



# The Pulse

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## School of Nursing Welcomes New Dean



Dr. Eleanor V. Howell began her service as dean of Samford University's Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing on July 1, 2014. For the past 11 years, Howell has served as dean of Creighton University's College of Nursing in Omaha, Neb.

The selection followed a national search to replace Dr. Nena F. Sanders, who has served as dean since 2001. Sanders has served as both nursing dean and vice provost of Samford's new College of Health Sciences since the college was announced in February 2013.

"Dr. Howell's extensive administrative experience uniquely qualifies her to position the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing for future success, while continuing to perpetuate Mrs. Moffett's vision for excellence in nursing," said Sanders. "Dr. Howell's philosophy of nursing is very much aligned with the foundational values of Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing. In addition to valuing academic excellence, she is committed to quality patient care that is provided by clinically competent nurses with care and compassion. I am confident that the Moffett Legacy will continue under her leadership."

During her tenure as dean at Creighton, Howell expertly led numerous academic innovations in the College of Nursing including establishing Nebraska's first doctor of nursing practice program and the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program, for which Creighton was one of only a handful of national pilot programs. The school also developed a health screening collaboration with Omaha parochial schools and a number of other community and clinical partnerships. Like Samford, Creighton's College of Nursing includes baccalaureate, masters and doctoral programs.

Prior to assuming her position as dean at Creighton, Howell served as associate dean for academic and clinical affairs, responsible for undergraduate and graduate nursing programs on Creighton's campuses in Omaha and Hastings, Neb. Howell also directed the master's in health services administration program at Creighton from 1998 to 2000, and was a core faculty member in the Center for Practice Improvement and Outcomes Research. Howell previously served as associate professor and coordinator of special projects at Auburn University's School of Nursing and on the faculty at University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing.

Howell is actively engaged in a number of national and regional professional service organizations. She is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Futures Task Force and she previously served on the organization's board of directors. Howell serves as a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education on-site evaluator and team leader, and she is a consultant for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. She has participated in global curriculum reform and numerous international nursing education and management seminars.

A Georgia native, Howell received her bachelor of science in nursing from Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and her master of science in cardiovascular nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She also holds a doctor of philosophy degree in administration-health services from University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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For more than 90 years Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has prepared graduates with the wisdom, skills and courage to make the lives of people better, Sanders said. With pass rates on certification and licensure exams consistently near 100 percent, graduates from Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing have earned a distinguished reputation as highly skilled and compassionate nurses who seamlessly enter the workforce, ready to make a

difference in the lives of patients and within the profession.

"I'm honored to serve as dean of Samford University's Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, and excited to return to Birmingham," said Howell. "The quality and achievements of the faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as their engagement in interprofessional education, make this move a wonderful opportunity. The preparation of exceptional

professional and advanced practice nurses, and the outstanding service to populations at home and abroad have positioned the School to lead in mission-relevant scholarship and to collaborate on practice and education initiatives as part of the team in the College of Health Sciences. I look forward to building this future together."

## Nursing School Receives \$1.3M to Prepare Nurse Educators



Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has received the third largest award nationally of the 92 Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) grants for 2014-15. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year for Samford to receive the grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Samford's grant of \$1,310,955 is third only to Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and Wayne State University in Michigan. It is one of only four grants nationally that exceed \$1 million.

Samford received the largest of five grants in the state of Alabama and was more than double the combined grants of other Alabama institutions. The University of Alabama at Birmingham (\$248,809), the University of Alabama (\$119,984), the University of South Alabama (\$108,976), and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (\$92,408) also received grants.

The grants are designed to help ease a national shortage of nursing educators, according to Jane Martin, associate nursing dean and the HRSA grant administrator at Samford. Students who receive loans for

master's or doctoral degree programs can have up to 85 percent of the loan forgiven in exchange for service as full-time nursing faculty members at an accredited school of nursing. Students continue to receive funds for the duration of their degree program as long as they maintain good academic standing.

"The need for professional registered nurses is growing rapidly, yet faculty shortages in nursing schools are limiting student capacity. As we prepare for the projected need of 1.2 million RN positions in the U.S. by 2020 and a projected wave of nursing faculty retirements in the next five years, this Nurse Faculty Loan award allows the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing to address this need in Alabama as well as other states in the nation," said Martin.

According to a report by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), U.S. nursing schools turned away 79,659 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2012; 2,396 of those applicants were in Alabama. Almost two-thirds of the nursing schools responding to the survey pointed to faculty shortages as a reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into entry-level baccalaureate programs. The NFLP was approved by Congress in 2002, and Samford was one of the first 55 nursing schools from across the U.S. to receive funds. Samford's

NFLP grants now total more than \$5.4 million.

The 2014-15 grant is expected to help up to 87 students at Samford.

Martin noted that in 2013-14, Samford was able to use HRSA grant funds to help students from 16 different states extending from Massachusetts to California. To date, over 200 students have benefitted from NFLP loan awards at Samford and are serving as nurse educators across the country. Martin added that graduates have benefitted from academic programs that are specifically designed for students planning to teach full-time in nursing.

"Preparing nurses to assume faculty positions is one of the priorities of the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing. Our graduates are able to seamlessly assume faculty positions in areas of need," said Martin. These graduates are accepting not only teaching positions, but also nursing academic leadership positions throughout the country.

Learn more about graduate programs in the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing [here](#).



July 2014

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## Save the Date: Upcoming Alumni Events

# MOFFETT NURSE NETWORK

### NLN Summit-Phoenix Moffett Nurse Network

September 2014

Phoenix, Ariz.

Join us while in town for the NLN Summit! We're working on plans to connect faculty and alumni; stay tuned for details!



### Cap and Cape Society Luncheon

Friday, October 10 at 11 a.m.

Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Diploma graduates from the Birmingham Baptist Hospital and Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing should plan to join us for this annual tradition! We'll celebrate the strong history of our school and the outstanding nurses who have made it what it is today. Interested in serving on the Cap and Cape planning committee? [Contact us](#), we would love to have your input on how to make this day even more meaningful for our alumni!



### Courage to Care Gala

Friday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m.

B&A Warehouse, Birmingham, Ala.

The annual Courage to Care Gala, will honor our outstanding alumni who exemplify the "Courage to Care." To purchase tickets or sponsorships, [click here](#). This is a tremendous opportunity to celebrate our alumni while raising funds for student scholarships.

*Courage*  
to Care

### Alumni and Friends Homecoming Barbecue

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

This year we're shaking things up by moving the School of Nursing Alumni and Friends Barbecue to the Quad! We'll still have delicious barbecue lunch and opportunities to dine with your classmates, but we'll be in a new location! Mark your calendar and plan to bring the whole family—we'll have inflatables, face painting, clowns and more! Additional details are coming soon.



### Interested in a class reunion? We can help! [Contact us](#) for de-

tails. Some anniversary year classes—1954, 1964, 1984, 1987, 1999, 2009—may want to put together a special gathering to celebrate their anniversary year and we're happy to provide support to these classes and others! Make plans to reconnect with your classmates today—you'll be glad you did!

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## Update Your Directory Information

The deadline for submitting changes to the School of Nursing Alumni Directory is fast approaching! Please submit all updates by Friday, July 25. If you have no changes, no action is necessary. If you have updates to your contact or employment information, or if you would like to be added to the Directory, please [click here and complete the form](#). The Directory is published each year and includes contact information for more than 1,600 Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing alumni. In order to be included in the Directory, you must give us permission, but once permission is granted, we will continue to include your information each year.

## School Receives Grant for Second Degree Student Scholarships



*“Without these scholarships many students would not have the opportunity to pursue their calling to the nursing profession”*

For the third time, Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has been awarded a grant from the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. It is one of 52 schools of nursing that will comprise the final cohort of the program. For the 2014-2015 academic year, Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing will receive \$50,000 to support traditionally underrepresented students who are making a career switch to nursing through an accelerated second baccalaureate nursing degree program. NCIN is a program of RWJF and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

“New Careers in Nursing has made amazing strides in helping schools of nursing recruit and retain diverse students in these competitive and rigorous accelerated degree programs,” said David Krol, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP, RWJF senior program officer. “Through supporting these institutions, NCIN is working to increase the diversity of our nursing workforce, while also assisting schools of nursing in making their institutions more inclusive. The leadership, mentoring and other support these institutions provide are helping to prepare a diverse nursing workforce able to meet the challenges associated with building a culture of health in our nation.”

Each NCIN Scholar has already earned a bachelor’s degree in another field, and is making a transition to nursing through an accelerated nursing degree program, which prepares students to assume the role of registered nurse in as little as 12-18 months.

Five Ida V. Moffett School of nursing students will be awarded NCIN scholarships in 2014-15. The school has had 13 previous NCIN

scholars. Since 2008, the NCIN program has distributed 3,517 scholarships to students at 130 unique schools of nursing. This year, funding for 400 scholarships was granted to 52 schools of nursing across the country.

“As a third time recipient, we have seen the impact of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s NCIN funds on students, realizing that without these scholarships many of them would not have the opportunity to pursue their calling to the nursing profession,” said Dr. Nena F. Sanders, College of Health Sciences Vice Provost. “The recipients of these funds excel in the classroom and seamlessly enter the workforce prepared to make a difference in the lives of patients and their families.”

In addition to a \$10,000 scholarship, NCIN scholars receive other support to help them meet the demands of an accelerated degree program. All NCIN grantee schools maintain a leadership program and a mentoring program for their scholars, as well as a pre-entry immersion program to assist scholars in learning essential study, test-taking, and other skills needed to succeed in their program of study.

“Nursing and nursing education are at a critical juncture right now, and NCIN’s exemplary approach to supporting nursing schools is helping to strengthen both,” said AACN President Eileen Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN. “NCIN’s creative, innovative and responsive approach to providing grantees with tools to ensure academic success will result in lasting changes at nursing schools nationwide. The NCIN program has truly raised the bar for recruitment, retention, mentoring and leadership development for nursing students from groups underrepresented in nursing.”

The 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, recommends increasing the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree or higher, and increasing the diversity of students to create a nursing workforce prepared to meet the healthcare demands of diverse populations across the lifespan. NCIN is helping to advance those recommendations by enabling schools to expand student capacity and by encouraging more diversity.

By bringing more nurses into the profession at the baccalaureate and master’s degree levels, the NCIN program also helps to address the nation’s nurse faculty shortage. This trend is reflected in the NCIN scholars, as 91 percent of the students receiving funding in the first three years of the program indicated a desire to advance their education to the master’s and doctoral levels.

For more information about Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing’s accelerated second degree B.S.N. program, visit <http://www.samford.edu/nursing/bsn-accelerated/>.

To learn more about the NCIN program, visit [www.NewCareersInNursing.org](http://www.NewCareersInNursing.org).

**100%  
PASS RATE**

For accelerated second degree graduates on the NCLEX-RN exam since the program’s inception.

July 2014

## School of Nursing Awarded Grant to Prepare Nurse Anesthetists



Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has received \$25,804 to provide support for students in the nurse anesthesia program. This is the 11th year for Samford to receive a Nurse Anesthesia Traineeship (NAT) grant from the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Nurse Anesthesia traineeships can be used to pay the costs of tuition, books, fees, and reasonable living expenses of trainees. In 2014-15, 48 students will benefit from the grant; to be eligible for funding students must be in good academic standing and possess full-time status. All students who meet the criteria receive a portion of the funds.

According to Terri M. Cahoon, chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia and grant administrator, these funds are particularly important because nurse anesthesia students are unable to work during the program, and many of the students

have families and are living below the poverty line. "Because our students are unable to work during our full-time program, there is often a hardship regarding meeting expenses for things like books, tuition and fees," said Cahoon. "Students typically rely on family support and government and private loans to finance their education, and the traineeships allow us to help alleviate some of the financial burden," Cahoon added.

To date, Samford has received more than \$188,000 through the HRSA NAT Program and the 2014-15 award is the largest in the school's history.

The NAT Program, gives special consideration to nurse anesthesia programs who demonstrate a "high rate" of graduates practicing in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) after graduation, contingent to receiving some type of student assistance.

According to Cahoon, the Samford program consistently graduates students who seek opportunities in rural and underserved areas of the southeast. Seventy percent of the class of 2013 is currently employed in HPSA or medically underserved communi-

ties and approximately 62 percent of the current students who receive traineeship funds are from disadvantaged backgrounds or rural/underserved areas within Alabama or neighboring states.

Through the NAT project, the Department of Nurse Anesthesia seeks to prepare students to practice at the highest level for all patient groups, but especially rural and medically underserved patients of all age groups; increase the diversity of the student body to reflect the increased diversity of health care consumers; Increase the students' involvement in community service and culturally appropriate health promotion and care; and increase the number of graduates serving in rural and underserved areas of Alabama and the southeast.

The Samford curriculum is a comprehensive program of study that addresses the full anesthesia scope of practice, based on professional organizational standards and current state-of-the-art practice models. Intercultural understanding is woven throughout the program curriculum and clinical experiences.

## Sylvia Rayfield and Associates to Host CE Workshop for Nursing Educators

### Nursing Test Development and Item Writing for NCLEX® Success Workshop Friday, August 15, 2014

9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
*Registration at 8:30 a.m.*  
Samford University, Brock Forum  
Birmingham, Alabama

Earn 6 CE hours. Lunch is provided.

\$188 per participant. Advance registration required.

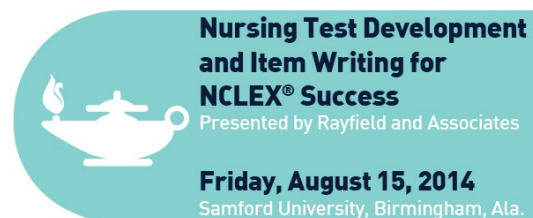
*Proceeds benefit the Nursing Student Emergency Assistance Fund.*

[Workshop Registration Form.](#)  
[Learn more](#)

*Please share this invitation with colleagues!*



Sylvia Rayfield  
& Associates



**Nursing Test Development  
and Item Writing for  
NCLEX® Success**  
Presented by Rayfield and Associates

**Friday, August 15, 2014**  
Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.



## Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing Mission

*The mission of the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing is to nurture students while providing quality education in a Christian environment that prepares caring, competent and compassionate graduates with a commitment to service, scholarship, life-long learning and professional practice.*

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing  
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Birmingham, AL 35229  
Phone: 205-726-2861  
[www.samford.edu/nursing](http://www.samford.edu/nursing)



**Thank you for supporting Samford's Big Give!**  
**Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing exceeded its goals for dollars raised and number of donors through the Big Give! We're incredibly grateful for our outstanding alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents who helped support this important fundraising campaign!**



Invest in the future of health care: make a gift to the  
Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing today!

[Click here to give online.](#)

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If you know of any student, faculty, or alumni awards, presentations, conferences, scholarships, photographs or any other announcements, etc. that you would like posted in the next edition of The Pulse, please send them to [kstripli@samford.edu](mailto:kstripli@samford.edu) or call 205-726-2265.

### Special Thanks

....to everyone who contributed news and photos to this issue. Please continue to share your news with us!

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