



2015 - 2016

Provost Annual Report

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School of Nursing (SON) Annual Report July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Introduction

This document reflects the activity under former Dean Regina M. Cusson who led the school during this reporting period. As I evaluate our year, having assumed the leadership role of Dean on July 1, 2016, I find that the school shows good solid progress in activity and academic excellence. The school made a commitment to eleven goals outlined for 2015 - 2016 (the highest number in my recollection) despite fiscal and other certain challenges. Each are addressed below and some will continue into FY 17 and be evaluated accordingly. We continue to build a strong and vibrant school. Please see below a narrative of the accomplishments of the School of Nursing, achieved through the collective efforts of our students, leadership team, faculty, and staff.

Progress on goals listed last year

Goal 1: Continue implementing the Academic Plan and SON's strategic plan based on academic vision, with emphasis on growing research programs

The school has enjoyed a year of transformation in its quest to achieve its Number 1 goal of "continuing implementation of the University's Academic Plan and the School of Nursing's (SON) strategic plan, with emphasis on growing research programs." This is a recurring goal. The 2014 – 2015 Provost Annual Report (PAR) documented that a pivotal step to achievement was the hiring of Associate Professor and director Dr. Angela Starkweather plus Professor in Residence and director Dr. Minakshi Tikoo. Achieving this goal is detailed further below.

First, the School of Nursing is pleased to report that it has engaged in developing a new Master's Degree program which is being submitted as an Academic Plan Tier 1 proposal under the sponsorship of the Institute for Systems Genomics: Master's Degree in Genetics & Genomic Counseling, to be accredited by the American Board of Genetic Counseling. This effort is a shared effort led by Dr. Marc Laland, Ginger Nichols, Judy Brown, and The Center for Genetic Counseling (CGC). The first matriculating class would be fall 2017 with an anticipated enrollment of ten. Six nursing courses are considered in the proposed curriculum. We look forward to further work on this effort, and on reporting its progress and success in the 2016 – 2017 Provost Annual Report.

In regard to satisfying goals set forth last year, Starkweather was hired to direct the School of Nursing's designated CAMP research center (Center for Advancement in Managing Pain) <http://nursing.uconn.edu/research/center-for-advancement-in-managing-pain/>.

Tikoo was brought on to direct SON's effort for Health Information Technology (HIT) content integration and teaching throughout all levels of the nursing curriculum. She leads the Center for Quantitative Medicine www.chatter.uconn.edu.

It was the expectation that each would contribute to the school by bringing in additional intramural and new extramural funding, increased level of published works in high impact publications, as they would lead teams that would raise the level of school performance, as measured through engagement, grant funding, higher level of learning; the receipt of citations, honorific awards, and national recognition. CAMP and HIT are both very successful endeavors after their inaugural year and most assuredly contribute to the University's STEM initiative.

The end of this reporting period, June 30th, marks 10 months of contributions of Dr. Angela Starkweather, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, CNRN, FAAN who assumed her role as director in August 2015. Angela leads a team comprised of: Associate Professor and senior researcher Dr. Deborah McDonald, PhD, RN; Associate Professor Dr. Xiaomei Cong, PhD, RN; Assistant Professor Kyle Baumbauer, PhD; Assistant Professor Erin Young, PhD; Research Associate Divya Ramesh, PhD and research students on the baccalaureate and graduate levels. Baumbauer and Young have joint appointments with UConn Health, conducting research in the Institute for Systems Genomics. Under Dr. Starkweather's leadership, CAMP has developed a 12 credit graduate pain management on-line certificate program for nursing professionals. This is newly established with an application deadline of July 29th. <http://pain-mngmnt-online-grad-cert.uconn.edu/> We look forward to reporting on this in full next year.

Further, Starkweather successfully transferred her NINR research grant PAIN SENSITIVITY IN LOW BACK PAIN from Virginia Commonwealth University to UConn. Her team will investigate the role of enhanced pain sensitivity on the risk of persistent lower back pain through characterization of pain sensitivity and pain sensitivity candidate gene profiling. The project is supported through the work of Dr. Kyle Baumbauer, Dr. Divya Ramesh, and Dr. Erin E. Young. Total funds awarded for the one-year project are \$501,185.

CAMP news releases have informed the community on a variety of outreach efforts, including a program at the UConn Science Salon, held in March, entitled "Of Agony and Relief: Understanding and Treating Pain." This event was moderated by Starkweather and panelists included Baumbauer, Young, and Dr. Crystal Park, UConn clinical psychology professor and psychology expert. This panel discussion focused

on the genetics of pain and the future of treating it, from non-addictive pain medications to yoga. This event was open to the community at large. Further, CAMP had regional exposure with Erin Young's guest appearance on New England Public Radio (NEPR) on the topic of her research "Pain and Genetics Go Hand In Hand," back in May.

CAMP PhD student Thomas Julian, BS, RN received a \$2,500 award from the International Society for Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) for "A Behavioral Model of Serotonin Genetics Impulsivity and Opioid Addiction" study. Research has linked opioid addiction vulnerability to heritable genetic differences in neurotransmitter genes and to neuropsychological impulsivity traits. This relationship is believed to involve serotonergic neurotransmitter dysfunctions, however the relationship between these factors in conferring addiction risk phenotype remains poorly understood. The goal of this project is to undertake a pilot feasibility study of the serotonin impulsivity endophenotype model as a predictor of opioid addiction phenotypes. Demonstration of the predictive validity of the endophenotype model could produce a screening assay for preventive interventions for high risk adolescents and an individualized precision treatment paradigm for medically assisted addiction therapies of great value to the provision of genetics-informed nursing care.

Researcher / Assistant Professor Kyle Baumbauer, PhD received a \$155,797 award from the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) for his proposal "The Functional Consequences of Spinal Cord Injury on Cutaneous Nociceptors." This award is based on an R03 grant application submitted in June 2015 with Dr. Erin Young, as co-investigator. The goal of the two-year study is to target specific sensory neurons for both scientific study and for the eventual development of therapeutic interventions. Through a series of lab experiments the study team will electrophysiologically characterize neurons to determine how cells respond independent of stimulation, or in response to mechanical, heat, and cold stimulation. Gene expression profiles will be created for all of the afferents examined, and analysis will be performed to capture any injury-induced alterations in gene expression and neuronal function. With this knowledge the investigators will identify targets responsible for hypersensitivity, and guide development of novel therapeutic interventions for the treatment of spinal cord injury-induced pain.

A student mentee-advisee of Dr. Starkweather received a spring 2016 UConn IDEA (*Imagine-Develop- Engage-Apply*) grant award from the Office of Undergraduate Research. Sophomore student Joseph Fetta received \$4,000 for his proposal "Memory Deficit Due to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Concussion in Incoming College Students." Fetta will use the fund the screen the incoming class of UConn students regarding their history of TBI and concussions. Following the screening, he

will use established instruments to implement and test a memory enhancing intervention.

Starkweather explains "CAMP's unique niche is to focus on pain management from the cellular level to the systems level." The CAMP team collectively have approximately 20 publications to its credit, and four international conference presentations for this year.

In mid-July Starkweather received notice of a five-year P 20 funding for greater than \$1.6 million dollars. The pilot projects funded through this award are underway. Former Dean Cusson agreed to several years of major cost sharing (teaching load reductions) which will be a challenge for the SON to fulfill.

Dr. Minakshi Tikoo, PhD, MBI, MS, MSc, has a joint appointment with the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), where she is director of business intelligence. In her roles at both UConn and DSS she collaborates with locally based health care organizations and many state-agency partners, including the UConn Health Center on Aging. Minakshi explains "The adoption of the electronic health record isn't the end goal. The focus is, how we improve the care that we deliver by using these systems."

The five current center projects under CHATTER (**C**onversations About **H**ealth **A**nalytics, **T**echnology **T**ransfer, **E**valuation and **R**esearch) include (1) Medicaid Electronic Health Record (HER) Incentive Program; (2) Testing Experience and Functional Assessment Tools (TEFT); (3) Health Information Exchange Policy (HIE); (4) State Innovative Model (SIM); (5) Direct Secure Messaging.

The Center for Quantitative Medicine / *Chatter* is supported by a team of 8 – Director; Business Manager; 5 Research Assistants and one Chief Technology Officer.

The current multi-year grant funding level is \$23.8 M. Breakdown and information is as follows:

Funding Agency	Role	Dates	Total Funding	Project Description
HHS/CMS/CT-DSS	PI	7/1/2014-9/30/2021	\$9 M (7/1/14-6/30/16)	Assist DSS in the implementation the EHR Incentive Program by analyzing Meaningful Use Stage 1 and Stage 2 data. Implement SB 811- HIT Strategic and Operational plan. Serve as the HHS HIT Coordinator and the Director of the Business Intelligence Competency Center for the DSS.

HHS/CMS/CT-DSS CMS – 1H1-13-001	PI	5/1/2014 – 4/30/2018	\$4.1 M	Planning and Demonstration Grant for Testing Experience and Functional Tools in Community-Based Long Term Services and Supports (TEFT).
HHS/CMS – Innovation Center / CT- OHA/CT-DSS	PI	2/1/2015 – 1/31/2019	10.7 M	State Innovative Model Grant – HIT Component

Goal 2: Continue progress in securing cutting-edge research programs and funding

The school is working on cutting-edge research programs and securing funding to fulfill them. This year SON has been chosen to be a National Hartford (John A. Hartford Foundation) Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE). By this association with NHCGNE the School of Nursing will be engaged in activities relating to faculty development; advancing gerontological nursing science, facilitating adoption of best practices, fostering leadership, and policy design. The School of Nursing will be at the forefront of advancing gerontological nursing care. The school is already making great strides in this area with our involvement in the *Got Care!* Program. As reported last year, Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Millicent Malcolm, DNP, GNP-BC, RN, APRN, who has 30 years of clinical gerontological experience, leads a major federally funded project to improve primary care of older adults, thus preventing an excessive reliance on emergency room department interventions. This year the program expanded in a very meaningful way: *Got Care! Serves Military Veterans*. From the beginning, this notion of caring for the aging veteran, was part of the design. Such a vulnerable population is apt to have service-related health issues that would not always be entirely visible. Nurses are trained to conduct targeted assessments which urge the healthcare practitioner to ask the patient about military service, and treat accordingly.

Goal 3: Explore development (assessment initiated) of RN-BS completion program – approval through all levels in FY 16

This year Associate Professor Colleen Delaney, PhD, RN, AHN-BC researched and drafted a proposal to modify our current RN-MS program, changing it to an RN-BS program, and offering it on-line. However, discussion relative to fully developing it was put on hold (no indication as to why is provided, however).

In brief, the Institute of Medicine released its landmark report on *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* initiated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in October 2010. The report called for increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in the workforce to 80% and doubling the population of nurses with doctorates by 2020. In addition, the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (AANC) Magnet Recognition Program® has criteria that require nurse managers and leaders to have a degree in nursing at either the baccalaureate or graduate level. Magnet applicants are also required to provide an action plan and set a target demonstrating their progress toward having 80 percent of direct care RNs obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing or higher, by 2020. These national nursing goals have resulted in an increased employer preference for BS prepared nurses and consequently increased numbers of applicants to RN-BS programs.

Our findings indicate that seven Connecticut colleges or universities offer CCNE accredited pre-licensure (baccalaureate) BS or BSN programs, e.g. Central Connecticut State University, Fairfield University, Quinnipiac University, Southern Connecticut State University, University of Connecticut, University of St. Joseph and Western Connecticut State University. Nine have either an RN-BSN program, a RN-MSN, RN-BSN-MSN or RN-MSN: RN-BSN: (8) Central Connecticut State University; Fairfield University; Quinnipiac University (on-line); Sacred Heart University; Southern Connecticut State University; University of Hartford; University of St. Joseph; Western Connecticut State University. One has an RN-MS program, e.g. UConn; and one has an RN-BSN-MSN, e.g. Sacred Heart University.

Dean Polifroni is in communication with Assistant Vice Provost Peter Diplock regarding a large scale online RN-BSN program; exploration and decision will be done in FY 17.

Goal 4: Continue efforts to increase visibility

Study Away (SON Global Affairs Program) Unique Faculty Contributions

Professor Regina Cusson, PhD, NNP-BC, APRN, FAAAN visited universities in Beijing and Taiwan last December while Dean, in an effort to recruit support for a proposed interdisciplinary leadership and research immersion program here at UConn. This program is set to begin at UConn this summer. Also, during this trip she presented as an invited speaker at the University of Hong Kong for its School of Nursing's 20th anniversary celebration.

This year, our school engaged in professional and academic collaboration with the People's Republic of China in various other ways, e.g. our hosting six pre-licensure Chinese students in April; and separately, hosting two Chinese faculty from April to

June; preparing for the summer immersion program and for a fall visit from more faculty. Moreover, Assistant Professor Xiaomei Cong, PhD, RN spent time in China on sabbatical conducting research.

The school reported in its 2014-2015 PAR that we hired a new Director of Global Affairs. Associate Clinical Professor, Mikki Meadows-Oliver, PhD, RN, FAAN, began in August and took on the leadership of the school's robust Study Away program in which students engage in various programs, such as: Maternity/Pediatric Nursing for a full-semester in Cape Town, South Africa; Summer Applied Research for Nursing Practice in Dublin Ireland; Adult Acute Care / Psychiatric Nursing for a full semester in Puerto Rico; a two and half-week intensive program relating to family traditions in patient care and complementary and alternative therapies in Beijing; and a two week intensive course on Chronic and End of Life Care in Belgium.

Overall, approximately 40% of our 2016 pre-licensure graduates engaged in a study away experience.

In addition, two faculty members visited two partnership sites this year. Assistant Clinical Professor John McNulty, MS, RN traveled to Puerto Rico, and Meadows-Oliver traveled to Belgium.

For the first time students in the CEIN/BS program were given the opportunity to travel abroad. Twelve students in the class of 2015 (program runs January – December) studied for 2 ½ weeks in Cape Town South Africa, in August 2015. Class size was 122, so participation level was approximately 10%. It is expected that 6 of the 127 2016 CEIN/BS students will travel to South Africa this August (approximately 5%). Recently approved, and now in the planning stage for spring 2017 is a community health capstone experience in Cape Town for the upcoming CEIN/BS class.

Regarding unique faculty contributions and fostering increased visibility for the school through engagement, Dr. Angela Starkweather continues with her National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)-funded study on genetics of pain sensitivity, and she and her team established two bio-behavioral pain laboratories for CAMP. As a 'Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR)' member, Starkweather will advocate for nursing science. She was selected to further NINR's goals by educating Congressional delegations and healthcare professionals, in order to improve research funding by emphasizing the impact that nurse scientists and nursing research make in improving the health of our nation's citizens.

We have faculty committed to healthcare policy and political advocacy for the advancement of the nursing profession and improved health care. Meadows-Oliver

has served as President of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, giving her opportunities in leadership; to network with other stakeholders in the national healthcare community; and to have a voice in healthcare policy and regulation narratives. Associate Clinical Professor, Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP has been of great assistance to the school due to her political acumen. She and Regina Cusson co-authored op-ed pieces for the Hartford Courant relating to health care issues. Joy is a recognized authority on navigating the political process and influencing a course of action for the nursing profession and health care. She provides legislative testimony and congressional testimony, gathers signature support for pending legislation, and keeps her colleagues at the school fully informed.

Goal 5: Continue leadership efforts relating to faculty development to meet strategic plan goals

School of Nursing leadership efforts provided for its faculty to engage in interprofessional programs consistent with the IP strategic plan. Three of the school's faculty serve on the Interdisciplinary Health Education Committee (IHEC) – Dr. Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC; Dr. Paula McCauley, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CNE, and Dr. Michelle Judge, PhD, RD, CD-N. The first faculty workshop was held on Dean's Day, October 1, 2015. The School was represented by both full-time and adjunct faculty members: McCauley, Judge, Jakubisin-Konicki; Anna Bourgault, Tom Van Hoof, Maureen Judd, Anne Krafft, Millicent Malcolm, Peggy Stolfi, Erin Young, Helen Zakewicz; Alice Anderson, Lisa Beucar, Carole Cordianni, Jacqueline Dietrich, Seja Jackson, Pat Niewinski, and Jennifer Rivers.

Other faculty development efforts include established Faculty Development Committee meetings held during the academic year. One session was a research and scholarship workshop in which faculty were invited to discuss grant applications. Also inter-professional guest speakers were part of End of Life course, 1175W.

Goal 6: Increase endowed activity that supports school priorities as well as scholarships

The School of Nursing received a generous gift of high-tech mannequins for the Simulation Lab by alumna Bertie Chuong, '82 MS, RN.

On the occasion that Chuong visited the school and saw the new simulation lab she was impressed and moved to endow a fund to support it. The "Bertie Chuong Endowed Fund for Nursing" may be used to purchase new equipment or hire lab personnel.

Goal 7: Continue to enroll outstanding applicants to meet state and national nursing goals

The School of Nursing is invested in the future of nursing research and education overall, and in particular has dedicated time and resources to exploring doctoral education demographics and outputs. It is found that demographic data are troubling regarding PhD career ladder statistics. It is found that while the average age for assistant professors across all disciplines beginning their careers at a research university is 35 to 39, the average age of an assistant professor in nursing is 51. Thus, nurse researchers have shorter academic careers than their colleagues in other departments. Leadership at the school has worked on shortening the time to earn a doctoral degree by full-time study and intense preparation, including strong mentoring. To this end, the School of Nursing is awarded 'Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholarships' as well as Jonas Scholars support and post-doctoral fellowships. The school's current Jonas Scholars are Lisa Harrison, Lisa Sundeen, Christopher Yi and Thomas Julian. Post-doctoral fellowships ensure that recently graduated PhDs are able to develop productive research agendas, submit successful grant applications, and begin to publish their results. This positions our students well as they begin their research careers in tenure track positions. Alumna and Assistant Clinical Professor Louise Reagan, PhD, APRN, who has been on leave as a post-doctoral fellow in New York University School of Nursing is returning to UConn in August. The school received funding for a post-doctoral student through its research partnership contract with Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Alumna Dr. Carrie Ellen Briere is currently funded at CCMC.

Goal 8: Continue collaborative engagement with Jackson Labs and Bio-Science CT

The School of Nursing is engaged with Jackson Labs and Bio-Science CT.

Assistant Professor Dr. Erin Young studies pain and why one person might feel so much pain and another not. Her work is characterized by listening to a colleague's discussion of a patient's unusual reaction to medicine at the Center for the Advancement in Managing Pain (CAMP) here at SON, Storrs; and poring over gene expression data in her lab at UConn Health's Cell and Genome Sciences Building. Young is a pain geneticist and work is an example of the collaboration between our school and the facilities in Farmington. The school's nurse researchers who engage similarly as Young include: Professor and CAMP Director Angela Starkweather, Associate Professor Xiaomei Cong, and Assistant Professor Kyle Baumbauer.

Goal 9: Fully implement Centers of Excellence (CCHNet, CAMP) and explore development of center for high risk infant and maternal health

Our two centers of Excellence – Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet) and Center for the Advancement in Managing Pain (CAMP) are fully operational. The School of Nursing Leadership Cabinet did explore the development of a center for high risk infant and maternal health. This effort is led by Dr. Jackie McGrath and Dr. Sandy Bellini. We look forward to reporting on its progress next year.

Goal 10: Engage in interprofessional activities with Dean Day

Goal #10 relates to Goal # 5. In sum, the School of Nursing completed its charge of planning of and participating in the 1st Annual Dean's Day for Faculty Development, held on October 1st, in association with the other health science deans. The event was held with activities in Farmington, West Hartford and Storrs, and three of the school's faculty members had leadership roles as members of the Committee on Interprofessional Excellence in Healthcare (CIPEH) e.g. Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, Michelle Judge and Paula McCauley. Dr. McCauley is co-chair of the IPE Dean's Day subcommittee, and thus is leading efforts for the event. Paula alerted the community on July 19th that plans are underway for the 2nd Annual Dean's Day, which is set for Friday September 30th. Annette Jakubisin Konicki is on the Faculty Development subcommittee; and Michelle Judge is on the Student Advisory subcommittee. Further, Judge is chair of the Research subcommittee, and non CIPEH member, Lisa-Marie Griffiths serves on the Interprofessional Curriculum subcommittee. In April Dr. Robert McCarthy of the School of Pharmacy and Griffiths hosted a combined ethics class with Pharmacy and Nursing students, demonstrating interprofessional problem solving.

Goal 11: Continue progress with collaborating with business, insurance, engineering and IT design

The School of Nursing expanded its Healthcare Innovations program this year to include senior, junior and freshman students. Three years ago, in the program's inaugural year, senior students in their final fall semester identified a clinical problem, worked together in teams to develop concepts and identify markets. At the annual ATHENA research day each group pitched its concepts to a panel of expert judges in a round of presentations that resembled the ABC 'Shark Tank' reality show. The program was designed to engage undergraduates in critical thinking, problem solving, entrepreneurial initiative and technology literacy. This program was successful in following year, and this year turned into a collaboration with the UConn School of Engineering. Several projects were selected from the junior class of nursing students to work with biomedical engineering and the management and engineering for manufacturing programs during the 2016-2017 academic year.

SON Gratis Adjunct Faculty member, Ms. Christine Meehan, Assistant Professor Anna Bourgault, MSN, RN, CCRC and Dr. Diane Van Scoter (Engineering) received a \$5,000 Provost's Teaching Innovation Mini Grant from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for their HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS PROGRAM. Funding will provide materials for further curriculum development, and materials and supplies for prototypes of six projects designed by student teams.

Faculty who engaged with CETL for Classroom - IT design projects include:

- Associate Clinical Professor Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP. Elwell served as Chair of the DNP Work Group and participated in the Instructional Design Process to develop and implement change to the DNP program. She also worked with Instructional Design to develop a curriculum for nurse practitioners to learn specialized skills for use in office-based primary health care.
- Associate Clinical Professor Nancy Manister, DNS, CNS, FNP-BC worked with IT Design and organized a full day workshop for Nursing CEIN faculty on Course design, flipped classroom techniques, teaching tools and technology, backward design and assessment, etc.
- Assistant Clinical Professor Millicent Malcolm, DNP, GNP-BC, RN, APRN engaged CETL for instructional design process pertaining to her GOT Care! Interprofessional Outreach and Training with Care program. In year two of her program, Malcolm made substantial changes to the instructional design and curriculum in response to faculty and student feedback.
- Associate Clinical Professor Annette Jakubisin Konicki, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC conducted peer lead team based learning modules using Virtual Patients (VP) in the flipped classroom.
- Associate Clinical Professor Sandy Bellini, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE engaged CETL for expanding on-line Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) on-line offerings.

It is significant to note that these faculty are all in the 'clinical' ranks and the majority had higher than university means on their Student Evaluations of Teaching. In other words, the good are seeking to be better..

Highlights of Achievements in AY 2016

Highlights of school / department rankings

It was reported last year that UConn School of Nursing's Graduate Program ranked top 5% in New England and in top 10% nationally. This year it is found in the US News and World Report for 2017 (based on 2016 data) that SON ranks #52 in list of Best Nursing Schools – Nationally for Master's level; and #49 for the DNP program. On-line nursing is ranked #88, tied with Liberty University, Lynchburg VA. Overall, this report lists the University #57, tied with George Washington University.

Exciting and innovative research programs /Exciting and innovative teaching programs

Innovative research is occurring in genetics, pain, postpartum depression and learning science. Examples of innovative teaching are GOT CARE, Healthcare Innovations Program and Simulation

Publications/faculty productivity across the school/college: articles or scholarly work per faculty and any impact factor

It is the expectation that all faculty participate in scholarship, on all levels (FT and Adjunct). For AY 2015-2016 SON had 35 doctorally prepared full-time faculty members contributing. Data entered in Husky CT shows we have contributed in notable publications in high impact /multidisciplinary journals and publications. Publications approximate 61 full length published articles in referred journals; 2 text books; 1 scholarly book; 8 book chapters; 5 short referred articles; 24 published conference proceedings (full paper / full length); 32 conference proceedings / presentations (short paper, abstract, poster); 3 op-ed publications; and several writings are under review, and several more are under preparation. Editorships include: Editor of major journals - 3; Associate Editor of major journals – 6; Member of Editorial boards – 10; Ad-hoc reviews for granting agencies, journals, publishers and for other Universities – 82; 5 faculty members are on state or regional peer review committees. Faculty presented at approximately 66 conferences.

Highlights of new faculty hires

1. Mikki Meadows-Oliver, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Clinical Professor.
Coordinator of Global Nursing Education Program

Highlights of Dr. Meadows-Oliver's first year with the School of Nursing are mentioned above, particularly in narrative under Goal #4 - Continue efforts to increase visibility (Global Affairs and Unique Faculty Contributions). She is visiting South Africa, July 2016. We look forward to reporting on this next year.

2. Angela Starkweather, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, CNRN, FAAN, Professor and Director of CAMP

Highlights of Dr. Starkweather's first year with the School of Nursing are mentioned above, particularly in narrative under *Goal 1: Continue implementing the Academic Plan and SON's strategic plan based on academic vision, with emphasis on growing research programs.* Dr. Starkweather's team who share time between Storrs and Farmington will have an increased presence at the School of Nursing and share a newly erected wet lab in Storrs Hall with other faculty for its genomic samples.

3. Minakshi Tikoo, PhD, MBI, MS, MSc, Professor in Residence. Director of Health Information Technology

Highlights of Dr. Tikoo's first year with the School of Nursing are mentioned above, particularly in the narrative under *Goal 1: Continue implementing the Academic Plan and SON's strategic plan based on academic vision, with emphasis on growing research programs.* The HIT team is transitioning to new quarters in downtown Hartford.

4. Carol Ann Wetmore, Assistant Clinical Professor, CEIN / BS, Stamford and Waterbury Campuses

Professor Wetmore successfully transitioned from adjunct to full-time permanent Assistant Clinical Professor and helped improve the CEIN / BS programs in both the Stamford and Waterbury Campuses.

5. The school is preparing for three new faculty for 2016 – 2017
 - a. Kyounghae Kim, PhD, Assistant Professor, Storrs Campus, for undergraduate and graduate programs

Dr. Kim comes to UConn SON following a post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University. She is a family and adult health nurse practitioner. Her research focuses on health literacy and cancer screening.

- b. Joanne Martin, DNP, RN, CPNP-BC, NPP, Assistant Clinical Professor in the CEIN / BS Program for Stamford and Waterbury campuses

Dr. Martin comes to UConn SON from Fairleigh Dickenson University joining us as a faculty member in the CEIN program at the Stamford and Waterbury campuses. She is a certified psychiatric nurse practitioner, a pediatric nurse practitioner, and a family health clinical specialist. Her expertise in multiple areas will be a great asset to the CEIN students.

- c. Louise Reagan, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, Assistant Clinical Professor, Storrs Campus

Dr. Reagan is formerly a School of Nursing Assistant Clinical Professor and Coordinator of the Adult Gero Primary Care NP Track. She recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at New York University. She brings grant funding with her from NYU to support her research program and will be focusing on developing her research career as she rejoins our faculty. A decision to switch her to the tenure track should be made in the near future.

Highlights of major philanthropic gifts

The major philanthropic gift for the School of Nursing was from Bertie Chuong, the alumna mentioned before with an interest in simulation. Her gift of \$550,000 will serve us well for future simulation enhancement and activities. It will also assist in the recruitment of a Director for the Clinical Resource Laboratory (simulation). This gift is particularly important given the SON runs three simulation labs (Storrs, Avery Point and Stamford) and each require continual infusion of new equipment to remain state of the art. Additionally, as clinical placements become increasingly more difficult to obtain, an increase in simulation is needed to provide students with required clinical hours and experiences.

The RWJ gift reported is a competitive grant for funding PhD students. We will apply routinely.

A goal for 2016-2017 is to enhance major philanthropic gifts and Dean Polifroni is working with both Frank Gifford and Amy Chesmer to this end.

First generation efforts that are targeted in school or college

There are two ways to respond to this section. The first is new initiatives within the SON and the second is about the first generation student. Below is both responses.

New initiatives:

The school is launching, under the leadership of Amy Kenefick Moore, PhD, RN, CNM, FNP and Colleen Delaney, PhD, RN, AHN-BC new 9 graduate credit, 3 semester, hybrid online certificate course that will prepare RNs in holistic nursing. The curriculum is designed for nurses interested in integrating holistic principles and evidence-based modalities in their professional practice. Students will learn about the state of the science in holistic care and the latest research on the efficacy and safety of a variety of complementary and alternative modalities (CAM). This course was developed around the five core values and scope and standards of holistic nursing and provides nurses with the educational foundation required to take the national

board certification examination in holistic nursing. Teaching/learning interventions and CAM are selected as examples of nursing approaches to promote health and healing of patients. Registration begins summer 2016.

As mentioned above, page 2 Goal # 2, the school, under the leadership of Kyle Baumbauer, approved a pain course curriculum for a new certification program. Courses include NURS 5101, 5102, 5103 and 5104. Other efforts include transitioning NURS 5060 from traditional lecture format to on-line course with aid of eCampus.

Assistant Clinical Professor, Christine DiLeone, MSN, RN developed a new Alzheimer Simulation Program and curricular materials. This simulation program is designed for pre-licensure students to utilize therapeutic communication in the care of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

First generation students:

For the past decade or more, Dean Polifroni has run a monthly to every six week learning community for first generation students and students representative of diverse communities. These learning communities discussed everything from registration to expected learning outcomes to roommate situations to employment post-graduation. The peer to peer exchange as well as the involvement of Dr. Polifroni face to face with these students enhanced their success and performance in the SON. Throughout the decade, only two participants did not graduate from the SON but were retained within the university; stated another way 98% of the students enrolled in the learning community graduated. A key to the success of this program was the scholarship provision for each student which served as the carrot getting them to the group. In 2016, when scholarships were not available (prior years funding came from HRSA), student participation was significantly less; in fact no Freshman came to the sessions even though the upperclassman recruited them and spoke highly of the time spent.

Dean Polifroni's work with the Academy of Nursing & Health Sciences is another example of the SON commitment to first generation students. Students in groups of 40 are brought to campus to tour our simulation labs, experience the college classroom, dine with the students and enjoy a day on campus. In smaller groups of 10, a group is invited for the weekend and is chaperoned by CEIN students again fostering peer to peer (or almost peer) connectedness.

Other

1. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education's (CCNE) Board of Commissioners granted the School of Nursing Re-accreditation to its Pre-licensure and Master's Program for the maximum period of ten years, extending to December 31, 2025.

2. At May 2016 commencement, the School graduated 113 pre-licensure students; 48 Master's students; one Post-Masters Certificates; five PhD students; and two DNP students. In December 2015 the school graduated 122 CEIN students. CEIN students increased by approximately 12% over previous class (December 2014).
3. In the school's pre-licensure / CEIN programs there were 663 course sections taught (2,740 credits); and 9 independent study sections supervised. For our graduate program (masters and doctoral), 112 courses were taught; and three post-doctoral fellows worked with faculty.
4. In the school's clinical program, 365 pre-licensure students were placed in clinical settings for their practicums: 112 Class of 2016, 131 Class of 2017 and 122 CEIN students; 58 Master's students, including Post-Master's Certificates and on-line students; 5 DNP students; 17 BS-DNP students. The School of Nursing currently contacts with over 400 entities (hospitals, clinics, medical offices) for such clinical rotations. On-line courses, as the Master's NNP, involve placing students in out of state facilities, which results in the school needing to comply with various and additional regulatory requirements.
5. There were 40 pre-licensure students in the Honor's Program for AY 15 – 16: Class of 2016 – 7; Class of 2017 – 17; Class of 2018 – 8; Class of 2019 – 8.
6. One member of the Class of 2016 was named a University Scholar. (Another University Scholar majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology was advised by School of Nursing faculty). *page 25 – University Scholar's work recognized for SURF Award*
7. The School's first time pass rate for the national nursing exam, NCLEX, is 96.43% for undergraduates in the Class of 2015 and 90.78% for CEIN (December 2015 graduates). Thus far, the school has received data for only a portion of the Master's students credentialing exam and less than 50% of the pass rates for the NCLEX Class of 2016.
8. Total intramural and extramural funds awarded to students for their projects increased by more than 49% in FY 2015 – 2016 over FY 2014 – 2015.

Faculty intramural applications more than doubled over prior year as well, increasing from nine applications to 19, and producing approximately \$260,000+ more in intramural funds in FY 2016 over FY 2015.

Faculty extramural applications increased by only one, but the number of awards increased from 8 in FY 15 to 11 in FY 16, and the amount awarded was \$1.6M+ greater than the previous year funding level.

Student intramural and extramural funding increased by approximately 50% in FY 2016 over FY 2015. Extramural Awards were granted to one PhD student, Thomas Julian; and two DNP students, Dorothy Vittner and Amy D'Agata.

9. Full-time faculty for AY 2015 – 2016 was comprised of 47 members: Full Professor – Research (6); Full Professor Clinical (1); Full Professor in Residence (1); Associate Professor – Research (9); Associate Professor – Clinical (7); Associate Professor in Residence (1); Assistant Professor – Research – (5); Assistant Professor – Clinical (17).

Highlights of Faculty Contributions:

1. Dolan Collection Curator Thomas Long, PhD, Associate Professor in Residence, has enhanced the work of the School's Dolan collection. He has begun by prioritizing nearly a dozen projects to sustain the collection and make it more accessible to the UConn community. At the close of the AY 2016 academic year, Tom began working with University Archivist and archivist for SON's nursing history collections in the Dodd Center, Betsy Pittman, to review, catalog, determine what resources to make part of Dodd's Archives and Special Collections, and thus make available to researchers. Much work is underway this summer. Collections that remain in SON's Herrmann Reading Room will be catalogued using free online databases provided by [LibraryThing](#) and [LibraryCat](#). We look forward to fully reporting on this activity in the 2016 – 2017 PAR.

Recent activity includes a UConn doctoral student in history reached out to the Dolan Collection for archival materials related to his dissertation. He is working on a section of his dissertation that focuses on the evolution of American medical education at the American University of Beirut during the 1920s and 1930s. His major advisor is [Frank Costigliola, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor](#), whose expertise is in twentieth-century U.S. foreign relations. <http://wp.dolancollection.uconn.edu/2016/07/19/uconn-history-doctoral-student-consults-dolan-collection/>

<http://wp.dolancollection.uconn.edu/blog/>

2. Millicent Malcolm, DNP, GNP-BC, RN, APRN, Assistant Clinical Professor, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Associate of Nurse Practitioners in June,

in San Antonio Texas, in recognition of her contributions to advanced practice nursing.

3. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, Associate Clinical Professor was notified in May 2016 that she will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as Fellow in October.
4. Dr. Malcolm and co-presenters, Catherine Rees, MPH, Patricia Coe, BSN, RN-BC, Sarah Wilcox, BS, RN-C, and Margo Golas, MSN, RN, CPHQ, COS-C, for winning the *Care Across the Continuum* poster competition at the 2016 national conference for Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) in Chicago, in April. The title of their poster presentation is "Using Existing Data and Evidence-Based Practice to Identify and Intervene with Community Dwelling Older Persons at High Risk for Hospitalization and Institutionalization."
5. SON was well represented at the 28th Annual Scientific Sessions Conference of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), held in Pittsburgh PA. Faculty presenters included: Cheryl Beck, Xiaomei Cong, Regina Cusson, Colleen Delaney, Robin Froman, Kelley Newlin Lew, Ruth Lucas, Annette Maruca, Deborah McDonald, Jackie McGrath, Louise Reagan, and Deborah Shelton. Student participation is noted below.
6. Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN, Professor and CCHNet Director received a Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) Core Interest Group award of \$14,853 for her team proposal *Self-care Management among Post-incarcerated Persons*. The Correctional Research Interest Group (RIG) aims to establish a nurse-designed transitional care program for people with chronic diseases upon reentry to this community. This program (CareLink-C) will use a competency approach to communicate evidence-based information, and then practice skills so that participants can take better care of themselves. The Correctional RIG will be exploring if outcomes improve following the self-care management intervention, and if service networks are strengthened by the partnership.
7. Assistant Professors Michelle Judge, PhD, RD, CD-N and Ruth Lucas, PhD, RN have both received a non-funded Pre-K Award from Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS).

The goal of Dr. Judge's proposal, ROLE OF LONG CHAIN OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS IN REDUCING INFLAMMATORY LOAD, PSYCHONEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS AND EXPRESSION OF LIPOGENIC GENES IN WOMEN FOLLOWING TREATMENT FOR EARLY-STAGE BREAST CANCER, is to evaluate long chain omega-3 fatty acids

as a nutrigenomic modulator of inflammation, associated psychoneurological symptoms, and lipogenic gene expression in a cohort of women following treatment for early stage breast cancer.

The goal of Dr. Ruth Lucas' proposal, MEASURING NEONATAL SUCKING MICROSTRUCTURE DURING BREASTFEEDING IN CLINICAL AND HOME SETTINGS, is to provide an objective measure for use in the clinical and home settings to assess infants' changing sucking microstructure and thus, support mother-infant breastfeeding dyads at risk for early cessation.

8. Dr. Xiaomei Cong received \$15,000 seed grant from the UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy (InCHIP) for her application, BIO-GENOMIC MARKERS FOR MANAGEMENT OF NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME: A PILOT STUDY. The goal of the project is to explore the relationships among hormonal biomarkers, genetic variations, and gut microbiome patterns with clinical bio-physiological and behavioral responses of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and its management. The findings from this pilot will provide a foundation for researchers and clinicians to develop strategies to better predict neuro-behavioral outcomes in NAS infants and to provide corresponding intervention at an earlier life stage. Co-Investigators, Dr. Naveed Hussain (UCHC/CCMC), Dr. Joerg Graf (MCB), SON's Dr. Erin Young and Dr. Kendra Maas (Biotechnology Bioservices Center) provide an interdisciplinary investigative structure across UConn and CCMC which includes nursing, neonatology, microbiology, and genetics.
9. Kyle Baumbauer, PhD, Assistant Professor and CAMP researcher, along with Dr. I-Ping Chen (SODM), received a \$25,000 FY 2016 UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP) - School of Dental Medicine Dual PI seed grant for DEVELOPING A MOUSE MODEL FOR SYMPTOMATIC APICAL PERIODONTITIS. Their grant proposal expresses an urgent need to study pain mechanisms in periapical infection and to identify a potential drug that can rapidly alleviate periapical pain. An essential first step is to develop a suitable animal model together with appropriate outcome measurements to assess pain. The goal of this funded study is to develop a mouse model of symptomatic apical periodontitis (SAP) using three different methods, and assess outcome of pain and inflammation with both cellular (genetic profiles, electrophysiology) and behavioral assessment techniques.
10. Baumbauer and Chen received a \$50,000 SODM/DOM/VP for Research award through the UCHC Convergence Grant for ANALGESIC AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS OF DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE IN SYMPTOMATIC APICAL PERIODONTITIS IN MICE. The study goal is to identify a potential drug that

can alleviate periapical pain rapidly and effectively. The study will determine if intracanal application of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) may relieve symptoms in symptomatic apical periodontitis in mice.

11. Xiaomei Cong, PhD, RN, Associate Professor and Institute for Systems Genomics member was listed in "FIAT PHYSICA" (an organization that promotes physics and women and science) published a blog '9 Best Female Scientists You Should Know' (along with UConn School of Medicine's Stormy Chamberlain. <https://www.fiatphysica.com/>
<https://www.fiatphysica.com/blog/women-in-science/coolest-female-scientists-working-today>
12. Dr. Michelle Judge received a \$5,000 Research Grant award from the Seafood Industry Research Fund of the National Fisheries Institute for ROLE OF FISH OIL IN MODULATING INFLAMMATORY PATHWAYS AND ASSOCIATED POSTPARTUM SYMPTOMATOLOGY. The proposed work builds on findings from a larger, double-blind placebo controlled investigation evaluating the efficacy of fish oil supplementation during pregnancy in reducing symptoms of postpartum depression. The study will assess inflammatory proteins in blood samples collected from study participants at three time points. The project will evaluate if fish oil supplementation during pregnancy can reduce inflammation and postpartum depressive symptoms in the same cohort.
13. Dr. Juliette Shellman has received a \$10,000 award from the John A. Hartford Foundation Hartford Change AGENTS grant for OLDER ADULTS AS CHANGE AGENTS TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE COMMUNITY. The goal of the project is to train and evaluate the delivery capacity of older adults to implement Peer Reminiscence Intervention for Minority Elders (PRIME). PRIME is based on integrative reminiscence, which has been shown to be an effective method to decrease depressive symptoms in older adults. Dr. Shellman's previous studies indicated resistance to participation in mental health studies due to a mistrust of researchers. Thus a community-based, culturally tailored peer-led reminiscence intervention was developed to address the mental health disparities that exist for older black adults. Results from this work will inform the next step of the reminiscence research program which is to test PRIME in a randomized controlled trial study.
14. Clinical Professor Ivy Alexander, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAAN, received a \$1,690,873 grant award from HRSA's Advanced Nursing Education Program for her proposal INNOVATIVE CLINICAL-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE GRADUATE NP PREPARATION FOR PRACTICE.

The purpose of the three-year project is to implement an enhanced, innovative partnership between Community Health Centers, Inc. (CHCI) and the UConn School of Nursing to meet three goals: 1) increase training capacity for NP students in medically underserved communities (MUC) in Connecticut, 2) improve the quality of preceptor training, and 3) leverage communication in the CHCI-SON partnership to promote graduate NP readiness for the clinically complex, high performance practice required in MUCs.

The project will engage the work of SON's Associate Clinical Professor Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, as Director of Curriculum Development and Student Evaluation; and Assistant Clinical Professor Denise Bourassa, MSN, RN, CNL as Quality Improvement Director; and Dr. Mary Blankson, from CHCI as CHCI Program Manager.

15. Dean Carol Polifroni, RN, EdD, NEA-BC, CNE, ANEF was awarded a grant of \$177,940 Grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration – HRSA - (and \$19,831 UConn for total of \$197,771) for the 2016-2017 Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP). The purpose of the NFLP is to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty by providing loans to students enrolled in an advanced education nursing program. Loans are made for tuition, fees, books, lab expenses, and other reasonable qualified education expenses. Loan recipients must complete the education program and following graduation, may cancel up to 85% of the NFLP loan while serving as a full-time nursing faculty at a School of Nursing.
16. Dean Carol Polifroni, RN, EdD, NEA-BC, CNE, ANEF, Dr. Michele Femc-Bawell (Educational Leadership) and Dr. Sandra Chafouleas (Educational Leadership) have received a \$24,059 Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) grant from OVPR internal competition.

The WSCC program recognizes the relationship between health and learning while appreciating the role home and community play in both areas. This project, INCREASING CAPACITY FOR PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS EDUCATION AND HEALTH: DEVELOPING GUIDING BLUEPRINTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE COMMUNITY, WHOLE CHILD FRAMEWORK, will assist the staff of the Clifford Beers Clinic in New Haven to develop blueprints by which they can both implement programs & training, and evaluate their progress toward achieving WSCC. It is anticipated the blueprints will be transferable to other school and health systems.

17. Deborah Shelton has received a \$2,000 grant for FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MEDICATION AND TREATMENT ADHERENCE AMONG ADULTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SYSTEM through the Office of the Vice President for Research spring 2016 *Scholarship Facilitation Funds*. The goal of her study is to determine factors that influence medication and treatment adherence among incarcerated individuals, and factors that influence their adherence upon release. The study is a collaboration between Dr. Shelton in the School of Nursing's Center for Correctional Health Networks and Mr. Elliott Boscoe, School of Pharmacy graduate school.

18. Jacqueline McGrath, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN, Associate Dean and Professor submitted a proposal to the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare and received funding for 2016-2018. The award will provide UConn with a \$40,000 grant to support two PhD Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars and two PhD Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholars with a \$10,000 scholarship each. The goal of the Jonas Nurse Scholar Program is to increase the number of doctorally-prepared faculty available to teach in nursing schools, and to increase the number of faculty who are trained in the unique needs of the veteran population. In addition to financial support Jonas Scholars attend a leadership conference sponsored by the Jonas Center, and are provided additional support to assure student success. The school has had Jonas Scholars for 2014 – 2016. This previous \$40,000 award supported two Nurse Leaders Scholars, one DNP Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar and one DNP Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar (each scholar received \$10,000 over two years, plus mentoring opportunities).
19. Jacqueline McGrath was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars grant for UNLEASHING INNOVATIONS FOR UCONN PHD NURSE SCHOLARS. The project will develop the next generation of PhD-prepared nurse leaders who are committed to long-term careers that advance science and discovery, strengthen nursing education, and bring transformational change to nursing and health care. The grant provides \$150,000 to support two RWJF Future of Nursing Scholars for completion of PhD studies at UConn School of Nursing.

During AY 2015-2016 enrollment in SON programs was: Pre-Licensure (UG) – 488; Master's – 108; Post-Masters Certificate – 2; DNP – 20; PhD – 32; BS-DNP – 26; CEIN 122 graduated in December 2015 and were admitted in January 2016.

Student highlights

1. PhD candidate, Mallory Perry, BS, RN, had been selected to attend the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) 2016 Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) in Bethesda, MD which took place in June. The SGI is an intensive 4-week, 8-credit hour graduate level program that includes both classroom and laboratory components, and provides an exceptional

foundation in molecular genetics. This is a highly competitive and prestigious program based on the individual applicant's potential for a highly productive research or clinical career. The program is administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, sponsored by NINR and is tuition free to those selected.

2. DNP candidate, Dorothy Vittner, RN, MSN received the ENRS/American Nurses Foundation Scholar Award at the 28th Annual Scientific Sessions Conference of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), held in Pittsburgh PA. This is an annual scholarship presented to a nurse researcher encouraging positive change in healthcare practice and policy.

ENRS Student Poster Presenters included (Undergraduate, Master's, Doctoral): Laura Mandell, Meaghan Sullivan, Lucinda Canty, Lisa Sundeen, Wanli Xu, Ana Diallo, Roxanne Lapierre, Kaydeen Maitland, Dorothy Vittner, and JoAnn Robinson.

3. Jordan D'Angelo '17 was accepted to the 2016 Universitas21 Health Sciences Summer School at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Chile. He will participate in the summer program focusing on Early Critical Windows of Preventive Interventions in July. Upon arrival, Jordan created a blog <https://nursinginchile.wordpress.com/>
4. Three students were awarded Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowships <http://sdfondp.com/>

The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Fellowship Fund was established at UConn School of Nursing this year by Fred Flynn, Bus '75 in honor of his wife. The purpose of the fund is to support a training program in oncology nursing that will foster the professional development of potential Oncology Nurses. This fellowship is available during the summer between junior and senior year, for students at several leading undergraduate nursing schools. Participating schools include and institutions include: Boston College, Fairfield University, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, Johns Hopkins University, Molloy College, Sacred Heart University, Saint Anselm College, and Emory University. There were 36 awards granted nationally and we received three! We look forward to reporting on this next year.

5. Three junior nursing students founded a campus chapter of the College Diabetes Network (CDN). This is the first chapter in the state of Connecticut. Assistant Clinical Professor Lisa-Marie Griffiths, MA, MS, APRN is faculty Advisor.

6. Samantha Poveda, a junior in the School of Nursing, has received a 2016 Social Science, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience (SHARE) award for her project entitled THE INFLUENCE OF COMFORT MEASURES ON THE INFANT'S MICROBIOTA IN THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU). Ms. Poveda will examine the effects of comforting interactions performed by parents with their preterm infants in the NICU on infant gut microbiome development. The comforting measures include skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo care), direct breastfeeding, holding, hand swaddling, touch, and having direct communication with the infant involving talking, singing and reading by mothers, fathers and others. Results from the study will contribute to the body of knowledge of the brain-gut-microbiota mechanism involved in early life experience and health. The SHARE award from the UConn Office of Undergraduate Research will provide Ms. Poveda with a \$1,500 research stipend for her project. In addition, the award provides a \$500 professional development stipend for her faculty mentor Dr. Xiaomei Cong.
7. Six students and their mentors submitted winning Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) proposals, receiving up to \$4,000.

Nefeli Makris and Dr. Jaqueline McGrath whose award is for THE NICU PARENT EVALUATION AND ENGAGEMENT MODEL INSTRUMENT FOR NEONATES.

Brittany Molkenthin and Dr. Michelle Judge whose award is for EVALUATION OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN BMI, TLR4, AND POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION SYMPTOMATOLOGY.

Lindsay Moore and Dr. Ruth Lucas whose award is for INVESTIGATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFANT WEIGHT GAIN AND EARLY CESSATION OF BREASTFEEDING IN LATE PRETERM AND FULL-TERM INFANTS.

Kirstie Oldham and Dr. Ruth Lucas whose award is for VALIDATION STUDY FOR THE ADAPTED "COMING OFF TREATMENT (COT)" HEALTH PROFESSIONALS QUESTIONNAIRES.

Victoria Sylvestre and Dr. Ruth Lucas whose award is for TYPE 1 DIABETES AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS: UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS, STIGMA, AND SHAME.

Camille Van Allen and Dr. Jacqueline McGrath whose award is for PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF HELMET THERAPY WITH INFANTS WITH PLAGIOCEPHALY.

8. School of Nursing undergraduate, Minkyung Kim, and her co-applicant from Allied Health Sciences, Seo-Yeon Lee, have received a UConn IDEA grant award from the Office of Undergraduate Research. The award is for their

- proposed *KOREAN AMERICAN HEALTH FAIR*. The recipients will use the funds to plan and coordinate a two-day health fair for Korean Americans that includes educating the audience on several health topics, and providing information on insurance and the healthcare system. Awards are up to \$4,000 in this program.
9. School of Nursing undergraduate, Victoria Sylvestre was admitted to UConn's University Scholar Program. Ms. Sylvestre's project developed with her advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Ruth Lucas, PhD, RN is TYPE 1 DIABETES AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS: UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS, STIGMA, AND SHAME. The aim of the study is to engage health care providers in a discussion integrating the emotional and developmental transition of adolescents into self-management of type 1 diabetes. The proposed outcome is to develop a better approach in working with adolescents to promote more effective self-care, subsequently decreasing the risk of complications later in life.
 10. Students participated in our Global Affairs program, studying away in: Belgium - 2; Dublin - 13; Puerto Rico - 13; Cape Town, South Africa – 17. As mentioned above, (Page 7 Goal #4) 12 CEIN students studied /practiced in South Africa. The program in Beijing was cancelled for 2015 – 2016.
 11. Seven students participated in the University's Urban Services track program.

Major Goals (including implementation of the Academic Plan)

1. Continued fulfillment of UConn 2014 Academic Plan Goals while grounded in core values of the SON and UConn. Specifically,
 - a. Continue to increase external grant submissions and funding for research and innovative programs.
 - b. Explore efficacy of large scale online RN-BSN program
 - c. Expand School of Nursing Engagement activities locally and globally.
 - d. Enhance existing centers and explore a high risk infant center as appropriate.
 - e. Evaluate "right" number of clinical hours for undergraduate and graduate clinical.
2. Conduct and evaluate faculty development related to learning science and clinical scholarship.
3. Increase dollars through philanthropy and establish endowments for scholarship, teaching and research.

4. Create effective and efficient organizational structure including appropriate staffing.
5. Right size SON operating budget so that entrepreneurial revenue generating projects can be used to support innovation and pilot projects in teaching, research and service.

Summary of Teaching, Intellectual and Service Contributions

Attached: Summary of SON's PAR report for FY 2016 – reflecting information as of 8/15/2016

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Carol Polifroni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

E. Carol Polifroni
RN, EdD, NEA-BC, CNE, ANEF