



'A gift from God'

Hospice Nurse Grateful to Help

Gabrilia Nunez, RN, Russell Murray Hospice, continues to learn about nursing with a compassionate, empathetic mission of care.

Story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Being a hospice nurse is a human connection for Gabrielia Nunez, RN. She has thrived in her nursing career, now in its fourth year at Russell Murray Hospice. Her loyalty there has been long-lasting since she received her associate degree in nursing at Redlands Community

College in El Reno.

But there is always something more to learn about helping humanity, she said. After taking one class at a time for three years, Nunez expects to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in December from Southwestern

Oklahoma State University.

"I've learned a lot about leadership. I think working on those assignments help me to be a better critical thinker," said Nunez, a case manager at Russell Murray Hospice's new

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office, located on NW 13th Street in midtown Oklahoma City.

Her motivation to become a nurse happened 10 years ago. She was close to her brother, who passed away after his vehicle was involved in a collision. She is grateful for the compassionate care her brother and loved ones received from the attentive nursing staff at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

"It made me be certain this is what I wanted to do. I want to help people," Nunez said. "The nurses were very informative and just very helpful."

The patients and families she met as a hospice nurse makes her content to stay in hospice, she said. Many of her supervisors have been with Russell Murray for several years, she said.

"They're just so knowledgeable and kind," she explained. As far as the nurse aides go, they're the eyes and ears of the nursing staff, a fundamental part of what we do. I hope they know how important they are to me — to all of us. I couldn't do it without them."

Nunez said her career is more

than a job. It's an honor connecting and sharing a bond with patients during fragile moments of their lives.

Nunez has often been at the bedside when patients make their transition. She said those moments are indescribable.

"I wish I had words to explain how special this is to me," she continued.

She accepts them with unconditional love. She explains she the staff will be there to help them stay comfortable

"I try to make it a point to just stop and hold their hand. I try to tell them, 'I'm sorry you're going through this.' I think that makes a difference sometimes," Nunez said.

Families ask about the changes they see in their loved ones. Days of declining health become evident. Hospice patients become more unresponsive. They sleep a lot more.

"Usually, most of them have one day where they're up and awake and alert," she said.

Family members will sometimes remark that their loved one had a good day. After a few days of being unresponsive, it's not unusual for a patient to have a sudden burst of energy.

"I think it's a gift from God," she said.

Quite often, a dying man or woman will begin speaking to family members who have passed on.

"A lot of times they will look up and they will grasp with their hand," Nunez said.

She's received a lot of gratitude from family members for making the dying process easier. Nunez received a letter from a patient's daughter.

"She said, 'I walked in the room and felt calm and peace.'"

Nunez said her strength comes from life experiences. She lost her brother and her grandmother perished after a battle with COVID during the height of the pandemic.

"My mom was really, really sick with COVID the year before last," Nunez added. "She was intubated for a month and a half at INTEGRIS Canadian Valley in Yukon. My mom was in the hospital for four months. She almost died."

Nunez said it was difficult when her family depended on her to ask questions, knowing she is a nurse.

"It wasn't the answers they

were wanting," Nunez said.

Today, her mother is well and back to normal.

"She had some great nurses," Nunez said.

Hospice is not about waiting for death. It's about creating memories, she said.

"It has taught me how fragile life is. Life is moments and it helps me to live my life to the fullest," she said. "My life experiences have taught me to be empathetic and just really to put myself in their shoes."

She values patients as if they are her grandmother, mother, father or her husband.

Nunez and her husband can often be found on road trips or spending time with their dogs.

She also plays Mexican Bingo with her parents and loves her mom's Mexican cooking.

For more information about Russell Murray Hospice, visit:

<https://rmhospice.org/>



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next hiring event at Samis Family Education Center.**

CAREERS IN NURSING:

PATIENCE AND KINDNESS - CARING HEART WORKS WONDERS FOR LPN

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Madison Jones was diagnosed with a congenital blood disorder as a 7-year-old.

"All the way to 17, I was very sick," said Jones, an LPN serving as a charge nurse at The Timbers Skilled Nursing and Therapy, located in Edmond. "I was in and out of the hospital, always around nurses, surgeons, doctors. I had nurses and still remember their names and the things they did for me. And I always said I want to leave that lasting impression with someone else. I want to take care of someone the way they took care of me."

Jones had worked in a daycare during high school, went to CNA school as an 18-year-old and fell in love with it. Her experience of being a CNA gave her an upper hand when becoming a nurse. She became more open minded in understanding the "nitty-gritty" side of nursing.

She is living her dream now after graduating from nursing school at Central Oklahoma College in May. The 12-month program was a good experience for her that exposed her

to different types of nursing during her clinicals, she said.

Her orientation at The Timbers was expedient, well organized, and efficient, Jones said. Everyone was super friendly to her when she was greeted by staff. She had an overwhelming feeling that she was part of a family and wanted to be part of that.

That feeling of acceptance translated well into her love of making the residents and patients in skilled nursing and nursing home feel welcomed. Jones said she especially enjoys listening to the many stories told to her by them.

"I love having that personable experience with them and just really being able to say, 'Hi, how are you?'"

Jones enjoys coming to work where people love her for taking care of them, she said. She loves them for who they are, as well as telling her about themselves. Patience and kindness go a long way, she said.

"You need to be able to love

people of all different backgrounds, shapes, sizes and colors," Jones explained. "Just having patience and kindness for people will really take you far, not only professionally but also in life," Jones said.

The relationships she builds with residents and the nursing staff is something she will take with her and hold onto forever, she continued. Jones said she is grateful for the regular life lessons that she has learned from the director of nurses. She admires the compassion she sees in her fellow nurses. Jones said she has seen the nursing staff, social services, and dietary department go out of their way to ensure residents have what they need.

"They all care so much about our residents, and it really shows," she said.

She wants to continue to grow as a nurse. Jones is going back to school to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She is working toward a business degree first while she gains bedside experience as an LPN. She has enrolled

at Oklahoma Southwestern State University. Ultimately, she aspires to become a nurse practitioner.

"I want to open my own practice just being patient and kind and taking my skills and just going with them," she said. "As a nurse practitioner I want to make people feel good about themselves, but also leave a good impression with them."

Today, she sets newly admitted residents and admissions at ease by being prepared. New residents may be under stress when leaving their homes and Jones wants to spend time with them.

"I want to ask them their name, their background and how they feel," she said.

She will also tell them about herself. She recognizes it is normal for people to be fearful in a new environment. She continues explaining to new residents the next step of the process so there will not be any surprises.

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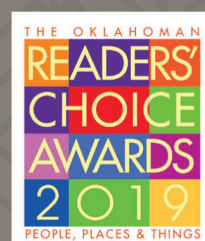


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Madison Jones wants to take care of patients in the loving manner she was cared for as a child when sick with a congenital blood disorder.

JONES

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“Just remaining calm with them and being personable with them — that really brings people at ease,” she said. “If they come with their own personal things like pictures or phone, anything like that, I always make sure that it is in front of them, and that they have those comfort items with them.”

She has a well-rounded life and loves playing with her dogs during her leisure time. She also likes to return to see her family in Kansas

to hang out with her two nieces and two nephews.

“I like to go on walks. I will go to Lake Hefner and walk there.”

She also likes to bake cookies, cupcakes, and cakes when she has extra time at home. Small things like reading books bring her joy.

“I put my personal touch to it,” she said.

Jones also loves bringing her goodies to share with The Timbers staff.

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2023 ONA ANNUAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

The Oklahoma Nurses Association will be hosting the 2023 annual convention in Oklahoma City September 27th through the 28th.

The goal of the convention is to focus on supporting nurses and building supportive structures for nurses' new normal as the work environment evolves and highlight the difference nurses make every day in the life of patients.

This year, the convention will take place at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expy in Oklahoma City. Register for the convention here: <https://www.oklahomanurses.org/event-5288406>



Ranger Pride

Northwestern grows healers

Leslie Collins, DNP, MS, RN still remembers the conversation with her Northwestern Oklahoma State University mentor.

"They said you educate every day and I think you could make a difference in students' lives," Collins recalls.

From there, she took a job in her alma mater's nursing program skills lab. Thirteen years later, she's chair of Northwestern Oklahoma State's Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing.

And she couldn't be more proud of the impact her faculty has on students.

"I love it because of our ability to make a difference, to be one-on-one with the student and really help them," Collins said. "I stay here because of the faculty and our administration. Our administration's support is like no other."

"It was a starting point for me and I love being that starting point for students."

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is a public regional university that has received national acclaim for its combination of

a high quality academic program and affordability. While Northwestern primarily serves the vast geographical area of northwest Oklahoma and the Panhandle, its students come from more than 40 states and 20 countries.

Northwestern offers a bachelor's of science in nursing, an **online RN-to-BSN program**, as well as a hybrid BSN-to-DNP program.

Collins matriculated from Northwestern not only debt-free but with a solid nursing foundation forged by instructors who poured into her.

"I think it makes all the difference in the world, specifically when it comes to nursing," Collins said of the personalized instruction she received. "It's something we do at Northwestern across our degrees and programs and it makes a difference in the student. It makes them know they are more than a number. It's about their education and what they need."

"We find more and more students need to know the way they learn so they can continue to be lifelong learners, far past their graduation. That's so important for nursing and we can work with them one on one to help them be more successful. Caring

is a component that is threaded throughout our program, we feel it is important for students to be caring in nature and to learn resiliency in this process. We hope this, and have seen in the past, will translate into what type of nurse they become."

Collins said many Northwestern students go on to practice in rural settings, but others go on to larger facilities.

There's a common thread in the employer feedback Collins receives.

"They speak on how well-prepared our graduates are," Collins said. "Also, they speak about how professional they are, how caring they are and how they work well with the teams. Not only are they a good nurse, prepared and ready for patient care but they're also good team members and ready to make a difference in the nursing world."

Collins said the university is looking at expanding its offering to help meet existing needs throughout

healthcare, in whatever setting that may be.

"I feel like we do a really good job of ensuring students put patients and their families first and we also include how to have self care as a nurse and how important that is," Collins said. "For so long, it's been all about the patient and the client and it should continue to be, but we also have to remember we have to care for ourselves as well."

For more information about Northwestern Oklahoma State University, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing>





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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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ANA Applauds Biden-Harris Administration \$100 Million Investment to Grow the Nursing Workforce

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has announced plans to award more than \$100 million to train more nurses and grow the nursing workforce. The American Nurses Association (ANA) applauds and commends President Biden, Vice President Harris and HRSA for making this intentional investment into the profession that Americans trust the most.

“ANA stands ready to partner and collaborate around the key priorities and focus of the award efforts. It’s especially great to see that this action will deploy necessary training and support to advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs),” said ANA President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. “There isn’t a price tag that you can put on the clinical expertise, sincere humanity and vast value that nurses bring to the health and education of

their patients and our communities. We are pleased with this action, but we will remain firm in urging Congress to address chronic systemic challenges that nurses are facing every day. Workplace violence, burnout, low wages, and the national nurse staffing crisis still demand immediate solutions.”

ANA still presses Congress to stand firm in supporting the Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act (H.R. 2713/S. 2418), which will remove administrative, practice and other barriers currently faced by APRNs and their patients. Nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists are improving access to care for individuals living in underserved communities who are often faced with a shortage of skilled and prepared providers. The ICAN Act will allow millions more people to receive high-quality health care.

ANA has convened with leaders at

the White House to discuss pressing nursing issues and to advocate for the nursing profession. Most recently on April 25, ANA representatives met with the administration ahead of the deadline for the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency to advocate for improved access to health care resources and ongoing support for nurses.

Nurses, leaders and all patients can join ANA’s advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation’s more than 5 million registered. To learn more and stay up to date on ANA’s legislative priorities, visit www.rnaction.org.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation’s more than 5 million registered nurses. ANA advances the profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that



ANA President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN.

affect nurses and the public. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all. For more information, visit <https://www.nursingworld.org/>

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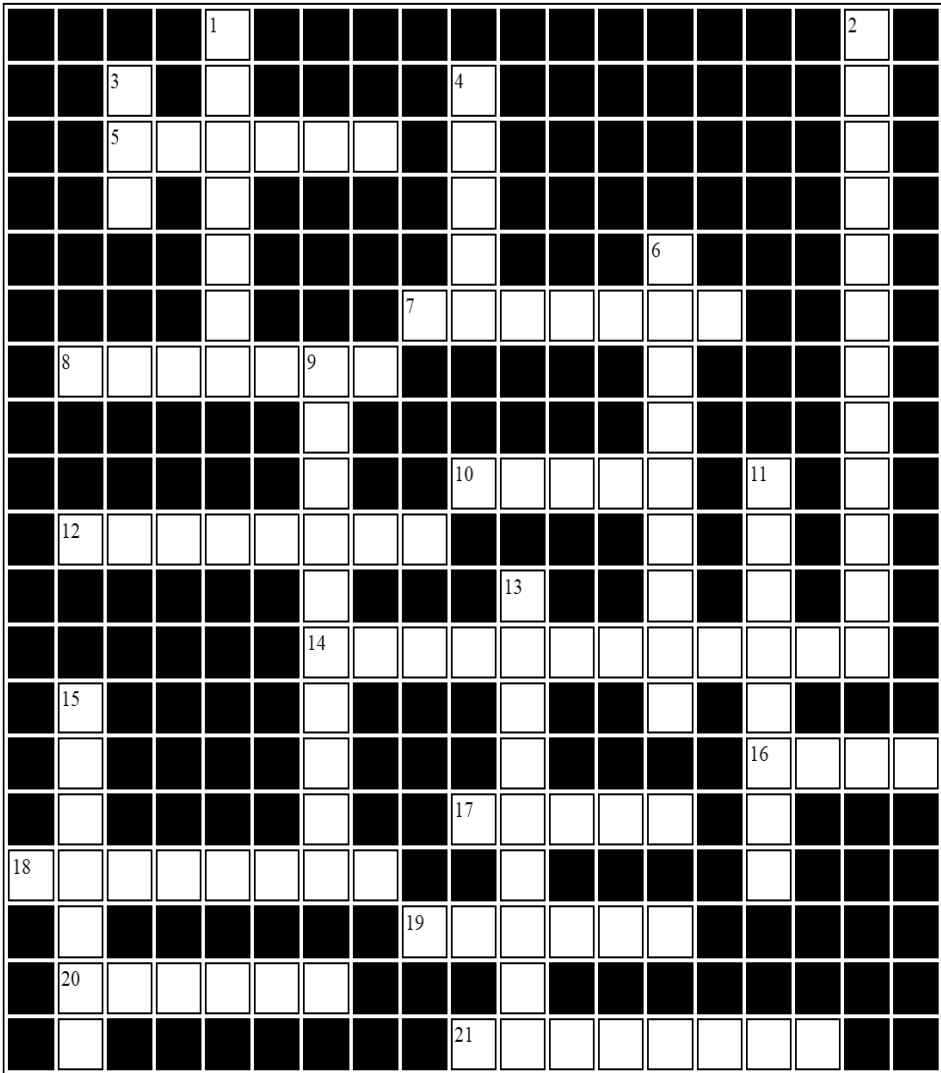
Across

- 5. antianemic roll the vial
- 7. tx HTN, change position slowly
- 8. metabolic alkalosis, s/e blood in urine and increase in uric acid
- 10. reduce edema, loop diuretic
- 12. OTC anti diarrheal can cause constipation
- 14. tx head/lung tumors use contact precautions, antibetobolic
- 16. lower phosphorus levels, GI upset, hyperkalemia
- 17. reduce fluid overload, s/e hypokalemia
- 18. resp. depression, narcotic, urine retention
- 19. tx nausea, may develop a tolerance, antianxiety
- 20. use with corticosteroids, avoid OTC medications, immunosuppresant
- 21. tx bone marrow depression, cause anemia and decrease WBC count

Down

- 1. chew well, no water, hypercalcemia
- 2. risk for infection, do not give with grapefruit
- 3. man boobs
- 4. pain at injection site
- 6. stops estrogen/progestrogen, can cause facial hair, hypercalcemia
- 9. tx solid yumors, toxic to kidneys, antibiotic
- 11. swollen gums and gingival hyperplasia
- 13. give with full glass of H2O, s/e muscle spasms, blurry vision
- 15. antidiarreal, dry mouth NO GLAUCOMA

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12



TU Celebrating Oklahoma's First Class of Nurse Anesthetists

The University of Tulsa's Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences honored Oklahoma's first graduating class of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) with a celebration ceremony Saturday, Aug. 5. TU's three-year nurse anesthetist program began in 2020 in response to the critical need for trained professionals locally and regionally.

Fourteen doctoral candidates are moving from TU's School of Nursing classrooms to hospitals, surgical centers, clinics and doctor's offices to fill jobs that are in high demand. More than 150 well-qualified nurses from California to Kentucky have applied for the CRNA program that can only accept 20 new students each year.

"As anesthesia providers, they will play a crucial role in advancing health care and ensuring the well-being of our families, friends and neighbors. This esteemed program not only produces highly skilled nurse anesthetists but also contributes significantly to the health care profession, the local economy, and the overall quality of life in our community," said Ron Walker, interim dean of Oxley College.

All 14 graduates were offered multiple career opportunities, and the majority have accepted jobs in Oklahoma.

Brittany Minor, a U.S. Navy reservist, moved to Tulsa from Dallas to attend TU. She worked in a hospital emergency room and then intensive care unit before applying for the CRNA program. She is now going to work with Hillcrest Healthcare System.

"It's been very exciting, challenging. I'm in awe of how the program has grown," Minor said. "The faculty have been very flexible. I had a baby during the program, and they were very accommodating, very flexible, very understanding in whatever situation."

Minor, who was on active duty in the Navy for several years, was able to use her veterans' benefits to fund her education. In addition to working with faculty and administrators, she received support from TU's McKee Veterans Success Center.

Cameroon native Lucien Ngochi arrived at TU from Houston. He became interested in advancing from a registered nurse to CRNA after his wife underwent an epidural during childbirth. Ngochi said he and his family have decided to stay in Tulsa where he wants to create the best experience possible for his patients during medical procedures.

Ngochi also said the nursing



CRNA-First-Class-Nurse-Anesthetists-2023.

profession is an excellent career for men, despite the somewhat small number of male nurses. "I enjoy being a nurse. Your coworkers want you to succeed. They support you. They encourage you. So, you always want to be the best. And seeing all the male nurses in the TU program even makes it better because I feel like there's a place in nursing for men," he said. "I will never change my career path. I will always be a nurse, and I will encourage other men to join."

TU values diversity and inclusion throughout its academics and strives to reflect the greater Tulsa community.

"It's nice seeing people of color, people of different religions. With different people coming together with different beliefs to study, you learn different cultures," said Beatrice Olorunnaiye, who received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from TU in 2013 before returning in 2020 to earn her CRNA. Olorunnaiye has accepted a job with Bailey Medical Center in Owasso and just wrapped up her clinical rotation in Claremore. She is eager to work with patients in rural areas who might not otherwise have access to procedures that require anesthesia.

"Anesthesia itself is an area where health care facilities need people. They need people everywhere. We have very few CRNAs around the country," she said. "TU has really helped with the first program in all of Oklahoma. They give us access to different hospitals,



CRNA graduate Beatrice Olorunnaiye and Andy Tracy, program director.

so they know that there are new anesthesia providers coming into the job market."

As of 2019, CRNAs were the sole anesthesia providers in 26 Oklahoma counties, with 32 counties having no anesthesia providers. During the past three years, rigorous didactic courses and simulation experiences prepared each graduate to complete over 2,400 hours of advanced practice clinical time and an average of 950 cases.

"I really want to be back at TU -

possibly come back and be part of the faculty. That's my dream," Olorunnaiye said. "I like to teach. I like to talk to people. I like people learning from me, and I also like to learn from them. So, that's my goal. And I just hope the program keeps growing."

To learn more about all of the doctor of nurse practitioner programs available through TU's Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences, [CLICK HERE:](#)

OMRF hosts record intern class for summer of research

Working alongside some of the top minds in science, a record group of 26 students recently completed summer internships at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

Sixteen students comprised OMRF's 67th class of Fleming Scholars, while six others formed the third class of the OMRF-Langston University Biomedical Research Scholars Program. Additionally, four U.S. military academy students made up the 14th class of the John H. Saxon Service Academy Summer Research Program.

Since 1956, the Fleming program has given Oklahoma high school and college students hands-on biomedical research experience. It is named for Sir Alexander Fleming, the British scientist who discovered penicillin and in 1949 came to Oklahoma

City to dedicate OMRF's first building. Alumni of the Fleming program include OMRF Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Judith James, M.D., Ph.D., and Distinguished Career Scientist Rod McEver, M.D.

Fleming Scholar Austin Lopez of Tulsa, a biochemistry major at Oklahoma Baptist University, called her summer in the lab of physician-scientist Matlock Jeffries, M.D., "enriching." Lopez worked on a study aimed at finding new treatments for osteoarthritis. She plans to become a physician-scientist.

"My experience confirmed my love for medicine," said Lopez, who will return to OMRF this fall to work in the Jeffries lab. "It's really motivating to get hands-on experience in the scientific research community and be a part of real-life developments in medicine."



Amia Quinn was among six Langston University students who interned this summer at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

The Langston Scholars program aims to diversify biomedical research in Oklahoma. Launched in 2021, it is a partnership between OMRF and Langston University, Oklahoma's only historically Black college or university.

"My impression of scientists is that they are very patient. You often run into problems and have to repeat projects several times," said Langston Scholar

Amia Quinn. Quinn spent her second summer in the lab of OMRF scientist Bob Axtell, Ph.D., who studies multiple sclerosis.

"These students represent some of the best young minds from the state," said OMRF President Andrew Weyrich, Ph.D. "Our hope is that their OMRF experience inspires them to remain in Oklahoma and become difference-makers in biomedical research."

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OBU's nursing graduates consistently exceed national and Oklahoma average pass rates on certification tests

The average first-time pass rates on the national nursing certification test, the NCLEX-RN, for nursing graduates from the OBU School of Nursing consistently exceeds 90% as compared to the national rate of 79.91% and the Oklahoma rate of 78.67% in 2022. The OBU nursing graduates' five-year average is 91.51% and is 92.11% for 2022. The NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses) is required for nursing graduates to successfully pass to be licensed as a Registered Nurse in the United States.

This is just one example of the quality of nursing graduates OBU consistently sends into the healthcare industry.

Even more important are the graduates who breathe life into those numbers. OBU Nursing alumna Abbie Richardson is a tremendous example.

After graduating from OBU in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Richardson was thrust into the global pandemic.

"I started as a brand-new nurse during COVID, and it was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life," Richardson said. "People were so sick,

and I was devastated by loss every day. I thought back to simulation so often during that time because the patients in the simulation lab prepared me to take care of my real patients that desperately needed safe nursing care."

She was a student, she was a nurse, and now she is back on Bison Hill training tomorrow's nurses as an Instructor of Nursing and the Director of Nursing Simulation.

“Without the foundation that our faculty and simulation program gave me, I don’t think I could have fought through the Pandemic alongside my fellow nurses,” Richardson said. “That is why I returned as the simulation director at OBU.”

Home to this pace-setting program is the Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall, a 31,600-square-foot nursing education facility.

Dr. Stephanie Parker, chair of the OBU School of Nursing, said, "We continue to educate future nurses to meet increasing healthcare needs in our communities and commit to equipping as many nursing students as possible. Our School of Nursing, with 71 years of history, does this



with a cutting-edge program and state of the art simulation facility.” Stavros Hall offers a great environment where students interact with dedicated nursing faculty who integrate interactive simulation technology along with their clinical rotations to provide increased opportunities for learning.

In terms of cutting-edge training, OBU's simulation suite alone, has six functioning hospital rooms. The program's three standardized adult mannequins, birthing mother, and pediatric mannequins are the top-tier of high-fidelity simulators. They simulate the responses of a real patient, capable of breathing, talking, bleeding and reacting to medications. These display vital signs such as blood pressure, pulse,

and respiration, preparing students for a full range of healthcare situations they will encounter as nurses. These mannequins are limitless in the disease processes they can portray, meaning faculty can place students in almost any nursing situation and expose them to more complex patient scenarios.

The OBU simulation lab is meant to function like a hospital, according to Richardson.

"This is where we, as faculty, see the lightbulbs go off and we get to watch them turn into compassionate, safe and caring nurses. I owe so much to our simulation program, and I am thrilled to have a front row seat to the student transformations that take place in our program, Richardson said."



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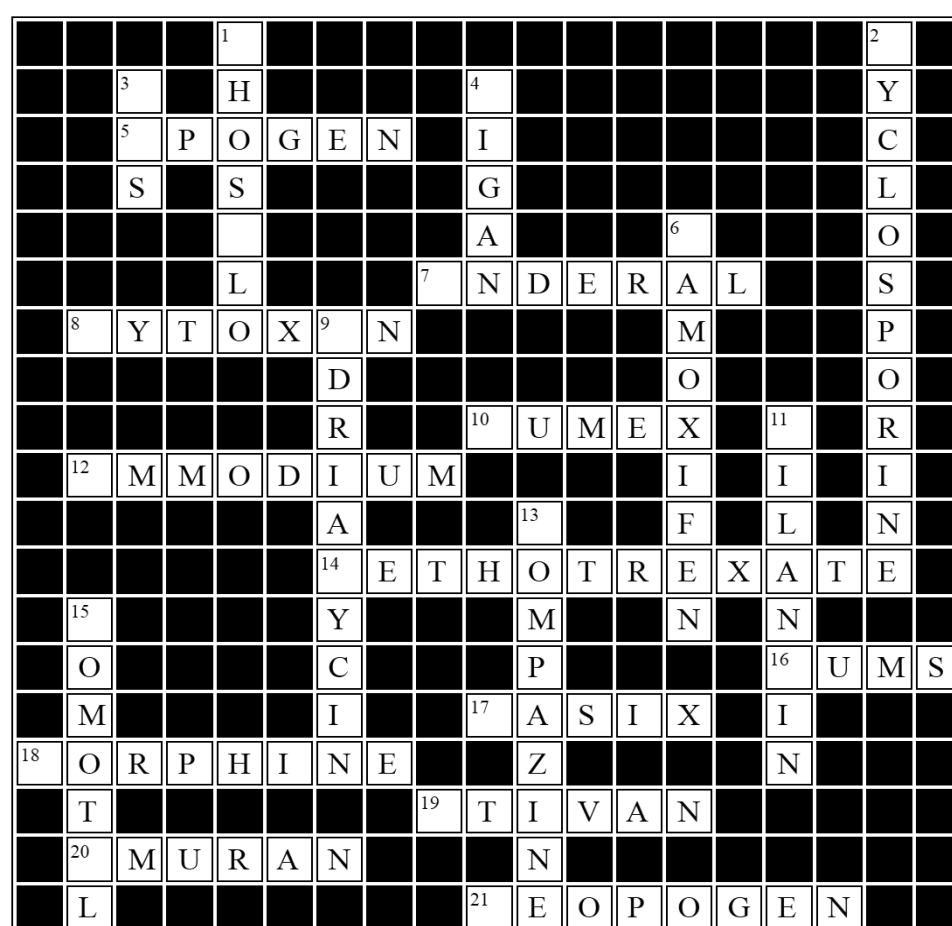
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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITORS, PHOTO BOOTH & FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
DOOR PRIZES	Session 1: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Session 2: 1 - 3:30 p.m. Session 3: 3:30 - 6 p.m.
OUT & ABOUT: SPACE WALK	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
SENIORS IN MOTION VIDEO VOTING	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
OKIE STOMPERS	10:05 a.m. & 11 a.m.
BLACK HOLE TOSS	10:35 a.m.
THE MILKY WAY - EXPANSIVE UNIVERSE OR DELICIOUS CANDY	11:30 a.m.
YMCA COMMUNITY TEAM	12 p.m.
LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK COUPLES CHALLENGE	12:50 p.m.
OUT OF THIS WORLD KARAOKE CONTEST	1:20 p.m.
IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE	2:20 p.m.
THE BIG BANG GAME SHOW	3:05 p.m.
SAVE THE FROZEN PLANET	4:30 p.m.
JIM GARLING	5 p.m.
OKLAHOMA CITY SWING DANCE CLUB	5:20 p.m.
ALIEN INVASION	5:55 p.m.
VOCAL SOUNDS OF OKLAHOMA	6:10 p.m.
ELVIS VISITS THE SPACE STATION	6:30 p.m.
SHAWN KLUSH - TRIBUTE TO ELVIS	7:30 p.m.
Chickasaw Country Entertainment Stage	

For more detailed information visit the Senior Day
page on the Oklahoma State Fair website.

INTEGRIS Health Celebrates 1000 Lives Touched by ECMO

INTEGRIS Health, who has the largest comprehensive mobile ECMO program in the state, recently hit a milestone when caregivers placed their 1000th patient on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy.

"Today we are celebrating a momentous occasion, the achievement of 1000 ECMO patients. Each case represents more than just a number, it represents a profound impact on the lives of each patient and their families," says Aly El Banayosy, M.D., the Section Chief of Acute Mechanical Circulatory Support and Specialty Critical Care at the Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute at INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center. "Our success has been made possible not only by our dedicated staff, but also by our collaborative partner

hospitals throughout the region. The journey to 1000 cases has shown us what we can achieve through teamwork, innovation and a shared vision."

El Banayosy continues, "But we know that our journey does not end here. There are still countless challenges to be overcome and countless lives to be touched."

ECMO is a lifesaving therapy that provides support to patients whose heart and/or lungs are so severely diseased or damaged that they can no longer serve their function. It is often considered as a "last hope" for patients in critical condition.

We would like to introduce you to three such patients who claim without ECMO - they would not be alive today.

Lloyd Vines is a 33-year-old

man who experienced complications following surgery at another hospital; including sepsis, respiratory failure and cardiogenic shock. Our mobile ECMO team placed him on ECMO at the other facility and transported him to INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center. He would remain on the device for 35 days! "It saved my life," Vines exclaims. "I am not in the INTEGRIS Health network insurance wise, so the fact that they literally came in and rescued me is amazing!"



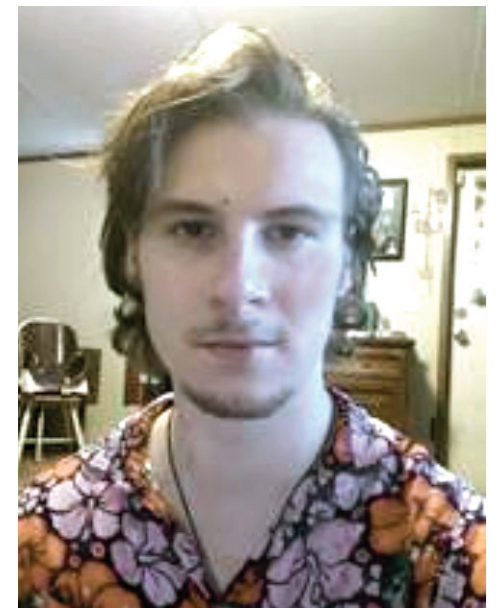
Lloyd Vines



Ashelynnne Lawson

Ashelynnne Lawson was 24 years old when her baby was born prematurely at just 23 weeks gestation. Lawson was 10 days postpartum when she was admitted to another hospital with pulmonary

edema, which is an abnormal buildup of fluid in the lungs. Her condition rapidly deteriorated and she suffered two cardiac arrests. Our mobile ECMO team traveled to that facility and transferred her to INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center where she would remain on ECMO for a total of 14 days, before finally getting to go home and reuniting with her newborn baby girl and her son. "When you're young you think you're invincible, but I literally died twice and if it weren't for ECMO - I wouldn't be able to watch my babies grow up."



Henry Ratliff

Henry Ratliff is a 23-year-old husband and father of two young boys who was living with chronic heart failure, when he began experiencing chest pain and possible sepsis. While being transferred to INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center via ambulance, Ratliff went into cardiac arrest several times. The INTEGRIS Health ECMO team met him on arrival at the emergency room and placed him immediately on ECMO. He would remain on the therapy for 10 long days. During his intense fight for survival, both of his legs had to be amputated. Still, Ratliff is thankful to be alive and back with his wife and kids. "Not many people get as many second, third, fourth and fifth chances like I did," explains Ratliff. "I definitely have a new lease on life!"

These are just three examples of the now 1000 lives touched by the INTEGRIS Health ECMO team since the program was created in 2014.

For more information about INTEGRIS Health visit, <https://integrisok.com/>

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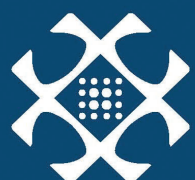
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