

FALL 2021 EDITION ISSUE 24

# The Scope

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY NURSING  
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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# Level 4

BY MEGAN HAMILTON

Level 4 has been a great way to close our nursing school journey. Some of us have jobs and know the direction we want to go for work, while others of us are still exploring the limitless options nursing offers. Our class is trying to finish strong and fight off the senioritis. We have created so many memories and friendships that we will hold dear. We have loved our nursing school experience here at SUU and are excited to see what the future holds for each of us! Thank you to everyone and anyone who has supported us in any way!



# Level 3

BY KAMREE PETERSON

A long time ago in a galaxy (not so far away) called Cedar City, the last two months of level 3 were approaching. The battle of studying, ATI's, and clinicals rage on. The first victory has been won as Emperor Tipton has begun to fill preceptor spots to help us to our journey into level 4. During the battle, we were able to successfully make it through the first two ATIs, and have found the weapons to help us make it through the galaxy known as pediatric nursing. Through community clinicals we have been able to have the opportunity to teach others within the galaxy about health promotion, as well as empowering others to live a healthier life. Led by Emperor Rayburn we have been able to make it to the starship named "OB". The power of L&D units can destroy an entire planet due to patient centered care, excellent nursing staff, and the miracle of life! We will continue to have pizza parties and group presentations. As the race against the NCLEX continues, the support we have within the graduating class of spring 2022 allows us to lead a brave and excited resistance. We have great ideas and plans that can save the people and restore freedom to the galaxy...



# Level 2

BY CASSIDY WINDHORST

The Nursing Class of Fall 2022 is well into its 2nd semester and surviving...so far. The 29 members of our class are fierce and motivated. In general, most of us are a bit fatigued and overwhelmed, but tackling classes and clinicals with panache and passion. Classes are demanding and require our undivided attention. Clinicals are exciting and keep us on our toes. On average, each of us has approximately six more opportunities to complete our rotations. While we don't all agree on the best and worst assignments, we do agree that the experiences to date have been valuable.

Our next steps include more clinicals (as mentioned), more studying, more ATIs, more stress, and a whole lot more fun! To illustrate our collective personality and team mentality, we'd like to share a photo and funny story. The day before our first ATI, we all converged on Professor Campbell's class (Pharmacology) dressed head to toe in black. It was our way of outwardly expressing our inner fear and dread for standardized testing. As we embark on our few remaining weeks, we are steadfast, determined, and really looking forward to winter break!



# Level 1

BY KAYLEE ANDERSON

Our level one class is feeling pretty overwhelmed but very eager. Some of us are still feeling like this is a dream. Our clinicals are going great! The majority of us have about three left this semester. We have learned so much through these clinicals and have been exposed to many new situations, patients, and areas we could potentially work in. We have taken our first ATI test and now are preparing for our second. We had our pledge ceremony at the end of October.

After working through some technical difficulties, it went very well! There was a beautiful music number, some pretty awesome videos, and wonderful speakers. Our cohort is feeling more and more like a family every day. Nursing school is very overwhelming but we are loving it and all the emotions, experiences, and education that come with it!



# HP Level 2

BY TAYLOR WAHL

Hello from the Health Professionals cohort!

We have had a great first half of the semester, and we are starting to feel ready to be done with this semester! Level 2 has been a challenge for most of us, but we are powering through it. Clinicals have been awesome this semester, we have had opportunities to follow nurses on the med/surg floors at St George Regional Hospital as well as on the BMED unit, the OR, and endoscopy. It has been full of great opportunities and learning experiences. We have all really enjoyed getting experience at a hospital outside of Cedar City. We have 3 ATIs this semester for finals, so we are just trying to prepare the best we can for those! We can't wait to put level 2 in the rear view and head into level 3. Thank you to all of our amazing instructors this semester!



## Tips from Level 4 Students

- Don't get emotionally invested in ATI. Choose an answer and move on!
- NCLEX is a *safety* exam. Go overkill on safety when taking NCLEX questions.
- Communicate expectations between you and your nurse early in clinical will help you have the best experience possible!
- It's always okay to take time for yourself. You can't take care of others unless you are taken care of.
- When the demands of school and life get overwhelming, focus on accomplishing one task at a time!
- Be proud of yourself and what you've accomplished!



## **Donna Lister Announces Department Changes**

"This is a dynamic, exciting time to be a nurse. The nursing profession has possibly never faced so much change and challenge in such a short time frame as has been experienced this past couple of years.

The same is true for nursing education, including the SUU Department of Nursing. Over the past two years we have created and implemented the Health Professional to Bachelors of Science in Nursing program, adapted the face-to-face RN to BSN program to create and implement a fully online RN to BSN program, received a renewed 10 year accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE Accreditation (aacnnursing.org)), adapted and innovated multiple times to the ever changing rules and regulations around Covid 19, and continued to teach and create learning opportunities for impressive groups of nursing students. We continue to hear wonderful things about current students and those who have graduated and the positive difference you are making the lives of those you serve as you practice your profession."

## **Stepping Down as Department Chair**

"As SUU moves forward with a desire to create graduate degree programs for nursing, I have decided that I would prefer to engage in full-time teaching. I have not been a full-time educator for decades and I am looking forward to Spring Semester to have that opportunity again. The SUU Department of Nursing team is fully prepared to continue the tradition of excellent nursing education. One of the best things about working at SUU is the cohesive, motivated, caring team that is the Department of Nursing. I am so glad to be a part of it! SUU will announce the new Chair when that is official. In the meantime, have a wonderful break (if you are a student), and a wonderful Christmas and New Years celebration with those you love. Continue to do your best to provide excellent nursing care and continue to make a positive difference in your sphere of influence."

Sincerely,  
Donna J. A. Lister PhD., APRN, FNP-C, CNE

# Nursing Alumni Update

Jack Waters, CRNA



"I grew up in Beaver Utah. I graduated from high school in 1998. I was fortunate to have an uncle who was a CRNA that got me interested in nursing and anesthesia from an early age. I attended Dixie State College where I studied under the esteemed Kevin Tipton. I graduated from Dixie State with my associate degree in nursing in 2003. My end goal was always to practice anesthesia. After graduation from Dixie State I immediately started applying for jobs in the intensive care unit. Dixie Regional at the time was not hiring in the ICU so I moved to Salt Lake after being offered a position in the ICU at St. Mark's Hospital. I worked for two years at St. Mark's before returning to SUU where I finished my Bachelors degree in nursing. I then applied and was accepted into Westminster College where I would study Nurse Anesthesia from 2007-2010. Post graduation I have worked in multiple states including Oregon, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and California. I currently hold the contract to provide anesthesia services at the Foot and Ankle Institute in St. George Utah. I also work providing obstetric anesthesia at St. Mary's Hospital in Apple Valley California. I also do a fair amount of outpatient dental anesthesia primarily for pediatric patients. I'm grateful for Southern Utah and the role it played in getting me to my end goal of becoming a nurse anesthetist."

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## 2021 Assessment & Impact Nursing Award

The SUU Nursing Program was one of 11 schools out of more than 300 institutions that were nominated for this award. We secured this award on the basis of excellent student satisfaction scores. SUU Nursing is one of three schools to be honored with this award.

The SUU Nursing Program was recognized as the one of the best nursing schools in Utah for 2022 according to Nursing School Hub.

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- Average NCLEX-RN pass rate since 2016: 95%
  - Fall 2021 Program Applicants: 104
  - Fall 2021 Applicants Accepted: 31
  - Average GPA of Accepted Applicants in 2021: 3.7

## SUU NURSING PROGRAM STATISTICS