



**FALL
2016**

PARENT NEWSLETTER

UConn | SCHOOL OF NURSING

DEAR FAMILIES OF UCONN SCHOOL OF NURSING UNDERGRADUATES,

As the new dean of UConn School of Nursing, I want to reiterate the words Provost Mun Choi stated in my appointment letter: that I am deeply committed to the education of the next generation of nurses, and I can assure you that the school will continue to assist students not only achieving but surpassing their nursing goals.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the good news that we've received in recent months. UConn School of Nursing is ranked in the **top 10% nationally** by U.S. News & World Report in its 2016 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools." We are proud of our growth in all programs. This latest distinction attests to our quest for quality and excellence as we lead, empower and transform.

STUDENT NEWS

We know that you are proud of and excited for your UConn student. While this year's application figures from aspiring UConn freshmen are a new record, the numbers have increased steadily since 2000, when the University received 12,120 applications. At the School of Nursing we welcomed 96 to the **freshmen** class, and the average SAT cumulative score of this year's applicants is 4 points higher than last year's.

Sophomores are completing their core pre-clinical requirements, taking classes in anatomy and physiology, genetics, and clinical science, all of which provide a crucial foundation of knowledge and nursing practice. In addition to their coursework, they are serving as mentors to freshmen nursing students.

Our **juniors** have made their transition to clinical, and are they traveling to healthcare settings across Connecticut and engaging in clinical experiences with patients. This clinical year is an important milestone in their nursing path.

Seniors are currently engaging in or preparing for travel beyond Connecticut and out of the country, taking advantage of semester-long or short-term study-abroad opportunities in South Africa, Belgium, and China. Juniors have opportunities for education abroad in Ireland and Puerto Rico. Not only learning about the medical and clinical practices and differences across the globe, they also immerse themselves in new cultures, which is a life-changing experience. Seniors are preparing to participate in our "Shark Tank" Healthcare Innovation/ATHENA event in April, and publishing their Nursing Leadership op-ed essays for Connecticut media.

Over the summer **senior Jordan D'Angelo**, was accepted into the Universitas21 Health Sciences Summer School at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Chile, focusing on Early Critical Windows of Preventive Interventions. Jordan was the only nursing student from the University of Connecticut chosen to participate in the 2016 Universitas21 program, and UConn was the only university from North America to participate in the U21 Health Sciences Group.

I am particularly proud to announce this year's **Connecticut League for Nursing Peer Recognition Awardees**, honoring outstanding senior nursing students: Storrs BS Program – Gabriella Rubino; CEIN Program: Storrs – Antony Dileone, Waterbury – Anandi Benzy, Avery Point – Luke Blanco and Stamford – Shalenta Hardison.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND AWARD NEWS:

UConn School of Nursing Professor and **Director of the Center for Advancement in Managing Pain, Angela Starkweather** and her team have secured a 5-year, \$1.6 million Center in Self-Management of Symptoms (P20) award from the National Institute of Nursing Research, entitled the "Center for Accelerating Precision Pain Self-Management." These grants build research expertise and teams for the future. Proposing the grant were Associate Dean Jacqueline McGrath; CAMP Director Angela Starkweather; and Professors Erin Young, Steve Walsh, and Michael Fendrick.

Our Healthcare Innovation program teaches creative problem solving in the senior-level Nursing Leadership course where students are introduced to concepts of health innovation and entrepreneurship, collaborate in small groups in which they identify a health care problem or deficiency, and then research a solution or improvement, and identify customers and potential obstacles. This project culminates with students presenting proposals in a "Shark Tank" forum, judged on the basis of creativity, marketability and potential to enhance patient outcomes. **Please join us on April 19, 2017** for these presentations combined with our ATHENA Research Series event.

Dr. Ivy Alexander received a \$1,690,873 grant award from the Health Resources and Services Administration'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. The project will engage the work of Dr. Annette Jakubisin-Konicki as Director of Curriculum Development and Student Evaluation; Assistant Clinical Professor Denise Bourassa as Quality Improvement Director; and Dr. Mary Blankson, from CHCI as CHCI Program Manager.

Dr. Millicent Malcolm was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2016; **Director of Pre-Licensure Programs John McNulty**, received the Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA) Josephine A. Doan Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Education; and **Dr. Joy Elwell** received the CNA Agnes Ohlson Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing through Political Actions.

These are just some of the highlights of life in the UConn School of Nursing this autumn. Of course to learn more, you can visit the University's web page for parents at students.uconn.edu, learn about the Parents Fund Council at www.foundation.uconn.edu/parents or view additional School news on the School of Nursing's Facebook page. When you're on campus, please stop by and visit me; my door is always open.



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