

Saying Thanks to those that care!

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

May 6-12, 2015

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2015

To the organizations taking part in this year's very special section by showing appreciation for current and future nurses & expressing their gratitude~
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NURSING TIMES



Honoring Nurses National Nurses Week May 6-12

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Best quality

Half-century of customer service endures with the Uniform Shoppe



Left: Uniform Shoppe owner Elaine Weise and store manager Shari Stallings display popular brands of professional nursing fashion.

Top: Uniform Shoppe manager Shari Stallings and sales associate Ericka Branham-Stapp stand ready to serve.

There is an art to customer service, said Ericka Branham-Stapp, Oklahoma City store sales associate at Uniform Shoppe, located at 10503 N. May Avenue. "It does take a person who is very patient with your customer," Stapp said. "First being comfortable approaching them, making them feel comfortable opening up to you for what they need. Customer service is a lost art."

Customer service at the Uniform Shoppe has been going strong since Elaine Weise and her husband, Albert, purchased the Uniform Shoppe 50 years ago in 1965 to originate a new location in Oklahoma City. Her sister and brother-in-law started the business in 1962 in Tulsa. Something special has kept Weise engaged with the Uniform Shoppe for 50 years.

"Our customers mean a lot to us and we take care of them," Weise said. "We sell fine merchandise at competitive prices."

The Uniform Shoppe is a service-oriented store specializing in giving good service, Weise said.

"We like interacting with our customers. We enjoy that," Weise said. "It's just something that we

do. It's part of our life. I can't think of doing anything else."

Weise and her staff have made several friends through the years. The original store was located at 10th Street and Walker.

"I see many faces that I remember from many years ago," she said. "They're still in the business just as I'm still in the business."

Through the years, the Uniform Shoppe has grown and reopened a store in Tulsa at a new location with more space with added stock.

"We have a new manager and staff in Tulsa. They are excited there. We've rearranged the store and it's a fun place to come shop," Weise said.

The Tulsa address is 6221 E. 61st Street and is managed by the Weise's daughter, Jody Weise-Gonzales. The new manager there is Lesa Haukaas. Shari Stallings manages the Oklahoma City location.

Stallings said the conversations with customers have kept her dedicated during her 14 years with the Uniform Shoppe.

"It's the feedback you get from them. Most of it's good," she added.

The store is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

Saturday at both cities.

"When we first opened our business everything was white and nurses wore dresses and caps, white hose and shoes," Weise said.

Today few nurses wear dresses to work and most of them are wearing some sort of a color, Weise said. Caps are no longer worn with few exceptions, she added. Fabrics have changed. Most importantly is they stretch with blends of fabrics, Weise continued.

"We have many things that resemble street clothes," Weise said. "When I wear my scrubs, people ask me, 'Are those really scrubs?' Why, yes they are. They still look professional and that's important. We cater to the professional working woman and man."

Accessory items include a variety of stethoscopes, traditional and light-weight ones, as well as electronic types. They range anywhere in price from \$35 to about \$500, Weise said. The main stethoscope line sold at the Uniform Shoppe is Littmann and MDF.

"We have pens, pen lights, all kinds of scissors to fit the hands of the employee, hosiery and socks," she said.

Clothing blends adapt to the seasons, Weise said. Brands include

Smitten by Landau, Heart Soul by Cherokee, Med Couture by Peaches, Grey's Anatomy by Barco, Wonder Wink, Jockey, Koi and Carhartt, a new line of men's and women's clothing. Also sold are shoes by Akeso, Weise said.

"A lot of technology went behind that shoe," Stallings said. "It's washable leather and very good for standing all day."

Hospitals may be cold. So the Uniform Shoppe sells t-shirts that compliment the scrubs.

"We also have earrings. We have a lady who makes earrings for us," Weise said. "She uses our scrub colors to make ear rings that are professional and fun to wear."

Weise said she uses what she learned from her business degree every day at the Uniform Shoppe. Deep down inside she likes teaching, so she uses her skills by developing her staff.

"We enjoy changing the displays. I enjoy that part of it as well and to interact with the customers. It's fun for me," she said. Many of the hospitals have gone to solid colors of style, she continued.

"But we still love to bring in prints. There are a lot who still use that," Weise said.



Team-oriented environment Strong mission and purpose



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Gift From God



St. Anthony Hospital nurses bring comfort and hope

St. Anthony manages to be a very large hospital that feels like a small community in a small town, said Elain Richardson, RN, vice president of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at St. Anthony Hospital in midtown Oklahoma City.

This sense of community is beneficial to both the patients and the more than 1,080 nurses who work at the hospital.

"People have worked here for a long time. There are multiple generations of folks," Richardson said.

"Myself included, my daughter who is entering into nursing works here. My mother who is going to retire here also is a nurse on the floor."

St. Anthony is a home and family for the staff. They care about the people they work with as well as the patients they care for, Richardson said.

"We do that as a team and I think that it is the people here at St. Anthony that makes the difference for us," Richardson said.

To celebrate, St. Anthony is recognizing National Nurses Week with a reception and gifts.

"We want to remind our nursing staff how much we appreciate what they do," Richardson said. "The physicians are always involved in that as well and so they will be participating this year."

A secret surprise has been kept under wrap but will be unveiled to celebrate the connection nurses have to health care, she said.

Research indicates every year that nursing is among the most trusted professions, Richardson said.

"Patients will tell us things that will help us care for them better," she continued. "They will not be judged or ridiculed and they are not always that forthcoming with other providers. So I think that is a special gift we have as nurses - our ability to connect as people."

People see the nurses as nurturers and caregivers because the nurses embody best practices with kindness and respect.

"I think it is very important for us to

establish that trust with patients. So we accept them as they are - whether they need to improve or are doing everything they can. We just need to take that as our base."

What Richardson appreciates most about St. Anthony nurses is their passion and commitment to their patients and the St. Anthony mission statement, "Through our exceptional health care services we reveal the healing presence of God."

"I think that is a very meaningful statement for our nurses personally and professionally," she said. "And I think it very clear what that

means."

"There are a lot of folks that are very close to nurses at the bedside. There's not a lot of layer," Richardson said. "That allows us to have a better connection with what's happening and having an ear to the point that patients are receiving care."

Richardson said she is blessed to watch nurses grow and thrive in their careers. Some of them were hired as nurse techs and are now going through their graduate work as nurse practitioners. They contribute to the community.

"So it's wonderful to see that whole pathway and to know within the walls of St. Anthony, there is something for them to be part of this family no matter where they are in their career trajectory."

St. Anthony's community outreach includes "volunteer programs" exposing youth to health care. There are also programs for people in their early years of college to expose them to all the opportunities available in the medical field.

Several campaigns are conducted by the nursing staff to raise funds for community agencies.

"We also have a strong employee giving campaign where our employees give of their own money to the foundation," Richardson said. "And the foundation goes out and finds guarantors who can match that money."

The fundraising is used to enhance programs for the nursing environment. "We go out into rural areas and teach about early awareness of stroke, early symptoms of a heart attack, how to keep yourself healthy by doing the testing that is recommended so we don't have folks diagnosed on their first colonoscopy revealing a stage-4 cancer," she said.

This interaction with nurses in the community or within the hospital may be the spark to inspire a young man or woman to become a nurse.

Richardson said that at St. Anthony, nine out of 10 nurses would say they have a personal connection with a nurse that led them to a nursing career.

"They saw nursing as a way to be of assistance and find a greater purpose," Richardson said. "That is so rewarding and it is so wonderful to know that people are so passionate about what they do."



St. Anthony Hospital Vice President of Nursing Elain Richardson says the nursing staff keeps in mind that through the work they do, they reveal the healing presence of God.

INTEGRIS Extends Heartfelt Thank You to its Nurses

It is impossible to overstate the importance of our dedicated nurses. Their skill, care and compassion are essential to a patient's healing and to our hospital's success and ability to provide world-class care.

At INTEGRIS, we realize the professional practice of nursing is a calling. It is a physically demanding position that requires personal sacrifice, commitment and grace. Many of our nurses give up their holidays with their families to work through nights and weekends to care for our patients. It is this selflessness that we applaud not only during National Nurses Week, but every day of every year.

"We feel honored to have nurses that continuously strive to provide exceptional care to our patients through research founded and evidenced-based practice. We stay ahead of the curve to ensure advanced clinical practice," says Joni Tiller, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center. "Our Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) have increased the community's access to timely care and expertise in clinical practice and our Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) have ensured the highest quality of care at the bedside to our patients, in collaboration with the patients' nurses and medical staff."

She continues, "The clinical expertise required by our nurses to deliver advanced clinical practice is outstanding. Their abilities allow INTEGRIS to provide care to some of the sickest patients in our communities. And our communities have no borders reaching throughout the state, nationally and even internationally."

Nurses are on the frontlines of medical care. They monitor patients sometimes around the clock, administer medication and assess the effectiveness of treatment. They understand the complexities and implications of an illness or injury and alert physicians of any red flags or other concerns.

"Nurses are an integral part of health care, whether in our hospitals, clinics or elsewhere. The work and healing of health care would not and could not take place without them. Physicians know how valuable they are as part of the team and appreciate their incredible hard work, dedication and devotion," says James White, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and Managing Director of Medical Affairs at INTEGRIS Health. "Their work is not always glamorous but is always essential. The knowledge, wisdom, caring, comfort and human touch that they bring to all patients is irreplaceable by any technology. After all, despite all the advances we have seen and will continue to see, the majority of and the best of health care still comes down to a one to one human interaction."

Nurses are a patient's greatest advocate. They spend the most time with them, getting to know them and their families on a personal level which can lead to a greater understanding of an issue or situation. Such insight can be crucial to a patient's care and progress. Nurses also provide invaluable emotional support. They counsel patients and families through everything from understanding a chronic condition to coping with death and dying. Their medical knowledge combined with exceptional people skills provide much comfort and stability to families during difficult and trying times.

Nurses promote health and healing within a range of human experiences that span a variety of care settings. Whether managing patients at the individual or community level, nurses are pivotal in promoting the safety and quality of patient care. From health to illness, nurses are in a position to impact the patient's experience in a caring relational model that integrates the application of data with science, knowledge, and evidence based practice," says Angie Kamermayer, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services at INTEGRIS Health Edmond.

INTEGRIS understands nurses are the backbone of the health care delivery system, making a significant impact on the lives of countless patients each and every day. And for that, we are eternally grateful.



Every Moment Every Hour Every Day

In the moments that matter, our dedicated nurses are there providing a healing touch, a listening ear and high quality care made strong by the commitment to give their patients the very best. In any one of our facilities, clinics or specialties, INTEGRIS nurses continuously grow and strive to make a positive impact in the life of each individual we serve. So as we celebrate Nurses Week, we take a moment to say thank you, to our nurses for the hours, days and years you have given in devotion to the high call of nursing.

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Nurses Week: Year of Ethics

Nurses Week to Be Celebrated May 6-12

by Jane Nelson, Executive Director, Oklahoma Nurses Association

Every year, Nurses Week focuses attention on the diverse ways Oklahoma's 42,000 registered nurses work to provide quality patient care and to improve the health of millions of individuals. This year, "Ethical Practice, Quality Care" is the selected theme, in recognition of the impact ethical nursing practice has on patient outcomes and the quality of care. The week begins on May 6, RN Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. Registered nurses around the country are encouraged to wear their "RN Pins" in honor of Nurses Week and RN Recognition Day.

Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses, who comprise the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. From patient care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and public health to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures, and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society.

Congresswomen Frances Payne Bolton of Ohio, an advocate for nursing and public health introduced a bill in Congress in 1954 to honor nurses. The year marked the 100th anniversary of nursing profession pioneer Florence Nightingale's mission to treat wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) established May 12, Nightingale's birthday, as an annual "International Nurse Day" in 1974. But it wasn't until the early 1990s, that the American Nurses Association encouraged the recognition of nurses' contributions to community and national health expanding the event to a week-long event each year.

Today, nurses are leading efforts on three top quality priorities: patient safety, care coordination and patient/family engagement. Up to 20 percent of Medicare patients are re-admitted to hospitals, often because of inadequate care coordination. Medicare now is paying for certain care coordination services, recognizing that the quality of transitional care provided by RNs is crucial to reducing re-admissions.

Nurses provide education, guidance and resources to individuals and/or

families managing chronic conditions or an illness. RNs help them understand discharge and care plans, medication regimens, appointment follow-ups, referrals and equipment needs. In addition, Nurses are working with the Partnership for Patients (<http://partnershipforpatients.cms.gov>) a public-private collaboration, to improve patient safety and reduce cost by reducing hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent and 30-day hospital re-admissions by 20 percent. With input from a technical panel of national experts, ANA has introduced an innovative, evidence-based method to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), a common hospital-acquired infection and a shortcoming in quality. This tool is available on the ANA website, nursingworld.org

The Oklahoma Nurses Association works on behalf of all the nurses in the state to advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice. We do this by promoting a positive and realistic view of nursing while lobbying the State Legislature and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

This work we do at the Capitol can only be strengthened by voices of nurses from across the state. Currently, one member of ONA shoulders the advocacy burden for 35 RNs licensed and working in Oklahoma. We need to lighten their load. Every nurse in this state takes advantage of ONA's ability to provide a voice for him or her at the Capitol. It is time all nurses became members of the Oklahoma Nurses Association. Each of us is only as strong as the association as a whole. So this week as you celebrate Nurses Week not only wear your RN pin but also become a member of the Oklahoma Nurses Association. This way you can show your dedication and professionalism all year long.

About ONA's Executive Director-Jane Nelson, CAE was named the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Nurses Association in March 2002. She has 30 years of association management and marketing experience with a variety of organizations. She holds a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a master's degree from Michigan State University.



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Oklahoma's
NURSING TIMES

Nurse Exemplars to be Recognized at Deaconess

Every year at Deaconess, nurses are selected by their peers for the Nurse Exemplar Program. These nurses are viewed as top performers in the profession of nursing. In order to qualify for a nurse exemplar, the nurses are nominated based on strict criteria. The criteria for nomination includes leadership, role model, compassionate caregiver, community service, and significant contributions to the profession of nursing. All of the nurses at Deaconess work as an excellent nursing team and to be recognized at the top is a prestigious honor. The nurse exemplars are recognized throughout Deaconess in the months of April and May. During Hospital Week the nurse exemplars are additionally recognized at the annual service awards banquet. The Deaconess Nurse of the Year is selected from the exemplars. This top honor receives additional recognition and awards. The Nurse of the Year will be revealed on May 13, 2015 in the Deaconess Legacy Conference Room at 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

There are several benefits that will be given to the winner at the ceremony and throughout the year. "We have a nomination committee that reviews all the candidates and then selects the top performing nurses that have been nominated in all of the required categories. The nurse exemplars truly reflect the criteria for nursing excellence," commented Jayne Thomas, Chief Nursing Officer. The following nurses were recognized for excellence in patient care and significant contributions to the profession of Nursing.

Holly Duke, RN (surgery) Holly is very knowledgeable, compassionate and has been at Deaconess over 25 years.

Stephen Pang, RN (Med-Surgery, Oncology) Working at



Excellence in Nursing (L-R) Tony Sword, RN, Rachel Rajan, RN, Carolyn Calloway, RN, Brandy Simpson, RN, Holly Duke, RN, Ken Hill, RN

Deaconess for 22 years, Stephen is never too busy to help his coworkers. He is respected by his peers and loved by his patients. (NP)

Brandy Simpson, RN (Birth Center) As an excellent educator, Brandy is always encouraging with a positive attitude. Brandy always shows the utmost respect and compassion to others.

Tony Sword, RN (Emergency Department) With a positive attitude, he treats his colleagues with courtesy and respect. Tony is a team manager with excellent leadership abilities and has worked in the ER for 9 years.

Megan Bainter, RN (Birth Center) Megan is an excellent charge nurse who delegates appropriately. She keeps the patients updated on the plan of care. (NP)

Ken Hill, RN (Emergency Department) Addresses the patients fears and concerns with his passion and professionalism. Ken also enjoys photography and has taken some award winning photos.

Rachel Rajan, RN (Emergency Department) Working as a nurse for 22 years, Rachel is a role model for hard work and is meticulous to the last detail. Rachel is a team player and always puts her patients first.

Carolyn Calloway, RN (Birth Center) Working in the Birth Center for 22 years, Carolyn is a gifted educator with an exceptional ability to communicate with physicians. Her care greatly impacts patients.

"I can't speak highly enough of this exceptional group of nurses and I am very proud of the Deaconess family to be able to recognize the excellence of this nursing team," Jayne Thomas proudly stated.



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Deaconess Hospital wants to say "Thank you!" to our nurses. Our dedicated nurses make a difference every day in patients' lives. We appreciate and applaud our nurses for going above and beyond what is required while showing care and compassion...the healing begins here.

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NURSES WEEK 2015





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*(Branch of Platt College Tulsa, OK Campus) Not all programs are available at all campuses. Licensed by: OBPVs. Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended the programs at Platt College, visit <http://www.plattcolleges.edu/content/program-disclosures>

Something to talk about Platt College gives students something to talk about

For Platt College PN Director of Nursing Gay Pearce, BS, RN, there's no better advertising her school can receive than word of mouth.

"A lot of our students have indicated they worked with former graduates of ours and those grads have made recommendations for them to come to our program," Pearce said. "Some like the delivery of the format we do with our program and some have been in facilities with our students."

"Word of mouth is the best thing."

In a sea of medical education options, Platt College stands out quite simply for the results it delivers.

Platt College was founded in 1979, and since then has provided thousands of Oklahomans with the career skills they need to be qualified for new careers in an ever-changing labor market.

Throughout its history, Platt's focus has remained on providing relevant career training in Oklahoma in a variety of fields, including healthcare and wellness, the culinary arts, and nursing, that meets the needs of an ever-changing job market and its employers.

Platt offers programs and courses designed to help you become a Licensed Practical Nurse, transition to a Registered Nurse, or even advance your Associate's degree in Nursing (Registered Nurse) to complete and earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The Practical Nursing programs are designed to get you into a nursing career much sooner than most educational routes traditional programs take to enter a medical field.

With this focused program, you will enhance your theoretical knowledge with hands-on training led by experienced faculty.

Upon completion of any of Platt's Practical Nursing programs, you will be eligible to sit for the NCLEX exam and work in settings such as private medical and nursing care facilities, home health care organizations, public hospitals, and more.

"The faculty members are involved with the students," Pearce said. "I have an outstanding faculty and they prepare those students very well for boards. They assist them tremendously through their journey."

Platt - which has campuses in Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa - is currently enrolling for its day program, which begins in July. A third start date is in November. Qualifying students can receive financial aid, grants, scholarships as well as loans.

As of May 1, Pearce said 100 percent of Platt graduates have passed their boards this year.

And that may be the best word of mouth any nursing school could ever receive.



Platt College PN Director of Nursing
Gay Pearce, BS, RN.

"Nurses dispense comfort, compassion, and caring without even a prescription." - Val Saintsbury

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Heartland CPR comes to nurses' rescue

A business that started in Ginger and Brian Davis' home in 2003 focused on life-saving education has grown into a lifesaver for nurses and their careers.

A business that started in Ginger and Brian Davis' home in 2003 focused on life-saving education has grown into a lifesaver for nurses and their careers.

Quite simply, when it comes to renewing a CPR certification, Ginger and Brian Davis are a nurse's best friend.

Maybe it's because of Brian's down-to-earth approach that takes the fear out of advanced training courses like ACLS and PALS. Or maybe it's the way Ginger follows up to remind nurses their certification is due and designs classes around their busy schedule.

Whatever the reason, the Davises have built Heartland CPR into a successful business that revolves around providing life-saving skills in a fun, friendly environment.

Heartland CPR offers courses in CPR, AED, First Aid, Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers, Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) as well as the addition of Pet First Aid + CPR last year.

Flexibility and customer service drive Heartland.

Ginger coordinates with individual travel nurses and travel nursing agencies who appreciate that Heartland provides training in multiple disciplines in a single weekend, and even have arranged with a nearby luxury hotel which offers discount accommodations to out-of-town overnight customers.

"If you look at our schedule you'll see lots of BLS classes near the end of the month for those who wake up and say 'Holy cow, I don't get to work tomorrow,'" Ginger says with a laugh.

Heartland earned a 2014 Torch Award from the Better Business Bureau for trust, integrity and performance in its business practices.

"It was something that was badly needed in this field and I had the background in business and organization and scheduling," Ginger said, unfolding the story of how Heartland CPR was born in 2003. "You've got a lot of people in this business that are either a great teacher or a great organizer but nobody really brings the two together."

Brian's informative yet fun approach to training makes the difference. Now an EMS Chief for Edmond Fire, he continues to make sure Heartland's instructors are engaging when they teach how to save a life.

New instructors are very carefully selected based on much more than just knowledge of the subject material and then spend a good while in training as they learn the rest of the formula responsible for Heartland's growth and success.

At any one time Heartland utilizes eight instructors who will travel to meet students' needs. The company has experienced tremendous growth, moving to an office space in 2011 and then to a larger space last December.

The new offices feature a wealth of medical memorabilia, ranging from an 1880s mortuary table to a wound irrigator circa World War I.

"It shows how things have changed through the years," Ginger says.

But one thing the Davises don't plan to change is offering the right courses at the right times to keep nurses doing the work they love.



Ginger Davis and husband Brian are a nurses' best friend.

Heartland CPR's STAT Program

"Get all your AHA training in a weekend!"

Allows you to renew your BLS, ACLS, and PALS in a single weekend

OR

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www.HeartlandCPR.com



Green and Gold grad goes far



photo by Jamie Bankston, MS RN

When Elizabeth Leeper, BSN, RN, CNOR stepped into the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony in April to accept her award as one of the 100 greatest nurses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area she did so dressed in turquoise and white.

But truth be told her stellar nursing career began 20 years ago while wearing Oklahoma Baptist University College of Nursing's signature green and gold.

"It is a huge honor," Leeper said of the award and of having graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University.

Leeper and the rest of the DFW Great 100 Nurses were selected in the blind by a panel of nursing professionals from hundreds of nominations.

The nurses recognized came from all practice areas in nursing including acute care, sub-acute care, school nursing, nurse leaders, academics and many more.

The DFW Great Nurses recognition is a once in a lifetime honor a nurse can receive.

Leeper has spent 19 years at Cook Children's Hospital, but she didn't see it coming 20 years ago.

"When I was in nursing school at OBU pediatrics was my first rotation and I didn't like it," she said. "I said I would never go into pediatrics."

Two decades later, the nurse manager is leading Cook Children's hospital through its fourth expansion.

"I absolutely love being a surgical nurse," she said. "It's never anything more than one-on-one nursing."

Even after so many years, Leeper is still in awe of what she does. And she understands the gravity of her situation and those she cares for.

"I've never lost sight that it's a privilege to know a mom is trusting me with her most precious possession," she said. "We as perioperative nurses are indeed that last stop. If something gets by us no one else will catch it."

And it all started for Leeper at the Christian liberal arts university in Shawnee.

Looking back, OBU has given Leeper so much. It's where she earned her nursing degree and found her husband, David, an OBU business grad.

"When I was looking for nursing schools I looked at the University of Oklahoma, Texas Christian and Baylor," Leeper conceded.

"Those were so big. I grew up in Stroud. OBU appealed to me because it was a small school. When I started asking around and did my research I found it was also one of the best nursing schools anywhere."

Leeper benefited from the smaller campus and the smaller class sizes.

"That was huge," she said. "It was never a problem even if I needed to go to the dean and ask something. It wasn't a big deal as opposed to the bigger universities where you're lucky if your advisor even knows your name."

And it's why she's re-enrolled,

this time pursuing a master's degree in Global Nursing. With two kids, a full-time career and a marriage, Leeper says the online format will allow her to finish her degree this December.

"I love the fact that even though I live in Fort Worth I can have an OBU graduate degree," she said.

Leeper expects her Global Nursing degree to shrink her world. She already volunteers as a surgical nurse on mission trips to Colombia and Thailand. Her team will be in India in October.

She wouldn't mind if the mission trips continued to grow.

Oklahoma Baptist University's graduate nursing education offerings have continued to grow.

Building on a professional nursing education at the undergraduate level, the mission of the nursing graduate program at Oklahoma Baptist University is to prepare advanced nurses for delivery of health care with diverse populations and leadership roles in rapidly changing health care systems.

This is accomplished through the integration of advanced professional knowledge and Judeo-Christian beliefs.

OBU began offering online MSN

courses in the Fall of 2014.

Students can now complete their coursework from the comfort of their own home or anywhere else they needed to be.

In a classroom setting, an MSN in Nursing Education can be obtained in only 18 months.

At Oklahoma Baptist University's Graduate School, students in the Master of Science in Nursing degree program learn nursing education principles and skills in an exciting, contemporary environment.

An MSN in Global Nursing is also offered.

This degree track is designed for individuals who wish to step into leadership positions in international health organizations or cross-cultural health care settings within the United States.

Graduates will gain the expertise and experience needed to help develop and guide health care systems within cross-cultural populations.

OBU also offers an RN-MSN degree track designed for associate degree or diploma licensed registered nurses who would like to advance their education.

The online format is designed to allow working individuals to pursue their education while continuing to work.

It works for Leeper, who will never forget that her career started while wearing gold and green.



Oklahoma Heart Hospital rated as the #1 Hospital in the nation in patient satisfaction

Oklahoma Heart Hospital (OHH) is Oklahoma's first dedicated heart hospital, and the first all-digital hospital in the nation. They emphasize compassionate care, streamlined services and the latest technology. Their mission is to bring the greatest care possible to Oklahoma.

Opening in August of 2002, the North Campus on Memorial Road covers 204,000 square feet with four open-heart/peripheral vascular surgical suites, five cardiac and peripheral vascular catheterization labs, two electrophysiology labs, one state-of-the-art hybrid room which functions as both a surgical suite and cath lab, and a full-service emergency room. OHH North has 99 private patient

rooms equipped with critical care technology in comfortable and peaceful surroundings.

At OHH, patient care is at the heart of everything they do. The hospital was designed by cardiologists to ensure the patients receive expert individualized care with the utmost comfort. OHH focuses on treating and preventing the diseases of the heart and lungs. The nurses are committed to their patients, which is why they have a 1:1 nurse-to-patient ratio in their Critical Care Unit and a 1:4 ratio on their general care floors. OHH has ranked in the top 1 percent nationally for patient satisfaction since 2003.

The Oklahoma Heart Hospital Physicians group is one of the nation's largest groups of cardiovascular specialists. With

more than 70 specialists physicians, the physicians treat heart, vascular, lung and pain management conditions that require a specialist's training and expertise.

OHH opened a state-of-the-art outpatient Cardiovascular Rehabilitation center in the fall of 2014. They can be proud of being one of four centers in the United States that offers the Pritikin Intensive Cardiac Rehab program. Here, the patients will learn skills that will focus on a healthy lifestyle. Participants learn how to eat well, exercise, feel better and live a healthier life.

Among the many things OHH is known for is patient satisfaction being #1, often receiving national recognition. For the last 9 years, OHH has received the Press

Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award. This award recognizes top-performing facilities that consistently rank high in the performance of patient satisfaction in the health care industry. Oklahoma Heart Hospital is in the top 1 percent in the USA. They are deeply committed to providing nursing care of the highest quality.

While OHH serves many people in the state of Oklahoma, they strive to and often succeed in leading quality metrics not only in Oklahoma, but also nationally.

"It is amazing how important the little details are in caring for those in need. The smallest kindness and convenience can really matter a lot." Peggy Tipton, COO, CNO, Oklahoma Heart Hospital North Campus.

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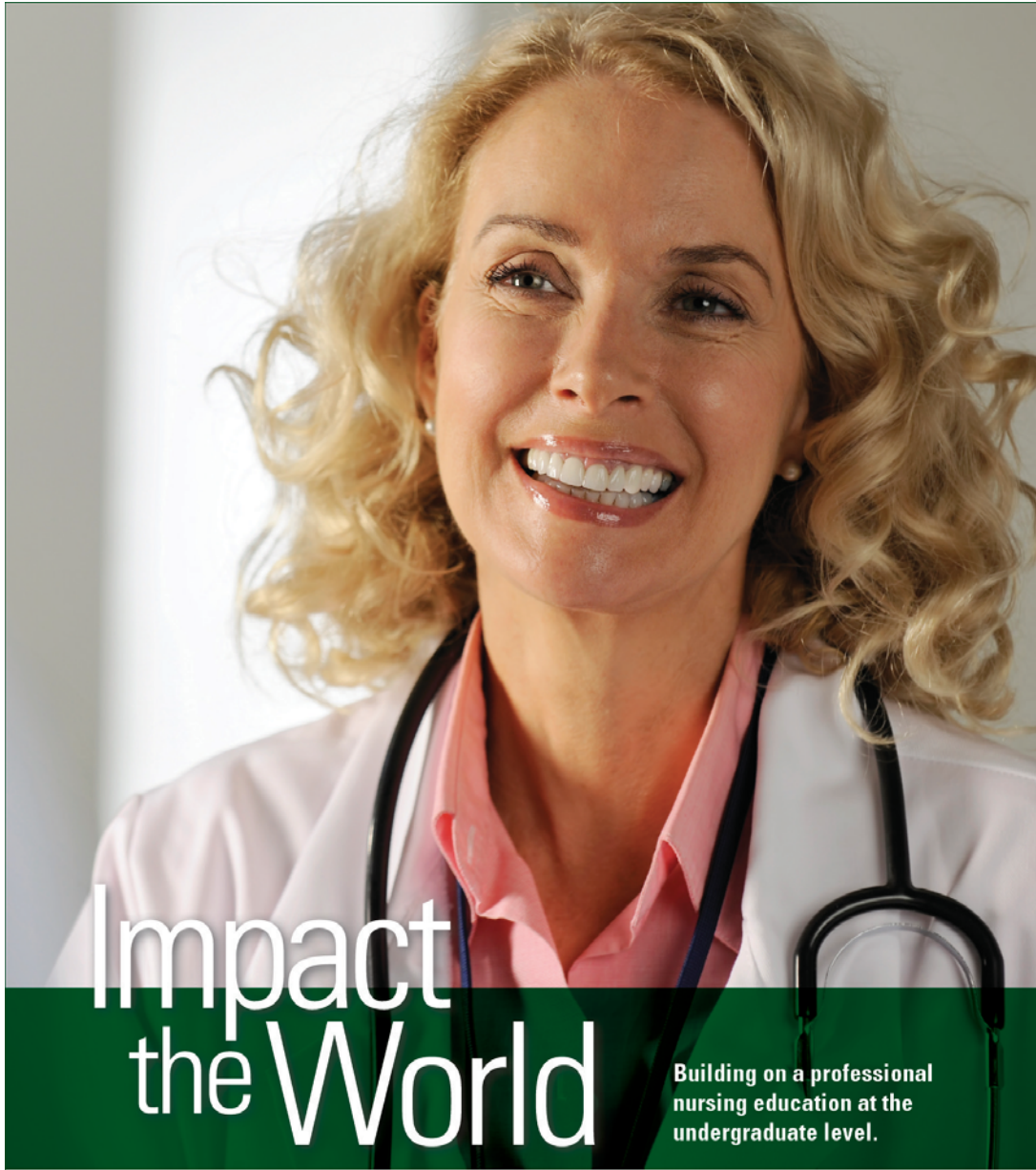
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