



The

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DNP program ready to launch

by Nina Riccio, M.A. '09

It's been in the development stages for several years, and now Fairfield's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is set to begin with a full class of students in September.

"We've had a wonderful response to both open houses, and the applications are still rolling in," said Dr. Jean Lange, professor of nursing and DNP program director. "The faculty are looking forward to our first class of doctoral students, and we feel this is an exceptionally strong program."

Applicants have been evenly split between those with a bachelor's degree and those with a master's; one attraction of Fairfield's program is that candidates can be admitted with either.

"We're very gratified that we're off to good start, and that so many Fairfield alumni are in the applicant pool," noted Marianne Gumper, director of graduate admission. "It speaks to the strength of our programs that so many people come back here to further their education."

The DNP is an exciting new degree for nurses who wish to continue in a clinically-focused career path in an advanced practice role as nurse practitioner, midwife, clinical specialist, or anesthetist. APRN programs across the country are currently transitioning APRN



Dean Novotny and Dr. Suzanne Campbell (both far right), talk to three prospective students at the Graduate Information Session in April, where there was quite a bit of interest in the DNP.

master's level programs to the DNP. Those with the degree have the capacity to improve systems of care in practice, policy, and organizational arenas; they are better prepared to assume leadership roles in healthcare and are qualified for executive positions in healthcare organizations, directors of clinical programs, and faculty positions with a clinical focus. Fairfield offers an advanced degree for those interested in post-master's education or for nurses with a bachelor of science degree in nursing who are interested in family or psychiatric nurse practitioner specialties. The nurse anesthesia program will transition to the DNP in June 2011.

"We see the School of Nursing moving in a new direction," said Dr. Lange. "[This program] will bring further opportunities to enhance collaborative research between faculty and students."



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing

Message from the Dean:



Having just participated in a whirlwind of activities surrounding Commencement a few weeks ago, I am even more aware that the success of the School has been made possible because all associated with it understand and act from a belief that sustainable successes are created not by individual stars but rather by constellations of people, groups, and organizations. We have been successful because of the individuals who, either through employment, enrollment, graduation, or voluntary affiliations, are dedicated to advancing the Jesuit mission-focused work of this School. All possess a shared vision that, though there are shining stars that orient the navigation of various projects, it is only through the constellations of the stars that real and sustained progress is made.

This was evidenced by one of the highlights of the year: The presence of Dr. Courtney Lyder, dean, UCLA School of Nursing and assistant director for Academic Nursing, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Lyder spent three days at the School of Nursing in dialog and conversa-

tion with clinicians, faculty, and students. He inspired everyone! We are very grateful to TransCon Builders for sponsoring Dr. Lyder's visit. TransCon operates nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Connecticut, and this is a shining example of one of our very successful partnerships.

It is also with great sadness that we wish Dr. Phil Greiner, associate dean for Public Health and Entrepreneurial Initiatives, best wishes as he assumes a new position at Pace University. Phil will be missed by the entire University as his work intersected with all divisions and schools at Fairfield. We will watch Phil's career trajectory skyrocket in the next few years. All who have worked with him know that his integrity, leadership, and work ethic have touched all of our lives.

Sincerely,

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

School of Nursing endowment *by Noël Appel '80, M.A. '09*

The growth in enrollment, breadth of programs, and facilities within the School of Nursing over the last few years has been tremendous, but efforts to enhance this work will require the establishment of permanent endowment funding. "Endowment support provides stable financial resources that will ensure that curriculum, faculty, and student research, as well as other academic programs in nursing, continue to advance our institutional prestige and national prominence," said Nancy Lynch, P'95, president of the Board of Advisors. "In this way, we will ensure the enduring impact of a Fairfield University education on generations of nursing students."

Dr. Jeanne Novotny, dean of the School of Nursing, has positioned the School as a national leader in Master's I education. Hallmarks of her vision for the future include collaboration, innovation, and strategic partnerships. This transformation and evolution toward national prominence is illustrated in many ways. Of particular note was the 2007 selection of Fairfield as one of the first four nursing

schools to receive the United States Department of Veterans Administration Nursing Academy (VANA) grant.

Fundraising in the School of Nursing has been a primary area of emphasis as the School has experienced significant growth; of special note is the recently completed Robin Kanarek '96 Learning Resource Center that has truly transformed nursing education at Fairfield today. "In order to remain competitive in the field of nursing education, it is essential that as a next step a permanent endowment for the School in support of faculty research, innovative curricular design, and student engagement be established," said Lynch. "A \$3.5 million endowment will provide funding for these much needed areas of the nursing program through an annual competitive submission process lead by the Dean and a faculty steering committee."

New Board member Carol O'Neill '76 and her husband Finbarr recently donated \$100,000 toward this endowment. Their gift was joined by an anonymous \$100,000 gift from the parent of a current nursing student.

Phil Greiner leaves Fairfield



After 14 years at Fairfield, Philip A. Greiner, DNSc, RN has accepted the newly created position of Associate Dean for Faculty Development in Scholarship and Teaching at Pace University, Lienhard School of Nursing. He will be based at the Pleasantville, N.Y. campus.

“I have enjoyed working in an environment that encouraged the development of creative solutions for educating the next generation of nurses,” said Dr. Greiner. “I leave Fairfield University knowing that my contributions have advanced community engagement and service learning, as well as the Jesuit mission, through the School of Nursing and across the University.”

Dr. Greiner leaves behind more than a legacy of teaching in the undergraduate and graduate programs. He developed the Health Promotion Center into one of the longest-running wellness centers in the United States; he worked on cross-disciplinary teams with a focus on applied ethics, service learning, Fulbright, and geographic information systems initiatives; and he served on the boards of numerous professional, interdisciplinary, and community organizations. For the past three years, he served as the Associate Dean for Public Health and Entrepreneurial Initiatives, the first such position in the School of Nursing. In this role, Dr.

Greiner co-developed and co-led the study abroad option in Managua, Nicaragua as part of the undergraduate Public Health Nursing course; wrote or contributed to numerous federally funded grants and grant submissions; and co-authored a federal patent application with Dr. Suzanne Campbell. Dr. Greiner and Dr. Jean Lange were the initial co-Principal Investigators on the ELDER Project, a federally funded project that continues under the leadership of Dr. Lange and Dr. Diana Mager. He also served as the faculty representative on the School of Nursing Advisory Board for the past two years. As the only man in a tenure track faculty position in the School of Nursing, Dr. Greiner has been a visible presence on Fairfield’s campus. He authored a health and wellness column in *Campus Currents* for several years, which introduced him to new groups of faculty, staff, and administrators. He could be counted on to participate in School of Nursing recruiting events and other activities over the past 14 years.

“It’s difficult to put into words just how much Phil has brought to the School, and how much we will miss him,” said Jeanne Novotny, dean. “Simply put, he’s a dynamic, hard working, and very accomplished professor, and we wish him the very best in his new position. Pace is very lucky to have him.”

Dr. Greiner’s wife, Lydia, MSN, PMHNP-BC will continue teaching at Fairfield University as part of the VA Nursing Academy faculty.



Join the Conversation on Healthcare

The timing couldn’t have been more fortuitous: School of Nursing Dean Jeanne Novotny, American Hospital Association President Richard Umbdenstock ’72, Board of Advisors member Cathleen Dooley ’79, and others assembled in Washington, D.C., for a conversation about healthcare and the role of nurses within reform. As luck would have it, healthcare legislation was passed just the night before. To see and hear the highlights of this talk, log onto www.fairfield.edu/nursing and click on the “Conversation on Healthcare” video.

Kate Wheeler honored

Kathleen Wheeler, Ph.D., APRN, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAAN, professor of nursing, has been inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as a new fellow - the highest national award in the nursing profession. Nominated by two current Academy Fellows and selected by the Academy's 15-member Fellow Selection Committee for her outstanding achievements in the nursing profession, Dr. Wheeler was formally inducted as a Fellow with 97 other nurse leaders during the Academy's Annual Awards Ceremony and Induction Banquet in Atlanta, GA.

Not only is the invitation to Fellowship recognition of one's accomplishments within the nursing profession, it affords an opportunity to work with other leaders in healthcare in addressing the issues of the day. The Academy's mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.



Dr. Jeanne Novotny, dean, said, "We are so proud of Kate because her accomplishments are recognized by her peers on a national level and this brings great honor and prestige to Fairfield University. I am delighted that she has been recognized for her years of hard work and dedication."

Dr. Wheeler has practiced as an advanced practice psychiatric nurse specializing in trauma for the past 25 years. She is certified as a Clinical Specialist in Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing and a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She has additional certifications in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy, hypnosis, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). Previous awards include a 2008 AJN Book of the Year Award and the 2008 American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Media Award.

Stranded abroad

When Iceland's volcano with the unpronounceable name of Eyjafjallajökull erupted in April, closing airports all over Europe, it was more than just a headline for one School of Nursing faculty member.

Diana Mager, director of the Robin Kanarek '96 Learning Resource Center, was in Oslo, consulting with faculty at Oslo University about simulation pedagogy and helping their faculty use simulation for a collaborative project between Oslo and Fairfield. "We were tasked with improving student cultural awareness and communication through the use of simulation and by encouraging student-to-student multi-cultural interactions," she explained. "We are also working on potential student exchanges. Sheila Grossman is guiding the project and my part was to work with the Norwegians in their own setting."

A great professional opportunity, but one that left Mager anxious. "I was a bit intimidated to go overseas for the first time, and a bit stressed over leaving my three young children and husband behind for the week," she admitted.

The collaboration proved worthwhile, but two days before her return flight home, the airports were closed due to ash from the volcano. "Naively, when the sun came out, I assumed that the airports would reopen," Mager recalled. "Of course, I had no way of knowing since local news channels were all in Norwegian, calls to the airlines entailed 2-3 hours of on-hold waiting (with roaming fees), and I had only limited wireless access. When I found out that my flight was not only cancelled, but that the first available seat back to the U.S. was over a week away, I started to panic. My older brother texted me and said: "Regroup...go get ice cream."

Now safely back home, Mager remembers it was the practical matters that took priority those first few days: counting out prescription meds, budgeting a dwindling cash flow, holding on to her hotel room, and increasing the limits on her ATM card. "Then I got pistachio gelato and settled in for the wait..."

SON welcomes three Board members

The School of Nursing Board of Advisors is pleased to announce its newest Board members.

Patrick Kelley '76 is no stranger to Fairfield, having graduated (along with his wife, Michele) with a degree in biology. He went on to earn an M.D. from the University of Virginia and a DrPH from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He served as an active duty U.S. Army physician for 23 years, and is now director of the Board on Global Health and director of the Board on African Science Academy Development at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. Dr. Kelley served as the specialty editor for the two-volume textbook, *Military Preventive Medicine: Mobilization and Deployment*. Last March, Dr. Kelley spent a full day at Fairfield, building connections with people from all over the University. Dr. Kelley will return to campus on October 22 to meet with students and faculty to discuss global health initiatives. He will also join to Dr. Jeanne Novotny and Rev. Richard Ryscavage, S.J. Director, Center for Faith and Public Life, on October 23 for a presentation at Parents' Weekend on careers in global health. His daughter, Maureen '12, is a communication major at Fairfield.



Carol M. (Kwalwasser) O'Neill '76 is a member of the same graduating class at Fairfield as Dr. Kelley. After receiving



her nursing degree, she went on to earn a master's from Columbia University. She worked as a nurse at Albert Einstein College Hospital before moving to California with her family. In 1992, she received a CRRN and served as a rehab nurse in the brain and spinal injury unit of Mission Viejo Hospital. She now volunteers in the Emergency Department of her local hospital in California. Carol and her husband Finbarr recently donated \$100,000 in support of the School's Curriculum and Research initiatives.



Bonnie Molloy, CRNA, APRN, Ph.D.(c) has been a nurse anesthetist for 28 years, working at both St. Vincent and Bridgeport Hospitals. She received a BSN from the University of Bridgeport, a master's in Health Allied Management from Sacred Heart University, Anesthesia Licensor from the St. Raphael Nurse Anesthesia Program, and Ph.D.(c) from the University of Connecticut. She is presently the chief certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) in the Bridgeport Anesthesia Associates practice at Bridgeport Hospital. Bonnie has received the Discovery of Distinction Award for her research in Postoperative Visual Loss (POVL) & Intraocular Pressure (IOP) Monitoring. She has been published in the *American Journal of Nurse Anesthesia*, and is past president of The Auxiliary of Ahlbin Rehabilitation Center. She and her husband have been members of the Fairfield University President's Circle for over 25 years and support all fundraising events.

Gerontological nursing course a major success

It's the kind of call you want to get. Nina Fausty, MSN, ANP, assistant vice president of Patient Care Services at St. Vincent's Medical Center, picked up a call from the marketing department, which had just been contacted by the president of the National Gerontological Nurses Association (NGNA). It seems the NGNA received 44 applications from nurses at St. Vincent's; they were delighted at the large number and wanted to know Fausty's secret for stirring up so much interest in geriatric certification.

Fausty's "secret" turned out to be the Gerontologic Nurse Education program she coordinates in partnership with the School of Nursing. The dean funds the work of

Fairfield's Kathleen Lovanio, MSN, who serves as a faculty mentor and provides support. The certificate program is a self-study, with monthly guest lecturers and case conferences. The aim of the program is to enhance nurses' competence and knowledge of contemporary, evidence-based best practices in the care of older adults.

The course was successful, says Lovanio, partly because it addressed traditional barriers to certification, such as course flexibility. "St. Vincent's encourages their nurses by paying for their book, a review course, a one-year membership to the NGNA, and the test fee if they pass," noted Lovanio. "Nurses with this certification are not only more marketable, they are considered specialists in their field. St. Vincent's has a goal of putting two geriatric certified nurses on each floor."

Graduation at the School of Nursing

Above: Newly-minted BSN students proudly process from the Bellarmine Lawn after receiving their diplomas. From left, Calin Calabrese, Jenna Calderone, and Maria Theresa Cardona.



Second Degree student Daniel Shapiro receives a well-deserved hug from Professor Lydia Greiner.



All smiles: Danielle Griswold, Casey Schappert, and Jaclyn Lawlor.



Holding the flowers received at the May 22 pinning ceremony: Christine Biotti, Jessica Binder, Lucy Bermudez, and Alison Barria.



Courtney Lyder, dean and professor of Nursing at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Nursing, spoke at both the undergraduate and graduate ceremonies.



Above: RN-BSN graduates Kim Hurd, Angela Douglas, Nancy Andrews, Caren Chiarelli, with Professor Carole Pomarico.



Above: Nurse Anesthetists mug for the camera. From left, Todd Lambert, Nicole Gipp, Frantz Paul, Shandg Speed, Laura Page, Michelle Keizerweerd, Carly Brueggestrat, and Josh Yoffe.



FNP graduate Cynthia Rizzardi receives her certificate from Professor Sally Gerard.



Healthcare management graduate Sherry Storms and Professor Carol Fackler.

In the News....

Dr. Jean Lange was selected as a 2010 End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Award winner. The ELNEC is given by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to recognize nurses who have made great strides in improving palliative care in the community through education, research, and outreach within the state.



Dr. Doris T. Lippman, who served as an army nurse during the Vietnam War, organized an exhibit at the DiMenna-Nyselius Library about the vital role nurses play in caring for the nation's veterans. Included in the exhibit were personal items from her military service at a mobile surgical hospital and her work as vice chair of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington D.C.

The exhibit also included information about the School of Nursing's partnership with the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. The VA Nursing Academy, a central element of the partnership, is a federal pilot program helping to teach Fairfield nursing students to care for veterans.

Luc R. Pelletier '82, MSN, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, is a clinical specialist at California's Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital, core adjunct faculty at National University, and recently published a chapter, "Quality Improvement and Healthcare Safety" in *Leadership and Nursing Care Management*. He has been appointed to the National Quality Forum National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Patient Outcomes, a consensus development project seeking endorsement of cross-cutting and condition-specific measures for patient outcomes applicable to all settings of care.



Assistant Professor **Carole Pomarico** was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL), the Jesuit honor society for part time students, on Nov 20. ASL is a national society that recognizes the accomplishments of adult learners. Each year the chapter chooses a member of the Fairfield faculty, staff, or administration as an Honorary Inductee in recognition of their support for adult learners.

Pomarico was chosen because of the outstanding service she provides to her RN to BSN and Second Degree students. "She is an advisor, mentor, and friend. Carole genuinely cares for her students and is committed to helping them reach their full potential in the nursing profession," said Karen Donnelly, National Councilor for the Fairfield University chapter of ASL.

Carole has also received a second round of funding in the amount of \$50,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for scholarship support through their New Careers in Nursing Program. This prestigious grant encourages underrepresented students to pursue a career in nursing.

Congratulations to **Dr. Terry Quell**, Volunteer of the Year for the Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers. Dr. Quell was recognized for her contributions to school-based health centers in Norwalk. "During her tenure on the Board of Education, school nurses were increased to full time, and three school-based health Centers were established," reads the citation.



Fairfield's School of Nursing was well represented at the Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource conference in Las Vegas this month. Giving presentations, lectures and/or poster demonstrations were **Doctors Diana Mager, Suzanne Campbell, Sheila Grossman, and Eileen O'Shea**, and **Professor Carol Connery**.



Fairfield's students are encouraged to take an active role in the future of healthcare. Here, students from the Class of 2012, serving on [or members of] the Connecticut Student Nurses Association Board, meet Becky Patton, president of the American Nurses Association. Terry Quell, assistant dean for undergraduate and graduate program management, is far right.

Congratulations to the following RN-BSN students, all recipients of the 2010 Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Karen Joseph, RN	Denise Culhane, RN
Ewa Przybysz, RN	Erin Devlin, RN, CRNI
Carol Collins, RN, CCRN	Charon Torres, RN

UPCOMING EVENTS

“The Education of Advanced Practice Nurses:

A Conversation.” Hosted by Kathy Russo, School of Nursing Advisors Board Member, and the Alumni Association. Brooklawn Country Club, Fairfield. Sept. 14, 6 – 8 p.m. Call (203) 254-4280 to register. Free of charge.

Palliative Care Conference, “Enhancing Comfort.” Sept. 25. See below.

“The Romantic Piano: The Music of Chopin and Albéniz.” Sept 25. Concert featuring noted pianist and beloved Fairfield professor Orin Grossman. \$35. Quick Center for the Arts, 8 p.m. Call (203) 254-4010.



School of Nursing

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Save the Date:

September 25, 2010

Dr. Eileen O’Shea is once again spearheading a conference on pediatric palliative care.* The topic is “Enhancing Comfort,” with keynote speaker Dr. Nancy Kline, director of Nursing Research and Evidenced Based Practice at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

The conference is free and open to nurses, physicians, therapists, chaplains and other healthcare professionals.

Check our website www.fairfield.edu/nursing or call (203) 254-4150 for time and registration information.

*sponsored by a grant from the Carroll Family