



## Southern Adventist University Opens the Doors of Florida Hospital Hall

By Ingrid Hernandez, junior business administration and public relations major

**T**hings have changed dramatically since Erica Singh, sophomore nursing major, was accepted into the nursing program. This semester, her first day of classes was charged with an energy much different than usual. This feeling was present in every student and faculty member of the School of Nursing. It was finally time to start attending classes in Florida Hospital Hall.

Erica purposely waited to enter the building until the first day of classes, knowing the self-built suspense would turn into great surprise. And it did.

“When I walked inside, my mouth

dropped and I was in complete awe of the design and how big this hall really is,” says Erica. “I got lost a few times trying to get to class! But I fell in love.”

Once in the correct classroom, Erica found a very enthusiastic professor. It was the beginning of a new journey for Southern nurses, one that would take place in a large, modern facility.

### **A Home for Every Dynamic**

The size of the classroom Erica entered, along with all the other classrooms and tutoring rooms in Florida Hospital Hall, provides needed space for an extensive curriculum and dynamic

mentoring program. It also offers better-equipped labs and resource centers for the popular nursing program.

The three-story, 33,000-square-foot facility differs greatly from the former School of Nursing home. The limited amount of classroom space in Herin Hall had forced nursing classes to spread out among various parts of campus for years, with students traveling from building to building to get their assignments done.

“The fact that all the utilities of the program are in one building really makes the new building effective,” says Erica.

## Emulating the Energy of a Hospital

In Florida Hospital Hall, the skills lab is more than a room with beds; it is a lab in which students learn real-life hospital procedures.

When sophomore nursing major Jeremy Pastor first saw the skills lab, he exclaimed, "Ten beds each with a sink? That's crazy!" He was happy to find that the lab was adequately equipped for a growing nursing program.

Erica loves the lab because the space and technology remind her of an actual hospital floor.

Checking off the topics discussed during her final skills lab review, Erica prepares for the actual application of her skills. Instructors relate stories from real hospital situations, making the review a practical experience for eager students. Once the review is done, Erica and her classmates leave their chairs and walk to the beds.

On this particular day, the group is instructed to use the instruments located above the heads of the beds to check their partner's eyes and ears. The fascination is quickly noted as students experiment with various focal and light combinations. The lab instructor encourages their curiosity, suggesting they alternate between partners with dark and light eyes.

Once a semester, students are required to participate in a four-hour simulation. With the control rooms in Florida Hospital Hall, instructors can now control the simulation dummy, Mr. Sim, from a distance while they observe students checking vital signs and administering medication.

Students also benefit from the build-

ing's learning resource center, which is used for research, testing, and review.

"It's a big difference," says Jeremy. "The learning resource center is literally on the same floor as the professors' offices." Jeremy appreciates being able to easily ask questions when he needs help.

## Enthusiasm and Increasing Opportunities

With resources that support an easy transition from classroom to workplace, the School of Nursing can continue to produce quality nurses. And with more



Students attend a lecture in one of Florida Hospital Hall's state-of-the-art classrooms.

room, Southern can accommodate the continued rise in enrolled nursing majors.

Students interested in a career in nursing can continue to look at Southern's School of Nursing as a top choice. A larger facility represents more space for the eager students wanting to learn and grow in the nursing program.

The nursing students' increased chances of getting into the program only make the faculty happier. With a building like Florida Hospital Hall, there is nothing but excitement over a growing nursing family.

"We are so happy," says Barbara James, D.S.N., dean of the School of Nursing, "to be a family under one roof again." ■



Charlene Robertson (right) shares a moment with Barbara James, dean of the School of Nursing, at the groundbreaking for Florida Hospital Hall.

## Making Charlene Robertson's Dream a Reality

A passionate woman of service, former Nursing Professor Charlene Robertson spent most of her life dedicated to the nursing field. Active in the push for a new building from the start, Robertson served as the original chair for the multimillion-dollar Campaign for Health and Healing, a building project for the Hulsey Wellness Center and Florida Hospital Hall.

Robertson died in 2009 and was thus unable to see the campaign completed. In an emotional speech during the grand opening of Florida Hospital Hall, Charles Robertson spoke of his loving, devoted wife.

"All through our marriage she worked as a nurse, and I was so proud of her nursing skills that I bragged she could step into any position in the hospital and do it well," he says. "She was happy to be chosen to serve as the original chairperson for the committee to raise money for this building."

Robertson shared the vision for Florida Hospital Hall with anyone who would hear it.

"Florida Hospital Hall continues our tradition of key building projects," says Franklin Farrow, member of the Committee of 100, a group that has served Southern for over 45 years.

Huldrich and Marion Kuhlman left their estate to the Christian education in which they so firmly believed. "It's a beautiful, gorgeous building," says their daughter Beverly Kinney. "Southern nursing students now have more opportunities than they did years ago."

Thanks to the dedicated vision that so many shared with Robertson, the new building is open and serving the needs of future nurses.

"This was a dream come true for Charlene," says Kathy Schleier, current campaign chair. "She wanted these nurses to go out and show their light because it was so important to her."