



The

PULSE

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Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing

SON welcomes landmark class of 95

A record number of nursing students took Fairfield up on its offer of acceptance into the class of 2014.

"This is clearly a bright group, and they certainly understood the rigor of the nursing curriculum before entering," said Dr. Joyce Shea, SON undergraduate program director.

Sixteen percent of the class is AHANA, and 10 percent are Magis Scholars. The majority are from the tri-state area and Massachusetts, and many have had significant experience in healthcare already. One student, for example, has worked and traveled with Unite for Sight, a group that does eye surgeries in developing countries. Another has done significant research with the National Institutes of Health. "Whether it's clinical work or research, more students are coming to us with some background," said Karen Pellegrino, director of Undergraduate Admission.

The Nursing Open House hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Admission and the School of Nursing takes prospective students through four sessions, including presentations by faculty panels, a demonstration of the simulation models, and a talk on study abroad. "Students and their parents coming to the Open House ask detailed questions. They want to know what sort of clinical experiences are available, and the diversity of experiences is important to them," said Dr. Shea. Last year, 450 students and parents attended the Open House. (This past September, reservations had to be cut off at 500.)

"The Admission Office, under the leadership of Karen Pellegrino, works so well with the School of Nursing," said Dean Jeanne Novotny. "We are so very grateful for all the support they've given us over the years."

"From what I've observed, nursing is perceived as a more attractive profession than it was 10-15 years ago," said Pellegrino. "The availability of jobs and the quality of our program are significant factors, too." Students attending the Open House, she says, often move Fairfield to the top of their list.

The large class does present a challenge – namely, how to be sure classes stay small, faculty is able to give plenty of time and attention, and there are clinical placements for all students. "We're thrilled to have this 'problem' but it does entail planning ahead," said Dr. Shea. For example, "we may switch around the curriculum so half the class takes required classes one semester, and the other half takes it the next, so that these classes remain small. And faculty are always looking to develop new partnerships in the surrounding communities so that additional clinical opportunities open up."

But if anyone can juggle the pieces to make it all work out, it's Dr. Shea. "Her work ethic and attention to detail make her leadership absolutely outstanding," said Dean Novotny. "She's a fabulous administrator and program director, and that is reflected in the nursing program."

Addressing inequities in global health

"I left Harvard with no real awareness of the awful inequities in the world – the appalling disparities of health, and wealth, and opportunity that condemn millions of people to lives of despair."

— Bill Gates, Harvard commencement address, 2007

School of Nursing Advisory Board Member Patrick Kelley'76, P'12, M.D., Dr. PH, addressed a large crowd of faculty, students, and staff during an Oct. 22 panel discussion on the role of academic institutions in preparing professionals to reduce health disparities around the world. The myopic education that allows a student to graduate from a university without any understanding of major global issues should never be allowed, he noted, citing Bill Gates' address to a Harvard

graduating class. The discussion was part of Dr. Kelley's day-long visit to discuss global health with various constituencies around campus.

A biology major at Fairfield, Dr. Kelley served for years in the U.S. Army as a physician, epidemiologist, and program manager. He founded the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System, building relationships with health ministries in developing countries around the world. He is currently the director of the Board on Global Health at the Institute of Medicine.

Noting that maternal deaths in Ireland are six per 100,000 live births, while in sub-Saharan Africa they are 1100 per 100,000, Dr. Kelley said that education is heavily associated with medical outcomes. But correcting these gross disparities "is not just for nurses and biology students, but should be a concern for every discipline." By way of example, he noted that HIV drugs have come way down

in cost, largely due to the negotiating efforts of the Clinton Foundation. "Here's where business schools can be of great value – they [business leaders] have the know-how to negotiate," more so than those in the medical profession.



Joining in the daylong discussion on global health were (from left) panel members Dr. Kaveh Khoshnood and Dr. Chisara Asomugha; Dr. Meredith Kazer of the School of Nursing; special guest Dr. Patrick Kelley'76, P'12; Dean Jeanne Novotny; and Dr. Renée White, professor of sociology, who moderated the discussion.

Dr. Kelley was joined on the panel by Dr. Chisara Asomugha, community services administrator for the city of New Haven, who spoke on the need to work together across disciplines. Building relationships is key, she said, noting that when the city plans a street, the health department should be sure there are bike lanes and sidewalks to encourage exercise and cut down on obesity. "Look to create opportunities to learn and share," she advised. The third member of the panel, Dr. Kaveh Khoshnood

of the Yale School of Epidemiology, spoke about the need for universities to develop global education in a thoughtful way, preparing and mentoring students before, during, and after being in the field. "They need not only skills, but humility, perseverance, patience, and a commitment to social justice and ethics," he said.

Nursing faculty met with Dr. Kelley in the morning to discuss ways global health initiatives could be better infused into the DNP curricula. "The School has the opportunity within the DNP to become leaders as far as global health outcomes," said Dr. Meredith Kazer, associate professor. Together, they identified major global health concerns – palliative care, chronic illness in developing countries, access to medicine, maternal/child health, etc. – and considered ways to introduce these issues into several of the required DNP courses. "The ideas, connections, and resources Patrick shared with faculty to facilitate a vision for global health nursing research over the next five years was invaluable," said Dr. Kazer.

The case for advanced practice nurses

It was a full house, as 130 faculty, Board of Advisor members, DNP and Nurse Anesthesia students, and friends of the School of Nursing gathered at Brooklawn Country Club on Sept. 14 for a conversation entitled *The Education of Advanced Practice Nurses*. The evening's program was hosted by Board of Advisors member Kathy Russo, R.T.R. The panel discussion featured Dr. Jeanne Novotny, Ph.D., FAAN, Dr. Jean Lange, the director of the DNP program, and Bonnie Molloy, CRNA, Ph.D., of Bridgeport Anesthesia Associates.

The evening's focus was the crucial need for higher education within the nursing profession in order for nurses to take a leading role in the team of caregivers taking charge of a patient's health, with each of the speakers providing a different perspective. Dean Novotny gave a broad overview of the state of nursing education, with an emphasis on the move towards clinical DNP certification for all advanced nurses within the next decade. Dr. Lange focused on the studies that have been done to support this point, while Dr. Molloy cited instances in which an advanced practice nurse, working within a healthcare team, was able to positively affect a patient's outcome. The varied audience responded quite well to the presentation, which was particularly noteworthy given the large number of medical doctors in attendance.

Fairfield has taken the lead in bringing the discussion of the DNP to a broad constituent base, including alumni. An important part of these discussions is learning how the new credential is being understood in the field, and where the opportunities for further education might be. Similar discussions are set to be held in Florida on February 13 and in Los Angeles on March 6; each of these will link the DNP to both healthcare reform and care of the elderly.



Bob Winter

Conference in Oslo

When a team of faculty from Norway's Oslo University came to the U.S. to visit nursing schools and determine which ones to partner with for faculty and student collaborations, they chose Columbia University and Fairfield.

In September, Dean Jeanne Novotny and Professor Carole Pomarico, along with FNP student Ron Castillo, travelled to Norway to attend a seminar at Oslo University College. The purpose: to explore similarities and differences in master and DNP programs in



Front row, center: Carole Pomarico;
Dean Jeanne Novotny, far right.

nursing. "We went to discuss possibilities that might be created between schools," said Pomarico. As a result of the conference, the group is establishing a website at the participating institutions that can be used for finding exchange opportunities for faculty and students in master and post-master programs, and to support and develop nursing education and educators at the advanced level.

Castillo spoke to the group from the perspective of the graduate student, elaborating on the enormous potential of this international collaboration, noting that across international borders, graduate nursing students face many of the same motivations and challenges. "Healthcare is continuously evolving across the globe, and as such, it is necessary for students to adapt their practices. Despite international differences, I think we [the students in attendance] all shared the desire to further our education in order to benefit our patients."

Welcome to our newest advisory board members

Kevin P. Grace '74, D.M.D.



Kevin P. Grace '74, D.M.D., owns a private practice of general dentistry in Spencer, Mass., where he specializes in using evidence-based protocols, particularly for the prevention of dental issues, as well as laser procedures and cosmetic rehabilitation. Grace graduated with a B.S. in biology from Fairfield University, and attended the

Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Dentistry. He also holds a master's in clinical nutrition from the University of Bridgeport. He is the past president and member of the Exchange Club, a service organization that works to make America's communities better places to live. Married to Anne D. McAuliffe, he's an avid sailor and completed an offshore race from Newport Beach, Calif. to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico in 2008.

Richard Metz '73, P'04

Richard Metz is a senior vice president of Alliance-Bernstein, a global asset management company based in

New York, where he currently manages several company-wide compliance projects. After Fairfield, Metz earned his MBA from Iona College and has held several senior administrative and operational managerial positions at Aetna Property and Casualty, Equitable Life, Equitable Capital, and Alliance Capital. Metz has been a member of the President's Circle for almost 20 years, and in recent years has directed his contributions to the School of Nursing. He was a member of the Trustees Advisory Council for 12 years, served as class co-chair of his alumni homecoming reunion, and recruited many Fairfield students over the years. As a stage four metastatic melanoma survivor, he is keenly aware of the importance of advanced medical technology and quality



nursing care and hopes to bring this perspective to the Advisory Board. Metz and his wife Kathy, an LPN working at Brookdale Place Assisted Living, reside in Wilton, CT. They have two sons, Fairfield University and Boston College graduates.

Second degree graduates

After an intensive 15-month program, 43 extremely proud and happy graduates of Fairfield's Second Degree program received their pins at an August ceremony in the Campus Center's Oak Room. Professors Carole Pomarico and Mary Murphy read short notations about each as they came up to claim their diplomas; John Apinis was honored with the Scott MacDonald Award for his work with veterans.

Prof. Mary Murphy, John Apinis shaking hands with veteran Scott MacDonald, Margo Veazey (West Haven VA Connecticut Healthcare System), Rev. Gerry Blaszczak, S.J.

Ready for duty: New graduates Jenna Marinaccio, Frances DelRosario, Farhiya Abdi, and Van Dang.

Dr. Terry Quell, assistant dean for undergraduate and graduate program management, addresses the crowd.

Yolanda Nieves-Parrillo has a degree in business but always wanted to become a nurse. Here, the mother of four receives a hug after reaching her goal.



Bob Winkler photos



Dr. Jean Lange achieves FAAN recognition

Her years as an exemplary professor and leader in the dissemination of curriculum models for palliative care and care of the elderly has earned Dr. Jean Lange, professor, recognition as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, considered one of the highest honors in the nursing profession. The criteria for consideration as a Fellow includes making a significant contribution to the nursing profession on a national or international level that goes beyond one's job. "Needless to say, it is a great honor for Fairfield to have Jean recognized with such a distinctive honor," said Dr. Jeanne Novotny, dean. "We are delighted for her and lucky to have her on our faculty."

Dr. Lange was the primary investigator of a 2002 Hartford Foundation grant, the purpose of which was to redesign the curriculum to create more of a focus on older adults. She worked with colleagues to create one of the first programs in the country to fully integrate end-of-life consortium (ELNEC) modules into graduate and undergraduate programs. To measure outcomes, she collaborated with ELNEC leaders to refine a knowledge assessment tool that has been adopted for use by educators in hospitals, hospice centers, home care agencies and universities nationwide. She has mentored graduate students to establish the first National Primary Care Week in the region, which led to a Governor's citation and the 2004 award from the national American Medical Student Foundation. Her contributions have been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally by the local STTI chapter, University of Connecticut Alumni, the Eastern Nursing Research Society, ELNEC, AACN, and the Hartford Foundation, which recently hailed Dr. Lange as "a national voice for geriatric nursing" on its blog.

"Dr. Lange has made seminal contributions as one of the few nursing faculty nationally who bridge the science of geriatrics and palliative care nursing," said Mathy Mazey, professor emerita at New York University and Senior



Dr. Jean Lange was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in a Nov. 13 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Research Associate at the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, who has known Dr. Lange professionally for a number of years. "Dr. Lange's extensive experience collaborating with ELNEC, her participation on AACN geriatric initiatives to develop model curricula in geriatrics, and her research experience in geriatrics and palliative care place her in a unique position to identify and lead Academy practice and health policy initiatives that would cut across and strengthen these two expert Panels." Dr. Betty Farrell, research scientist at City of Hope Medical Center in California, who has worked with Dr. Lange in palliative care nursing, agreed. "Dr. Lange's achievements and model geriatric education at Fairfield University have become a national model for other educators," she said.

Speaking of the award, Dr. Lange allowed that she was very excited. "So often we think we are doing good work, yet we tend to undervalue our own contributions," she said. The award "acknowledges the work you've done over a career and is presented by your most esteemed colleagues, so in a way it's very humbling, yet very rewarding."

The School of Nursing welcomes **Donna Ormsbee**, operations assistant, who is assisting the dean and faculty, the undergraduate program director, and the adult program coordinator. She will also serve as primary receptionist for the School. Donna previously worked in Undergraduate Admission and in Residence Life, and joins Kathy Borrelli, Joan Millen, and Cathy Tuttle in the School of Nursing main office.



Gifts and Grants

The School of Nursing received a \$600,000 grant for the establishment of the **Helene Fuld Trust Scholarship Fund for Baccalaureate Nursing Students**. Half of this amount will be put toward the establishment of a permanent endowment fund for baccalaureate degree nursing students, and half toward current use financial aid.

"We are so excited about this award," **Dr. Jeanne Novotny**, dean, said. "It will impact our students and the School of Nursing in general because of the prestigious nature of the award, and it will provide scholarship resources for us to attract the brightest and the best for our baccalaureate nursing program."

The Helene Fuld Health Trust's mission is to support and promote the health, welfare, and education of student nurses, and it is the nation's largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education. "The Helene Fuld Health Trust launched this funding category a number of years ago and with it established endowments at Schools of Nursing across the country where substantial achievements had been realized related to students, curriculum and faculty," said Noël Appel, director of Foundation Relations. "It is an important accomplishment for Fairfield's School of Nursing that it has been recognized by the Trust to be amongst these leaders in nursing education."

Five scholarships of \$10,000 each were awarded to students entering the accelerated **Second Degree program** during the 2010-2011 academic year. Dr. Novotny said the grant will help provide scholarships to maximize diversity and increase the quantity of students enrolled in Fairfield's accelerated baccalaureate nursing program. "Increasing diversity and the number of male students in our nursing programs are major goals of the School," said Dr. Novotny, noting that a more diverse student body is at the heart of the University's strategic plan. "The foundation's scholarship program is a win-win initiative in that it also aims to help alleviate the national nursing shortage."



Dr. Allison Kris has been awarded a \$7,000 grant for her research entitled *Improving Symptom Management in Long-Term Care Settings: Barriers and Facilitating Factors*.

The proposed research will take place in two nursing homes, one of which can serve as a model of symptom management, and another considered to provide more typical care. The purpose of this study is to (a) understand both barriers and facilitating factors to provide high quality nursing care and expert symptom management and another which is thought to provide more typical care and expert system management (b) discover if there are lessons that can be learned from model nursing homes that may be translated to nursing homes broadly.



Drs. Suzanne H. Campbell, Allison Kris, and Sheila Grossman received a grant for \$3,000 to attend the 2010 Technology Integration Program for Nursing Education and Practice (TIP-NEP) at Duke University.



Dr. Sheila Grossman has been awarded a HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) grant of \$233,153 for her project, *P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E.: Geriatric Diversity Training for Advanced Nursing Education*. The purpose of this project is to create a simulation clinic within the School of Nursing to prepare advanced nursing education students to address the management of diverse older adults in the delivery of primary care. The type of equipment to be purchased includes two gerontological simulation models, an intravenous infusion model and a phlebotomy model.

For the second year in a row, the School of Nursing has received funding to award scholarships from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** (RWJF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) through the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program (NCIN).

A \$50,000 grant was received from the **Paul L. Jones Fund** in support of the Paul L. Jones School of Nursing Scholarship. The consecutive years of support from the Fund have made a significant impact on Fairfield's nursing students, helping them reach their dreams and enter the nursing profession.

In the News....



Dr. Doris (Dee) Lippmann was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in November. A veteran herself, she has devoted her career to working and advocating for returning vets, most notably as a Board member for

Homes for the Brave, an organization that provides housing, job training, and mental health counseling to vets. As a professor in the School of Nursing, her primary role is as program director for the School's VA Nursing Academy, with a focus on educating Fairfield nursing students to care for veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and traumatic brain injury. *Above*, Dr. Lippmann, center, with Maj. General Thaddeus Martin, adjutant general for the CT National Guard, and Gov. M. Jodi Rell.



Dr. Suzanne Hetzel Campbell

WHNP-BC has been elected to membership in the National Academies of Practice. "We're so proud of Suzanne and all her many accomplishments, and so fortunate to have her as part of our team," said Dean Jeanne Novotny upon hearing of the election.

The National Academies of Practice is an organization of distinguished practitioners representing 10 healthcare professions, including nursing, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy.

CNL student **Josephine Ritchie** was awarded the Connie and Betty Maniatty Award, the highest nursing honor given at Norwalk Hospital. Ritchie is the Clinical Nurse Educator for Critical Care, and since joining the hospital in 2001, she has been instrumental in the success of several initiatives to improve practice, quality and patient safety. In addition to the award, she was given a promotion to a healthcare improvement role within the hospital, and was inducted to the Mu Chi honor society. Ritchie will graduate from Fairfield's CNL program in May 2011.

Dee Skidmore (RN-BSN program) was awarded the American Health Care Association Quality Award for Wilton Meadows Health Care Center. The award was given for her commitment to patient-centered care. In addition, Skidmore was recently inducted into Fairfield's Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society.

Collaboration promotes palliative care

Dr. Eileen O'Shea, assistant professor, is on the board of the Connecticut Coalition to Improve End-of-Life Care and has focused her career on palliative care for children and adolescents. The two conferences she has spearheaded for the School of Nursing on the topic have drawn community members from the fields of healthcare, ministry, therapy, and social work. Board of Advisors member Robin Bennett-Kanarek, '96, BSN, RN, who lost her son, David, to cancer years ago, is also passionate about improving care for children and adolescents living with life-limiting conditions.

"Eileen got me interested in this field, and I am convinced that this is an area that needs to be explored," said Kanarek, who recently wrote an article "Palliative Care Isn't Just for the Dying," in the July 2010 issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*. "So many people, especially doctors, have contacted me about the article," says Kanarek. "It confirms that we're on the right track in addressing this issue." In her article, Kanarek stresses the importance of having someone

who can speak honestly and openly with the patient about death, an issue healthcare providers often avoid. "David's physicians and nurses were providing excellent, cutting edge medical care, but his emotional needs and fears weren't being addressed. A palliative care team could have been concentrating on these," she wrote.

"Robin is not only a remarkable person but also a true inspiration; her ability to articulate her son's journey and her family's lived experience has awakened healthcare professionals as to the vital need for palliative and end-of-life education. Our ultimate goal is to improve care for these children and their families," says Dr. O'Shea. From this shared passion a partnership has been borne. The two have presented at several conferences and are presently collaborating on a publication for the *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*. The purpose for the case study article is to present the lived experience of an adolescent with leukemia and to illustrate areas in which healthcare providers may benefit from receiving enhanced palliative and end-of-life care education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent/Christmas Choral Mass – Fairfield University Glee Club Chamber Singers. Sunday, December 12 Egan Chapel, 9 p.m. Candlelight Choral Prelude – 8:30 p.m.

"Caring for the Elderly: The Evolving Role of Advanced Practice Nurses in Healthcare Reform"

Sunday, February 13, 2011, 4 p.m., Lourdes-Noreen McKeen residence, West Palm Beach, Florida

Sunday, March 6, 2011, 4 p.m., Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
For more information, contact Alumni Relations: (203) 254-4280

THE PULSE EDITORIAL BOARD

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Message from the Dean



The healthcare environment continues to change at a rapid pace. Nurses need access to high-quality educational programs in order to stay abreast of the latest technologies, and evidence to ensure that patients receive the best possible care. The School of Nursing is responding to these challenges by continuing to develop programs and collaborations that provide the highest quality education for our students, as well as the most qualified graduates for clinical practice. Over the next few years, with more people in need of healthcare because of the aging baby boomer generation, the increase in the number of insured, and the lack of primary care providers, nurses will continue to be critically important as central players in the healthcare system. With the recent release of the Institute of Medicine's report on the *Future of Nursing*, the national conversations regarding

nursing education are accelerating. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is moving quickly to advance the recommendations and vision outlined in the report. As this work progresses, Fairfield University will be there to facilitate the expansion of professional nursing education on behalf of all who need nurses to deliver care to those in need. This issue of *The Pulse* highlights the work of our faculty members and students in that regard.

Wishing everyone Christmas blessings and peace at this beautiful time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne".

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