Nursing students expand their horizons through study-abroad opportunities.
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- Barra, M. “The Effect of Medical Mathematics Retention Strategies in Decreasing Attraction Rate Among African American LPN Students in a Community College.” Podium Presentation: Research Day: An Evening of Evidence-Based Practice. Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Epsilon Rho Chapter at Henry F. Becton School of Nursing at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ, April 24, 2010.


14 OTHER PUBLICATIONS


- Guichon, P. “Evidence-Based Practice: Are We Really Doing It?” Podium Presentation: 12th Annual Conference: Advancing the Science and Quality of Mental Health. International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses (ISPN), St. Louis, MO, April 14-17, 2010.


DEGREES EARNED
- Ciralis, F. (administrator). Earned master's degree in education – college student personnel administration from Seton Hall University.
- Fortier, M. Earned Ed.D. from the College of Education and Human Services at Seton Hall University. Dissertation Title: “Predictors of Success on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses Among Transfer B.S.N. Students.”
- Millman, F. Earned Ph.D. from the School of Health and Medical Sciences at Seton Hall University. Dissertation Title: “Factors Associated with Nurses’ Practice Intentions to Educate Women Patients about Heart Disease Risk and Prevention.”
- Sirota, T. Earned Ph.D. from the College of Nursing.
- Blozen, B. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the College of Nursing.
- Fortier, M. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Community and Health Systems in the College of Nursing.
- Hart, S. Received the 2010 Lester Z. Liebman Humanism in Healthcare Award in July 2010 from The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey; achieved the recognition of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) through the CNCA/ACCN in August 2010.
- Huryk, M. Passed the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner exam, April 2011.
- Petersen, B. Elected to the board of directors of the New Jersey Nurses Association; honored at the NJSNA Faculty Convocation on September 16, 2011.
- Sirota, T. Received the Albert Hakim Faculty Service Medal at the Lysaught Report and then the Brown Report – the recommendation was made that the baccalaureate degree be the educational credential for entry into the nursing profession. Now the Carnegie Commission and the IOM Report have once again emphasized and articulated the critical need for the B.S.N. to be the basic standard for nursing education.
- Seides, R. Earned Ed.D from Teachers College at Columbia University. Dissertation Title: “Do Personality Traits Predict Compliance with Type 2 Diabetes Regimens?”
- Nenta, T. Received the Albert Hakim Faculty Service Medal at the Faculty Convocation on September 16, 2011.
- Sturm, B. Inducted into the Nursing Education Alumni Hall of Fame, Columbia University, at the annual Isabel Maitland Stewart Faculty Convocation, April 29, 2011.
- Huryk, M. Passed the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner exam, April 2011.
- Petersen, B. Elected to the board of directors of the New Jersey Physicians Advisory Board.
- Blozen, B. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the College of Nursing.
- Blozen, B. Promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.
- Buxton, J. and Sirota, T. Promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.
- Petersen, B. Elected to the board of directors of the New Jersey Physicians Advisory Board.
- Huryk, M. Passed the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner exam, April 2011.
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Dean’s Advisory Board Welcomes New, Returning Members

Seton Hall College of Nursing Dean Phyllis Hansell welcomed two new members and one returning member to her advisory board in 2010—a CoN administrator, a hospital senior vice president and a CoN alumnus and adjunct professor, respectively.

Kristin Kent-Wuillermin joined the board last year after being appointed director of strategic alliances, marketing and enrollment for the College of Nursing in 2009. She has worked as a business analyst for South Jersey Healthcare and as an outreach specialist for a federally qualified health center (FQHC).

The other new member of the board is Thomas Smith, D.N.P., R.N., chief nursing officer and senior vice president at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Smith received his D.N.P. from Case Western University. He also has served as chief nurse officer and senior vice president at Cambridge Health Alliance in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and senior vice president for nursing at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Additionally, he taught undergraduate adult medical-surgical nursing and health assessment at the University of Massachusetts/Boston.

Jean Marshall, M.S.N., R.N., FAAN, who served as assistant commissioner of health for the N.J. Department of Health from 1994 to 1997, returns to the board. She received her M.S.N. from Seton Hall University in 1989. Marshall was vice president of government and community relations for Meridian Health System from 1997 to 2002. She continues to serve as a CoN adjunct. Marshall also was a member of the initial CoN Advisory Board, which was appointed in 2000.

Dean Hansell established the board to serve as a panel of experts who could assist her and function as an organized “think tank” to guide the college in meeting its educational goals. Several members have been with the board since its inception, including Richard Hader, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Robert Hess, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Ruben Fernandez, M.S.N., R.N.; and Mary Ann Christopher, M.S.N., R.N., FAAN.

LAILA REED ’10

An English major aspiring to a career in public relations or publishing, Reed soon learned that she did not enjoy her career as much as she had expected. Thereafter, she became a jack-of-all-trades, working as a make-up artist, among other things. When a coworker left to start nursing school, she began to consider health care as a career option.

Reed’s diligent research on B.S.N. programs introduced her to the Accelerated B.S.N. program. The scholarship possibilities made returning to school less daunting. After starting, she was notified that she had received the Todino Scholarship.

It was this extra confidence that prompted Reed to approach a woman with a hospital badge while waiting in line at a coffee house. “She said to me, ‘When you graduate, give me a call.’ And I did,” Reed recalls. Her boldness paid off; her new acquaintance would refer her to a hospital setting.

In addition to the financial relief the generous gift from the Todino family afforded her, Reed credits the scholarship with boosting her confidence and her credibility as a top nursing candidate. “I was confident and my credibility as a top nursing candidate was enhanced,” Reed says. “This scholarship not only helped me financially, but it also highlighted to my employers that I was a stellar candidate.”

In addition to a busy work life, Corliss has made it a priority to help out her family and “pay it forward.” She has inspired her cousin in the Philippines to also become a nurse, and Corliss has offered to help with the tuition expenses. She is also working to help her mother, who suffers from a chronic illness, and brother, who has special needs, receive better care.

She often looks back at the help she received while she was a student. She believes that all the positive things that are occurring in her life right now would not have been possible without the scholarship. “It helped me get ahead in my career. I have a good job; my life is stable and I have a way to help my family,” says Corliss.

CALLING COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI . . .

The Career Center and College of Nursing are looking for nursing alumni to be career mentors for current students and fellow alumni. As a Pirate Mentor, you will serve as an industry expert and role model on career-related issues. Mentoring and serving as a career coach can be rewarding experiences and can keep you connected to the University, students and fellow alumni in a vital way.

To get started, just e-mail The Career Center at careers@shu.edu, and we’ll send you simple instructions.

Todino scholar Grace Corliss now works as a nurse at Shore Memorial Hospital.

SHU NURSING SUPERSTARS AND SUPPORTERS

Gloria Ezeaka, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP
Seton Hall University, College of Nursing
2010 Nurse Recognition Award Winner New Jersey League for Nursing

Jane DaWert, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP
Seton Hall University, College of Nursing
2010 NJNSA Board of Directors Volunteer Award
New Jersey State Nurses Association

North Central Baptist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, Associate Chief Nursing Executive
M.S.N. from Seton Hall University, College of Nursing, 1994

2010 Nurse.com Nursing Spectrum Nurse Excellence Award - NY/NJ Regional Finalist in the Category of Advancing and Leading the Profession

Barbara Ravida, RNC, M.S.N., ANP-BC
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York City, Team Leader of the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit at the Petrie Division M.S.N. from Seton Hall University, College of Nursing, 2009
2010 Nurse of Distinction Hospital Setting 1199 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)/League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes

Patricia Salkowski, Ph.D., R.N., ONP-BC, PGSA, FAAN
Boston College, School of Nursing, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs M.S.N. from Seton Hall University, College of Nursing, 1978
2010 Fellow American Academy of Nursing
2011 Mayday Pain and Society Fellow

From Generation to Generation: Nursing alumna Joan Marshall, M.S.N., R.N., FAAN (left), presents a ceremonial nursing pin to her granddaughter Latisha as she graduates from the College in May 2011.

Gloria Essoka, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP
Seton Hall University, College of Nursing
2010 Nurse.com Nursing Spectrum Nurse Excellence Award - NY/NJ Regional Finalist in the Category of Advancing and Leading the Profession

Grace Louis Corliss ’08
A native of the Philippines, Corliss came to the U.S. in 2004 with a bachelor’s in psychology and worked as a medical assistant until she realized she had a passion for nursing. In 2007, she enrolled in Seton Hall’s Accelerated B.S.N. program. She is the first in her family to attend an American university.

At first she tried to work while she studied, but the intense clinical hours made it difficult. When she received the Todino Scholarship, she could hardly believe it; the scholarship afforded her the opportunity to focus on her studies.

Three years after completing the program, Corliss is now working at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point. She believes the scholarship not only helped her financially, but it also highlighted to her employers that she was a stellar candidate.

In addition to a busy work life, Corliss has made it a priority to help out her family and “pay it forward.” She has inspired her cousin in the Philippines to also become a nurse, and Corliss has offered to help with the tuition expenses. She is also working to help her mother, who suffers from a chronic illness, and brother, who has special needs, receive better care.

She often looks back at the help she received while she was a student. She believes that all the positive things that are occurring in her life right now would not have been possible without the scholarship. “It helped me get ahead in my career. I have a good job; my life is stable and I have a way to help my family,” says Corliss.
WORDS OF GRATITUDE

By Leticia Villalon-Soler, M.P.A. ’07

JANET LANO ’10

Lano graduated in 1984 with majors in biology and health and physical education, but she obtained a job in market research and remained in that field for over 20 years. Her employer’s decision to move her job overseas, combined with a family tragedy, gave Lano an opportunity to reassess her life and career goals. “It gave me perspective and taught me that life is too short,” says Lano. “You need to do what you want to do.” She realized that she wanted to make a difference in the world, so she decided to revisit her first love: health care. When she communicated to people her desire to go back to school and become a nurse, she realized just how highly regarded the profession was. Lano received a lot of encouragement from her family and friends. Even the reaction she received from strangers was positive. “People smile when they hear you are studying to be a nurse,” says Lano. Lano applied for the Todino Scholarship at the urging of one of her classmates. When she realized she had been awarded the scholarship, she felt that it was the beginning. When asked about any insights she has received from her classmates, she is quick to point out that although her peers in the cohort are all younger, they are all first in their family to go to college. A visit to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. is a nurse, she realized just how highly regarded the profession was.

Lano started her path by pursuing a degree in biopsychology and a minor in chemistry at Wagner College— but was unsure whether she wanted to be a physician’s assistant or a nurse. A visit to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as a director of her school’s volunteer chapter convinced her to pursue a goal of becoming a pediatric oncology nurse. Unfortunately, at that point it was too late to switch her major. She began the Accelerated B.S.N. program shortly after graduating from college and chose Seton Hall because of its reputation and the opportunity to complete her degree in 14 months. The location was helpful, too—she could remain close to her family in Monmouth County. Aside from her uncle, Delp is the first in her family to go to college. “My mom has been very supportive. She even took out a loan to help me pay my B.S.N.,” says Delp. “I am also very grateful for the Todino Scholarship because it has greatly eased our financial burden.”

The accelerated second degree B.S.N. program, located at our satellite campus at Georgian Court University, hosts two open houses a year at its Lakewood campus, usually in December and March. Interested alumni should contact Kristyn Kent-Wuillermin at kristyn.kent@shu.edu or (973) 761-9291.

RACHEL CAROLYN DELP ’11

Delp always knew that she wanted a career in the healthcare field. She started her path by pursuing a degree in biopsychology and a minor in chemistry at Wagner College— but was unsure whether she wanted to be a physician’s assistant or a nurse. A visit to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as a director of her school’s volunteer chapter convinced her to pursue a goal of becoming a pediatric oncology nurse. Unfortunately, at that point it was too late to switch her major. She began the Accelerated B.S.N. program shortly after graduating from college and chose Seton Hall because of its reputation and the opportunity to complete her degree in 14 months. The location was helpful, too—she could remain close to her family in Monmouth County. Aside from her uncle, Delp is the first in her family to go to college. “My mom has been very supportive. She even took out a loan to help me pay my B.S.N.,” says Delp. “I am also very grateful for the Todino Scholarship because it has greatly eased our financial burden.”

Delp is trying to make the most of the amazing gift she’s received. At the time of this interview, Lano was preparing to start her new job at Ocean County Medical Center as a geriatric nurse. At the time of this interview, she had received all As and had planned to acquire additional experience by working in a medical office over the summer.

The College Welcomes New Associate Dean

In Summer 2011, the College of Nursing welcomed Judith T. Caruso, D.N.P., M.B.A., R.N., NEA-BC, CHE, as its new associate dean for administration and business affairs. Caruso brings a wide range of experience to the College, most recently as an accomplished healthcare consultant, having held positions at such institutions as Somerset Medical Center, Jersey City Medical Center and Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. She worked at Overlook for several years, first as a clinical nurse specialist, then as director of maternal child, and finally as vice president for patient services. Caruso also served as senior associate and partner at CurranCare in Illinois, where she participated on assessment teams at integrated hospital systems to evaluate continuity of care in case management services, discharge planning and home care operations. She holds a M.S.N. and D.N.P. from Rutgers University, as well as an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Who better to spread the word about our programs than College of Nursing graduates? With that in mind, the College invites nursing alumna to talk with prospective students at open houses about their SHU experience and about their professional lives after SHU.

Monthly open houses are held at the South Orange campus. The accelerated second degree B.S.N. program, located at our satellite campus at Georgian Court University, hosts two open houses a year at its Lakewood campus, usually in December and March. Interested alumni should contact Kristyn Kent-Wuillermin at kristyn.kent@shu.edu or (973) 761-9291.

The Master’s Entry-into-Practice program continues to thrive as more students enter the nursing profession with a graduate degree. Our program is one of only 28 in the United States that allows students with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree to earn a Master of Science in Nursing. The program prepares students to be registered nurses working in the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) role, which is an advanced generalist position. In the last semester of the program, students complete a 500-hour residency, in which they actually practice in the CNL role with the guidance of a preceptor and the faculty liaison. These residencies occur at one of our four current partnering healthcare institutions: Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC), Montomison Memorial Hospital (MMH), Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ) and the VA New Jersey Health Care System – East Orange campus (East Orange VA). Students identify a challenge or area to improve within the organization based on quality, safety, patient-centered care, cost containment, patient satisfaction, and teamwork. The students use research and evidence-based practice to craft a plan of action for improvement, implement the plan and measure the results. These student reports are the outcomes to the senior management of the organization, addressing both the successes and challenges of the project, as well as strategies used to overcome those challenges; a core competency in our CNL program.

CNL student projects have demonstrated use of evidence-based practice, strong analytics and effective change strategies, e.g. reduced the wait time in the East Orange VA by more than 45 minutes through protocol guideline changes that allowed nurses to order x-rays under established guidelines; standardized decubitus care products for an estimated $1 million savings for VNACJ while maintaining quality care metrics; trialed a project for enhanced shift communications between nurses at JCMC; and reduced hospital-acquired urinary tract infections rates utilizing revised protocols at MMH. These projects demonstrate the use of clinical thinking skills by working as team members to implement evidence-based practices for quality patient outcomes. The model of nursing care within the United States continues to evolve, but one thing remains certain: our CNL graduates are prepared for the challenge.

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NOT JUST ANOTHER CNL PROJECT

By Linda D’Antonio ’69, M.S., R.N., APN, CCRN, CNL; Kristyn Kent-Wuillermin; and Judith T. Caruso, D.N.P., M.B.A., R.N., NEA-BC, CHE

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It wasn’t long before additional groundbreaking changes were on the horizon. As explained by York, the nursing school’s accrediting agency, The National League of Nursing, recommended that the nursing program be moved to Seton Hall’s main campus in South Orange from its off-campus site in Newark. This brought about many challenges as it meant introducing females to an all-male campus. Yet, as we see today, it proved to be a successful merging.

Through all her achievements, Dean Haley was described as a very proper lady. While she was considered by most as quite formidable, she was also well respected. To help keep morale high, the Dean frequently hosted Sunday afternoon teas. She was known to dress exquisitely, with white gloves and a hat, and always brought out the fine china. These occasions provided a relaxing social time for faculty, students and their parents to share ideas and promote the camaraderie that accompanies academic life.

The legacy that was established by Margaret C. Haley was one of “brilliance and elegance” that continues today as her memory is honored. As we remember Dean Haley, we look to those nursing alumni who have made contributions in the nursing profession, and look forward to the announcement of future Margaret C. Haley alumni award recipients.

Photos top row, left to right: Peta Kaye Johnson, CoN Clinical Nurse Leader student, teaches children how to properly brush their teeth; a University of the Philippines nursing student shows CoN students how she teaches proper hand washing to school-age children; Philip Paragas, CoN R.N.-to-B.S.N. student, attends a health fair for school children.
ANNUAL AWARD HONORS
LEGACY OF MARGARET C. HALEY, THE SECOND DEAN OF
THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

By Debbie Kennard, M.S.N., R.N., CASC

Seton Hall’s College of Nursing has always been on the cutting edge of new programs and growth, delivering hands-on clinical expertise in a research and teaching environment. It was no different in 1952, when Dean Haley initiated a new nursing program that was one of the first of its kind. The new “generic” nursing program would culminate in a baccalaureate degree in nursing for those students just beginning their academic careers. This allowed students to enter a collegiate nursing program immediately after high school instead of working to obtain a degree after already becoming a nurse.

Such a program was groundbreaking and required someone with a grand vision and determination to succeed. Professor Mary York, a faculty member who taught nursing during Dean Haley’s tenure, remembers that initially there was opposition to this new proposal, and many felt it would never work. Yet Dean Haley persevered, hiring a young, energetic faculty that was enthusiastic and eager to be a part of this innovative new program. She interviewed each candidate with great scrutiny, with the intent of hiring only the best. She told the new faculty, “I hired experts, now go to it,” giving her team the same support that she received from the University.

The new program began with a small cohort of only nine students that grew exponentially over the next few years. Dean Haley was determined to make a success of the new venture. Before long, under her leadership, the program became one of the top ten baccalaureate programs in the nation.

According to York, these were exciting times, forging new ground where policies were yet to be written. Seton Hall’s new nursing program presented many opportunities for learning that were never offered before, such as trips to the United Nations to learn firsthand about world health. Another opportunity made available to the students involved the modern maternal health movement toward rooming newborn babies with their mothers instead of in the newborn nursery that was offered.

Alongside the University, the College of Nursing has offered many study-abroad programs, today led by Mary Ann Schurr, Ed.D., R.N., associate professor; Kathleen Stremas, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, and Debbie Kennard, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN. Its international program was launched in 1978, when the Hangzhou School of Nursing in China welcomed two Seton Hall nursing students. Since then, students have visited many study-abroad sites as Ireland’s St. Angela’s College, Sligo, where they sat in on classes and faculty meetings. Now have nursing students from Germany who have visited here, as well as students from Denmark.

The relationship with the College of Nursing University of the Philippines UP, began in 2008 with Dean Hansell and A. Gabriel Esteban, Ph.D., president (then provost) of Seton Hall University. On the 2011 Philippines trip, 12 undergraduate nursing students, four CNS graduate students and an R.N.-to-B.S.N. student joined three faculty members. Three students received a Becton Dickinson and Company Scholarship, covering most of the rest paid their own way (nearly $2,500).

For 12 days during winter break, alongside UP nursing students and faculty, Seton Hall students experienced firsthand, in-depth teaching abroad, guiding grammar school kids in oral hygiene, hand-washing and good nutrition. The College’s students and faculty also met with mayors and health officers, and attended public health department and UP presentations. They explored community-health nursing in urban and rural settings when they visited a health fair, a hospital and patients at home. UP students also benefited, hearing from College faculty and students about how they teach and learn nursing in the States. Additionally, they enjoyed the presence of working with an American university.

Seton Hall University has embraced internationalization since it was founded in 1856, beginning with that year’s foreign-born graduates. Aside from the Philippines, the University has sent students to Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom. In August 2007, the Center for International Initiatives at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, D.C., invited Seton Hall’s participation in its Internationalization Laboratory, with its ACE-supervised training workshops, campus visits, review processes and assessment procedures.

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Take Dungre Ferry: To prevent it, the Filipinos place black-painted metal cans in dark areas outside, filling them with water to attract mosquitoes. Poking out is a stick on which they lay their eggs, which are wiped off and killed.

“The Philippine healthcare system doesn’t have a lot of money, and people are generally poor. It’s amazing how much they can do with so little,” says Chu. “What they do is supplemental to what we do, and we can learn from them. At the same time, I’ve grown to appreciate our healthcare system more, in terms of our medical advancements, the equipment we use and the technology.”

Says Schart, who accompanied the students, “They gain an understanding of different cultures and value different ways of life when they study abroad. They appreciate how big the world is, and that people live in different climates and face problems that we may not be aware of — yet there are commonalities, too.”

Overall, the College’s study-abroad programs aim to enhance students’ education and their work with patients. “When they experience and learn about the values, beliefs and practices of another culture, they can better understand and care for people from that culture who live here,” says Sternas. “Or, if they work in another country, they can transfer what they learned from their time studying abroad.”

Sophomore Christopher Weathers realized, “There’s not just one way to do things,” he says. “That feels good, because when problems arise, I know there’s more than one way to solve them. I have a more open view now.”

And not just with nursing. “At first, I wanted to be a nurse anesthetist,” he continues. “But going to the Philippines was eye-opening; there are many possibilities within nursing. I knew that already, but seeing it is different than reading about it.” Reda’s time there was eye-opening, too. “There’s so much I didn’t know — yet there are commonalities, too.”

By Claire Sykes

They came all the way from Germany in September 2008 and 2009 to learn about a variety of teaching strategies, including the effective use of high-fidelity patient care simulation. For the semester, four nursing education interns from the University of Applied Sciences, the Katholische Fachhochschule Mainz, observed classes and faculty meetings, and discussed admissions, curricula, and student expectations and outcomes.

Germany’s nursing students focus on one specialty, compared to the States’ liberal arts approach. “They were interested in how we teach, and how students apply theory in clinical practice,” says Gloria Essoka, Ph.D., R.N., distinguished visiting professor at the College of Nursing. “Now we have a relationship with their university, and we expect more students to come to Seton Hall.”

By Valerie Blum, mother of Bonnie Sturm, Ed.D., R.N., CoN associate professor

What can I say about my beautiful daughter that you may not already know?

My daughter Bonnie Agnes Sturm has grown and blossomed throughout her life. She always tries to look ahead and to pick the right path from amongst many paths. I like to think that today in her work as a professor, she is helping to shepherd others on their way:

As a high school student, Bonnie worked as a candy strip at Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, New York. She went to Pace University and completed a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Her first position as a registered nurse was back at Lawrence Hospital, where I worked as a laboratory technologist. After four years of hospital experience, she decided to work as a visiting nurse in Westchester County. She found it rewarding to help people to stay in their own homes and manage whatever illnesses they had to deal with in their lives. She loved to help them to be as independent as they could be and to feel better. She went on to get her master’s degree in psychiatric nursing from Hunter College in New York City and worked in community health and psychiatric nursing, visiting people in their homes for many years.

During this time she also raised a family as a very devoted wife to Paul and mother of Josh, a Ph.D./M.D. student at the University of Pittsburgh, and Naomi, a Ph.D. student of anthropology at Columbia University. She found her love in teaching at Dominican College in Orangeburg, New York, and went on to complete her doctorate in nursing education at Columbia University.

Of course, today you’ll find her very busy at Seton Hall University College of Nursing, where she is teaching and leads the Ph.D. program in nursing.

As her mother, I can really say that I’m proud of my little girl who has become such a valued person in this world.

By Alyssa Gelmann Becker, M.D., daughter of Gloria Gelmann, Ed.D., R.N., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus

The following was delivered by Becker during her mother’s recent retirement brochure.

The word “retire” is not one you usually associate with mothers — especially my mother. After all, there is no age or time limit on the way mothers love and care for their families. So, I think it would be more fair to say that Mom is giving up her day job!

Today we are here to celebrate. I use the word “celebrate” because you should celebrate work well done, and Mom has always done her work really well. In her professional life, she has received many accolades, Teacher of the Year awards and, ob a Ph.D. here and there! In her personal life, she has been an incredible role model for me and an incredible mother. No matter how busy or tired she was, she made herself available to whatever family member or friend needed her, whether it was for a problem or to share happy news. Her belief in herself and her belief in me has always been an inspiration to me. I have faced challenges in my life with confidence, saying to myself, “I am my mother’s daughter, she believes in me, and I can do this.” I think my Mom has inspired many people around her with her positive thinking, her positive energy, her strong values and ethics, and her example of how to work hard and live life to its fullest. She is a remarkable woman in so many ways.

The question now is what Mom will do with her newfound free time. Being who she is, she will likely continue to do all the good deeds she has always done. Other than that, though, the world is hers for the taking.

Mom, you always supported us in whatever we chose to do. To think now it is time to return the compliment. Whether you choose to sit back and knit, or volunteer, or take up water aerobics, we will support and encourage you.

So forget about the word “retirement” and think positively. May your future be filled with whatever makes you happy. Good luck in whatever you do.

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

Through Her Mother’s Eyes

Through Her Daughter’s Eyes

Left: Associate professor Bonnie Sturm teaches “Dimensions of Psycho-Social Nursing” to a class of undergraduates. Right: Gloria Gelmann (center) celebrates her retirement with family and friends, including her husband and daughter.
By Kim de Bourbon

Seton Hall’s nursing students and seminarians are taking the University’s mission of servant leadership to a new level with a program providing healthcare guidance and spiritual support to unwed mothers.

Certified nurse midwife and College of Nursing faculty member Maureen Byrnes, M.S.N., R.N., brought her idea to the University’s Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership.

“The presence of servant leadership permeates the whole university,” said Byrnes, who was attracted to Seton Hall by this aspect of its mission. “The idea of actualizing it in maternal nursing—my background being newborns—seemed like a perfect fit.”

Byrnes and faculty colleague Colleen Carryington, M.S.N. ’08, R.N., CPNP, e-mailed nursing students, seeking those who felt a call and wished to explore the spiritual aspects of the profession.

“This is not in any way mandated,” said Linda Garofalo of the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership. “This is all a volunteer effort on the part of the students.”

The program, now offered through the University’s Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE), began with a core group of eight nursing students and three seminary students spending every other Friday afternoon at Raphael’s Life House, a Covenant House facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey. More than once, seminarians and nursing students joined in a communal breakfast before each trip. Although a grant from the Seton Hall University College of Nursing, recently relocated to San Antonio, Texas, the state motto is “friendship,” and the College was delighted that its good friend could take some time out of his busy schedule to chat about how his life has changed since accepting the position of associate chief nursing executive for Baptist Health System (BHS).

In what year did you graduate from Seton Hall? What degree(s) did you receive? I graduated in 1994 with my M.S.N. in Health Systems Administration, then went on to earn my M.B.A. and am currently in an online Doctor of Business Administration program. Once I complete that, I plan to pursue my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

It seems like education is really important to you. I consider myself a lifelong student and I am not happy unless I am learning something new.

Describe your journey toward becoming the associate chief nursing executive for BHS. While in the Philippines, I worked in a nursing college and was an assistant dean when I left to “visit” the United States. I was initially going to stay here for a year, but I met my future wife and ended up staying. For 23 years I was in New Jersey; I joined BHS in May 2010. All the jobs in the places I have worked—from Riverside Medical Center, to Solaris, to East Orange General Hospital—led me to where I am now. Becoming a chief nursing officer was always my ultimate goal, and I have worked hard and moved purposefully toward that vision.

How has the College of Nursing shaped the person you are? I believe that my degree from the College prepared me to be a global thinker and exposed me to the business aspects of nursing beyond providing medical care, so when this opportunity arose I was ready for the challenges and rewards.

Your biography reflects a strong interest in community outreach. How has that affected your career? I am a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellow and have been working with a community-based clinic to develop a medical home for patients who have diabetes in the San Antonio area. More than 25 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with diabetes, and there are an estimated 79 million more who are pre-diabetic. San Antonio is home to a large Hispanic population, a group that has been identified as at-risk for diabetes. This project aims to improve their health and decrease the cost of their medical care by identifying and treating symptoms before they become urgent.

How does San Antonio’s healthcare delivery system differ from New Jersey’s? As I mentioned, there is a large Hispanic population here, and managing chronic conditions through diet and preventive care is a vital component of the care we provide. At BHS, we actually have a robust nursing residency program, which serves as a pipeline for many of our departments, including surgery, labor and delivery and critical care. We have 40 nursing residents this year alone. This is a core strength of the BHS; the program really ensures that the students transition well and that our nurses provide great care to our patients.

Did you miss winter on the east coast this past year? Not at all. I love looking at pictures of snow, but have no desire to experience it in real life.

SILLY QUESTIONS:
NJ Transit or River Taxis? River taxis, definitely.
Seton Hall Pirates or Univ. Texas San Antonio Roadrunners? Seton Hall Pirates, all the way!

It was my no accident that Nelson Tuazon, M.S.N. ’94, M.A.Ed., M.B.A., R.N., NEA-BC, FACHE, and exceptional alumnus of Seton Hall University College of Nursing, recently relocated to San Antonio, Texas. The state motto is “friendship,” and the College was delighted that its good friend could take some time out of his busy schedule to chat about how his life has changed since accepting the position of associate chief nursing executive for Baptist Health System (BHS).

Nelson Tuazon addresses the crowd during the College of Nursing’s 2010 Margaret C. Haley Awards.

© Mark Schuster, SHU Photos
By Kristyn Kent-Wuillermin

NURSES AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

In March 2010, Congress passed The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), and President Obama signed it into law. The ACA was created to address the fragmentation in our healthcare delivery system and to provide health coverage to more than 32 million Americans. In addition to increasing health coverage, the ACA places an emphasis on wellness and efficient and affordable care, along with the highest quality of care and utilizing best information in health care (i.e. expansion of health information technology). The political and legislative debates of how to apply this statute and what it actually means will continue, but the fact remains that it is now law and has great significance to the role of nurses, both academically and professionally.

According to a 2008 study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, an estimated 114 million working-age American adults have chronic illnesses and are uninsured. The chronic care model was developed in 2003 to address the more than 145 million Americans who have chronic diseases and to treat the disease proactively, instead of reactively through emergency care. There is debate about the significance of elderly people on the health system, but the U.S. Census projects that more than 16 percent of the U.S. population will be aged 65 or older by 2030.

What does this all mean for nurses? Nurses have historically been, and continue to be, the safety net for this population. It is not a new phenomenon that nurses have to interact well with patients, think critically and utilize evidence-based practice to provide the best possible outcomes. Now, through nursing schools are formalizing education so that future nurses will consider innovative ideas to improve processes and safety. These factors are even more important as nurses will step in to provide care for these excess patients with chronic illnesses who will need to be treated on an ongoing, persistent basis.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Seton Hall University College of Nursing was developed in accordance with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) guidelines to prepare nurses at the doctoral level. The two options, advanced practice nursing and health systems administration, ensure a strong foundation of knowledge and critical thinking skills within a nurse’s chosen specialty, both at the post-baccalaureate level and at the post-master’s stage. This population of doctorally prepared nurses will be key in addressing the needs of the rapidly growing, chronically ill community. Seton Hall’s Master’s Entry-into-Practice – Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program was created in direct response to the fragmented, disjointed health response in the United States. The CNL program accepts students with non-nursing baccalaureate degrees; once they graduate they receive their Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) and become advanced generalists. CNLs work with a multidisciplinary team to ensure high-quality, evidence-based, consistent, seamless, cost-effective care for their patients and their families/caregivers in all types of healthcare settings.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve over the next nine years, Seton Hall graduates will be prepared to care for patients as 21st century nurses. The ACA specifically tasks these graduates, and the health system as a whole, with focusing on and being responsible for our population’s wellness, in conjunction with the provision of the highest quality, most affordable, efficient care, while using the best information. As many people in the profession will state, nursing is a calling, and an education at Seton Hall is a great way to ensure that one will be prepared to answer that call, as the national stage continues to evolve and the care required becomes more and more complex.

The information contained in this article is current and accurate as of press time.
Major Kristine Broger and her team were called upon to treat U.S. soldiers burned overseas in the line of duty.

Throughout her time on the Burn Flight Team, Broger treated the most extensive of burn injuries. “Some of our patients suffered burns on over 85 percent of their bodies,” says Broger. Though the gravest of cases often had a grim prognosis, she recalls one in particular with a happy ending. “He had burns on over 80 percent of his body, but eventually he left the intensive care unit and is now a motivational speaker. We’ve been friends ever since.”

Though Broger departed from the ISR in May 2009, her achievements have not slowed. Earlier in 2011, she was selected for the rank of Major Below-the-Zone a full year before she would have been eligible. In June, she received the Humanitarian Award at Many Are One, Seton Hall University’s annual alumni awards gala. She also reported to Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina, as the chief nurse of the 240th Forward Surgical Team after spending two years as an officer in charge and healthcare recruiter for the Fort Hamilton Army Medical Recruiting Station in New York City. Yet, she has no plans of stopping.

Upon her Seton Hall graduation, Broger received her second lieutenant commission and began her military career in San Antonio as a medical-surgical nurse before being deployed to Iraq in 2003. When she returned, she attended the Army’s critical care school in Texas. She joined the ISR after she graduated in 2005.

The only burn center for the U.S. Department of Defense, the ISR was where Broger’s military career truly took flight. “I started off working in the intensive care unit as a nurse and was given the opportunity to be a member of the SMART-B (Special Medical Augmentation Response Team – Burn),” explains Broger. “Traditionally, you’re there at least one year before they offer you the chance to be a member of the Burn Flight Team. They offered me that opportunity after five months. I was very lucky.” A little more than a year later, she was selected to take over as chief flight nurse.

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By Kim de Bourbon

Helping Hands

The young unwed mothers at Raphaël’s Life House continue to receive the support of Seton Hall’s nursing students. A few of them have expressed their gratitude in the following excerpt:

“I think it’s nice of them to come support us at times, and teach us things we don’t know or are not sure of. I haven’t been here long enough to really express it, but I thank all of the nurses for taking time out.”

“I am happy that the student nurses come because it helps us to learn things about ourselves and the babies that we might have forgotten to ask the doctor, and they are all so nice.”

“I feel as though this is a great opportunity to be helped and advised by nurses, it saves me from taking extra trips to the hospital. It also helps me to understand some of the things that my baby is going through and whether he is going through all of his life stages as he is supposed to correctly.”

“I think it is a very great thing that they are doing. I think it helps some of us single parents and first time moms. It helps us to learn things about ourselves and the babies. I am happy that the student nurses come because it helps me to learn things about myself and first time moms. The information is very helpful for me as well as my son.”

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Father Stanley Gomes, director of Campus Ministry, is a spiritual adviser, joining in a communal breakfast before each trip. Although a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Trenton funded the initial start-up of the program, the College of Nursing and the Office of University Advancement are now working to fund the program.

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This article is adapted from the Winter/Spring 2011 issue of Seton Hall magazine.

A MOTHER’S PERSPECTIVE

It’s no accident that Nelson Tuazón, M.S.N. ’94, M.A.Ed., M.B.A., R.N., NEA-BC, FACHE, an exceptional alumnus of Seton Hall University College of Nursing, recently relocated to San Antonio, Texas. The state motto is “friendship,” and the College was delighted that its good friend could take some time out of his busy schedule to chat about how his life has changed since accepting the position of associate chief nursing executive for Baptist Health System (BHS).

In what year did you graduate from Seton Hall? What degree(s) did you receive? I graduated in 1994 with my M.S.N. in Health Systems Administration, then went on to earn my M.B.A. and am currently in an online Doctor of Business Administration program. Once I complete that, I plan to pursue my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

It seems like education is really important to you. I consider myself a lifelong student and I am not happy unless I am learning something new.

Describe your journey toward becoming the associate chief nursing executive for BHS. While in the Philippines, I worked in a nursing college and was an assistant dean when I left to “visit” the United States. I was initially going to stay here for a year, but I met my future wife and ended up staying. For 25 years I was in New Jersey, I joined BHS in May 2010. All the jobs in the places I have worked – from Riverview Medical Center, to Solaris, to East Orange General Hospital – led me to where I am now. Becoming a chief nursing officer was always my ultimate goal, and I have worked hard and moved purposefully toward that vision.

How has the College of Nursing shaped the person you are? I believe that my degree from the College prepared me to be a global thinker and exposed me to the business aspects of nursing beyond providing medical care, so when this opportunity arose I was ready for the challenges and rewards.

Your biography reflects a strong interest in community outreach. How has that affected your career? I am a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellow and have been working with a community-based clinic to develop a medical home for patients who have diabetes in the San Antonio area. More than 25 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with diabetes, and there are an estimated 79 million more who are pre-diabetic. San Antonio is home to a large Hispanic population, a group that has been identified as at-risk for diabetes. This project aims to improve their health and decrease the cost of their medical care by identifying and treating symptoms before they become urgent.

How does San Antonio’s healthcare delivery system differ from New Jersey’s? As I mentioned, there is a large Hispanic population here, and managing chronic conditions through diet and preventive care is a vital component of the care we provide. At BHS, we actually have a robust nursing residency program, which serves as a pipeline for many of our departments, including surgery, labor and delivery and critical care. We have 40 nursing residents this year alone. This is a core strength of the BHS; the program really ensures that the students transition well and that our nurses provide great care to our patients.

Did you miss winter on the east coast this past year? Not at all. I love looking at pictures of snow, but have no desire to experience it in real life.

Silly questions: NJ Transit or River Taxis? River taxis, definitely.

Empire State Building or Alamo? Alamo.

Seton Hall Pirates or Univ. Texas San Antonio Roadrunners? Seton Hall Pirates, all the way!
Take Dengue Fever: To prevent it, the Filipinos place black-painted metal cans in dark areas outside, filling them with water to attract mosquitoes. Poking out is a stick on which they lay their eggs, which are wiped off and killed.

“The Philippine healthcare system doesn’t have a lot of money, and people are generally poor. It’s amazing how much they can do with so little,” says Chua. “What they do is supplemental to what we do, and we can learn from them. At the same time, I’ve grown to appreciate our healthcare system more, in terms of our medical advancements, the equipment we use and the technology.”

Says Schart, who accompanied the students, “They gain an understanding of different cultures and value different ways of life when they study abroad. They appreciate how big the world is, and that people live in different climates and face problems that we may not be aware of—yet there are commonalities, too.”

Overall, the College’s study-abroad programs aim to enhance students’ education and their work with patients. “When they experience and learn about the values, beliefs, and practices of another culture, they can better understand and care for people from that culture who live here,” says Sternas. “Or, if they work in another country, they can transfer what they learned from their experience and learn about the values, beliefs, and practices of that culture who live here.”

Sophomore Christopher Weathers realized, “There’s not just one time studying abroad.”

By Claire Sykes

They came all the way from Germany in September 2008 and 2009 to learn about a variety of teaching strategies, including the effective use of high-fidelity patient care simulation. For the semester, four nursing education internships from the University of Applied Sciences, the Katholische Fachhochschule Mainz, observed classes and faculty meetings, and discussed admissions, curricula, and student expectations and outcomes.

Germany’s nursing students focus on one specialty, compared to the States’ liberal arts approach. “They were interested in how we teach, and how students apply theory in clinical practice,” says Gloria Essoka, Ph.D., R.N., distinguished visiting professor at the College of Nursing. “Now we have a relationship with their university, and we expect more students to come to Seton Hall.”

Through Her Mother’s Eyes

By Valerie Blum, mother of Bonnie Sturm, Ed.D., R.N., CoN associate professor

What can I say about my beautiful daughter that you may not already know?

My daughter Bonnie Agnes Sturm has grown and blossomed throughout her life. She always tries to look ahead and to pick the right path from amongst many paths. I like to think that today in her work as a professor, she is helping to shepherd others on their way:

As a high school student, Bonnie worked as a candy stripper at Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, New York. She went to Pace University and completed a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Her first position as a registered nurse was back at Lawrence Hospital, where I worked as a laboratory technologist. After four years of hospital experience, she decided to work as a visiting nurse in Westchester County. She found it rewarding to help people to stay in their own homes and manage whatever illnesses they had to deal with in their lives. She loved to help them to be as independent as they could be and to feel better. She went on to get her master’s degree in psychiatric nursing from Hunter College in New York City and worked in community health and psychiatric nursing, visiting people in their homes for many years.

During this time she also raised a family as a very devoted wife to Paul and mother of Josh, a Ph.D./M.D. student at the University of Pittsburgh, and Naomi, a Ph.D. student of anthropology at Columbia University. She found her love in teaching at Dominican College in Orangeburg, New York, and went on to complete her doctorate in nursing education at Columbia University.

Of course, today you’ll find her very busy at Seton Hall University College of Nursing, where she is teaching and leads the Ph.D. program in nursing.

As her mother, I can really say that I am proud of my little girl who has become such a valued person in this world.

GERMAN EXCHANGE

By Claire Sykes

They came all the way from Germany in September 2008 and 2009 to learn about a variety of teaching strategies, including the effective use of high-fidelity patient care simulation. For the semester, four nursing education internships from the University of Applied Sciences, the Katholische Fachhochschule Mainz, observed classes and faculty meetings, and discussed admissions, curricula, and student expectations and outcomes.

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Through Her Daughter’s Eyes

By Alyssa Gelmann Becker, M.D., daughter of Gloria Gelmann, Ed.D., R.N., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus

The following was delivered by Becker during her mother’s recent retirement banquet.

The word “retire” is not one you usually associate with mothers—especially my mother. After all, there is no age or time limit on the way mothers love and care for their families. So, I think it would be more fair to say that Mom is giving up her day job today. We are here to celebrate. I use the word “celebrate” because you should celebrate work well done, and Mom has always done her work really well. In her professional life, she has received many accolades, Teacher of the Year awards and, oh, a Ph.D. here and there! In her personal life, she has been an incredible role model for me and an incredible mother. No matter how busy or tired she was, she made herself available to whatever family member or friend needed her, whether it was for a problem or to share happy news. Her belief in herself and her belief in me has always been an inspiration to me. I have faced challenges in my life with confidence, saying to myself, “I am my mother’s daughter; she believes in me, and I can do this.” I think my mom has inspired many around her with her positive thinking, her positive energy, her strong values and ethics, and her example of how to work hard and live life to its fullest. She is a remarkable woman in so many ways.

The question now is what Mom will do with her newfound free time. Being who she is, she will likely continue to do all the good deeds she has always done. Other than that, though, the world is hers for the taking.

Mom, you always supported us in whatever we chose to do. I think now it is time to return the compliment. Whether you choose to sit back and knit, or volunteer, or take up water aerobics, we will support and encourage you.

So forget about the word “retirement” and think positively. May your future be filled with whatever makes you happy. Good luck in whatever you do.
ANNUAL AWARD HONORS

LEGACY OF MARGARET C. HALEY, THE SECOND DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

By Debbie Kennard, M.S.N., R.N., CASC

Seton Hall’s College of Nursing has always been on the cutting edge of new programs and growth, delivering hands-on clinical expertise in a research and teaching environment. It was no different in 1952, when Dean Haley initiated a new nursing program that was one of the first of its kind. The new “generic” nursing program would culminate in a baccalaureate degree in nursing for those students just beginning their academic careers. This allowed students to enter a collegiate nursing program immediately after high school instead of working to obtain a degree after already becoming a nurse.

Such a program was groundbreaking and required someone with a grand vision and determination to succeed. Professor Amy York, a faculty member who taught nursing during Dean Haley’s tenure, remembers that initially there was opposition to this new proposal, and many felt it would never work. Yet Dean Haley persevered, hiring a young, energetic faculty that was enthusiastic and eager to be a part of this innovative new program. She interviewed each candidate with great scrutiny, with the intent of hiring only the best. She told the new faculty, “I hired experts, now go to it,” giving her team the same support that she received from the University.

The new program began with a small cohort of only nine students that grew exponentially over the next few years. Dean Haley was determined to make a success of the new venture. Before long, under her leadership, the program became one of the top ten baccalaureate programs in the nation.

According to York, these were exciting times, forging new ground where policies were yet to be written. Seton Hall’s new nursing program presented many opportunities for learning that were never offered before, such as trips to the United Nations to learn firsthand about world health. Another opportunity made available to the students involved the modern maternal health movement toward rooming newborn babies with their mothers instead of in the newborn nursery that was offered.

Took Reda never considered visiting the Philippines until he heard about Seton Hall University’s study-abroad opportunity there in January 2010. Out of curiosity, the Clinical Nurse Leader student went. When a second trip was offered the next year, “I was absolutely going again,” he says. What Reda experienced affects many study-abroad students: their horizons expand.

Seton Hall University has embraced internationalization since it was founded in 1856, beginning with that year’s foreign-born graduates. Aside from the Philippines, the University has sent students to Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom. In August 2007, the Center for International Initiatives at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, D.C., invited Seton Hall’s participation in its internationalization Laboratory, with its ACE-supervised training workshops, campus visits, review processes and assessment procedures.

Alongside the University, the College of Nursing has offered a number of study-abroad programs, today led by Mary Ann Schurt, Ed.D., R.N., associate professor; Kathleen Servais, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor; and Dean Phyllis Hannell, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN. Its international program was launched in 1978, when the Hanghoulou School of Nursing in China welcomed two Seton Hall nursing students. Since then, students have visited such study-abroad sites as Ireland’s St. Angela’s College, Sligo, where they sat in on classes and faculty meetings. So have nursing students from Germany who have visited here, as well as students from Denmark.

The relationship with the College of Nursing, University of the Philippines, UP, began in 2008 with Dean Hannell and A. Gabriel Esteban, Ph.D., president (then provost) of Seton Hall University. On the 2011 Philippines trip, 15 undergraduate nursing students, four CNU graduate students and an R.N.-to-R.N. student joined three faculty members. Three students received a Hector Dickinson and Company Scholarship, covering some costs; the rest paid their own way (nearly $2,500).

For 12 days during winter break, alongside UP nursing students and faculty, Seton Hall students experimented firsthand in-depth teaching abroad, guiding grammar school kids in oral hygiene, hand-washing and good nutrition. The College’s students and faculty also met with mayors and health officers, and attended public health department and UP presentations. They explored community-health nursing in urban and rural settings when they visited a health fair, a hospital and patients at home. UP students also benefited, hearing from College faculty and students about how they teach and learn nursing in the States. Additionally, they enjoyed the company of working with an American university.

Senior Kaiann Chu, who took the 2011 trip, says her visit to Philippine General Hospital underscored the importance of patients’ families. “They’re the primary caregivers, changing bed linens and bathing, and even pumping a manual ventilator to keep someone breathing,” she says. “It reminded me that the family needs to be taken care of, too. And we learn this in school, but it’s easy to forget.”

Reda loves the Philippines’ emphasis on preventative community health. “Four times a year, their healthcare workers visit every household in the barangays (rural villages). In one, outside Manila, Seton Hall nursing students observed how UP nurse training students follow up with new mothers and their babies, as well as patients with elevated blood pressures and those exposed to tuberculosis.

Students also witnessed prevention strategies for the mosquito-transmitted Dengue Fever, and educational programs to ward off malnutrition and ascariis worms. In the study-abroad programs, says Servais, who took both Philippine trips, “they see how people in developing countries address those global health concerns, through health promotion, prevention and treatment, and compare that to how we do things in the United States.”
It wasn’t long before additional groundbreaking changes were on the horizon. As explained by York, the nursing school’s accrediting agency, The National League of Nursing, recommended that the nursing program be moved to Seton Hall’s main campus in South Orange from its off-campus site in Newark. This brought about many challenges as it meant introducing females to an all-male campus. Yet, as we see today, it proved to be a successful merging.

Through all her achievements, Dean Haley was described as a very proper lady. While she was considered by most as quite formidable, she was also well respected. To help keep morale high, the Dean frequently hosted Sunday afternoon teas. She was known to dress exquisitely, with white gloves and a hat, and always brought out the fine china. These occasions provided a relaxing social time for faculty, students and their parents to share ideas and promote the camaraderie that accompanies academic life.

The legacy that was established by Margaret C. Haley was one of “brilliance and elegance” that continues today as her memory is honored. As we remember Dean Haley, we look to those nursing alumni who have made contributions in the nursing profession, and look forward to the announcement of future Margaret C. Haley alumni award recipients.

Photos top row, left to right: Peta Kaye Johnson, CoN Clinical Nurse Leader student, teaches children how to properly brush their teeth; a University of the Philippines nursing student shows CoN students how she teaches proper hand washing to school-age children; Philip Paragas, CoN R.N.-to-B.S.N. student, attends a health fair for school children.

From left to right: Cannara, Christopher, University President A. Gabriel Esteban, Dean Phyllis Hansell and Aquino at the 2011 Haley Awards.

Dean Margaret C. Haley launched New Jersey’s first generic B.S.N. at Seton Hall.
WORDS OF GRATITUDE
By Leticia Villalon-Soler, M.P.A. ‘07

The College of Nursing awards a variety of scholarships each year, thanks to the contributions of its generous donors. One of those financial awards, the prestigious Joseph and Rosemary Todino Scholarship, is presented to students in the College’s Accelerated Second-Degree B.S.N. program. Here is what some of the awardees had to say about the scholarship and what it has meant for their nursing education and career.

JANET LANO ‘10

Lano graduated in 1984 with majors in biology and health and physical education, but she obtained a job in market research and remained in that field for over 20 years. Her employer’s decision to move her job overseas, combined with a family tragedy, gave Lano an opportunity to reassess her life and career goals. “It gave me perspective and taught me that life is too short,” says Lano. “You need to do what you want to do.”

She realized that she wanted to make a difference in the world, so she decided to revisit her first love: health care. When she communicated to people her desire to go back to school and become a nurse, she felt that it was an honor. When asked about any insights she has received from her classmates, she is quick to point out that although her peers in the cohort are all younger, they are all grateful for the Todino Scholarship and its Lakewood campus, usually in December and March.

The accelerated second degree B.S.N. program, located at our satellite campus at Georgian Court University, hosts two open houses a year at its Lakewood campus, usually in December and March. Interested alumni should contact Kristyn Kent-Wuillermin at kristyn.kent@shu.edu or (973) 761-9291.

RACHEL CAROLYN Delp

Delp always knew that she wanted a career in the healthcare field. She started her path by pursuing a degree in biotechnology and a minor in chemistry at Wagner College—but was unsure whether she wanted to be a physician’s assistant or a nurse. A visit to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as a director of her school’s volunteer chapter convinced her to pursue a goal of becoming a pediatric oncology nurse. Unfortunately, at that point it was too late to switch her major.

She began the Accelerated B.S.N. program shortly after graduating from college and chose Seton Hall because of its reputation and the opportunity to complete her degree in 14 months. The location was helpful, too—she could remain close to her family in Monmouth County.

Aside from her uncle, Delp is the first in her family to go to college. “My mom has been very helpful, too—she could remain close to her family and friends.”

At the time of this interview, Lano was preparing to start her new job at Ocean County Medical Center as a geriatric nurse.

Who better to spread the word about our programs than College of Nursing graduates? With that in mind, the College invites nursing alumni to talk with prospective students at open houses about their SHU experience and about their professional lives after SHU.

Monthly open houses are held at the South Orange campus. The accelerated second degree B.S.N. program, located at our satellite campus at Georgian Court University, hosts two open houses a year at its Lakewood campus, usually in December and March. Interested alumni should contact Kristyn Kent-Wuillermin at kristyn.kent@shu.edu or (973) 761-9291.

The College Welcomes New Associate Dean

In Summer 2011, the College of Nursing welcomed Judith T. Caruso, D.N.P., M.B.A., R.N., NEA-BC, CHE, as its new associate dean for administration and business affairs. Caruso brings a wide range of experience to the College, most recently as an accomplished healthcare consultant, having held positions at such institutions as Somerset Medical Center, Jersey City Medical Center and Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. She worked at Overlook for several years, first as a clinical nurse specialist, then as director of maternal child, and finally as vice president for patient services.

Caruso also served as senior associate and partner at CurranCare in Illinois, where she participated on assessment teams at integrated hospital systems to evaluate continuity of care in case management services, discharge planning and home care operations. She holds an M.S.N. and D.N.P. from Rutgers University, as well as an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Alumni Invited, Encouraged to Attend CoN Open Houses

The Master’s Entry-into-Practice program continues to thrive as more students enter the nursing profession with a graduate degree. Our program is one of only 28 in the United States that allows students with a non-nursing bachelor’s degree to earn a Master of Science in Nursing. The program prepares students to be registered nurses working in the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) role, which is an advanced generalist position.

In the last semester of the program, students complete a 500-hour residency, in which they actually practice in the CNL role with the guidance of a preceptor and the faculty liaison. These residencies occur at one of our four current partners: Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC), Monmouth Memorial Hospital (MMH), Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ) and VA New Jersey Health Care System East Orange Campus (East Orange VA). Students identify a challenge or area to improve within the organization based on quality, safety, patient-centered care, cost containment, and teamwork. The students use research and evidence-based practice to craft a plan of action for improvement, implement the plan and measure the results. Students report the outcomes to the senior management of the organization, addressing both the successes and challenges of the project, as well as strategies used to overcome those challenges; a core competency in our CNL program.

CNL student projects have demonstrated use of evidence-based practice, strong analytics and effective change strategies, e.g., reduced the wait time in the East Orange VA by more than 45 minutes through protocol guideline changes that allowed nurses to order x-rays under established guidelines; standardized decubitus care products for an estimated $1 million savings for VNACJ while maintaining quality care metrics; tackled a project for enhanced shift communications between nurses at JCMC; and reduced hospital-acquired urinary tract infections rates utilizing revised protocols at MMH.

These projects demonstrate the use of critical thinking skills by working in teams to implement evidence-based practices for quality patient outcomes. The model of nursing care within the United States continues to evolve, but one thing remains certain: our CNL goals are prepared for the challenge.
Dean’s Advisory Board Welcomes New, Returning Members

Seton Hall College of Nursing Dean Phyllis Hansell welcomed two new members and one returning member to her advisory board in 2010—a CoN administrator, a hospital senior vice president and a CoN alumnus and adjunct professor, respectively.

Kristen Kent-Wuillermin joined the board last year after being appointed director of strategic alliances, marketing and enrollment for the College of Nursing in 2009. She has worked as a business analyst for South Jersey Healthcare and as an outreach specialist for a federally qualified health center (FQHC).

The other new member of the board is Thomas Smith, D.N.P., R.N., chief nursing officer and senior vice president at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Smith received his D.N.P. from Case Western University. He also has served as chief nursing officer and senior vice president at Cambridge Health Alliance in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and senior vice president for nursing at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Additionally, he taught undergraduate adult medical-surgical nursing and health assessment at the University of Massachusetts/Boston.

Jean Marshall, M.S.N., R.N., FAAN, who served as assistant commissioner of health for the N.J. Department of Health from 1994 to 1997, returns to the board. She received her M.S.N. from Seton Hall University in 1989. Marshall was vice president of government and community relations for Meridian Health System from 1997 to 2002. She continues to serve as a CoN adjunct. Marshall also was a member of the initial CoN Advisory Board, which was appointed in 2000.

Dean Hansell established the board to serve as a panel of experts who could assist her and function as an organized “think tank” to guide the college in meeting its educational goals. Several members have been with the board since its inception, including Richard Hader, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Robert Hess, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Ruben Fernandez, M.S.N., R.N.; and Mary Ann Christopher, M.S.N., R.N., FAAN.

SHU NURSING SUPERSTARS AND SUPPORTERS

Gloria Essoka, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP
Seton Hall University,
College of Nursing
2010 Nurse Recognition Award Winner
New Jersey League for Nursing
Jean DaVitt, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP
Seton Hall University,
College of Nursing
2010 NJNSA Board of Directors Volunteer Award
New Jersey State Nurses Association
North Central Baptist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, Associate Chief Nursing Executive
M.S.N. from Seton Hall University; College of Nursing, 1994
2010 Nurse.com Nursing Spectrum Nurse Excellence Awards - NY/NJ Regional Finalist in the Category of Advancing and Leading the Profession
Barbara Ravida, RNC, M.S.N., ANP-BC
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York City, Team Leader of the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit at the Petrie Division, M.S.N. from Seton Hall University, College of Nursing, 2009
2010 Nurse of Distinction Hospital Setting
1199 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)/League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes
Patricia Sablowski, Ph.D., R.N., ONP-BC, FGSA, FAAN
Boston College, School of Nursing, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, M.S.N. from Seton Hall University; College of Nursing, 1978
2010 Fellow
American Academy of Nursing
2011 Mayday Pain and Society Fellow
From Generation to Generation: Nursing alumna Joan Marshall, M.S.N., R.N., FAAN (left), presents a ceremonial nursing pin to her granddaughter Latisha as she graduates from the College in May 2011.

LAILA REED ‘10

An English major aspiring to a career in public relations or publishing, Reed soon learned that she did not enjoy her career as much as she had expected. Thereafter, she became a jack-of-all-trades, working as a make-up artist, among other things. When a coworker left to start nursing school, she began to consider health care as a career option.

Reed’s diligent research on B.S.N. programs introduced her to the Accelerated B.S.N. program. The scholarship possibilities made returning to school less daunting. After starting, she was notified that she had received the Todino Scholarship.

It was this extra confidence that prompted Reed to approach a woman with a hospital badge while waiting in line at a coffee house. “She said to me, ‘When you graduate, give me a call.’ And I did,” Reed recalls. Her boldness paid off; her new acquaintance would later become her supervisor in her new job at the Neuro-Intensive Unit at the Jersey Shore Medical Center.

GRACE LOUIS CORLISS ‘08

A native of the Philippines, Corliss came to the U.S. in 2004 with a bachelor’s in psychology and worked as a medical assistant until she realized she had a passion for nursing. In 2007, she enrolled in Seton Hall’s Accelerated B.S.N. program. She is the first in her family to attend an American university.

At first she tried to work while she studied, but the intense clinical hours made it difficult. When she received the Todino Scholarship, she could hardly believe it; the scholarship afforded her the opportunity to focus on her studies.

Three years after completing the program, Corliss is now working at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point. She believes the scholarship not only helped her financially, but it also highlighted to her employers that she was a stellar candidate.

In addition to a busy work life, Corliss has made it a priority to help out her family and “pay it forward.” She has inspired her cousin in the Philippines to also become a nurse, and Corliss has offered to help with the tuition expenses. She is also working to help her mother, who suffers from a chronic illness, and brother, who has special needs, receive better care.

She often looks back at the help she received while she was a student. She believes that all the positive things that are occurring in her life right now would not have been possible without the scholarship. “It helped me get ahead in my career. I have a good job, my life is stable and I have a way to help my family,” says Corliss.

CALLING COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI . . .

The Career Center and College of Nursing are looking for nursing alumni to be career mentors for current students and fellow alumni. As a Pirate Mentor, you will serve as an industry expert and role model on career-related issues. Mentoring and serving as a career coach can be rewarding experiences and can keep you connected to the University, students and fellow alumni in a vital way.

To get started, just e-mail The Career Center at careers@shu.edu, and we’ll send you simple instructions.
Faculty Achievements and Publications

College of Nursing faculty members continue to showcase their dedication to and expertise in the healthcare industry through a variety of achievements and publications. The following are just a few notable examples of what they have accomplished:

**DEGREES EARNED**
- Blauner, R. Earned Ed.D. from the College of Education and Human Services at Seton Hall University. Dissertation Title: "Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Student Perceptions of Success."
- Carolina, D. Earned Ph.D. in Nursing from Rutgers – The State University. Dissertation Title: "Correlates of Job-Related Burnout in Nurse Managers Working in Hospitals."
- Ciraldo, F. (administrator). Earned master's degree in education – college student personnel administration from Seton Hall University.
- Fortier, M. Earned Ed.D. from the College of Education and Human Services at Seton Hall University. Dissertation Title: "Predicators of success on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses Among Transfer B.S.N. Students."
- Millman, F. Earned Ph.D. from the School of Health and Medical Sciences at Seton Hall University. Dissertation Title: "Factors Associated with Nurses' Practice Intentions to Educate Women Patients about Heart Disease Risk and Prevention."
- Seide, R. Earned Ed.D. from Teachers' College at Columbia University. Dissertation Title: "Do Personality Traits Predict Compliance with Type 2 Diabetes Regimens?"

**GRANTS AWARDED**
- Antonio, G. Received a $3500 educational scholarship from the Forum at Baccalaureate Advance Practice, NJNA. honored at the NJNA Professional Education Day on March 24, 2010 in Atlantic City.
- Garnier, M. Received a grant award from the Society of Pediatric Nurses to study “Hispanic Mothers’ Experiences with Assessing and Using Health Care Services for Children with Special Needs,” was also recently invited by Nursing Clinics of North America to develop a manuscript on “Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice in the Care of Individuals with Cognitive and Developmental Disabilities in the Classroom.”
- Hansel, P. Received a $1.7 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Nursing Initiative (NJNI) to support activities of students and faculty in the Ph.D. program.
- Simo, T. Received a $4000 University Research Council grant for summer research.
- Sin, T. Received a $6000 University Research Council grant for summer research.

**HONORS, PROMOTION OR TENURE RECEIVED**
- Blauner, R.; Fortier, M.; and Togni, F. Certified as item writers for the National CNL Certification Examination by the Commission on Nursing Certification (CNC).
- Blauner, R. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the College of Nursing.
- Carolina, D. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Community and Health Systems in the College of Nursing.
- DeVito, J. and Sturm, B. Promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.
- Foley, M. and Sirota, T. Associated with Nurses' Practice Intentions to Educate Women Patients about Heart Disease Risk and Prevention."
- Foley, M. Received a 2009 Seton Hall University Faculty Researcher of the Year award.
- Fortier, M. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Community and Health Systems in the College of Nursing.
- Hart, S. Received the 2010 Lester Z. Lieberman Humanism in Healthcare Award in July 2010 from The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey; achieved the recognition of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) through the CNHC/AACN in August 2010.
- Harkins, M. Passed the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner exam, April 2011.
- Petersen, B. Elected to the board of directors of the New Jersey Physicians' Advisory Board.
- Sirota, T. Received the Albert Hakim Faculty Service Medal at the Faculty Convocation on September 16, 2011.
- Seide, R. Received a $4000 University Research Council grant for summer research.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED**
- Blauner, R. and Sirota, T. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the College of Nursing.
- Carolina, D. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Community and Health Systems in the College of Nursing.
- De Vito, J., and Sturm, B. Promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.
- Foley, M. and Sirota, T. Associated with Nurses' Practice Intentions to Educate Women Patients about Heart Disease Risk and Prevention."
- Foley, M. Received a 2009 Seton Hall University Faculty Researcher of the Year award.
- Fortier, M. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Community and Health Systems in the College of Nursing.
- Hart, S. Received the 2010 Lester Z. Lieberman Humanism in Healthcare Award in July 2010 from The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey; achieved the recognition of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) through the CNHC/AACN in August 2010.
- Harkins, M. Passed the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner exam, April 2011.
- Petersen, B. Elected to the board of directors of the New Jersey Physicians' Advisory Board.
- Sirota, T. Received the Albert Hakim Faculty Service Medal at the Faculty Convocation on September 16, 2011.
- Seide, R. Received a $4000 University Research Council grant for summer research.

**HONORS, PROMOTION OR TENURE RECEIVED**
- Blauner, R.; Fortier, M.; and Togni, F. Certified as item writers for the National CNL Certification Examination by the Commission on Nursing Certification (CNC).
- Blauner, R. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the College of Nursing.
- Carolina, D. Promoted to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Community and Health Systems in the College of Nursing.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**
- Hansel, P. Received a $1.7 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Nursing Initiative (NJNI) to support activities of students and faculty in the Ph.D. program.
- Sirota, T. Received a $6000 University Research Council grant for summer research.
- Johnson, F. Passed the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner exam, April 2011.
- Sturm, B. Inducted into the Nursing Education Alumni Hall of Fame, Columbia University, at the annual Isabel Maltland Stewart Conference, April 29, 2011.
- Sturm, B. Appointed to the role of director of the Ph.D. Program in November 2010.

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS


New Jersey’s First Nursing College, Seton Hall University’s College of Nursing offers a variety of tracks for both a M.S.N. and a D.N.P. – the professional terminal degree for advanced practice nurses. They include Health Systems Administration as well as Pediatric, Adult and Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. Upon graduation, these students join our impressive alumni network, which includes virtually every hospital in New Jersey, numerous facilities throughout the United States and international partnerships throughout the world – giving them a competitive edge in the workplace.

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