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Our Cover
The Unison cover 2011 was designed by Alyssa Frechette ’12. Alyssa is a UConn Fine Arts student with a major in Illustration.

Unison is published each year for the alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the School of Nursing at the University of Connecticut. Its purpose is to inform alumni, friends, prospective faculty, and students of the School’s programs, activities, and faculty accomplishments. You can also find additional information on our website at: www.nursing.uconn.edu. If you have any questions about this publication, or the School of Nursing, you can contact us by phone at (860) 486-3716 or by fax at (860) 486-0001.
We'd dreamed about that moment for a long, long time: On April 13, ceremonial shovels broke ground for the Widmer Wing (p. 12). Alumni, faculty, students, and staff were here. They'd dreamed about it, too. At last, our School will have its own learning center, meticulously designed to prepare 21st century nurses to practice their Passions for Patient Care in 21st century healthcare workplaces (p. 14). It really was Our Moment.

Others who'd helped us were here, as well: Governor Dannel Malloy, Board-Chair Lawrence McHugh, Provost Peter Nicholls, Michael and Eric Widmer. These friends understand our School’s vast responsibilities in Shaping the Future of Human Health. They wanted to celebrate with us. The Widmer brothers even brought their extended families. I imagined Dean Widmer’s face, were she to watch her great-grandchildren play in dirt just dug to launch the state-of-the-art nursing-education center that will bear her name.

We were mindful and careful as we designed UConn’s first new nursing building. But it was Dean Widmer’s educational and professional values that fashioned its foundation. Someone said it out loud that day: “Right now is important. It’s when this School’s Proud Past comes face-to-face with its Bold Future.”

He’s right. “Right now is important.” This issue of Unison is full of evidence of how far we’ve come, right now, in fulfilling our Vision to transform our School with innovative marquee programs of nursing research and education.

Right now, three faculty (all triple-Huskies) are transforming nursing education and clinical practice. Desiree Diaz, PhD, uses 21st century mannequin technology to season our students in clinical practice (p. 6); Colleen Delaney, PhD, uses her holistic-nursing discoveries to help homecare patients’ synergize the healing powers of their bodies, minds, and spirits (p.8); Karen Myrick, DNP, uses her hands-on nursing protocol to diagnose a painful hip injury that’s invisible to high-tech diagnostic-imaging technology (p. 10). And Patricia Neafsey, PhD, RD, prepares students to recognize misleading nutritional claims on grocery-product packaging (p.5).

Right now, we help undergraduates learn to balance their lives, with new habits designed to protect them from professional burn-out in their future healthcare workplaces. Now and then, students retreat from nursing, simply to relax and play. Honors-sophomore Heather Buck plays Center on UConn’s spectacular Women’s Basketball Team (p.2), while our Student Nurses Association team danced all night at UConn’s annual HuskyThon, raising funds for a favorite hospital (p. 4). Right now, we celebrate our faculty’s astonishing productivity in sharing the results of their scholarship in publications and presentations (p. 16), and important honors earned by faculty and alumni (p. 22).

Right now, we welcome Susan Herbst, UConn’s first woman president. That makes us proud, too.


They all coalesced on April 13th. They’re all coming true at new depth. Right now.
Unison

Balance

'I'm delighted to be at UConn School of Nursing ....

...................................

Bal

anc
e
“I fell in love with basketball before I fell in love with nursing,” said Heather Buck, an honors student in UConn School of Nursing’s Class of 2013. “In fifth grade, I began watching every game the Huskies played. I learned so much from them! When I told my Mom I wanted to play for Geno Auriemma, she said, ‘So does every other Connecticut girl who plays basketball.’ She didn’t want me to be too disappointed if I couldn’t fulfill that dream.”

But other girls didn’t grow into being Connecticut’s two-time High-School Player of the Year, with a dazzling academic record like Heather’s.

“I’ve always loved learning, especially science. I’m a people-person, and I’ve always loved helping others. It rang a bell when someone suggested that science and caring are the foundations of nursing. So I asked my friend’s Mom, who is a nurse, if I could shadow her through a work-day.

“I was fascinated. Nursing felt like me to me. I was excited that UConn’s School of Nursing is so solid, challenging and innovative. I’d be an honors student at UConn School of Nursing and a center on the UConn Women’s Basketball team,” Heather remembered. Her dream was coming together.

Then it fell apart: Early in freshman year, Heather was sidelined with mononucleosis: “I fell so far behind after missing so much practice that it would have been difficult to catch up that year. So I red-shirted for basketball. That means I’ll be a UConn undergraduate for five years, not four. It was difficult at the time,” Heather said.

“It’s easy to see mono’s silver lining now,” Heather observed. “My extra year allows more flexibility in my schedule. My faculty advisors have been incredibly supportive. For example, Spring semester, when basketball is most intense, I have classes only two days a week, leaving the other five for studying, practice, travel, games, and independent study. (Our honors team works with Dr. Neafsey, investigating undergraduates’ self-medication practices.) We’ve moved some of my clinical placements to summer. I’m busy almost every minute for a few months.

(Left Photographs by Barbara J. Slater; Right UConn Athletic Dept.)

Both nursing (with classes, labs and clinicals) and basketball (with practices, travel, and games) call for massive time investments. In fact, Heather is the first UConn student ever to succeed in juggling the two. (It’s demanding, but doable.) And my friends know I’ll resurface soon. Besides, it’s my dream. And I’m living it,” Heather observed.

She says nursing makes her a better player, and basketball makes her a better nursing student...

She says nursing makes her a better player, and basketball makes her a better nursing student: “They have a lot in common. You know your role on the team. You need to be prepared for anything, any time. Both require huge investments in on-going learning and practice. You learn to notice everything. The goals of both are intuitively to assess what’s happening and what it might imply, and to know exactly what to do to take care of the patient …or the ball.

“I’m lucky to be part of both the top women’s basketball team and in such a highly regarded nursing program,” Heather concluded. ■
I first joined UConn’s Student Nurses Association (SNA) to get a wider view of the world of nursing than we have time to cover in our classes, labs and clinical placements,” said Christopher Rago, SNA President. “I’ve stayed active in SNA because it’s so much fun. Sure, all our schedules are crowded. But we make time to know each other well, to build team trust, and to do some good for other people.”

For a few examples, members do monthly manicures at nursing homes (everyone loves it!), take vitals/histories at a free clinic, offer blood-pressure screenings at basketball games, help with UConn’s blood drive, go skiing with people with physical/cognitive disabilities, and fill art-supply bags so Connecticut Children’s Medical Center (CCMC) patients can make Valentines for their families.
To support its delegates at national conferences, SNA merchandises sweatshirts across campus, and hosts an annual Career Fair, where New England healthcare institutions pay fees to meet and recruit UConn’s new baccalaureate nurses.

“We raise funds for others, too,” Rago continued. “We’re all over the track for 24 hours at the American Cancer Society’s annual walkathon. Then SNA’s team is on its feet for 18 straight hours at HuskyThon, UConn’s annual dance marathon. (This year, HuskyThon raised $188,000 for CCMC.) We learn new dances every hour. We’re exhausted, but it’s incredible fun. The best part: A (current or former) CCMC patient is on each team. Breanna is an awesome former patient who’s been on our team for three years. Now that she’s 17, she told us she’s looking into healthcare careers. So we bought her a stethoscope. She loved it.”

SNA schedules activities just for themselves, too. They sled together on Horsebarn Hill, do day-hikes with faculty, and fill their cars with students for a drive-in movie. Upperclassmen host pizza parties for underclassmen, to share tips for successful navigation through courses, clinicals, and labs.

“No one in SNA does everything. But everyone who does anything knows how much it fills our tanks. You can’t get up every morning to help people if you’re running on empty yourself. Nursing isn’t an easy career, especially now. It’ll be better for all of us if each of us succeeds. Nursing majors love to help people out, including one another. Because that’s what nurses do,” Rago concluded.

Find SNA online on Facebook!

Nutrition Labels

by Professor Patricia Neafsey

The bulletin board outside Professor Neafsey’s office caused faculty and students to pause last fall. Posted on the board were the latest “Ludicrous Labels” found by students in Clinical Science I (NURS 3100).

The Clinical Science sequence is taken by nursing sophomores and juniors and integrates pathophysiology, nutrition, and pharmacology. Neafsey, whose background is in clinical nutrition and pharmacology, said “I want students to be able to separate the nutrients from the nonsense and be able to provide clear guidance to their clients.”

One of the tips she gave students is to compare the number of milligrams of sodium to the number of calories in products. Dietary guidelines recommend no more than 2,400 milligrams of sodium for a person eating 2,500 calories per day. Students found many examples of soups and cereals labeled “heart healthy” that were very high in sodium compared to their calorie content. People with heart disease, diabetes or metabolic syndrome are encouraged to eat whole grains and limit refined wheat and sugar. Students found labels for “whole” grain breads labeled “heart healthy” that had wheat flour (i.e. refined white flour) as the first ingredient followed by sugar, then whole grains and more types of sugar (such as honey and molasses) in the ingredient list. Some of these breads had as much as 20% of the calories from sugar. One cereal labeled for a “strong heart” had 30% of the calories from sugar. Men and postmenopausal women are advised to avoid iron supplements unless they are iron deficient due to concerns that iron supplementation may increase oxidation in the body and promote heart disease. A cereal marketed as “original antioxidants with A, C, & E” had 100% of the daily (female) value for iron.

Ludicrous!
“I have feelings, too” ... Harvey™.
“The literature calls them Human Patient Simulators, but the profession calls them mannequins,” said Triple-Husky Desiree Diaz (PhD ‘11, MS ’09, BS ’94), assistant clinical professor and director of simulation laboratories. “To promote realism, individual mannequins have their own names and stories. Simulation labs are virtual clinical environments (e.g., hospital room, clinic, studio apartment) where mannequins are patients. Labs introduce students to situations they’ll encounter in practice, but might never experience in student clinical placements, allowing them to demonstrate classroom learning by translating it into clinical ‘reality.’”

High-fidelity mannequins produce sounds (lung, breath, bowel), pulses (radial, carotid, brachial, femoral), and EKG rhythms. Their chests rise and fall. Five-level ICU monitors give current heart rates, blood pressures, temperatures, O2 saturations, and CO2 levels. Students even can insert arterial lines through “skin” that feels human. Video cameras transmit to the control room, so Diaz knows who’s doing and saying what. When students ask questions, mannequins “respond,” (from Diaz’s microphone, in her control room). Diaz also mentors faculty colleagues on the four UConn campuses with simulation labs to use the systems and provide the voices.

“Mannequin ‘parts’ are interchangeable. We have both genders, different races, many wigs. We can simulate a normal vaginal delivery of a neonate mannequin, a prolapsed cord, dystonia, lacerations – even a postpartum hemorrhage, using lots of stage blood. We use moulage (techniques to simulate injuries, bodily fluids, and diagnoses). For example, glycerin, liquid makeup, and stage blood become amazingly real-looking stab wounds. Actors play the roles of patients’ families.

“Each ‘simulation’ is an individual scenario for a specific, detailed case study. Computers replicate that diagnosis’ vital signs and other conditions. Actors are briefed to assure that their “performance” in each specific simulation is consistent with the next, so student grading can be fair. We create each simulation to be as clinically realistic as possible,” Diaz said.

“We replicate virtually everything that clinical nurses encounter. If the patient is age 85, she’ll have a white wig. If the patient refuses his meds, we note how students handle it. If the patient is Buddhist, a tray with a glass of milk tests students’ responses to possible sacred-cow sensitivities,” Diaz explained. “My specialties are medical/ surgical, orthopedic, and pediatric nursing, so I create those simulations. Faculty colleagues are generous in creating realistic simulations in their specialties. And graduate teaching assistants help in the control rooms.”

An essential pedagogical component is the “debrief,” which constructively critiques each simulation. Groups of four students discuss what they noticed, what was missed or mishandled, what they might have done differently, and how nursing practice linked with patient-care plans. “It’s a group grade, so everyone chimes in. Research shows that everyone learns when discussions relate to what they’ve all just seen,” Diaz noted.

UConn School of Nursing began to embrace simulation pedagogy in 2007. “Mannequins are the wave of the future (the present, too) in nursing schools around the world,” Diaz observed. “We don’t head the pack yet. But when we move into the Widmer Wing – with its custom-designed labs, control rooms, and capacity to telecast all simulations into the main lecture hall – we’ll leapfrog ahead of many schools. I can barely wait!”

Each high-fidelity mannequin comes with a $55,000 price tag. “This isn’t a cheap way to teach. But it’s incredibly effective in creating a workforce of competent, confident, compassionate 21st century nurses,” Diaz concluded. “That’s what all of us are here to do.”
“I always dreamed of teaching at UConn School of Nursing,” said Triple Husky and associate professor Colleen Delaney (PhD ’03, MS ’98, BS ’80). “I left a tenured faculty position to return here. I loved teaching there. But in my research, I was on my own.”

“UConn’s culture is research-intensive,” Delaney continued. “Our School provides enormous scholarly support, too. Rigorous research is particularly important for a relatively young nursing specialty like mine, that’s hungry for contributions to its scholarly database.” Delaney is a Board-certified Advanced Holistic Nurse.
American Holistic Nurses Association characterizes its philosophy as “all nursing practice that has healing the whole person as its goal.” On a foundation of nursing professionalism, it respects the interconnections of body, mind, and spirit, capitalizing on their mutually reinforcing healing potentials. In 2006, the American Nurses Association recognized holistic nursing’s defined scope, standards, and unique contributions to health and healing.

“My holistic journey began in my master’s work in community-health nursing. I recorded heart-rates and blood-pressures, before and after exposure to serene music and imagery. No one seemed surprised when post-readings came down,” Delaney recalled. “Everyone understands those body-mind connection.”

As a doctoral candidate, she developed a spiritual assessment scale (now in eleven countries, six languages), the first such instrument to differentiate between religion and spirituality. “Nurses often view those words as synonyms. They’re not,” Delaney observed. “That may explain why many nurses viewed spirituality as too controversial to integrate into care-plans.”

When she explains that spirituality is what whets the universal human thirst to understand one’s place in life’s meaning and purpose, resistance usually diminishes. Nurses recognize that while some patients express spirituality only in terms of their religions, even those without religious affiliations often have vigorous spiritual dimensions.

She tested her scale’s reliability and validity with a pool of patients with chronic illnesses. Results fell into three spiritual categories: Personal (self); Interpersonal (relationships), and; Transpersonal (Higher Power, Universal source). Scoring provides a profile of patient spiritual needs/strengths, pointing to interventions to support individual improvements. Most include meditation. According to Delaney, patients are eager to learn meditation and self-care behaviors to enhance health, beginning with simple exercises like following one’s breath, sitting outdoors (or at a window) to connect with nature’s majesty and intricacy.

Delaney brings holistic homecare to her older heart-failure patients at VNA HealthCare Inc. Her multicomponent intervention, HEART (Home Care Education, Assessment, Remote Monitoring, Therapeutic Activities) addresses body, mind, and spirit, combining medicine’s heart-failure best practices with therapeutic activities to promote emotional and spiritual wellness. “Patients select from a list of Pleasant Events – e.g., lunch with a friend, prayer, enjoying a sunset – resolving to make that activity as high a priority as other self-care assignments,” Delaney explained.

“We’re only beginning to prove it scientifically, but we know that patient outcomes improve when spirituality is integrated into healthcare. Almost as important to nursing, the spiritual dimension enhances experiences – maybe even retention rates – for nurses. Spiritual care gives nurses a new way to make that essential, healing connection with patients … the kind of human connection that drew us to nursing in the first place,” Delaney concluded.
Radiographs are among the multiple diagnostic images that Myrick (below) evaluates in her work.
“I earned my BS in ’89, my MS in ’99, and DNP in ’09, all at UConn School of Nursing,” said Karen Myrick. “Now I’m jointly appointed to our School’s clinical faculty and to Elite Sports Medicine, a clinical practice connected to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. I practice clinical nursing, pursue my research, and teach at the School I love. It’s my ‘Triple-Husky nurse’s dream come true.”

Herself a half-marathoner and triathlete, Myrick has special affinity for her patients: “They bring their athlete’s passion and discipline to their recoveries. They’ll do anything to heal quickly enough to get back to practice! Sports medicine has come so far with diagnostic imaging, surgical interventions (especially arthroscopic), and rehabilitation protocols that we can get most of them back to their sports far faster now.”

Most, not all, however. Hip labral tears have been an exception.

The labrum is the cartilaginous rim around the hip socket’s bony edge. Labral hip tears are relatively common traumatic injuries in athletes. Left untreated, they produce hip pain severe enough to end athletic careers. Usually, even highest-tech imaging protocols simply miss these cartilaginous tears, dramatically delaying diagnosis and treatment. Usually, these tears present as “something else,” so patients spend months being worked up for lumbar-spine injuries, herniated discs, trochanteric bursitis or a host of other possibilities.

“Typically, the delay between injury and diagnosis is 21 months, while being seen by three providers,” Myrick observed. “Almost two years of disability is a lifetime to young athletes. After costly and multiple diagnostic procedures failed, we’d resort to a ‘diagnosis of exclusion,’ sending them for an arthroscopic procedure to look for the injury: Once identified under the scope, these tears require only debriding or repair, in procedures that take no more than an hour or two.

A few years ago, Myrick was conducting a standard physical assessment -- hip flexion and physical rotation -- for a patient with mechanical hip pain. When she added a maneuver called “distraction,” (altering the position of the femur’s head in the socket), her patient reported his pain had vanished. When she restored the femur to normal position, pain returned. Then Myrick tried it on other athletes with long-term, idiopathic hip pain. Their responses were similar. She pondered why: Clearly, distraction relieved pressure on the cartilaginous socket rim. Might that imply that pain originated in the labrum, suggesting a labral tear? If so, was alleviation of pain on distraction truly diagnostic of hip labral tear?

Her clinic created a new hip-assessment protocol, THIRD test (The Hip Internal Rotation [with] Distraction), which has proved both sensitive and specific in identifying hip labral tears by pain alleviation on distraction. Now National Institute of Health (NIH) is reviewing Myrick’s grant proposal for a research study, of which she’ll be PI, to correlate THIRD findings with findings from MRI arthrograms and arthroscopic procedures themselves. (Preliminary retrospective chart-reviews show 100% correlation.)

“If formal study shows that the THIRD test is equal to or better than other diagnostic protocols for hip labral tears, perhaps costly, time-consuming, inconclusive tests can be eliminated, saving time, healthcare dollars, and athletic careers.

“Don’t get me wrong,” Myrick said. “I’m dazzled by all the good that comes to our patients from so many astounding technological advances. But this diagnostic protocol didn’t emerge from sending a patient into another machine for another test. It came from a nurse putting her hands on a patient.”

“If it came from a nurse putting her hands on a patient. It had to be a nurse, delivering the kind of hands-on nursing care I’ve learned from all my UConn years. UConn taught me to advocate for patients’ quality of life. UConn nourished my curiosity and encouraged me to ask the next question. Perhaps answers to these questions might improve some patients’ quality of life, save time and unnecessary pain, and save all of us unnecessary expense. Those are the best possible outcomes for nursing clinical scholarship. And they’d make me even happier than I am now!”

Unison 11
Above, the family of the founding dean of UConn School of Nursing, Carolyn Ladd Widmer, were honored guests and speakers at the historic event. Front left: Jacqueline, Mark, Michael and Jessica Malley. Back left: Eric Widmer, Meera Viswanathan, Ted Widmer, Jeanne Widmer, Mike Widmer, Michele Widmer Malley and Jack Malley. 
Pictured top left, alums, Patricia Bender ’69 (c) and Lucy LaCava ’62 (r) view the Widmer Wing model with supporter, Doug Donaldson (l).

The Widmer Wing, new home of UConn School of Nursing, broke ground on April 13, 2011.

Left center, Professor Xiaomei Cong (r) and librarian liason, Valori Banfi (l) share research findings during the reception. Middle center, Dean Bavier speaking to the 400 plus guests. Bottom left, student research presenters Pamela Murac ’11 (l), Brittany McKeown ’11 (m), and Jennifer Aldieri ’11 (r). Bottom center, Karin Gaertner ’11 (r), and guest, view the Dolan Collection art exhibit held at The Benton Museum prior to the ceremony. Right, Zoltan Hegedus and Professor Deborah McDonald ’81 MS converse during the event reception. Photography by the Defining Photo LLC.
Performing the official groundbreaking tradition with shovels in hand from left: Larry McHugh, Chairman Board of Trustees; Chris Rago, ’12 and President of Student Nurses Association; Eric Widmer, son of Carolyn Ladd Widmer; Dannel Malloy, Governor of Connecticut; Anne R. Bavier, SON Dean; Michael Widmer, son of Carolyn Ladd Widmer; and Peter J. Nicholls, UConn Provost.

Above left, alumna Maria K. Tackett ’72 BS, ’88 MS (l), with architect Whit Iglehart from Tai Soo Kim Partners, LLC viewing the Widmer Wing model. Above right, Professor Jen Telford ’99 BS (c) hosts a gallery walk through her Veteran’s Exhibit in the Dodd Research Center. Bottom right, the UConn Pep Band leads guests to the celebration!
A building specifically designed for nursing education has been our School’s long-term, often-deferred dream. For almost 70 years, we have educated our students in a parlor, an infirmary, classrooms and labs borrowed from UConn buildings across campus, a converted dorm, and a “temporary” modular classroom annex.

It’s testimony to our faculty and students’ passion for patient care that, year after year, the School nevertheless has dispatched an outstanding stream of competent, confident, compassionate nursing professionals to a world that desperately needs them to shape the future of human health.

In 2009, UConn’s Board of Trustees’ approved a $14 million investment in the 15,800 sq-ft Widmer Wing, named for the School’s founding dean. School decision-makers worked closely with academic architectural firm of Tai Soo Kim Partners, LLC (Hartford) to create learning spaces meticulously designed to embrace the unique features of nursing education and practice. Widmer Wing will be connected to Storrs Hall’s east side, facing the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Completion is expected at the beginning of academic year 2012-2013.

In addition to special facilities detailed here, the Widmer Wing will include our state-of-the-art clinical simulation laboratories, high-tech examination rooms, a classroom large enough to accommodate 75 students, smaller classrooms, a serene reading room, graduate labs, a kitchen, some administrative offices, and (at last!) a welcoming, well-lit lounge, where students can study together, cram for exams, or simply hang out between classes. (Naming opportunities are available now for many of these facilities.)

“We’re thrilled finally to offer our students a 21st century learning space that’s as dedicated to nursing as they are,” said Dean Anne R. Bavier. “We’ve owed them that for a very long time.”
Our auditorium comfortably will accommodate 175 students for lectures, presentations and, thanks to audio/video hookups, opportunities to monitor and critique classmates' learning experiences in clinical simulation laboratories. A local-area network (LAN) connects facility resources with video/audio broadcast/taping capabilities, and electronic “white boards” to maximize the value of all pedagogical encounters, by making them available to vastly increased student groups.

At last, Jo Dolan’s matchless collection of nursing artifacts will move into the spacious Widmer Wing lobby’s light and air, bringing our profession’s fascinating history to life and context for 21st century students of nursing. For examples, included are permanent/rotating exhibits of nursing documents, art, historical equipment (syringes, feeding devices, bedpans, and more), uniforms, military-nurse recruitment posters, even a pristine iron lung!
Faculty Scholarship

Aging Publications

Presentations


Alternative and Complementary Care Publications


Presentations

Child and Parent Health Publications


Matook, S., Sullivan, M. C., Salisbury, A. L., Miller, R. J., & Lester, B. M. (2010). Variation of NICU sound by location and time of day. Neonatal Network, 29(2), 87-95. (Data based)

Presentations


Community Health Publications

Shaping the Future of Human Health

Community Health (cont.)

Presentations


Corrections and Forensic Health
Publications


Presentations


Cultural, Language and History
Publications


Presentations


Publications and presentations continue on page 18.
Faculty Scholarship

Disease
Publications


Presentations


Education Innovation
Publications


Presentations


Diaz, D. (2010, January). Communicating with limited English proficient patients via simulation, and Moulage Artistic Simulation Creativity Crew (MASCC), and Community round robin simulations. Posters presented at the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, Phoenix, AZ.


Information and Technology
Publications

Pain and Symptom Management
Publications


Presentations
Facility Scholarship

Shaping the Future of Human Health

Pain and Symptom Management (cont.)
Cong, X. (2010, June). Skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo care) on heart rate variability in preterm infants undergoing heel stick pain: Pilot study. Paper presented at the 8th International Conference on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Quebec City, Canada. (Data based)


Presentations


Professional Issues

Publications


Presentations


Cusson, R. M. (2010, June). Developing a program of research in transitions: Lessons from the health disciplines. Invited keynote speaker & clinical scholar in residence, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

Cusson, R. M. (2010, June). The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Changing the research landscape. Invited keynote address. Rockefeller University, New York Presbyterian Hospital - Cornell Wellil Medical Center, New York, NY.


Pharmacology

Publications


Presentations


Theory and Methods

Publications


Presentations

Beck, C. T. (2010, November). Developing a program of research that is knowledge driven and not method limited. Presentation at Rutgers University, Newark, NJ.


Beck, C. T. (2010, March). Cultivating a program of research using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Keynote presentation at Scholarship Day 2010, Beta Zeta at Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, Holyoke, MA.

Beck, C. T. (2010, March). Developing a program of research that is knowledge driven and not method limited. Presentation at Delta Upsilon Chapter at Large of Sigma Theta Tau, Providence, RI.

Unison 19
Officially, Pamela Cartledge is UConn School of Nursing’s “Admissions and Enrollment Services Coordinator.” But at Storrs Hall, her office is known as our School’s own “Google site.”

“When people are stuck in the educational bureaucracy, my job is to answer questions, or to point them in directions where they’ll find their answers,” Pam said. “I maintain databases of all programs and students. Students come with questions about registration, requirements, prerequisites, where they’ll find a specific summer course, licensure requirements, all kinds of nitty-gritty detail.”

She supports faculty advisors who need specifics regarding courses, academic and general education requirements to guide their advisees. Then Pam expedites documentation to insure each student’s official record is current and accurate.

She (literally!) fills in the blanks in other ways, too. “When faculty solicit external funding for their scholarship, sometimes their grant-proposal forms require really detailed statistics (e.g., number of students by gender, age, ethnicity, endeavor, whatever). I like to help with that,” Pam said.

She prepares the School’s annual accreditation report to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. And she oversees affiliation agreements for all students’ clinical-agency placements.

“My degrees are in History and American Studies,” Pam explained. “After working at Connecticut Historical Society, I ventured into the business world, in customer service at Crabtree and Evelyn. But I missed campus life, where almost everything I long to learn or see is close at hand – classes, lectures, libraries, museums, everything. A temporary position opened up here in February, ’99. I’m still here. It’s a wonderful environment, with wonderful people. I love its challenges. But I didn’t know anything about nursing education when I got here.”

She trained herself, on the job. “My detour into business wasn’t a waste after all; what I do here is actually customer service, too. I like to be ready for any question, so I tend to ask a lot of questions myself. Over time, I’ve learned whom to go to for reliable answers.”

So have we, Pam. So have we.
Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar!

MEIN Information Session
Thursday, July 21
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Bishop Center, Room 146

Fall Open House
*Check web site for tours and details
Sunday, September 18
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Gampel Pavilion

Reflections of Excellence
Saturday, October 1, 2011
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Lewis B. Rome Ballroom

Alumni Meeting
Friday, October 14, 2011
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Storrs Hall

UCAA Award Ceremony
*Humanitarian Awardee Bette Gebrian, ’87, ’93
Friday, October 14, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: South Campus Ballroom

Homecoming/Spirit Village
Saturday, October 15, 2011
Time: TBA
Location: Rentschler Field, Hartford

All events are on Storrs Campus unless noted. For additional information on events please contact kathe.gable@uconn.edu or 860.486.0613. Pictured above are Caitlin Stavens ’11 (l), and Jerrol Mitchell ’14 (r) with Jonathan (c).

New Faculty

Heather Evans,
PhD, RNC, CLC
Assistant Clinical Professor
Scholarly interest in: the transition to motherhood, with focus on depression and anxiety. Special attention is paid to culturally specific populations.

Kathleen O’Connor ’10,
DNP, ACNP-BC, ANP-BC, APRN
Assistant Clinical Professor
Scholarly interest in: Improving postoperative pain management by enhancing the safety and efficacy of electronic documentation and order set capabilities.

Millicent Malcolm ’10,
DNP, GNP-BC, APRN
Assistant Clinical Professor
Scholarly interest in: the prevention and management of geriatric syndromes.

Victoria Odesina ’10,
DNP, APRN, PHCBS-BC, APNG, CCRP
Assistant Clinical Professor
Scholarly interest in: infectious diseases, evidence-based nurse initiated acute sickle cell pain management in the emergency department.
Dr. Polifroni joined UConn School of Nursing’s faculty more than 30 years ago. Her passion for patient care is manifested in her passion for the future of nursing itself, near-term and long-range: She is dedicated to assuring that tomorrow’s patients can have a strong cadre of competent, confident, compassionate nurses to care for them. Her passion is igniting that fire in her students, then assessing outcomes to learn how to move farther forward.

Polifroni’s scholarship centers on program development, often supported by her successful grant requests, and serving the underserved, to ensure and furnish the future of nursing care. She guides programs for the Nursing Academy at Hartford Public High School, which equips underserved students (who have nascent passion for patient care) with all they need to succeed in their nursing school applications.

She teaches at undergraduate/masters(doctoral) levels, and is a profession-wide leader in Patient Care Services and Systems Administration. She says her greatest strength is recognizing when the time has come to act.

For work-life balance, Carol is an ardent snow-skier, grabs every chance to read books on the beach, is celebrated by nieces and nephews (and their kids!) as the World’s Greatest Aunt, and loves romping with Brandy, her delightful “Heinz-57” dog.

Now in her sixth year on our faculty, Dr. Shelton is a widely recognized scholar and designer of the future of nursing in correctional institutions. She focuses on clinical and translational research, adapting successful, evidence-based practices to nursing’s future in prison and community-based environments.

She teaches courses in research and needs assessment. She mentors faculty, interns and students in research disciplines. She guides the research of undergraduate honors students. She chairs an interdisciplinary research-interest group (nursing, medicine, pharmacy, psychology, and others), focusing on advancing scholarship on correctional health-services delivery. They seek to develop new theory to fill a nationwide void for correctional nursing practice. It centers on promoting inmate strengths for self-care.

Her development of our correctional nursing clinical program has been so successful that one-third of undergraduates seeking clinical placements have asked to serve in the Department of Corrections. (Some later are hired because of this experience.) She trains students to implement the Carelink-C program, which provides healthcare services while it supports former prisoners’ successful re-entry into the community.

For leisure, Dr. Shelton especially enjoys the outdoors – cross-country skiing, the beach, gardening, grilling, and relaxing in her yard.
People who know her work understand why Bette Jeanne Gebrian (BS Nursing, ’77, PhD Medical Anthropology, ’93) received the University of Connecticut’s Humanitarian Award.

Since 1987, Gebrian and the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) have deployed a network of local health workers who provide services and education in nutrition, healthcare, and quality of life with more than 200,000 profoundly poor mothers and children. They are supported by HHF’s sophisticated health-information database of survival interventions, which Gebrian has spearheaded over the past 25 years. Health improvements are spectacular: immunization rates, 90%; children’s bacterial pneumonia deaths, down 50%; exclusive breastfeeding for six months 70%; and a 39 month space between children assuring a healthy start.

With its 2008 Best Practices Award, Global Health Council said that Gebrian’s programs illuminate “possibilities for significantly improving health outcomes, no matter the level of resources available.” One award nominator said, “…UConn laid the groundwork for her success, but only a humanitarian with a generous heart and a clinically sharp mind could triage a nearly quarter-million person caseload.”

Dean Bavier invited clinical instructor John McNulty to the podium at Commencement 2010, then presented him with her annual Heart of Caring Award. The class of 2010 exploded into joyful cheers! For 35 years, McNulty has practiced clinical nursing, with a cardiac specialty. For the past 13 years, he’s also served on our clinical faculty.

“I’ve loved all my students. But this class was special to me,” McNulty said. “As their class advisor, I met them, so full of passion and promise, on their first day on campus. I taught them three courses. I advised many of them individually, and was SNA’s faculty advisor, too. Now they were full-fledged baccalaureate nurses, ready to practice their passion for patient care. It was a privilege to accompany them on that transformation.”

One graduating senior said, “This award is perfect! As part of our Health Assessment class he taught us the basics of how to use a stethoscope, Mr. McNulty explained the difference between Good Nurses and Exceptional Nurses: “Good Nurses learn how to use stethoscopes to hear the various sounds the heart can make. But Exceptional Nurses know when it’s time to take their stethoscopes out of their ears, sit down with their patients, and listen to what’s really going on in their patients’ hearts.

That’s the Heart of Caring! That’s Mr. McNulty!”
“I had a husband and growing family when I came here. But I wanted to take care of ER patients, too. UConn was wonderful. When looking for a job, I told everyone I wanted an ER job. It worked. Now I’m an ER nurse in Manchester. I really love it. Just needing to be in the ER means it’s probably the worst day in my patient’s life. I can help!”

... Veronica BAILEY ’10

“Burn-out is a danger for people like us. Nursing can’t afford to lose us. But we can protect ourselves from it. One way to remain fresh is to stay in school, too. I’m an ICU nurse, a medic in the Air Force Reserve, and I’m studying to become a flight nurse. It’s wonderful, especially since the people I work for are subsidizing my education!”

... Dave KOCH ’09

“I’m a psych nurse with three jobs. I work with the deaf, with emotionally/behaviorally disturbed children, with children with developmental disabilities. I’m a full-time master’s candidate, aiming for a psych APRN, too. And I do have a life. So can you. Stay in school, even one class. Healthcare is desperate for brilliant nurse practitioners with skills like yours.”

... Stacie MORRIS ’10

“In Iraq, I helped injured soldiers. After I came home, I achieved my goal of graduating from our UConn, School of Nursing, in 2009. Now I enjoy a wonderful and rewarding career as a Emergency Department, RN at Middlesex Hospital, while working to earn my Masters at UConn.”

... Greg LUTKUS ’09

Every spring, recent alums return to campus to share laughter, encouragement, and real-world nursing experience with graduating seniors. Far-away alums sent congratulations, good wishes, and advice to soon-to-be alums from this year’s class. SON alumni director Kathe Gable coordinates the annual event. Pictured from left are seniors, Bobbi Crego ’11, Mariliam Padilla ’11 and Alumna Shantay Wells ’10. (Photograph by Barbara J. Slater.)
Greetings:

**Become active alums.** We took our first big steps towards career growth at UConn, our nursing foundation was deepened at UConn, and now we can aid UConn. As students, we followed—now as alums, we are role-models and leaders for the next generation of nurses. Please join our efforts; you can step up your involvement through participating in our three goals.

**Connecting Alumni** - The Alumni & Friends Society is a constant source of support to new graduates from their pre-licensure residency to the beginning of advanced practice. We are pleased to announce the following individuals, some returning and some new, to our Society Board of Directors: Joanna Bretton ’10, Amy Brunquell Korber ’04, Jessica Meadows ’03, Geri Pearson ’02 PhD, and Donna Sterling ’60. Let’s keep growing, who will join us next year?

**Supporting Students** - The power of our Husky Network continues to grow as more alumni and students reach out within the greater UConn Family. If you have been to an event with students, or interacted with them on the career network, you know that UConn Nurses are invigorating! Visit campus, learn about our new programs, or get an update on research and student/faculty accomplishments; you will be hooked.

**Strengthening UConn** – Our alumni are tremendous ambassadors for our school. Supporting UConn goes beyond involvement on campus; we have numerous channels of communication and encourage you to share your commitment to UConn. Whether it is through a face-to-face gathering of classmates, online donation or connection via Facebook – your involvement is recognized and appreciated. Collectively we can make a difference.

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**Announcing**

**Reflections of Excellence 2011 Alumni Awardees!**

**Save the Date - October 1, 2011**

**The Carolyn Ladd Widmer Outstanding Alumni Award for Leadership in Nursing**
Christine W. Meehan ’74

**The Eleanor K. Gill Outstanding Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence in Nursing**
Dorothy M. Trebisacci ’71

**The Josephine A. Dolan Distinguished Service Award**
Patricia C. Bouffard ’79 MS
Nancy Wieler Fishman ’81

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**The Marlene Kramer Outstanding Alumni Award for Research in Nursing**
Kristine Nordlie Williams ’83 MS

**The Beverly Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing**
Jeanne Watson Driscoll ’04 PhD
Mary L. Welch ’80 MS, ’90 PhD (CLAS)

To learn more about our awardees or to nominate a 2012 candidate go to www.nursing.uconn.edu/alumni.
Class Notes

Karen Erickson Hande ’99
A mother of three young children, she is pursuing her DNP at Vanderbilt University and working as a nurse practitioner at Gastroenterology and Hepatology Associates in Hendersonville, TN.

Olga Jarin ’02, ’10 PhD
At U. Penn. Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, Olga’s postdoctoral fellowship centers on nurse practice environments in home care. In June, she presented two papers on racial and ethnic disparities in older adult surgical patients’ outcomes at the AcademyHealth Conference in Seattle. She also teaches “Passport to Latin America,” an afterschool art and culture program.

Jamie Kezis ’04
Recently graduated with a master’s in public health from Columbia University’s Program on Forced Migration and Health, Jamie is moving back to California. Next, a summer project in Ghana, an October wedding and ongoing work with human rights organizations and humanitarian response programs.

George Goodrich ’09 MEIN
George works as a nurse on St. Francis Hospital’s cardiac surgery unit. In his free time he rides with pride as the proud owner of this plate!

Alumni Awards

UConn School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni honored on October 23rd

Lisa Bush Davis ’83
Chief of Public Health Initiatives Branch for the CT Department of Public Health (Widmer/leadership award)

Maryjoan D. Ladden ’73
Senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Widmer/leadership award)

Maria Mihaly Bonaiuto ’70
Director of the 20th largest school district in the US, through the Mecklenburg County (NC) Health Department (Gill/clinical award)

Constance M. Johnson ’78
Assistant professor and director of Nursing Informatics Program, Duke University School of Nursing (Kramer/research award)

Edilma Yearwood ’74
Associate professor, Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Sciences (Koerner/education award)

John W. Rowe, MD
UConn Board of Trustees immediate past-chairman, Columbia University professor, physician, researcher, and healthcare executive (Dolan/service award)

Don’t miss out! Stay connected!
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You will receive our Unison Now E-Newsletter, alumni e-blasts and more!

Contact: kathe.gable@uconn.edu
Robert Wing Wilhide ’61
After 22 years as a RN with the Berlin Public Health Nursing Service, 17 years at McGee Middle School, Roberta became a certified pastoral care giver at Chambersburg Hospital in PA. She is currently involved with several activities at church and in her community.

Barbara Petersen ’62
Retired after working for two decades as a school nurse in Alaska, the last 10 years were as head of the bay schools. With the help of colleagues in the district, Barbara expanded the concept of mandated eye checks to many facets of vision and perception.

Susan F. Adams ’72
Named regional vice president for Masonicare Home Health & Hospice (MHH) in 2010, Susan has responsibility to staff, direct and implement programs and manage the affairs of MHH branch offices. She is also a bereavement support facilitator for the Hygeia Foundation and is a volunteer for Yale-New Haven Hospital’s Books for Babies Program.

Michelle Renaud ’72
Retired Army Colonel Renaud is currently an assistant professor at Old Dominion University. She previously taught at Duke School of Nursing and Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. Michelle received her PhD in Nursing from the University of Washington.

Joseph Blansfield ’75
is a trauma program manager at Boston Medical Center. His US Army Nurse Corps (23 years) experience led to his participation in Dr. Jennifer Telford’s research featured as part of the Gallery Walk on Groundbreaking day. (Photograph by The Defining Photo)

A celebration of the benefactors and recipients of the Richard J. Hollfelder Memorial Scholarship - Friday, March 25, 2011.

Pictured standing from left to right with Fred Hollfelder: Surheil Luciano ’06 (Windham Hospital, Maternity and Childbirth), Shelby Trot’12 (current scholarship recipient), Michelle Labickas Pugliares ’03 (Manchester Medical Associates, APRN), Jennifer Cyr ’02 (Hartford Hospital, Oncology), Lisa Rizoli Book ’03 (Hartford Hospital, Oncology and Saint Joseph College, clinical nursing instructor), Jessie Bordeleau McManus ’08, ’12 MS (Lawrence & Memorial, Neurology and Med Surg.)

Colleen Smith ’73, ’75 MS
Honored upon her retirement for her leadership role as vice president of nursing at Middlesex Hospital. Last fall, Colleen received the CT Nurses’ Association Doris Armstrong Award for outstanding contributions to nursing administration.

Mary Jane Williams ’82 MS
The CT Nurses’ Association established a new annual award in her honor; Mary Jane M. Williams Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Nursing Profession. Mary Jane recently retired from the University of Hartford, division of nursing. She is an emeritus professor and former director of nursing at Central CT State University. She has over 40 years of contributing to nursing as a nurse educator and advocate in Connecticut.

Suzanne Hetzel-Campbell ’83, ’86 MS
Interim dean at Fairfield University’s School of Nursing, Suzanne was elected into the Nursing Academy of the National Academies of Practice in 2010. She sits on the Accreditation and Approval Review Committee (AARC) on Education in Human Lactation and Breastfeeding and is co-editor of Simulation Scenarios for Nurse Educators: Making it Real.
Joyce Harmon '87 MS, '96 Post masters certificate
“I can think of no other career where the choices are so varied and rewarding!”
From positions in psychiatry, intensive care, and education, her nursing career evolved into a great opportunity to treat patients who have difficulty getting out if their homes. She works at a multi-practitioner office and for the past seven years enjoys caring for the frail elderly in their homes.

Jessie M. Moore '94 MS
Coordinator for the Center for Weight Loss Surgery at the Hospital of Saint Raphael, CT. Jessie was awarded the Circle of Excellence for 2010 by the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery. Recognized for her commitment to high level patient care and her national contributions to research and education in bariatric surgery she is the tenth recipient of this award.

Joel Sanders '95
After working in the operating room at Walter Reed Hospital for nine years, Joel relocated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany; he continues to work in orthopedic surgery with wounded soldiers.

Charles Jaskiewicz '96
Selected by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to serve on the CT Board of Education, Jaskiewicz has been on the Norwich school board since 2003. He works for Pfizer Inc., as a regulatory manager focused on early product development.
Thirty years of annual giving to UConn School of Nursing

By Bobbi Pople Phillips (BS, ’66)

Before agreeing to my nursing school plan, my parents suggested I work as a junior nurses’ aide at Stamford Hospital. I loved it! We all agreed that nursing was my niche and passion. I chose UConn for its excellence in all aspects of education and, most importantly, the School of Nursing!

On a huge campus, it’s wonderful to be part of a class of 120, with whom you share so much. Friendships were deep. Some lasted a lifetime. I enjoyed most of my classes. High on my list were science, nursing courses and eventually, the hospital. Labs were exciting, especially in Bacteriology when Dr. Cleverdon smelled a student’s hair on fire in a Bunsen burner! Social life was phenomenal. I loved my two years on campus which were followed by my student nurses’ training at Yale New Haven Hospital.

After graduation, I realized I was prepared to pursue the career in nursing I had always wanted. In that Viet Nam era, many graduates, like me, joined the Army Nurse Corps. In October 1966, I was at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas where Army nurses went for their military orientation. During that time I met my future husband, Army officer, Mike Phillips.

In December 1966, I was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. I loved caring for our heroic soldiers, including one U.S. President, a Supreme Court Justice and a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This was one of the most memorable experiences in my life, and UConn School of Nursing had prepared me for it!

What I learned and accomplished at UConn has been the backbone for almost every success I’ve enjoyed, in nursing and beyond. In view of state funding cuts, and in the face of our changing healthcare programs, I want to help my School continue to shape upcoming generations of nursing students, with the same extraordinary level of opportunities I received. Now retired, Mike and I have more time to spend with our kids and grandchildren. Each year, we decide how to share our philanthropic dollars. For three decades, without fail, one of my top commitments has been giving to UConn School of Nursing. It’s a tradition I intend to continue as long as possible!

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