

Whenever a Need Arises



Stormy Pearce, RN, and house supervisor at Community Hospital South, has cried and rejoiced with patients, family members, physicians, and staff. She rejoices in good outcomes.

Story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Maintaining the general flow of incoming and outgoing patient care at Community Hospital South, located in Oklahoma City, comes from the experienced and well-organized leadership of Stormy Pearce, RN, and house supervisor. And in doing so, she appreciates the initiative taken by her

synergetic nursing staff who is dedicated to patient centered care.

"Being compassionate, talking to patients and their families, there's not a day that I walk out of here that I don't feel satisfied by a connection

See PEARCE Page 2

Assisted Living Administrator Celebrates 20 Years at Saint Ann



LaTrona Fulbright, Assisted Living Administrator at Saint Ann Retirement Center.

Story by Joyce Clark, Executive Director - Saint Ann Retirement Center

LaTrona Fulbright says she ran outside and threw up the first day she worked as a Certified Nurse Aide in a nursing home. That was 28 years ago in 1995. Absorbing the home's odors and conditions was overwhelming but also life changing. Fulbright says compassion made her turn around and return to work. She knew those she served were totally dependent on the quality of her care. She was determined to do her best to assist and serve them with respect and diligence. That attitude ultimately led to Fulbright becoming a licensed Assisted Living Administrator. Furthermore, this year she celebrated 20 years of working at Saint Ann Retirement Center, now known as Saint Ann Assisted and Independent Living.

Fulbright gives props to the hometown folks

See FULBRIGHT Page 2

PEARCE

Continued from Page 1

throughout the day or just a talk with a patient," Pearce said. "There's always something going on. And patients are appreciative. Their family members are very appreciative of you taking the time out to talk to them."

Pearce's enthusiastic persona is an effective resource for the staff's education and guidance. Her preference is to spend most of her time with her staff out of her office. She can often be found sitting beside her unit secretary where nurses pass by frequently.

"I like to be visible where the staff can see me and can ask questions," Pearce said. "If they need something they will say, 'Hey Stormy, can you come medicate this patient,' I help them in any way that I can."

Also, she assists in the ER whenever it's busy and nurses need help. There could be anything from a code, to starting IVs for blood cultures. The ER has five beds, but hospital rooms can be used whenever a need arises. There is also a three-bed ICU.

"I just try to help, actually the entire facility," she said while two

patients were in the ICU.

A typical day within the hospital will have up to 10 hospital nurses at work with a ratio of four nurses to every patient, Pearce said. That type of ratio brings exceptional patient care.

On Fridays the nurses wear t-shirts which is a nice change from wearing their scrub top, she said. The new shirts boast of Community Hospital's 5-star rating for overall quality and patient satisfaction. Also, the Joint Replacement Excellence Award, and the hospital's award of being among America's 100 Best Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) assigned "Star Ratings".

"We have a phenomenal group of nurses, patient care techs, unit secretaries, and our physical therapists. They come to work — a lot of them have been here for ages, like our physical therapist for 20 years. A lot of the nursing staff here have been here from 10 to 15 years," Pearce continued. "So, their hard work, their dedication and excellent patient care add up. We have a lot of agency contract nurses, too, that are absolutely amazing. I feel like we are blessed that we're not working short-

handed. We just have an amazing group of staff here that are dedicated to taking care of the patients."

Each one brings something different from their experiences, she continued. Together, they blend cohesively and effectively in a team effort.

"Our name is Community Hospital, but I feel like we're a family belonging to a community. We're all one little, yet big community. We're all here to help," Pearce said. "The director of nursing is great at each facility. They're all amazing."

Whenever Pearce needs answers regarding an issue, she can pick up the phone at any hour for a quick response.

Caring for people where they are in life is what led Pearce to become a nurse. Her desire to help people flows from a compassionate heart.

Pearce began her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse in 2007 before becoming a registered nurse in 2010. Memorial Hospital in the Comanche County emergency room was where her career began

as an LPN. She was hired to work at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital soon after earning her RN credential. In 2016 Pearce was hired by Community Hospital's North as house supervisor at night before coming to Community Hospital South to work the day shift in 2022.

Patients are admitted for different reasons. They bring different levels of anxiety or relief when being admitted to the hospital.

"I think we listen to them," she said of easing their tension. "As far as an ER patient, I just kind of get to their level, ask them what their fears are, and just try to help them and their family. You just talk to them and understand what their thoughts are, their fears are, and then work through the process with them."

Nurses give patients a specific timeline of what processes will take place. The constant updates given to patients doesn't leave them wondering with fear of the unknown.

"I think that will help ease their fears," she said.

To learn more about the Community Hospital South, visit <https://communityhospitalokc.com/careers>.



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FULBRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

in Snyder, Oklahoma where she was born and raised. The small-town atmosphere contributed to her strong interpersonal skills and character. She was also an accomplished track star and had the self-motivation to achieve goals and overcome hurdles. In the Fall of 1999, Fulbright moved to Oklahoma City with her two young children so that she could provide a better future for them. "The big city was a very different lifestyle. It was exciting but also scary," said Fulbright.

She started working as a Certified Medication Aide at Saint Ann Retirement Center when it opened in 2002. Fulbright says she loved the job and working at Saint Ann. She had her third child and felt blessed at home and professionally. A few years later, Fulbright earned her administrator license and served as the assistant administrator. She fully took the reins in 2010, when she was promoted to the top spot over the assisted living portion of the campus.

When asked why she has stayed and worked at the same place for two decades, Fulbright outlined two basic reasons. First, she promised

herself as a young single mother that she would achieve a very good job and keep it until her kids were grown. Second, she loves her residents and the satisfaction she gets from ensuring their life is improved by living at Saint Ann Assisted Living. In fact, Fulbright said assisting residents at this point in their life is what she loves most about her job. "Being the one who gets to give residents the care they deserve is my biggest pleasure." "I was put at Saint Ann Assisted Living to make sure great care happens." "I think about the conditions where I first worked and stay determined that people under my care receive nothing but the best of everything." "My top responsibility is to ensure their well-being," said Fulbright.

Over the years Fulbright has honed her skills and list of accomplishments. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Administration Management while working her two full-time jobs as a mother and an administrator. Employee retention at Saint Ann is exceptional. Fulbright recently celebrated the retirement of two of her long-time team members and many others have worked with her for years.

Another satisfying aspect of her

job is helping people understand why their mom is behaving in a certain way or experiencing a particular issue. "I help families understand where their loved one is in his/her life journey." "Sometimes my conversations are about what is best for mom and not what is best for others including family members and facility staff," said Fulbright. "I am a resident advocate." Fulbright also noted that Saint Ann Assisted Living is a great lifestyle for people, many of whom have recently loss a spouse and have been living alone. "We strive to ensure residents continue to enjoy a social life." "Even if a person needs a significant amount of assistance, they are still in need of and capable of human interaction and enjoyment." "That is a primary aspect of our friendly and fun culture," Fulbright said.



Joyce Clark is the Executive Director at Saint Ann Retirement Center in Oklahoma City.

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CAREERS IN NURSING:

BECAUSE THEY CARE - BURN CENTER COMING TO OU MEDICAL CENTER

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

The University of Oklahoma Medical Center is in the process of developing a dedicated certified burn center for trauma patients, said Denni Wilson-Lowber, RN, trauma burn coordinator.

The number of patients with severe burns has increased drastically at the hospital from 3200 activations four years ago. Activations in 2022 were 6700.

Lowber was asked to take over the burn control position two years ago to coordinate the burn program because she had built an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) program in California. ECMO involves taking blood from a vein in the groin to run through a machine for oxygenation without the function of the lungs.

"We found out it was quite helpful for patients with COVID," Lowber said. "That was just an extra thing we had to figure out because the lungs were so

congested."

Lowber earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree 25 years ago at the University of Texas in Arlington. Most of her career involved trauma in the operating room and high acuity cases with open heart surgery and transplants.

The University of Oklahoma Medical is unique for having the only level-1 trauma emergency center in the state. Patients with multiple trauma injuries are taken there.

"We decided it would be in the patients' of Oklahoma's best interest to build a burn center to be able to treat these injuries according to the American Association Burn Guidelines," Lowber said.

The hospital is in the process of moving forward after COVID issues that hit all Oklahoma hospitals delayed the burn center's development. A completion date is yet to be set for the project.

However, OU Health, now being a not-for-profit status, is prepared for the journey.

"What has been submitted for review is a comprehensive unit to have a couple of operating rooms. One of them will be dedicated just for the wet treatment," Lowber said. "That will be for patients who don't necessarily need full anesthesia. They can have conscious sedation and we can take care of all of their injuries at the same time in an environment that is safer."

The second operating room will be dedicated for skin grafting and scar revision. It will be a comprehensive unit for patients to be able to stay in the same bed as they step down in levels of care, Lowber said. A collaborative model of nurses will offer the most appropriate patient care according to their duty.

"Today they might need this ICU nurse, but three days from

now they would be able to step-down to like a med/surg nurse," she continued. "So, we will be able to be flexible with that to take care of them."

The interdisciplinary team will render whatever care is necessary for each patient. This will involve psychology, social work, case management, physiatry, and palliative care forming a cohesive range of caregivers in one dedicated unit.

For this project, OU Health will be hiring many more nurses. Burn nursing is a totally different modality, Lowber explained. Burn nurses build a rapport with families to follow patients for the rest of their lives. The average large burn patient is hospitalized for two to three months. The nurse becomes an intrinsic part of that family.

"I still keep up with my burn patients from years ago to this day because you become so encouraged

continued next page

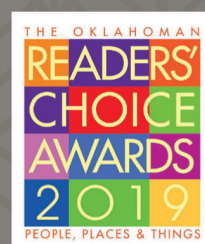


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Denni Wilson-Lowber, RN, trauma burn coordinator at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center oversees creating a dedicated burn center at the hospital located on the campus of OU Health Sciences Center.

WILSON-LOWBER
Continued from Page 4

by their strength,” Lowber said.

One of her patients from about 18 months ago recently sent her pictures of her graduation from Navy boot camp.

Burns associated with Independence Day often get the most attention but are less common. Most of them are eye injuries. Sparklers cause a lot of injuries among children by burning at 3,000 to 5,000 degrees, Lowber cautioned. This is a big time of year for fire pits. They remain hot 12-16 hour after being put out with water. Kids wake up and go running around and step on the coals.

Seventy percent of burns are preventable and happen in the kitchen. Ramen noodle soup cooked

in microwave ovens result in most pediatric burns. Lowber said a microwave oven gets 100-degrees hotter than the boiling point of water. Kids pull the noodles out of the microwave that is higher than they are. So, the hot noodles and liquid comes down on their face and chest, usually both legs and an arm to the crotch. The seasoning packet turns it into a more problematic grease burn.

Every day, burn patients think if they have the strength to continue their treatment.

“It’s amazing to see every single day, having intense discussions with them about, ‘You don’t need to worry about tomorrow. Worry about right now. And you can do, right now.’ And every single day they discover they made it. And then they’ve made it for a week.”

To learn more about the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, visit <https://www.ouhealth.com/careers/>.



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- RN Director of Nursing
- RN Infection Prevention

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- RN OR Circulator (PRN)
- RN Pre-op / Phase II Recovery (PRN)
- RN - ICU/Med Surg - FT
- RN ER - Prime Wkend Mid - Sign on Bonus \$10,000
- RN Weekend - Med-Surg - Sign on Bonus \$10,000
- RN Med-Surg - FT - Sign on Bonus \$7,500 Days/\$10,000 Nights
- RN Med-Surg - Bariatric Program - FT - Nights
- Sign on Bonus \$7,500 Days/\$10,000 Nights
- RN OR Circulator FT - Sign on Bonus \$10,000
- RN Pain / GI (PRN)
- RN Pain Circulator FT - Sign on Bonus \$3,000

North Campus:

- RN OR Circulator - FT - Sign on Bonus \$10,000
- RN Pre Admission Testing - FT - Sign on Bonus \$3,000
- RN Pre Admission Testing (PRN)
- RN Pre OP/Phase II Recovery - FT - Sign on Bonus \$3,000
- RN Med-Surg (PRN-Days)
- RN Med-Surg - FT - Nights - Sign on Bonus \$10,000

Northwest Surgical Hospital:

- RN Pre OP (PRN)
- RN PACU (PRN)
- RN Med-Surg (PRN)
- RN Med-Surg - FT - Nights - Sign on Bonus \$10,000
- RN Med Surg FT Days - Sign on Bonus \$7,500

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Kramer School of Nursing

Offering Wide Variety of Career Opportunities



From Left to Right: Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, Tammy Powell, President of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital and OCU Board of Trustees member, OCU President Kenneth Evans, Dr. Gina Crawford, Dean of Kramer School of Nursing and Interim Dean of College of Health Professions, Elain Richardson, Regional Chief Nursing Officer for SSM Health St. Anthony and Kramer School of Nursing student and Saints and Stars scholarship recipient, Joy Warlick.

Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing continues to implement opportunities that enhance the future of its students, staff and faculty.

One such venture is the Saints and Stars Partnership.

Saints and Stars is a five-year agreement between **SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital** and **Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing**. The partnership allows OCU students to work part-time with SSM Health while they complete their nursing degree, while also receiving a \$3,500 annual scholarship from SSM Health and a \$5,000 annual discount from OCU.

In addition to employment and financial benefits, the partnership will allow OCU nursing students the opportunity to take part in clinical rotations at SSM Health; to engage in paid leadership clinical hours; to participate in a summer nurse extern program; to complete service-learning hours at SSM Health; and to be assigned a nurse mentor.

In addition, up to two SSM Health employees may enroll in OCU's Master of Science in Nursing Education program. OCU will reciprocate by emphasizing the hiring of the program's SSM Health graduates to serve as clinical adjuncts to supervise Stars and Saints students completing their rotations at SSM Health.

"As one of the nation's leading nursing education programs, we are invested in helping address the nursing shortage," OCU President Kenneth Evans said.

Casey Cassidy, PhD, RN, CMSRN, CHSE, Associate Dean & Associate Professor School of Nursing said the Saints and Stars program has gotten off

to a good start.

"So far, really well, our students are just very appreciative of the financial assistance, but also the opportunity to, you know, gain more experience while they're in," Cassidy said.

The Kramer School of Nursing also focuses on Community Based Public Health which positions KSN to meet the future health care delivery needs of individuals within the context of population focused care.

Nurses interested in a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a Community Based Public Health (CBPH) focus are typically employed in non-acute care settings such as public health departments, school health settings, faith-based health programs, occupational health clinics, volunteer health organizations, community health centers, and outpatient care clinics.

These degrees are designed to provide advanced nursing education through the synthesis of nursing and public health theory applied to promoting and preserving the health of populations.

"We have a well-established Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program and a Doctor of Nursing Practice program," said Toni Frioux, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC, CNE.

Associate Professor School of Nursing.

Nurses with a CBPH focus are ideally positioned to help achieve prevention-oriented care by addressing:

- The social determinants of health
- Increasing access to care across the care continuum
- Engaging systems facilitators and identifying barriers
- Bridge delivery of health care needs in the community
- Strengthen diversity among the nursing workforce

Frioux said the advanced CBPH leader will be provided the tools to improve the populations health to prevent problems from happening or recurring, limit health disparities, promote healthcare equity, quality, and accessibility by exploring the application of public health actions through nursing practice.

"There's increasing awareness that we need to do something about the extensive amount of dollars that are spent in acute care, disease treatment at the end of life and, so we really need to change that paradigm where we are doing more health promotion and disease prevention services so that we are helping people maintain their health longer and keeping them out of those expensive hospital-based services



to capitalize on saving dollars," she said.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice, community based public health track is designed for advanced nurses with careers in non-acute care settings who already hold a master's degree in nursing, master's in public health, or similar master's degree. The program is 32-credit hours.

Frioux said the Master of Science in Nursing degree with a CBPH focus is a good fit for nurses with a minimum of a bachelor's degree who are interested in applying and integrating public health science into their nursing skill set to improve the health of the community and the population through out-patient practice settings.

Kramer School of Nursing's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (DNP-AGACNP) students collaborated with Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students to care for a client in the acute-care setting while focusing on patient safety, teamwork, and communication.

In January 2023, the **Kramer School of Nursing** joined the Physician Assistant Program and Physical Therapy Program in viewing the OCU's theater department performance.

After the performance, breakout sessions with students from all three departments were led in an interprofessional discussion.

"We had a great response, and we had over 100 students that participated," Frioux said. "We had the theater students. In addition to that, who actually read the play. It just gave us an opportunity to introduce in a very different way some of the concepts that we have to deal with in healthcare."

For more information visit:

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Little Boy with Rare Disorder Celebrates Home Run for Life

Royce Faulkner was a typical little boy. He was full of energy until a medical diagnosis changed everything for both him and his parents, Remi and Shane Jent.

Faulkner will be honored during the third INTEGRIS Health “Home Run For Life” of the 2023 OKC Dodgers baseball season Friday, June 23 at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

“Home Run For Life” recognizes individuals in the community who have overcome a significant medical event with the help of their families, physicians and health care professionals. To symbolize the end of their battle against adversity, honorees take a home run “lap” around the bases during a pregame ceremony.

Royce’s Story:

When he was three years old, Faulkner’s parents began noticing changes in his behavior. He became more aggressive and wasn’t sleeping. He also battled extreme headaches and a regression in his vocabulary.

Desperate to find out what was happening, his parents took him to several different emergency rooms where he was diagnosed with dehydration and things of that nature. After symptoms persisted, Faulkner saw his primary care physician who immediately got in contact with Amber Stocco, M.D., who was a pediatric neurologist at INTEGRIS Health Children’s at the time.

A spinal tap confirmed that Faulkner had NMDA autoimmune encephalitis, a rare autoimmune disorder that occurs when the body’s immune system mistakenly attacks the brain. One in 1.5 million people will be diagnosed annually, with 40 percent of those being under the age of 18.

By the time Royce started treatment, he was unable to walk or talk. “He was basically like a little baby again,” Remi said.

The doctors at INTEGRIS Health Children’s were able to successfully



Royce Faulkner (middle-bottom) with parents Remi and Shane Jent.

treat Faulkner’s condition and after two months, he began to return to normal. After a few years of normalcy, Faulkner’s condition relapsed in October 2022. He began having mental health issues including suicidal thoughts. “It was out of nowhere,” Remi said.

Once again, the staff at INTEGRIS Health Children’s was able to treat Faulkner and get life back to normal. Both Remi and Shane are beyond grateful for everything INTEGRIS Health has done for them. “The staff is really great there,” Remi said. “They took us seriously, they listened to us and they really helped.”

“All of the staff is the best,” Shane added. Royce now lives his life like any normal seven-year-old and enjoys hanging out with his friends at school. He lives with his parents and his little sister Yrla in Oklahoma City.

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Lumen	Platelets	
Saphenous	Eosinophil	
Saggital	Circadian	
Purkinje	Lipemia	
Pulmonary	ethylenediaminetetraacetic	
Adventitia	Heparin	
Cephalic	Accession	
RBC	STAT	
Arteries	Butterfly	
Neutrophils	Coagulation	
Plasma	Tourniquet	
Rhesus	Vacutainer	
Hemostasis	Informed	
Chemistry	Vector Centrifuge	
Basal	Postprandial	
Hematoma	Fomites	
Hemolysis	Susceptible	
Betadine	Permucosal	
Tachycardia	BBP	
Bundle of His	HIV	
Seminlunar	Biohazard	
Sphygmomanometer	RACE	

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

By Tim Redwood

NURSE



TALK

What are
your plans
for July
4th?



"We usually go to the lake
and in the evening we do
fireworks with our children."



Desiree Gower, RN

"Spend time with family
and friends. Cook, barbecue,
fireworks and hangout."



"I get time to spend with
my family who are out of
town who come in town to
Oklahoma City."



Denise Oliver, LPN



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For more information contact Hope Schreur, RN, BSN at:
918-706-9574 or email hope.schreur@gmail.com

Hello! I am a RN in Oklahoma who is offering tutoring services to nursing students needing exam/NCLEX prep, and RNs taking specialty certifications such as the CCRN, PCCN, CMC, CSC, etc. I have nearly 6 years nursing experience in cardiac ICU and electrophysiology, and I have personally received the CCRN, CMC, CSC certifications. I look forward to helping others achieve their personal goals.

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LEGEND SENIOR LIVING® ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE OF OKC'S LIONWOOD TO "ACCLAIM INDEPENDENT LIVING"

Legend Senior Living announced today that it is changing the name of Lionwood Independent Living to Acclaim Independent Living. Legend Senior Living, a family-owned senior living provider headquartered in Wichita, KS, manages the residence and owns and operates nearly

50 other Legend and Windsor residences in six states. Acclaim, at 12525 N. Pennsylvania Ave., is one of ten Legend residences in Oklahoma.

"Acclaim' better captures the feeling of vibrant Independent Living that Legend is known for," said Paul Hansen, Legend's Vice President of Marketing, explaining the name change. "The focus at Acclaim is

Legend's trademark independent lifestyle with emphasis on social interaction, wellness, and providing a stress-free, carefree life to allow more time to explore new interests, enjoy family, and live a vibrant life

Oklahoma's seniors are looking

for." As with other Legend Independent Living residences, Acclaim is a pets-welcome residence featuring beautiful amenities and services for a total neighborhood experience, including chef-prepared meals, freedom from home maintenance, and weekly housekeeping. Residents enjoy on-site common areas and lounges, lush landscaping in courtyards and gardens, game rooms, a beauty salon, and a library.

"Acclaim is near restaurants, shopping, and other attractions important to an active lifestyle," said Hansen. "Residents 'acclaim' the Legend concept of fun, friends, and life at its fullest. The new name is the natural fit."

Legend Senior Living® is a privately held senior housing and services company based in Wichita, Kansas, and owns and operates nearly 50 independent living, assisted living, memory care, and personal care



Lionwood Independent Living is now Acclaim Independent Living as part of Legend Senior Living.

residences in Florida, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. Legend has been certified as a Great Place to Work® for the fifth time

and recognized as one of Fortune Magazine's Top 25 Senior Living companies in the country and is a Top 50 senior living provider.

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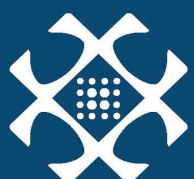
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