FOCUSING ON PATIENT CARE OUTCOMES

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES AT THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM
- B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) for High School Graduates, Transfer Students, Non-Nursing College Graduates and Associate or Diploma R.N.s

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
- Ph.D. in Nursing
- M.S.N. in Nurse Practitioner with Concentrations in Pediatric, Adult and Gerontology
- M.S.N. in Health Systems Administration
- M.S.N./M.B.A. Dual Degree in Health Systems Administration and Business Administration
- M.S.N. in Nursing Case Management/Administration
- M.A. in Nursing Education
- M.S.N./M.A. Combination Program
- M.S.N. in School Nursing

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
- Certificate in Health Systems Administration
- School Nurse Certification
- Post-Master's Certificate Program
- Certificate in Case Management/Administration

ONLINE PROGRAMS
- M.S.N. in Health Systems Administration
- M.S.N. in Nurse Practitioner with Concentrations in Pediatric, Adult and Gerontology
- Post-Master's Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program
- R.N. to B.S.N.
- R.N. to B.S.N./M.S.N.
- Bridge Program: R.N. to M.S.N. for R.N.s holding non-nursing bachelor's degrees.

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Change is the order of the day in healthcare delivery, with the nursing profession being called to deliver care that has reached a height of complexity never before experienced. The profession is now at the crossroads of its future as it determines the curricula that will best serve the healthcare needs of mankind. Superimposed on complex patient-care needs, we are faced with the most serious nursing shortage ever.

Although applications are at record levels for individuals desiring to enter the nursing profession, many qualified applicants are being turned away due to the serious shortage of nursing faculty. Further complicating the situation are revolutionary innovations in nursing education that are responsive to the increased complexity of patient care. As our College of Nursing moves forward, we are in the process of revising the second-degree accelerated curriculum and graduate-level curricula to meet the standards set forth in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (AACN) Essentials for both the Clinical Nurse Leader and the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

The plan for the College of Nursing is to replace the Accelerated B.S.N. second-degree program with a master’s level entry into a practice program, which will prepare graduates to function as Clinical Nurse Leaders. During the past 15 years, Seton Hall University has successfully educated approximately 500 second-degree students and has awarded these students a B.S.N. degree. Many of these students have entered the B.S.N. program with master’s degrees, doctoral degrees and various professional degrees. It has always been our philosophy to build on the students’ prior education. It is the belief of the faculty that the Clinical Nurse Leader curriculum will continue to do this, while simultaneously advancing the practice of nursing, resulting in the ultimate improvement of patient care outcomes.

The second major curricular initiative in which the College of Nursing is involved is the transformation of advanced nursing practice curricula to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree (D.N.P.). Although this is a doctoral level degree, it is different from the Ph.D. in that it is a professional degree rather than a research doctorate, focusing on Advanced Nursing Practice rather than on theory and research development. With the focus on Advanced Nursing Practice, the D.N.P. will substantially strengthen the nurse’s role in the healthcare delivery system, placing nursing on par with the other health professions that require graduate level education.

In accordance with the AACN Essentials for the Advanced Nursing Practice Doctorate, the proposed curriculum will strengthen the graduates’ preparation to practice independently. At present, the required supervised clinical hours for the various advanced nursing practice roles average between 500 and 600 per program, depending on the specialty. The curricular standard for the D.N.P. will require 1,000 hours of supervised clinical practice that will also include a residency. Additionally, these graduates will be educated as experts in practice issues, as well as the development of solutions for nursing practice issues.

The complexity of health care demands that nurses be educated at a level that will enable nurses to provide safe nursing care that also addresses the complexity of multiple diagnoses often co-existing with less than complementary support networks and family support systems. Clearly nursing has the answer and will be the answer to society’s need for high quality holistic, comprehensive health care that will ultimately make a substantial difference in the delivery of health care, resulting in the vast improvement of healthcare outcomes across the life span.
Media Highlight: College of Nursing

Want to know more about the nursing shortage, the reactions of 9/11 victims to the release of a movie about the tragedy or mentoring for nurses? Just ask the experts at College of Nursing.

Phyllis Stanley Hansell, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing, appeared on New Jersey Network’s “Remaking American Nursing,” which first aired on Wednesday, October 18. The show explored the reasons for the nursing shortage and what is being done to combat it.

Professor Donna Gaffney, D.N.Sc., FAAN, was interviewed by several television news shows and newspapers in August and September about the reactions of families affected by 9/11 to the release of Oliver Stone’s World Trade Center, among other 9/11-related topics.

In addition, Gloria Essoka, Ph.D., RNCS, CPNP, chair of Department of Family Health Nursing, appeared in August on CNN’s One-on-One with Steve Adubato as part of “Discover Nursing Week.” She discussed the importance of providing mentoring opportunities for nurses.

Nursing Alumni Receives Award

Tashia Gibson ’92 recently received a Clinical Practice Award from the Northern New Jersey Black Nurses Association. Her achievements were recognized at the Association’s 15th Annual Awards and Scholarship Brunch held at the Newark Marriott Hotel in New Jersey.

In recognizing Gibson, who serves as a preceptor to new nursing employees at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey, the Association notes in its brunch program, “She is an outstanding role model and is recognized by her colleagues for her expertise in clinical nursing knowledge. She has a strong commitment to facilitating positive patient care outcomes.”

HSA Program Shapes Tomorrow’s Leaders

Designed for working executives, the College of Nursing’s online M.S.N. program in Health Systems Administration (HSA) provides its students with the management and business skills they will need to succeed in the healthcare and nursing administration industries. Its flexible, online format allows students to advance their education while maintaining their professional and personal responsibilities.

Aside from its challenging and innovative curriculum, the program also addresses the need for diversity among nursing executives, says program director Jamesetta Halley-Boyce, R.N., B.S.N., Ph.D., FACNE. “We enroll male and female nurses of various cultural backgrounds, and each new cohort better reflects the increasing diversity of our world,” she says.

Following the Hurricane Rita catastrophe, several graduate College of Nursing students ventured to Louisiana to assist survivors. Leading the charge was Donna Gaffney, D.N.Sc., FAAN, associate professor.

During her visit, she documented the devastation with several snapshots, including the above photo of a religious statue in front of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron. Gaffney explains. “The text on the statue reads, ‘Do no harm to my children.’ Mary’s hand extends outward toward the sea as if to order dangerous forces to stop in their tracks. Ultimately, Cameron lost no one from Hurricane Rita, and the church was one of the few buildings that remained intact.”

CONVOCATION A GREAT SUCCESS

Filled with pride and excitement, 190 College of Nursing students gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey, on May 6, 2006, for the College’s Student Convocation event, which recognizes the completion of their studies.

Four of the graduates completed a post-master’s certificate, 63 earned an M.S.N. degree and 131 completed their B.S.N. requirements. Adding to the excitement of the day, former U.S. Surgeon General Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., received an honorary degree. Monsignor Robert Sheeran S.V., S.T.D., University President, presented Novello with a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of her commitment and dedication to the health field. Novello is a board-certified pediatrician and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

During her keynote address, Catherine Alicia Georges, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, challenged graduates to provide care and compassion to every person they encounter in their professional lives. “We are all accountable for the care our patients receive,” she said. “As nurses, we have a moral obligation to work to improve the care we give by working toward the elimination of disparities in education and health care.”

In the audience at the College of Nursing’s newest alumni stand proudly in front of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The College of Nursing’s newest alumni stand proudly in front of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.
With the goal of renewing and enhancing academic relationships with universities in China, Phyllis Shanley Hansell, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Dean of Seton Hall’s College of Nursing, joined University President Monsignor Robert Sheeran ’67, S.T.D., on a trip to Macau and Hong Kong in May 2006.

Hansell’s itinerary included two universities in Macau: Macau Polytechnic Institute, which has a School of Health Sciences, and Macau University of Science and Technology, which houses a School of Chinese Medicine. As a delegation member, she met with university administrators, faculty, students and alumni to learn more about the institutions and their needs.

“My perception of China is that there is tremendous growth in the economy, and the people are interested in obtaining American degrees,” Hansell shares. “Its government is interested in having these experts, so they are interested in having the people with the education.”

As a result of those meetings in May, an exchange program with Macau Polytechnic Institute has been forged. Members of its administration traveled to the University in July to learn more about mental health facilities in the United States. The group visited Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey (see sidebar). “Mental health is a challenge for all countries,” Hansell says. “Proper care is necessary, and visits such as this offer insight into what works well.”

The next step is to develop faculty and student exchanges. While in Macau, Hansell met with current students who showed an interest in transferring to Seton Hall and finishing their education in the United States. “Partnerships such as these are important because they allow us to extend our reach — as a University and a College of Nursing — and offer a richer academic experience for all those involved,” Hansell says.

Hansell is hopeful that a similar partnership will form with Macau Polytechnic Institute. “While this school does not have a college of nursing, its School of Chinese Medicine can teach our students about the alternative medicines and treatments that are available,” she says.

Seton Hall University has been involved with universities in China for more than 20 years. This latest affiliation with the College of Nursing is just one of many partnerships that were formed as a result of the delegation’s visit. Other members of the China delegation included Karren Boroff, Ph.D., Dean of the Stillman School of Business; Jason Yin, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Management, Stillman School; and Vanzhong Huang, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Global Health Studies, Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

To learn more about the College of Nursing and its offerings, visit nursing.shu.edu.

“Partnerships such as these are important because they allow us to extend our reach and offer a richer academic experience.”

– DEAN PHYLLIS SHANLEY HANSELL
MALAWI CHANGES PROFESSOR’S LIFE

In Malawi, located in Southern Africa, there’s a statistic, unknown in the developed world, called the under-five mortality rate: Gloria Essoka, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP, chair of the College of Nursing’s Department of Family Health, observed this phenomenon firsthand. “Twenty-five percent of Malawian children die by the age of 5,” Essoka says sadly. A visiting professor of Kathmandu College of Nursing at the University of Malawi from 1991 to 1994, she taught under the auspices of a Rockefeller Foundation grant to the University of Pennsylvania. She practiced at Kamuzu General Hospital, an old, overcrowded, government facility free to the citizens of Malawi.

“I witnessed children dying every day,” Essoka says. “On my very worst day, there were nine who died. Such tragedy occurred because of the poor quality of life.

“The little boy Madonna adopted has been saved,” she continues. “She has done a service by taking this child in.”

Malawi ranks among the world’s least developed countries. Its people are poor, Essoka notes, with the average income being $20 a month. Many Malawian people are seriously ill, she shares. Malaria, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever are common. New strains of viruses and bacteria are emerging. Poor sanitation and clean drinking water are a cause of death. “There’s a struggle to survive here,” says Essoka.

“People travel for days by foot or cart to get to the hospital,” Essoka continues. “When they arrive, there is often nothing to be done for their illnesses. Unless families have money for private hospital care or can travel to South Africa or the United States, there is no real care for illness.”

Essoka’s students were among Malawi’s privileged. “It was an honor to come to the university to study because you were chosen,” she says. “Students were told where and what to study. And no one would drop out — this was the only opportunity for university study.”

Hospital conditions are strikingly different from those in the United States. “The hospital has old, outdated equipment, and glass needles and syringes that cannot be properly sterilized. There is a shortage of nurses and most medical supplies,” Essoka says. “We used to wash our hands in cold water, and many of us carried soap in our pockets to keep our hands clean.”

While Essoka was no stranger to Africa — she had traveled to Cameroon, West Africa, and Nigeria — she would never get used to the life Malawians’ people endured. “Every day, I would pass masses of people who were dirty, shoeless, and dressed in rags. This was their life,” she says. “This experience has certainly taught me to live more simply and to have a tremendous appreciation for the life I lead.”

Catherine Hanley ’62

No indoor plumbing. No electricity. No promise of life past infancy.

NURSING ALUMNA’S VOCATION SERVES THE POOR

No such conditions may seem deplorable, but Catherine Hanley ’62 views them as key opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. “I’ve always considered nursing a way to serve God and our neighbors,” says Hanley. “Through nursing, I’ve been able to live my Christian journey as a servant leader for more than 45 years.”

Hanley earned her B.S.N. from the College of Nursing in 1962 alongside her sister, Carol Hanley Germain. Before receiving her M.P.H. from Yale University in 1969, she became a medical supervisor at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut, and developed and implemented the role of nursing in one of the nation’s first coronary care units. Then came the opportunity that would change her life.

In 1973, Hanley was recruited to be the hospital administrator for the United States Public Health Indian Hospital (currently known as the Toha City Regional Health Care Corporation), located on the Navajo Reservation in Toha City, Arizona. Due to its location, the new hospital was to primarily serve those of the Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo tribes.

The Native Americans endured harsh living conditions. Hanley recalls that many of them lived in hogans — mud-covered structures made of logs and tree branches. Those of Pueblo tribes traditionally lived in homes made of stone and clay. Both structures lacked indoor plumbing and electricity. Transportation was also scarce. As a result of these conditions, they had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country. “They wanted to improve their quality of life and life expectancy for themselves and for future generations,” Hanley explains. “It was a privilege and an honor to assist them in reaching their healthcare goals.”

As COO/CEO of the hospital, she helped implement numerous initiatives, including the reorganization of all departments, the recruitment of nurses with advanced specialized education and skills, the development of the reservation’s first 10-bed intensive care unit and the achievement of continual JCAHO accreditation.

In 1988, Hanley was presented with the Sam Ahkeah Memorial Leadership Award — named after a highly respected, former chairman of the Navajo Nation — in honor of her leadership and dedication to the Navajo people.

Throughout the years that followed, Hanley led the Indian Health Service’s National Strategic Initiative Team in developing, publishing and implementing the third-party reimbursement system. According to Hanley, the system’s sole purpose is to improve the quality of comprehensive care for all Native Americans throughout the country while increasing the potential for each individual to reach his or her optimum health.

Hanley’s success motivated her to shift her efforts to new audiences. In 1994, she became CEO/Director of the Carl Albert Indian Medical Center in Ada, Oklahoma, during the transfer of the nation’s first entire healthcare system from federal to tribal government. She later opened her own consulting business in Flagstaff, Arizona, and has served as a mentor for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s nationwide Faith in Action programs for the past six years.

In recognition of Hanley’s extraordinary career, the College of Nursing inducted her into its Hall of Honor during its 65th Anniversary Gala — an experience Hanley fondly recalls as a “wonderful, total surprise. My family and friends attended the presentation, and I was very proud to be able to share the moment with them.”

Hanley believes Seton Hall to be a significant factor in all she has accomplished. The collaborative diversity of the campus, she says, helped her connect with her equally diverse patients. She also believes Seton Hall gave her the confidence to work as a professional and discern the needs of people. She adds, “The University’s faith-based culture allowed me to grow and share my faith with others.”

Most of all, Hanley credits her success as a nurse to the role models she has encountered at Seton Hall and beyond. These individuals, she says, truly gave of themselves as they provide healthcare to those in need, an act that she has tried to emulate.

“My goal has always been to care for the sick and assist the poor,” she says. “Thankfully, when I look back at my life, that’s what I’ve been able to do.”
RUTH HUTCHISON: WOMAN OF THE YEAR

When Ruth Hutchison '63, Dr.P.H., APRN-BC, professor emeritus, was named Seton Hall University’s Woman of the Year in Spring 2006, most people thought she had earned the honor a long time ago. In fact, Hutchison helped create the award, which many feel is a testament to her regard for her colleagues.

Hutchison has received numerous awards from Seton Hall University and in the profession of nursing and public health statewide, nationally and internationally. These honors include the McQuaid Medal, the Faculty Service Award and an induction into the College of Nursing Hall of Honor. Among the most cherished, she says, is her nomination by students to honorary membership in the New Jersey Philippine Nurses Association. Hutchison was also appointed and elected to leadership positions in state and national professional organizations, for which she earned the ANA Pearl McGiver Public Health Nursing Award, the Sigma Theta Tau Dorothy Garrigus Adams Award and the New Jersey Governor’s Award for Excellence in Nursing Education.

A Seton Hall College of Nursing alumna, Hutchison earned her Dr.P.H. from the Columbia University School of Public Health, devoting her dissertation research to evaluating outcomes. In fact, Hutchison helped create the award, which many feel is a testament to her regard for her colleagues.

Hutchison is grateful to her husband, Pat, her son, Rick, and her colleagues, Lillian Palumbo, Ph.D., and Emma Quartaro, Ph.D., for their patience, inspiration and limitless support for her activities in the profession and in the community.

ALUMNA STRIVES TO BRIDGE CULTURAL GAPS

Today’s fast-paced society is becoming increasingly global, from service calls answered outside the country, to the make-up of students on college campuses. Nursing, explains Lucille Joel ’63, Ed.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., is no different.

She should know. Joel, a Seton Hall alumna and former faculty member, is president of the board of trustees of CGFNS-International formerly the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. CGFNS is an internationally recognized authority on education, registration and licensure of nurses and healthcare professionals worldwide.

Joel also served as first vice president of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), headquartered in Geneva. She is chair of the ICN’s North American capital campaign committee and is the ICN’s official representative to the United Nations and UNESCO. “Non-governmental organizations such as ICN have become increasingly powerful in bringing their voices to U.N. debates and discussions,” she says. “I sat at that table to speak for the 129 national nursing associations that constitute the ICN.”

Serving these two organizations, Joel said, has helped her better appreciate “that we are more alike than different, but where those differences exist, they must be respected, yet carefully appraised when they impact our own country.”

Joel encourages today’s nurses to aim for “cultural competency.” One of the best ways to achieve this, she feels, is to acquire a second language.

“My nature, nursing is patient-focused; not patient-directed. Nowhere is this as evident as with the immigrant patient,” Joel said. “It is vital to master English, but when there is a health-care need, one must not impose this demand. Translation — either telephonically or by others — is often risky. How wonderful if the nurse has mastered this special skill.”

Joel is a College of Nursing professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

SPOTLIGHT: COLLEGE OF NURSING’S PH.D. STUDENTS

Last year, Seton Hall University became the only Catholic University in the tri-state area to offer a Ph.D. in Nursing. In April 2006, the doctoral program admitted nine outstanding nurse leaders to its inaugural class. The following highlights three of these new students. Future issues of Outcomes will feature additional doctoral students.

Mary Ellen Glynn ’93, M.S.N., R.N., GAIN, graduated in 1981 from Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing in Plainfield, New Jersey, with an associate degree from Union County College in Cranford, New Jersey. Because she recognized the importance of furthering her education, she applied to and was accepted into Seton Hall’s R.N./B.S.N. Program and graduated in 1987. With an interest in nursing management, Clyne returned to Seton Hall to pursue her M.S.N. in Nursing Administration. Currently, she is the vice president of Patient Care Services at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, New Jersey, part of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

Clyne could not be more excited about being a member of the first cohort of doctoral students at the College of Nursing. “This program will allow nurse executives to bring healthcare organization to the next level as we embrace nursing research and evidence-based practices,” she says.

Also among new College of Nursing doctoral students is Connie Sobon Sensor, M.S.N., CCRN., CTN. Sensor is a certified transcultural nurse and serves as the school health nurse at Union High School in New Jersey. Having completed 12 credits in the new Ph.D. program, Sensor reflects, “Seton Hall has given me the opportunity to see nursing through the kaleidoscope lenses of my fellow students and professors. I have gained a better understanding of how others view situations and make decisions.”

Kathleen Leo, M.S.N., APRN, BC, is just starting her own private practice as a psychiatric mental health practitioner. In addition to her doctoral studies at Seton Hall, she attends the Philadelphia School of Psychoanalysis and plans to become certified in modern psychoanalysis. Leo is also an active member of Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Chapter; the Society of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses; the American Nurses Psychiatric Association; American Nurses/State Nurse Association and the Eastern Nursing Research Society.

According to Leo, “Seton Hall’s College of Nursing is an extraordinary place of discovery that gives us the opportunity to work with nursing faculty who have a wide range of scholarship achievement. This is an exciting time for the College, and I’m thrilled to be part of this history.”

When Ruth Hutchison ’63, Dr.P.H., APRN-BC, professor emeritus, was named Seton Hall University’s Woman of the Year in Spring 2006, most people thought she had earned the honor a long time ago. In fact, Hutchison helped create the award, which many feel is a testament to her regard for her colleagues.

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A Seton Hall College of Nursing alumna, Hutchison earned her Dr.P.H. from the Columbia University School of Public Health, devoting her dissertation research to evaluating outcomes of her $500,000 school nurse grant from the Kellogg Foundation. Additional research interests involve interdisciplinary collaboration, the needs of at-risk vulnerable populations and community service. Her teaching career of more than 40 years included a semester in China for a student/faculty exchange program.

Hutchison is grateful to her husband, Pat, her son, Rick, and her colleagues, Lillian Palumbo, Ph.D., and Emma Quartaro, Ph.D., for their patience, inspiration and limitless support for her activities in the profession and in the community.

Alumni of the inaugural class, including: (standing, left to right) Nancy Chiocchi, Clyne and Maureen Schneider, (seated, left to right) Gibbons, Susan Cox and Leo.

Outcomes
Jean Rochelle Marshall ’89 is one of thousands of nurses who made the decision early on to dedicate her life’s work to others. An M.S.N. graduate of Seton Hall University, Marshall was honored with the Alumni Service Award from the College of Nursing at last year’s Many Are One Gala, which took place in May 2006. This award is given to those who have provided unparalleled service to others.

When asked why she chose the nursing profession, Marshall replies, “My father served as a porter for many years at Perth Amboy General Hospital and observed the care the nurses provided to patients day in and day out. He admired their work ethic and compassion for others, and he knew that would be a great career for his daughter. Thus, when Marshall was 16, she took the nurses’ test, and the rest was history.”

Receiving the Alumni Service Award, Marshall says, was everything she thought it would be. “You are with alumni who respect you and the work you have done, and you respect them.” She adds that the Catholic education she received at Seton Hall, as well as professors such as Phyllis Shanley Hansell, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing, left such a positive impact on her that she passed her love for the University on to her granddaughter, whose only choice for college is Marshall’s alma mater.

Named Most Distinguished Nurse by the American Nurses Association, Marshall has been honored for her notable contributions to the field by the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly, as well as numerous other nursing organizations. She has held many prestigious positions, such as assistant commissioner of health under former Governor Whitman, vice president for government and community relations at Meridian Health Systems and assistant vice president of education and consumer health at Saint Barnabas Health Care Systems’ Kimball Medical Center. In 2005, she was awarded the Alumni Service Award during the 2006 Many Are One Gala.

JEAN MARSHALL ’89
HONORED AT SETON HALL ALUMNI GALA

College of Nursing faculty are actively engaged in advancing the profession through their publications, bringing new exposure to the College. The following are just a few examples of the notable achievements of the faculty.

BOOKS PUBLISHED


PEER-REVIEWS JOURNAL ARTICLES


(Continued on next page)
Dean Shares HIV/AIDS Knowledge in Toronto and Botswana

The science, care, economics and politics of HIV/AIDS were discussed in August at the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto, where College of Nursing Dean Phyllis Shanley Hansell, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, presented a lecture on “Problems and Solutions for Women with HIV/AIDS.” More than 30,000 delegates were in attendance.

“T here are 30 million people with AIDS in Africa,” Hansell notes. “My goal is to educate and help solve problems related to the spread of the disease.” Hansell is currently working on an intervention that will teach women of child-bearing age and those from the poorest villages to take better care of themselves.

An expert on HIV/AIDS, Hansell is also involved with HIV/AIDS education through the University of Botswana where she has been serving as an examiner of graduate research projects.

“The life expectancy for the people of Botswana is now in the 50s and, with treatment, people infected with the disease can live for 20 to 25 years,” Hansell says. “Prevention is complex,” she notes. “It is entwined in human behavior. While there are drugs available to treat this disease, we must educate people about how the disease is spread and how they can better care for themselves.”

Check out more of our faculty experts at nursing.shu.edu.

Melinda L. Jenkins, Ph.D., FNP, holds a B.S.N. and a M.S. in Nursing from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Nursing, as well as a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her post-doctoral study in Nursing Informatics at Columbia University School of Nursing and is certified as a family nurse practitioner. Jenkins has written numerous publications in such areas as nursing informatics, community partnership primary care and nurse-managed primary care, and has written chapters for books on nursing policies and practices. She has worked as a family nurse practitioner for healthcare centers throughout the Northeast. Her research interest is in the application of informatics in primary health care.

Denise M. Nash-Luckenbach, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N., CCNR, received her B.S.N. from Trenton State College (presently The College of New Jersey). She is also a graduate of Rutgers University, where she earned a M.S.N. in Adult Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialty. Additionally, she is certified in basic and advanced cardiac life support. Nash-Luckenbach has gained experience working in cardiovascular intensive care, cardiac surgical intensive care, post-anesthesia care and telemetry transplant units. She has taught courses in contemporary and psychiatric nursing, maternal-child health, medical-surgical and critical care.

B ridget A. Ports ’78, R.N., M.S.N., holds a diploma from Christ Hospital School of Nursing, a B.S.N. from Seton Hall University and a M.S.N. in Adult Nursing with a concentration in emergency trauma nursing from Rutgers University. She is certified as a clinical nurse specialist in adult medical-surgical nursing and as an ONSN documentation specialist. She has also completed ELNEC and sexual assault nurse examiner training. Ports has taught courses in adult health nursing, psychology and leadership and has also instructed community home care nurses on how to prepare Medicare documentation. In addition, she has taught and has been a faculty member for a nurse refresher course and an INOGE review course for many years.

Jeanne Ruggiero, Ph.D., R.N., APN-C, holds a B.S. in Nursing from Wagner College. She is also a graduate of Rutgers University, where she received a M.S. in Critical Care Nursing and a Ph.D. in Nursing. She is certified as an advanced practice nurse in critical care and holds a National C-CRN, certification from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She has worked as a staff/charge nurse for Masroon Medical Center and Overlook Hospital. Most recently, she served as an assistant professor of nursing at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, and Rutgers University. Ruggiero has received several teaching awards and research grants. She conducted extensive research in such areas as shiftworkers’ sleep patterns and disturbances, fatigue and work performance, nursing job satisfaction, and sleep quality in cancer and cardiac surgery patients. Her research has been published in Research in Nursing and Health and the Journal of Nursing Administration, and she serves as a peer reviewer for several research journals.

Kathleen Walsh Scara, R.N., Ed.D., APN, BC, earned a B.S.N. from Jersey City State College, an M.S.N. as a Geronotological Nurse Practitioner from Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing and an Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Sarasota. She is also certified as an advanced practice nurse and was awarded Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the New Jersey State Nurses Association in 2003. Her publications focus on prostate health and cancer, as well as postmenopausal health and HIV in older adults. Additionally, she has published a book titled Nursing Protocols for Advanced Practice.