How Politics Affect the Development and Evolvement of a Nursing Program: Engaging Colleagues and the Community to Improve Global Health Outcomes

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Background

- October 1962 the world waited—seemingly on the brink of nuclear war—hoping for peaceful resolutions to the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Operation Pedro Pan (1960-1962), underground effort where parents sent 14,000+ Cuban children to Miami, unaccompanied, to escape repression and Communist indoctrination.
- Decade saw stream of Cuban exiles filing through the Freedom Tower.
- Miami Dade College (MDC) President, Dr. Padrón, administrators, faculty, and staff now own the Freedom Tower, hosting nursing events.
Cuban Missile Crisis
Cuban Missile Crisis

Kennedy with British Prime Minister McMillan

President Kennedy with President Eisenhower

President Harry Truman and the White House in Key West, Florida
Operation Pedro Pan (1960-1962)
Purpose

• **Purpose** of this historical study
  – To shed light of the Cuban and other cultures’ influence on Miami Dade College nursing program over 50 years.

  – To describe the effect of historical events on the evolvement of a nursing program in South Florida.

  – “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit”. - Harry S. Truman

  – “All Great men are Dreamers”. - Woodrow Wilson
Methodology

• Interviews from primary and secondary sources were collected along with historical documents
• Validity of documents was established by external criticism
• Reliability was established by internal criticism (LoBiondo-Wood & Haber, 2010)
Dade County Junior College

• In 1961, the US government deeded the old Marine airbase replete with buildings and barracks for $1.00 to create the Miami Dade County Junior College.

• A new era of nursing education for Miami’s diverse community began with the establishment of the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program at Dade County Junior College in 1962.
Chloe Trammel (1962-1977)

- Chloe Trammell was the 1st Director in 1962 at North campus with 26 students
- Two year - 4 semesters and one summer session; more than 50% of 77 required credits are in general education
- They’re doing something about the Nurse shortage (Miami Herald, May 5, 1963)
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Professors Hogue, Wawzyniak, Larimer and Lopez think the doll has a good chance to recover.
Cora Mazzagatti (1967-1977)
1995-1996 Acting Dean

• South campus opened in 1967
• Director Cora Mazzagatti with 24 students.
• Mike Kinkead was in the 2nd class and President of Florida Student Nurses Association,
• Mike was the 1st male to graduate after spending 4 years as an Air Force medic.
• Emilie Kinkead graduated MDCC nursing program
Denise Hahn (1977-1978)

• Taught in the LPN Program at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach
• The Miami Dade campuses moved to Mount Sinai- Hahn was well respected by Clinicians.
• North & South campuses merged and moved to Medical Center Campus in 1977 located near Jackson Memorial Hospital.
• Graduates received a diploma from Jackson and an ADN from Miami Dade College
Paralyzed Veterans Association award Five Sophomore Nursing Students at Miami Dade Community College
Dean Jeanne Stark (1978-1989)

- Jeanne Stark believed in upper mobility and encouraged all ASN students to pursue BSN.
- Organized an innovative way for those with BS/BA degrees to become RN’s. Although not specifically intended to accommodate foreign doctors to become RNs, many took advantage of the programs (1982--).
- As the influx of foreign physicians grew, the ration grew proportionally. The intensive one-year nursing program for foreign educated physicians provided a service to both the foreign BS/BA graduates and Miami-Dade’s needy community.
Dean Jeanne Stark (1978-1989)

• Stark helped more and more students climb the nursing ladder. Flexibility for those interested in a career in nursing, but could only attend on weekends.

• By attending lectures in the evenings and clinical experiences on weekends nursing was more accessible to people in 9-5 jobs. Hospitals needed more RNs.
Dean Jeanne Stark (1978-1989)

• 1980 Mariel boat refugees; most were from the mainstream of the Cuban economy 11.2% were professionals.
• Nurses arrived at a greater than incidental rate
• Florida Governor appointed Dean Jeanne Stark who was Chair of the Florida Board of Nursing.
• Stark addressed issues of licensing Cuban nurses, “Cuban Nurses in Exile” (1982).
• Dean Stark developed a 34 week bilingual refresher course covering all nursing aspects including Obstetrics and Psychiatric care along with intensive one-year nursing program for foreign educated physicians.
Dean Jeanne Stark (1978-1989)

- Undine approached the other six Trustees; they funded two scholarships ($2,500 each) to establish the Frieda Norton District V, FNA Charitable Trust for generic nursing students and Frieda Norton District V, FNA Charitable scholarship for nursing students attaining a BSN degree. Funds were matched under a 5 billion Endowment Campaign.
- Jose Perdomo, 1st ASN recipient.
- Jose had relocated from Colombia, South America and was a student in the accelerated option with previous BS degree.
- Jose needed the scholarship to take NLN Challenge Exams to matriculate at the University of Miami. Jose, “I can truly say that the Trust’s assistance was instrumental in achieving my career goals”.
- Jose, RN, JD is Chief Counsel for Miami Children's Hospital.
Founding Trustees: l-r 1st row
Eleanor Bindrim, Blanche Case, Maureen Finney, Undine Sams 2nd row Edna Hicks, Nina Brookins and Charlotte Liddell

Nurses Charitable Trustees: Pat Messmer chair, Ann Marie Clyatt, Charlotte Dison (treasurer) Barbara Russell (secretary), Sande Gracia Jones, (vice-Chair) JoAnn Gottlieb and Sandra Walsh
Sylvia Edge 1990-1995

• Sylvia chaired the NLN ADN program and initiated the computerization testing program,
• Flexible schedules facilitated LPNs to attain an RN. Many worked through weekends; the innovative part-time program was one day a week for the LPN’s clinical and theoretical instruction.
• A transitional program from LPN to RN was important since many hospitals had too many LPNs and wanted RNs. Nursing leaders organized an answer to their problem—an alliance with the hospital.
• Alliance program ensured that the prerequisites were available in the hospital
• “Have program, will travel,” in setting up a part-time LPN to RN program at the hospitals, the students enjoyed the convenience of on-site instruction.
• Students worked in the clinical setting during the morning and took theory classes in the afternoon.
• Even though hospitals offered scholarships to the LPNs, the programs stretched the college’s resources to respond to community needs.
Sylvia Edge 1990-1995

- Sylvia Edge was one of the first two African-Americans to receive a BSN from Rutgers University
- 1st African-American to be over ADN education at NLN
- 1st African-American in New Jersey to become a Dean of a Nursing program.
- 1st African-American to serve on the Education Committee of the New Jersey Board of Nursing.
- Sylvia passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2009.
Nursing curriculum was based on *Imogene King (1981) Goal Attainment*

- Students from diverse cultures bring different learning styles, experiences and goals.
- These differences influenced the learning process and were incorporated by faculty in the teaching process.
- The teaching learning process was interactive in nature with students ultimately responsible for their own learning.
- The environment facilitated the dynamics for the learning experiences.
Frances Aronovitz (1996-2004)

• Innovative programs offered 100% scholarships and, a significant community service that changed people’s lives.
• Many students selected MDCC due to the warm and friendly facility. The nurturing environment of the college was indeed a community stronghold.
• Providing nursing education to students, unable to afford the option of a four-year school thrust the school into the forefront of providing education to Miami’s diverse population of aspiring nurses.
• The ASN nursing program graduated more RNs than any other school in the country with more than 50% of the graduates proceeding to four year colleges.
• The institution became a community stronghold.
As more and more individuals aspired to become RNs, MDC could not accommodate all qualified applicants.

• Faculty salaries did not measure favorably in comparison to salaries of nurses in clinical services.
• Fewer nurses aspired to become nurse educators.
• Increases in salaries were eventually negotiated with the union.
Mary Kontz, PhD, RN
Director of School of Nursing (2006)

• Director of Education @ Jackson Memorial Hospital
• As MDC director of SON, partnered with Haitian Nurses Association (HANA) and Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC) for Marie O Etienne (faculty) and MDC students (10) to participate in a medical mission (improvished Haitians migrant workers in the Dominican Republic Bateyes).

• Globalization of Nursing Practice
• Associate Dean at Colorado State University- Pueblo
• Died November 14, 2011 in Pueblo Colorado
Lessie Pryor

• In charge of the licensed practical nursing program in 1971
• One of the 1ˢᵗ black nursing instructors at Miami Dade County Junior College
• Chaired the Generic Nursing Program in 1987.
• The school could only accommodate 120 of the 800 applicants to the basic program in 2003.
• Additionally, in the accelerated program, targeting those seeking a career change, the school received 300 applicants for a mere 50 places.
Lessie Pryor

• Developed computerized testing in the early 90s when only 4% of schools were doing computerized testing
• Developed the evening LPN program
• Created the Baptist Scholars Program followed by Jackson Memorial Hospital Scholars program
• Launched the RN-BSN program
• Leslie passed away March 27, 2013
Amy Pettigrew, Dean (2010–present)

- Doctorally prepared faculty and others enrolled in programs regionally and out of state
- All faculty members located within School of Nursing physical space
- Share Simulation Center and Nursing Skills Laboratory
- Students can articulate directly from ASN to BSN program; 95% of BSN students graduated from ASN program
Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino  61.4%
African American – 28.3
White- 8.6%
Asian – 1.5%
Native American 0.1%
Pacific Island 0.1%
BSN Enrollments 2008-1 to 2013-2

Headcount
Human Patient Simulation Lab

- RNs receive credit for Prior Learning
- RN-BSN Students must demonstrate competence in assessment and critical thinking skills via simulation
- RN-BSN Students are awarded 30 credits for prior learning
- Students are assessed a $200 lab fee
- Generic and accelerated students are exposed to the Human Patient simulation both in the lab and in the classroom
  - CAE/METI IStan
  - Laerdal MetiSim
  - Harvey
  - Gaumard Noelle and Baby Hal
- Observation days
  - Notre Dame Haiti nursing students
RN-BSN Honor Society

STTI President-Elect Hestor Klopper of South Africa is the keynote speaker at the BSN Honor Society Induction on Monday September 24, 2012
FNA South Region Awards
Davie, Florida, April 26, 2014

Billy Valdes, DNP, RN-BC
Nurse Educator

Amy Pettigrew, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF
Nurse Administrator

Monique Rogers Walker, PhD, RN
1st Place Poster

Giannina Santos, DNP, ARNP, NP-C
Community Action
Conclusion

• All MDC nursing graduates, like their predecessors, serve Miami’s ever growing, diverse and changing community.
• Several foreign educated physicians are now serving as nursing faculty.
• Many of today’s clinical nurses and nursing faculty began their career at MDC.
• Over 19,000 nurses have earned their degrees from MDC – largest area provider of nursing education – 70% Hispanic students
• 50+ years stronger