Dotson Scholar Sees Diversity as a Global Issue

By Christian Pope Campbell ’91

Beverly Malone ’02HD, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., is the general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom. She is a former president of the American Nurses Association and served as deputy assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1999-2001. Malone was a panelist at the School for Health Studies’ Oct. 5 forum on improving diversity in leadership of healthcare organizations, where she spoke about “Living and Working with Diversity: the Reality of a Global Community.” In this interview, Malone answers questions about her career in nursing and the broader issue of diversity in healthcare.

Why did you pursue a career in nursing?
BM: I was inspired by my great-grandmother, who raised me. She was a healer in the community where I grew up, a very rural area of Kentucky in the segregated deep South. I wanted to be like her, caring for sick people.

Why have you remained in this field?
BM: Nursing is the most exciting and brilliant profession. I can’t imagine any other profession that so affects the daily lives of people and that improves and builds up life.

What are the most significant changes you’ve seen in the nursing profession since 1970, when you obtained your degree?
BM: I’d have to say the globalization of the nursing profession and of healthcare in general. Over the years, I have seen advanced practice in nursing care.

Forum Addresses Disparity in Healthcare Organizations

By Kristin Howley

How do demographic trends that point to an increasingly diverse world affect the management of healthcare? A lot, according to speakers at the October “Building Diversity in the Leadership of Healthcare Organizations” forum.

Made possible by a grant from the Simmons College Diversity Council, the goal of the first Afternoon Healthcare Forum was to bring philosophy together with practice.

As technology continues to make the world a smaller place, experts predict that by 2050, no ethnicity or race will constitute more than 50% of the U.S. population, therefore leaving the country without a majority. The United States will become a “majority minority” and healthcare professionals will be facing a population of patients from a wide variety of races and ethnicities. Keynote speaker Dr. Janice Dreaschlin, professor of health policy and administration at Pennsylvania State University,
Simmons has a long, proud reputation for excellence as a teaching institution. Small classes, world-class clinical sites, and a highly competent faculty with a strong sense of professionalism, intellectual rigor, and commitment to our students’ futures, have secured this reputation among those who know us and our graduates. However, because of our size and location — in an educational Mecca, surrounded by academic behemoths — we have found ourselves relegated to the cliché of “a best-kept secret” in education for the professions.

But not anymore. Thanks to our growing enrollment and solid fiscal position, we now find ourselves poised to expand our excellent reputation. The recent appointment of internationally renowned scholar Dr. Susan C. Scrimshaw as the next president of Simmons, along with recent academic initiatives at the School for Health Studies (SHS), will play a key role in this. (Read more about Dr. Scrimshaw, a noted scholar in the fields of public health and anthropology, at www.simmons.edu).

SHS faculty recently received funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development to collaborate with the Education for Employment Foundation to establish an accelerated nursing program near Cairo, Egypt. Our highly regarded nursing curriculum, the expertise of our faculty, and the enthusiasm of the administration enabled us to sweep past several larger and better known universities in the bidding process. We expect that this program (see related story on page 3) will have transformational effects on the profession of nursing in the Middle East and will extend Simmons’s reputation well past the confines of New England.

Another initiative, this time through our Health Care Administration Department, recently helped to forge a multi-university collaborative effort to work on federal projects from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In an alliance with the University of Minnesota, we became one of a small number of institutions that received a master contract and eligibility to bid on federal Medicare and Medicaid research projects for the next five to seven years. Once again, the Simmons College and SHS names are in the spotlight, this time with both government agencies and larger competitor institutions.

I trust that you, too, will take pride in the growing reputation of Simmons and the SHS. And I hope that our efforts will continue to enhance the value of your own Simmons degree and reinforce the valuable personal and professional investment that you have made in this institution.

Colloquium Honors Alumna Lucy Buckley

At its annual fall Honors Colloquium Oct. 11, the School for Health Studies (SHS) honored Lucy J. Buckley ’53 with its 2005 SHS Distinguished Alumna Award.

In presenting the award to Buckley, SHS Dean Gerry Koocher acknowledged her many accomplishments, including the establishment of an innovative multidisciplinary practice with more than two dozen healthcare professionals, and being part of the first practice to be licensed in Massachusetts as a free standing rehabilitation clinic and Medicare-certified free standing facility. Throughout her career, Buckley has trained generations of students from Simmons and other major universities, and “has become a treasured mentor and valued role model” said Koocher. Buckley also has earned numerous professional awards from state and national professional associations.

In addition to honoring Buckley, the SHS also honored Dr. Alice Sapienza, professor of Health Care Administration, with the 2005 Scholarly Excellence Award. Dr. Susan Neary ’89HS, clinical assistant professor of nursing, received the 2005 Outstanding Teaching Award, and Dr. Nancie Herbold, Ruby Winslow Linn ’32, ’85HD Professor and chair of nutrition, received the 2005 Linda Roemer Award for Distinguished Service.
Egyptian Nursing Program Takes Shape

By Allyson Irish ’04GS

This past summer was an exciting time for the nursing department. After several trips to Egypt, SHS professors are helping to create a new collaborative program that could potentially change the face of nursing in that country.

In collaboration with the Education for Employment Foundation, Simmons recently chose an Egyptian college — Miser University of Science and Technology (MUST) — which will implement the new nursing curriculum that Simmons is creating. Nursing Chair and Associate SHS Dean Judy Beal is working with Nursing Professor Patricia Rissmiller on the curriculum; Health Care Administration (HCA) Director John Lowe and HCA Professor Gary Gaumer (himself an expert on Egyptian healthcare) are buttoning up the financial end of the business plan.

“This is a very exciting project and a wonderful challenge,” said Beal. “We have the opportunity to make a huge change in the way that healthcare is administered in Egypt, and we hope this model might be used to improve conditions in other nations in the Middle East.”

Beal, who has traveled to Egypt twice this past year, said the current status of nurses in Egypt is very poor. Nursing is not a respected career, and most nurses have only a high school education. In addition, the overall health of the country is poor, with a prevalence of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, and high rates of infant mortality.

Simmons is working with the Education for Employment Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Agency for International Development, with the goal of launching the program in September.

Through the partnership with MUST, Beal hopes to elevate the status of nurses in Egypt and to help create a system for standards and licensure for hospitals and nurses. She also hopes the program will include student and faculty exchanges and guest lectures from colleagues in Egypt and the U.S., and encourage future collaborations with the World Health Organization.

Dean Receives NIH Grant to Study “Irresponsible Science”

SHS Dean Gerry Koocher has received funding for a grant proposal to study “Collegial Defense Against Irresponsible Science.” The proposal was one of four funded by the National Institutes of Health. Drs. Patricia Keith-Spiegel and Joan Sieber, SHS senior research associates, will assist Koocher with the study.

The study will take place entirely online, with the final products delivered via the Simmons web site.

According to Koocher, the study was initiated due to frustration and confusion regarding the accuracy of many scientific reports, and whether publicized cases of misconduct represent “merely the tip of the iceberg.”

Whereas high-profile cases of whistleblowers have been widely publicized, Koocher said almost nothing is known about converse scenarios: successful, behind-the-scenes collegial interventions that minimize invalid research from becoming part of the research record. This study will focus on how informal collegial interventions affect intentional or unintentional “bad science,” such as careless or irresponsible work habits, incompetent research design and methodology, inadequate supervision of research assistants, fabrication, and falsification.

The study will consist of two online surveys sampling 12,000 biomedical and social-behavioral investigators. Respondents will be queried about their experiences dealing with several forms of “bad science” that were committed by their peer colleagues or research assistants. Confidential telephone interview sessions will be conducted from among survey respondents.

The study also will include a guide to intervention that will be sent to the sampling pool, as well as a follow-up survey to measure the efficacy of the guide.
Seline Skoug ’99HS, a graduate of the Health Care Administration Program, is the executive director of Casting for Recovery, a non-profit organization that sends breast cancer survivors on fly-fishing trips.

Kelley Gillis-Enos ’00, who has a BS in nutrition, is employed by Foundation Medical Partners in Nashua, NH, as a physician assistant in internal medicine. She is married to Kevin Enos, and they live in Nashua.

Céline Kim Jordi ’02HS returned to Geneva, Switzerland, after receiving her M.S. in nutrition and health promotion, and a certificate in sports nutrition.

Suzanne Roth ’03HS works as a nurse practitioner with Dr. Laura Berman - sex educator, consultant, and columnist - at the Berman Center in Chicago.

Rebecca Smith ’03HS is working as a clinical dietitian at a community hospital in Maine. She also started a consulting company, Valley Nutritional Services, and serves as the state legislation chair on the board of directors for the Maine Dietetic Association.

Larissa Farnam ’04, ’05HS is providing inpatient nutritional education in the ICU and pediatrics departments at the Conway Medical Center in South Carolina. Farnam said this is a “great place to learn because there is a huge need for dietitians” in the south. She currently is living in Myrtle Beach, but hopes to eventually return to Boston to work in community nutrition.

Margaret “Meg” Comeau ’05HS is the project director for The Catalyst Center: Improving Financing of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. Located at the Boston University School of Public Health, the national center seeks to promote adequate financing for comprehensive, family-centered care of children and youth with special health care needs.

SHS Librarian Office Funded by Parents

By Bob Dunn

Students looking for health studies research materials can thank the Prince and Princess of Saudi Arabia. A recent generous gift from Prince Khaled bin Sultan Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia and his wife, Princess Abeer Turki Abdulaziz, has funded the office for the School for Health Studies librarian, located in the new library. The prince and princess are the parents of Mishael Khaled bin Sultan ’05.

SHS Librarian Vivienne Piroli ’00LS said the new office will significantly enhance her ability to help students, faculty, and her library colleagues. “My office will be centrally located on the main floor of the library, within sight of the reference desk. So I’ll be very accessible,” Piroli said.

Piroli is the first person to serve as SHS librarian. She moved into the post last December, after eight years of service to Simmons in other capacities. While Piroli was earning her GSLIS degree, she worked as the library’s circulation supervisor. She then served as periodicals librarian and instruction services librarian before assuming her current job.

The SHS librarian serves as an advocate for the school’s faculty and students. Piroli assists faculty with their research and teaching needs, and helps students maximize their use of available resources. She introduces them to the most efficient methods of locating information, and explains how it’s stored and retrieved. Piroli’s job also involves managing the SHS collection (which is integrated with the rest of the library’s collections), and guides its development.

“My previous experiences really prepared me for the range of my current responsibilities. For example, I got to know the SHS community and its collection while I was an instruction services librarian. So I was able to hit the ground running as SHS librarian,” says Piroli.

SHS is not the only Simmons school with its own librarian. Specialist librarians also serve the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the School of Management, and the School of Social Work.

The first phase of the library construction and renovation project is scheduled to be completed in early 2006. Simmons continues to accept gifts for the project. Alumnae/i who would like to support the library project can contact the Office of Advancement at 1-866-GIV-BACK for more information.

Alumnae/i News & Notes

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Faculty News

Health Care Administration

Bob Coulam is working with a team from the University of Minnesota on a Medicare and Medicaid research contract with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He also is working on a paper about Medicare pricing with two professors from the University of Minnesota.

Gary Gaumer is working with the nursing department faculty to start a nursing curriculum in a college in Egypt. (See related story on page 3) Gaumer is working on the business plan for the program. Gaumer also went to Uganda this past summer to work for the State Department to design a new financing program for HIV/AIDS health services for government employees in that country.

John Lowe was co-chair of the annual meeting planning committee of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA), which took place in Boston this past summer and featured many notable speakers including quality measurement and customer satisfaction guru Quint Studer, and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Lowe also chaired an evaluation panel examining the effectiveness of the Women’s Health Network, a program providing breast and cervical cancer screening and cardiovascular disease risk reduction to uninsured women in Massachusetts.

Nursing

Judy Beal, chair and professor of the Department of Nursing and associate dean for the School for Health Studies, recently received the Distinguished Alumna/us Award from the Yale University School of Nursing at Yale’s Annual Alumnae/i Banquet. The award recognizes nursing graduates who have demonstrated high standards of excellence. Nominations are solicited from alumnae/i, faculty, and colleagues.

Victor Bell (formerly Victor Tsveybel), clinical assistant professor of nursing, contributed to the study “Effect of Reducing Intern’s Work Hours on Serious Medical Errors in Intensive Care Units,” which recently was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Additionally, Bell is featured in Prentice Hall’s interactive CD-ROM series Real Nursing Skills: Physical & Health Assessment.

Terry Buttaro ’95HS, clinical assistant professor of nursing, is the co-author of Clinical Management of Patients in Subacute and Long-term Care Settings (Elsevier, 2006). This reference book for nurse practitioners and physician assistants working in rehabilitation and subacute settings covers topics specific to the medical management of acutely ill adult and elderly patients.

An article by Assistant Professor of Nursing Rebecca Donohue on “The FemCap: A new non-hormonal contraception” has been accepted for publication in a future issue of The Women’s Health Journal.

Assistant Professor of Nursing Susan Duty ’99HS recently had the article “Personal Care Products Use Predicts Urinary Phthalate Monoester Concentrations” published in the July issue of Environmental Health Perspectives.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing Priscilla Gazarian received the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing Early Career Award in April.

This past summer, Linda Moniz, clinical assistant professor of nursing, gave a panel presentation on educational objectives for the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses Provider Forum.

Karen Teele, clinical assistant professor of nursing, published "Incorporating CQI Concepts into Student Community Health Projects" in the October issue of the Journal of Nursing Education. She also presented a poster on nursing and nutrition in the community, entitled “Fit or Fat Communities," at the June meeting of the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators in Hartford, CT.

Patricia White, assistant professor of nursing, recently co-authored a monograph for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, entitled Faculty Practice: Expectations for Professionalism.

Nutrition

Teresa Fung, associate professor in nutrition, published a paper on "Dietary patterns and the risk of postmenopausal breast cancer" in the August issue of International Journal of Cancer. She also published “Diet quality scores and plasma concentrations of markers of inflammation and endothelial dysfunction” in the July issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.


continued on page 7
political power blended with quality leadership of nursing. There also have been great changes and advancements to the healthcare patients receive.

What are your thoughts on the current nursing shortage in the U.S., and how does this affect today’s nurses and nursing students?

BM: The nursing shortage is very much a global issue and reflective of the world in which we live. The shortage requires nurses and nursing students to have a more global perspective, because they may be recruited to work anywhere in the world, and regardless of where they work, they will be caring for an increasingly diverse patient population.

How will diversity play a role in overcoming the U.S. nursing shortage?

BM: Nursing in the U.S. is still predominantly a profession for white females. A diverse nursing workforce is the answer to the shortage. This includes international recruitment, but it also extends to developing homegrown nurses from ethnic minority populations.

What is the value of increasing diversity in the nursing profession and in healthcare in general?

BM: The strength of a diverse workforce providing care to a diverse population cannot be underestimated. A diverse workforce of nurses provides an opportunity for cooperation and collaboration across various boundaries of differences that range from skin color to age. Increasing diversity in the nursing profession means addressing the disparate healthcare among people of different cultures, races, and ages, and increasing the quality of care for all people.

How does the role of diversity in healthcare differ in the U.K., where you work, from the U.S.?

BM: The U.K.’s diverse population is at times more highly integrated than in the U.S., yet it produces fewer national and international leaders. In some ways, there is a stronger commitment to diversity in the U.K., through legislation and the European Union.

What are the issues facing the global nursing community today and in the future?

BM: The shortage of nurses is the big one, as well as the retention of nurses. Also, the hesitancy of the nursing leadership to acknowledge opportunities for involvement throughout the world must be addressed. In the future, I see several challenges, including how to care for patients suffering from increasing genetic illnesses, how to manage the healthcare of diverse populations, how to provide seamless care from birth to death, and how to tackle the exploitation of women and children and their resulting healthcare needs.

Dotson Scholar Sees Diversity as a Global Issue

spoke to these changes and urged healthcare professionals not to take these facts lightly.

“We, as healthcare providers have to do more than talk the talk,” said Dreachslin. “We must move from planning to action.” Dreachslin said diversity initiatives must be used, not simply created to put on the bookshelf. “Leadership drives the institution. If leadership continues to do what it’s always done, we’re going to have the racial disparity we’ve always had.”

Another panelist, Dotson Visiting Scholar Beverly Malone ’02HD, Ph.D., RN, explained that there is “a gap between reality and philosophy that must be addressed.” The UK General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, Malone said “homogeneity is an illusion. We are all different, but we choose not to discuss our differences because we are afraid to be excluded.”

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SHS Professor John Lowe, director of the Department of Health Care Administration, said he was pleased with the turnout of more than 80 alumnae/i, colleagues, and professionals.

“These are leaders from every element of the healthcare profession. I think that their presence here shows that the industry is making strides to eliminate racial disparity. It is essential for leaders to be involved on every level.”

The next Afternoon Health Care Forum will take place in the spring, and will focus on how quality of work life affects quality of care. For more information, visit www.alumnet.simmons.edu.
Nutrition in Public Health, 2nd edition (Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2006) is a collaborative effort by the Simmons Nutrition Program. Assistant Professor Sari Edelstein is the editor, and many faculty serve as contributing authors: Nancie Herbold, department chair and Ruby Winslow Linn ’32, ’85HD Professor of Nutrition; Associate Professor Teresa Fung; Assistant Professor Elizabeth Metallinos-Katsaras; adjunct professors Jan Kallio, Judith Sharlin, Elizabeth Barden, and Yeemay Su Miller; and Paul Taylor, visiting professor.

Physical Therapy

In September the Department of Physical Therapy welcomed clinical assistant professor Dr. Sabriyah M. Al-Mazeedi to the faculty. Al-Mazeedi received her doctoral degree in applied anatomy and physiology from Boston University in 1999 and her master’s degree in physical therapy from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in 1990. Prior to coming to Simmons, Al-Mazeedi was an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Kuwait University in Kuwait.

An adjunct professor of physical therapy, Nancy Roberge ’04HS was one of 100 women profiled in the book, Be Happy at Work: 100 Women Who Love Their Jobs and Why (Ballantine Books, 2005). The book discussed her work with breast cancer patients. Roberge also was recently featured on the cover of PT magazine for an article about the physical therapy issues confronted by cancer survivors.
Nominations Due for 2006 SHS Awards

Distinguished Alumna/us Award

This award is given annually in recognition of an alumna/us, graduate or undergraduate, from the departments of health care administration, nursing, nutrition, or physical therapy who has made distinguished professional contributions to her/his profession and to society.

Outstanding Teaching Award

This annual award acknowledges excellence in teaching and/or mentoring of Simmons students by a faculty member in health care administration, nursing, nutrition, or physical therapy. All SHS full-time and part-time faculty are eligible, except for those who received the award within the previous three years. The 2005 recipient was Susan Neary ’89HS, nursing; the 2004 recipient was Janet Rico, nursing; and the 2003 recipient was Deborah Heller, physical therapy.

Nomination Procedures

Letters of nomination for these awards should describe the nominee’s outstanding contributions and qualifications, and your reasons for nominating her/him for the award. Supporting documents are not required, but may include a current résumé or C.V., copies of publications or manuscripts, and/or letters of endorsement from other alumnae/i.

All nomination materials should be submitted to Sandra Northrup, assistant to the dean, School for Health Studies, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115. You also may email nomination materials to sandra.northrup@simmons.edu. Nominations should be submitted by January 31, 2006. All materials submitted will be treated confidentially.

Tell Us More About You

Did you recently change jobs? Receive an award or a promotion? Get married? Have a baby? Any news about you is important to us. If you have photos to share, please send them, too.

Complete this form, and mail it to: Simmons College, School for Health Studies, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115, or fax it to 617-521-3137. To update your information electronically, visit alumnet.simmons.edu and click on “Community and Services.”

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Home address ____________________________________________
City/State/Zip code ________________________________________
Home phone (        ) ________________________________________
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