



SNA Members

Spread the Word

Emily Bak (pictured front right), president of UConn's Student Nurses Association (SNA), attributes the substantial increase in SNA student membership this year, with a record 172 student members, to "word of mouth." Fellow members eagerly spread the word about the numerous community outreach activities that SNA takes part in, such as making cards for soldiers overseas or organizing health initiatives, like the "Be the Match" bone marrow drive and Special Olympics.

"In addition to all the effort members put in, the group is always having a great time," Bak explains. "I'm always telling both potential and current nursing students about SNA activities. Our members are very welcoming and love seeing new faces!" The group's participation in the UConn Student Involvement Fair held in the beginning of the fall semester also brought in additional members. UConn's largest event, the fair is open to all +350 student organizations and university programs and allows students to connect, make friends, give back, and get involved.

"Word of mouth" is a basic marketing tactic that we all use every day without realizing it.

"SNA's HuskyTHON dance team is by far the best on campus!"

"Did you hear SNA's guest speaker Robin Cournoyer, a registered nurse who started her own business?"

So what is all the buzz about?

This fall SNA held a résumé critique prior to its annual career fair. The fair offers healthcare employers an opportunity to connect with students and discuss available employment opportunities. In addition to the career fair, guest speakers are scheduled throughout the year to speak with members. One of this year's speakers, Robin Cournoyer, a registered nurse who started her own business, Nurse Consultants, LLC, told the group about her career path. For over twenty years Nurse Consultants has been providing weekly nursing consultation to child care centers, nursery schools, school age programs and camps. *(continued)*

This spring SNA will participate in UConn's HuskyTHON eighteen-hour dance marathon to raise funds for and increase public awareness of Connecticut Children's Medical Center. HuskyTHON dancers work closely with one child and the child's family from Connecticut Children's Medical Center on the night of the event. SNA's child is eight year old Madisen. Bak says, "Madisen wants to be a nurse because of Barb (her nurse at CCMC) and to help kids who are sick as she was." Madisen was diagnosed with clear cell sarcoma in 2008. She has had three surgeries, one to remove her tumor and left kidney, followed by 6 months of intense chemotherapy. Madisen and her family are very grateful for the care and support she received and continues to receive from the staff at CCMC. Last year SNA was just short of raising \$10,000 during the event.

Bak explains what SNA means to her and what she's gotten out of the organization over the past few years: "Joining SNA as a freshman was one of the best decisions I made at UConn. It allowed me to network within the School of Nursing and befriend upper classmen who gave me helpful advice for upcoming years. I enjoyed this experience so much that I decided to become more involved by running for the community service chair position in my sophomore year, and as a junior I was elected secretary, holding both positions simultaneously.

These positions increased my student interaction with the planning and attending of events, so running for president in my senior year just felt right."

SNA students' generosity and devotion bode well for the future of nursing. ■

IN ACTION



Director of the Simulation, Dr. Desiree Diaz and nursing students, participated in the filming of Johnson & Johnson's newly released film, *Nurses: Their Vital Role in Transforming Healthcare*.

View it on our YouTube page.

In Memoriam... Jacqueline Marie Kern



Jacqueline Marie Kern, a UConn sophomore nursing student from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, passed away unexpectedly on January 1, 2015. Jackie aspired to be a nurse practitioner. She was a member of Alpha Phi Omega and the UConn Medical Brigade. Jackie also volunteered at a local prison, taught English as a second language to international students and tutored elementary school students.

UConn and the School of Nursing held a memorial service for Jackie on March 1. Student speakers shared their words on behalf of the sophomore class. Dean Regina Cusson presented the family with a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment and Director of Pre-Licensure Programs, John McNulty, modified the nursing poem, "She Was There" by Duane Jaeger, and read it during the ceremony.