



The

PULSE

Summer 2011

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

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SON Dean Novotny to Step Down

Dr. Jeanne Novotny, dean of the School of Nursing, remembers the conversation she had with then-president Aloysius Kelley, S.J., the day he hired her in 2001.

and the talented team of faculty and administrators she gathered around her. “I knew it would be a big challenge, but I also thought that I didn’t want to be an old woman looking back and wondering if I should have taken the risk,” said Dr. Novotny, who has announced plans to step down at the end of this month.



Dr. Novotny with University President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J. at the Fairfield Awards Dinner, where she was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award.

Fortunately for Fairfield, closing the School is the last thing anyone wants to do these days. Then, total School enrollment hovered about 120, accreditation was still needed, and the level of scholarship was not where it should have been. Ten years later, with the School bursting at nearly 700 students, accreditation accomplished with flying colors, a strategic focus on care of the older adult, and national recognition, the School of Nursing is one of the University’s major success stories. Under Dr. Novotny’s leadership, the Clinical Nurse Leader, Nurse Anesthesia, and Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate programs were all initiated. This spring, she was honored at the Fairfield Awards Dinner. SON Advisory Board members Craig Haba ’91 and Claudia Schechter served on the dinner committee.

“You have three years to turn the School around,” he told her. “If you can’t, I’m going to close it.”

“Father,” she remembers replying, “I’ll give you 1000 percent, and if I can’t do it, I’ll help you close it.”

Adds current President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., “Not only did she fix it, but she did so spectacularly, it is now one of the strongest nursing programs in the country. The renaissance of the school and its present strength is due to Dean Novotny

Next year, the School will be in the very capable hands of Associate Dean Suzanne Campbell, Ph.D., an esteemed faculty member and scholar, who has agreed to act as interim dean while the University continues its nationwide search for a new dean.



Fairfield
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School of Nursing

Nursing and Judaic Studies Forge Partnership

Continuing a long family tradition of support for Fairfield University, Robin Bennett Kanarek '96, and her husband Joseph, hosted a talk in March designed to forge a relationship between the School of Nursing and the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, two areas of the University in which Kanarek and her parents, Carl and Dorothy Bennett, have been very involved.

The idea for the talk, "21st Century Nursing and Judeo-Christian Values," was actually borne from a remark by Rev. Paul Fitzgerald, S.J., senior vice president for academic affairs. "He mentioned that nursing incorporates a lot of Judeo-Christian values, and I said to my husband that that would be an interesting topic for discussion," said Kanarek. The March event, which drew approximately 40 people to the Greenwich Tavern in Old Greenwich, Conn., "was a great success. There was a lot of engagement and it was clear that everyone wanted to continue the conversation," Kanarek added.

The program featured initial comments by Dr. Jeanne M. Novotny, dean, School of Nursing, with commentary provided by Dr. Ellen Umansky, director, Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Dr. Eileen O'Shea, assistant professor of nursing, and Robin Kanarek. Their unique blend of perspectives provided the gathered audience with an

inspiring launching off point for the discussion that unfolded. Fr. Fitzgerald facilitated the discussion, lending his deeply valued perspective to the topic.

Fairfield University's Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies was founded in 1994. The progressive mission of Judaic Studies at Fairfield is to be a multifaceted program that studies Judaism as an ongoing religious, historical, and cultural civilization.

Robin Kanarek has served on the School of Nursing Advisory Board since 2005, and the Kanarek Family Foundation has supported the establishment of the Robin Kanarek Learning Resource Center in the School of Nursing. Additional support from Robin and Joseph has been for a project directed by Dr. O'Shea entitled, *Nursing Curriculum Integration: Pediatric/Adolescent Cancer Palliative Care*. Results of this work have led to the co-authorship by Kanarek and Dr. O'Shea of an article that has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*. The article includes an in-depth case study on the lived experience of an adolescent with leukemia, the current research on palliative care in the pediatric setting, and how the healthcare providers can benefit from end-of-life education.

Board of Advisors Events

Former trustee and longtime School of Nursing supporter James Daly P '93, '92, '85 hosted a two-day sequence of events – an Advisory Board meeting plus an alumni reception – last February at the Lourdes-Noreen McKeen Residence, a nursing home run by the Carmelite Sisters in Florida. The Nursing board meeting included a general presentation on models of excellence in caring for the elderly facilitated by Dr. Alison Kris, assistant professor and Board of Advisors member. "The Lourdes McKeen residence demonstrates many of the characteristics of model nursing homes – a commitment to high quality care, a strong sense of community and compassionate care of the older adult." The Alumni reception took place the evening before the board meeting and was entitled, "Caring for the Elderly: The Evolving Role of Advanced Practice Nurses in Health Care Reform."

Daly, vice president of the McKeen Residence, has been instrumental in shaping the future direction of the School of

Nursing. He has been a valued supporter and has committed many gifts to the University, including the James and Denise Daly Nursing Scholarship. Jim and Denise are the parents of three Fairfield graduates.

The final Board meeting of the year, on June 9, included a presentation by Jean Bartels, Ph.D., RN, chair and professor of nursing at Georgia Southern University. She engaged those present in a dialogue on the future of nursing, addressing the twin challenges of educating nurses to a higher level while coping with the shortage of nursing faculty, particularly at the graduate level where nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia salaries exceed those of faculty.

Board of Advisors chair Nancy Lynch thanked outgoing Dean Jeanne Novotny. "She has exhibited a passion and professionalism for the vision and mission of the School like no one I know," Lynch said in her remarks.

SON Launches DNP Anesthesia Track

The School of Nursing launched its Doctor of Nursing Practice program in early 2010 with two tracks: Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. Now, the Nurse Anesthesia track has been added, “making Fairfield one of the first to offer a doctoral program in nurse anesthesia for entry right into practice,” said Nancy Moriber, Ph.D., CRNA, APRN, the School’s nurse anesthesia program track coordinator. “It puts us on the cutting edge and at the forefront of nurse anesthesia education.” The program is offered in conjunction with Bridgeport Hospital and Bridgeport Anesthesia Associates.

Adding the doctoral component to the existing Nurse Anesthesia program will stretch the curriculum to 36 months, full time. The degree has been established in response to a new professional standard in the nursing field, requiring nurse anesthetists to move to the doctoral level within the next few years.

Dean Jeanne Novotny, Ph.D., said offering the advanced degree is in keeping with Fairfield’s mission to educate nurses for the highest level of nursing practice. “There is a crucial need to prepare advanced practice nurses to take on a leading role among caregivers. At the same time, there is an



Dr. Nancy Moriber discusses a procedure with a nurse anesthesia student at Bridgeport Hospital. To view a videoclip on the Nurse Anesthesia program, visit www.fairfield.edu/son/dnp_index.html

emphasis towards clinical DNP certification for all advanced nurses within the next decade, and this program addresses both those needs.”

Students can enter the program with a BSN or an MSN, and will be educated to be expert clinicians for every stage and in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered to patients.

Dinner for Second Degree Students

Jill Edwards, MSN, RN was the featured speaker at an April dinner hosted by Professor Carole Pomarico for students in the Second Degree program. Edwards is the coordinator, Patient Family Centered Care Model, at the West Haven Veterans Hospital (WHVA), and she spoke on Patient and Family Centered Nursing Care. She and Dr. Jackie Conelius, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, are co-principal investigators in a \$1 million grant between Fairfield University and West Haven Veteran’s Administration.

“We asked Jill to speak because of her leadership in the Patient Centered Care Model at the WHVA and her leadership in the Graduate Center of Excellence Grant,” said Prof. Pomarico. “She represents how important it is for nurses to be actively involved in leadership development and lifelong learning.”

The dinner was held as part of the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) New Careers in Nursing Grant, which has provided scholarships to students traditionally under represented in the field of nursing. The goal is to help address the

nursing shortage by attracting a more diverse population to the School’s 15-month, Second Degree program. This year there are 10 RWJ Scholars in the program.



RWJ Scholars Larry Paelet (left) and David Bennett. Paelet and RWJ Scholar Heather Johnson talk about their experiences in the Second Degree Program in a newly-created videoclip. View it at www.fairfield.edu/seconddegree

A National Conversation about Advanced Practice Nursing

By Noël Appel, assistant vice president for development

The School of Nursing engaged in a sequence of national conversations during FY'11 focused on *Caring for the Elderly: The Evolving Role of Advanced Practice Nurses in Health Care Reform*. Audiences in Fairfield, Conn. (September), West Palm Beach, Fla. (February), and Los Angeles, Calif. (March) were comprised of alumni, parents, friends, nurses, physicians and other healthcare professionals interested in a conversation about the future of the nursing profession through the education and work of the advanced practice nurse. These lively discussions were hosted by alumni, parents and friends of the University. Kathy Russo, School of Nursing Advisory Board member, assisted with the Fairfield event, which was held at the Brooklawn Country Club. James Daly P '93, '92, '85 hosted the West Palm Beach event as well as the School of Nursing Advisory Board meeting. Both events took place at the Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence. Carol O'Neill '76 hosted the Los Angeles reception. Additional partnerships were forged with AARP Nursing in Washington, D.C. with the assistance of Cathleen Dooley '79, executive director of Federal

Affairs & Alliance Development for Johnson & Johnson in Washington, D.C. In addition, David Mezzapelle '90, director, Marketing and Development, Goliath-SilverCensus in West Palm Beach, provided assistance in drawing an audience of healthcare providers in Florida to the event.

These receptions were a collaborative effort with our special friends and Board members of the School of Nursing as well as Fairfield's Alumni Relations Office. The presentations were made by Dr. Jeanne Novotny, dean, School of Nursing, Dr. Jean Lange, former professor (now founding dean of Quinnipiac's School of Nursing), and Dr. Bonnie Molloy, School of Nursing Advisory Board Member and chief certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) at Bridgeport Anesthesia Associates. The Rev. Paul Fitzgerald, S.J., senior vice president for Academic Affairs, introduced the topic in Connecticut and in Florida adding his important perspective to the discussion. Lively conversations took place during each program informed by the challenges faced in the region related to healthcare reform and the growing elderly population.

New Board Members

The School of Nursing Board of Advisors is pleased to announce its newest Board members, and looks forward to working with them in the year ahead.



After a thirty-year career in management at the McCall Pattern Company, **Gail Berardino** retired as vice president of advertising promotion and publisher of *Vogue Patterns* magazine. During her career, she pioneered mass-market promotions for Vogue, Butterick and McCall patterns and products. She also authored the *Super Sweater Idea Book*.

She and her husband, Joe '72, have actively supported Catholic and Jesuit missions. They have established endowed scholarships at Fairfield University, Boston College, and Georgetown Universities. Gail is a Dame in the American Association of The Knights of Malta, where she co-chaired the Order's 25th annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2010. In that effort, over 400 people, including a team of 35 doctors and nurses, volunteered their efforts for the sick and the poor. She is active in the Order's endowment building initia-

tives, and she and her husband both have served as mentors in the University's Ignatian Residential College.



Sally Ann Nestor '91 RN, BSN, OCN, a nurse for 43 years, has joined the Board of Advisors. After graduating from the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania in 1967 she began working in medical-surgical nursing followed by public health nursing in Philadelphia. She raised three children and continued her education at Fairfield University's School of Nursing. After graduation, she pursued

hospice-palliative nursing as a case manager with Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut for ten years, followed by working in a private oncology medical practice administering chemotherapy. Nestor is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society through Fairfield University and a member of the National Oncology Nursing Society as well as the Southwestern Connecticut Oncology Society. She currently serves as vice president of the Charles and Mabel P. Jost Foundation.

Improv Troupe Makes it Real for Nursing Students

By Meg McCaffrey

Call it an inspired meeting of the Arts and the Sciences.

Nursing professors were looking for an innovative way to teach students how to better communicate with patients. That's because many errors in healthcare are caused by poor communication between healthcare professionals and patients, leading to sometimes life-threatening mistakes. Professors say this sad new norm has to do in part with less time to converse with patients. Compounding the problem is the growing use of electronic medical records, leading to less interaction between doctors and nurses.

Enter undergraduate Zachary Tesoriero '11, a member of Fairfield's improvisational comedy troupes, "On The Spot" and "Your Mom Does Improv." With just an outline of a script in hand, both Tesoriero and the students were told that the simulation would involve Tesoriero playing a terminally ill teenager talking about dying with his "nurses."

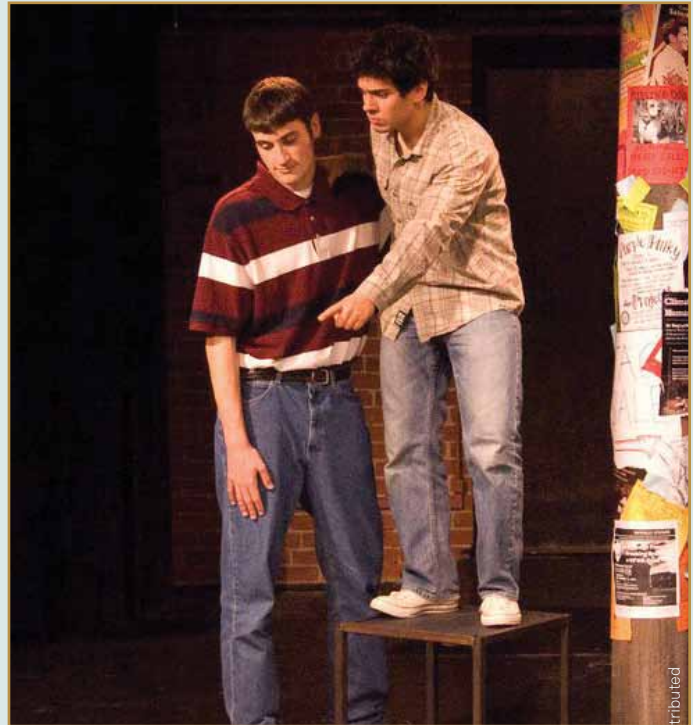
Working in pairs, the nursing students spoke to the "patient," taking ample time to understand his symptoms and concerns. "Our goal is to enhance student nurses' interpersonal communication so that they will be better prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation," said Dr. Eileen O'Shea, assistant professor of nursing. All of the interactions were videotaped so faculty and students could later observe what communication efforts worked and where improvement was needed.

The results were interesting—and eye-opening.

From the simulations, student Krislin Yosucio '11 discovered that communication might be the most difficult part of nursing. It also helped that she didn't know what to expect when she first saw the patient. "It's important to remember that even though silence may seem awkward, it's sometimes what is needed within a conversation," she said. "Now when speaking to a patient, I think in my mind what he or she may be feeling and what type of conversation they want to have."

Among the many simulations senior Michelle Anderson has done at Fairfield, she found this particular one the most helpful. "This was a sensitive topic - end-of-life care for a child and teenager," she said. "In that situation, the students really had to react quickly, and we were all able to see how awkward of a situation this can be for a nurse."

The effort fit right into the School of Nursing's approach to teaching. That is, supplementing classroom study and clinical rotations with simulation learning exercises, under-



Improv comedy troupe member Zach Tesoriero, '11 (on stool). Pictured with him is Andrew Nealis, '14, "As an actor or improviser, I'm a representative of issues, ideas, and thoughts - mine or otherwise," Tesoriero noted. "Sometimes they're funny, sometimes they're not."

taken in the school's Robin Kanarek '96 Learning Resource Center, a state of the art facility resembling a hospital with high tech mannequins representing patients of all ages.

Michael Pagano, a physician assistant and associate professor of communication who helped teach the course, said there are so many communication barriers in healthcare, especially as it becomes so cost and time-driven. "That's why it's vital to work on enhancing nursing students' skills in communicating - not only how they speak to patients but just as importantly how they listen to them and respond back with meaningful questions to gauge their needs such as pain management."

Commencement and Undergraduate Pinning

May brought a whirl of activity to the School of Nursing, as the School graduated 112 students with a B.S. in nursing, and 39 students with master's degrees.



Fairfield graduate Dr. Patricia C. Dykes, manager of Nursing Informatics and Research, Partners HealthCare Professor at Harvard Medical School, spoke at the pinning ceremony. She and her team developed a decision-support and communication intervention for use by the care team.

Speaking to the undergraduates in the morning ceremony, Associate Professor Joyce M. Shea, DNSc, APRN, a Fairfield alumnus and director of the undergraduate program, offered some reflections on the meaning of being a nurse, quoting from a recent publication by Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Honor Society: "You'll know you're a nurse when you're the only one on rounds who knows the name of a child's imaginary friend and that the intern is about to sit on him."



At the undergraduate ceremony, students released poppers in honor of Dean Jeanne M. Novotny



The 2011 School of Nursing Pin Award for Outstanding Contribution to the School went to Michael Cicirelli, who completed a clinical in the transplant unit at Yale New Haven Hospital, a first-time placement for a Fairfield student. He joins Fairfield's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

The Outstanding Scholastic Achievement award was given to Katelin Grace Heltz, who completed an intense clinical rotation in the operating room at St. Vincent's Medical Center and is headed to Yale University to pursue a graduate degree.



At the graduate student ceremony, Dr. Brian Monahan '82, addressed those in attendance, telling them that receiving a Jesuit education means being called to be men and women for others. "What that means is your academic achievement brings with it a responsibility to examine social systems critically, and to become directly involved with those who are underprivileged and underserved," he said.



In recognition of their scholastic excellence in the RN-BSN program, the following adult students were inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Robin Bologna | Calixto Ortiz | Deana Skidmore |
| Andrea Coscarelli | Shayla Satkowski | Barbara Williams |
| Bradley Hamilton | Linda Seaman | Kathleen Wojcek |

Molloy Post-Doc Fellowship

Dr. Bonnie Molloy, a member of the nurse anesthesia faculty and SON Advisory Board member, was recently awarded \$50,000 from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation for her research project on the cause and prevention of blindness during prolonged surgeries.

“We realized that the head down position for prolonged procedures during lower Robotic and laparoscopic procedures can result in permanent blindness,” explained Dr. Molloy, noting that intraocular pressure can result in low perfusion to the eye, causing the problem. Her team developed an observation scale that is both reliable and easy for caregivers to use, and a prevention model that includes the

administration of eye drops intraoperatively, and a supine rest stop for several minutes if intraocular pressure continues to rise. The grant will allow Dr. Molloy to continue the study at Bridgeport Hospital and to validate the findings at another facility.

Fairfield nurse anesthesia students Monika O’Toole and Brittany Childs are working with Molloy on the research project.



Nursing Faculty Honored



Dr. Sheila Grossman was the recipient of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) 2011 Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Faculty award on Saturday, April 16. She was honored at the NONPF 37th annual awards banquet in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The 2011 Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Faculty award is presented to a faculty member who is a nurse practitioner teaching in a Nurse Practitioner program and has demonstrated local, regional, national, and international contributions in the advancement of nurse practitioner education in the following areas: innovative curriculum development, outstanding teaching ability, educational policy development, and development of creative teaching techniques/strategies.



Dr. Suzanne Hetzel Campbell, new dean of The School of Nursing, was awarded the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) Excellence in the Academic Setting Award – Mentoring category 2011. Nominated by Dr. Eileen O’Shea with recommendations from Drs. Sheila Grossman and Michael Pagano, this

award is given to a member who demonstrates excellence in the field of nursing simulation and clinical laboratories. Dr. Campbell will receive the award at the 10th Annual International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource Centers Conference in Orlando this month.



Dr. Meredith Wallace Kazer was recently nominated for induction as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. “Selection for membership in the Academy is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing,” said Academy President Catherine Gilliss. “The Academy Fellowship represents the nation’s top nurse researchers, policymakers, scholars, executives, educators and practitioners.” Dr. Kazer has been instrumental in shaping the palliative care program at Fairfield, and several years ago received a grant



Fairfield University Assistant Professor Kathleen Lovanio (far right) jokes with nurses at St. Vincent’s Medical Center during a ceremony celebrating those in the gerontological nursing program. A record number of 26 nurses passed the certification exam after a period of self-study that generally lasted six months to a year. “The key is to stay in touch and to support them,” said Lovanio, who shepherded the group through the process.

to allow the University to offer a successful Geriatric Nurse online program free to any nurse caring for the elderly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduate Information Session for those interested in the master's or Doctor of Nursing Practice Degrees. Tuesday, July 12, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Kelley Center at Fairfield University. For information, call (203) 254-4184

Open VISIONS Forum with NBC correspondent **Chuck Todd**. Monday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m. \$45. Quick Center for the Arts. For tickets, call the Box Office at (203) 254-4010.

John Malkovich, *The Infernal Comedy*. Tuesday, Nov. 15, 8 p.m. \$95, \$85. Quick Center for the Arts. For tickets, call the Box Office at (203) 254-4010.

THE PULSE EDITORIAL BOARD

The *Pulse* is published twice a year by Fairfield University for alumni, students, parents, benefactors, and friends of the School of Nursing, as well as selected healthcare agencies and nursing schools. Editorial offices are located at:

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Message from the Dean



It seems like yesterday that I began my appointment as dean of the School of Nursing. I look back with deep satisfaction on what we have accomplished since July, 2001 in terms of enrollment, new programming, and academic rigor. With the help of individual and foundation funds and the very hard work of the faculty and staff, we were able to accomplish our mission and forge a vision for the future.

During my deanship I have been blessed with a forward-thinking University administration, generous donors, and a team of outstanding faculty and staff, as well as alumni and parents who care deeply about the nursing profession and its diverse student body.

The goals that we have accomplished are because of the constellation of stars made of the individuals who are part of this great Jesuit University. Our advisory board is recognized

as one of the best in the country because of our chair, Nancy Lynch, P'95 and the other dedicated Board members who have worked tirelessly to advance the School of Nursing. The marriage between academics and advancement is the cornerstone of our achievement.

I feel a debt of gratitude to Fr. Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J., who entrusted the leadership of the School of Nursing to me. His faith in my ability has given me a decade in my career that has been both personally and professionally rewarding. I also want to thank Fr. von Arx, S.J., who has continued that support.

As I move forward into the next phase of my life and career, I will look back at my time at Fairfield as a special one. What an honor it has been to be part of the Fairfield University family!

Jeanne M. Novotny, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor