



## SAVE THE DATE

Florence Oliver Anderson Lecture Series

**Donna Cardillo, MA, RN, CSP, FAAN**

### NURSING: THE FUTURE IS YOURS!

Known as the “inspiration nurse,” Donna Cardillo is a powerhouse of energy, wisdom, and humor as well as a positive force of nature who lights a path for others to follow. She is the original “Dear Donna” columnist at Nurse.com. Her accomplished career combines more than 35 years of clinical, managerial, and business experience, not to mention her stint as a professional

singer. Cardillo is the author of four books, including the award-winning *Falling Together: How to Find Balance, Joy, and Meaningful Change When Your Life Seems to be Falling Apart*. She is a facilitator for the labyrinth practice for meditation, prayer, and reflection as well as a certified forest therapy guide. A lifelong Jersey Girl, Cardillo has attitude and chutzpah to spare!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**WHERE:** Iles P.E. Center on the campus of Southern Adventist University

**COST:** **FREE** to current Southern students, faculty and staff. If a continuing education certificate (.36 continuing education units) is requested by community guests or alumni, the cost is \$30 per person. For more information, email [barbj@southern.edu](mailto:barbj@southern.edu)



# NURSING CLUB Works With Local BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR to Transform Consultation Room



Jacquie Brown sat in a barren consult room, waiting to talk again with her surgeon. Breast cancer had uprooted her plans for the year. And this consult room, with its uncomfortable chairs, ugly furniture, and mismatching colors, was bringing its own layer of discouragement. Nothing here was sparking hope.

This lifeless space was not Brown's responsibility, but as a local florist (IG: @petalpusherschatt), she knew how beauty and vibrant color could spark hope in such a space. This room needed nothing less than a total makeover. After her recovery from surgery, she started her own GoFundMe in hopes of making it happen. A few donations came in, but it wasn't enough to make her full vision happen.

In October, the student leadership team for

Southern Adventist University's Nursing Club learned of this need and rallied behind it. Students worked diligently in October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) to raise funds among their classmates for this transformation. As Brown relentlessly cut through layers of red tape, School of Nursing (SON) students got creative in finding new ways to increase awareness and raise money, reaching a total of \$577 raised in four weeks.

The fundraiser attracted the attention of more than just nursing students. Former SON dean, Barbara James, felt a soft spot in her heart for the project, having lost her own sister, Christine, to breast cancer. She contacted Brown and made her own generous donation to the project, opening doors to move the project forward.

In April, Brown was able to see her dream come true. Thanks to her dedication and relentless persistence, the consult room is no longer a room of mismatched furniture and old paint. It is beautiful space with inspiring art, quotes, colors, and comfortable furniture (including a tea-making station). Everything was carefully designed to convey the hope she wants to share, even down to the small note in Christine's honor by the electric kettle, "But first, tea.—Love, Christine Elizabeth."

"It's a great feeling to really make a difference for these patients. I'm so glad everyone is getting to experience this," Brown wrote. "Fundraising efforts through the Nursing Club made a tremendous difference—we truly couldn't have created such a beautiful, uplifting space without you."



## NEW ADVENTHEALTH PARTNERSHIP

**RQI** stands for Resuscitation Quality Improvement. While basic life support (BLS) cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training is typically valid for two years, research shows that much is forgotten during that time, and resuscitation outcomes are improved with more frequent training. Many hospitals accomplish this through RQI programs, where providers engage in quarterly online and hands-on training.

This year, AdventHealth agreed to sponsor our faculty and students as part of their RQI program. We currently have two stations with adult and infant resuscitation models and are already so excited about this generous partnership. This is a great boost to skills, confidence, and competence. Thank you, AdventHealth!

## GIVING DAY

Christmas in April or July. That's what it feels like when generous donors support us on Giving Day, when we get everything on our wish list, and when the new equipment arrives. Thank you for making the our 2025 Giving Day a wonderful event. Here are some approximate numbers:

**\$20,275**  
FOR THE SIMULATION CENTER



**225**  
GIFTS

**158**  
DONORS



**\$10,600**  
IN ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR  
WINNING POWER HOURS,  
ACADEMIC CHALLENGES,  
AND OTHER DRAWINGS

# Message from the Dean

The nursing building seems quieter during the summer months. Online nursing classes for nutrition, assessment, research, and graduate programs are in progress. Many graduate students are gaining valuable clinical experiences in summer practicums. A number of projects are in the works so that we are prepared for our accreditation visit in the fall of 2026 and ready to inhabit our new simulation space later this summer. So, all is not quiet behind the scenes.

We look back on the school year and are grateful for student growth, spiritual enrichment, and so many blessings. Our clinical instructors, preceptors, and numerous clinical partners are invaluable resources. The faculty team in the School of Nursing is fantastic. Students use terms like “amazing,” “best professor ever,”

“caring,” “helpful,” “open,” “patient,” “knowledgeable,” “compassionate,” “expert,” “creative,” and “inspiring” to describe their professors. It reminds me of the fruit of the Spirit. We know that Spirit is active in the School of Nursing and across campus. What a blessing to be involved in God’s work! Please continue to uplift all of us in your prayers.

**Holly Gadd, PhD**  
**Dean of the School of Nursing**



## MISSION TRIPS



Many Southern students have opportunities for short-term mission trips that broaden their views of the world, other cultures, and serving God through medical, evangelistic, or other means.

The Population and Community Health class makes a trip to Manchester, Kentucky, during the fall and winter semesters. They assist with the Healthy Homes Initiative, helping to ensure home safety. They also offer health screenings and teaching. Projects such as handicap ramp installation increase safety, quality of life, and mobility.

The Evangelism Resource Center (ERC) and School of Nursing combined resources to offer medical care and evangelism during a trip to Majamarca, Peru, May 15-June 2. Participants saw God at work in relocating misplaced passports, providing safe travels, keeping plane doors open just long enough to allow the group to board at the last minute, healing students who were sick (including two who were hospitalized), guiding care for more than 1,300 patients when only 600 were expected, and completing student-led evangelistic sessions at 20 churches.

# SCHOOL OF NURSING BY THE NUMBERS

**84** NEW CLASS SIZE  
FOR FUNDAMENTALS  
(PREVIOUSLY 72)



**73** RN TO BSN  
STUDENTS  
(42 ARE ONLINE STUDENTS)

**14** ACCELERATED RN  
TO MSN STUDENTS  
WINTER 2025 GRADUATE PROGRAM

**104** MAY 2025 NURSING  
GRADUATES:  
2 DNP, 6 MSN, 59 BSN, 37 AS



**59** DECEMBER 2024  
NURSING GRADUATES:  
2 DNP, 5 MSN, 22 BSN, 30 AS

**48** MSN STUDENTS  
ENROLLED WINTER 2025



**28** ACCELERATED BS  
TO DNP STUDENTS  
ENROLLED WINTER 2025

**102** FIRST-TIME 2024  
NCLEX PASSES  
OUT OF 103 **AS GRADUATES** (99.03%)



**20** FIRST-TIME 2024  
NCLEX PASSES  
OUT OF 21 **BSN GRADUATES** (95.24%)

**14** POST-MASTER'S  
DNP STUDENTS  
ENROLLED WINTER 2025

**139** AS STUDENTS  
WINTER 2025  
NURSING CLASSES

**27** NURSING TEACHING  
FACULTY

**136** PRELICENSURE BSN STUDENTS  
WINTER 2025  
NURSING CLASSES

**7** SCHOOL OF NURSING  
SUPPORT STAFF  
(3 PART-TIME AND 4 FULL-TIME)

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# NURSING ALUMNI HONOREES

It is a joy each year during Homecoming Weekend to see alumni and to recognize individuals who have served their churches, communities, nursing students, patients, refugees, and others well. Among so many who were eligible, those chosen for recognition in 2024 were:

## KAREN OSWALD NELSON

1974, RN, BS

## JANENE MILLS LOGA

1984, RN, BS

## RUTH ASHWORTH BOYD

1994, RN, MSN

## CHRISTINA MASSES-VALERA ROMERO

1999, MS, RN, APRN, CRNA

## LORI EDGMON LITRELL

2004, RN, MSN, NP-C

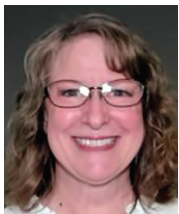
## JAMES BOWEN

2014, RN, MSN, PMHNP-BC

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# WELCOME

Thankfully, God blesses us with good people and lots of talent to replace those who leave. This fall we are welcoming two new people as faculty and staff.



**Janeé Cantrell, RN, MSN** is our new undergraduate clinical coordinator. She has been a valued part-time clinical and simulation instructor over the past year. Janeé has a heart for education, with years of experience educating patients and families and serving as a preceptor and mentor for nursing students.

She has years of NICU experience and has received multiple Daisy Awards for excellence in patient care. We are excited to have Janeé working full time in a new and challenging role.



**Michelle Clinton** joined our team in July as the office administrator and technology support person for the Miller Hall Nursing Simulation Center. She was most recently office administrator for the School of Social Work here at Southern. She brings some medical knowledge from previous EMT and anesthesia

technician work and an eagerness to connect with students and support our simulation activities.

# FAREWELLS

It is hard to say goodbye to those who are retiring or leaving, but we choose to focus on the joy of having them with us for many years. We have been richly blessed!



**Scott Vandivier, RN, MSN** joined the SON in the summer of 2024 as the clinical coordinator for the undergraduate program. We appreciated his hard work, agency connections, and professionalism standards this year. We wish Scott and his family well as they relocate to Florida and enjoy new professional challenges.



**Beth Scott, PhD**, a three-time alum of Southern and a dedicated faculty member in the graduate program leaves us for retirement and grandmothing joys. She taught a number of classes in her 13 years at Southern, most recently Nursing Theory and Research and Healthcare Policy, Economics, and

Finance. One student's comment sums up Professor Scott's courses well: "She can take rough material or things we don't care about and make it fun or engaging." Students and faculty who benefited from Beth's care and concern will miss her.