

The

PULSE

Fall 2009

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Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing

Public health nursing in Nicaragua

by Nina Riccio, M.A. '09

Civic and community engagement are hallmarks of Jesuit education, and examples can be seen in all schools and at all levels at Fairfield University. But every once in a while, there is a story that fits the mission so perfectly that it must be told.

Such is the story of the Nicaragua trip for undergraduate nursing students last spring. All undergraduates must take a public health nursing course, and Professor Lydia Greiner offered them the option of taking it in Nicaragua, where they could work with social work students from the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), a Jesuit institution with which Fairfield often partners. Twelve students – from the traditional undergraduate, second degree and adult programs – jumped at the chance and spent a week in a neighborhood within Managua, interviewing residents to find out their most pressing health concerns, mapping homes in terms of location and number of people in the household, and determining the neighborhood’s assets. “This was an asset-based assessment,” notes Dr. Philip Greiner, who co-taught the course with his wife. “Working with the social workers from UCA, our students found both the strengths and



Professor Lydia Greiner, center, conducts interviews with residents of Managua’s Ayapal neighborhood.

the risks in the community. We want to know what works, why residents stay, what they don’t want changed and what they are working to fix.” Assets identified were the resiliency, optimism, skills, and resourcefulness of the people, as well as their ongoing collaboration with UCA. The risks were primarily environmentally related; a large reservoir flooded each rainy season, for example, creating major health issues such as malaria and dengue for those living in that section of the neighborhood.

But the team learned that their biggest health concerns were not necessarily shared by those in the community. “We

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Message from Board of Advisors Chair Nancy Lynch



Jean Santopatre photo

For the year 2009-2010, The Advisory Board of the School of Nursing will continue to expand its mission as well as become more knowledgeable in the field of major issues related to healthcare. Richard Umbdenstock '72, president and chief executive officer of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and a past chairman of the AHA Board of Trustees, agreed to spend the day at Fairfield and give a timely presentation on healthcare reform and the redesign of healthcare delivery. I am also delighted to report that Cathleen Dooley, '79, an executive of Johnson & Johnson, will be joining our board. Richard and Cathleen are prominent and influential in their fields and our collaboration with them adds a unique richness and perspective to our work.

The work of this board also continues to concentrate on philanthropy. Over the past three years, we have been

able to raise funds to finance the Robin Kanarek '96 Learning Resource Center (LRC) and equip it with the technology-rich simulation equipment necessary for students to practice their skills in an environment that is less stressful and demanding than a hospital setting. One board member questioned the sustainability of this center as we were nearing completion. How rewarding to be at the point where we have to not only think about that question, but answer it! Our challenge is to create an endowment of \$7 million that will focus on two areas: one for the programs and equipment in the LRC to be continually maintained and upgraded and another to ensure curricular excellence in the years ahead. This has been our vision since Day One, and this board is totally committed to that mission.

I am proud to note that our excellent faculty and staff are so very accomplished and active and have had great success obtaining grants from several organizations. This is truly an indication of how far we have come in the field of nursing and that there are so many outside interests that believe in what we do. With this in mind, we look forward to another year ahead.

Pediatric Palliative Care workshop

Over 100 people turned out on a Saturday morning for the Pediatric and Adolescent Palliative Care workshop spearheaded by Dr. Eileen O'Shea last March. The conference, structured for nurses, physicians, social workers, therapists, and others who provide care to children and adolescents with life threatening conditions, was designed to open up communication between caregivers, offer suggestions on how to improve care and communication with families, and help adolescents with appropriate decision making.

Keynote speaker Dr. Pamela Hinds, internationally known for her work in pediatric oncology and nursing research who has spent much of her career at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, described the factors adolescents use when making decisions and the strategies a team of caregivers can use to help them. Dr. O'Shea and School of Nursing Advisory Board member Robin Kanarek, BSN, RN, gave a joint presentation on improving end-of-life

communication, an especially meaningful talk as Kanarek was able to speak from the point of view of a parent who lost a child to cancer. A panel discussion on partnering with children and their families wrapped up the morning.



Robin Kanarek, '96

Bob Winkler photo

AHA president Umbdenstock '72 speaks on healthcare reform

by Nina Riccio, M.A. '09

It was a full house as 110 faculty, students, School of Nursing Advisory Board members and friends of the School of Nursing attended an eagerly anticipated talk by Richard Umbdenstock '72, president and chief executive officer of the American Hospital Association, on Sept. 29.

In a frank and thorough talk devoid of the rancor that often accompanies any discussion of healthcare reform, Umbdenstock guided his audience through the intersection of healthcare reform and politics. "What you heard this summer [in the town hall meetings] was not about healthcare reform but about the ideological divide between individual responsibility and government involvement," he said.

The AHA's framework for reform, Umbdenstock said, involves five areas: coverage for all, paid for by all; a focus on wellness; increased efficiency and affordability of services; highest quality of care; and the use of technology to move information across systems. Embedded in the coverage element is the need for insurance reform. The way health insurance is currently structured, "we have succeeded in building a system in which insurers try to avoid covering any sick people," he intoned, noting that the elderly and those with preexisting conditions, or those who max out their benefits, find it difficult to obtain insurance.

"The driver of healthcare reform is cost, and it's the steepness of the cost incline that has everyone so worried. It forces us to think about what other national initiatives will have to be truncated because of the rapid rise of health expenditures," he said. Some form of reform will happen within the next few months, he added. "The administration has already struck deals to lower the cost of pharmaceuticals in Medicare. That's reform.



Jean Santopatre photos

From left, Dean Jeanne Novotny, AHA President Richard Umbdenstock '72, Advisory Board Chair Nancy Lynch P'95, and Dr. Alan Katz, retired professor of politics and one of Umbdenstock's favorite professors.



Richard Umbdenstock deftly explained the political aspects of the healthcare debate.

Nineteen billion in stimulus money has gone toward healthcare information technology. That's reform. The reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program means that more uninsured children are now covered. That's reform."

Answering questions from the audience, Umbdenstock acknowledged that fraud prevention and tort reform are both extremely important in keeping down costs.

Umbdenstock, a politics major at Fairfield, earned a master's in health services administration from SUNY in 1974, and uses his knowledge of the political process in his work as an advocate for the nation's hospitals. After the luncheon, he met with the School of Nursing Advisory Board and Partnership Council, and had dinner with University President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., his former professors, and his senior year RA roommate, Robert Dawe, M.D., '72, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Orthopaedic Specialty Group of Fairfield.

Student honored with Scott MacDonald Award

by Meg McCaffrey

Richard “Ched” Foster, a recent graduate of Fairfield University’s School of Nursing, has been named the first recipient of the Scott MacDonald Award, an honor bestowed on the student who has shown a deep commitment for the care and well being of veterans.

A Navy veteran, Scott MacDonald, of Branford, works as Congressman Jim Himes’s Veterans and Homeland Security Outreach Coordinator. Paralyzed from the waist down, he has made it part of his life’s mission to educate healthcare professionals on caring for those with spinal cord injuries, especially veterans.

Foster was a student in the University’s first Second Degree BSN class to rotate through the “VA Nursing



Navy veteran Scott MacDonald with award recipient Ched Foster (standing). VA nurse administrator Margaret Veazey looks on.

Academy,” a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program partnering the School of Nursing with the VA Connecticut Healthcare System (VACHS). Foster said he was humbled by the honor. “When you walk into the VA, there is a sign on one of the walls that reads: ‘The Price of Freedom is Visible Here,’” he said. “On another wall, you see: ‘All Gave Some, Some Gave All.’ Just those two thoughts are enough to warm my emotions, but it is especially rewarding to know that my fellow students chose me as to be honored this way.”

Doris T. Lippman, Ed. D., professor of nursing at Fairfield and an Army veteran, said, “The award was voted on by the students, and they decided that Ched demonstrates a true appreciation for the veteran population. He exhibits compassion and a sense of gratitude for their patriotic service.” The experience of rotating through the West Haven VA Hospital proved so fulfilling that Foster has accepted a position there as an operating room nurse. “Working at the VA is a choice to care for those who have served our country,” Foster said. “For me it is an honor and a privilege. Being thanked by a veteran for taking care of him or her is just a wonderful feeling. They guarantee our way of life, and I believe the best possible way to thank them is in our care as nurses.”

Like most adult learners, Foster, 53, worked in other professions before starting Fairfield’s Second Degree program. He earned a bachelor’s degree in social work, and he has been working for the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as a residential case manager.

Welcome Cathleen Dooley

Cathleen Dooley ’79, executive director, Alliance Development Government Affairs & Policy at Johnson & Johnson, has accepted the School of Nursing’s invitation to join the Advisory Board.

Ms. Dooley did her undergraduate work in nursing at Fairfield, and went on to earn a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Virginia. Her focus in graduate school was the privatization of healthcare and the impact on cost and quality. She recently completed an Executive Certificate Program in Financial Planning at Georgetown University.

In her position at Johnson & Johnson, Ms. Dooley focuses on advocacy and stakeholder development for the company’s diverse healthcare business in Washington. Prior to this position, she was a federal lobbyist for Johnson & Johnson focusing on healthcare reform, including Medicare reimbursement related issues. She has held various positions of increasing responsibility in the pharmaceutical industry in clinical research, reimbursement and government affairs at Ortho Biotech and Johnson & Johnson. Early in her career, she worked at the University of Virginia Medical Center as a pediatric oncology nurse in both clinical and administrative positions.

Faculty News



Dr. Jean Lange was promoted to full professor in April 2009.

Dr. Nancy Moriber earned her Ph.D. from Rush University in May 2009.



Dr. Kathleen Wheeler was awarded the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Award for Media as well as the APNA Award for Practice-APRN, in recognition of her leadership in projects related to psychiatric nursing. These include co-chairing the National Panel that developed the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Competencies; conducting a comprehensive survey of how graduate psychiatric nursing programs teach psychotherapy; and writing a textbook, *Psychotherapy for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses*.

Board of Advisors Chair Nancy Lynch has been selected to receive the Friend of Nursing Award by the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. The award is given to one who has demonstrated commitment to the ideals of the organization, has shown leadership in his/her field, and has contributed to the long-term significance of the profession.

Drs. Joyce Shea and Terry Quell both celebrated graduations this May, but not their own. Dr. Shea’s daughter Deirdre graduated Fairfield University with a degree in psychology and minors in Spanish and peace and justice studies. Dr. Quell’s son John studied both music and education and plans to be a band teacher. Congratulations to both!



Dr. Grossman honored

Dr. Sheila Grossman was selected by the Connecticut Nurses’ Association (CNA) as the recipient of the 2009 Josephine Dolan Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Education.

The Josephine Dolan Award is one of several Diamond Jubilee Awards established by CNA to honor individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to nursing in the areas of practice, education, research, administration, political action and service to CNA. Coincidentally, Josephine Dolan was one of Dr. Grossman’s nursing professors.



These prestigious awards are named after some of the most distinguished leaders in Connecticut nursing history and represent the highest honor that the nursing profession in Connecticut can bestow on one of its own, a kind of “Nobel Prize” in nursing.

The award ceremony was held on Oct. 22 in Cromwell, Conn., presided over by Dr. Terry Quell, current president of the CNA and assistant dean for undergraduate and graduate management at the School of Nursing.

Dr. Sheila Grossman instructs a nursing student in a clinical lab.



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: nriccio@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



Graduation at the School of Nursing

From May through August, the School of Nursing celebrates several graduation and pinning ceremonies with students in nursing programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. As these students leave our campus and embark on the next step in their careers, we wish them godspeed... and hope that they will keep in touch with the School and their professors here.



Above: Undergraduate students were all smiles at the May pinning ceremony in the University chapel.



Right: Shannon Germaine receives her pin from Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Mary Frances Malone, left, and Dr. Joyce Shea.



Nurses returning to school for their BSN were also honored at the May pinning ceremony. Here, they flank professor and mentor Carole Pomarico. From left: Marie LesPerance, Marie Ely, Rosemary DiGennaro, Victoria Costabile, Professor Pomarico, Jeanette Jennings, and Nitza Jimenez.



Newly minted Nurse Anesthetists Lisa Iannuzzi, left, and Clementine Mainsah pose during the ceremony. Iannuzzi has joined the staff of Bridgeport Hospital, and Mainsah has taken a position at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in New London, Conn.



Happy to be finished: Jason Smith, Drew Brown, and Matt Johnson. Smith and Johnson moved from Arizona to join the program; Brown moved from Missouri.



Eleven new nurse anesthetists pose with speaker John Garde, CRNA, FAAN, far left, Dean Jeanne Novotny, and Dr. Nancy Moriber.



Second degree student Pamela Keller, children in tow, receives her pin from Professor Kathleen Lovanio.



Richard "Ched" Foster, winner of the Scott MacDonald award for his work with veterans, worked as a surgical tech before entering the Second Degree program. (See story on the Scott MacDonald award, p. 4)



Maria Sutton, a graduate of the RN-BSN program, works at St. Vincent's Medical Center.



Catherine Smiga holds her pin up for her family to see.



Kevin Reddington gave up a lucrative financial career on Wall Street to fulfill his dream to become a nurse. Here, he shakes hands with Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Mary Frances Malone, as Professor Kathleen Lovanio looks on.

Jean Santopatre photos

Nursing student saves man's life

by Meg McCaffrey



Good thing Erin Griffin always pays attention in class. Because the "ABCs" she learned during her first few

weeks as a nursing student helped her save the life of a World War II veteran. The elderly man had been attending a meeting at the West Haven VA Hospital's Community Care Center, where Griffin was finishing up her last day of a clinical rotation. When he couldn't be awakened, she rushed to examine him. "He was drooling and turning purple," said Griffin, who began the Second Degree BSN Program in May. "He was cyanotic and wasn't getting sufficient oxygen," the Branford resident recounted. After Griffin performed a jaw thrust, his tongue fell forward and the 92-year-old man gasped for air.

Dr. Doris T. Lippman, professor of nursing at Fairfield, said Griffin quite simply saved the patient's life. "He was close to dying, maybe minutes away... What she did was incredible, especially considering she has only been in nursing school for five months."

Griffin knew nursing was her calling, and she soon realized Fairfield was where she wanted to be. "I can't say enough good things about the School," said Griffin. "The skills I've been taught there so far helped prepare me to help this veteran."

Walter Reed Trip by Bonnie Haupt, MSN, RN, CNL

On March 1 and 2, 2009, Major Robert Garcia MBA, MHA, CHE and I were successful in organizing a tour of Washington D.C. and Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC). Five Fairfield University nursing students were offered the unique opportunity to participate in this experience. My tour objectives were to increase students' knowledge of veteran healthcare before entering the VA system, experience our capital, and explore Army Nurse Corps opportunities. The group was excited to start with a walking tour of D.C.; We visited The White House, the Vietnam and Korean Memorials, the Vietnam Nurses Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The following day, we visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center, with time spent in Ward 57/Ortho, Step-down Unit, MATC/Military Advanced Training Center for wounded amputees and TBI patients, and The National Museum of Health and Medicine. We were in awe of the simulation equipment in use for the amputees and TBI patients. There are several

training rooms to improve soldier gait, daily functioning, and even prepare the soldier to return to combat. One room has a treadmill bolted to a helicopter pad that the patient walks on with the support of a bungee cord. The white walls in the room project different scenarios while sensors monitor the soldier's gait in order to target areas for

improvement and ensure soldier safety. We were informed that there are only three of these systems in the world. It was heartening to observe first hand the magnificent care, and state-of-the-art technology our active service men and women receive at the facility.

"My experience at Walter Reed Medical Center felt like a calling," wrote student Philip Carabuena '09 after the trip. "When I entered college, I knew I wanted to be a nurse. When I visited Walter Reed, I knew deep down inside I wanted to be a soldier also. I saw the army nurses caring for the wounded heroes who fight for our country, and a sense of pride swelled up inside me. The environment was totally different than what anyone would see at any other normal civilian hospital."



Professors Bonnie Haupt, left, and Sally Dalton, far right, flank undergraduate students visiting Walter Reed, along with two educators at the facility.

I am happy to report that this summer, I was present at Philip's Army Commissioning Ceremony. I hope to make this unique opportunity available for Fairfield Nursing students again this fall. Major Garcia will be sharing Army Nursing Corps information at the November 5 Student Nurses' Association meeting.

Jesuit Deans



Twice a year, the deans of the 20 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S. with nursing schools meet at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in Washington, D.C. It's a close-knit group nurtured by years of shared experience and ideas; at this meeting, the talk centered on supporting the doctor of nursing practice across the curriculum of each school. Fairfield University School of Nursing Dean Jeanne Novotny is seated far left, first row.

Oslo partnership – Norwegian collaboration

Beginning in September, Dr. Sheila Grossman, Coordinator of the Family Nurse Practitioner track, and Dr. Diana Mager, director of the Robin Kanarek Learning Resource Center, began collaborating with professors at Oslo University College in Norway on a project entitled Simulation Based Pedagogy: Collaboration and Development. The project is funded by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education.

Two international classrooms will be created, one for undergraduates studying healthcare delivery and another for graduates studying role advancement, reflective practice, and differential diagnosing. Participants will interact through the use of digital classroom equipment, electronic mail, Skype, and short-term faculty exchange travel. A database with multicultural simulated scenarios will be developed and disseminated via professional presentation and publications.

Goals of the project, according to Dr. Grossman, include exposing students to multiple types of learning via simulation, an intercultural exchange between graduate nurses in advanced practice on role involvement and reflective practice, undergraduate student interaction regarding different healthcare delivery systems, development of faculty expertise with simulation pedagogy, and an enhancement of cultural competence of European and North American nursing students and faculty. Qualitative and quantitative research will be

conducted to determine student and faculty growth in terms of intercultural variables such as cultural awareness. Student learning and faculty teaching outcomes will be measured.

"Our plan is to continue the collaboration in 2011, hopefully finding ways to incorporate student exchanges or study trips into our work, and perhaps inviting a partner from a third country to join," says Dr. Grossman.

Update on DNP

The School of Nursing is two steps closer to its goal of instituting a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in September 2010, with the recent approval of the University's Educational Planning Committee and the Academic Council.

DNP programs incorporate the APRN content currently included in master's programs, with an additional focus on providing leadership for evidence-based practice. AACN member institutions voted in 2004 to move the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master's degree to the doctorate level by the year 2015.

Nicaragua *continued from page 1*



Doña Marisol's school, which is in her home. During the rainy season her home is also used as a shelter.

looked at the data and assumed they would want clean water and better drainage, mosquito nets, and animal control to deal with the feral dogs that roam the neighborhood," said Nitza Jimenez '09, one of the students on the trip. "But they were used to those things. What they wanted help with was HIV/AIDS education, because HIV still carries such a stigma."

The students were also introduced to Doña Marisol, a community leader who runs a pre-school in her home and conducts adult education classes there in the evening. Students were awed by her creativity and ability to make a difference with so few resources. "She has 30-40 children, and at the beginning of the year the government gives her one pad of paper, two boxes of pencils, and little else," says Jimenez. The school Doña Marisol runs, in fact, conducts most of the social services in the neighborhood.

"One of the first steps in public health nursing is to establish partnerships within the community, and without Marisol we would not have been able to accomplish what we did," said Professor Greiner. Based on talks with Marisol and members of the community, the students left tasked with the job of creating a DVD to disseminate HIV/AIDS education. "We will develop the content, then work with the community in Nicaragua to create a DVD. New students

coming into the program can work on the project, so it doesn't die when current students graduate."

"In public health nursing, nurses and community members are seen as partners. We do not approach the problem as if we have all the answers," Professor Greiner continued. "We all learned so much from Marisol and the incredible work she does despite a lack of any money, and from our partners at UCA, that I cannot imagine a better place to teach public health."

The Nicaragua trip was a result of discussion initiated by Dr. Philip Greiner with UCA several years ago. It is now being considered as a model for future study abroad trips, said Dr. Edna Wilson, associate vice president for Global Relationships and Community Engagement. This trip, she noted, was exceptional "because it involved Fairfield

University nursing students and UCA Managua social work and English language students. Research was developed in collaboration with local community leaders and will provide ongoing feedback to the community. It is a sustainable project that will involve students both in country and on campus."

The School of Nursing plans a spring break Study Abroad option in March 2010 and a three week summer option in July 2010.



The health clinic that serves the neighborhood tends to run out of medication by the end of each month.



This stream runs through one section of Ayapal and floods during the rainy season, contributing to a host of health problems.

Gifts & Grants

Dr. Sally Gerard has received a \$7500 grant to research the impact of a community-based diabetes education series geared toward the underserved populations of Bridgeport. Students from the undergraduate public health class as well as graduate students will participate in studying the impact of the education on participants. This funding was made possible by the generosity of the parents of a current nursing student.

Get the Lead Out

Dr. Phil Greiner has been awarded \$183,607 from the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust for the Operation Lead Elimination Action Program (LEAP). The program is designed to address lead hazards in privately owned housing units and to eliminate lead poisoning as a major public health threat to young children in Bridgeport, Conn. Fairfield students and project staff provide the community education and outreach activities of LEAP, conducting evidence-based programming for young children (Mr. Lead Spot) and train-the-trainer programs for adults in the greater Bridgeport communities. This primary prevention program also provides funds for home remediation based on HUD income guidelines.

ELDER Care

The Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has awarded three year funding of \$414,443 for "Expanded Learning and Dedication to Elders in the Region (ELDER) Project." The grant expands on a project that educated 107 nurses and nursing assistants in homecare, long-term care, or outpatient clinic settings about best practices in the care of older adults. Funding supports additional work in team building, cultural competence, and end-of-life care, and agencies include St. Joseph's Hospital (Stamford), Stratford VNA, VNS of Connecticut., and Carolton Chronic & Convalescent Hospital. **Drs. Jean Lange** and **Diana Mager** co-direct the project.

The Southwestern CT Agency on Aging (SWCAA) has continued their support this year in the amount of \$16,000 for **Dr. Phil Greiner's** project entitled "Health Promotion for Older Adults". The project goals are to provide outreach to 800 older adults in the Healthy Heart program by offering cardiovascular health screening including blood pressure; cholesterol (total, HDL and total/HDL ratio); blood glucose, etc.,

and using screening results to make recommendations for a healthier lifestyle.

In Support of Nurses

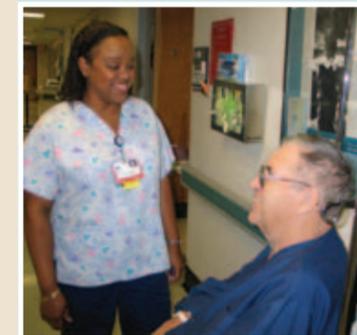
The Robert Woods Johnson Foundation has awarded the School of Nursing \$100,000 to increase the number and diversity of nurses. According to **Prof. Carole Pomarico**, the principal investigator for the funds, the grant will support Second Degree students; scholarships of \$10,000 will be awarded over a three-year period, and preference will be given to those groups that are underrepresented in the nursing field, such as men and minorities. The scholarships will be available for students beginning in fall 2010.

Dr. Joyce Shea received \$14,712 from the Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Foundation to support her work, Mental Health Nursing Curriculum Development: Understanding a Vulnerable Population. The grant will be used to infuse evidence-based practice into curriculum to teach students how to work with people with schizophrenia.

Dr. Nancy Moriber has received a HRSA grant of \$19,444 for the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program, assistance that will help support nurse anesthesia students as they go through the two year, full-time nurse anesthesia program.

The Paul L. Jones Fund has once again renewed its support in the amount of \$50,000. This scholarship supports students in the School of Nursing with financial need.

Fairfield University School of Nursing



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduate Information

Session Wed., Nov. 11 at 5:30 p.m. For anyone interested in Fairfield graduate programs. For more information, see www.fairfield.edu/grad

TimesTalks Live:

Conversation with novelist Stephen King Wed., Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. (encore performance) Quick Center. Call (800) 877-ARTS-396.

Glee Club performance:

"A Christmas Adventure..." Fri., Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. Sting and Coldplay meet Benjamin Britten. Quick Center. Call (800) 877-ARTS-396.

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 health care agencies and nursing schools. Editorial offices are located at:

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Message From the Dean:



Someone once said that standing still is the fastest way of moving backwards. The School of Nursing has never stood still; in fact, the pace of change over the past several years has been unprecedented!

The first major event hosted by the School of Nursing this academic year was the presentation by Richard J. Umbdenstock, '72, FACHE, president and chief executive officer, American Hospital Association. His insightful comments to faculty, staff, and students helped everyone understand what healthcare reform means for all of us, and the political process that will get us there. The second event of the day was Richard's presentation to a joint meeting of our Advisory Board and our Partnership Council. What an amazing speaker and event to start the new academic year.

Our major educational initiative is the development and approval of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Faculty members, under the leadership of Dr. Jean Lange, chair, DNP Task Force, are moving the proposal through the appropriate University committees. Another important aspect of our work includes a review of our curriculum using the new AACN standards, *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice*.

Through every one of our undergraduate and graduate students, we are creating an atmosphere in which education and practice can enable positive change for patients, their families, and the discipline and science of nursing. Far from standing still, we are leading the way!

Sincerely,

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