LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, December, 2010:

Our 55-Year Anniversary is behind us, our Clinical Simulation Laboratory is serving all students, and our Curriculum Revision began implementation this Fall, 2010. Our five-year grants from The Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation for Accelerated BS and MS in Nursing Education Programs have been completed and evaluated. And we have collaborated with our hospital and university partners to develop a formal, five-year Strategic Plan. How much has been accomplished in the recent years at San Jose State’s School of Nursing (SON)!

Our School received a gift commitment this month of $5 Million from The Valley Foundation of Los Gatos, CA., and in appreciation of this and previous financial support, we will be named The Valley Foundation School of Nursing in January, 2011. A portion of the gifted funds will create a Program Endowment to give ongoing funding to Nursing education to make the School the best it can be, and the majority of the remaining funds will help us expand and upgrade our Clinical Simulation program.

The SON envisions a road ahead that is innovative and progressive. We are at a time when our funding is reduced and our resources are limited. And yet commitment and enthusiasm remain high as we engage in learning more and more about nursing education and providing ever-improving evidence-based modalities for learning. The new curriculum incorporates far more hands-on learning through the utilization of Clinical Simulation, SMART Classrooms and web-based innovations. Our hi-fidelity mannequins now include adult, child, toddler, infant, and birthing mother units, and programmed scenarios expose students to common and uncommon nursing care decisions, team and family-member communication practice, and the debriefing and reflection that follow. We are excited to have a PYXIS Medication Management system added to our Lab, and will soon be installing an electronic patient record keeping system so our graduates will have experience in charting and accessing patient records.

Every semester will include a Professional Role Development course, emphasizing teamwork, critical thinking, and cultural awareness coursework. Patient Safety is emphasized, utilizing the Quality and Safety in Educating Nurses (QSEN) Standards recommended by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). A major new book released in 2009 by Patricia Benner et al (Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation) influenced course development, and the Institute of Medicine’s recommendations for increasing skills in caring for our aging population were additional factors. Semester learning goals and outcomes have been re-defined with the help of our many hospital and health care partners to better meet the needs of our community and provide the highest levels of safety and quality care for patients and their families.

The economic downturn has had a drastic impact on our new graduates this year in their pursuit to secure a hospital position. The National Student Nurses Association reports that nationwide 60% of the new graduates reported that hospitals have experienced hiring freezes, 85% report jobs are being filled with experienced RN’s, 31% report that new graduate orientations and residency programs have been discontinued. Older RN’s are not retiring, more nurses who had been working part time are now working full time, and more new graduates are turning to Sub-Acute and Long-term Care Facilities, Home Care, and Community Health Agencies.
With the closure of several Public Health facilities in recent years, our Nurse Managed Centers (11) are providing much-needed health education, symptom management, and nursing interventions for underserved populations throughout our service area. Community programs serving the frail elderly, people who are homeless, the seriously and chronically mentally ill and at-risk family clients provide the populations and settings. Our third-year students provide home visits, one-to-one care and group activities with faculty supervision, and the service-learning environment enriches everyone involved, facilitates community-based research, and increases awareness of cultural and family issues in health care.

If you are visiting our website in search of an excellent educational experience, we hope you will look into our School further, read the Information Packet,

- For Undergraduate BS in Nursing [http://www.sjsu.edu/nursing/Pre-nursing/](http://www.sjsu.edu/nursing/Pre-nursing/)
- RN to BS Advanced Placement [http://www.sjsu.edu/nursing/Bridge/](http://www.sjsu.edu/nursing/Bridge/)
- Masters and Post-Masters [http://www.sjsu.edu/nursing/Graduate/](http://www.sjsu.edu/nursing/Graduate/)

and attend an open advising session soon. If you are an alumnus or friend of the School of Nursing, please know how much we depend on your generous support and encouragement as we forge through budget cuts and resource challenges. Your insistence on quality education as a high priority in California is essential, your monetary contributions are vital to our programs and so appreciated, and your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Your School of Nursing,

Jayne Cohen, RN, DNSc, WHNP-BC
Director and Professor