



The

# PULSE

Fall 2008

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

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## The year of distinguished visiting scholars

There's great excitement in the halls and classrooms of the School of Nursing these days, and much of it comes from the energy generated by a host of visiting scholars representing many specialties within the field. "Each is distinguished by his or her strong research on weighty, and often difficult, topics," said Dean Jeanne Novotny, who noted the benefits both faculty and students will reap from spending time with these seasoned professionals in small, casual settings such as the classroom.

**Marjorie Godfrey, M.S., RN**, adjunct instructor for Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, director of the Clinical Microsystem Resource Group of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and associate director of improvement, is on hand at periods throughout the year to advise faculty in the clinical nurse leader program. Her research has been in patient safety, and her passion is in getting interdisciplinary teams of professionals to work together. "If you had to sum up the goals of a Clinical Nurse Leader graduate in one phrase it would be 'improving healthcare outcomes for patients,'" says Dr. Sally Gerard, track coordinator. "By bringing in a national leader in the field of patient outcomes, the possibilities

for this program are limitless." At an informal faculty meeting in September, Godfrey shared some of her experiences as a lead improvement facilitator, noting the importance of getting senior leaders involved and of having coaches for staff members. "At the end of 18-24 months,

the staff can really see the improvement in the quality of care they are giving, and they no longer perceive their assessment work as a burden," she noted.

All sections of Dr. Joyce Shea's mental health nursing classes benefited from lectures by **Dr. Grayce M. Sills, RN, FAAN**, professor emeritus at Ohio State University, and a leader in the field of psychiatric

mental health nursing for over 40 years. A past president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, she was the winner in 2000 of the Hildegard Peplau Award from the American Nurses Association. In her talks with faculty and students, Dr. Sills stressed the importance of trauma-informed care, noting that just about all patients have had some form of trauma in their lives, and this can impact the way they heal. Dr. Sills conducted an informal session with faculty, during which she spoke of the impact of trauma on a patient's well-being, and emphasized



Jean Santopatre photo

Marjorie Godfrey

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## Board chair Nancy Lynch begins second term

To the delight of everyone connected to the School of Nursing, Nancy Lynch has just begun her second, three-year term as chair of the School's Advisory Board. *The Pulse* spoke to her about her goals for the upcoming term.

**The Pulse:** You've agreed to spearhead the Advisory Board for another few years. Why?

**Nancy Lynch:** Selfishly, because I love what I'm doing. Plus, I felt the continuity would be helpful. There are a number of extremely qualified members of this Board who could lead, but we have become a truly cohesive group that works very well with this format. There is not a person on the Board who just "attends" meetings; each contributes great knowledge, experience, and passion for Fairfield and the School of Nursing.

**Pulse:** What are your goals for the next few years?

**NL:** We need to take the time to reflect on what we've accomplished, particularly as far as the Robin Kanarek Learning Resource Center (LRC) goes. And we must focus on the endowment in order to ensure the sustainability of the program, staffing requirements and equipment.

We are continually looking at curriculum, and it's still an ongoing project to infuse simulation into the curriculum

plans. And we have to be mindful that the curriculum corresponds with Fr. von Arx's strategic goals of diversity, integration of Jesuit values, and preparing students to be engaged citizens of the world. We expect that the School's graduate programs will encourage our students to be the leaders we know they can be.

**Pulse:** Is there anything you are particularly excited about this year?

**NL:** We have a series of nationally recognized visiting scholars coming to campus this year to work with faculty and students. This engagement with external experts will broaden the education of our students and will provide important connections for our faculty. Some of these visitors will also join members of the School's Advisory Board for a special discussion at our January 2009 Board meeting so as to further inform our knowledge as ambassadors of the School of Nursing.



Jean Santopatre photo

## New directions in nursing

Fairfield's School of Nursing is emerging as a national leader in nursing education, preparing advanced practice nurses who can respond to a complex healthcare environment, take on leadership roles on major issues, and advocate for the underserved. In keeping with this mission, the University is planning to begin a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in September 2010.

"The DNP program has the potential for interdisciplinary partnerships in areas such as ethics, business practices, community engagement, communication, and patient education," said Dean Jeanne Novotny. "It is the logical next step in our growth trajectory."

The University has formed a faculty committee to look

at other programs, and has sought input from nursing professionals. "In addition, an electronic survey was sent out to alumni last month to gauge their interest, to get a better sense of the timing of any new initiatives, and to gather their opinions," said Dr. Jean Lange, associate professor, who is spearheading the study.

DNP programs incorporate the advanced practice nursing (APRN) content typically included in today's master's programs, with an additional focus on providing leadership for evidence-based practice. This requires competence in translating research into practice, evaluating evidence, applying research in decision-making, and implementing viable clinical innovations to change practice.

## What do you think... about *The Pulse*?

*The Pulse* is your newsletter, written and designed to tell you what is going on in the School of Nursing, from interesting student stories to major faculty research to the School's major goals and objectives. You can help us make *The Pulse* even better by telling us what you like and don't like, and what kind of articles you'd like to see.

Please e-mail comments to the editor at: [nrccio@mail.fairfield.edu](mailto:nrccio@mail.fairfield.edu) or call: (203) 254-4000, ext. 3329 or drop a note to:

**Editor, *The Pulse***  
Fairfield University BLM 202, 1073 N. Benson Rd.  
Fairfield, Conn. 06824

## Nursing study abroad opportunities expanded

by Bailey Cardinal '12

In the past, nursing students have been limited in their study abroad options due a rigorous course load. To address that issue, the Study Abroad program, in collaboration with the School of Nursing, has created several new programs specifically for nursing majors.

According to Dr. Philip Greiner, associate dean, a plan for study abroad in Nicaragua has been in the works for several years, and was designed through a partnership with Universidad Centroamerica (UCA). In spring 2009, 16 nursing students with some Spanish language skills will travel to Managua, **Nicaragua** for the nine days of spring break. Together with social work students from UCA, nursing majors will work on an assessment project for a barrio in Managua, and will receive credit for half of the clinical requirement in their Public Health Nursing Course.

A short-session study option has been offered in Padova, **Italy** since 2003. This program is headed by Dr. Jean Lange, and is available to all nursing students. Students are able to

spend two weeks in Padova beginning at the end of May and ending in early June. While there, students have the opportunity to see many healthcare facilities firsthand, and gain a better understanding of how a nationalized healthcare system works.

“Nursing students gain a breadth and depth of knowledge about global healthcare that they might not be as concretely exposed to without studying abroad,” said Dr. Suzanne Campbell, who is in charge of the study abroad program at Northern Ireland University in **Galway**. In this program, which has grown from a handful of students to approximately 15, students have the chance to take courses on world diversity and applied ethics. Fairfield students are able to work alongside Galway students and witness them preparing to spend their own summer in countries like Africa, where they will be caring for migrant workers. The Galway program is for the entire spring semester of junior year.

## August graduation and pinning celebration

The School of Nursing's second degree students – a diverse group of 20 – plus two students in the RN to BSN program, graduated in August in a joyous ceremony attended by an overflow crowd of family and friends. The second degree program is a 15-month, accelerated program for students who have earned an undergraduate degree in a field other than nursing and wish to make a career change. Dr. Jeanne Novotny spoke to the group about her pride and delight at being chosen to receive the VA Nursing Academy grant and noted the good work being done at the West Haven VA, where several of the students will begin working.

The Rev. Charles Allen, S.J. followed by noting the significance of having the VA Nursing Academy associated with a Jesuit school. “After all, the Society of Jesus [the Jesuits] was founded by a wounded soldier,” he said, noting that St. Ignatius's religious epiphany came during his long recovery from a battle injury. He went on to extol three qualities that are part of Jesuit tradition: the conviction that comes with being a soldier and battling what is wrong, such as bad health practices; the reflection and self-improvement it takes to fight the battle in an organized fashion as students or administrators; and the fact that all this is done in the presence of a loving God who we are trying to serve.



contributed photo

Stephen Opoku, who graduated from the second degree program in 2007, celebrates with his wife Alice (far right) who just graduated, and Assistant Professor Carol Fackler.

## VA Nursing Academy welcomes new faculty

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that ten new faculty are on board this year, all part of the VA Nursing Academy (the School of Nursing's partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs). They are:

### **Carolynn Bruno, MSN, RN, assistant professor**

A graduate of Fairfield University, Bruno has returned to her alma mater after receiving her MSN at the University of Pennsylvania and a post-master's certificate at Sacred Heart. Her research is centered on cardiac care, childhood obesity, and the influence of faith in spiritual healing. "What I find most delightful regarding the art of nursing is its versatility and the opportunity for serving and touching the hearts of those in need," she says.



### **Suzanne Chaplik, MSN, RN, assistant professor**



Chaplik is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Utah through distance learning technology. "At the start of my 29 years in nursing, I worked in New York City on a medical-surgical floor and within a few years, a critical care unit. I moved to Connecticut in 1986 and started work at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in the medical intensive care unit," she says.

Chaplik's areas of research include pre-existing variables and outcome of cardiac arrest resuscitation, and factors that influence adherence versus non-adherence to medication for hypertension.

### **Jaelyn Conelius, Ph.D. (c), APRN, assistant professor**

Conelius received her BSN at Fairfield and her MSN at Yale, and is working toward a Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut. Her area of interest is cardiology, and she specializes in electrophysiology, focusing mostly on pacemaker and implantable cardioverter defibrillator (AICD) patients.

"I am currently developing a survey to assess the need for advanced directives in the implantable cardioverter defibril-



lator patient population." Her research interests include electrophysiology, heart failure, women and heart disease, and disease prevention.

### **Carol Connery, MSN, RN, assistant professor**

Connery earned her MSN at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Case Western Reserve University. "Obstetrics, women's health care and pediatrics are my specialties. My passions in nursing have been to care for the pediatric patient and family and the childbearing family especially in the area of assisting with breastfeeding concerns," she said.

Her areas of research interest include breastfeeding through empowerment, women's healthcare issues, child-bearing practices, and simulation.



### **Sally Dalton, MSN, RN, assistant professor**



"I have been in nursing since 1972 and the majority of my professional career has been working with burn survivors," says Dalton, who for 20 years was the nurse manager of the only burn center in the State of Connecticut. She also managed the Wound Healing Center of Fairfield County, caring for burns and non-healing wounds, and was on the faculty for the American Burn

Association since 2004, teaching burn care to physicians, nurses, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians across the nation. Dalton spent eleven years in the Army Reserve with burn survivors. Her research areas include disaster planning, wound care, suicide in the veteran population, and nursing education.

### **Lydia Greiner, MSN, APRN, assistant professor**

Greiner is a familiar face at Fairfield – she was responsible for the day-to-day management of the Health Promotion Center, which provides health promotion and referral services to the greater Bridgeport community and serves as a clinical site for several



undergraduate nursing courses, for five years, and has been an adjunct clinical instructor for mental health and public health nursing for three years. In addition, she is the principal investigator of a federally-funded project, Youth Power Partnership, a three-year pilot project that seeks to identify best-practices for reduction of adolescent risk behaviors. Her research areas include vulnerable populations, access to care, mental health, and health promotion.

**Bonnie Haupt, MSN, RN, assistant professor**



Haupt graduated from the University of Hartford and Southern Connecticut State College. After working 17 years at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, and part-time for two years as an adjunct clinical faculty member for Fairfield University, accepting this position as a VA Nursing Academy faculty member “required little thought. I am able

to continue to work in an institution and care for a patient population that I love, and use my nursing educational background to mentor and teach students. This partnership formed by the VA and Fairfield University will serve as a role model for our nation’s healthcare system and universities across the country. Our institutional relationships will promote and address diverse cultural, political, ethical, legal, and healthcare needs of our veteran population.”

**Kathleen Lovanio, MSN, APRN, assistant professor**



“Since I became a nurse I knew immediately that I made the right career choice,” says Lovanio, who earned her MSN and a post-master’s certificate at Fairfield. “What we do as nurses makes a difference.” She finds herself especially enthusiastic and passionate when caring for the older adult. “Because of the special needs of this population I am dedicated to preparing nursing students to be well

educated to care for the older adult in all healthcare settings, the community, acute care, and long term care.”

**Mary Murphy, MSN, APRN, assistant professor**

A graduate of Western Connecticut State University and Florida Atlantic, Murphy has specialized in medical and

critical care. “I have had the unique privilege of caring for veterans at VA hospitals in California, Florida and Connecticut. Health communication and assessment of the needs of the veteran remains my primary focus. Integrating nursing care with an interdisciplinary approach supported by effective communication has enriched my practice.”



**Rachel Smith, MSN, RN, assistant professor**



“I have been a nurse for 26 years and my career has taken me in many directions. I have been a staff nurse, educator, manager and director, primarily in critical care,” says Smith. “I am very fortunate to be part of the VA Nursing Academy. It is an opportunity to use my expertise through my teaching and clinical tracks. I am looking forward to working with both the VA Health Administration and

Fairfield University to educate our future nurses and give them the tools and guidance they will need to endure a very challenging, yet fulfilling profession.” Her areas of research interest include palliative care, leadership, mentoring, staffing issues, and horizontal violence.

All photos by Jean Santopatre

## Gifts & Grants

The Paul L. Jones Fund has generously awarded \$50,000 to the School of Nursing Scholarship Fund for 2009.

A gift of \$16,000 by TransCon Builders will support two visiting scholars, Drs. Christine Bradway and Deanna Gray-Miceli, for four days of lecture and consultation at the School and at TransCon’s Wilton Meadows Health Care Center.

The Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources Services Administration, under the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship, has given the School \$30,554 to support student tuition. The project also encourages students to serve populations that are medically underserved.

## SON faculty accomplishments

**D**r. Jeanne M. Novotny, dean, has appointed Associate Professor **Suzanne Hetzel Campbell, Ph.D., APRN**, to the newly created position of associate dean for Academic Programs, a post that will be central in collaborating with Dr. Novotny and faculty on curriculum, scholarship and student clinical rotations at area hospitals.

The appointment comes in the wake of the School of Nursing's considerable growth and success. Dr. Campbell has played a significant role in helping to secure grants, establish partnerships and taking part in grant-funded research projects.

Dr. Campbell is the project director of the Robin Kanarek '96 Learning Resource Center – a state-of-the-art simulation teaching facility on campus that is considered one of the School's great achievements. As associate dean for Academic Programs, Dr. Campbell will continue to work with faculty to weave simulation teaching assignments into course curriculum to prepare students for their clinical rotations at area hospitals and assisted living facilities.

In addition, Dr. Campbell received the School of Nursing Advisory Board Faculty Member Award in grateful appreciation for her commitment and leadership.

A book co-authored by Dr. Campbell, *Simulation Scenarios for Nurse Educators: Making it REAL*, will be published by Springer in December 2008. Fairfield faculty contributed 19 of the book's 26 chapters.

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**Dr. Sheila Grossman** has co-authored the Gerontology RN Certification Review, a reference and certification test review guide for nurses preparing for RN gerontological certification. The book was published in June 2008.

Dr. Grossman also co-authored *Saunders Q & A Immunology Review Cards for the NCLEX-RN Exam* published by Elsevier in April, 2008; "Managing the Threat of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) in Home Care" in the *Journal of Homecare Nursing & Hospice* with School of Nursing Lab Director Diana Mager; and "Teaching about Cardiac Emergencies: Implications for Maternal/Child Nurse Educators" in the *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*.

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**Dr. Doris 'Dee' Lippman**, professor of nursing, has been invited to attend the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, on Nov. 11 in Washington, D. C. She will attend a special reception hosted by Senator Chuck Hagel to thank those responsible for the creation of the memorial.

Dr. Lippman was an Army nurse during the Vietnam War. An expert in post-traumatic stress disorder, she is dedicated to giving our returning veterans top medical care, and works with Fairfield nursing students at the VA Medical Center in West Haven.

## Student invited to inauguration

by Bailey M. Cardinal '12

**T**he School of Nursing is filled with dynamic, diverse, and driven individuals, all striving to make a difference through the field of nursing. Sophomore **Katelyn Fahrney** is one such student. Fahrney chose nursing "to advance my knowledge of the sciences and become an instrumental patient advocate." She is so dedicated, in fact, that after being chosen as a candidate for NYLC (National Youth Leadership Conference) in high school and demonstrating superior leadership skills, Fahrney was invited to attend the University Presidential Inaugural Conference in Washington D.C., in January 2009. There, she will be privi-



Bailey Cardinal photo

leged to listen in on panel discussions, attend the Black Tie Gala, and most importantly, witness the swearing in of the new president of the United States, regardless of who that may be.

Thrilled to receive her invitation, Fahrney looks forward to attending the inauguration. "As an American, being able to see the most democratic event of our nation firsthand is an honor." Fahrney noted that the most important facet of this election is healthcare and that "I would like to walk away from this conference knowing that Americans can unite under our newly elected government and work together toward reaching America's full potential."

## Distinguished visiting scholars

*continued from page 1*

her belief that relationships with the patient and family are at the heart of the nursing profession.

In November, the School will host a daylong seminar on curriculum planning, teaching, and using simulation models in the classroom.

Several experts will be on hand to give their expertise on scenario planning and writing, and on using the simulation models effectively.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to finally host this event for our School of Nursing colleagues in the state as well as staff development educators in institutions throughout Connecticut. We look

forward to the shared dialogue and brainstorming that occurs during these ‘Simulation User Network’ workshops as we learn so much from each other,” Dr. Suzanne Campbell said. “Plus, demonstrating our incorporation of

simulation into classes and sharing our new lab and vision for the future is an added benefit.”

Later on in the academic year, Advisory Board member **Charles Trunz**, president of North Shore

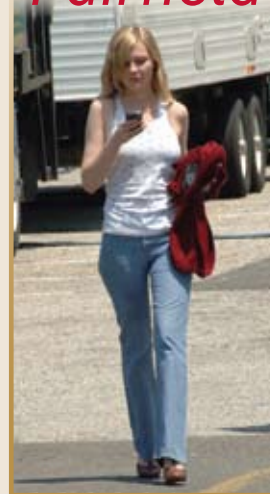


Dr. Grayce Sills

Healthcare Enterprises, will be speaking on creating a for-profit enterprise within a non profit setting, and Dr. Eileen O’Shea will be announcing a visiting scholar in the field of palliative care. **Dr. Christine Bradway**, assistant professor of gerontological nursing and director of the Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of

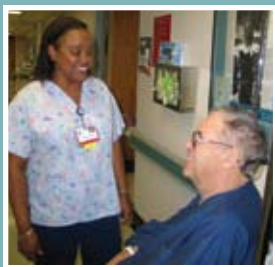
Pennsylvania will lecture on urinary incontinence in older adults. **Dr. Deanna Gray-Miceli**, consultant to New York University Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, will speak on fall prevention strategies.

## Hollywood comes to Fairfield



Watch closely when the movie, *All Good Things*, starring **Kirsten Dunst** and **Ryan Gosling**, makes its debut in 2009. Several scenes were filmed on the Fairfield campus, while the office of School of Nursing Dean **Jeanne Novotny** was temporarily transformed into that of a legal eagle, circa the 1980s. (Luckily, our staff had an old typewriter available as a prop!)

## Fairfield University School of Nursing



Do you know someone considering a career change? Tell them about the School of Nursing’s Second Degree Program!

### LEARN MORE!

**Open Advising & Registration Event**  
Thursday, January 8, 2009  
4 - 7 p.m.  
On campus at the Kelley Center

### EVENT INFO:

(203) 254-4184  
(888) 488-6840



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fairfield University Glee Club concert.** Friday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts (QCA). For tickets, call the Box Office at (203) 254-4010.

**Puccini's *La Rondine*, The Met** Live in HD. Saturday, Jan. 3 and Sunday, Jan. 11 encore. QCA, 1 p.m. For more information: [www.fairfield.edu/methd](http://www.fairfield.edu/methd). For tickets, call the Box Office at (203) 254-4010.

**Open Advising** for anyone interested in a career in nursing. Thursday, Jan. 8, 4 – 7 p.m. Kelley Center.

**Open VISIONS Forum** presents **Olympia Dukakis.** Sunday, Jan. 25, QCA, 3 p.m. For tickets, call the Box Office at (203) 254-4010.



## School of Nursing

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Fairfield, CT 06824-5195

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Fairfield University  
1073 North Benson Rd.  
Bellarmine Hall  
Fairfield, CT 06824-5195

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## Message From the Dean:



We are moving into a new phase of our strategic planning -- bringing scholars to the School of Nursing. Indeed, this year can truly be called the “Year of the Distinguished Visiting Scholars.” Throughout the year a host of nationally-recognized individuals will enrich our students, faculty, and healthcare partners. This is an incredible opportunity for those of us at the School to learn about significant nursing accomplishments, to network with nursing leaders, and to expand personal and professional horizons. I hope that you enjoy reading about Dr. Grayce Sills, RN, FAAN, and Marjorie Godfrey, MS, RN, in this

issue. During the spring we will feature Christine Bradway, Ph.D., RN, CRNP, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing; Deanna Gray-Miceli, DNSc, APRN, FAANP, New York University, Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing; Charles Trunz, President of North Shore Healthcare Enterprises, and others. These professionals will enrich the experience of all connected with the School of Nursing and provide insights to the decisions and challenges that face current and future nurses.

In addition, we are embarking on a journey entitled “Restructuring the Curriculum for the Future.” This includes the work of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Task Force under the leadership of Jean Lange, Ph.D., RN, associate professor. As always, we are guided by the mission of Fairfield University, the Strategic Plan of the University, and our Jesuit heritage to continue the tradition of caring to change the world.

Sincerely,

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