

compassion • integrity • excellence • inclusivity • collaboration • creativity

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

Dean's Report 2020



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

## Message from the Dean



Welcome to the 2020 “Dean’s Report!” As you will read, the School of Nursing has remained quite productive this past year despite the challenges we have faced due to COVID-19. During these unprecedented and exceptionally demanding times, I could not be prouder of the School of Nursing. Our faculty and staff quickly shifted to online platforms to finish the spring semester. Our students have continued working diligently on their studies. And, our alumni have stayed connected and supportive. Many of you are simultaneously on the front lines, caring for COVID-19 patients.

Ironically, in January 2019, the World Health Organization decreed that 2020 would be the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. No one knew at that time how poignant that acknowledgement would be. Originally, the purpose for making this declaration was to showcase and elevate the profile of the nurse and midwife professions, to celebrate the contributions made by these professionals, and to recognize the daily challenges they face. The recognition also coincided with Florence Nightingale’s 200th birthday on May 12, 2020.

Recognizing the Year of the Nurse and Midwife has taken on new meaning from its original intent. The challenges we all have faced as a result of COVID-19 have at times seemed insurmountable, overwhelming, and to be honest, quite frightening. But of the many heroes on the front lines, nurses have been at the forefront, serving us by:

- Providing direct patient care to the sick and dying
- Educating the public on illness prevention
- Designing and conducting research trials to determine appropriate treatment protocols
- Advising and advocating for policy changes at the local, state, national and international levels in order to keep us safe and healthy

Nurses have been at the bedside, comforting those who are hospitalized and serving as their liaison to family members who are restricted from visiting; providing the only support to new mothers while they labor and give birth alone; and holding the hands of dying patients who are isolated from their loved ones during their final hours.

We all recognize the impact of COVID-19 to the healthcare field and know the effects will continue for some time. In the midst of this, you continue being courageous nurse leaders, making a difference one patient at a time.

The examples you will read in this “Dean’s Report” highlight just a few of the many acts of heroism and exemplary nursing leadership that our alumni and students have demonstrated throughout recent months. I know there are many more. Thank you for all you do to provide exceptional care, especially at this time when our world is not how we have known it or want it to be.

Sincerely,

Laura W. Bernaix, PhD, RN  
Dean

## About SIUE

Just a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of nearly 13,000. SIUE awards degrees in undergraduate and graduate programs encompassing the arts, sciences, nursing, education, health, human behavior, business and engineering. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award first-professional doctoral degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and pharmacy (PharmD). Cooperative PhD programs in history, environmental resources and policy, engineering science, and computer engineering are offered with SIU Carbondale.

## About the School of Nursing

The vision of the SIUE School of Nursing is to educate and develop nurses as care providers, scholars and leaders able to meet the health challenges of a diverse and complex world. The School values compassion, integrity, excellence, inclusivity, collaboration and creativity.

## Retirements



**Mary Lee Barron, PhD**

Associate Professor,  
Department of  
Family Health and  
Community Health  
Nursing

6 years of service



**Nancy Newman**

Office Support  
Specialist,  
Undergraduate  
Programs

25 years of service

**Sheila Pietroburgo, MSN**

Instructor, Primary Care  
and Health Systems  
Nursing

15 years of service

## Points of Pride

### National Board Pass Rates

**Family Nurse Practitioner Program:  
100% (2020)**

**Nurse Anesthesia Program: 86% (2019)**

### NCLEX Pass Rate

**BS in Nursing Program: 94% (2019)**

**2019 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs**  
*U.S. News & World Report*

### Serving the Underserved

- Increasing nurse practitioner workforce in rural and underserved areas of central and southern Illinois
- Funded by a \$2.75 million Health Resources and Services Administration Grant

### Global Learning Experiences

Nursing students have the opportunity to provide patient care to populations in need around the world in preparation for the vast array of challenges they may experience throughout their careers:

- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- Haiti

### RN to BS in Nursing Program

- 100% online accelerated program
- 500+ students from 12 states enrolled
- 830+ graduates since 2015
- Designed for full- and part-time nurses
- Partnerships with 8 corporate healthcare organizations and 10 community colleges in Illinois

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

- New Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization
- Provides students with the required clinical competencies and theoretical foundation to deliver quality psychiatric mental health care
  - Enrollment growth
  - Spring 2020: 9 students
  - Fall 2020: 30 students

### Community Engagement Amidst the Pandemic

- Collaborated with SIU School of Medicine and Madison County Health Department to provide free mobile testing for COVID-19
- Expanded WE CARE Clinic services to include telehealth and community education through \$78,751 Health Resources and Services Administration Grant



### Ampadu to Build on Success of WE CARE Clinic in East St. Louis

For more than 20 years, the School of Nursing has managed the WE CARE Clinic in East St. Louis with the mission of providing comprehensive, evidence-based primary care services to the Metro East area. In February, longtime clinic contributor Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP, was named the clinic's new director. Under her leadership, the clinic seeks to improve patient access to care through increased connection with potential clientele, boost student participation, and offer virtual and telephonic access.

"I am excited to be director at the WE CARE Clinic," said Ampadu, an SIUE alumna and native East St. Louisan. "It will better allow me the opportunity to provide healthcare services to the underserved and vulnerable populations of East St. Louis and surrounding communities."

Throughout the spring, the clinic had to adapt in order to continue providing care due to the state's stay-at-home order. Practitioners used Zoom and FaceTime to meet the increased demand for telehealth visits.

"We serve a vulnerable population who need chronic condition management, and we are now able to see patients in ways we had not before," Ampadu said.

Under Ampadu's guidance, the clinic has seen an increase in patient volume. In January 2019, the fully staffed clinic saw approximately 20 patients each month and now sees an average of 80-95 patients per month.

"Old policies and procedures were such that patients needed an insurance card and an ID, or they were turned away," Ampadu said. "We changed that policy to minimize potential barriers for care. Our goal is to see as many patients as we can."

Research, including a 2003 report from the Institute of Medicine, finds that healthcare providers' biases, prejudices and uncertainty when treating minorities can contribute to healthcare disparities. Although serving a Black community, the clinic was previously staffed entirely by non-minorities. Ampadu is the first person of color to lead the clinic.

"I am from East St. Louis and know the community and their values," Ampadu said. "Patients who are predominantly Black are more comfortable being seen by providers who look like them."

"As a University, SIUE is dedicated to diversity and inclusion and serving the community," Ampadu added. "The WE CARE Clinic reflects those values and provides a richness in clinical experiences for both our students and faculty."



### Collaboration Makes Free COVID-19 Testing Accessible

In July, confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Madison County mounted to more than 1,800 with up to 75 new cases per day. To ensure the area had proper access to testing, institutional collaborators partnered with Madison County to bring free mobile testing to various communities.

School of Nursing's Valerie Griffin, DNP, PPCNP-BC, FNP-BC, RN, associate clinical professor and director of nurse practitioner specializations; Melissa Bogle, DNP, instructor and coordinator of family health and community health nursing; and Family Nurse Practitioner DNP students Tyler Tanzyus, Brooke Buffington and Julie Milton served in the outreach program along with faculty, staff and students from the SIU School of Medicine and the Madison County Health Department. Lewis and Clark Community College provided use of its mobile unit.

The effort began at Madison County Housing Authority sites to address high perceived need and low access to testing, then branched out to additional sites throughout the county. At the unit, testing was made available at no cost for adults and children. Anterior nasal swabs were performed by a healthcare provider from the School of Nursing or School of Medicine. Tests were bagged and transported directly to the Illinois Department of Public Health the same day. After five to seven days, results were delivered via phone by the Madison County Health Department.

"This is a wonderful interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration that meets the needs of our communities by providing education and service," Griffin said. "Additionally, this experience allows our students clinical time in underserved and rural health regions, as well as training in COVID-19 education."



### Healthcare Diversity Summer Camp

Twenty high-school students from Illinois and Missouri received valuable information and solidified desires to pursue healthcare career choices during SIUE's 11th annual Healthcare Diversity Summer Camp.

The week-long camp, held virtually in June, was collaboratively hosted by the SIUE Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy; School of Education, Health and Human Behavior's nutrition program; and the SIU School of Dental Medicine.

"The students were inquisitive during the nursing portion and engaged in virtual scenarios, which allowed them to critically think about different aspects of nursing," said Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP, SIUE WE CARE Clinic director and School of Nursing coordinator of diversity.

Zara Bahrainwala, a junior at Metea Valley High School in Aurora, Ill., plans on becoming a neonatal or obstetrics nurse practitioner. "I absolutely loved the nursing day. It answered all my questions, and now I know for sure this is the field I want to pursue," she said.

**"I would love to work alongside doctors and help someone get back to their ideal health. It would be the most rewarding experience ever."**

Zara Bahrainwala  
Junior, Metea Valley High School, Aurora, Ill.

## Students Gain Clinical Experience on the Front Lines

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with traditional clinical experiences that nursing students participate in, students have been able to receive invaluable clinical experience while bravely serving on the front lines.

### DNP Student Travels to New York to Treat COVID-19 Patients in ICU



Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) student Brooke Buffington, RN, of Staunton, Ill., offered compassionate care during this time of need. Buffington selflessly agreed to travel to New York to bring help and relief to patients and fellow medical colleagues who were feeling overworked and emotionally stressed. She departed in April through NuWest Group, a travel nursing company that arranged the opportunity.

“I chose to pursue a career in nursing so that I could serve people in their most vulnerable state,” Buffington said. “It’s important that we think about the many families who have been affected by this pandemic, as well as the numerous healthcare professionals who are working tirelessly to treat these patients. My hope is that everyone will do the best they can to stay safe during this very difficult time.”

Her decision to aid in New York left her juggling healthcare service and her studies. Upon learning of Buffington’s plans, lecturer Greg Jennings, MS, APRN, FNP-C, noted his first reaction was one of admiration. Jennings and DNP Program Director Valerie Griffin, DNP, PPCNP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHS, FAANP, discussed ways to allow Buffington to take a pause and then continue through the program as scheduled.

“What Brooke did is truly amazing,” Jennings said. “Her skills were put to good use, and she helped save many lives. She has been trained for this, both with her education and on-the-job training.”

“Brooke’s request to serve patients and other healthcare providers in New York is an example of compassion and love, the core of why nurses are so proud of this amazing profession,” added Griffin. “During these past months, I have seen human kindness reflected in many ways, and Brooke’s decision to request time off from her program to volunteer in this manner is an exceptional act of kindness.”

### Student in National Guard Deployed for COVID-19 Testing



The University is proud to have 157 students who are active members of the National Guard and Reserves. Within the School of Nursing, there are 31 students serving as active or reserve members of the military. Throughout the pandemic, many of those students have been spread throughout Illinois fulfilling their service duties, including freshman Denver Duhs, of Mapleton, Ill.

Duhs, a nursing major and aerospace medical technician in the Illinois Air National Guard, was stationed at the Bloomington COVID-19 testing site, with an array of responsibilities from swabbing patients, setting up new sites, equipment and supply control, and more.

“I enlisted in the Illinois Air National Guard for the education benefits they provide and also to serve my country,” Duhs explained. “I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. It was humbling to be part of this historic moment. I worked with some of the best Air Force and Army personnel, and it was an experience I will not forget.”

Upon learning of his deployment, Duhs connected with SIUE Military and Veteran Services and his course instructors to request support and flexibility as they fulfilled their important duties.

“School of Nursing students who serve in the military are given priority scheduling,” said Assistant Dean Ann Popkess, PhD, associate professor of primary care and health systems nursing. “We work closely with our partners in ROTC/Air Force faculty to plan for an undergraduate student’s program to allow them to be successful in both academic and military goals.”

*photo credit: U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Jay Grabiec*

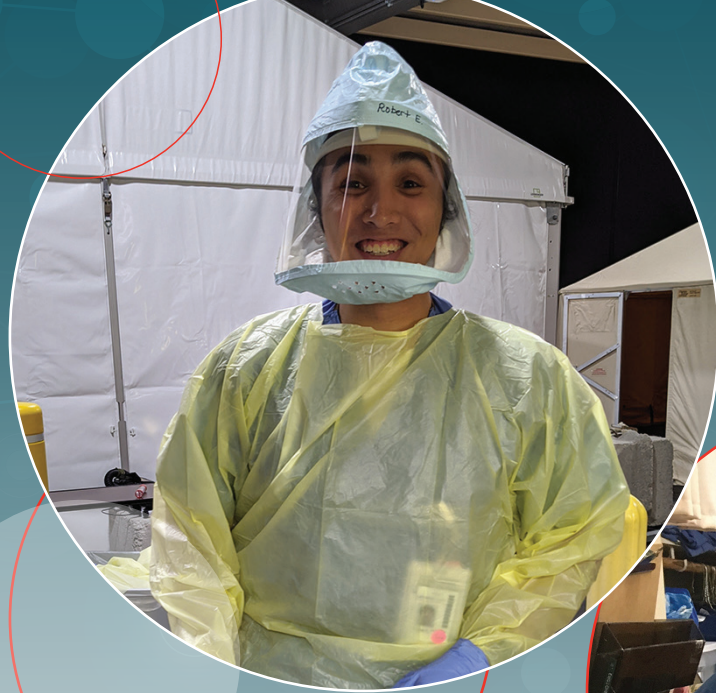


### Student Nurses Association Hosts Fundraiser to Support Student Emergency Assistance Fund

“We’re all in this together.” In April, the Student Nurses Association (SNA) proved this to be true by hosting a flash store to raise funds for students undergoing hardship due to COVID-19. The sale featured four shirt options with the saying along with a pack of five face masks. All proceeds were donated to the SIUE Student Emergency Assistance Fund, which has helped students in need of financial assistance throughout the pandemic.

“SNA knows that numerous students are struggling financially as many have lost their jobs or have parents out of work,” said SNA President Sydney Kesner, a senior nursing major from Highland, Ill. “A major aspect of SNA is service to the University. We hope that this fundraiser can assist some of our fellow students in need during the current crisis.”

“The pandemic has created unprecedented challenges that are directly impacting the lives, education and future careers of our nursing students,” said Dean Laura Bernaix, PhD, RN. “Having SNA step forward with the creation of this project demonstrates how compassionate our students are toward their peers. They are innovative leaders whose dedication and commitment toward ensuring a strong nursing workforce is exemplified by this wonderful deed.”



**“Adapting to this new challenge has brought my department’s teamwork and communication skills to a whole new level.”**

Robert Ehrhardt, RN, BSN '18  
DePaul Hospital, Bridgeton, Mo.



### **Alumni Rapidly Adapt Care During Pandemic**

From nursing students to late-career healthcare workers, many are doing their part to continue supporting those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous SIUE alumni, including Kathleen Antos, BSN '20, and Robert Ehrhardt, BSN '18, have continuously adjusted to changes within the field while on the front lines of the pandemic.

Throughout the spring, Antos completed her degree while serving as a nurse assistant at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital in St. Louis, where she cared for patients with a variety of complex diseases. During this time, she also had to transition to the reality of online education while continuing her career.

“This was definitely not the end of college that I expected,” Antos, of Crest Hill, explained. “COVID-19 has created a scary and uncertain time for many.”

Ehrhardt, a registered nurse in the Emergency Department at DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton, Mo., said communication has increased, treatment methods have changed with people being treated and discharged from an outdoor medical tent, and a biocontainment unit for highly infectious diseases was created within the emergency department. Both alumni have grown accustomed to wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) daily.

In addition to the added PPE and protocols, the two nurses have had to assist in following new regulations that have drastically reduced the number of visitors patients are allowed during their stay. In April, the DePaul Hospital emergency room updated its visitor policy to allow no visitors unless the patient is a minor or a loved one is in critical condition.

“It’s for the sake of their survival. Once patients are intubated, they are under continuous sedation without a chance to talk to their loved ones,” he explained. “Families won’t get to see them unless they have already passed or there is no foreseeable chance of recovery.”

“The biggest impact on my day-to-day work involves caring even more for the kiddos,” said Antos. “We attempt to show our love for these kids when their loved ones must remain physically distant. The kids have been able to call and video chat with their families to stay connected and optimistic.”

### **2020 Scholarships and Recipients**

**Airman David Lee Jenkins Scholarship**  
Joseph Oldani

**Ann Heiden Wharton Memorial Nursing Award**  
Kasin Whitehead

**Anthony Oliver & Felissa Lashley Award in Nursing**  
Kasin Whitehead

**Cecil Howard Griffin & Florence Bowmaster Griffin Scholarship**  
Moneer Damra  
Leah Jansen

**Chancellor Sam Goldman Scholarship for Nursing Excellence**  
Olivia Edwards

**Dr. Gloria Perry Graduate Nursing Excellence Award**  
Morgan Fitterer

**Dr. Jacquelyn M. Clement Scholarship in Nursing**  
Hannah Ruholl  
Michael Perkins

**Honoring Past Empowering Future SON Scholarship**  
Thomas Pelikan  
Bailey Jarman

**James M. & D. Corinne Comrie Scholarship**  
Emily Switzer

**Janet N. Rarick Scholarship for Nursing**  
Brock Swearingen

**Janice M. Bloomfield Memorial Nursing Student Scholarship**  
Kari Goodbar

**Louise Corlew, BSN '75 Scholarship**  
Chloe Lorton

**Nursing Alumni Heritage Award Scholarship**  
Megan Meyers  
Jamie Packer  
HoChung Kim

**Nursing Gems of 2009 Award**  
Balam Bue

**Outstanding Student In Nursing Award**  
Ranita Donaby  
Amanda Walker

**Pearl Morgan Memorial Award in Pediatric Nursing**  
Nicole Lepping

**Pre-Clinical Nursing Scholarship**  
Abigayle Orndorff  
Nicole Uselton  
Thomas White

**Rita E. Boyd Scholarship in Nursing**  
Kourtney Chapman

**Roberta Lee MacDonald Memorial Award**  
Amanda Walker

**Ron McBride Scholarship**  
Brianna Batley

**Scholarship for Excellence**  
Jessica Hammel  
Madalyn Crawford  
Kayla Herzing  
Emily Holmes  
Brynn Flack

**Shirley Strohmeyer Memorial Nursing Award**  
Nicole Lepping

**SIUE School of Nursing Faculty Scholarship-Carbondale**  
Ahnya Richardson

**SIUE School of Nursing Faculty Scholarship-Edwardsville**  
Sydney Kesner

**SIUE Student Nurses Association Scholarship**  
Mariah-Joy Francois  
Lindsey St. Peters  
Carlie Smith  
Ashlyn Farris

**St. Clair County Medical Society Alliance Scholarship**  
Hannah Sill

**Stacey Jo Probst Memorial Nursing Award**  
Bennett Pysz

**Stahlschmidt Family Legacy Scholarship**  
Mercedes Tejkowski  
Jaime Gates

**The Winston Family Scholarship for Nursing (SNAP)**  
Ariana Harris



## Conference Provides Advanced Education for Nursing Workforce

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the School of Nursing showed its commitment to meeting healthcare workforce needs by continuing its Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) program. The multi-faceted educational effort was creatively designed to increase the number of nurse practitioners who practice in rural and underserved communities throughout Illinois. Despite the suspension of on-campus activities due to the pandemic just days before the event, faculty and staff swiftly transitioned the conference to a virtual format.

**“We were fortunate to have a collection of speakers who were motivated to share their content, despite the last-minute change to virtual format.”**

Jodie Nehrt

Instructional Designer

Almost 300 attendees, comprising regional Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) and students, participated in the regional conference as nationally-renowned speakers presented on topics of opioid crisis, non-opioid pain treatment options, recognizing addictive behavior, rehabilitation of the opioid dependent patient, and long-term follow-up strategies.

“The ability of healthcare providers, and in particular nurse practitioners, to appropriately serve a patient population struggling with opioid use disorders within rural areas of Illinois is of critical importance,” said Family Nurse Practitioner Clinical Site Coordinator and Instructor Melissa Bogle, DNP, FNP-BC, ACNP-BC. “I was incredibly impressed with the level of participation, engagement and best practice sharing from attendees. Despite the virtual environment, you could sense the collegiality of the group.”

Jodie Nehrt, instructional designer for the School, assisted with the transition to a virtual format, primarily through the use of Zoom and Mursion.

“Dr. Bogle worked nonstop on developing this conference from the beginning. After the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the conference would have been canceled without Jodie’s incredible work,” said ANEW Program Director Valerie Griffin, DNP, PPCNP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHS, FAANP, associate clinical professor and director of nurse practitioner specializations. “These dedicated women remained positive that we could pull this off, and we did!”

Given the conference’s success, another virtual event has been scheduled to take place in March with a focus on mental health.



## Ongoing Efforts Aim to Eliminate Unconscious Bias

Unconscious bias takes place in the form of learned stereotypes that cause individuals to form unfair and unconscious prejudice toward others. When present in the healthcare profession, unconscious bias contributes to healthcare disparities.

The School of Nursing created its diversity committee in 2008, with the goal of fostering diversity throughout all programs, policies and procedures. Since then, the School has been dedicated to ongoing, year-round efforts to increase the awareness of and eliminate unconscious bias.

“Our coordinator for diversity, Dr. Jerrica Ampadu, and the elected members of the diversity committee provide invaluable leadership to the School to ensure we attain our goals related to diversity and inclusivity,” said Dean Laura Bernaix, PhD, RN. “It is essential that our faculty, staff and students not only emulate a culture supportive of diversity and inclusion, but that we prepare our students to be professionals who respect, protect and embody acceptance, understanding and sensitivity for all individuals entrusted to their care.”

The committee actively works with the School to:

- Seek and admit students from underrepresented and diverse populations within the region
- Respond to the educational needs of a diverse student body
- Prepare professional nurses who are competent in providing culturally-specific care to diverse populations

Additionally, the committee strives to assist in the recruitment, hiring and retention of faculty and staff from underrepresented groups. All staff undergo diversity training in order to foster an inclusive environment

and encourage the exploration and expression of many beliefs, ideas and perspectives in a safe and supportive environment for everyone in the School.

“I am proud that even before the heightened awareness on racial issues, Dean Bernaix has been at the forefront of the diversity committee by enforcing in-service diversity training,” said Ampadu, PhD, assistant professor and coordinator for diversity. “Many people are interested and want to evolve. I myself am still learning how to be more inclusive in my teaching and learning.”

**“We must constantly seek to learn. Without, we can’t recognize and dismantle unconscious bias.”**

Jerrica Ampadu, PhD

Assistant Professor and Coordinator for Diversity

In addition to the diversity committee’s efforts, the School’s alumni board is actively recruiting more diverse board members.

“The board advises the dean and represents the School,” said Ampadu, president of the board. “As we increase diversity of the student body, the board should represent that diversity. Additionally, we need to hear from our diverse alumni and understand their roles in order to provide more informed advice on the School’s curriculum and events.”

The School’s multi-faceted efforts are equipping healthcare providers to meet the cultural, communication and health needs of underserved populations.



## Accelerated Graduate Options

The School of Nursing offers three accelerated graduate degrees to qualified nursing students who wish to complete two degrees in less time. Once accepted, qualified students can earn graduate-level credit for courses taken during their undergraduate program.

Students in the traditional bachelor’s program may apply for accelerated graduate credit in the following programs:

- Nurse Educator, MS
- Healthcare and Nursing Administration, MS
- Family Nurse Practitioner, DNP

“This provides a unique opportunity for qualified nursing students to replace up to six credits of nursing undergraduate courses with nursing graduate courses,” said Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs and Associate Professor Andrew Griffin, PhD, CRNA, APN. “By reducing both time and cost involved in attaining these degrees, we can more efficiently meet the demands of the healthcare workforce.”

## Gopalan Named 2020 Arthur C. Guyton Educator of the Year



Hailed as an 'exceptional mentor,' 'highly accomplished and adaptable educator,' and an 'authority on implementing flipped classrooms methodology,' Chaya Gopalan, PhD, was named the American Physiological Society's (APS) 2020 Arthur C. Guyton Educator of the Year.

Gopalan is an associate professor in both the School of Nursing's Department

of Primary Care and Health Systems, and the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior's Department of Applied Health. She is highly regarded nationally for her commitment to implementing a range of teaching modalities to connect with diverse learners.

The distinguished Arthur C. Guyton Educator of the Year Award honors her for excellence in classroom teaching at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels, and for her strong commitment to the improvement of physiology.

**"I owe my success to the American Physiological Society. I have been a member of the society for over 20 years, and have received constant encouragement, guidance and opportunities to grow and develop."**

Chaya Gopalan, PhD, Associate Professor of Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing

Gopalan's long-time involvement with the APS has included service on the advisory group of physiology educators, Fellowship Committee, Institution of Teaching and Learning and Steering Committees, as well as a Nomination Committee Chair, Symposium Chair and more.

"I have witnessed firsthand her tremendous passion and energy for physiology education," noted APS colleague Jonathan Kibble, PhD, professor of physiology and assistant dean for students at the University of Central Florida's Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona College of Medicine, in his letter of recommendation. "She has become an authority on implementing flipped classroom methodology."

## Andrews and McGuire Received Baich Research Award



Angela Andrews, PhD, RN, CNE, and Kelley McGuire, MSN, assistant professors of primary care and health systems nursing, received the 2021 Annette and Henry Baich Award for their research. Entitled "Exploration of Sleep Health and Behaviors Among Undergraduate Nursing Students," their research aims to further explore the sleep health of nursing students to guide a health behavior change intervention.



The pair initially applied for a Seed grant for Transitional and Exploratory Projects (STEP), which provides funding on a competitive basis to SIUE faculty and staff to support research and creative activities. Awarded by the SIUE Graduate School, STEP grants are intended to encourage faculty to initiate new research directions or new research projects.

In addition to receiving a STEP grant, the pair received the 2021 Annette and Henry Baich Award, established by the Annette and Henry Baich Foundation as an effort to advance research at SIUE and enhance cooperation among researchers. The one-time stipend is awarded to the most promising STEP proposal within the field of sciences that fall within the scope of activity of the scientific research honor society Sigma Xi.

**"We are honored to have been selected as the Baich Award recipients. This award grants the opportunity to expand our project and continue to honor the Baichs' dedication to scholarship."**

Angela Andrews, PhD, RN, CNE, Assistant Professor of Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing



**"The goal of attracting more SIUE nursing students to address the shortage of RNs and advanced practice providers in the rural southern Illinois region will be realized."**

Jessica Hammel, BS '20

## New Lab and Plans for \$10.5M Health Sciences Building

Planning for modern classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, faculty offices, administrative spaces, and student resource and study spaces for SIUE students has begun. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced in January the release of \$10,537,000 in planning funds to create preliminary designs for a \$10.5 million Health Science Building (HSB) on the SIUE campus.

Approximately 221,000 square feet, the HSB will facilitate more simulation training, research and growth in programs within nursing, pharmacy and related health science areas. It will be the largest building on the SIUE campus.

"With this investment, we're giving SIUE's current and future students a world-class education in a world-class facility, and we're providing employers with world-class talent from one of our state's greatest institutions," Pritzker said.

Currently, the School of Nursing is located in Alumni Hall within the campus core. The health sciences program in the Department of Applied Health is also within the campus core, while the School of Pharmacy is located in three buildings in University Park.

As a recent graduate of the School, Jessica Hammel, BS '20 from Carlyle, Ill., recognizes the benefits.

"This new building will provide SIUE students the opportunity to learn professional skills in an innovative state-of-the-art simulation laboratory learning center, engage in interprofessional education, and participate in biomedical and clinical research, all with the goal of enhancing collaboration among health professions for improved healthcare delivery throughout the state of Illinois and the region," she said.

To meet the School of Nursing's immediate needs to support rapid enrollment growth, an additional simulation lab on the third floor of Alumni Hall was completed just in time for the fall semester.

"The current COVID-19 pandemic also increased the urgency for the School to explore alternative learning modalities that are evidence-based, cutting-edge and creative in an effort to continue to elevate our educational programs in nursing," said Kevin Stein, DNP, program director and assistant professor of the nurse anesthesia program.

The new lab, which will be relocated to the HSB upon completion, provides students in the nurse anesthesia program with an environment that mimics an operating room suite.

"Through high-fidelity simulations designed by our faculty, students will be able to transfer the theoretical knowledge they learn in the classroom into clinical practice in a safe and controlled environment," Stein said. "This will enhance student confidence and prepare them for hands-on patient care throughout central and southern Illinois communities."



## Faculty Achievements

### Publications

**Andrews, A. M., & Russell, C. L.** (2019). Impact of a SystemCHANGE™ Intervention on medication adherence in older adults with heart failure: A feasibility study. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 45*(4), 15–19.

**Boyd, M. & Luebbert, R.** (2019). Mental health disorders of older adults. In M. Boyd & R. Luebbert (Eds.), *Essentials of psychiatric nursing* (2nd ed.) (pp. 534-558). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). Effect of flipped teaching on student performance and perceptions in an Introductory Physiology course. *Advances in physiology education, 43*(1), 28-33. doi:10.1152/advan.00051.2018.

Niepotter, P., & **Gopalan, C.** (2019). The Effects of Ketogenic Diets on Psychiatric Disorders Involving Mitochondrial Dysfunction: A Literature Review of the Influence of Dieting on Autism, Depression, Anxiety, and Schizophrenia. *HAPS Educator, 23*(2), 426-431. doi: 10.1016/j.brainresrev.2008.09.002

**Griffin, V., Griffin, A., Stein, K., & Gray, J.** (2019). Transitioning the Doctor of Nursing Practice final project defense to large venue poster sessions. *Journal of Nursing Education, 59*(1), 51-53.

**Imboden, A.** (2019). Effective treatments for head lice. *The Nurse Practitioner, 44*(9), 36-42.

**Luebbert, R.** (2019). Patient rights and legal issues. In M. Boyd & R. Luebbert (Eds.), *Essentials of psychiatric nursing* (2nd ed.) (pp. 16-28). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.

**Luebbert, R.** (2019). Therapeutic communication. In M. Boyd & R. Luebbert (Eds.), *Essentials of psychiatric nursing* (2nd ed.) (pp. 81-95). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.

**Luebbert, R. & Boyd, M.** (2019). Suicide prevention. In M. Boyd & R. Luebbert (Eds.), *Essentials of psychiatric nursing* (2nd ed.) (pp. 223-238). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.

**Luebbert, R.** (2019). Mental health disorders of childhood and adolescence. In M. Boyd & R. Luebbert (Eds.), *Essentials of psychiatric nursing* (2nd ed.) (pp. 511-533). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.

**Lyerla, F. & Danks, J.** (2019). Perianesthesia Nursing Malpractice: Reducing the Risk of, *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing, 34*(3), 463-468.

Erlinger, L. R., Bartlett, A., & **Perez, A.** (2019). High-fidelity mannequin simulation versus virtual simulation for recognition of critical events by student registered nurse anesthetists. *American Association of Nurse Anesthesia Journal, 87*(2), 105-109.

### Newsletter/Other

**Imboden, A.** (2019, June). Moms helping others: Mothers' Milk Bank is meeting the needs of infants at each development stage. *The Southern Illinoian*.

**Perez, A.** (2019). Midwest Nursing Research Society Health of Diverse Populations Research Interest Group; Member Spotlight. Newsletter.

### Professional Presentations

Loftus, D., **Ampadu, J. V., Luebbert, R. A., Harrison, R. L., Bernaix, L., & Rosnick, C.** (2019, April). *Holistic admission*. SIUE Graduate School Conference, Edwardsville, IL; Poster presentation.

**Ampadu, J. V., & Minnis, M.** (2019, March). *Asthma Trigger Assessment Program*. SIUE Continuous Improvement Conference: Developing and Deepening Community Engagement Partnerships for Learning, Inquiry, and Change, Edwardsville, IL; Poster presentation.

**Andrews, A. M., Russell, C.L.** (2019, March). *Lessons learned: A feasibility study on the impact of a SystemCHANGE™ intervention on medication adherence in older adults with heart failure*. Midwest Nursing Research Society, Kansas City, MO; Poster presentation.

**Andrews, A. M., Perez, A., Luebbert, R. A., & Cooley, T. M.** (2019, November). *Standardized patients versus mannequins in mental health simulation*. 23rd Annual Midwest Regional Nursing Educators Conference, Columbia, MO; Poster presentation.

**Baecht, L.** (2019). *Sub-anesthetic ketamine for the post-surgical, postpartum patient with Opioid Use Disorder*. MoANA.

**Barron, M. L.** (2019, October). *Fertility awareness based methods: Clinical utility of fertility monitoring technologies*. Fertility Appreciation Collaborative to Teach the Science (FACTS) Modern Fertility Awareness for Family Planning and Women's Health Conference, Irving, Texas; Invited speaker.

**Boatman, M., Ross, A., & Perez, A.** (2019, March). *Developing community partnerships to engage in care of diverse populations*. SIUE Continuous Improvement Conference: Developing and Deepening Community Engagement Partnerships for Learning, Inquiry, and Change, Edwardsville, IL; Poster presentation.

**Gaehle, K., Stein, K., Sobczak, B., & Perez, A.** (2019, February). *Virtual simulation: Suspending disbelief to create a real world interaction*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Master's Education Conference, Tampa, FL; Podium presentation.

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). *Examining faculty and student perceptions in the implementation of flipped teaching in undergraduate STEM courses*. 4th Annual Higher Education Flipped Learning Conference, Greeley, CO

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). *Using the flipped classroom technique in teaching physiology*. Pan-American Congress of Physiological Sciences, Havana, Cuba

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). *Role of androgen receptors during sexual differentiation of the rat brain*. Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Bloomington, IN; Poster Presentation.

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). *The modulation of flipped classroom design and student performance*. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research conference, Minneapolis, MN; Poster Presentation.

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). *Faculty strategies for implementing and assessing flipped teaching*. Network of STEM Education Centers Conference, Omaha, NB; Poster Presentation.

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). *The effect of flutamide on spatial working memory and sexual motivation and the expression of estrogen and Androgen receptors in the hippocampus of the male and female rats*. EB Conference, Orlando, FL; Poster Presentation

**Griffin, V.** (2019, October). *Pre-participation physical evaluation and other pediatric potpourri*. St. Louis University 22nd Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Skills Workshop and Conference, St. Louis, MO; Podium presentation.

**Griffin, V.** (2019, April). *Transitioning the DNP final project defense to large venue poster sessions*. National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA; Podium presentation.

**Howland, C., Despina, L., & Wakefield, B.** (2019). *Primary care clinical nurse activities with a telehealth monitoring system*. University of Missouri's Health Sciences Research Day, Columbia, MO.

**Luebbert, R.** (2019, Oct). *Campus-wide suicide prevention: Crucial partners*. American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA; Poster Presentation.

**Luebbert, R., Harrison, R., & Bernaix, L.** (2019, June). *Visual instructional delivery in online nursing courses*. Southeast Faculty Development Conference; Myrtle Beach, SC; Poster Presentation.

**Lyerla F.** (2019, March). *Perioperative nursing malpractice claims and strategies to reduce risk*. Illinois Society of Perianesthesia Nurses–Spring Conference; Rolling Meadows, IL.

**McGuire, K. & Lorenz, R.** (2019). *Stress in simulation-based learning*. St. Louis Regional Consortium, Sigma Tau Iota Chapter, St. Louis, MO.

**McGuire, K.** (2019). *Stress in simulation-based learning*. 43rd Annual Research Conference, Midwest Nursing Research Society, Kansas City, MO.

Butler, L., DeMeo, C., **Perez, A., & Santanello, C.** (2019, September). *Women in science panel discussion*. SIUE Women's Studies Program, Edwardsville, IL; Panel speaker.

**Perez, A., Cuervo Carruthers, H., & Nieto, M.** (2019, July). *Interprofessional education: Culturally competent care*. National Association of Hispanic Nurses 44th Annual Conference, Reno, NV; Podium presentation.

**Perez, A., Cuervo Carruthers, H., & Nieto, M.** (2019, March). *Interprofessional education to address linguistic and cultural competence in caring for Hispanic populations*. Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO; Poster presentation.

**Petri, C., & Nehrt, J.** (2019, September). *Using a lightboard to enhance student experiences*. Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference, St. Louis, MO; Oral presentation.

**Reed, A. E.** (2019). *Social and cultural factors influencing African American women's formula feeding decisions*. Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO; Poster presentation.

**Rowbotham, M. A., & Marcotte, T.** (2019, March). *Empowerment and innovation to improve student success*. National Nurse Educator Summit, Savannah, GA; Poster presentation.

**Sobczak, B.** (2019, April). *iPad distraction and immunization in the primary care setting*. University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics 26th National Evidence-Based Practice Conference, Iowa City, IA; Poster presentation.

**Stein, K. J.** (2019, Feb). *Exploring the impact of the flipped classroom on Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist Learning*. Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators (ADCE), American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Houston, TX.

**Stein, K. J.** (2019, March). *Clinical feedback: Developing effective student development*. Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL.

### Community Presentation Workshops

**Ampadu, J. V.** (2019, November). Asthma Trigger Assessment Program. Make Health Happen ESTL Coalition, East St. Louis, IL. Community presentation.

**Ampadu, J. V.** (2019, May). Diabetes self-management in African Americans. Touchette Regional Hospital, Belleville, IL. Community presentation.

**Imboden, A.** (2019). Medication administration. Southern Illinois University Head Start. Educational Inservice.

### Grants

**Ampadu, J. V.** (2019-2020). Asthma Trigger Assessment Program. Illinois Department of Public Health; \$40,000.

**Ampadu, J. V.** (2018-2022). Nurse, education, practice, quality, and retention: Registered nurses in primary care. Health Resources and Services Administration; \$2,637,630.

**Ampadu, J. V.** (2019-2020). Think first. Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; \$20,255.

**Bernaix, L.** (2019). Ensuring the Retention and Educational Advancement of Nursing Faculty Amid a Nurse Educator Shortage, SIUE Innovation Grant, \$126,000.

**Barron, M. L.** (2019-2020). ACA natural family planning grant. Archdiocese of St. Louis; \$3,000.

**Gopalan, C.** (2018-present). Examining Faculty Attitudes and Strategies that Support Successful Flipped Teaching. National Science Foundation (NSF)-IUSE; \$598,492.

**Gopalan, C.** (2018-present). Examining Barriers in the Implementation of Flipped Teaching Combined with Retrieval Practice. APS-Teaching Career Enhancement Award; \$10,000.

**Gopalan, C.** (2019). Dean's Grant Award, SIUE; \$1,000.  
**Griffin, V., & Griffin, A.** (2019-2023). Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW). Health Resources and Services Administration; \$2,750,000.

**Imboden, A.** (2019-2020). Nurse Educator Fellowship. Illinois Board of Higher Education; \$10,000.

**Lyerla, F.** (2018-2019). Improving EMR Usability and Reducing the Risk of Litigation via Policy and Procedure Hyperlinks. BJC Healthcare, Children's Hospital Collaborative Research Grant; \$4,445.

**Lyerla, F.** (2018-2019). Improving EMR Usability and Reducing the Risk of Litigation via Policy and Procedure Hyperlinks. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: School of Nursing, Faculty Scholar Award; \$2,000.

**McGuire, K.** (2019). Nurse Educator Fellowship. Illinois Board of Higher Education; \$10,000.

**Stein, K. J.** (2018-2019). Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW); \$78,111.

**Stein, K. J.** (2019-2020). Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW); \$30,451.

### Student Learning Activities

**Rowbotham, M.** (2019). Clinical reasoning case study: Normal newborn care. Published by Keith Richer (Keith RN) for Think Like a Nurse.



### Legends and Legacies Circle Creates Lasting Donor Partnerships

The new School of Nursing Legends and Legacies Circle celebrates the lasting partnership with donors who have included a bequest or planned gift commitment in their estate plans for the benefit of the School.

Sandra and Peter Spilotro were the first to make a planned gift commitment. Spilotro, BSN '69, led a successful career in public health and healthcare consulting. In 2014, they established the Sandra and Peter Spilotro Scholarship Fund to provide tuition support for an undergraduate or graduate student.

"When my husband and I were preparing our estate plan, we felt it was time to 'pay it forward,'" Spilotro said. "Pursuing higher education can be financially stressful, and many students graduate with debt as an added burden. I was fortunate to receive financial assistance while pursuing my nursing degree at SIUE. The great education I received allowed me to experience a successful career. It was time to give back to the institution that contributed to my success by establishing an endowed nursing scholarship through our estate plan."

The School is grateful to the Spilotros and each member of the Legends and Legacies Circle for their profound and lasting support of the School's mission and vision to advance the future of nursing education and patient care in this region and beyond, now and in the years to come.

Donors and friends are invited to make their own ultimate gift through bequest, life insurance, charitable annuity, charitable remainder trust or other gift. To learn more, contact Patti McDonald, senior director of development, at 618-650-3906 or pmcdona@siue.edu.

**"We hope our gift will help nursing students achieve their career goals as well as to inspire others who are in a financial position to do so to pay it forward."**

Sandra Spilotro, BSN '69

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