



Christine Meehan '74 (NUR) (far right) with School of Nursing Dean Regina Cusson (center) and a group of nursing students.

From Nurse to CEO

Christine Meehan '74 (NUR) arrived at UConn as a freshman, living in “the Jungle” as a theater major, and left with a nursing degree. She switched to nursing after being impressed with the faculty in the School of Nursing. “I also realized that I wasn’t going to be the next great star of Broadway,” says Christine. “I like people, and felt nursing was not only a great opportunity to work with individuals but it would also lead to a fulfilling career.”

“My years at UConn were some of the best of my life,” she adds. Today, this nurse-turned-entrepreneur-and-CEO is lending her talents to UConn by working with School of Nursing Dean Regina Cusson on a program called Healthcare Innovations, using the skills she picked up as an entrepreneur in health technologies. The Nursing Leadership course is designed to help students see nurses as change agents and entrepreneurs. “I think nurses know how to improve the health care system better than anybody.”

“Technology is going to change everything in the health care field. Nurses are a huge part of that. They are the ones with new ideas and they know what they need and what is not working.”

Christine’s route to and from UConn has taken her to the Boston area and Europe, working for medical device companies. “The point that I make to the nursing class is that I never stopped being a nurse. I was a nurse even though I was a vice president or CEO of medical companies.”

Christine spent approximately 10 years as a nurse in intensive-care units, in the emergency room, and in oncology. While working in a Boston oncology clinic, she managed a clinical study for an implantable pump company to infuse chemotherapy into the liver for cancer that is the result of colon and rectal cancer. Her foray into business began when the pump’s manufacturer hired her. “Since then, I have always worked for small innovative, start-up companies ... helping to develop non-surgical alternatives to traditional surgery – things like a lithotripter that

uses sound waves to break up kidney stones, and laser and microwave therapies for various urological and oncology disorders.”

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Christine worked for several companies, moving up the corporate ladder. After 15 years, she eventually founded her own company, CADImplant, Inc., that provided a minimally invasive alternative to traditional “open-flap surgery” for dental implants. This experience underscored how difficult it was to raise money for a start-up company, especially one founded by a woman.

She successfully developed and divested her company and is now an angel investor to help other women. “Women create 80 percent of new businesses in the U.S. but receive less than 5 percent of the investment money available to do it,” she notes. She joined Golden Seeds, a large angel investment group that invests in women-owned companies.

Christine continues to be an angel investor in medical startups on her own. Current projects include a smartphone diagnostic product and a breathing product for snoring and sport-performance enhancement. “This is a very exciting time in my career as a nurse, entrepreneur, and investor.” ■

Christine Meehan '74 (NUR) was one of the judges at the School of Nursing’s inaugural version of “Shark Tank,” a television reality show where up-and-coming entrepreneurs present their ideas to a panel of angel investors, called “sharks,” in hopes of earning funding for their fledgling companies. The School of Nursing’s version of the competition is an outgrowth of the Nursing Leadership course. [View the video](#)