



The

PULSE

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A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

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School of Nursing names new Dean

After a nationwide search that included many well-qualified candidates from around the country, Fairfield announced earlier this spring that Lynn Babington, Ph.D., formerly assistant dean of graduate programs at Boston’s Northeastern University, has been selected to take the helm of the School of Nursing. Dr. Babington fills a position most recently held by longstanding faculty member Dr. Suzanne Campbell, who was asked to lead the school after the ten-year governance of Dr. Jeanne Novotny.

In her academic leadership positions at Northeastern, Dr. Babington led the development of the Doctorate of Nursing (DNP) program and served as its first director. During the process, she worked collaboratively with colleagues in academia and nursing service and across disciplines within the University. She chaired the Ph.D. in Nursing committee as the University launched that program. Before joining Northeastern, she founded the Health Services Partnership to provide medical management services to community health centers in Boston, Mass.

Last summer, Dr. Babington spent six weeks in Israel on a Fulbright scholarship as an advisor to the ministry of health as it works to create the country’s first doctorate of nursing program. She has traveled regularly to the Dominican Republic as the president of the non-profit Intercultural Nursing, Inc., an organization that provides sustainable healthcare to rural areas on the western frontier. Nurses and graduate nursing students spend two weeks conducting clinics for underserved populations.



“I am excited to join Fairfield University and to have the privilege of leading the School of Nursing,” said Dr. Babington, who earned a Ph.D. and a M.S. in Nursing from the University

of Washington. “The School has a very strong faculty, all leaders in their respective fields and extremely committed to both education and following the Jesuit mission of providing services to the community.” As evidence, she cites the School’s ongoing commitments to the School of Nursing Health Promotion Center in Bridgeport, the programs in Nicaragua, and the national recognition Fairfield earned as one of the first schools to receive the Veterans Administration Nursing Academy grant.

University President Rev. Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., thanked Dr. Campbell for her leadership this past year. “Fairfield has been very well served in the interim by the dedicated work of Dr. Suzanne Campbell as acting dean,” he said. “Far from being a caretaker, she has advanced the agenda of the School and engaged the commitment of its stakeholders by her own infectious enthusiasm.”

Looking ahead, Dr. Babington sees great opportunities for Fairfield’s School of Nursing to create synergies between nursing and business and engineering. “We can capitalize on the strengths of each of these disciplines and create centers of education, practice and research,” she said.



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing

Healthcare in the 21st Century

Members of The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Board of Advisors and the School of Nursing (SON) Advisory Board discussed healthcare at a joint Board meeting last February. Members from the Charles F. Dolan School of Business, the School of Engineering, and the Center for Faith and Public Life Advisory Boards were also present to brainstorm how the different areas of the University could work together to develop and support new, integrated initiatives that would place Fairfield at the forefront of educating others on global and national healthcare.

“The meeting resulted in concrete strategic plans to



Photo: Nick Lacy

move interdisciplinary education with a health science/health professional global focus forward,” noted **Dean Suzanne Campbell**.

Patrick W. Kelley '76, P'12, M.D., P.H., director of the Boards on Global Health and African Science Academy Development through the Institute of Medicine, gave the keynote address. Dr. Kelley is also a member of the School of Nursing Advisory Board.

“The exploration of the topic of health professional education for the 21st Century provided a unique opportunity to bring the Nursing and College Boards together,” said **Nöel Appel**, assistant vice president for development and the CAS and SON liaison. “Both schools are working together envisioning a new building that will celebrate health science and nursing education.”

Dr. Kelley’s presentation, “Healthcare in the 21st Century: Educating all Students to Succeed within the Changing Technical, Ethical and Global Healthcare Landscape,” discussed how health enterprises changed over the years and how Jesuit universities like Fairfield could transform health professional education to strengthen current systems in an interdependent world and reduce healthcare inequities.

Speaker Patrick Kelley (center) with, from left, Robin Kanarek '96, incoming SON Advisory Board Chair; CAS Dean Robbin Crabtree; CAS Board Chair Susan Alexander, '78, P'15; current SON Advisory Board Chair Nancy Lynch, P'95; SON Dean Suzanne Campbell

IMPACT *india* 2021: Elevating the Value of Women and Girls in Society

A new study led by Fairfield University’s Center for Faith and Public Life and including the School of Nursing has dug deeper into India’s sex ratio imbalance crisis to find that it is being fueled by complex family pressures, including the belief that boys will be better wage earners, and that men will be more likely to take better care of their aging parents. The study also indicates that elders in the family and often husbands prefer a male child, while many wives pointed out that their voices could not be made heard, and they had little choice in the matter.

Dr. Suzanne Campbell contributed to this project. “The opportunity to work with colleagues from a variety of disciplines on core issues of gender and health, with the possibility of impacting future generations, was incredibly rewarding. Seeing the breadth and depth of relationships with colleagues

around the world because of our Jesuit connections allows visions of interdisciplinary research impacting so many with positive results.”

Fairfield’s innovative survey included qualitative components to better understand how gender dynamics and family pressures in India lead to the birth of a significantly greater number of boys than girls. The study suggests that male child preference is quite prevalent and the sex ratio imbalance – which is on the increase and was evident in the 2011 Indian National Census – is likely to be a major impediment to the future development of India. The crisis is impacting people of all religions, of all economic classes, living in urban and rural areas with considerable ramifications to India’s economy, the Gross Domestic Product, and an increased threat of violence in the society.

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Reflections from Advisory Board Chair Nancy Lynch

Nancy Lynch, P'95, is stepping down after seven years as the inaugural Chair of the School of Nursing's first Advisory Board. Here, she shares her reflections on that time.

With my husband, Roger, an alumnus and past Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and our son, Stephen '95, I have watched the University grow and become a leading Jesuit institution here and abroad.

As an "honorary" nurse, I have had the privilege of working closely with the past dean of the School, Dr. Jeanne Novotny, as well as with Dr. Suzanne Campbell, interim dean, and so many faculty members. The Advisory Board members are extremely bright, committed, and dedicated to enhancing the SON, and we have done just that! In the short span of time since the Board's inception in 2005, we raised over \$1 million to build the Robin Kanarek Learning Resource Center, a simulated hospital environment where students learn and practice basic to advanced nursing skills. This money was raised in record time and far surpassed our initial goals and timing.

The number of students attending the SON has grown to 561 undergraduate and graduate students, far exceeding the enrollment in 2005! The graduate program has four distinct tracks: Clinical Nurse Leader, Nurse Anesthesia, Nurse Practitioner and HealthCare Management, and has just graduated its first class of doctoral students.



The incredible Board that I have worked with over these years has challenged me, the faculty, and the administration of the Nursing School to reach new heights. We have been modeled by the other Advisory Boards within the various Schools of the University. I am most proud of this, and it has only been accomplished because these Board members have all worked in a consistent and cohesive manner with one goal in mind... to improve the School and bring awareness to the community at large. This Board has always benefited from discussion and the exchange of ideas from each other and speakers that have been brought onto campus and into our meetings.

In both development and leadership, the School of Nursing serves as a backdrop for me personally as I move in to other areas of volunteer work in the healthcare field.

I am pleased to be leaving the Board in the very capable hands of longtime Board member Robin Kanarek '96, who was recently honored with a Connecticut Nurses' Association President's Honor in recognition of her achievements and service to the profession of nursing. Under her leadership, I have no doubt the Board – and the School of Nursing – will continue on its forward trajectory.

Fairfield professors hope this research will ultimately lead to concrete projects in education and workforce development for young people. "This study finds that better access to education and employment prospects will demonstrate to families how to elevate the value of women and girls in society," said **Gita Rajan, Ph.D.**, professor of English at Fairfield's College of Arts & Sciences, an Indian American, who developed the idea for the research endeavor.



Dr. Campbell (ctr.) and Dr. Gita Rajan, lead author of the Impact India study, at The Sulgrave Club in D.C., where the study was presented.

The Future of Nursing

A focus of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) conference in Washington, D.C., this past March was leveraging the recommendations of the recent Institute of Medicine Report on the Future of Nursing. **Dean Suzanne Campbell**, incoming **Dean Lynn Babington**, and Assistant Vice President for Development **Noël Appel** attended to learn more about best practices in fundraising and marketing for schools of nursing. The conference included sessions on engaging alumni using social media, leveraging collaborations with other schools of nursing in the fundraising effort and best practice approaches to advisory boards in schools of nursing. "Attending this conference as a team was very valuable and provided Dr. Campbell and Dr. Babington with the opportunity to meet with D.C. based members of the School of Nursing Advisory Board," Appel noted.

Joining Forces for Veteran Care

By Meg McCaffrey

Dean Suzanne Campbell was one of only 20 nursing deans nationwide invited to attend a special event with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden concerning a new initiative to help veterans suffering from “the invisible wounds of war.”

The meeting centered on Fairfield’s School of Nursing joining an effort to educate nursing students on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – two devastating conditions that America’s war veterans are fighting in increasing numbers. The First Lady and Dr. Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, announced a commitment from nurses across the country eager to serve veterans and military families. In a broad, coordinated effort, more than 150 state and national nursing organizations and nursing schools, including Fairfield – a leader in caring for veterans – have committed to further educate the nation’s three million nurses to meet the unique health needs of service members, veterans, and their families. This project builds on efforts by Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden to help veterans by way of “Joining Forces,” an initiative that



Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden surrounded by service members at a conference announcing a commitment to enhance the care of veterans.

mobilizes all sectors of society to address military families’ unique needs as they pertain to employment, education and wellness.

The invisible wounds of war, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, have impacted approximately one in six troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq – more than 300,000 veterans.

Dr. Campbell said ‘Joining Forces’ is a way for the School of Nursing to further enhance care for area veterans and their families. “Fairfield is grateful for its partnership with the West Haven VA Hospital in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ ‘VA Nursing Academy,’ as well as our involvement in the Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education program. This new endeavor is another vital avenue for our faculty and students to be of service to troops returning home.”

Dr. Campbell was later interviewed on WNPR about ways the School is implementing the care of veterans, particularly with regard to PTSD and TBI, into the curriculum.

Fairfield Partners with Bridgeport Hospital

Partnerships with institutions offering associate degrees in nursing have long been the norm at Fairfield; such partnerships make it easier for those completing an associate degree to seamlessly transition to Fairfield to earn their BSN.

Now, Fairfield University has added Bridgeport Hospital as a new partner, joining other area two-year colleges.

“These partnerships encourage RNs to come here to earn their BSN degree while working,” says **Carole Pomarico**, assistant professor of nursing. “Unlike other area BSN programs, ours is a hybrid, allowing students to take some classes online if that suits their needs, while scheduling the majority of nursing courses in the classroom so students benefit from relationships with other students and can network with faculty.” Fairfield is also known for its commitment to individualized advisement, so students have the opportunity to devise a customized program that best meets their needs and goals.

Partnerships like these which guarantee admission to

Fairfield University upon completion of the ADN are important to helping nurses meet the standards set forth by the 2010 IOM Future of Nursing Report, which urges all nurses to have a bachelor’s degree by 2020. “We partnered with these institutions because of the quality of their programs, and continue because of the past success of their graduates in our program,” says Professor Pomarico.

For new nurses, the bachelor’s is essential. “Young nurses are just not getting hired into acute care in Connecticut without a bachelor’s degree anymore,” says Professor Pomarico.

It’s not at all unusual for those in the RN-BSN program to continue on to the master’s level. In fact, Fairfield’s first DNP graduating class boasts one student, Nancy Andrews, who initially came to Fairfield for her BSN from a partnership school. She finished that in 2010, and “was thrilled when Fairfield began the DNP,” Andrews says. “I always wanted to be a nurse practitioner, and I went right to the information session when I heard about it. I think I may have been one of the first to enroll.”

Faculty Publications and Presentations



K. Wheeler

Tofani, L. & **Wheeler, K.** (2011). The Recent Event Episode Protocol: Analysis and outcome evaluation of three case studies. *Journal of EMDR Practice & Research.*

Wheeler, K. (2010). A relationship-based model for psychiatric nursing practice, *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care.*

Gerard, S., Grossman, S. & Godfrey, M. (in press, 2012). Course Strategies For Clinical Nurse Leader Development. *Journal of Professional Nursing.*

S. Gerard, et al. Moving to Wellness: A Pilot Study Examining a Nurse Driven Exercise Program in Acutely Ill Patients, *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, Vol.16, 3



S. Grossman

Grossman, S., Mager, D., Opheim, H., & Torbjornsen, A. (2011). A Bi-national Simulation Study to Improve Cultural Awareness in Nursing Students. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing Journal.*

Grossman, S. (2011). Using collaborative mentoring in critical care. *Nursing 2011 Critical Care.*

Ryan, M. & **Grossman, S.** (2011). Celiac Disease: Implications for Patient Management. *Gastroenterology Nursing.*

Eaton, K. & **Grossman, S.** (2011). Creating a forum for listening to patients and families: Development of a patient/family advisory board. *American Nurse Today Journal.*

Mager, D. (2012). Emergency preparedness: How Hurricane Irene caught my community unprepared. *Home Healthcare Nurse*, June

• **Dr. Sheila Grossman** has been selected as the FNP Commissioner for the American Nurses Association Commission on Certification. She will serve on this Board

until 2016. Dr. Grossman has also been named an Expert on Mentoring with the American Nurses Association and is working with the state organizations who have won the Mentoring grants to develop mentoring programs around the country. A tool she created, the Mentor Characteristics/Skills, and Work Setting/Organization Mentoring Culture Assessment, is being piloted with this project. The second edition of her book, *Mentoring in Nursing: A Dynamic and Collaborative Process*, will be published this year.

• **Dr. Eileen O’Shea** was awarded the 2012 Excellence in Education Award by the Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN) Awards Task Force. Dr. O’Shea is pediatric course coordinator in the School of Nursing and also a clinical instructor at Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital. At Fairfield, she teaches Nursing of Children and Family and has contributed to the curriculum with her expertise in end-of-life education for pediatric and perinatal patients, their families, and their health care providers.

• **Dr. Kathleen Wheeler** has been named president-elect of EMDRIA (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing International Association), a 4,500 member organization of interdisciplinary EMDR licensed mental health providers and researchers. EMDR is an evidence-based treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is used by leading mental health organizations throughout the world for the treatment of depression, anxiety, and pain.

• **Dr. Suzanne Campbell** presented “Innovative Ways of Incorporating Interprofessional Education: Schools Without Co-Located Health Professions Education Programs” to the national group of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing at their Spring 2012 meeting. Dr. Campbell highlighted the unique ways Fairfield’s School of Nursing has collaborated with communication, business, engineering, economics and the arts.

Anka Roberto '99 Director of Learning Resource Center

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce the appointment of **Anka Roberto '99** as the new Director of the Robin Kanarek Learning Resource Center. “I’m excited because I worked in the lab as a student and now I’m coming back home,” says Roberto.

Previously, Roberto worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., where she began and continues to run a Youth and Family Support program. She has experience in public

health, working as a Maternal Childcare Health Nurse at the Putnam County Health Department, where she implemented a community education program with the Latino population addressing immunizations, parenting, and breastfeeding support. Roberto’s daughter Maya was diagnosed with congenital heart defects and she devotes significant time advocating for children and families faced with this condition. “Having Maya opened my eyes to what our nurses need to do, care for the whole family,” she says.

Nursing Students Discuss Global Health Issues

School of Nursing students spoke about the major health issues and healthcare systems they have witnessed in developing countries around the world at a presentation on April 24. Students in the pre-health professions program also attended the event, which was part of the Spring lecture series.

Katie Howe '12, spent time in Ghana last November with a group from Boston Children's Hospital. In a country where the life expectancy is 60, there are just 93 nurses for every 100,000 people, and those needing services must pay before they are allowed inside the hospital, Howe was struck by how basics in care were nonexistent. The children's ward "was incredibly hot, just unbelievably hot, and the windows were all open so flies and mosquitos, which pose a threat for contracting malaria, could come in," Howe noted. "In the neonatal intensive care unit, babies were placed four to five in an incubator, which is something that isn't seen in the United States." Not surprisingly, water-borne disease, sanitation, and malaria rank at the top of the country's health issues.

Kelly Kramer's '12 experiences in Nicaragua at a School of Nursing trip echoed much of the same sentiment. "Because the taps don't always run, their practice is to fill up a basin with water in the morning, then use that water for cooking or washing hands during the day," she said, noting that each family uses the same basin of water for multiple purposes. In the preschool the class visited in the Ayapal neighborhood of Managua, "We did a hand washing lesson, then gave out soap, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste." The teachers will follow up to assess long-term effectiveness over the coming months, she said.

As in the U.S., non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer are leading causes of death and disease. At the same time, the country's health system also has to grapple with communicable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, which creates a unique "double burden" on the healthcare system.

Brazilian native **Leticia Moura**, a senior nursing student

from the University of Para State who has spent the past semester studying at Fairfield, gave an overview of the healthcare system in that country. All Brazilians are entitled to care under the public healthcare system, she says, while those who can afford it buy private insurance to supplement that care. Medical services are ranked according to a tiered system: Preventive services and the maintenance of health are the first level; chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes) are on the second level and patients receive a monthly consultation with their doctors; those with a referral from their doctor for a complex issue such as cancer or kidney failure can be treated at the third level of care. As part of their requirements

for graduation, student nurses visit remote areas to provide healthcare, and thus are an integral part of the system of care. As in Nicaragua, healthcare resources are split among growing numbers of people with circulatory disease (heart conditions, hypertension) and cancer (primarily skin, breast and lung) and tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue, which occur mainly in the Amazon region.

Presentations such as this one on global health issues are extremely important for future healthcare providers, says Dr. Joyce Shea, undergraduate program director. "Our students' ability to function in today's healthcare environment requires a broad understanding of health and wellness, the role of culture and economics, and the impact of politics on access to care and disparities

in health outcomes throughout the world." Besides, she says it's important to note "not everything is determined by high levels of technical skill. We have so many health issues that can be resolved by simple, low cost options such as adequate food, water, sanitation, and basic supplies."

Dr. Curt Naser, associate professor of philosophy, concluded the program with a discussion on the ethical obligations of healthcare providers to respond to global health issues. The world is divided along political boundaries, he said. "But ethics knows no such boundaries. Healthcare workers have to negotiate the conflict between the political and economic interests of nations on the one hand, and their personal responsibility to all who have need of their service."



Katie Howe inserts a Foley catheter into an infant being readied for heart surgery in Ghana.

Commencement 2012



Bob and Suzanne Wright, who founded Autism Speaks after their grandson was diagnosed with the condition, spoke at the Graduate Commencement ceremony. Bob Wright, the former vice chairman of General Electric and chief executive officer of NBC Universal, noted “In the months after Christian’s diagnosis I reflected a lot on my Jesuit education, and the morals it instilled in me.” Autism Speaks is the nation’s largest autism science and advocacy organization.

Doctors all! Fairfield’s School of Nursing awards the first doctorates in University history. Flanked by University President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J. (left) and Dean Suzanne Campbell (far right), are: Valerie Madaffari, Dwanna Ward-Boahen, Priscilla Sterne, Veronica Egbunike, and Maureen Roussel.

Moreen Donahue, DNP, RN, FAAN, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of patient care services at Western Connecticut Health Network, spoke to the graduates and their families at the pinning ceremony the day before Commencement.

Officers of the Student Nurses Association, from left: Tara Hall, Jiwon Yoo ’13, Megan McCarthy, Kimberly Burke, Jenna Goldbach ’13, Alison Monahan, and Jennifer Balzotti



Michael Cicirelli ’11 celebrated the completion of his BSN in a unique way: He designed, created, then gifted the stunning stained glass window that now hangs in the stairwell of the School of Nursing. The gift was a family affair: his father constructed the oak frame, and his sister etched the inscription. The beautiful artwork has been garnering a lot of attention and an equal number of compliments.



The Commencement speaker for the morning undergraduate ceremony was Joseph P. Russoniello ’63, a Fairfield alumnus who went on to become one of the most prominent prosecutors in the United States, successfully arguing public corruption, espionage and murder cases.

Proudly processing onto the Bellarmine Lawn at the start of Commencement are new nursing graduates (l-r), Sarah Leflar, Kimberly Logue, and Anne LoPiccolo. They are among the 127 students who graduated this year with a BSN from Fairfield.



Photos: Susan Warner Lambert

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grad Info Session for nurses interested in a master's or DNP program.

Wed., July 11 at 5:30 p.m.
Kelley Center
For questions, e-mail
gradadmis@fairfield.edu

Open VISIONS Forum: Lesley Stahl, 60 Minutes correspondent

Wed., Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.
Quick Center for the Arts
For tickets, call the Quick
Center Box Office:
1-877-ARTS-396.

Dr. Stefan Pryor: Urban Educational Reform

Tues., Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Quick Center for the Arts
Free



School of Nursing

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Message from the Dean



Among the many highlights of this year has been the chance to meet the First Lady (see page 4), and Dr. Patrick Kelley's presentation, Healthcare in the 21st Century (page 2).

Collaboration to move interdisciplinary education with a health science/health professional global focus forward at Fairfield is an initiative that mirrors national and global reports for the transformation of healthcare professional education. This year included campus-wide programs with interdisciplinary guest speakers, as well as faculty recognition as excellent teachers, mentor experts, and now doctoral student chairs. Making history at Fairfield, the School of Nursing graduated the first doctoral candidates from the DNP program. Successful accreditation site visits by CCNE and NEASC led to recommendations for five-year accreditation of the DNP program, and the CT State Board Examiners of Nursing

approved the undergraduate program for another five years. Enrollment is stronger than ever. The Elder Grant celebrates six years of success with instrumental effects regionally on the care of older adults. Funding has provided curricular enhancement for anesthesia-simulation, fall-risk and medication use screening for older adults in the community, and for team projects such as "Impact India 2021."

I am so grateful for the time to serve the School and University in the Interim Dean role this past year and feel blessed by the support of a remarkable group of dedicated individuals who are the foundation of our successes. The passion for nursing is palpable by everyone who has participated. It has been quite a ride and I look forward to continued success as we joyfully welcome Dean Lynn Babington to the School and University community.

Suzanne H. Campbell, dean