes that the program equips students well for their careers and for lives of service.

"When students graduate, they are equipped to go out as servant leaders to grow and collaborate in their jobs in the healthcare field," Bagley said. "They gain new skills for their current jobs and for rewarding future roles as educators and nurse specialists and doctoral-level education. They are prepared to influence healthcare through education and healthcare delivery."

The healing power of touch

Jade Burgess, a 2015 MSN in nursing education graduate who is currently a nurse educator at CoxHealth's Meyer Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital and nursing research coordinator for the hospital system, was intrigued by the concept of the healing power of touch and wanted to find out whether nurses' attitudes regarding touch have shifted due to technology.

"In nursing, the relationships with patients are important—nursing is built on that," Burgess said. "Today, we connect so much through technology. We have computers, cell phones and Facebook—we don't have to hug; we can just go on Facebook."

Burgess developed education for nearly 80 ASN students at MCONHS about the positive effects of touch and evaluated their attitudes preceding and

following the educational session.

"There was a major difference in students' attitudes," she said. "That change in attitude could make a positive difference in their practice, and ultimately in patients' lives."

Burgess was pleased with the statistical significance of the data and examined concepts like the importance of touch and relationships in nursing.

"A lot of research goes into numbers and statistics, which I had in my research," she said. "But the deeper focus was about people and what really matters when connecting with patients, which I found exceedingly rewarding."

Reducing workplace stress in the emergency room

For 2016 MSN graduate Deana Schrader, the focus for her research project—which centered on creating and implementing an educational session on occupational stress for new graduate nurses working in the ER—came from a very personal place.

"Stress is a huge issue in nurses, and ER nurses are at an increased risk for stress due to the nature of their work," she said. "As a new graduate nurse, I struggled immensely with stress. I created this project to try to help new graduate nurses understand how prevalent stress is in the ER and how they can prevent or minimize it. Ultimately, I want nurses to be more satisfied with their jobs, which will increase nursing retention in the ER."

Schrader's educational session focused on enabling nurses to recognize common causes and symptoms of occupational stress and providing useful stress-reducing techniques. The session was presented to 13 new graduate RNs and one nurse educator, the majority of whom found the education to be beneficial and intended to adopt the techniques.

Schrader, who currently works in the Mercy Hospital Springfield ER, enjoyed working to make a difference in the lives of nurses by helping improve their job satisfaction.

"This project gave me an opportunity to do something beneficial for my area of employment," she said. "The nursing shortage and the amount

of stress nurses face on a daily basis is no secret.

This project made me feel like I provided a helping hand in combating nurse stress and helping retain nurses in our department."

Encouraging a peaceful environment for healing

Beth Melgren, a 2014 MSN graduate works each day to make the experience as exceptional as possible at Mercy Hospital Springfield in her role as Mercy experience coordinator.

"I collaborate with leadership and departments to work on strategy and service excellence initiatives to make the Mercy experience excellent," Melgren said. "I do a lot of coaching and mentoring to help everything stay consistent across the Mercy continuum."

Melgren's final project in the MSN program similarly focused on making the patient experience positive, specifically by evaluating and working to improve Quiet at Night ratings, which are part of the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey, a national survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care.

Melgren created and implemented educational sessions for nurses about the physiological importance of maintaining a quiet, restful environment for patients to heal and best practices to help achieve better Quiet at Night ratings.

"We definitely saw an increase in Quiet at Night scores after doing the education," she said of the results of the two nursing units that participated in the educational sessions. She noticed, however, that the data indicated a dip in the scores as time progressed. "The education can't just be done once," she said. "The information needs to be reinforced."

For Melgren, it was rewarding to participate in projects and coursework that applied to not only nursing as a whole, but also to procedures in her specific workplace.

"This was truly meaningful work that I continued after the program," she said. "The program was very real world and I could apply so much of what I learned to my work." ■

True-to-life training

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

Tragedy can strike at any moment, but thanks to the annual Disaster Simulation held at the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU, students are prepared to act quickly and decisively in times of need.

“The disaster simulation provides students in their last semester of the ASN program an opportunity to practice and participate in a disaster,” said Sylvia Barber, associate professor and simulation coordinator at MCONHS of SBU. “The main objectives are teamwork, prioritization, communication and collaboration.”

Each year, a scenario is created—usually a tornado strike—and students are given specific roles to play, such as triage or the Intensive Care Unit. Others act

as patients, for which they are given a script and signs and symptoms to demonstrate, as well as “moulage” makeup done by Area Health Education Center staff to make the scene feel genuine. In addition to nursing students, radiography students also participate as radiology technologists, transporters and patients.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the simulation is the opportunity students have to evaluate and assess the simulation afterward with faculty and experts like Russ Conroy, director of safety and emergency preparedness for Mercy Hospital Springfield. “Students reflect on their roles, what went well, what could be done differently and how they felt about the experience,” Barber said. “If they acted as a patient, they reflect on how it felt to be a patient and how they were treated during the disaster.”

The whole simulation lasts only about an hour, but students are left with an experience that will benefit them for years to come. “The disaster takes place very quickly in a flurry of activity,” Barber said, “but the learning lasts much longer.”



Beyond 911

A new community paramedic certificate program will work to reduce emergency room visits and improve healthcare access in the region

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

At Mercy Hospital Springfield, which houses the region’s busiest trauma center, the emergency medical services team responds to more than 42,000 emergencies annually. And across the country, emergency room usage is on the rise, adding increased cost and burdening to these often-overused facilities.

One way that Mercy, in partnership with MCONHS of SBU, is working to help decrease the number of repeat emergency room visits is with the new community paramedic certificate, scheduled to launch this fall.

“This community paramedic certificate is 12 credit hours of additional education for a licensed, experienced paramedic equipping them to actually travel to a patient’s home or talk to them on the phone to give them what they need without the extra emergency room visit,” said Stacy Soden, director of health sciences at MCONHS of SBU.

One of the goals of preparing these paramedics to make those house visits and phone calls is to help answer questions for patients so that they are able to

manage these health inquiries or issues more independently.

“The program is designed to give the currently practicing paramedic the advanced skills and knowledge of how to intervene in these situations,” said Luke Walker, paramedic program coordinator at Mercy Hospital Springfield. “It exposes them to the available resources of our community, and prepares them to help the patient work through what is best for them in their situation. It helps them to shift from dealing with the acute, life-threatening medical and trauma emergencies that they see every day, to focus more on the long-term management of a disease.”

The community paramedic concept and the certificate program, both

of which are cutting edge in healthcare and in the Springfield area, are part of an effort to help overcome some of the limitations preventing some patients from accessing healthcare.

“The truth is that there is a gap for some patients—some patients do not qualify for home healthcare benefits, or are at least in a holding pattern while they are waiting to be approved for those services,” Walker said. “If we can meet with those patients, if we can ensure they have and are taking their medications as prescribed, if we can facilitate them keeping their follow-up appointments with their physicians, if we can make sure their homes are safe and they have the assistive devices they need, then possibly we can keep them from having to call 911, or visit the ER and be admitted to the hospital as their only course of action. It makes for a healthier patient and community, it reduces hospital readmission rates, and thus reduces some of the financial burden on the hospital.”



Gregory Harrison/Mercy Integrated Marketing
Stacy Soden, director of health sciences at MCONHS of SBU, and Luke Walker, paramedic program coordinator at Mercy Hospital Springfield



From dream to reality

MCONHS's state-of-the-art Nursing and Health Sciences Training Center ready to welcome students for the 2016 Fall semester

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

“Wow!” is the first word uttered when visitors walk into the new MCONHS Nursing and Health Sciences Training Center.

“I’m telling you, literally, when I made the first tour, I teared up – and I’m not a crying person,” ASN program director Amy Jones said of the 15,000-square-foot facility at 1265 E. Lark St. in Springfield, Mo. “The difference between what we were using and what we are going to have the opportunity to use is just phenomenal.”

“It’s like a miniature hospital,” added Dr. Kezia Lilly, college dean.

A facility such as this one had long been a dream of Mercy employees Cindy Reed and Sylvia Barber.

“Sylvia and I have dreamed about this, and we’ve even drawn up plans,” said Reed, who has worked for Mercy since 1998 and is the Learning Resource Center coordinator. “But we’ve made do with what we’ve had.”

And that was in the J.F. Johnson Building, which was built in 1989 at 4431 S. Fremont Ave. It was a “state-of-the-art building, with just bare, minimal revisions to it beyond that point,” Jones said.

When Jones and Lilly moved into their leadership roles within the college two years ago, facilities were discussed as part of an all-college

strategic planning meeting.

“At that point, when we were looking at where we are now, the biggest obstacle that kept coming up was our space and the building,” Jones said. “So we had to say we’re just going to take it off the table right now because there isn’t anything that we can do about this.”

Fast-forward to 2015. In an article in the Springfield Business Journal, Dr. Bob McGlasson, vice president for operations (MCONHS) and associate provost, indicated that the school was growing and in need of space. People noticed.

“Todd Chambers, who sells commercial real estate, had this property (which previously was DirectBuy) listed and he contacted me,” McGlasson said.

“So we got in here and looked, and the first thing we looked at was the potential – we really needed to expand our Learning Resource Center and our simulation area, and we just didn’t have the space to do that.”

The addition of classroom and office space was also needed.

“It was never to replace (the Fremont building); it was just to augment what we were doing over in the other building.”

SBU purchased the building on Lark Street for \$1.5 million during April 2015. Construction followed in the late spring/early summer.

GHN Architects and Engineers, SBU

architects, had experience building simulation labs. The architects knew what should be included and how the labs should be designed. Southwest Audio-Visual, another company with simulation lab experience, was awarded the contract to design the technology, wiring and monitors, etc.

Barber and Reed were also key players in the design of the LRC and simulation lab.

“I felt fortunate to be able to help design the building, the layout – especially the LRC and simulation area,” said Barber, who has been with Mercy for 33 years, including the last seven as simulation coordinator. “I’ve seen a lot of simulation labs over the years, so I knew what I wanted and how I wanted it.”

Once the plans were in place, the project moved rather quickly. Construction began in late spring/early summer 2015 and was completed by December 2015. SBU spent about \$1.5 million on renovations to the building and another \$1 million on equipment.

“That’s the process that we always go through – involve the faculty,” McGlasson said. “What do we need? What’s the wish list? You start there, and then you go back.”

“I think we definitely accommodated what they wanted, and they’re very excited about what we have here.”

And what they have is a training facility that

reflects what students will experience when they are in the workforce.

“Our goal was to make it as close to a real hospital setting as possible and to be a benefit for learning for the students,” Barber said.

Students will have access to seven LRC rooms, where they can practice skills that will prepare them to step into a patient room. An open room in the LRC contains six beds, giving students an opportunity to practice skills at any time.

The LRC also includes two physical assessment rooms, four rooms equipped with cameras and microphones, plus three debriefing rooms where students can stream, watch and discuss the skills they have practiced.

A task trainer room will give students the chance to practice administering IVs and other new skills.

A nurses’ station is another key element of the LRC. In this area, the students will complete documentation on EPIC – the electronic health record system used by Mercy.

“That’s one great thing about this simulation and Learning Resource Center,” Lilly said. “We’re going to be able to train the students on EPIC. We are only the second hospital system or educational center that we know of in the U.S. that’s going to be able to do that.”

The key benefit of training on EPIC at MCONHS is that the students who go on to work at Mercy Hospital will not have to learn a new electronic health record system, saving valuable orientation and training time.

From the LRC, students move on to the simulation lab, which is made up of seven private rooms. There, they will have the opportunity to take the skills they have learned and perform a variety of life-like simulations.

In labor and delivery, a mannequin is equipped so students can observe the birthing process. A warming area, where the baby is placed after delivery, is also part of the experience.

“They’ll actually get to do hands-on physical assessment of what you would do with a newborn,” Jones said, “Things that they wouldn’t have been allowed to do in the clinical setting.”

Grand Opening
Tuesday, September 20
4:30-6:30 p.m.
1265 E. Lark St., Springfield, Mo.

Another experience students are unable to get in a hospital clinic setting, because of the high-risk factor, is blood administration. However, students do go through a simulation at the training center where they can practice hanging “blood,” which is actually a liquid dye, so they can get a feel for transfusions.

The LRC and simulation lab are “going to take the training of the students to a whole new level,” Lilly said. “Studies have shown that the more simulation time students have, the better they’re prepared for the bed side. So we feel like the ability to double our capacity will increase their simulation time and better prepare them for patient care.”

The LRC and simulation lab are not new to the college, but will be a different, and better, experience for MCONHS students and faculty in the new facility.

The LRC in the Johnson Building was located on the stage of a former gymnasium. Cubicles were divided to represent patient rooms with curtains as dividers. There was no nurses’ station, no way to electronically chart.

In the early 2000s, simulation was becoming more important in nursing education. It was around this time that MCONHS began to separate the LRC and simulation.

The simulation lab was moved to a classroom and sectioned off into four quarters, with tape on the floor.

“We couldn’t have beds in there because the doors weren’t wide enough, so we would use gurneys,” Jones said. “We would have tape on the floor to show what was the med room and what was the clean utility and what was the dirty utility, so that the students never left the room.”

The addition of the Nursing and Health Sciences Training Center, and its ability to give

students hands-on training and life-like simulations, will allow the original center to better serve students and enhance their educational experience.

Mercy is spending about \$1.2 million to renovate the Fremont building for that purpose.

Among the updates:

- The simulation lab room will be turned into an actual classroom.
- The two large classrooms in the gym will get new flooring and permanent walls.
- There will be a 50-seat computer lab for students to utilize EPIC.
- Another classroom will combine with a lab for radiography, and the science classroom and lab will be expanded and updated.

“The overall opportunity to enhance the environment is going to make such a huge difference in the recruitment and retention of students,” Jones said.

The facility on Lark Street is within walking distance from the Johnson Building, which is a plus if the students need to travel from building to building. However, most of the classroom time will be spent in the Johnson Building, while the training and simulations will occur at the training facility. This arrangement will help keep students from having to go back and forth.

“Our students will benefit tremendously from this new training facility that is one of the best in the state,” said SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor. “It also will be a fantastic recruiting tool for all of our nursing and health science programs, which have great potential for future growth.”

And the partnership between SBU and Mercy has been strengthened because of these projects.

“I think it’s a wonderful relationship,” Barber said, “having two faith-based organizations helping students to reach their goal of being a registered nurse.”

“I’m really proud that we stepped up and said, ‘Let’s do this. Let’s make this good,’” McGlasson said. “Our students will just be that much more prepared when they go out, and that makes me happy.” ■



A strong partnership between Mercy Hospital Springfield and Southwest Baptist University is the strongest asset of Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU. The emphasis of both organizations includes: the pursuit of excellence in teaching, preparation of professional caregivers and the attainment of high standards of performance.

The theme of service to others and emphasis of Christian discipleship is an essential and integral concept within both institutions, as well. The college continues to grow, mimicking the ever-growing needs for prepared healthcare professionals in the southwest Missouri region. Since 2011, the overall student population has grown by nearly 15 percent. From its early days in the 1900s, our college has evolved from a small school of nursing into a major college, encompassing a spectrum of healthcare disciplines and a variety of degree programs at the associate's, bachelor's and master's levels.

The most exciting news to share, as you have already read about in this issue of SBULife, is the new Nursing and Health Sciences Training facility as well as renovations that are under way to the existing building located on Fremont Avenue.

I believe the quality of our programs is driven by our mission statement, which states that we are faith-based, educating students to be competent and caring healthcare professionals engaged in the healing ministry of Christ through servant leadership. Faculty and staff are the core of our educational institution and continue to impact lives of our students. Faculty and staff are driven by the mission statement and demonstrate servant leadership on a daily basis.

Our goal is not only to prepare students for the healthcare workforce but also to prepare them to be servant leaders in a global society. At MCONHS, our definition of servant leadership is "an act of service, which starts within an individual who has a desire to serve. From this desire comes a natural progression, a conscious choice to demonstrate leadership by encouraging and supporting the growth of those being served, through words and actions. Servant leaders emulate the work of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, consequently those around them are more likely to become servants themselves."

A student recently shared her experience with BSN faculty member Cindy Todd, M.S.N., just one of many examples I receive from students regarding our faculty members:

"I cannot thank Cindy enough for the dedication to my work and devotion to her students in achieving greatness. She is someone who should be recognized and given the proper credit. Furthermore, in my personal opinion, Basic APA Writing for Healthcare has helped me so much that I would recommend the class as a requirement for all forms of healthcare education. I know Cindy believes this is just part of her job and she loves what she does, but she makes a difference and it matters much more than I can explain. Thank you, Cindy!"

Colleges will need to continue to look ahead at the future challenges in the healthcare workforce. As more RNs enter the workforce, more nurses will be returning to college for advanced degrees. In preparations for the future, two large initiatives that the college is currently working on are the pre-licensure BSN program for the Bolivar and Springfield campus and a family nurse practitioner track in the master of science in nursing program.

It is important that we keep up with the ever-changing world of healthcare to prepare students to work in a competitive workforce. I am excited to see the future of MCONHS of SBU and the careers of our students.

Kezia Lilly, D.N.P., M.B.A., H.C., R.N.
Dean and associate professor
Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU



5 Questions

with **Paula Steiert**



In each issue of SBULife magazine, we interview one of our employees so you can meet the people who help make SBU a Christ-centered, caring academic community.

Paula Steiert is instructor of biology and health sciences on SBU's Springfield campus, the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU. She has taught at SBU since 1990.

When did you first start working for Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU? I started as adjunct biology faculty in August 1990 and became full-time faculty in January 1993. I have always taught at the Springfield location, starting back when the SBU site was located in the “Red Cross” building on South Glenstone Avenue.

What is your current position and what is a typical day for you like at MCONHS? I teach four different courses that are part of the health sciences and bachelor of science in nursing curricula. Our campus offers classes in the block format, so I typically have three to four hours of lecture or lab every day. I also teach two sections of an online course. When I am not in class there are lots of student emails to keep up with, as well as grading, developing new lecture content or lab activities, and meeting with students. Our campus also has an extensive committee structure, so there are usually a few meetings to attend every week.

What motivates you during your work day? My college advisor gave me a copy of The Teacher's Prayer: “One day I would like to teach, just a few people, many and beautiful things, that would help them when they will one day teach – a few people.” After 26 years at SBU, I definitely have taught quite

a “few people!” It is so rewarding to see many of my former students working as nurse educators in hospital, community or global mission settings, or as faculty in our programs, passing on the legacy of learning.

What do you think sets the MCONHS of SBU apart from other nursing/health sciences programs? Even though our campus is composed of just one main building—plus a brand new state-of-the-art facility for clinical skills—we offer most services found in a larger, more traditional campus setting. But most importantly, our academic advisors and full-time science and psychology faculty work extensively with the faculty of the nursing and radiography programs to ensure that every aspect of our subject matter provides the background for students to be successful once they are admitted to these programs on our campus.

What is your favorite aspect of your job? I enjoy working with students, helping them determine their personal learning style and then coming up with study tools and tips to help them maximize their potential. I also enjoy interacting with the faculty and staff at our campus. We are a mixture of Mercy and SBU employees, and every person in this building is committed to excellence in Christian service and education.



Graduation

642 GRADUATES

368 undergraduate, 274 graduate

Life Beautiful Awards

The award is given annually to an exceptional man and woman in SBU's spring graduating class whose outstanding scholarship and character demonstrates that they live a "life beautiful."



Jenna Durnell, accounting and information assurance graduate from Harwood, Mo., is the daughter of Mike and Suzan Durnell.



Reed Dressler, religion and philosophy graduate from Bolivar, Mo., is the son of Howard and Gwendolyn Dressler.



Orien B. Hendrex Award winner (below): Stacy Soden '12 (MSN), instructor of health sciences and chair of health sciences for the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU in Springfield, received the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award.

The award is presented annually to a faculty member who has been judged by the previous three years' graduating classes to be outstanding in both teaching ability and personal guidance. The SBU Board of Trustees designated this award in memory of Hendrex, a former academic dean.



Bob R. Derryberry Senior Address speaker (above, top): Richard F. Young Jr., double major in religion and philosophy and communication, encouraged his classmates to embrace the risks that are necessary in life.

Commencement speaker (above, bottom): Rev. Billy Russell '85, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, reminded graduates that they will never be alone because the Lord will constantly be watching over them.

Senior musicians (right): Jared Pollard, church music major, and Jared Dietz, Biblical studies major, performed "Keep Your Eyes Open" by Needtobreathe for the senior music.



SBU Enactus: Top 20 in the nation

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH '97

Southwest Baptist University's Enactus team advanced to the semifinal round in the Enactus USA national competition in St. Louis May 15-17, placing the team in the top 20 in the nation. The team previously won the regional competition in Rogers, Ark., April 18, to advance to the national competition that started with nearly 200 teams.

During the competition, SBU Enactus presented four projects through which team members have been living out the team's mission of serving others and promoting free enterprise by empowering community members engaged in entrepreneurial and non-profit efforts in southwest Missouri.

"This year, our mission is really to serve," said Tori Bailey, SBU Enactus president. "We are trying to help people in need and better the Bolivar community by putting business practices into place."

The four projects are:

Sentrepact

SBU Enactus is empowering students at Lebanon High School in Lebanon, Mo., to put entrepreneurship and free enterprise skills to use in their community. By creating a program at the high school level that is similar to what Enactus is at the collegiate level, Lebanon High School juniors and seniors have partnered with businesses in the Lebanon area to increase sales. Fifteen students also were enrolled in a dual credit course for college credit through SBU.

Community Outreach Ministries

Community Outreach Ministries (COM) in Bolivar operates a food pantry for Polk County and serves as the local Salvation Army Extension Unit, assisting 500-700 families per month. SBU Enactus has helped COM by organizing its

warehouse to improve efficiency, contacting local groups to increase COM's volunteer base, creating an online signup system for volunteers and assisting with Salvation Army bell-ringing fundraising efforts.

Nightlight Branson

Through a continuing partnership with Nightlight Branson, SBU Enactus focused this year on assisting the organization's new director with developing a business plan, budget and accounting protocols for the organization; increasing fundraising efforts; and creating an interactive website to assist women leaving the sex trafficking industry in the job search process.

Downtown Bolivar

SBU Enactus partnered with one business on the Bolivar square to begin making an economic impact in the local community and has plans to expand within the downtown area. SBU Enactus helped to promote Wee Create, a special space at a crafting store set aside for children to sell their craft projects.

Presentation team members were:

- Sean Bates, junior, computer science major, Swansea, Ill.
- Erin Corner, sophomore, public relations major, Greenville, Mich.
- Taylor Parrish, sophomore, marketing & management major, Blue Springs, Mo.
- Jordan Price, junior, marketing & international business major, Geneseo, Ill.
- Michele Wyatt, senior, marketing & management major, Blue Springs, Mo.

"I am extremely impressed with the SBU Enactus team. They are competent, energetic, and not afraid to get their hands dirty as they work hand-in-hand with us," said Neal DeShazo,



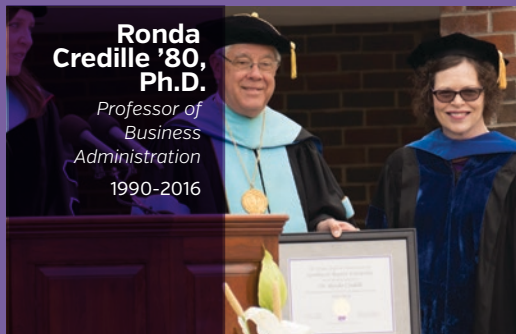
president of the board of directors for COM. "It's hard to remember sometimes that they are still university students, as they roll up their sleeves to tackle our real-world problems. I am eager to see what these young adults accomplish in the future, both in the SBU Enactus partnership with COM, and in their professional and personal lives."

What is Enactus?

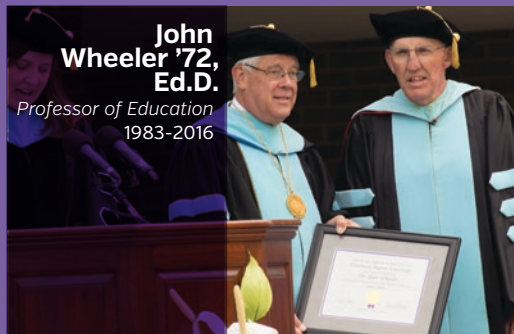
Enactus, formerly known as Students in Free Enterprise and with headquarters in Springfield, Mo., is an international non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring students to improve the world through entrepreneurial action. More than 69,000 students at more than 1,740 universities in 36 countries plan and implement community development projects to improve the world around them. At the end of each school year, the teams present their projects at a regional competition. Top-ranking teams advance to the U.S. national competition, with the winner advancing to the Enactus World Cup in the fall, where one team is chosen the winner among all participating universities.

"Our mission is to serve others," said Angie Brown-Peterson, SBU Enactus co-advisor and chair of the Department of Business Administration. "I remind the students that God has gifted them with a business mind, but not everybody thinks that way. Their fresh ideas and business minds help." ■

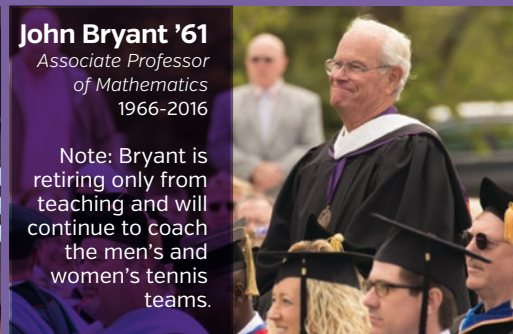
2016 FACULTY RETIREES



Ronda Credille '80, Ph.D.
Professor of Business Administration
1990-2016



John Wheeler '72, Ed.D.
Professor of Education
1983-2016



John Bryant '61
Associate Professor of Mathematics
1966-2016

Note: Bryant is retiring only from teaching and will continue to coach the men's and women's tennis teams.



A higher vision

Lee Skinkle poised to listen, guide the direction of SBU academics

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH '97

Leadership in Christian higher education is a calling that began during seminary for Lee Skinkle, Ph.D., who became provost at Southwest Baptist University on June 1.

“When I was in seminary, it became clear that God’s calling for me was to serve in higher education and specifically in the role of provost or president,” Skinkle said. “That was very strange because in seminary you don’t get a lot of calls like that.”

Skinkle completed both his master’s and doctoral degrees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and began his career in higher education by working in the seminary’s financial aid office. He also conducted research about Christian higher education while working on his doctorate. He then went to Belhaven University in Jackson, Miss., where he taught and advanced through academic administration, eventually to the role of associate provost.

“While at Belhaven, God blessed my time and allowed me to take on additional responsibilities and grow into the position,” he said. “In many respects, what I am doing now is something I have been preparing for during the last 10 to 15 years. I didn’t really see it that way at the time, but as I look back now I see clearly the path that God has taken me on that has prepared me and equipped me for where I am today. Every conversation throughout the interview process for this position reaffirmed that this is where He was leading me.”

Christian higher education: A holistic approach

Skinkle grew up in a family of educators, so entering the education field was a natural step for him.

For his undergraduate degree, he attended the University of Georgia, a large public university where he had a very different experience from his sister, who attended a private Christian college.

“I was able to see through her experience how it was very different compared to what I did. It was something that I wished I had taken the opportunity to pursue,” he said. “Scripture is useful for all things. God has given us the ability to think and be able to see that foundation in Scripture in

each of our varied disciplines. A biblical foundation is very critical and was something I had to find on my own. I had to do a tremendous amount of work outside of class reading and trying to discover it.”

Skinkle believes in Christian higher education because of the strong foundation it inspires during a time that is very formative for young adults, especially when it comes to establishing a strong Christian foundation for their lives.

“There is a danger in turning that vulnerability over to those who have an aggressively anti-Christian stance,” he said. “I remember seeing that specifically in ethics courses that I took at the University of Georgia, and in other science courses, where there was no openness to even talking about a Christian perspective. In higher education, you should be encouraged to view all aspects and to then measure those back against what Scripture has to say. You get a more holistic perspective when you’re coming at it from the Christian worldview.”

He also understands the challenges facing Christian higher education, from funding to ethical situations.

“You really have to be a good steward of resources,” he said. “You have to be looking at not just what once worked in the past but what is going to work in the future to help sustain us. I believe that in Christian higher education, we have something that’s very different from what secular universities have to offer. We have something of value, and we have the heart to carry that forward.”

Listen and explore

When Skinkle saw the job posting for provost at SBU, he recalled having visited the campus when he was a teenager while his cousin was attending SBU.

“Bolivar stood out because I had some recollection of the community,” he said. “I grew up in a town much smaller than Bolivar, and I love the pace of life in a smaller town.”

Skinkle was impressed by the breadth and quality of SBU’s academic programs and is excited about the future.

"I want to take them to the next level and to expand, going in some new directions," he said.

But first, Skinkle plans to listen.

"There's a danger in coming too quickly to change things, so this first year I'm probably not going to change a whole lot of things," he said. "I want to really be able to understand not just what we're doing but why we decided to do it that way and understand the processes and the people. I will be asking lots of questions."

He also has been impressed by the people he has already had the opportunity to meet and work with at SBU.

"Everyone has been warm and embracing, and the family atmosphere is something that stands out," he said. "I believe that we're really situated for a lot of potential. It's a matter of us making sure to explore the right directions and put the resources in the right places, and I believe there are a lot of really good things that can happen."

"My wife and I are both very excited to be here. We're looking forward to what God has in store for us, and so far everybody we have met with has been wonderful. We already feel like part of the family."

Bridge to lead MBA program



Levi Bridge, instructor of business administration at Southwest Baptist University, was selected as director of the SBU Master of business administration program.

"Levi's strong desire to continue serving as an instructor, as well as his previous experiences in

admissions and financial aid, have uniquely qualified him to lead the Master of business administration program," said Dr. Troy Bethards, dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. "He brings an abundance of energy to the role and has a solid vision to facilitate growth within the MBA program. I am excited to see him step into this role."

As director of the MBA program, Bridge will help lead recruitment efforts, as well as teach a variety of business courses on both the graduate and undergraduate level.

"I am honored to step into this new role and further enhance the programs we offer in the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science," Bridge said. "Our department has a

mission and is passionate about offering a quality education to future Christian business leaders. I am excited to pursue this opportunity to extend the rigor and quality connections established with our current and future students as they choose to continue their education through our MBA program."

Bridge has served as instructor of business administration at SBU since 2014. Previously, he served as assistant director of financial aid at SBU from 2012 to 2014 and an SBU admissions counselor from 2009 to 2012. He earned a bachelor of science in marketing in 2008 and a master of business administration in 2009, both from SBU. He is pursuing a doctor of business administration in marketing from Liberty University, which he is scheduled to complete in the fall of 2016.

SBU's MBA program was reinstated in the Fall of 2015. Offered are a Residential MBA track, designed for graduates of the traditional undergraduate program on SBU's Bolivar campus, and a Professional MBA track for the business professional who desires to return to school to complete an MBA. The latter will be introduced at a future time.

For more information about the SBU MBA program, please visit www.SBUuniv.edu/MBA.

J. Lee Skinkle, Ph.D. Provost

- Ph.D. in education administration, minor in higher education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2010
- Master of divinity, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2005
- Bachelor of business administration in general business, University of Georgia, 2001

Previous Work Experience:

- Associate provost, Belhaven University, 2014-2016
- Assistant vice president for academics, Belhaven University, 2012-2014
- Dean of academic enhancement, Belhaven University, 2010-2012
- Assistant professor of business, Belhaven University, 2010-2016
- Director of Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, Belhaven University, 2008-2010
- Associate director of Financial Aid Office, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2005-2008

Family: Lee and his wife, Amanda, have two children, Johnathan and Tori.

Langford completes year as interim provost

Allison Langford, Ed.D., served as interim provost during the 2015-16 academic year after Bill Brown, D.M., retired in June 2015.

Langford's areas of responsibility now include development of the Center for Teaching & Learning, supervision of the Department of Extended Learning, supervision over the University Transition Programs, chair of General Education and accreditation liaison officer with the Higher Learning Commission.



Mountain View campus celebrates 30th anniversary

The Southwest Baptist University-Mountain View campus hosted a community celebration commemorating its 30th anniversary on Friday, May 6. The event included campus tours, refreshments, giveaways and reminiscing by former students, instructors and staff.

Several former instructors and administrators, as well as many alumni, were in attendance.

Notable guests included:

- Bill Little, former vice president of academic affairs at SBU who was influential in the establishment of the Mountain View campus;
- David King, Dr. Phil Rohrer, and Joyce Stevenson, the three original faculty for the Mountain View campus who taught the first classes offered by SBU-Mountain View held at the First Baptist Church in June 1986. King also served as campus director for four years;

- Bill Kell and Dick Piper, former faculty members;
- Larry Price, instructor and campus director for many years.

SBU-Mountain View offers bachelor's degrees in business administration, criminal justice, elementary education, psychology and sociology, as well as associate degrees in business administration, general studies and health science. Master's degrees in education also can be pursued through the Mountain View campus.

"Academically, the SBU Mountain View campus offers the same high-quality education as students enjoy on the main campus in Bolivar, and the campus has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1991," said



Larry Price

Susan Frazier, associate director of admissions for the Mountain View campus. "Students also enjoy small class sizes, class times that make it possible for non-traditional students to work and go to school, and personal attention from faculty and staff."

Cribbs Athletic Practice Facility dedicated

Southwest Baptist University honored David and Betty Cribbs of Bolivar and their family with the official dedication and naming of the David and Betty Cribbs Athletic Practice Facility on Thursday, May 5.

"David and Betty are truly two of the best friends our university has ever had," said Dr. C. Pat Taylor, SBU president. "Due to their generosity, we were able to purchase the building and do some renovations. What a blessing it has already been for us and will continue to be."

Since the building was initially acquired in May 2015, SBU's physical plant crews used about one-third of the building for storage and completed renovations to make the facility useful for student-athletes in multiple sports. The building has been put to use with a majority of

the University's 18 athletics teams expected to utilize the facility.

"It really means a lot from our perspective to know there are people out there being generous to provide facilities for our athletic program," said Andy Campbell, a freshman basketball player from Russellville, Ark. "It's not just for one sport but for all of athletics in general."

Head softball coach Jim Flora said his team has demonstrated the difference the facility can make. Starting the season picked to finish 11th out of 14 teams in the MIAA conference, the team finished eighth in the regular season and fourth in the conference tournament.

"This was the best season in the history of SBU softball in the MIAA conference, and there is no doubt in my mind that this facility played a huge role in that," Coach Flora said. "It's hard to realize, with something like this, what a difference it can make. One thing we were vitally lacking was a consistent place to practice indoors when we start practice, which this year was Jan. 12 for softball. We can use the IM (intramural) gym, and the IM gym is great, but there's just a lot of people in there and it's hard to get time in there."

Megan Link, head women's soccer coach, played soccer while a student at SBU, so she

knows first-hand the difference the facility will make for SBU's student-athletes.

"I know what it was like, especially during the winter, when we were trying to get in our practices during the off-season," she said. "Now this building provides us with a whole new space during the off-season and also during the season if we have bad weather and need a space to train. This resource is going to open up a whole new level for our athletics."

Flora said the facility also is helpful in recruiting talented athletes to SBU.

"This puts us on a more equal playing field with the other teams in the MIAA," he said. "Before, our recruits had a hard time envisioning what it would look like practicing in the IM gym. Now, when I bring them over here, this is more in line with what other schools are doing. They can envision themselves being in here and being a Bearcat."

David Cribbs said his family has always been involved in athletics and is thankful to be able to support SBU and its student-athletes through this facility.

"We wish all of you a great year and success in life," he said, speaking to the many student-athletes in attendance. "Stay true to the Lord, and He will guide you in every step of the way."



Dr. C. Pat Taylor, SBU president; David and Betty Cribbs; and Mike Pitts, SBU director of athletics

1960s

Keith Barnhart '66, '68 and his wife, Lynne, will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on July 16. Keith may be reached at keith_barnhart@yahoo.com.

1970s

Joe Statton '71 is currently serving as executive pastor at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark. He enjoys reading, camping, boating and spending time with his grandchildren. He is married to Patti (Lewis) '70 and can be reached at jstatton@gsfbc.org.

1980s

Gary Rushing '84 received his Doctor of Worship Studies (DWS) from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Jacksonville, Fla. He can be reached at gcr2001@yahoo.com.

John Griggs '88 lives in Inman, Kan., with his wife, Stefanie. They have one child, Elijah Jensen "EJ" Griggs. John can be reached at jwgriggsiii@hotmail.com.

David Smith '86 is currently the Dean of Instruction/Chief Academic Officer at Independence Community College in Independence, Kan., but will be transitioning to a new role as Director of Vocal Music at Cowley College in Arkansas City, Kan., effective August 1. David may be reached at mr_smith1962@hotmail.com.

Cindy (Cope) Whitfield '86 has a new job as Payroll Tax Manager at Panera LLC. She can be reached at whitfieldcl@aol.com.

1990s

Mike McDaniel '90 recently published "The Resurgent Church: 7 Critical Ways to Thrive in the New Post-Christendom World." The book is published by HarperCollins Christian Publishing. Mike is married to Lori (Martin) '92 and pastors Grace Point Church of Northwest Arkansas. His website is <http://mikemcdaniel.org>.

Robyn Slain '95 currently resides in Florida but travels around the country as a motivational speaker. Robyn uses basketball spinning and

dribbling demonstrations to capture students' attention and provide an avenue for sharing an inspirational message to impact today's youth. She has recently traveled to Missouri to speak to Cabool Elementary School, Lebanon Junior High School and many area churches. Her website is <http://www.spinitt.com/>.

Billy Moore '98 and his wife, Charlotte, currently reside in Branson, Mo. They have two children, Keziah (6) and Hezekiah (3). Billy can be reached at toocrazy3@hotmail.com.

2000s

Ryan Melton '04, '05 and his wife **Leslie (Mulkey) '03** currently reside in Webb City, Mo., and have two children, Abby (8) and Hannah (6). Ryan can be reached at ryanscott71@gmail.com.

Emily (Crumly) Hill '04 lives in Beaverton, Ore., with her husband, Robert Hill, Jr. and their children, Madalyn (6), Adam (4) and Samuel (2). She is employed by Medical Teams International and can be reached at nwemolee@gmail.com.

Dustin Childress '05 completed his Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and is now the Dean of Academic and Student Services at the OTC Lebanon Center. He is married to Angela Childress, D.P.T. '10 and they have two children, Mason (3) and Madisen (1). He may be reached at atchildred@otc.edu.

Jonathan Cisco '06 and his wife **Jayme '07** both graduated with their Ph.D. degrees from the University of Missouri in December 2015. Jonathan received a degree in Literacy Education and currently serves as Assistant Director of the Campus Writing Program at MU and teaches in the College of Education. Jayme's degree is in Anthropology and she currently teaches in MU's Health Sciences program. They have also started a business together, Cisco Consulting providing academic consulting services for students. They live in Columbia, Mo., with their son, Quinn (3). The Ciscos can be reached via their website at www.CiscoConsulting.org.

2010s

Kristi Hall '12 is currently teaching eighth grade English as a Second language in Kansas near the Oklahoma border. She can be reached at kristi.bowman@usd470.com.

Jessica Titus '15 works at Mercy Hospital-Lebanon and was selected as a Daisy Award recipient for her exceptional clinical skill and compassionate nursing care.

Future Bearcats

Amy (Eggerman) Schnelle '06, '11 and her husband, Merle, announce the births of their two children - Maria Ashlynn was born on October 17, 2014 and Clara Grace was born on January 28, 2016. Amy can be reached at amyschnelle716@hotmail.com.

In Memory

Wilbur Tappmeyer '42 passed away on May 16, 2016. He earned an A.A. degree from Southwest Baptist College and later served on the chemistry faculty at SWBC. His son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Linda, are both currently SBU faculty.

Jack Warren '77 passed away at his home on May 2, 2016. He and his wife, Vicki, had been married 38 years. They had relocated to Missouri in 2008 after living in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado for many years.

Dr. Frank Cunningham, senior professor emeritus of history, passed away on April 3, 2016. He joined the SBU faculty in 1961 and served SBU for more than 35 years. His wife, Stella, is employed at SBU's Harriet K. Hutchens Library.

Judy Taylor, wife of SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor, passed away on March 26, 2016. As the "First Lady" of SBU, she was involved in many campus beautification projects. She also served as an assistant professor of education from 1997 to 2006.



Let's Keep in Touch!

Please submit your news for publication in the next issue of SBULife.

Online: www.SBUuniv.edu/Alumni

Mail: Southwest Baptist University • Office of Alumni Engagement • 1600 University Avenue • Bolivar, MO 65613

Recommended Reads

In each issue of *SBUlife*, we ask one of SBU's noted faculty to highlight a book that has had an impact on his or her life.



Rebecca Carlson McCall, MLS, AHIP

Director, Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU Library
Assistant professor of library services

RECOMMENDED READ: *I Wasn't Strong Like This When I Started Out: True Stories of Becoming a Nurse*, which is edited by Lee Gutkind.

Why do you recommend it?

This collection of creative nonfiction by various nurses shares stories of strength, selflessness, and resilience when facing trauma, hardship, and isolation. It shines a light on the world of nursing for those outside of it, helping us understand nurses as people and as professionals through their life experiences.

I think that these stories are inspirational because no matter your profession you can identify with those who were not strong when they started out, grew and became stronger and more capable than they ever imagined was possible. Most of all, I love these stories because they are about people who care continually, tirelessly for others.

What are some of the topics that the book covers?

In one story, a nursing student is assigned a patient on end-of-life care and is forced to rethink her preconceptions of the glamour and heroism of nursing. In another, a nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit shares what it is like constantly fighting against death on the night shift. One story is about a volunteer travel nurse caring for patients in West Africa. There is another about a longtime psychiatric nurse reflecting on her nontraditional career path.

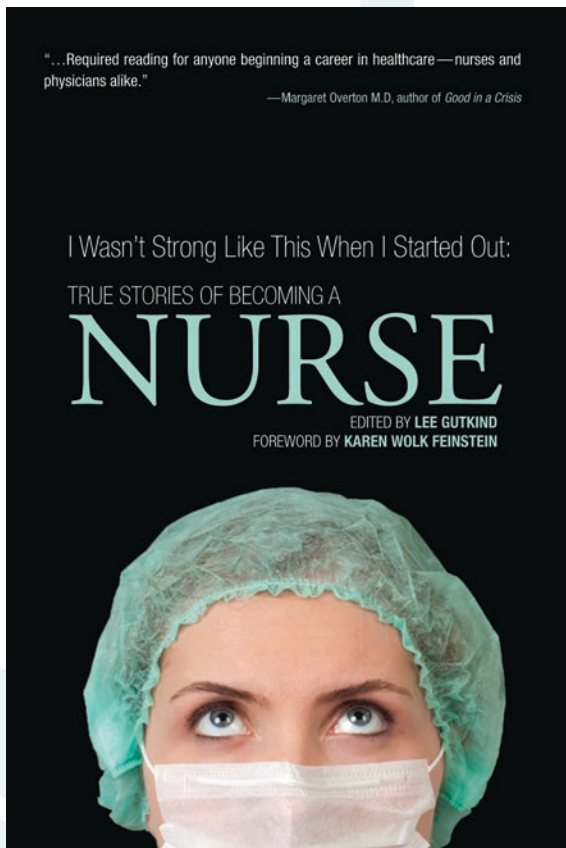
Each story shows the diversity of nursing and the omnipresence of nurses in healthcare. The authors speak to the importance of listening to each individual, of empathy for everyone, of the moments of love and hours of thankless, exhausting work. Questions, concerns, and anxieties that we all struggle with—am I making a difference; did I choose the right career—are dealt with in these stories.

When you have time, what do you usually like to read?

I read a little bit of everything; I enjoy varied genres of both fiction and nonfiction. My most recent genre of interest is the food memoir, which is creative nonfiction focused on important recipes or cuisines that defined a time in the author's life. An excellent example of the genre is *Bento Box in the Heartland: My Japanese Girlhood in Whitebread America*, by Linda Furiya.

Are there any books that you think students or colleagues would be surprised to find on your bookshelf?

As I am a librarian, I doubt anyone would be surprised to see that my bookcases are overflowing from years of adventurous reading.



"...Required reading for anyone beginning a career in healthcare—nurses and physicians alike."

—Margaret Overton M.D., author of *Good in a Crisis*

I Wasn't Strong Like This When I Started Out:

TRUE STORIES OF BECOMING A

NURSE

EDITED BY LEE GUTKIND

FOREWORD BY KAREN WOLK FEINSTEIN

How quickly time passes! Another school year has come to a close, and the SBU campus is quiet for a few short weeks. It's hard to believe I have served as your alumni director for two years now! A full calendar of events has certainly made the time pass quickly in the Office of Alumni Engagement. In addition to the busyness of things in the office, I also got married on May 28, so my personal life has been busy and exciting as well!



My goal for the Office of Alumni Engagement is to facilitate alumni relationships for Southwest Baptist University, and I believe we've had a successful year. I have been able to fellowship with SBU alumni at events all over Missouri including Kansas City, St. Louis, Branson, Lee's Summit, Springfield and Bolivar. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people who are connected to one another through their time and experiences at SBU. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months to come as we hold events in other cities. I am looking at possible event sites for the fall and next spring. If you are interested in helping to coordinate an alumni event in your area, please contact me to discuss the details.

Homecoming preparations are well under way, and I hope you'll make plans to join us on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 as we celebrate Homecoming 2016! It's sure to be a great weekend of reunion and fellowship. If you graduated in 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, or 2006, it's time to gather for your class reunion! Please remember to return your reunion class questionnaire (or complete it online) by Sept. 8. Many of us developed life-long friendships while at SBU, so be sure to call your friends to make sure they're coming! Online registration will be available for everyone beginning Aug. 1, and a registration brochure will be mailed to your home later this summer.

Highlights of Homecoming this year will be: Honors Chapel, 50-Year Club Luncheon, Alumni Banquet, parade, and the Bearcat Bash. The Bearcat Bash has been such a fun event! It's the perfect place to fellowship and reminisce with alumni of all generations. The Bearcat Bash also hosts a Kiddie Corner for future Bearcats. If you haven't had the chance to come to Homecoming and experience the Bearcat Bash, make plans to join us on Oct. 1 for a family friendly time of fun!

I look forward to the upcoming school year and the opportunity to serve as your Director of Alumni Engagement. As always, if there is ever any way the Office of Alumni Engagement can serve or assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Holly Stockard Bridge '08
Director of Alumni Engagement
Alumni@SBUuniv.edu
800.526.5859, ext 1806



St. Louis Cardinals alumni event



St. Louis Cardinals alumni event



Moses alumni event in Branson, Mo.

SBUlife

Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613

REGISTER NOW!



Homecoming

2016

Pre-registration due September 8 | www.SBUniv.edu/Alumni

Contact Holly Bridge, director of alumni engagement,
at (417) 328-1806 or alumni@SBUniv.edu.