Dean’s Message

Being Known for Service Is a Great Thing

A member of my staff was recently asked if BYU nursing students ever did service in the community. When I heard this, my thoughts immediately turned to the dozens of ways our nursing students, faculty members, and alumni make a difference. At first, I wanted to make sure others knew of the numerous hours individual students spend serving local groups such as the Volunteer Care Clinic of Provo and the Dan W. Petersen School in American Fork, teaching health seminars at the Food and Care Coalition, supporting projects sponsored through United Way, or participating in health fairs and special events such as the Utah Children’s Justice Symposium.

I thought about listing all the ways the college benefits others, but then I recalled that Jesus taught, “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 6:1). After all, learning the Healer’s art includes quiet acts of service that no one ever knows of except the one being served and the server.

However, visible service has been associated with the nursing program ever since I was a student. Individuals come together to complete service projects, assist the needy, and donate their time to support worthy causes. Those efforts range from small to large tasks and seem to be well received by those whom they serve.

BYU College of Nursing sends a survey to alumni one year after graduation asking their opinion on their career and charitable acts. Recently, the master’s class of 2016 reported that a third of them give service on a regular basis and that 70 percent participate with nonprofit organizations in some manner. Similarly, baccalaureate respondents said that among the strengths of the nursing program was the “emphasis on serving as the Savior would.” Indeed, it was the defining factor of one student’s education and her service as a nurse.

I can heartily state that being known for service is a great thing. Our influence of the Healer’s art is seen in many.

This issue of the magazine features stories of nursing alumni serving others in emergency situations—giving hurricane relief in Texas and Florida as well as at a mass shooting in Nevada. It includes examples of international service from a recent alumni award recipient and from alumni who are sharing their nursing skills as mission nurse specialists.

This publication also features a tribute to the 30th anniversary of the college’s nursing honor society chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (which has service as a central tenet), with unique images highlighting some historical chapter items. We also honor a faculty member and a nursing student with DAISY recognitions. It also discusses the scholarly works of Dr. Mary Williams and Karen de la Cruz, with a faculty spotlight on Cheryl Corbett.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you—our great alumni, faculty, and friends of the College of Nursing—and wish you much happiness and success this year. Please continue to share how you bless others through nursing, as I enjoy hearing from you in this way (nursingpr@byu.edu).

Patricia Ravert
Dean and Professor, BYU College of Nursing
When Disaster Struck, BYU Nursing Alumni Answered the Call

Learn how various alumni independently served others when emergency situations struck their communities.

30 Years of Sigma Theta Tau

Celebrate the anniversary of our chapter of the international nursing honor society, and review historical items of the past three decades focusing on service, nursing leadership, scholarship, education, and research.

More Mission Nurse Specialists: Alumni Stories

There is a great need for nurses—particularly nurse practitioners and those with foreign-language abilities—to serve as mission nurse specialists throughout the world.

Rachel Wood, a first-semester nursing student from Caldwell, Idaho, completes a blood pressure reading during a campus clinic. She is wearing a new college logo scrub top implemented this semester. Photograph by Jeff L. Peery.
ALUMNI

RESPONDING TO CRISES
Hurricanes Harvey and Irma quite literally took America by storm. The two historic storms slammed into the Southeast coast of the United States within mere weeks of each other. The National Weather Service called Hurricane Harvey "unprecedented."

According to CNN, Harvey dropped an estimated 27 trillion gallons of rain over the course of six days and left a third of Houston, Texas, flooded. Irma was the strongest hurricane to hit Florida in over a decade, dumping more than 10 inches of rain and leaving nearly three-quarters of the state in the dark. Because of the impacts of these storms, the 2017 hurricane season may be the most expensive in U.S. history.

During these hard times of destruction and uncertainty, many people stepped in to help combat the devastating effects of the hurricanes. Among them were BYU College of Nursing alumni.

The Damage

“I was shocked by the impact [of the hurricanes],” says Paige Newman Dayhuff (BS ’16), who lives in the northern Houston area of Conroe. “Along some roads, every house was gutted, and the first floor was bare to the wood framing.”

Dayhuff saw firsthand much of the damage, particularly when officials released water from an upstream dam to prevent it from bursting. Officials told the Wall Street Journal that in Houston alone, at least 136,000 buildings were flooded during Harvey’s rampage.

“The freeways, both northbound and southbound from us, were blocked by water,” she says. “In some low-lying areas, the water had risen over 15 feet and flooded the freeway entrances and exits. My home was never flooded, but houses about five minutes from us were.”

Kimberly Coleby Ethington (BS ’99) of Tomball, Texas, was working at the hospital when Hurricane Harvey first hit.

“I was up on the seventh floor of a NICU/nursery unit,” Ethington says. “We listened to the rain and wind all night. I was told to pack a bag just in case the roads would not be passable to make it back home.”

Ethington did manage to get home, but her neighborhood flooded soon after, preventing her from returning to the

When Disaster Struck, BYU Nursing Alumni Answered the Call
hospital for several days. Her coworkers at the hospital didn’t fare much better.

"Basically whoever was at the hospital Saturday morning stayed until the following Tuesday or Wednesday, trapped at the hospital and flooded in," she says. "Through the tornado warnings, all babies and parents were moved to one inside hallway and triage room. One floor of the hospital that had not been in use was made available during the storm and up to two weeks after for families of workers who had no place to go. We called it Hotel Harvey."

Oncology nurse Joanne Grant Dortch’s (AS ’84) own place of work was hard hit as well. “Our clinic lost power for a week, and I was stranded at my house in Kingwood during that time due to flooding,” she says.

The Job
One of the main ways in which BYU nursing alumni responded to the hurricanes was by continuing to work as nurses.

The Wednesday following Harvey’s initial landfall, the roads were clearer, and Ethington returned to the hospital to work the night shift as a recovery nurse. The hospital had also flown in several nurses from out of state to address the massive needs that Harvey created.

“I worked several nights in a row and some days on my floor until things got back to normal over the week," Ethington says. "We did have one baby that could have been discharged earlier, but her parents’ home had been flooded, and we weren’t going to send a preemie to a hotel, so we let the family stay a few extra days rooming in."

Dortch says, “When we were able to get out onto the roads and to another clinic that wasn’t affected by Harvey, we called all of our patients to check on them, do whatever we could to help, and get them back on their chemo schedules.

“These patients become our friends, and we love them. We were worried about their white cells, red cells, and platelets being low; we worried about pain, infection, having nowhere to live in some cases, and so many other things.”

The Cleanup
Following Harvey, many members in wards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints rallied to assist in the cleanup. Dayhuff’s ward was one of them.

“Members of our congregation responded immediately to flooded houses, organizing groups to help with the massive needs that Harvey created. "I worked several nights in a row and some days on my floor until things got back to normal over the week," Ethington

Mormon Helping Hands volunteers muck out the home of Ray Clayton in Vidor, Texas. This group and thousands of similar volunteers assisted with the recovery efforts last year.

“"When we were able to get out onto the roads and to another clinic that wasn’t affected by Harvey, we called all of our patients to check on them. These patients become our friends, and we love them." —JOANNE GRANT DORTCH

"We probably spent about three weeks cleaning out houses, with some people working for up to 10 hours every day."

She explained that members were divided into teams that would help gut homes and help the owners clean. They wore masks to prevent inhaling mold spores or other contaminants. They frequently would walk to the neighbors’ houses right after to offer assistance.

“Sheetrock, furniture, appliances, anything on the first level that had been in the water had to be discarded,” she says. “We piled the waste on the sides of the road. I was just in awe of the number of homes affected. It’s not like a fire, where one or two houses are burned, but whole neighborhoods were destroyed. I had never been part of a natural disaster, and it was overwhelming to think of all the people affected."

Throughout all these experiences, BYU nursing alumni proved that the Healer’s art could be practiced anywhere, be it in a hospital or a house ruined by flooding.

“For about three consecutive Sundays we had condensed church meetings, gathering for only an hour and dispersing to cleaning out houses right after,” Dayhuff says. “I loved gathering in our jeans and yellow Mormon Helping Hands shirts—there was just such a feeling of willingness to serve and anticipation for being able to help others.”

As a nurse, Dayhuff also served as a “handwashing enforcer” at the sites. She later worked sorting out deliveries of supplies at a donation zone in a converted steel manufacturing warehouse. She says she was overwhelmed by the charity and love displayed by people.

“We had truckloads of donations arriving hourly—food, hygiene supplies, bedding, so many clothes, cleaning supplies, baby products, books, toys. We had everything pouring in,” she says. “After a week of organizing, we opened the
facility to those needing the supplies. The flood victims came through with shopping carts and were able to take what they needed according to the number of people in their family. Many of the people had lost everything. I felt so blessed to see their reaction when they received the donations. I wish those who had sent the donations could have seen the gratitude and humility on those people’s faces!"

"Today I got my chance to go help for a few hours," says Tricia Terry Bunderson (BS ’09). "It was hot. It was smelly. The mold was already setting in. But I’ve never been so happy to get my hands dirty and help strangers who have lost so much."

Bunderson’s family realizes that the amount of cleanup and rebuilding to be done is daunting, but they know that it takes one day at a time for the city to recover. "I’ve seen grocery stores stocking shelves as fast as humanly possible, nurses working even though their own homes have been flooded, and oil workers pulling long shifts to get the plants up and running again." —TRICIA TERRY BUNDESON

Shoulder to the Wheel. It was a powerful experience to be part of a huge cleanup effort like that."

Ethington found herself in a similar situation. "As I worked the night shift those first few days when people started cleaning up, my teenagers during the day went out to serve," she says. "They helped families in the neighborhoods close by that we knew at first. The weeks after, we joined Helping Hands crews to help muck out homes further away. It was a memorable experience for our family."

Some of the College of Nursing’s other Helping Hands volunteers were Rachel Camille Stewart (BS ’00) and her family. Although the Stewarts’ home in Augusta, Georgia, is more than 100 miles from the coast, the Stewarts have already helped clean up after five hurricanes, sometimes spending as much as eight hours traveling to reach impacted areas. Like Benson, Stewart usually stays at home with the kids while her husband and two teenage sons have gone to work clearing debris and fallen trees.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma—just two weeks after Stewart’s husband was called to be a bishop—an area seventy asked for volunteers to serve in inundated Jacksonville, Florida, which experienced its worst flooding in almost 100 years.

Stewart says their story is not unique. For years, many of their LDS neighbors have also answered the call to help in areas across the Southeast. "The blessings of laboring in the service of others brings such joy that the youth in our area jump at the chance to participate," Stewart explains. "Even though the work is long and difficult, the people served are always so grateful for the cheerful service provided. Truly it is a blessing to be able to literally and figuratively lift the burdens of our brothers and sisters in need."

Steven Tibbitts, Jonathan Schroeder, and Jeff L. Peery contributed to the research and writing of this article.
When the situation is dire, communication becomes crucial. One of the areas in which a nursing baccalaureate program prepares students is in using “clinical judgment and decision-making skills in appropriate, timely nursing care during a disaster, mass casualty, and other emergency situations.”¹

Each semester BYU College of Nursing capstone students participate in an interdisciplinary experience to rehearse treating patients in a fast-paced situation. The exercise, coordinated by Emergency Medical Services (EMS), helps both students and professionals understand how individuals must work together during a disaster and to practice calming and comforting each other.

“Mass Casualty Incident is a large training exercise where we can use all of our skills that we’ve learned and implement them into a natural disaster or emergency situation,” says EMS supervisor Court Webster. “There is a different situation each semester, and the emergency response teams have to respond to the individual needs of every victim.”

Nearly 100 students participated by acting as victims. After their makeup and fake injuries were applied by members of BYU Department of Theatre and Media Arts, they lay down and waited for medical teams to arrive. Once they did, each nursing student received assignments and began treating the victims as if it were a real emergency situation.

The entire process took about an hour. The victims and response groups then took a lunch break and prepared to practice the whole situation a second time.

“While the pretend campus situations may allow nursing students the opportunity to work with university EMS, police, firefighters, bomb squads, and other professional groups, it probably does not prepare them with all of the knowledge to handle a real mass shooting, vehicle-pedestrian attack, or natural disaster,” says assistant teaching professor Dr. Blaine Winters. “However, the thing to understand is that it offers a hands-on, interdisciplinary approach to active triage and emergency response that engages the students and challenges them to use advanced assessment, critical thinking, therapeutic communication, patient-centered care, and technical skill.”

Communication items discussed during debriefing include these points:

**Listen to your team**—As a nurse, you are a member of a healthcare group, and when all individuals in the group work together, you can prevent errors and provide optimal healthcare.

**Practice closed-loop communication**—When you receive a message, repeat it back so that the sender knows you received it. This way, each member of the team knows what he or she is being asked to do and who is doing it, something that is especially difficult in a high-stress, fast-paced situation.

**Take deep breaths**—Although it’s a pretty basic piece of advice, taking deep breaths will help keep you calm under pressure so you can better assess the emergency situation.

**Remember the basics about privacy**—As a reminder, there are laws that prohibit or protect the distribution of sensitive, confidential, or nonauthorized information, whether through traditional communication channels or through social media: (1) the privacy, security, and breach of notification rules in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and, for current nursing students, (2) the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). You should regularly review your institutional policies governing online conduct (or assist in developing policies if none exist). Also, understand and observe the Code of Ethics for Nurses. ²


BYU nursing student Allie Smith administers oxygen at the EMS mock casualty drill on October 21.
DO ANGELS ALWAYS HAVE WINGS?

By Tracey B. Long (BS ’86), PhD, RN, MS, CDE, CNE, CCRN

Angels are thought of as having wings. But on Sunday, October 1, 2017, after a mass shooting at the Route 91 Harvest festival with 2,200 country music lovers at the Mandalay Bay Hotel, dozens of angels without wings known as nurses descended on Las Vegas wearing scrubs and went into full action.

The two busy trauma centers of Las Vegas are Sunrise Hospital and University Medical Center Hospital. Both typically receive 20 trauma patients each day. However, after the call of “shots fired” was announced, each center treated over 250 patients with gunshot wounds and other medical needs, totaling 527 wounded and 59 fatalities.

“More than 100 physicians and nurses arrived, like angels swooping down to bring help and healing.”

“We get these types of patients regularly, but maybe two at a time at most,” says Rhonda Davis, Sunrise Hospital trauma nurse. “All at once we had dozens of people who needed life-saving critical interventions at the same time. We went patient to patient as quickly as possible, trying to help save them. I wasn’t thinking; you just do.”

Teams usually have space in a completely stocked surgical room for trauma cases, but in this case many were processed in hallways with makeshift supplies stretched thin for the hundreds being treated.

“It wasn’t an ER of screaming. There was calmness because people were being taken care of,” says Dorita Sondereker, RN, director of emergency services for Sunrise Hospital. “The patients kept rolling in, and we were just trying to find placement for everybody.”

The angels even included the patients themselves, who were seen holding each other’s hands and declining care for themselves, saying, “Take care of those who are hurt worse. I’m good.”

Thea Parish, a junior nursing student from Nevada State College, was working at the time as a pharmacy technician. “Ever since I started nursing school, the human race has been declining and hating on each other,” says Parish. “I was debating whether I wanted to be a nurse, but when I looked around, I was like, this is what it’s about: saving people. We were the helpers. That was the most memorable moment. Yeah, there was a lot of trauma happening, but at the same moment humanity was happening, and it was amazing.”

Sometimes the angel nurses were there to heal and save lives, and sometimes they were there to bring news to grieving families of a fallen loved one. Nurses heal on both sides of the veil of mortality.

One of the first fatalities in the shooting was a nurse, Sonny Melton, who sacrificed his own life as he protected his wife from gunshots. Other nurses not related to the trauma centers, including dozens of nursing students, responded the next morning by standing in line for four hours to donate blood.

“We went patient to patient as quickly as possible, trying to help save them. I wasn’t thinking; you just do.”

—RHONDA DAVIS

“I felt helpless not being able to assist in the hospitals where the victims were, but I could help other people in my corner of the world,” said a nurse working at another hospital. “We’re all connected, and if people are hurting, that’s where nurses want to be to help them heal.”

There is more good in the world than any one evil man. There are more angels among us than we recognize, and that brings peace. Not all angels have wings; many wear gloves and a stethoscope.

Tracey Long is a nursing instructor for the College of Southern Nevada and director of clinical education at HealthCare Partners, a DaVita Medical Group. She also serves as a BYU alumni regional director assisting university alumni chapters in the Southwest.

Volunteers serve breakfast to nurses at University Medical Center Hospital in Las Vegas.

BYU COLLEGE OF NURSING
To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of Iota Iota, the Brigham Young University chapter of the nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the students planned a unique service project and assembled personal hygiene kits for a local men’s homeless shelter. For decades the chapter has striven to promote excellence in nursing and elevate the nursing experience of its members.

STTI was started by six nursing students in 1922 at the Indiana University School of Nursing. According to the organization’s website, its goal is “advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.”

“[Those six students] did not realize the impact that it would have,” says assistant teaching professor Daphne Thomas, who serves as the current archivist for Iota Iota.

BYU nursing emeritus faculty member Dr. Barbara H. Mandleco was inducted into STTI in 1968 while attending the University of Florida. When she began teaching at BYU, she was disappointed to learn that there were no STTI chapters in the state of Utah. So she decided to start one herself.

“We were the second chapter of the society in the state of Utah, as the University of Utah College of Nursing began their Gamma Rho Chapter in 1978,” says Thomas. “Our charter was granted 10 years later, in 1988, and Weber State University’s in 1992.”

The Iota Iota Chapter was originally formed on March 4, 1988, in conjunction with Westminster College’s nursing program. BYU’s Dr. Marilyn C. Lyons and Westminster’s Beth Vaughn-Wrobel worked to achieve this accomplishment for both schools, and at its inaugural event, the BYU chapter inducted 164 members, including five former deans of the College of Nursing, Dr. Maxine Cope, Dr. Elaine D. Dyer, Dr. June Leifson (BS ’57), Dr. Sandra Rogers (BS ’74), and Dr. Elaine S. Marshall; and two current faculty members, Dr. Renea Beckstrand (AS ’81, BS ’83, MS ’87) and Debbie Mills (BS ’82, MS ’89).

According to Dr. Marshall’s history of the college, the first officers were Lyons, president; Peggy E. Grusendorf (AS ’82, BS ’84, MS ’87), vice president; Sandra Stonehocker Mangum (BS ’58), vice president; and Dr. Richard Drake, faculty counselor. (Lyons died in 1998 and Dr. Drake in 2017.)

Current BYU College of Nursing dean and professor Dr. Patricia K. Ravert (AS ’74, BS ’75, MS ’94) was inducted as a graduate student in 1992, during the chapter’s fifth year.

Westminster’s nursing program separated from Iota Iota in 2015 to create a unit that focuses on their school’s traditions and goals. Southern Utah University...
The crest, which adorns a membership certificate, reminds members of their commitment to:
- wisdom and discernment, as represented by the eye;
- service, professional endeavor, and strength of leadership, as represented by the pillars of stone at the right and left; and
- knowledge, as represented by the lamp.

The key, embedded in the membership pin, reminds members of the charge to uphold love, courage, and honor and is a symbol of scholarship.
- The cup denotes the satisfaction of professional life.
- The circle, with its six stars, represents the society’s six founders.
- The lamp is the lamp of knowledge.
- The letters in black represent the nurse’s charge.

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To create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service, and learning to improve the health of the world’s people.
started a group in 2016, followed by Western Governors University last year.

Chapters of STTI are usually affiliated with universities, where high-performing bachelor and graduate students are invited to join the organization.

“It’s not just a student honor society; it’s a professional honor society,” says assistant professor Dr. Bret Lyman, current president of Iota Iota. “Once inducted, you’re a member for life. Individuals should also pay their nominal yearly dues to continue to receive benefits and resources.”

Over the past 30 years, BYU’s chapter has striven to promote the ideals of STTI while helping both nursing faculty and students expand their professionalism and skill set. Past activities include gathering supplies for refugee families, funding cultural diversity grants, hosting nursing fashion show fundraisers, arranging keynote speaker presentations, and sponsoring the college’s annual scholarly works and contribution to the discipline conference each fall.

“One part of the mission is to celebrate nursing research. We look for ways to recognize excellence in this area,” Dr. Lyman says. “People can apply for grants, and we can help sponsor their study, or if they have already completed their project, then we may sponsor them to go present it. We try to sponsor global health trips for a couple of students each year.”

The university’s chapter is unique in several ways. First, STTI usually recommends that only nursing students who are reaching high academic performance levels be invited to join the program. However, most of BYU’s nursing students meet the requirements, meaning that more students are inducted than at many other schools. According to the signatures in the chapter’s inductee guestbook, 1,508 students have joined Iota Iota since 1988 (not including those who joined this year). Dr. Lyman estimates that when members from Westminster are included, the chapter’s overall membership grows to 2,400.

Another distinct feature is the emphasis that Iota Iota puts on students. While other chapters may work more with graduated professionals, BYU’s chapter places a special emphasis on helping students along their career paths.

“I think it comes from the College of Nursing and BYU itself—it’s the emphasis on mentored learning,” Thomas says. “We want to mentor those students and are trying to help them; whether it is with research, a contribution to the discipline project, or leadership, it is still that—mentored learning.”

This focus on mentored learning is reflected in the chapter’s practice of inviting students to help plan activities and outreach efforts. Students sometimes attend board meetings, though the board positions are filled primarily by BYU College of Nursing faculty members.

Individuals who join STTI find that their nursing world dramatically expands, as there are members in over 90 countries.

“There is a camaraderie among the members,” Dr. Lyman says. “Something we try to foster is helping the students and other members feel like they are part of something bigger.”

Below: A ledger with 30 years of inductee signatures is one of the chapter’s prized historic items; pictured is the signature of former dean Dr. June Leifson (BS ’57) as the first entry.

Each inductee can experience membership in their own way. Not only are there opportunities to be involved locally, but there are opportunities to participate in this global organization on a regional and international level as well.

Career Assistance—Advance your career by utilizing online resources to find a job, build a portfolio, find a mentor, manage your vocation, or receive advice.

Stay Involved—Connect with other members of a local chapter to volunteer or attend events, or join the discussion electronically with social and professional networking tools.

Continuing Nursing Education—Earn credits through online professional development opportunities.

Member Publications—Read materials to stay up to date with the latest research and nursing trends.

Association Rewards—Take advantage of products, services, and partnerships developed to support you in your career.

Recognition—Acknowledge others who have contributed to nursing, or obtain recognition for your successes.
Top left: A wooden plaque given to Brigham Young University and Westminster College on the creation of their Sigma chapter, presented March 4, 1988.

Bottom left: A gift presented to the college from the University of Utah (needlework by Karen Brown, Gamma Rho Chapter historian).

Above: A certificate recognizing outstanding achievement for dissemination of knowledge, presented September 26, 2008. Left: A jeweled key pin from Sigma Theta Tau International.

Above: A wooden plaque in observance of the chapter’s 25th anniversary, presented March 2013. Left: Chapter minutes from the years 1998 through 2002 are stored on a 3.5 inch floppy disk.
The BYU College of Nursing has partnered with the DAISY Foundation to begin a new tradition and recognize an extraordinary nursing faculty member and student each semester. Last October we were pleased to recognize assistant professor Dr. Julie Valentine with the first DAISY Faculty Award and Sage Williams as the DAISY In Training Award recipient.

The DAISY Foundation (an acronym for diseases attacking the immune system) was established in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes as a way to honor him after he died of complications from the autoimmune disease idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP). Pat’s family created the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses to honor registered nurses who make a difference in the lives of patients and their families. (Some of our alumni have received this distinction.)

The DAISY Faculty Award provides national recognition and appreciation to nursing faculty for their commitment and inspirational influence on their students. The DAISY In Training Award is designed to remind students, even on their toughest days in nursing school, why they want to be nurses.

Each January and September, the College of Nursing will accept nominations at nursing.byu.edu of a nursing professor or student who reflects compassion and exemplifies the Healer’s art. Recognition is given at the college’s professionalism conference in February and at the conference on scholarly works and contribution to the discipline in October.

**DAISY Faculty Award**

Dr. Julie Valentine is an assistant professor and a certified adult/adolescent sexual assault nurse. Dr. Valentine focuses on multidisciplinary collaborative research studies to help victims and facilitate case processing. In 2015 she was the primary author of two grants totaling $3.2 million for the testing of previously untested sexual assault kits and the resulting investigation and prosecution of rape cases in Utah.
She is engaged in a research project with the Utah state crime laboratory exploring the impact of new DNA testing methods in sexual assault cases as well as a law enforcement study on trauma-informed victim interviewing in sexual assault cases. From 2014 to 2017 she served on the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Committee with the National Institute of Justice developing national best-practice policies for sexual assault cases. In 2016, Dr. Valentine served on the BYU Advisory Council on Campus Response to Sexual Misconduct, which investigated Title IX implementation and recommended substantial policy and structural changes for the university.

As a mother of eight and a grandmother of two, Dr. Valentine is an influential teacher wherever she goes. Whether at the lectern, the hospital, the courtroom, the legislative floor, church, or home, she shows love, compassion, and a kind listening ear to everyone.

Her favorite holiday is Valentine's Day, when her family sends out Valentine cards and enjoys making dozens of yummy treats to share with neighbors, friends, and coworkers.

DAISY In Training Award
Sage Williams (BS '17) became a research assistant at the end of nursing semester one, working with faculty members Dr. Julie Valentine, Dr. Linda Mabey, and Dr. Leslie Miles on multiple research studies on sexual assault victims throughout Utah. Her passion for caring for underserved and vulnerable individuals expands beyond the research arena; she also immerses herself in volunteer work.

Williams takes a monthly 48-hour call as a victim's advocate in Utah County for sexual assault victims with the Center for Women and Children in Crisis, volunteers at the University of Utah Health Burn Camp Program for children, and worked this past summer in a refugee camp in Greece for children and families fleeing Syria. Of note, she left the camp to join faculty members in Dublin, Ireland, to present at the International Sigma Theta Tau conference. While there, Williams only had sandals to wear because she had given her shoes to those more in need at the refugee camp.

Her plans include obtaining a DNP as a psychiatric mental health nurse. She is truly an exceptional nursing student who emulates the Healer’s art and is making a difference in the world, especially with those who have been traumatized.

Are you an extraordinary nurse who received a DAISY Award recognition? Email nursingpr@byu.edu, and we will share your accomplishment.

DAISY Award Honoree Alumni Spotlight
Just eight months into her nursing career, Rebecca Edmunds (BS '16) was recognized with a DAISY Award by University Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, for her compassion while taking care of a female cystic fibrosis patient.

This patient did not feel comfortable showering with help, as it felt like “giving away any dignity she had left to be taken from her,” according to Edmunds. Edmunds, who was not her nurse, responded to a request from a respiratory therapist friend. She assisted the patient in bathing, participated in a post-shower hair salon, and made the patient feel comfortable and important.

Edmunds says this recognition humbles her and motivates her to be a better nurse and a kinder person.
Two years after graduating from BYU College of Nursing, Jessica Clark (BS ’14) of Rexburg, Idaho, found herself wanting more from life. The trouble was that she just couldn’t figure out what.

Clark was working as a nurse at the University of Utah Hospital. She had spent the past year on a busy medical intensive care unit (MICU) caring for some of the most critical patients in the Intermountain West region. But despite the excitement of working on a MICU, Clark felt she needed a way to move forward in life. She found it in a place that she least expected—an online article titled “Church Wants a Nurse-Missionary in Every Mission.”

“I had always thought about serving a mission, but I never felt quite right about it,” Clark explains. “When I first saw the article, I didn’t take it seriously. But then the Lord prompted me. He told me that this was what I was supposed to do. So I decided to accept His direction and do what He asked of me.”

Clark accepted a call to serve as a mission nurse specialist in the Argentina Buenos Aires West Mission. Now a year into her 18-month assignment, she is one of many nursing alumni who have answered the call to build up the Lord’s kingdom by practicing the Healer’s art.

Caring for Missionaries Through “Mom Medicine”

Over the past 30 years, mission nurse specialists have played a vital role in LDS missionary work. Today there are more than 70,000 missionaries serving in over 400 missions around the world. Many of these missionaries are just 18 years old, and many of them, when faced with the challenges of learning a new language and culture, forget about the importance of a healthy diet or basic hygiene practices. Others struggle with prediagnosed physical and mental challenges, while dozens more only discover these challenges after they reach the mission field.

“If you’re a registered nurse (with or without a current license), your service as a mission nurse specialist is greatly needed,” says assistant teaching professor Debbie Edmunds.

Last July, Edmunds took a yearlong leave of absence from the BYU College of Nursing to serve as a mission nurse specialist in the Fiji Suva Mission. She was accompanied by her husband, who had recently retired and was given an assignment as the mission’s financial secretary. While there, Edmunds did everything from preparing first aid kits and health trainings to visiting sick missionaries in the hospital.

“I was on call 24/7. I had a cell phone provided to me, and the missionaries would call with questions or concerns,” Edmunds says. “As a nurse, most of the time all I really needed to know is your basic ‘mom medicine,’ similar to how children phone for advice. The missionaries are just the same. They can’t call their mom, so they call the mission nurse specialist.”

“I think the most memorable part of my experience was seeing how the Lord cares for His missionaries. They would contact me, and I would be up all night worrying about them, and the next morning they would be fine. There were so many times where I could just see where the Lord was just blessing them and taking care of them individually.”

Less than a month after Edmunds and her husband arrived in Fiji, a truck carrying two elders was involved in a terrifying accident. The truck rolled over, sending one of the elders to the hospital. When
Edmunds visited him, the elder told her a story that she has never forgotten. 

“The missionary was on the passenger side of the truck,” Edmunds recalls. “As he was being thrown out of the vehicle, he said he could feel himself being pulled back in. It was clear that angels were attending him. He left the hospital the very next day.”

Over those 12 months, Edmunds and her husband had the chance to build precious relationships with more than 135 missionaries from countries around the world. Now that she’s back in Utah, Edmunds has already had many of these missionaries visit her home.

“As the mission nurse, I was just there to love the missionaries and take care of them,” she explains. “Now that I’m home, it’s been surprising to me just how much I miss the mission. I really miss the missionaries.”

Filling Multiple Roles

Lindsey Shaw (BS ’16) of Provo, Utah, is a mission nurse specialist in the Honduras San Pedro Sula West Mission. She says that working with missionaries has helped her appreciate their dedication to doing the Lord’s work.

“I enjoy seeing how focused the missionaries are in their goal to bring others unto Christ. It’s so inspiring to see their desire to serve and be successful in the Lord’s service. I’m so blessed to be a part of the process to help get them back on their feet and back into the field.”

Shaw first found out about the health missionary program during her final year of nursing school. In the weeks leading up to graduation, Shaw says she had an overwhelming feeling that since the Lord had blessed her with the opportunity to study at BYU, she needed to take the time to serve Him.

But Shaw quickly discovered that for a single mission nurse specialist, there’s never enough time. Unlike senior mission nurse specialist couples, single sisters are often given a proselyting area in addition to their charge to care for the missionaries. In between teaching new investigators and frequent trips to the hospital, it can sometimes be easy for missionaries like Shaw and Clark to feel overwhelmed.

But Shaw says she has enjoyed the chance it has given her to apply nursing to the gospel.

“During a lesson, one of our investigators became a little exasperated because her two-year-old daughter was five pounds underweight, and she wasn’t sure how to help her,” says Shaw. Together they made a diet plan to help her daughter eat more proteins and healthy fats. “A week into the schedule, the mother was so excited to report on her daughter’s progress! It was so gratifying to know that I could use my nursing skills to help share the gospel and improve the lives of this family.”

On another occasion, Shaw was in the emergency room with a missionary who had been diagnosed with kidney stones. Through the burning fever and with immense discomfort, the elder asked Shaw how the missionary work was going in her area. The elder then began to suggest scriptures that Shaw could use during her contacts, pausing every few seconds to throw up in a small emesis basin. The conversation carried on for nearly 15 minutes before Shaw convinced him that he should probably rest.

Sharing the Healer’s Love

“Serving as a mission nurse helped me realize just how physically and emotionally difficult missionary work can be,” shares Lindsay Chandler (BS ’12) of Austin, Texas, a returned mission nurse specialist from the Argentina Posadas Mission. “It’s so important for someone to be there for the missionaries, someone they can be comfortable talking to. They need someone to remind them not only to take care of their investigators but also to take care of themselves. It was such a blessing to be that person. It helped me learn just how much the Savior supports us and loves us when we are in His service.”

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A MISSION NURSE SPECIALIST, be sure to note your medical expertise on the paperwork when you submit your recommendation to serve a full-time mission. You do not need a current RN license, but you must be a nursing graduate. If you are interested in becoming a part-time Church-service volunteer nurse in the mission where you live, or if you want more information on these opportunities, contact:

Chris Lake, RN
bcclake@ldschurch.org
801-240-7740

Shannon Clegg, RN, MBA
shannon.clegg@ldschurch.org
801-547-7684
Serving with a Global Perspective

By Jonathan Schroeder

If associate teaching professor Cheryl Skousen Corbett (BS ’89, MS ’96) had an “adventure résumé,” you probably would not find too many people who could match it. So far, Corbett has run 20 marathons (half of them with Boston Marathon qualifying times), visited 28 different countries on five continents, and was even a member of the legendary BYU Skydiving Club.

Of course, Corbett does not have such a résumé, nor does she tell many people about the things that could be on it. But although Corbett’s modesty means that few people know about her adventures, it is hard to overlook her inspiring legacy of service.

Corbett grew up in a large LDS family in Southern California. After receiving her nursing degree from Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, and becoming an RN, Corbett accepted a call to serve as a welfare sister missionary in the Dominican Republic (DR).

At that time, the country was one of the fastest-growing missions in the Church. As a welfare missionary, Corbett had the unique opportunity to care for the Dominicans not only spiritually but also temporally.

“As welfare missionaries, we did a lot of work with people in the community. During the day we spent most of our time proselyting and teaching the gospel. Then on different nights of the week, we organized a welfare night where we would teach members of the community about basic welfare principles like handwashing, basic hygiene, and water sanitation practices,” Corbett says.

In a country where one in three Dominicans live in poverty, these simple principles may have saved dozens of lives. But Corbett says that the one life that was the most deeply affected was probably her own.

“Serving in the DR was such a life-changing experience for me; it changed my whole worldview. At the time, the people there lived in such humble, impoverished circumstances. As I got to know the people, my love for them really grew. I began to see things in a different light. It was an impactful experience.”

After her mission, Corbett settled into what she thought would be a temporary job working in a hospital labor and delivery unit. She had hoped to switch over to a job in an intensive care unit as soon as a spot opened up.

“After a few years, I was still working in labor and delivery,” she says. “I discovered that I loved working there. It was exciting to be a support for new parents as they go through that transition of welcoming a new child into their family.”

Now a labor and delivery professional with 28 years of experience, Corbett has had the opportunity to do humanitarian work with LDS Charities. Thanks to the Spanish she learned on her mission, Corbett has taught newborn resuscitation classes in impoverished communities in Argentina, Guatemala, and Ecuador. She even had the chance to return to her mission to serve the Dominican people.

“Serving in the DR was such a life-changing experience for me; it changed my whole worldview. At the time, the people there lived in such humble, impoverished circumstances. As I got to know the people, my love for them really grew. I began to see things in a different light. It was an impactful experience.”

Corbett’s international humanitarian experience has made her a key contributor to BYU College of Nursing’s clinical practicum for the global and public health nursing course. Corbett says one of her main goals is to help her students gain the same kind of real-life exposure that she had on her mission.

“When I have global health students, I like to get them off the beaten path,” she says. “I like to take them to different places like Vietnam or India. That is because I want them to get off the tour bus and be involved with people; [I want] to give them a sense of what it is like. For example, when we go to Vietnam, we live in the homes of people with dirt floors, we sleep in their rafters, and we go out and help them plant their rice. We are very much involved in being a part of the culture rather than being a casual tourist.”

Corbett is married and is the proud mother of four daughters, including two BYU College of Nursing graduates—Elise M. and Rachel B. Corbett (both BS ’14). In her spare time, Corbett enjoys spending time with her family, running, and working at the Volunteer Care Clinic in Provo, Utah.

“Serving in the DR was such a life-changing experience for me; it changed my whole worldview. At the time, the people there lived in such humble, impoverished circumstances. As I got to know the people, my love for them really grew. I began to see things in a different light. It was an impactful experience.”

—Cheryl Corbett

“Serving with a Global Perspective” Faculty Spotlight: Cheryl Corbett
The Value of Leadership Shadowing

By Jeff L. Peery

BYU College of Nursing provides a world-class education, but sometimes students can only unlock their leadership potential away from campus.

Last year, associate professor Dr. Beth Luthy (MS '05) was appointed interim chair of the advisory commission on childhood vaccines for the United States Department of Health and Human Services. In December she invited three nursing graduate students—Katie E. Hill, Rebekah M. Johnson (BS '14), and Sarah Harmon Davis (BS '11)—to a quarterly meeting of an advisory commission on childhood vaccines in Washington, DC.

The students interacted with other national nursing and government leaders. They asked questions and were included in department functions throughout their visit.

While their visit did not fulfill a class assignment or clinical practicum, it was a great opportunity to be mentored outside of a classroom.

"I can’t overstate the value of watching Dr. Luthy in action as she expertly led the discussion for the advisory commission," says Davis. "She was professional, knowledgeable, and also compassionate when interacting with the emotional parents who called in to express their opinion on the vaccine injury table."

"It was inspiring to watch my professor," says Hill. "I know how passionate she is about vaccines, and yet she was able to be very respectful and neutral to all who participated in the meeting, including those whose opinions strongly differed from her own."

Dr. Luthy says that mentored learning allows the student to witness the mentor making intuitive decisions and to ask why things work the way they do. This type of leadership shadowing demystifies the experience by using the actual work of the professor as the context for learning. The student listens to, observes, and participates in behind-the-scenes thinking and planning—kind of like being in the kitchen and helping the master chef prepare food for a meal.

"My opinion on immunizations didn’t change as a result of the meeting, but I did gain more understanding and sympathy for those who have experienced vaccine side effects," says Hill. "Attending the meeting was an incredible opportunity, and Beth’s example has made me want to get more involved in immunization policy improvement."

Dr. Luthy knows her students received firsthand experience in government policy and saw how that system influences clinical practice. She believes that their involvement enriched their education at BYU and will undoubtedly impact their practice regarding immunizations.

"The experience instilled in me a desire to become more knowledgeable about policies that affect the health and well-being of our citizens and to engage as an advocate for strong health practices," says Davis.

Nurse leaders cannot learn to lead from behind; they must be given opportunities to practice their leadership skills. Working with faculty members outside of classes, labs, and clinicals in unique situations teaches students confidence, practical application, and accountability—the very attributes they will need in future nursing administration roles.

The college began a campaign in 2016 to raise funds to facilitate this pattern of learning with as many students as possible. Please consider making a gift to support additional opportunities by donating online at give.byu.edu/nursing and selecting “Nursing Mentored Learning” as the account.
Alumni Perspectives

Grateful for My Degree

I recently helped my daughter make a presentation on nursing to her sophomore high school health class. As I shared thoughts on my career, I became extremely grateful for my degree from BYU College of Nursing. It allowed me to work evenings or weekends as needed while my children were growing. By working while they slept, I never felt like my job took me away from those special moments I may have missed at other times. They are now older, and I have the opportunity to begin a new position. Being a nurse is such a great way to bless and support others!

Suzanna Mitchell Livingston (BS ’91)
LINDON, UT

No Greater Reward in Nursing Than a Thank-You

As the BYU College of Nursing concludes its 65th anniversary, a few thoughts came to me about my nursing career. I was in the fourth graduating nursing class of 1959 and was president of the student nurses’ association. Bernice Chapman was dean of the BYU School of Nursing, which successfully became the College of Nursing while I was a student. Dean Chapman was tough, along with the other professors, but they made us want to be better. All 31 in our class passed our state boards on the first try.

I am 80 years old, and my RN license is still current; maybe I will decide to go back to work when I turn 100.

31 in our class passed our state boards on the first try.

There is no greater reward in nursing than this. One day in our small town a local girl who I had not seen in a long time came up to me and said, “Thank you, Eleanore, for saving my life when I was stupid.” I had forgotten about the incident. The EMS system was barely beginning, and I had joined the local fire department that had Narcan available. She had overdosed on street drugs and was near death.

Throughout my life, the Holy Ghost has been my constant companion, and I was aware of His presence while He guided me in this incident and in my life’s questions and decisions.

Each day while returning home from work, I tried to evaluate my performance as an RN. Have I done everything perfect? Of course not, but I tried to be my best and learn what I could improve if I had that challenge again. Most of all, never give up, and accept valid criticisms.

I am 80 years old, and my RN license is still current; maybe I will decide to go back to work when I turn 100. Right now, my advice is free thanks to BYU College of Nursing and life’s experiences!

Eleanore Hacking Scott (BS ’59)
TRINITY CENTER, CA

More Than a Kind Gesture

I moved across the country last summer and asked Jeff at the College of Nursing to help me connect with other alumni in North Carolina. He emailed individuals in the area and asked if they would welcome a new alum. I was at a hair appointment and began crying because I had an alumna, Amber, email me with some information. I’m so grateful for this kind gesture. The College of Nursing goes above and beyond for alumni. This is the best program in the nation for more reasons than one.

Emily Vest Covey (BS ’08)
APEX, NC

As a BYU alum, how has your College of Nursing degree blessed or saved a life? Submit experiences to nursingpr@byu.edu. Authors whose stories are published will receive a pair of college socks.
Managing Compassionate Care and Culture in Abu Dhabi

By Steven Tibbitts

The call came unexpectedly. BYU nursing alumna Carolyn Carver Palsky (AS’81, BS’84) found herself talking to a recruiter from the prestigious Cleveland Clinic, which was in the process of creating its Middle East center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The facility needed someone with Palsky’s specific skill set to make it work.

For much of her career, Palsky has focused on patient experience. That passion began when her six-year-old daughter, Rachel, became ill while the family was living in France on an expatriate assignment.

“[Rachel] was hospitalized, and I had a very traumatic experience with nurses who did not treat us very well due to our inability to communicate in French,” she says. One nurse, however, worked diligently to help the family in a kind, loving manner. The experience deeply affected Palsky.

“I realized that my previous focus on good clinical care was insufficient,” she says. “As a patient, I expected good nursing care but wanted to be treated with courtesy and respect. I vowed that when I returned to the workforce, I would always treat my patients and their families the way I hoped to be treated.”

Palsky earned her MSNED and began working in positions like patient flow coordinator, patient experience director, and director of nursing operations. Soon after, she was recruited by the Cleveland Clinic and moved to Abu Dhabi with her husband.

“My primary responsibility was to adapt the U.S. Cleveland Clinic culture while opening an elite multicultural international hospital in Abu Dhabi,” she says.

This was no easy task—the clinic had over 70 languages and cultures among the campus and the patients. However, Palsky acclimated to the job and stayed on top of the many demands she faced.

“I would say nothing has been standard, normal, or boring,” she explains. “Each day brought new challenges and interesting experiences. Every time I started thinking I understood the culture, something new would happen, and I continued to learn about patients, beliefs, and expectations.”

One of Palsky’s biggest achievements was creating the Tawasol program, whose name means “connection” in Arabic. This comprehensive training program is an adaptation of the Cleveland Clinic’s HEART program, which guides caregivers on interacting with patients and their families in a culturally competent and patient-focused manner.

“One thing I have learned while working in the Middle East is that people are the same throughout the world—they all want to be treated with courtesy and respect,” Palsky says. “The difference is how they perceive courtesy and respect.”

Palsky says that being around people from so many different cultures has been a wonderful experience. The Emiratis have been gracious hosts, and she enjoys connecting with new Muslim neighbors and finding similarities between religions.

“The absolute best part of living in the UAE has been meeting new people and making lifelong friends,” she says. “The most important lesson living abroad has taught me is that there is always more than one way to see things. I love being able to explore cultures and ideas.”

As her work at the Cleveland Clinic wraps up, Palsky looks back fondly at the past few years.

“Working in the UAE has been a highlight of my career,” she says. “Opening up an international facility has been extremely challenging but equally rewarding.”

Do you have an interesting job or career? Let your peers across the country know how you use your nursing degree. Email nursingpr@byu.edu. Your news may be included in the next edition of Learning the Healer’s Art.
Alumni Updates

Members from the nursing class of 1972 recently got together for a 45-year reunion. They enjoyed reminiscing and sharing stories with each other. Those pictured above are (front, from left) Deena Bond Christensen, E. Larita Call Evans, Carolee “Kandy” Startup Hillam, Claradene Fisher Stewart, Charlotte Lindsay Hanna, and Mary Anne Poulson Hillier; (back, from left) Ellen Jacobsen Meaders, Lois Irene Bancroft Mulholand, Dan Moyes, Margaret Dayton, and Sue Lynne Larson.

Lynn Clark Callister (BS ’64). BYU College of Nursing emeritus faculty member, celebrated her 75th birthday in October.

Pam Barrus Bitsch (AS ’73) has served as the clinical director of Vision Care Center of Idaho in Meridian, Idaho, for 18 years.

Shanna Callahan Nerdin (AS ’80, BS ’83) is the director of nursing at Center for Change in Orem, Utah; she has worked with this organization for 10 years.

Jean Oliver Millar (AS ’81, BS ’84) was recently promoted to operations director of the women and newborns clinical program for Intermountain Healthcare. In October 2017 she received the Nightingale Award from Weber State University’s Nu Nu Chapter for her exceptional support to the five pillars of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Carol Hanks Talmage (MS ’85), retired instructor in the BYU College of Nursing, was honored on her 90th birthday in September with an open house for family and friends.

Kathy Calton (BS ’86) is currently the trauma program manager for McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden, Utah; she has also been the house supervisor for 34 years.

Todd Neubert (BS ’95) is the chief nursing officer for Intermountain Homecare and Hospice, which serves patients throughout Utah and southern Idaho. He recently published an article titled “Shared Leadership for Nursing” in the 2017 fall edition of Management in Healthcare.

Marc-Aurel Martial (BS ’00) will soon graduate from the University of Utah with a PhD in nursing research.

Brian Christensen (BS ’02, MS ’08) celebrated his fifth anniversary as a family nurse practitioner at Utah Valley Hospital.

Michael Lopez (BS ’06) is now a CRNA with Anesthesia Associates Northwest in Eugene, Oregon; he received his MSNA from Arkansas State University.

Charles A. Socci III (BS ’06) was promoted to cardiovascular service line director at University of Utah Health Hospitals and Clinics.

Cami R. Schiel (BS ’12) is receiving a joint juris doctor and master of business administration from the BYU Law School and the BYU Marriott School of Business.

Laura Gilpin Merrell (BS ’13) is a plastic reconstructive surgery nurse practitioner at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, having received her training from Ohio State University.

Jessica “Jessie” N. Valentine (BS ’14) is graduating with an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner master’s degree at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in Nashville, Tennessee.

Annette Johnson Himes (BS ’15) is completing a doctor of nursing practice in women’s health and midwifery from the University of Utah.

David P. Adams (BS ’16) is finishing a family nurse practitioner program at George Washington University.

New promotion? Advanced degree? Recently published? Let your peers across the country know of your success and status. Email nursingpr@byu.edu. Your news may be included in the next edition of Learning the Healer’s Art.
Many Faces, Many Places: The Healer’s Art in Action

By Nancy K. Kraus, MSN, RN

Excerpts from her BYU Homecoming 2017 address

“I didn’t become a nurse to be an executive—even though I do that well,” said Nancy Kuehner Kraus (AS ’80, BS ’82) in her lecture to BYU College of Nursing students, friends, faculty, and alumni. “I became a nurse to relieve suffering, connect with people, and make a difference in individuals’ lives.”

In October 2017, Kraus received the university’s Alumni Achievement Award from the college in recognition of her contribution to the nursing profession. As a nurse administrator, she is the executive director of critical care and the director of the clinical education magnet program for Children’s Hospital of Orange County, California.

She handles four director roles at the hospital: service line, critical care, clinical education, and professional development. Other responsibilities include involvement in nursing research, magnet programs, learning management, and academic affiliations.

Kraus is an exceptional executive who loves critical care as well as excellent training and education. But when it comes down to it, she is driven by her love of people. Kraus said she eventually found herself a little too far removed from the bedside, and she needed to rediscover learning the Healer’s art.

“Whether being a 24/7 on-call nurse for neighbors and ward members with feverish babies or fool-hardy teens, I have always enjoyed a personal mission and ministry of service to others in my community,” said Kraus. “But, considering my circle of influence and with my nursing skills, I felt I needed to do more to lift others.”

Her decision led to spending a week in the Houston Astrodome in 2005 giving urgent care to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. After that experience, Kraus continued to look for volunteer opportunities. It took some time for her to find the right fit, but she made a connection with the nonprofit Operation Smile International.

“I have been involved with this amazing organization as a PACU nurse,” she shared. “My schedule let me complete two surgical missions a year for the past six years and allowed me to make a difference to children in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.”

For nearly an hour, Kraus shared remarkable stories of how she practices the Healer’s art with skill and compassion while blessing families, strangers, and nursing peers. Her tales included accounts of life-changing surgeries to children born with cleft lip or palate deformities. She spoke of miracles, connections, and seeing the hand of God in numerous ways.

“In many ways, for just the price of a soda, you can bless the lives of children in need,” stated Kraus. “To us, that same amount of money doesn’t offer much. But in these situations, it could be the difference between getting a bus ticket to travel several hours to stand in line hoping to be seen and considered for surgery or waiting another year for this charity to return to your country.”

Kraus has long looked to Mother Teresa as a hero. Like Florence Nightingale, this caring nun made an incredible difference in her part of the world. The day Kraus visited the resting place of Mother Teresa in Kolkata, the words “love seeks to serve” were spelled out in flower petals on the grave. Coincidently, that is a favorite phrase for Kraus, who considered it a tender mercy from the Lord for her service.

“When we are ready and willing, God finds a way to use us to bless others,” said Kraus. “For me, it has been with different faces in different places. If you see all individuals as the Savior sees them, you will never falter.”

Kraus encouraged all individuals to define their own legacy of living the Healer’s art. She believes that, regardless of where we live or how much time we have, we can all make a difference in small ways.
Measuring the Impact of Cultural Awareness

Karen de la Cruz, PhD-C, RN, CTN-A, AACNP/FNP

Since 2005, the BYU College of Nursing has sponsored a required cultural awareness opportunity as its clinical practicum for the public and global health nursing course. While it is a great learning experience, there is limited data to show whether it makes a difference at the bedside when students return home and begin their careers.

Assistant teaching professor Karen de la Cruz and peer faculty members recently started researching this issue. They wanted to understand if alumni who graduated three to five years prior feel that their cultural awareness opportunities help them relate to their current patients. To do this, de la Cruz created a descriptive survey that was sent to 971 nursing graduates, 121 of whom completed it. The descriptive survey study is part of her doctoral dissertation at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The International Education Survey (IES) was used to assess the outcomes of both local and international global experiences. The survey contained 29 items with four dimensions, including professional nurse role, international perspective, personal development, and intellectual development. It used a 1-to-7 Likert scale followed by open-ended questions that allowed respondents to describe additional perspectives.

Both the quantitative and the qualitative results showed that nursing alumni were influenced long term by a course dedicated to public and global health.

Alumni comments revealed that “understanding and valuing differences and similarities” was a primary takeaway from their cultural awareness opportunities. Statements revealed new insights and understandings regarding the impact of culture and healthcare systems on society. One respondent said, “Living among another culture helped me understand the reasoning and underlying values for actions and practices. It has given me a more compassionate, accepting, understanding, and appreciative view of different cultures and beliefs.” Another alum said, “I learned to love people from all backgrounds and cultures, to embrace differences, and to be respectful of other people’s opinions and beliefs.”

Increased awareness was the second most common takeaway, as alumni’s perceptions were changed and transformed through awareness. Exposure to different cultures, socioeconomic conditions, and healthcare systems helped them change their perspectives. One respondent said, “I worked with refugees, which opened my eyes to the cultural diversity all around us in the United States.”

Additional themes focused on positive experiences, critical thinking, and gratitude.

All alumni had statistically significant IES scores, but alumni who studied abroad had the greatest increase. Still, many alumni felt their eyes were opened even without leaving the United States, saying, “There can be so many cultural experiences anywhere you live.” It also helped them to understand their own culture and identify other opportunities.

De la Cruz not only studies the influence of experiences on students, but she actively provides learning experiences for current students. She recently finished the train-the-trainer program with the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) and has coordinated the integration of the palliative care core into the college’s curriculum.

Through the incorporation of the ELNEC program, she believes that this material will provide the tools to enhance compassion in a productive way. During the 2017–18 school year, she oversaw a beta test that gave students in the second and third semesters of the nursing program the option to complete the seven ELNEC end-of-life training modules that granted palliative care certification. Through her efforts, over 200 students have participated in this training.

She continues to make a difference outside of the classroom with her concern for NCLEX-RN exam preparation. Since starting at BYU in 2009, de la Cruz has sought out students who fail to pass the licensing exam and tutors them individually. (The number is low, as BYU enjoys a high pass rate—94.5 percent for first-time test takers in 2017.) She prides herself in the fact that no one has failed the test after meeting with her. The interest in her techniques increased enough that she offered the information as an elective class for the first time during winter semester 2018.

Thanks to de la Cruz’s efforts, BYU College of Nursing is better able to measure the impact that its curriculum has in the daily lives of alumni and patients. Her work will continue to make the time that nursing students spend in school even more valuable once they enter the workforce.
Mary Williams, PhD, RN

Like the spine of a book, associate professor Dr. Mary Williams (BS ’71) is the unifying influence in graduate student research that has kept the students and their theses strong.

From serving as the associate dean for graduate studies, scholarship, and contribution to the discipline to being the graduate program coordinator, Dr. Williams has chaired over 44 master’s projects or theses and has served as a committee member for an additional 42.

Dr. Williams has coauthored or written more than 30 publications focusing on timely issues and trends in the nursing industry. Following sections highlight a few of the most memorable articles she has been involved with.

Managing Weight: Misconceptions of Non-nutritive Sweeteners

One of Dr. Williams’s memorable projects is Derrick Pickering’s (MS ’14) article “The use of non-nutritive sweeteners (NNS) in establishing and maintaining a healthy weight,” which found that research is inconclusive regarding the efficacy of NNSs in weight management due to their inappropriate use and also the possibility that they may increase appetite. Pickering concluded that to most efficiently manage weight, a comprehensive, individualized plan must be devised, of which proper use of NNSs may be a part.

Nurse Practitioners and Prevention Practices for Childhood Obesity

Another study was with Larissa L. Larsen (BS ’01, MS ’04). Larsen examined nurse practitioners’ prevention practices for childhood obesity in Utah, using a convenience sample of 99 family NPs (FNPs) and pediatric NPs (PNPs) from the Intermountain area. Participants completed a questionnaire based on documented risk factors for childhood obesity as well as prevention guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Although the majority of the NPs in this study reported being aware of childhood obesity prevention guidelines (73.7 percent), most were not consistently using BMI for age or monitoring children with increased risk for obesity. Because childhood obesity is escalating at such a rapid rate, it is critical for NPs working in family practice and pediatric practice settings to take the necessary steps to help curtail obesity in childhood, including calculating BMI for age, targeting children at risk, and assisting families in developing healthy nutrition and physical activity habits.

The study was printed in the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and has been cited by 102 articles.

Creating a CVC Database

Williams also supported Leslie P. Soderberg (AS ’81, MS ’00) in the design and creation of a central venous catheter database and electronic charting system. They realized that a method was needed to track the status of central venous catheters (CVCs) as well as to record associated problems and management, which would lead to efficiency, cost containment, and improved patient outcomes.

Their project describes the process of creating a CVC database at a 232-bed tertiary pediatric care facility. The database converted an ineffective, labor-intensive, paper-based system for managing catheters to an electronic format. The CVC database offers relational reports, easily retrievable information at the point of patient contact, a complete progress note with critical elements, and an alert system for adverse events and infections that can be used to follow up on and determine trends of CVC activity.

Conclusion

There is no doubt about it: Dr. Williams is a team player. She may not receive outright recognition for the support that she gives to the master’s students who seek her help, but she certainly finds satisfaction in her work. She truly is the backbone, the book spine, and the unifying element to help make students’ theses possible.
Faculty Achievements

College of Nursing faculty members continue to showcase their dedication to and expertise in the healthcare industry through a variety of achievements and publications. Following are a few notable examples of what they have accomplished.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED


### PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED


Bretzing, L., & Ray, G. (2017, October 26). It runs in the family: Determining the most important factors in collecting family health histories.

Christensen, K., Eden, L. M., & Macintosh, J. L. (2017, October 26). Barriers to the school nurse’s role during a disease outbreak.

De la Cruz, K., Wing, D., & Ruda, P. (2017, October 19). The culture of Karen: Educational strategy to promote cultural understanding in students preparing to provide healthcare to Ghanaian populations.


Jarvis, S. D. (2017, June 7). Basic chest radiography: It’s all black and white to me; Basics of abdominal radiographs. Podium presentations at Advanced Practice Nurses of the Ozarks Conference, Branson, MO.


Lundberg, K., & Mills, D. (2017, April 7). Better tomorrows: Student learning activities promoting family-centered care now. Podium presentation at Society of Pediatric Nurses annual conference, West Palm Beach, FL.


Palmer, S. P. (2017, October 19). Teaching the “me, me” generation students cultural competence: Prerequisite to promoting health in other communities.


Ray, G., Whitt, K. J., & Bretzing, L. (2017, October 19). How effective are family health history tools in collecting information on race, ethnicity, and reducing health disparities?


Valentine, J. L., Miles, L., & Mabey, L. (2017, October 2). Depressing to psychosis: Strategies for caring for patients with mental illness during a forensic examination. Podium presentation at Summit of Cities National Sexual Assault Kit Meeting, Portland, OR.


The Utah Nurse Practitioners (UNP) recently honored a graduate student and two faculty members: second-year student Katie Hill accepted the UNP Outstanding Student Award, associate professor Dr. Beth Luthy was awarded an Excellence in Leadership Award, and assistant teaching professor Ryan Rasmussen was given an Excellence in Research Award.

Teaching professor Dr. Kent Blad received a presidential citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Associate teaching professor Dr. Shelly Reed has shared her Debriefing Experience Scale with nearly 60 researchers from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Norway, Germany, Australia, South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Chile. It has been translated into Korean, Norwegian, and Portuguese, with plans for German, Turkish, and Spanish. (See the spring 2015 magazine for the related story.)

Associate teaching professor Cheryl Corbett received a Sigma Theta Tau International 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Assistant teaching professor Tracy Dustin passed her Certified Nurse Educator exam last fall.

Appointments

Dr. Beth Luthy was appointed the interim chair of the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines for the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Associate dean and associate professor Dr. Katreena Merrill is the new Western Institute of Nursing Program Committee chair.

Associate teaching professor Sondra Heaston was reappointed to the National Emergency Nursing Conference Education Planning Committee.

Dr. Shelly Reed was reelected as the Utah Section Chair for the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) for another two-year term. She was also invited to be part of the Fellowship Redesign Committee for the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation Learning (INACSL), and she will serve on that committee while needed.
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Here’s what the Alumni Association can do for you!

CONNECT
Find alumni to recommend places to live and work when relocating.

NETWORK
Gain access to nursing alumni and healthcare professionals through unique college events.

GIVE BACK
Join in service projects that benefit student clinicals, or offer financial gifts to help pay it forward.

COMMUNITY
Meet alumni at activities and online to share experiences, reminisce, and obtain insight.

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