

T H E E X A M I N E R

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In This Issue

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Happy Nurses Month: Heroes Edition of *The Examiner* to Honor and Thank Our Nurses



Board Members

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Ann Carruth, DNS, RN, Member

Kenneth E. Alexander, MS, RRT, Member



The Mission of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are competent and safe.

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



On a recent call with LSBN Board President, Tim Cotita, he broached an idea that he had, which would marry the amazing good feelings that were being generated about nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic and the World Health Organization's (WHO) designation of 2020 as the *Year of the Nurse and Midwife*. President Cotita's idea was for LSBN to sponsor

a special Heroes Edition of *The Examiner* that would focus on individual stories about everyday nurse heroes and their work during this health crisis and we would publish it in May during our celebration of National Nurses Month in the United States. Board Members thought it was a great idea and so this edition will feature stories and shout outs recognizing the nurses in our state for their selfless and courageous care of the more than 30,000 Louisianans who have tested positive for COVID-19.

My story is going to focus on the current nine members of the Board and the amazing work they have done to support RNs and APRNs during this crisis. Nurses and the public often think of LSBN only in terms of its work in licensing and discipline of nurses, but regulatory agencies collaborate with many organizations to advance professional practice, write public health policy and engage in rulemaking that supports nurses engaged in all areas of nursing practice and education.

President Tim Cotita is a medical ethicist representing the northern part of the state. He is our touchstone and counselor for making important regulatory decisions guided by ethical considerations of what is right and wrong, demonstrating integrity and honesty and acting with respect and dignity in our care for patients, clients and students. Tim brings quiet leadership to our deliberations and has been a deliberative leader as LSBN worked on numerous emergency actions during the crisis.

Dr. Laura Bonanno is currently Vice President of LSBN and the Director of the Nurse Anesthesia program at LSU Health Science Center New Orleans. She also serves as President of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and is recognized as a national leader on quality and accountability for nurse anesthesia programs. She provided great leadership as LSBN passed emergency rules for relaxation of APRN/MD collaborative practice agreements, permitted RNs to administer and manage anesthetics for critically-ill patients under the order and direction of a licensed prescriber, and assisted with crafting the language in Governor Edwards' Executive Proclamation 38 JBE 2020, section

2C suspending the need for CRNAs to prescribe under supervision and direction of a physician/dentist and allowing them to provide ancillary care services within their scope of practice, education, knowledge, skills and ability.

Dr. Tavell Kindall is the 3rd member of LSBN's Executive Committee as Alternate Officer. He is a certified FNP and provides primary and specialty care to adolescents and adults living with HIV. He has developed an active telehealth practice to continue to serve his patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, he was recently appointed by Governor Edwards to the Nursing Subcommittee of the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force to investigate health disparities that challenge minorities and vulnerable populations in Louisiana, not only during the pandemic, but to improve health outcomes and equity in Louisiana for generations to come.



Tim Cotita



Laura Bonanno



Tavell Kindall

The nursing educators on our board include Dr. Jennifer Manning, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at LSU Health Science Center New Orleans, Dr. Ann Carruth, Dean of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Southeastern Louisiana University, and Dr. Jennifer Couvillon, President of Chamberlain University New Orleans. Dr. Jennifer M. Manning is a Certified Nurse Educator and a Board-Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is actively involved in the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, the Epsilon Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International and the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education, where she serves as a Board member. Dr. Ann Carruth currently serves as vice-chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the North Oaks Health System. As the only nurse on the Board, she serves on the Quality Council to address performance improvement and emphasis on quality and patient safety. She is a member of the Advisory Council for the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). During her tenure as a nurse educator, she has been the recipient of numerous research and programmatic grant awards, totaling more than \$2 million, funded by HRSA, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation, Louisiana Board of Regents, USDA Delta and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Dr. Jennifer S. Couvillon has more than 25 years of





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experience in the clinical nursing and education realms. Prior to joining Chamberlain, Dr. Couvillon served as assistant vice president of system nursing professional development at Ochsner Health System and was an assistant professor of clinical nursing at Louisiana State University School of Nursing. She is a critical care nurse and started her career in the cardiac intensive care unit at Georgetown University Hospital.

These nurse educators have provided essential leadership and expertise in assisting LSBN to pass emergency rules to extend the temporary permits granted to new graduate nurses who have been unable to take the NCLEX-RN examination due to the closure of Pearson-Vue testing sites in the state. Additionally, they assisted LSBN staff to identify ways in which senior nursing students could meet their remaining clinical practice hours in order to graduate early and they were invaluable in crafting the language for the emergency rule for the pre-graduation RN applicant disaster permit that allowed nursing students currently enrolled in their last semester of a nursing education program to obtain a disaster permit to practice as a pre-RN applicant under the direction and supervision of a RN.



Jennifer Manning



Ann Carruth



Jennifer Couvillon

Our nursing service administrator positions are held by Tracey Moffatt, System Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President for Quality at Ochsner Health System (OHS) and Jamie Wiggins, Senior vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Children’s Hospital in New Orleans. Tracey Moffatt, MHA, RN, provides guidance to nursing leaders across the OHS system to advance quality, nursing professional practice, safety and initiatives to make care affordable. OHS is southeast Louisiana’s largest non-profit, academic, multispecialty healthcare delivery system, which owns, manages or is affiliated with 25 hospitals and more than 50 health centers. She was the driving force behind alerting LSBN to the need for all hospital units to be declared as critical in order that all RNs/APRNs could provide moderate clinical laboratory point of care testing. Additionally, she was instrumental in communicating the statutory authority for RNs to administer and manage anesthetics to intubated patients in critical care settings, which is essential in caring for COVID-19 patients. Mr. Wiggins, MS, RN, is responsible for nursing, case management, social services, patient experience and is the Children’s Hospital human resources executive. In addition, Mr. Wiggins has an adjunct faculty position at LSU Health Sciences Center School of Nursing where he is a candidate for the Doctor of Nursing Science degree. Mr. Wiggins

has spent his entire professional career in pediatric, neonatal and critical care transport settings. Although COVID-19 has mostly spared the pediatric population, Jamie worked with the entire LCMC senior leadership team to establish COVID-19 policy for all the LCMC sites including Touro Infirmary, University Medical Center, New Orleans East Hospital, West Jefferson Medical Center and Urgent Care Centers in Lakeview, Gretna and Covington. He was one of the first to bring to my attention, the need for RNs to be able to manage COVID-19 ventilator patients who were being managed with Ketamine, an anesthetic agent. LSBN was able to manage this challenge through a reminder to all RNs that Nurse Practice Act, RS37:935 authorizes RNs to administer and manage anesthetics to intubated patients when the order is received from an authorized prescriber and in accordance with LSBN rules. Both he and Tracey were instrumental in LSBN’s emergency action to allow nurses enrolled in our Recovering Nurse Program to attend AA and NA meetings online and to delay payment of fines and fees during the health crisis.



Tracey Moffatt



Jamie Wiggins

The final member of our Board, who represents the consumers of Louisiana, is Ken Alexander, MS, RRT. Ken is vice president of member services and quality improvement for the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA), and has responsibility for the quality, emergency preparedness, and education departments, along with member relations, healthcare policy, legislative and regulatory related responsibilities. His quality work includes overseeing the Hospital Innovation Improvement Network project, with 109 participating hospitals, and part of his emergency preparedness responsibilities include serving with state and federal leadership during declared disaster events. In addition to his contributions to all the LSBN emergency orders during COVID-19, Ken has been on every conference call I have had with the Louisiana Department of Health and the Governor’s Office to design the emergency response of all the hospitals in the state. Interestingly, in addition to the breadth and depth of his leadership experience, he brought his clinical expertise as a former respiratory therapist to the consideration of all actions taken to respond to this deadly respiratory illness.



Ken Alexander





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In my six+ years as the Chief Executive of LSBN, I have had the fortune to work with Board members who singularly and collectively bring their brilliance, their leadership skills and their passion to directing licensure, education, practice and regulation activities. We have had several disasters during my tenure, but nothing that comes close to the COVID-19 emergency. I'm not sure I'll see another challenge like this in my lifetime. The nurses in Louisiana should be thankful and proud that this group of Board leaders was in place during this time. They have brought serious and steady leadership in directing all the activities we have been involved in over the last two months and I pray for their continued health and safety as they continue to direct the activities, not only of LSBN, but of their collective organizations. I have never been prouder to be a nurse and I am eternally grateful to these nine leaders for their vision and support.

In Recognition & Honor of Louisiana Nurses,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen C. Lyon".

Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA_{BC}
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Happy Nurses Month from the Board Members

In January this year, the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) proposed that 2020 be designated as the **Year of the Nurse and Midwife** because of all that nurses do to contribute to the promotion and provision of world-wide healthcare. 2020 is also the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.

While this year *is* a celebration of nurses and the nursing profession, it doesn't quite feel like a celebration. Healthcare systems worldwide have been challenged to meet the needs of those with the Covid-19 virus. Our colleagues have faced overwhelming numbers of critically ill patients. They often work extensive hours with limited resources at significant risk to their own health or that of their family. We have lost some of our own to this disease.

There has been a great outpouring of recognition and appreciation from the public for what we do. While I too am proud of our profession at this time, responding to the needs of the sick even at great personal risk is what we have always done. Whether caring for those with infectious diseases, or being a compassionate presence to someone dying alone, nurses are there, with professionalism and caring.

For the past 40 years I have been honored to be a member of this great profession. It has been quite a few years since I have personally cared for critically ill patients working in the intensive care unit and I often miss those days. Intensive care nursing was difficult yet rewarding. We experience the challenge of watching for subtle changes in a patient's condition for better or worse. We celebrate a patient's hard-fought recovery or mourn an untimely loss.

I have been working from home the past few weeks and I know that while I may be safe, my friends and colleagues are at the bedside caring for those who need them. I wonder, will it be me, or one of my loved ones? While none of us can predict who will become infected or seriously ill, I do know that if I get sick or require care, a competent well-trained nurse will be there.

I am humbled to serve on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and work with exceptionally talented and innovative board members and staff. There has been an incredible effort during this pandemic to assure that our healthcare facilities have an adequate supply of nurses available to care for patients during this pandemic. We all work diligently to support our profession assuring as per our mission, that those practicing nursing are competent and safe.





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We are seeing improvement in the numbers of the sick and dying, and soon we may feel some relief from this threat to our health and healthcare system. We can be assured that other challenges will occur, and when they do, nurses will respond as we always have.

This **Year of the Nurse and Midwife** we celebrate in different ways, maybe quietly. It is a difficult time to celebrate, so we remember. We recall what led us to our vocation, the sacred trust to care for those who come to us, and we give thanks for the privilege to provide care.

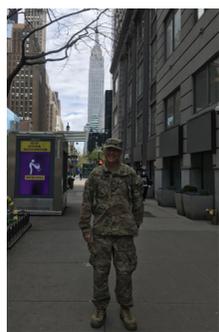
I know the sacrifices our colleagues, and all our partners in healthcare make every day. I sincerely appreciate each of you and pray for your health and happiness, this and every year.

Tim Cotita, RN, BSN, MSHCE, HEC-C
Board President

Spotlight on Two Louisiana Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists serving in the Military and Responding to COVID-19

Major Harold “Beaux” Mustin, CRNA, MN

Major Mustin graduated from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2004. He lives in Mandeville, Louisiana with his wife, Lauren and his two sons and is employed at Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. He has 18 years of military service (Army) with several mobilizations and deployments, including deployment in 2017 to Afghanistan as part of a Forward Surgical Team in Operation Freedom Sentinel. Major Mustin was recently called to duty at New York City Javits’s Medical Center for Operation Gotham as part of the COVID-19 response. This mission and practice was quite different from previous ones where he provided anesthesia for trauma patients undergoing emergent surgical procedures. This time, he was given only 48 hours to report to New York and his role was in the Intensive Care Unit as an Intensivist and participating on the Rapid Response and Airway Teams. As a CRNA, he was overseeing 2-3 nurses caring for critically ill patients with COVID-19. In addition, he managed ventilators and oxygen therapy, placed central lines and arterial lines, and was in charge of positioning patients in the prone position to improve ventilation. Major Mustin was in full protective personal equipment at all times in the hospital including wearing a Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) and the environment was very loud. He served as part of team of



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Army, Navy and Air force healthcare professionals who quickly adapted to working together to ensure excellent patient care. This team treated 1100 patients over six (6) weeks with six deaths. According to Major Mustin, being able to serve the patients in New York City was one of his most rewarding experiences and he shared “The training and experience of CRNAs prepared us to be essential providers in accomplishing the successful mission in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Major Charles “Chip” Peacock, CRNA, MN

Major Charles “Chip” Peacock graduated from the LSUHSC School of Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2005 and he has 24 years of military service (Army). He lives in Mandeville, Louisiana with his wife, Karen (also a CRNA) and three sons and he has two grown daughters – one who is also a nurse. Major Peacock is employed at AVALA in Mandeville, Louisiana. Major Peacock has also participated in several mobilizations and deployments. In fact, he was deployed with Major Mustin in Afghanistan in 2017 with the Forward Surgical Team in Operation Freedom Sentinel. Major Peacock is currently deployed with UAMTF 01-05 better known as Task Force 5 at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, New York. He and his team arrived on April 8th and are expected to be there until June 6th. Elmhurst Hospital is basically occupied 100% with COVID-19 patients in multiple Intensive Care Units. Major Peacock is supervising enlisted medics who are part of a “proning team” who position patients in the prone position for improved ventilation and oxygenation. In addition, he participates in airway management of patients including intubations and re-intubations as needed. Major Peacock is rotating 12-hour day and night shifts.



Major Mustin and Major Peacock describe themselves as “Louisiana brothers in arms.” They are bonded in their military service, their careers as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, the nursing profession, and as dear friends. **Louisiana proud Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and LSUHSC School of Nursing Alumni.**





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Laura S. Bonanno, PhD, DNP, CRNA
Vice-President LSBN
LSUHSC School of Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia Program Director
Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing

When I was asked to write a tribute about a nurse working on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic caring for our Louisiana citizens, I immediately thought of one nurse, in particular, Mr. Otley Bethel, BSN, RN. I became acquainted with Otley very early in my nursing journey. He was in the clinical component of the curriculum at Grambling State University when I was a pre-nursing student. He was the epitome of what a professional nursing student should be and set an example of how I should be as a nursing student. He graduated, became licensed, and went to work at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) - Shreveport (currently known as Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport). He has remained a dedicated professional nurse at this facility for nearly 25 years. He has weathered the storm among numerous changes at this facility and is currently on the front lines as a critical care nurse caring for our most critically-ill citizens.

I find it difficult to put into words what Otley means to me and to so many others. In my conversations with so many people (fellow nursing colleagues, physicians, and others who know and love him), everyone is consistent in their comments about Otley; that he is the consummate professional nurse with impeccable clinical skills. He is dedicated and always concerned about others. He has been known to fight for everyone else and always acknowledges everyone for their individual contributions to the success of quality care (be it clinicians or non-clinicians). Several people refer to Otley as an unsung hero. He represents true leadership in nursing and is sought after for his knowledge, skill, and dependability across the entire organization. Not only is Otley valuable to his

colleagues, he is also valuable to the future of nursing. He has precepted and mentored countless nursing students and novice registered nurses who have gone on to excel and enjoy successful nursing careers of their own.

On a more personal note, Otley shared his thoughts and experiences with me over the years about what it means to be an African-American male nurse. Our personal and professional experiences are very much unique from others in the profession. Our life experiences lay the foundation for how we see the world and help us to deal with how others perceive us in this profession. It has not been an easy journey for either of us. I don't know how I make it look, but Otley sure does make nursing look good!! Thank you, Otley, for being a shining example for all of us and for all you do to care for the great citizens of Louisiana. My brother, you are definitely my front-line hero.



Sincerely,
Dr. Tavell Kindall
Alternate Officer

There's a certain irony that, during the greatest healthcare crisis in over a century, I'm writing this on National Nurse's Day, May 6, 2020. Today is the day singled out to celebrate nurses and nursing all over the country. Every year we pick one day to celebrate and cheer our nurses, and we are proud that we've recognized the day to day contributions that nurses make in the lives of their patients. But this year that day looks different. Feels different. Acts different. Why? Is it because we are in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, where nurses and other caregivers are battling for the lives of the millions of victims worldwide? Is it because of the dire circumstances and consequences nurses are facing everyday as they put on their PPE armor, go into COVID-19 battle, and slay dragon after dragon, only to end the day exhausted, stressed, and worried about their own health or, better still, the health of their own families? I would suggest that the COVID-19 outbreak has indeed made everything feel and act differently, but I don't think that's the main reason.

I think the main reason this year's "celebration" feels and acts differently is because, for the first time ever for millions of people, they get it. They finally get it. They see the dedication, sacrifice, expertise, professionalism, and pride that nurses of all types display not just during





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pandemics or other significant events, but every single day. Not that all those things didn't exist prior to the COVID-19 event. A nurse's heart didn't just grow three sizes, ala grinch style. The heart of a nurse has always been that of a warrior, fiercely protective of their patients, and passionately proud of their chosen profession. The heart of a nurse has always been bigger than life, filled with compassion, empathy, and devotion for those in their charge, and for each other.

So as we celebrate National Nurse's Day and week, may we be mindful that nurses are just as brave, just as strong, just as passionate, and just as proud every single day, week, month, and year, whether fighting on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, or simply holding a hand and providing a caring smile for a patient or family member on any given day. Because that's just who they are. And we are forever grateful.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Stay well,
Ken Alexander, MS, RRT
LSBN Board Member

Nurses: Thank you for putting yourself in the way of danger to save others from the devastating impact of COVID-19. Every nurse deserves recognition for the dedication to patients, and the teamwork and leadership nurses graciously and naturally bring to each other. Examples are vast: Nurses, exempt from stay-at-home orders, determinedly caring for patients while worrying about unknowingly exposing family members; nurses creatively connecting isolated patients to their loved ones anxiously awaiting word; nurse faculty front loading clinical hours and days, evenings and weekends to ensure students graduate early or on time to take on new challenges; and nurses in all areas of health care pivoting to step into new roles to lend a hand. I'm struck by the many characteristics nurses share with Florence Nightingale; intellectual curiosity, resilience, compassion, caring, and especially over the past few months, courage. I am grateful for all nurses who tirelessly work to benefit the health, safety, and well-being of our state. Your work is what it means to be a hero and to build a beautiful legacy of excellence as a tribute to honor the nursing profession.

Ann Carruth, DNS, RN
LSBN Board Member

Dear Louisiana Nurses,

When the World Health Organization first designated 2020 as the *International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife*, none of us could have predicted the historic turn of events that this year would bring. Through sacrifice and hard work, you have been at the heart of fighting this global pandemic since the outset. Words alone cannot express my appreciation for your spirit and dedication to caring for others when the world needs you the most.

As we take time during National Nurses Week and beyond to recognize the incredible courage and contributions of nurses like you who are working and supporting those on the front lines, I could not be more proud of the profession we've all been called to. In addition to serving as a board member of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, I am campus president of the Chamberlain University College of Nursing at Ochsner Health System and want to welcome all nurses to visit the following resources developed to honor caregivers:

- [#CareForCaregivers site](#) designed with you in mind to explore special offers and savings, read inspiring stories from the front lines and discover educational/support resources.
- [Wall of Gratitude](#) created as a virtual thank you card to nurses so you can see just how much you've moved the world.

On behalf of Chamberlain University at Ochsner Health System and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, my heartfelt thanks for all that you are doing each and every day to keep people, families and Louisiana communities safe and healthy.



Prepare for Redeployment Training



Redeployment Training



Redeployment Training



Donations





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Simulation - PPE Training



Simulation - PPE Training



Stay Strong

pre licensure students to clinical rotations in the hospital setting. Three weeks later, on April 7, 2020, pre licensure students returned to the hospital to train in clinical settings. This immense task was achieved through the work of many, Dr. Tartavouille and Dr. Pierce led the way.



LSUHSC Sophomore 2 and Senior 2 classes accompanied by the School of Nursing Dean Dr. Demetrius Porche, Dr. Jennifer Manning, Dr. Todd Tartavouille, Mrs. Gwen Stewart-Woods, and Mrs. Helen Neil.

COVID-19 Testing

Several school of nursing faculty volunteered to test citizens for COVID-19 during the pandemic:



From left to right: Dr. Arlisha Mason, PhD, MSN-HCSM, RN, Mrs. Kryshonda Alleyne, MN, APRN, FNP-C, Mrs. Gwen Stewart-Woods, RN, MSN, Ms. Harlee Kutzen, MN, PHCNS-BC, ACPNP, APRN, ACRN

A quote by Harlee Kutzen, LSUHSC nursing faculty, regarding her volunteer work in providing COVID-19 testing:

I participated this past week at the Xavier testing site and I have overwhelmingly positive things to contribute. I remain grateful for the opportunity to participate in providing and promoting this convenient, painless, readily available, and free covid-19 screening within our community. New Orleans desperately needs this information before specific considerations of loosening our shelter in place orders can be made. Prior to this endeavor, the covid-19 testing availability was specifically restricted to those individuals who were symptomatic to very specific testing criteria and were in possession of a medical provider referral for testing. This left the majority of both exposed and differently symptomatic individuals without

Warm regards,

Jennifer Couvillon, PhD, RN-BC, CNE
LSBN Board Member
President, Chamberlain University at Ochsner Health System

LSUHSC School of Nursing Response to Assist during the COVID-19 Pandemic

LSUHSC SON responded in a variety of ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty worked very hard to ensure the school continued to provide quality education to students while also providing services to the community. I would like to highlight three examples which describe how LSUHSC SON responded during this crisis.

BSN Clinical Rotations

On March 16, 2020, LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing removed all nursing students from clinical rotations. While alternative virtual clinical learning assignments were quickly initiated, the Traditional BSN program and CARE program directors, Dr. Todd Tartavouille and Dr. Stephanie Pierce, respectively, knew the students needed hands on clinical training to achieve clinical course outcomes. Both worked tirelessly to return the





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a means to know their status and ultimately a risk for potentially spreading the virus unknowingly. For me personally, as a registered nurse of 38 years, and a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Public Health, I hold a personal and professional interest in both public health and individual safety of every household. Personal knowledge of one's covid-19 status remains key to our community staying as healthy as possible while reducing the spread of this highly contagious virus.

I would like to commend Dr. Chris Winters of LSUHSC, Dr. Paula Kensler, (designated as the School of Nursing Faculty coordinator / recruiter) and LCMC leaders for this joint venture. The contributing staff from LSUHSC, LCMC, NOPD, Homeland Security and the City of NO were happy to be there, polite, and eager to help meet our goal of 250 tests per day. The individuals who sought testing were patient and appreciative for this opportunity.

Every volunteer was kind and enthusiastic about their role and helping of others. This was a positive experience in addition to meeting a critical service gap in our community. I was proud to be a part of it in every way and continue to refer and recommend community members to take advantage of this service while it remains available.

Telehealth Clinic

Several school of nursing nurse practitioners are providing essential telehealth services to patients during the pandemic:

- Dr. Susan Lee, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC is working with the LSU Health Network Multi Specialty Clinic.
- Dr. Summer Marshall, DNP, BS, APRN, FNP-C is working with the LSU Health Network Multi Specialty Clinic.
- Dr. Leanne Fowler, DNP, MBA, APRN, AG/ACNP-BC, CNE is working with UMCNO Emergency Department's COVID-19 Response
- Dr. Abby McNeil, DNP, FNP-BC, FPMHNP-BC is working with the Metropolitan Human Services District Children's Services

Jennifer Manning, DNS, APRN, CNS, CNE
LSBN Board Member

I'm always proud to be a nurse and proud of the amazing nurses I have the privilege to lead. But in my entire career I have never been more proud to work among nursing professionals than I am right now. To watch our staff lean in bravely to care for the sickest of the sick inspired me beyond words. We've used the term "hero" so often over the past few months I worry it will lose its meaning. So, I looked it up and committed it to memory. Mer-

riam Webster Dictionary defines a hero as, "a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities." With that in mind there is no denying so many among us are heroes.

While there is no doubt the work was hard...exhausting. Donning and doffing PPE multiple times a day, constantly changing processes and procedures. Working in what can only be described as scary situations. Putting their own families on the back burner. These are the attributes that can only be described as heroic. But I've heard it said that "every shadow has its light" and COVID-19 is no exception. Our colleagues also witnessed their patients' recoveries and watched them return to their homes and families – knowing how vital nursing care was to their recovery. Our colleagues experienced the joy of knowing they made a difference. Thank you for all of your sacrifices, your skill, your hearts and minds. I always knew you were heroes – now the whole world does too!



Tracey Moffatt, MHA, BSN, RN
LSBN Board Member

Celebrating our Extraordinary LCMC Health Nurses

2020 has been designated as the "Year of the Nurse and Midwife" to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Who could have foreseen what 2020 would bring for the nursing profession? Today, in addition to being on the front lines of healthcare, nurses are leading the charge against a global pandemic the likes of which have never been experienced.

Across LCMC Health, our nurses are fighting this battle every single day. The significance of the nursing profession, and nurses' healing purpose, has never been more needed or appreciated. As COVID-19 has brought unprecedented challenges to our community, our nurses have stepped up to the challenge with compassion, dedication and courage in the face of uncertainty.

Nurses, just like everyone else, are adapting to the "new normal" at home and at work. Many nurses have moved away from usual areas of specialty, like surgery or pediatrics, to different departments and even different hospitals to provide support where it is most needed. Nurses across the LCMC Health family, including University Medical Center, Touro, West Jefferson Medical Center, New





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Orleans East Hospital, and Children’s Hospital New Orleans, have stepped in to support departments, and to care for patients, from the ICU to the ERs. And they have answered the call with a resounding commitment to lead the charge in the fight against COVID-19.

As millions of people do their part to stay home throughout this pandemic, nurses everywhere continue to step forward because it’s who we are and it’s what we do. And that is certainly reflected in the dedication of nurses across LCMC Health. It’s in our DNA. It’s what we have been doing since as far back as Florence Nightingale, and it is what we, as nurses, will continue to do.

As we enter Nurses Week, celebrated May 6-12, this year more than ever we are reminded that nurses are resilient, graceful and courageous. During this ‘Year of the Nurse’, we have seen the dedication, skill and compassion of nurses across our own hospitals and clinics, and across the world, as they continue to answer the call to care for the lives of others.



Jamie Wiggins, DNS(C), RN, NEA-BC, FACHE
LSBN Board Member
Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
Children’s Hospital New Orleans

Happy Nurses Month from the Chiefs

Terra Eubanks loves her family, her job, and Jesus. Terra is a Registered Nurse at Baton Rouge General working in the emergency department. Terra explained, “Our lives as we knew them came to a screeching halt recently and we are adjusting to a time we never could have imagined.” Working during the pandemic is mentally and physically exhausting, but Terra is also the proud mother to a very active five (5) year old, a wild and silly 16-month-old, and a sweet five (5) month old. And she is pregnant!

Terra’s biggest concern about working during the pandemic was the risk of bringing Covid-19 into her home and exposing her family and unborn child. Terra’s fear became a reality when she tested positive for Covid-19. She was sick for a little over a week, but she returned to work shortly after she received medical clearance.

She continues to work on the front lines with her team of health-care providers at Baton Rouge General. The team has shown innovation and the ability to adapt to the ever-evolving situation and guidelines. For instance, when they ran out of plastic gowns, raincoats were used for personal protection. This meant the team had to continuously clean and disinfect the raincoats throughout their shift, but having the raincoats allowed nurses to provide better patient care.

Each day when she returns home after a long shift, Terra doesn’t get to enjoy a warm embrace from her husband and children. Instead she goes straight to the shower. It is a necessary adjustment that many healthcare workers are making to protect their loved ones.





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Terra is proud to be in the fight against Covid-19, “I am just doing what I love – I couldn’t do it without Jesus, my team, or my family and friends. It’s a privilege to work and serve others in our community, especially during these times of adversity.”

Carrie LeBlanc Jones
Chief Legal Officer / General Counsel

Thank you for your unyielding service during the COVID-19 pandemic and continuously. Your willingness to serve the citizens of Louisiana unconditionally with courage and grace is the reason why nurses are ranked as the most trusted professionals in America. A special thank you to Rilyn Woods RN, Marsinah Mayfield RN, and Dianne Pedescleaux RN.

Wanda Woods-Matthews, MPA
Chief Compliance Officer

Recognition and Respect

So many individuals have played and are playing a vital role in the local, national and global healthcare environment. May these words serve as a humble tribute to those on the front lines and behind the scenes who are playing a part and making their contributions to the healthcare of humanity not just during this pandemic but beyond. The impact of the pandemic has admittedly been challenging and stirred worry, frustration, and concern. Amid the uncertainty and challenges, your efforts, commitment to serve, and enduring strength in the toughest of times is not just appreciated but honored and will have long lasting effects for years to come. Thank you for being there!



Alexandra Webre in PPE

Jennifer Wright, DNP, APRN, FNP, BC, FAANP
Chief Nursing Officer

Happy Nurses Month from the Directors and Managers

A very special “Thank You” to all the nurses who have risked everything to care for their patients and each other during this pandemic. While many of us are not on the front lines, we should all be very grateful for these heroes who tirelessly and relentlessly continue to do vital work and risk their own exposure to COVID-19. It takes very special people to rise into action and forsake all others in order to dedicate themselves and remain diligent on the front lines during this pandemic. Nurses are continuing to show up despite the known risks and tormenting fears. Today, the Recovering Nurse Program and Monitoring thanks all the men and women who continue to graciously commit themselves during this unprecedented time in Louisiana.

Urhonda Beckwith, MSN, APRN, FNP
Director, RNP/Monitoring

A Special Thank You to Nurse Heroes Working on the Frontlines Outside of Acute Care Hospitals

Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are very special individuals who come from all walks of life and work in a variety of settings, such as primary care clinics, federally qualified health centers, nursing homes, hospitals, emergency rooms, intensive care units (ICUs), home health and mental health residential facilities. If they were asked why they became a nurse, most would quickly reply, “To take care of people”. During uncertain and stressful times such as these associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, you will not find nurses fleeing from danger but running towards it. A selfless, servant’s heart innately takes them to the frontlines. Nurses who work in hospitals, emergency rooms and ICU’s are, as they should be, deemed to be heroes and heroines, yet sometimes we tend to forget about the heroes and heroines that are working on the frontlines in other healthcare settings. I would like to share the stories of three of Louisiana’s heroines that are working tirelessly on the frontlines in primary care, home health and residential mental health facilities.

Ginger Hunt, MSN, FNP-C – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at a Federally Qualified Health Center

Nurse Practitioners and nurses who work in primary care and who are responsible for prevention of illness, health maintenance and wellness as well as diagnosis/treatment of Louisiana’s most vulnerable population, the impoverished, underserved, uninsured individuals living in rural areas, many times go quietly unnoticed. I have the privilege of working with just such a group of quality support, infec-





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tion control, school and primary care nurses who work, day in and day out, with pediatric, women's health, psychiatric mental health and family nurse practitioners in rural and urban communities. They are your family members and your friends, and they never tire of meeting your health care needs; when the going gets tough, they get tougher. They experience the same challenges when it comes to the limited availability of PPEs and testing materials. Many have contracted the virus and have not hesitated to return to work after the prescribed period of quarantine and negative re-tests. Please join me in saying "hats off" and "kudos" to this group of worthy unsung heroes. May God the Father bless and keep each of them safe as they continue the war against COVID-19.

Nichelle Cyrus, BSN, RN - Home Health Nurse

I am very thankful and appreciative of our frontline nurses in the hospitals that are taking care of patients that are diagnosed with COVID-19 and because of the severity of their conditions, have to be admitted into the hospital. But what happens to the COVID-19 patients who are not sick enough to be admitted into the hospital and the patients that are discharged from the hospital, but still require nursing care at home. When these patients are discharged, they will more than likely be discharged home with home health services, extending the frontline. However, the playing field and the rules are NOT the same. These patients are home. Family and friends are excited to see them, and they tend to come and go as they please. The environment is NOT controlled. There are no enforceable restrictions on the number of visitors that may come and go. As a Home Health nurse, you may pull up to a home and see people hanging out in front of your patient's home, not adhering to social distancing. You go into the home not knowing what to expect or what you will find. PPE supplies remain limited. You take as many precautions as you can. You mask up, don your gown and gloves, disinfect everything with wipes and Lysol (which is very hard to find), but there is no hand sanitizer. None of those items are secured for the Home Health nurse. We have been securing them for ourselves - all the while praying that we have done enough. You always wonder, did I wash my hands good enough? So, I do it again. Did I spray my clothes after removing my gown? So, I do it again. Then I spray my car. I wipe my equipment down, let it dry. I'm hungry. I'm thirsty but I can't eat/drink too much because I'll have to use the restroom. I call my team for mental support. We are our "Sister's Keeper" out here in the field. We go through our "reminders" because our minds are often in overdrive and there is always the potential to become overwhelmed. You see there is NO room for error because we can't risk exposing our children and our loved ones. And with that being said, my 13 day stretch comes to an end and I find myself thanking God that I have done everything that I possibly could to provide the best possible care to my patients and at the same time, keep me and

my loved ones safe. I thank Jesus for keeping us safe from seen and unseen dangers.

Regina Keller, MSN, RN – Nurse Manager at a State Residential Mental Health Facility

There have been, and continue to be, many challenges in the residential psych-mental healthcare setting during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the number of residents on our open unit that became positive for COVID-19, two wards were turned into COVID units and an operational procedure was put into place to ensure that the most experienced nurses were assigned to these units. Psych-mental health nurses found themselves using physical assessment skills they had not used in years (e.g., assessing breath sounds and bowel sounds) and at the same time, they continued to use their psych-mental health skills to support the residents in an environment that was very different from their norm. Nurses had to address residents' concerns about feeling like they were in prison because they could no longer come and go as they pleased. They had to explain to the residents the importance of complying with having their vital signs monitored daily, the importance of social distancing, hand washing and proper hygiene practices. During the pandemic, we have had to deal with staffing shortages, as well as concerns from staff about exposing themselves and their families to the coronavirus. Nurses had to deal with their own feelings of isolation because other personnel are not allowed to come on the COVID-19 units. As essential employees, it was never more evident than during this pandemic, the multiple roles that nurses must play when other staff are not available. Psych-mental health nurses had to take on the responsibilities of social workers and recreational therapists to ensure resident activities and staffing rounds were performed because non-nursing staff were not allowed to be on the COVID unit. When it is all said and done, psych mental health nurses working in residential facilities will continue to do what is necessary to ensure the physical and mental health and safety of our residents. Thank you for the opportunity to share our story.

Cynthia Bienemy, PhD, RN
Director, Louisiana Center for Nursing

Acknowledgements:
Mrs. Ginger Hunt, MSN, FNP-C
Chief Executive Officer at RKM Primary Care

Nichelle Cyrus, MS-BC, BSN, RN
Home Health RN Field Case Manager

Dora Regene' Keller, MSN, RN
Nurse Manager, Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System





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As I reflect on my personal nursing experiences as well as the nursing experiences shared by colleagues, my memories are humbling. I find myself with a deep sense of gratitude to all nurses who have served our citizens. Their constant hard work, support, and patience when providing care to their patients should not go unnoticed. No amount of money would ever be enough to pay you for the care and empathy you show towards your patients. Nurses may be underappreciated. Most people don't realize their worth until they need something important for their health. Then, it seems they can't make it without them. Unlike them, we appreciate you every day! The true spirit of caring has touched so many lives, your skill has relieved those in pain, and your devotion has brightened the day of so many. Thank you, for not just being a nurse but a true hero.

Monique Calmes, APRN, FNP-BC
Director, Licensure and Practice

Nursing Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As the universities and colleges across Louisiana closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and began the transition to online education, undergraduate and graduate nursing education programs in Louisiana had the added task of evaluating and implementing mechanisms to provide clinical experiences in the virtual learning environment. As simulation is part of the nursing education experiences, nurse educators brought simulation online. Many created their own learning processes to supplement any available products to provide these virtual experiences for students.

Nursing education programs were further challenged with restrictions by clinical agencies. As agencies closed their doors to visitors, many included nursing students. With growing concerns of safety and with limited personal protective equipment, many Louisiana agencies were forced to exclude nursing students. However, this did not deter the nurse administrators and faculty of exemplary schools of nursing education in Louisiana from creating mechanisms for seniors to successfully meet the requirements for graduation and enter the workforce and underclassman to continue their current nursing program of study.

Nursing education program administrators and faculty persevered to secure clinical opportunities for their nursing students. Guided by exemplary nurse educators, many nursing students were provided the opportunity to experience real disaster preparedness training

Graduating Seniors Transition to Practice Workforce Solutions

Faced with limited clinical experiences for senior students,

LSBN worked with the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing Education to establish options for completing clinical experiences for senior level nursing students slated to graduate in Spring 2020. The elected Board adopted emergency rules crafted by LSBN staff to issue pre-graduate RN temporary permits to last semester senior nursing students. An attestation was developed that required validation of the student's status and eligibility for the permit by both the student and the program head.

Graduation Cancelled

With graduation ceremonies cancelled, nurse educators worked with LSBN staff to determine completion of the program and eligibility of the graduates to receive a RN graduate temporary permit and to schedule the NCLEX-RN. Some program heads were successful in having the registrar identify the date that the degree was awarded on the transcript when completion of requirements was confirmed. Nursing education program administrators and their nursing faculty also identified innovative ways to honor their graduates and provide special experiences including drive thru graduation ceremonies.



Photos provided by Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Patricia Dufrene, PhD, RN
Director, Education/ Examination

First, I would like to thank all my coworkers at LSBN for their hard work and dedication during this pandemic. I believe we have performed admirably during this time. While we have adapted well to our new working environment, I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Thank you!!





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Also, I wanted to take a moment to honor and thank all the healthcare workers in our community. Your dedication, commitment, and courage are a testament to the health care professions. I am constantly reminded how difficult these professions can be. You are truly an inspiration and a bright light in our community. Thank You for all that you do!!

Carl D. Nagin, Jr.
IT Management Consultant I

“As a nurse, we have the opportunity to heal the heart, mind, soul and body of our patients, their families and ourselves. They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

I would like to personally thank some nurses that are special to me!

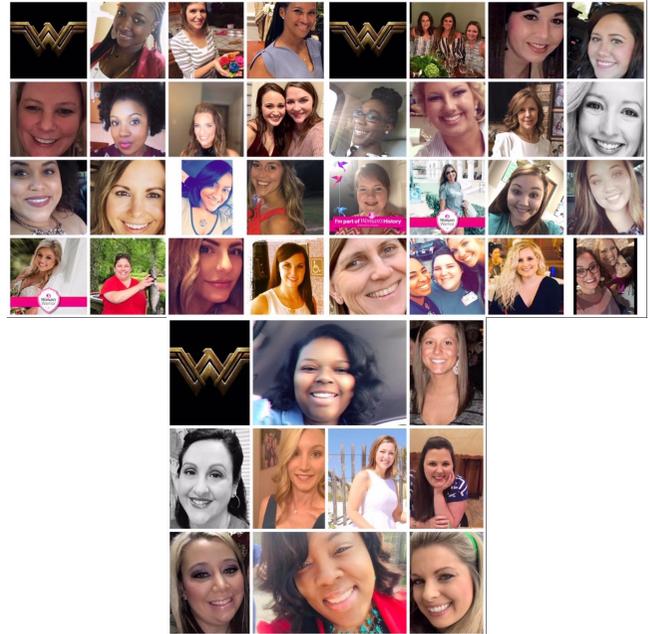
First, my baby sister, Char Donahue! I admire your strength, courage, and perseverance during this very difficult time. You’re just starting your career, but I know the nursing profession will be even better because you’re in it! Thank you for being so caring and compassionate to everyone around you! I’m honored that I get to have a front row seat in your life and will witness how you will continue to blossom into the amazing woman and nurse that you’re going be! Can’t wait to call you, Dr. Char! Thanks for being so inspiring! Love, your Big Sis!



My next tribute is to my cousin-in-law, Jartavia Turner! I’m very proud of you! I’m so honored that I get to watch you grow into this amazing young woman and brilliant nurse. Thanks for showing so much love, compassion, hope, and courage to those around you and the patients that you serve. Thanks for being so inspiring! Love you Beautiful!!



My last tribute is to an amazing group of ladies that I get to work with or have worked with!! Introducing some of the Beautiful and Brilliant Nurses in Labor & Delivery at Woman’s Hospital! I’m so lucky to have so many sisters that continue to serve on the frontline! Thank you for all that you do and please know that your hard work does not go unnoticed! I’m so honored that I get to serve with you all on Club Pod 2D!! You all are REAL LIFE SUPER HEROS and my SHEROS!! Thanks for being so inspiring! Love you ladies!!



LaQueda Ricks
Human Resources Analyst

ULL RN-BSN Online Nursing Student Elected President of National Association

UL Lafayette student and registered nurse Brandi Borden believes in staying busy.

She works in the trauma intensive care unit at University Medical Center in New Orleans, where COVID-19 patients occupied all 24 beds until recently.

Borden, 45, is the mother of an 8-year-old son. She is also pursuing her RN to BSN online at UL Lafayette.



And she’s the newly-elected president of the National Student Nurses’ Association Board of Directors for 2020-2021. The NSNA mentors students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses. The 60,000-member nonprofit association is based in New York.

Borden, a member of the UL Student Nurses’ Association, was elected NSNA president earlier this month. A virtual election was held after the association’s na-





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tional convention was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her new role, Borden will lead a 10-member board that includes students from universities such as Baylor, Penn State and Villanova. She is in the process of establishing committees that will help her work on NSNA policies in areas such as ethics, health, and sexual harassment.

“Nurses are caretakers. Our job is to help people. As a registered nurse and a student, I feel I have a lot to contribute to the association,” she said.

Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, agreed. She said Borden’s leadership qualities and dedication to service exemplify character traits expected of all nurses.

“It’s a remarkable accomplishment, and beyond that, it will provide tremendous experiences for her to develop as a nurse and as a leader,” Oberleitner said.

Borden began taking online RN to BSN courses at the University in the fall. She anticipates completing her degree requirements in August 2021.

Borden then plans to continue her studies, and is considering several options, including becoming a family nurse practitioner or a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

“Nursing is amazing because you can do so many things. You can stay at the bedside your entire career if you want to, but you also have the opportunity to branch out,” she said.

Learn more about the National Student Nurses’ Association at www.nсна.org.

Article credit: <https://louisiana.edu/news-events/news/20200504/online-nursing-student-elected-president-national-association> **Photo caption:** Brandi Borden, a RN to BSN online student at UL Lafayette and a registered nurse, was recently elected president of the 60,000-member National Student Nurses’ Association. **Photo credit:** Submitted photo

