



# Title V Nursing Newsletter

The University of St. Thomas is building on a tradition of excellence in nursing education established by a program that was discontinued in 1986. Continuing unmet needs in the nursing workforce and projected future demand for nurses created the impetus for development of a new program reflecting current nursing practice and technology. The new UST program embodies a commitment to holistic healing and caring as integral

elements of nursing practice that is rooted in Catholic tradition.

In the past year, UST accepted its first class of students into the nursing major. In the 2012 summer term, 28 students successfully completed two courses developed for the program through the Title V grant. This cohort will continue working through the program, with on-time completers exiting with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 2014.



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## Dr. Poldi Tschirch, Ph.D., Founding Dean, UST School of Nursing

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It's been a joyful experience to join the University of St. Thomas with the daunting challenge of creating a School of Nursing. We've done it!

Funds from the U. S. Department of Education Title V Hispanic-serving Institutions program were used to develop the nursing curriculum, create and develop the Nursing Student Success Center, the Advanced Skills Laboratory and the Simulation Laboratory. In future years, the Department of Education grant will also provide grant funding to develop on-line courses as well as critically-needed funds for a School of Nursing scholarship endowment.

In September, we participated in our second-year independent program evaluation with Dr. David Caffey of Pinnacle Evaluations. We exceeded all Year Two goals and objectives! I want to thank all of the UST faculty, staff and students who participated in the program evaluation:

Dr. Ann Coleman, Title V Activity Director

Geny Moreno, Title V Nursing Success Center Director

Lesley Paulsen, Coordinator for Nursing Program Development

Janice Adamson, Director of Sponsored Research

Debbye Crofoot-Morley, Director of Development

Dr. Dominic Aquila, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. John Palasota, Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Angelina Chambers, UST School of Nursing Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Juanita Berdine, Nursing Student Representative

Marco Gutierrez, Nursing Student Advisory Board

Sarah Elizabeth Moreno, UST National Student Nurses Association Chapter

Dr. Ron Hartberger, Pre-Nursing Faculty: Mathematics and Statistics

## Notes from Dr. David Caffey, Title V Program Evaluator

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### ***Congratulations to the Grant Team and the University of St. Thomas!***

### ***There are many notable strengths of the UST Title V Nursing Program!***

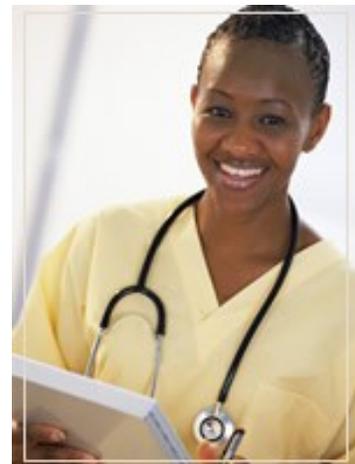
UST has assembled a nursing faculty and professional staff comprised of individuals who are exceptionally well qualified in a wide array of specialties in nursing practice, and who are committed to development of a program that reflects the best of current nursing and nursing education practices, effective use of technology, and application of a patient-centered philosophy that embraces holistic care and healing.

- One of the earliest program features placed in service was a Nursing Success Center. The Center proactively offers tutoring and academic support, a campus home base for nursing students, and other practical assistance and encouragement.



The Center's mission is to provide comprehensive support to nursing students and has engendered the trust and appreciation of nursing students and has become an essential part of the system supporting student success.

- A nursing skills lab equipped with programmable patient simulators incorporates current technology for hands-on learning and provides life-like situations for student nurses who can practice skills of analysis and response. Students are appreciative of the opportunity that they have to go through the processes of patient assessment and care planning in a controlled environment prior to "going live" in clinical settings.
- The program development process is supported by a visionary administration, a loyal UST nursing alumni group, and university supporters who can provide the resources needed to support a robust program !



## The Title V Nursing Simulation Laboratory

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The Nursing Simulation Laboratory gives advanced students hands-on clinical experience to hone their critical thinking and patient care skills. The six-bed nursing unit allows students to practice different medical scenarios with cutting-edge, high fidelity mannequins that replicate patient disease symptoms and responses to care. The simulation lab is designed to mimic the patient's bedside in facilities where nursing students receive their on-site clinical experience.

The lab contains equipment and technologies to care for the more seriously ill "patient," including physiological monitors, electronic medication carts, emergency crash carts and other tools. Audiovisual equipment records student-"patient" encounters, allowing students to review, assess and improve their patient

The UST School of Nursing curriculum is complemented by a state-of-the-art Nursing Skills Center that will prepare students for employment in Houston's high-tech medical environment. Simulated patients, known as "SimMan" or "SIMS," can be programmed for various medical scenarios from taking blood pressure to defibrillation; SimMan can cry, bleed, and go into cardiac arrest. All student actions are automatically recorded and can be replayed. SimMan is particularly useful tool for teaching about scenarios that are rarely encountered.

A six-bed ward of SIMS has been developed as the teaching center on the UST campus. SIMS have been developed to simulate medical conditions specific to all ages, and come in baby, child, adult male, and adult female units, as well as childbirth and nursing units.

Research in nursing education confirms that simulations are realistic and valuable (Feingold, 2004) and that a simulation in the laboratory offers a safe place to practice skills until a specified level of proficiency is reached (Haskivits, 2004).