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New Faces, New Initiatives, and New Perspectives
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In Honor of;
Josephine A. Dolan, MS, RN, PdD, DNSc
Professor Emerita (1913-2004)

UNISON is published each year for the alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the School of Nursing at the University of Connecticut. Its purpose is to inform alumni, friends, prospective faculty and students of the School’s programs, activities and accomplishments. If you have any questions about this publication, or the School of Nursing, you can contact us by phone at (860) 486-3716 or by fax at (860) 486-0001. You can also find additional information on our website at: www.nursing.uconn.edu.
The School’s contributions to the profession of nursing are strengthened through the University’s commitment to improve health for citizens of Connecticut, the nation, and the world, especially in this time of nursing faculty and nursing practice shortage. Our School’s programs are dynamic and respond to changing health care needs. “We believe that nursing is a caring and healing art and science concerned with therapeutic action (praxis) and understanding people and health as experienced by individuals, families, and communities” (www.nursing.uconn/Mission.html).

Supporting our Mission and Philosophy are the School’s foci on human services, undergraduate enrichment, and innovations in science and technology. The School offers responsive curricula that contribute to the goals of nursing’s social policy with programs of interdisciplinary health care and research. Faculty are advancing the discipline of nursing through high impact research that directly benefits the public and puts evidence into practice across clinical areas. The School’s undergraduate enrichment plan incorporates application of nursing research curricula, a community-based curriculum, and a focus on students’ quality of life. Active practice-based research and projects include interdisciplinary initiatives in aging, public health, and psychiatry. A team of visual communication designers, computer scientists, pharmacists, advanced nurse practitioners, and physicians is developing an online system for collecting and reporting patient medication behaviors. The innovations in science and technology advanced by our faculty improve the well-being of clients across settings, and our shared interdisciplinary efforts strengthen the quality of health care.

When our alumni and friends are active supporters participating in our mission, all are involved in enhancing the future of nursing and the School. At the close of Campaign UConn, (summer ’04) we had raised well over two-and-a-half million dollars for programs. Through your continued support, we are able to continue to provide our students with the best educational opportunities and environment for learning. We are indisputably a primary player in health care in the State. Please feel free to contact us at any time if we can be of assistance to you.

Six principles direct the School’s philosophy:

- Professionalism in behavior, presentation, and conduct
- Respect for others, richness, and diversity, and self
- Accountability for actions
- Excellence in practice, research, teaching and service
- Integrity and inquisitiveness
- Service to students, the profession and community
Advancing the Science of Nursing in our Communities

Nursing tops the list of occupations with the largest job growth in our State (Connecticut Department of Labor). By 2010, an additional 6,180 nurses will be needed for new positions and to fill retirement vacancies. Advancing the science of nursing in our communities and helping to ease the State’s nursing shortage, our School has been involved in several well-recognized initiatives.

In September, 2004, the School of Nursing finalized approval from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education to deliver the master’s core curriculum to the greater Waterbury area, following through on an initial request from Waterbury Hospital. Three public higher education institutions (Naugatuck Valley Community College, Western Connecticut State University, and the University of Connecticut) signed the new Nursing Pathways Collaborative. This landmark agreement streamlines access for Naugatuck Valley Community College graduates to Western Connecticut State University (for their bachelor’s degrees), and then to UConn for their master’s
Despite the rigorous program per week for an entire calendar year. Room time and 16-21 clinical hours (summer & fall) incorporating class-
graphic. The Master's Entry Into Nursing (MbEIN) program continues its suc-
ceses, with graduates achieving licensure and performing admirably in the
workplace. MbEIN students complete 15 credits per semester (spring, summer & fall) incorporating classroom time and 16-21 clinical hours per week for an entire calendar year. Despite the rigorous program requirements, 150 applied for the 2005 MbEIN class to which 32 students were admitted; and 10 students are already enrolled for 2006.

Exciting master’s program changes are also underway. We are among the 150 schools nationwide involved in development of a curriculum for Clinical Nurse Leaders (CNL) and are actively involved in collection of student data to identify the ‘personal characteristics’ these students will bring to the CNL role. In spring, 2004, faculty approved a generalist master’s program that will allow students to complete a 24-credit degree to prepare them conceptually in advanced practice nursing theory. They may continue in clinical specialty areas by completing a post-master’s certificate in any of the master’s tracks offered by the School.

Additionally, faculty are involved in reactivation of the psychiatric/mental health track. Our current tracks in the master’s program continue to be strong and include the following areas of study: Adult Primary Care, Acute Care, Community Health Nursing, Patient Care Services, Systems Administration, and Neonatal.

Thanks to the leadership of clinical faculty member Rosanna Colangelo, MSN, RN, Clinical Instructor, the School participated in development of a summer clinical internship in partnership with Eastern Connecticut Health Network that won a national award from Sodexho. The partnership generated a paper published in Nursing Management, and has increased student enrollment from five to eight students per year in its two years of operation. Students who have successfully completed their junior year apply for this 10-week, 32-hour-a-week, paid program where they’ll work with an assigned RN preceptor.

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Of final note, faculty growth and research development is being supported through new initiatives. The Toner Fund ($225,000 donation), has been established to support pre-award research activities of faculty and doctoral students. This fund, initiated from a bequest, will be self-supporting as faculty move beyond intramural funding to secure extramural grants. This year, we will focus on advancing the research mission of the School, sustaining and extending our faculty members’ diverse and innovative programs of research. The School’s well-established doctoral program and commitment to nursing research throughout the curricula provide an exceptional environment to facilitate ongoing faculty and student success, with research development, grant submission and management, and scholarly productivity on the rise.
Dr. Jacobs is a researcher on the project called *Optimizing Care of Persons Seriously Ill and/or Dying*. The study is underway at Georgetown University, where it is partially funded by a grant from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. As an active member of the American Trauma Society, Jacobs is collaborating with Hartford Hospital’s Trauma Program to conduct research related to a Best Practice Model for integrating palliative/end-of-life care for trauma patients. Jacobs is editor of the Trauma Nursing Core Course, a textbook used by the Emergency Nurses Association in many countries. She has various chapters in well known textbooks, and over 40 published manuscripts in journals.

**Our New Faculty**

*Barbara Bennett Jacobs ‘02*
PhD, MPH, RN, Associate Professor

Dr. Barbara Bennett Jacobs earned her baccalaureate degree in nursing from Georgetown University, a master’s degree in public health from Yale University, a master’s degree in family nursing from St. Joseph College, and a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing from UConn. In 2004, she completed a two-year fellowship in bioethics at the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University Medical Center where she is currently an affiliate faculty member. Her professional experience includes clinical emergency nursing, emergency medical services, public health planning, implementation of nursing educational programs for the State of Massachusetts, and planning and implementation of advanced life support services for the City of Boston. Jacobs, as Boston City Hospital’s Paramedic Training Coordinator, educated the first paramedics for Boston’s EMS system and was recently awarded a recognition award for that service at Boston EM’S 25th anniversary. Jacobs designed the curriculum and coordinated the first and second Flight Nurse Educational Programs as part of Hartford Hospital’s LIFE STAR helicopter program. Jacobs formerly served as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT.

*Mary Ann Cordeau ‘04*
PhD, RN, Undergraduate Clinical Coordinator, Instructor & Assistant Curator, Josephine A. Dolan Collection

Dr. Mary Ann Cordeau has a master of science degree in nursing education from Southern Connecticut State University and her bachelor and associate of science degrees in nursing, both from Quinnipiac University. She received a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing from UConn in 2004. Previously, Cordeau practiced ‘nurse-caring’ (the unique caring provided by nurses) at John Dempsey Hospital and Warren F. Kaynor Technical School, and taught nurse-caring at Warren F. Kaynor Technical School and Quinnipiac University. As Clinical Coordinator at UConn, Cordeau is actively developing new partnerships with our community partners and clinical sites. Having recently completed her first semester in this challenging role Cordeau remarks, “I enjoy interacting with the students and watching them successfully progress through their clinical experiences.”

Dr. Cordeau was awarded the School of Nursing 2003 Josephine A. Dolan Distinguished Service Award for her voluntary efforts as Assistant Curator of the Josephine A. Dolan Collection. Her dedication, and her involvement in maintenance and preservation of the collection, have burgeoned since she first became interested in nursing history as a doctoral student. Along with her major advisor, Dr. Eleanor Herrmann, Curator of the Josephine A. Dolan Collection, Cordeau discussed and photographed each artifact in the collection so the images could be used to teach nursing history via an electronic and/or interactive format. Cordeau continues to collect and preserve the artifacts as well as design exhibits that highlight theoretical, technical, cultural, and social aspects of nursing history. She is a member of the American Association for the History of Nursing. Currently, Cordeau is presenting her research to various groups and organizations interested in the history of American Nursing. She has been awarded numerous honors for her dissertation, *Acts of Caring: A History of the Lived Experience of Nurse-Caring by Northern Women During the American Civil War.*
Antonia (Toni) Nelson '03  
PhD, RNC, Assistant Professor

Dr. Toni Nelson received a bachelor's in nursing science from Boston College in 1983, a master's in nursing science from Western Connecticut in 1999, and a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing from UConn in 2003. Her professional clinical background is primarily in the neonatal intensive care unit and maternity specialty areas. Dr. Nelson's dissertation research at UConn was a phenomenological-hermeneutic investigation of the experiences of older, first-time mothers. Prior to coming to UConn, Dr. Nelson was an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Saint Joseph's College in West Hartford, CT.

Dr. Nelson's research interests include mothering, qualitative meta-synthesis, and situation-specific theory development. Recently, she began a new program of breastfeeding research. Current projects include continued development of a situation-specific theory of breastfeeding, a meta-synthesis on breastfeeding, and a phenomenological study of professional breastfeeding support. Her long-term goals include development of an intervention program to increase breastfeeding exclusivity and duration among low-income and minority women.

Yu (Philip) Xu  
PhD, RN CTN, Associate Professor
Community Health Nursing Track, Coordinator

Born and raised in China, Dr. Philip Xu has a diverse academic career. He taught at two Chinese universities for six years before coming to the United States for his doctoral education at SUNY-Buffalo in 1991. He ventured into nursing at an associate degree program level, two weeks after he defended his dissertation in 1995. While working as a staff nurse at a local hospital in Mobile, AL, Xu finished his master's degree in nursing science in community health (1999). Xu taught at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing from 1999 to 2004 and has been a Certified Transcultural Nurses (CTN) since 2000.

Dr. Xu's current research program focuses on internationally educated nurses (IENs) working in the United States. His long-term goals are to design interventional programs to facilitate successful adaptation and integration of IENs into the challenging U.S. healthcare environment, and to develop theory and instruments to explain and measure behaviors regarding the adaptation and integration. Dr. Xu provides service to the profession by acting on editorial boards as a journal peer reviewer, reviewing federal nursing program grants, and consulting nationally and internationally. He has made dozens of professional presentations at local, regional, national, and international levels. Xu has been awarded five research grants and published multiple scholarly articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals since 1999. Most recently, Xu guest edited a special issue on Cultural Diversity for the Journal Home Health Care Management & Practice.

Deborah Shelton  
PhD, RN, BC, Associate Professor

Dr. Deborah Shelton earned her bachelor's in nursing science from the University of Bridgeport, her master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington in Seattle, her doctorate in nursing from the University of Virginia, and completed post-doctoral work at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, M D. Throughout her career, Shelton has been a strong advocate for the health and well-being of children, youth, and their families, especially those incarcerated or at risk for early involvement with the juvenile justice system. Through her clinical practice, research, and involvement with various task forces addressing this vulnerable population, she has drawn attention to the contemporary failures inherent in child mental health policy which has led to an increasing number of children and youth who are at the interface of the criminal justice, mental health, and child welfare systems.

Prior to coming to UConn, Dr. Shelton was an Associate Professor in Child-Adolescent Behavioral Health at Catholic University of America School of Nursing, Washington, DC. She has also been a faculty member at Howard University, and the University of Maryland. She is currently in the last year of a three-year grant focusing on a prevention strategy for minority youth. The grant, entitled Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development, was funded by Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health for $786,000.

With over 20 years of clinical experience, Shelton has conducted over 14 research studies, published 30 articles, and presented at 40 national and international conferences. A recipient of numerous awards, such as, Nurse of the Year, Washington, D.C. 2003, she recently received a lifetime achievement award from the International Association of Forensic Nurses. Shelton has been described as a “forensic nurse trailblazer.”
Advancing the science of postpartum depression mood disorders, Dr. Cheryl Beck is involved in four research projects: two qualitative and two quantitative studies. Beck is conducting a phenomenological study over the Internet with mothers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder due to childbirth. This study is examining women's experiences regarding the anniversary of their birth trauma. What is it like for mothers as their child's birthday approaches, a reminder of the day of their traumatic birth? With this study, Beck is investigating the long-term debilitating grip that birth trauma sometimes has on mothers. The research for her second qualitative study, also a phenomenological study, is taking place in one of the poorest settlements in Capetown, South Africa. This study is uncovering the experience of postnatal depression for South African women. Based on the findings of this qualitative study, Beck will use mothers' words describing postnatal depression to develop an instrument to screen for postnatal depression in this part of the world.

Beck’s quantitative work focuses on testing the reliability of the Postpartum Depression Screening Scale when it is administered over the telephone. Her second quantitative study has recently been funded by the Donaghue Medical Research Foundation for the next three years. Carol Lammi-Keefe, PhD, a professor in Nutritional Sciences at UConn, is the principal investigator and Beck is the co-investigator. This is a multidisciplinary study investigating increased consumption of DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), a fat found in cold-water marine fish, in the diet of pregnant women and their resultant incidence of postpartum depression and severity of depressive symptoms. If it can be demonstrated that increasing DHA consumption can decrease the incidence of postpartum depression and severity of symptoms, women can be counseled for the inclusion of DHA foods in their diet. The study will provide the foundation for public policy recommendations regarding diet for women of childbearing age, especially pregnant and postpartum women. Given the potential dangerous effects of some medications used for depressive disorders, study findings may also provide for a possible alternative treatment or augmentation to traditional medical treatments for women with depression during pregnancy and the postpartum period.
Tobacco-Free Huskies, a pilot project and collaborative effort conducted during the spring of 2004, initiated a wonderful expanding partnership between the UConn School of Nursing and Eastern Point Elementary School. Sherry Bassi, EdD, APRN, BC, Nursing Assistant Professor, received a $4,000 grant through the MATCH coalition (Mobilizing Against Tobacco for Children) to work on the Tobacco-Free Huskies Project with the Eastern Point School. Eastern Point School serves approximately 450 students in Pre-K through Grade Five in Groton, CT. Students attending Eastern Point represent an underserved population with the majority residing in public housing and over 55% eligible for free/reduced price meals. The State average for eligibility is 28.8% (2002-03, Strategic School Profile). As part of a service learning opportunity for Nursing 270: Public Health Nursing, students in their junior year of study helped to develop and implement a tobacco-free health education project for all students at Eastern Point School.

First-year nursing students from the regional Avery Point campus in Groton were also actively involved in some program aspects. A total of 18 UConn students and 435 elementary children participated. Incorporating the Center for Disease Control's Guidelines for School Health Programs to prevent tobacco use, the nursing students provided age-appropriate materials to teach participating children. In fourth and fifth grade classrooms, UConn students used materials such as the Tar Wars Curriculum, but for the younger grades puppetry and storytelling were introduced to communicate tobacco-free messages. All participants received an "I am a Tobacco-Free Husky" tee shirt and all elementary students completed a poster describing what they had learned. The State average for eligibility is 28.8% (2002-03, Strategic School Profile). As part of a service learning opportunity for Nursing 270: Public Health Nursing, students in their junior year of study helped to develop and implement a tobacco-free health education project for all students at Eastern Point School.

Parents were able to view their childrens' posters displayed throughout the school. Older children and their parents viewed a gripping anti-tobacco video produced by the MATCH coalition, entitled Beyond the Smoke Screen. Afterwards, all participants retired to the gym for an awards ceremony. Awards were presented for the posters of one student from each class. Judging was completed by UConn students, and a grand announcement named the selected poster that would represent Eastern Point School at the national Tar Wars poster contest. UConn students offered various display tables that parents visited to collect additional material about smoking. Ten parents also signed up for a smoking cessation program offered by the Ledge Light Health District. The evening concluded with all students and their families dancing to the music of a DJ.

Currently, this collaboration has expanded its focus to include health education regarding the epidemic of childhood obesity.
Private support from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations provides the School of Nursing vital funds to advance its academic, research and service programs.

The School seeks to secure financial support in three crucial areas:

First, to endow chairs and professorships to attract and retain outstanding faculty, critical for any outstanding school. Endowed chairs are key to excellence, as they provide flexibility for innovative faculty research initiatives and attract internationally eminent scholars – academic leaders who can, in turn, attract other top researchers, teachers, and graduate students to the school.

Second, to increase scholarship and fellowship support for undergraduate, certificate, master’s, and doctoral students through endowed and restricted scholarships.

Strong academic programs, aided by strong scholarship and fellowship support, are fundamental attributes of a top national public research university. High-achieving students typically receive scholarship offers from multiple sources outside the state. To recruit and retain them, the School must be able to compete academically and financially, or risk losing students to out-of-state schools, ultimately draining future leaders away from Connecticut’s workforce.

Finally, the School seeks to enhance support for existing programs – including lectures, research seminars, and visiting scholars – as well as new programs.

Enriched programs offered outside the classroom and laboratory are providing students with numerous educational opportunities that create an environment in which creativity and discovery lead to new levels of achievement.

For additional information on giving opportunities at the School of Nursing, please contact Brian J. Lachapelle, Director of Development, at (860) 486-6945 or via email at blachapelle@foundation.uconn.edu.
The School of Nursing gratefully acknowledges those individuals and organizations who have made leading gifts to Campaign UConn designated to the School of Nursing.

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From left to right: Richard Hollfelder Jr., Ellen Hollfelder Roback, Beth Hollfelder, Maureen Hollfelder, Surhee Luciano student recipient of the Richard J. Hollfelder Memorial Scholarship, and Kim Hollfelder.

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Dora V. Garabedian '79
Donna E. Gardner '82
Bette J. Gebran '77, '93
Danielle L. Gennusa '92
Kevin A. '83 and Jennifer R. '85 Gerety
The Charles Lewis Beach Society honors the many individuals that support the University through will, trust, retirement plan and life insurance gifts. The Society also honors donors who make gifts that will enhance their or a loved one’s financial position, and ultimately support the School of Nursing’s initiatives.

A teacher and researcher in dairy production, Charles Lewis Beach was asked to husband the resources of the Connecticut Agricultural College in 1908. In 1933, President Beach established a fund through his will to honor the memory of his wife, Louise Crombie Beach, and to provide enduring support to the University. Please join Elizabeth ’74, ’80 and Stephen Beaudin, and the 700 members of the Charles Lewis Beach Society University-wide whose gifts ensure the future of the School.

To advise the School of Nursing about your gift, or to request confidential information about will, trust, retirement, life insurance, or income-enhancing plans, please contact Peter McAvoy, JD at (800) 269-9965, or pmcavoy@foundation.uconn.edu.

As a doctoral student, I am working on my third degree from the School of Nursing. The School provided me with a foundation for a rewarding and successful career. When my husband Steve and I sat down to prepare our wills, we decided to do our part to help the School carry on the tradition of preparing nurses into the future. We are glad to give back in support of the generations of students that come.

Stephen and Elizabeth ’74, ’80 Beaudin

Members, Charles Lewis Beach Society

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We have prepared the 2004 Honor Roll of Donors with great care. If, however, we have omitted, misprinted or listed your name incorrectly, please notify Brian J. Lachapelle of the UConn Foundation at (860) 486-6945. In some cases, the School may not yet have been notified of matching gifts. These contributions will be recognized in future publications.

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<th>UConn SON degree(s) and date(s) conferred</th>
<th>Address</th>
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*Deceased*

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**What's New with You?**

[Image of the University of Connecticut logo]

Please use the enclosed envelope and mail to: University of Connecticut, School of Nursing, Attn: Kathe Gable, 231 Glenbrook Road Unit 2026, Storrs, CT 06269-2026.

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**University of Connecticut**
Alumni President's Message

Greetings Alums,

Our Alumni Board continues to be active in the School of Nursing. We represent graduates from the classes of 1956 to 2004. While we share a wealth of knowledge and varying nursing experiences, we are brought together by our love of UConn and what it has given us through our BS, MS and/or PhD degrees, or our Master’s Entry Certificates.

The Board has been focusing on bringing in younger members by inviting nursing leaders from each undergraduate class to participate on the Board of Directors. Over the last few years we have been fortunate enough to recruit some wonderful young alumni to our board: Amy Brunquell ’04, Rommy Vreeland ‘02, and Jocelyn Brown Libros ‘00. Also, Lisa Rizoli Book ‘03 has attended meetings and is serving as a class agent.

In a new endeavor, the Board of Directors enthusiastically supported the establishment of the School of Nursing Alumni Fund for Emergency Student Aid. To date, over $1,000 has been distributed to seriously financially strapped students. Students received either BOOK ONLY UConn Coop gift cards for much needed textbooks, and/or financial support for enrollment in courses.

I hope you will check us out at the next Distinguished Scholars Day on April 14th, 2005. If you are interested in obtaining CEU’s at this event, the ten dollar processing fee is waived for current members of the UConn Alumni Association, School of Nursing Alumni & Friends Society. Dues are a mere $40.00 per year (with other options available—joint, life, senior, etc.). We will be holding a Board meeting following this event and welcome Alumni to stay and join us. We are always looking for ways to serve our alumni and hope you will get involved!

I am excited to announce that Geri Pearson ’02 PhD, RN, CS, who currently serves as Vice President, will be our next President.

Respectfully yours,

Lisa-Marie W. Griffiths ’91 MS, MA, APRN
President, School of Nursing Alumni & Friends Society
Lisa-Marie.Griffiths@UConn.edu

NOTECARDS

The Carolyn Ladd Widmer building, built in 1919, was the University of Connecticut’s first infirmary. It contained an open ward for patients, several private rooms, office space and a large solarium with a fireplace. The School of Nursing first occupied the Widmer Building, also known as “the cottage,” in 1950 when the present day infirmary was constructed. Conversion of the building’s open ward into a classroom, and the private rooms into offices, made the space suitable for academic purposes. For the Nursing School, this relieved a decade of being in confined quarters in the Home Economics building. From the mid-1950s until the 1968-69 academic year, the building was shared with the School of Physical Therapy. The significant structural deterioration and potential exorbitant costs to relocate the building prompted a decision to demolish “the cottage” in December 1996.

These are the first in a series of notecards printed by the School of Nursing Alumni and Friends Society. Profits from the sales of notecards will support Alumni Society sponsored activities and the School of Nursing.
Alumni News

From left to right: Standing - Liz Adomat DeLuca, Pat Matheson Bender, Gayle Pernicka Gabrielli, Kathe Gable (Nursing Alumni Staff), Peggy Szcesny, Dean Laura Cox Dzurec ’74, Sally Marien MacDonald, Dianne “Dee” Vandegriff Rontondi, Mary Lou Carlson Bradley, Jane Simpson Piper. Seated- Nancy Rogers Verzier, Ginny Ives-Bishop, Karen Johnsen Lesmerises, Elizabeth “Betty” Jennings Antanaitis, Patricia Rhodes Daniel.

Enthusiastic Alumni Reconnect at Reunions

Tremendously grateful for reunion class gifts directed to support the Center for Nursing Research (CNR) Technology Fund, the School of Nursing rejoices with an enhanced CNR lab.

Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc.

UConn’s Mu chapter celebrated a 50th Anniversary on March 16th, 2005 at the Rocky Hill Marriott. The celebration reception was from 6-7pm, followed by dinner and presentations. Mu’s first induction, recorded as initiations for many years to follow, was on March 19th, 1955. Our first Dean, Carolyn Ladd Widmer, and Agnes Ohlson were Associate members. Josephine Dolan transferred her membership to Mu as a charter member. Rosemary Dimgaggio Courtney and Pauline Fahey, both charter members from 1955, assisted with planning and presenting. Past Presidents of the Mu chapter were honored, along with all the past officers who attended. The chapter is in need of active volunteers. If you can help out, please contact Joanne Blum at (860) 267-2981 or JoBlum2@aol.com.

Sigma Theta Tau, Mu Chapter Induction Committee pictured at ceremony on November 14, 2004: From left to right: Elizabeth Anderson PhD, APRN; Alison Carlson ’04 MS, BA, RNC; Lisa-Marie W. Griffiths ’91 MS, MA, APRN; Dianna Norris ’94, ’96, APRN, MS, CS; and Olga Selikhov ’02, ’04 MS, RN

UConn School of Nursing Class of ’54 – 50th Reunion, June 4, 2004.
From left to right: Standing - Alice Sutton Eschholz, Serena Shuebruk Beretta, Elizabeth “Betsy” Smith Wood, Joann Matheson Griswold, Phyllis Walford Brooket, Joanne Gross Walsh. Seated- Patricia VanWormer Karpe, Carol Hayes-Christiansen, Margaret “Peg” Watson Olson, Shirley Post Smigiel, Joan Perkins Kern, Rosemary Sasseen Shea, Patricia Clawson Fieckner.
Alumni News

The Carolyn Ladd Widmer Outstanding Alumni Award for Leadership in Nursing

**Dr. Dori Taylor Sullivan**

Dr. Dori Taylor Sullivan graduated from UConn with a bachelor of science in nursing, a master of science in nursing administration, and a doctor of philosophy in educational psychology. She has received numerous honors, most recently as a participant in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing/Fuld Foundation Leadership Fellow Program (2003-2004).

Dr. Sullivan started her career in critical care nursing and evolved into clinical instructor and clinical nurse specialist roles. From 1981 through 1988, Dr. Sullivan served in a variety of positions at the School of Nursing in Storrs, assuming the role of Director of Nursing Education and Research for the UConn Health Center's (UCHC) John Dempsey Hospital in 1985 as a joint appointment. Dr. Sullivan held a variety of positions at UCHC until 1998, including Assistant Vice Chancellor for Quality, Performance Improvement and Organizational Development. Since 1981, Dr. Sullivan has maintained a private consulting practice in management and education focusing on the role of nursing and leadership within a changing health care environment.

Dr. Sullivan became Senior Principal and Chief Research Officer for the management consulting firm of E. C. Murphy LLC/VHA in 1988 and, as part of her role, worked collaboratively with the VHA Chief Nursing Office on national nursing leadership issues including a jointly authored research study on the impact of organizational redesign.

She assumed the role of Chair/Associate Professor of Nursing at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut, in August 2000, and in 2003, became Director of Interdisciplinary Studies for the College Education and Health Professions. Dr. Sullivan is currently on the boards of the Connecticut Healthcare and Education Facilities Authority, the Nursing Career Center of Connecticut, and serves as the chair of the Connecticut League for Nursing Council of Deans and Directors of Nursing Education.

The Eleanor K. Gill Outstanding Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence in Nursing

**Dr. Rhea Sanford**

Dr. Rhea Sanford has worked in health care for over 30 years. After completing a bachelor's degree with a major in psychology at the University of Connecticut, Dr. Sanford worked in a multi-modality psychiatric service as a mental health worker for ten years. Her education in nursing was achieved through a graduate entry program into nursing at Yale University School of Nursing. During this program, Dr. Sanford changed her clinical focus from behavioral health to medical-surgical nursing care. On graduation in 1986, she entered a position as Clinical Nurse Specialist for medical-surgical nursing at John Dempsey Hospital, University of Connecticut Health Center. This role was an excellent professional match for Dr. Sanford. She remained in that role for 14 years. In 2000, she accepted a position at John Dempsey as Director of areas that have expanded to include a number of services: case management, staff and patient education, performance improvement, and patient safety.

In 2000, Dr. Sanford completed her doctorate in nursing at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing. Her dissertation was a qualitative study of participants' experience of education and teaching during an inpatient stay at a Planetree model hospital.

Dr. Sanford is well known in the state as an educator, sharing data from her doctoral dissertation in patient education while working with a task force at the Connecticut Hospital Association to develop mechanisms to teach aspects of research findings. She received the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing in 2004. Dr. Sanford teaches her patients in a calm, unhurried manner, listening to their questions and providing responses that meet their needs and prepare them for caring for themselves. She holds faculty appointments at UConn and Yale Schools of Nursing and collaborates with home care nursing organizations.
The Beverly Koerner Outstanding Alumnae Award for Education in Nursing

Dr. Barbara Shaw Witt

Dr. Barbara Shaw Witt graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing in 1963 with a bachelor’s degree and again in 1977 with a master’s degree. Her first teaching position was at Southern Connecticut State College where she discovered her love of nursing education. After completing her MSN, she was on the faculty at St. Joseph College and also served as Executive Director of the Connecticut League for Nursing. She completed her doctorate at Columbia University where she focused on nursing education administration. From 1986-1998 she was at the University of Hartford, serving as chair of the Division of Nursing for 11 years. During her tenure, she initiated the graduate nursing program, building four different tracks including one in nursing education. While in Connecticut, Dr. Witt was active in many professional organizations including the Connecticut League of Nursing, the Connecticut Nurses Association, and Sigma Theta Tau.

In 1998, Dr. Witt moved to Montgomery, Alabama to become the dean of Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) School of Nursing. Shortly after she arrived in Alabama, she was given the responsibility of consolidating the administration of the Schools of Nursing at AUM and Auburn University. She has achieved a common undergraduate curriculum allowing sharing of instruction across campuses and is in the process of developing a joint graduate program, building a cohort of tenured faculty, and seeking means of building capacity in the undergraduate programs. Dr. Witt enjoys the challenge of leading two separate schools located 50 miles apart on campuses with very different climates. Currently she is deeply involved in raising funds to support scholarships and faculty research. She says of her work, “I find everyday brings something new; I am constantly stimulated by the students and faculty to build and improve the schools.”

The Marlene Kramer Outstanding Alumnae Award for Research in Nursing

Dr. Linda Chafetz

Dr. Linda Chafetz completed her bachelor of science in nursing at the University of Connecticut in 1967. In her first position after graduation, she worked as a Public Health Nurse for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. This experience, which coincided with the first large wave of deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and with development of community-based mental health systems, motivated her to pursue graduate education in psychiatric-mental health nursing at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she received her master of science and doctoral degrees.

Dr. Chafetz has practiced in community, in-patient, and emergency psychiatry settings. She taught psychiatric and public health nursing for five years, at the Geneva School of Nursing, Switzerland, before returning to California.

She is currently a professor in the Department of Community Health Systems at UCSF where she developed one of the first integrated programs in psychiatric and primary care, to meet the needs of high-risk patients. Her research focuses on individuals with severe and persistent mental disorders, and on their families, with an emphasis on environmental determinants of well being, including informal supports, family care giving, community resources, and psychiatric treatments. She has conducted research on homelessness and mental illness, on frequently-admitted patients in inpatient services, on outcomes of intensive case management, and the mentally ill with co-occurring substance use disorders. Her most recent work examines the high medical co-morbidity characterizing mentally ill groups and the needs for innovative service models that address their needs. She is currently principal investigator of a randomized clinical trial of “Wellness Training.” With over $1 million in funding, she is testing the benefit of adding an active health promotion component to existing basic primary care services for severely mentally ill adults in San Francisco.

The School of Nursing 2004 Josephine A. Dolan Distinguished Service Awardee was Dr. Mary Ann Cordeau, see page 4 for more information.
School of Nursing – Upcoming Events

2005

Tuesday, April 26
Information Session
Avery Point UConn Campus
Academic Bldg Room 301
Time: 6:15pm

Saturday, May 7
Graduate Reception and Commencement
Time: Reception 12:00pm, Program 12:45pm
Location: Centennial Alumni House
Doors open at Gampe! Pavilion at 1:30 for 2:30pm Ceremony

Sunday, May 8
Undergraduate Convocation/Pinning Ceremony
Time: 12 noon/ Immediately following Commencement Exercises
Location: Rome Hall

Monday, May 9
Spring Luncheon for Faculty (Current/Emeriti/Retired) and Staff
Time: 12:45pm
Location: Nathan Hale Inn

Monday, June 1
MbEIN Program Information Session
Time: 6:30pm For prospective students
Location: Storrs, Bishop Center

Friday, June 17
10th Annual Sheila Packard Memorial Golf Tournament
For more information contact Carol.polifroni@uconn.edu

Monday, August 29
MbEIN Midway to Becoming a Nurse Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Party - The Dairy Bar comes to Storrs Hall
Sponsored by Hartford Hospital
Time: 11:30am - 12:15pm
Location: Storrs Hall

Welcome Back to campus all student - Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Party
Time: 12:30pm - 1:30pm
Location: Storrs Hall

Tuesday, August 30
Clinical Recognition Ceremony for Juniors
Sponsored by SBLI & the Alumni & Friends Society

Friday, September 23
End of Life Decision Making in Intensive Care Units
Continuing education conference sponsored by UConn School of Nursing & College of Continuing Studies
Time: 8:30am– 4:30pm
Location: Gillman Auditorium, Hartford Hospital

Saturday, October 1
Scholarship Recognition Brunch
Location: Centennial Alumni House – Great Hall
Time: 9:30am-11:30am

Friday, October 14
Advisory Board Meeting
Time: 3:30-5:30pm
Location: UConn Foundation Board Room

9th Annual Alumni Banquet
Location: Centennial Alumni House – Great Hall
Time: Social Hour 6:00-7:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm, Program to follow

Tuesday, December 13
MbEIN Program Pinning Ceremony
Time: Reception 5:30pm, Ceremony 7:00pm
Location: Rome Hall

Sunday, December 18
Commencement
Location: Jorgensen Auditorium

2006

Thursday, April 13
Distinguished Scholars Day
Student Research Presentations, Networking Luncheon and Poster Session, & Keynote by Distinguished Scholar
Location: Rome Hall, South Campus, Storrs

Friday, June 2 – Saturday, June 3
Reunion Weekend 2006
(25th, 50th, 60th & Classic Classes)
Campus wide activities
Friday: School of Nursing Gathering 2:00pm

For additional information about School of Nursing events, please contact
Kathe Gable by phone at (860) 486-0613, or by email at Kathe.Gable@uconn.edu.
Barbara Resnick ’78, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, Associate Professor, Department of Organizational, Systems/Adult Health, University of Maryland, Baltimore, is pictured receiving the School of Nursing Distinguished Scholar Award on April 22, 2004 from Dean Laura Dzurec.

Performing Light the Fire Within at the MbEIN Pinning Ceremony on December 10, 2004, Michelle Moody ’04 MbEIN is pictured with members of the Children’s Chorus (From left to right: Endonesia Octave, Mikayla Cody, Michelle Moody, Jenna Allen, & Josie Bailon. Members of the youth chorus not pictured: Cheyenne Paul, Emma Gifford, & Pamela Pena).

Pictured at CLN Student Day, December 2, 2004, UConn Nursing Student attendees from left to right, in back row: Matthew LaPorta, Stephanie Hirsch, Kelly Melaven, Lee Piepul, Naomi Yates in front row: Melissa Allegra, Linda Chea (Peer Recognition Awardee), and Sreyouch Im.

Preparing for Commencement procession, Carolina Villamizar, left, and Evelyn Ni, both 2004 graduates, pose for photo.

Good luck on your finals! Student refreshment table provided by the faculty, staff and alumni of the School of Nursing.
Josephine A. Dolan, professor emeritus of nursing, died December 4 at age 91.

Dolan, of Westborough, Mass., joined the UConn faculty in 1944. She was the first instructor in the School of Nursing, where she taught for more than 35 years.

Dolan was a nurse historian who built a national reputation through the quality of her contributions to nursing education and scholarship. She was the author of the history text about nursing in society.

Laura Dzurec, dean of the School of Nursing, was one of Dolan's students.

"Being in the presence of Josephine Dolan always inspired me," Dzurec says. "The effect she had on us as students was powerful and kind. Each year when our reunion classes return to campus, they give testimony about how Jo deeply changed their lives."

Dzurec added, "She integrated many of us over the years into nursing, helping us to learn why we had chosen this challenging path. We are deeply saddened by Jo's passing, knowing still that she died as she lived, with quiet dignity and choice. I will miss her, as will all of us who knew her well."

Eleanor Herrmann, a professor emerita of nursing, says Dolan "inspired many to attain greater achievements in academia and in the nursing profession."

Her impact will continue to be felt through her donation of her extensive collection of nursing history documents to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, and her unparalleled collection of nursing history artifacts to the Josephine A. Dolan Room in the School of Nursing, Herrmann says.

Dolan received her initial education in nursing from St. John's Hospital, Lowell, Mass., receiving a diploma in 1935. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Boston University in 1942, and her master's from there in 1950.

Throughout her career, Dolan was an outspoken advocate for promoting, preserving, and teaching nursing history. She was an active member of the University community and served on many University committees.

The University established the Museum of Nursing History in her name, using her collection of nursing artifacts, books, and documents. In 2003, a former student began work to establish a nursing school in Katmandu, Nepal, naming it the Josephine A. Dolan School of Nursing.

Dolan was a member of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing (1951-56); the Connecticut League for Nursing, serving on its board of directors (1964-67, 1977-79) and as its president (1967-69); the Connecticut Nurses Association, serving on its board of directors (1960-62); the National League for Nursing, serving on the board of directors (1969-72); and Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society of nursing, serving as national chair of the nominating committee (1977-80) and president of the Mu Chapter at UConn (1962-65).

Dolan was survived by her brother, Thomas Dolan, and his wife, Claire. A sister, Mary, died in 1983.

Josephine A. Dolan, MS, RN, PhD, DNSc
Professor Emerita (years-2004)
“School of Nursing Publications Reach Far and Wide – Improving Well Being for All People – Beginning in Connecticut”

Lynn Allchin


Elizabeth Anderson


Sherry Bassi
Bassi, S. (3/30/04-6/21/04). Tobacco-Free Huskies, Mobilizing Against Tobacco for Children’s Health (MATH) Coalition, $4,995

Cheryl Beck


Rosanna Colangelo

Mary Ann Cordeau
Cordeau, M.A. (2004). Connecticut League for Nursing Student Paper Contest, Graduate Division, United States health policy to smoking and its relevance to nursing practice and nursing leadership.


Lauri Dzurec


Regina Cusson


Cusson, R. M. (2004). Sabbatical research project examining advanced practice neonatal nursing roles in Great Britain. UConn Research Foundation Large Faculty Award, $4,509.


Carol A. Daisy
Arthur Engler


Kathryn Stewart Hegedus


Barbara Bennett Jacobs


Bennett Jacobs, B. (2004, May). Ethics Grand Rounds: Rebel surrogate decision making. Presented at New Milford Hospital, New Milford, CT.


Bennett Jacobs, B. (2004, May). Care of patients with burns. Presented at Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC), Hartford Hospital, CT.


Amy Kenefick


Cynthia Kociszewski

Chanyeong Kwak

Kwak, C. (2004). Racial differences in use of long term care received by the elderly. UConn Research Foundation Small Faculty Award, $1,000.

Deborah McDonald


John McNulty


Patricia Neafsey


Antonia Nelson


E. Carol Polifroni
Juliette Shellman


Yu (Philip) Xu
## Faculty and Staff '04 -'05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jill Espelin</td>
<td>MSN, RN, Assistant Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur J. Engler</td>
<td>DNSc, RNC, CRNP, Dean &amp; Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Dundon</td>
<td>CPNP, Clinical Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Davis</td>
<td>RN, MSN, CEN, Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Carol A. Daisy</td>
<td>RN, Assistant Professor &amp; RN-MS Program Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Cordeau</td>
<td>PhD, RN, Clinical Coordinator, Instructor &amp; Assistant Curator, Josephine A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regina Gusson</td>
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<td>Rosanna Colangelo</td>
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<td>Mary Lou Schechter</td>
<td>MSN, RN, Clinical Faculty</td>
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<td>Mary Lewis</td>
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<td>Annette Konicki</td>
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<td>Chanyeong Kwak</td>
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<td>Mary Lewis</td>
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<td>Paula McAuley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Cooper-McDermott</td>
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<td>Deborah McDonald</td>
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<td>John McNulty</td>
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<td>Jeanine Muldoon</td>
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<td>Carolyn Mull</td>
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<td>Antonia Nelson</td>
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<td>Kelley Newlin</td>
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<td>Bernadette O'Halloran</td>
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<td>Bozena Patakyula</td>
<td>MSN, RN, Clinical Faculty</td>
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<td>Jeanette Plodzek</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Carol Polifroni</td>
<td>EdD, RN, CNAA, BC, Associate Professor, Master's Program, MBIN Program &amp; Patient Care Services &amp; Systems Administration Track Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audrey Reinsmith</td>
<td>RN, MSN, Clinical Faculty</td>
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<td>Kathryn Roby</td>
<td>'73, RN, MA, MBA, Instructor</td>
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<td>Chris Rooney</td>
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<td>Joanne Roy</td>
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<td>Eileen Sharpe</td>
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<td>Lori Testa</td>
<td>RN, MSN, Clinical Faculty</td>
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<td>Jeannette Plodzek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Vildozola</td>
<td>MS, RN, Clinical Faculty</td>
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<td>Tracy Weber</td>
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<td>Linda Worden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yu (Philip) Xu</td>
<td>PhD, RN, CTN, Associate Professor &amp; Community Health Nursing Master's Track Coordinator</td>
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## Professional Staff

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Cartledge</td>
<td>MA, Assistant to the Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Deely Emery</td>
<td>Director of Communications and Integrated Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathe Gable</td>
<td>MS, Director of Community and Public Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Garrison</td>
<td>Academic Advising Center, Office Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Guerra</td>
<td>BS, Faculty Support, Administrative Service Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Min Lin</td>
<td>Director of Business and Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Lachapelle</td>
<td>MBA, Director of Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa M. Santor</td>
<td>Academic Advising Center, Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Mooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyndsay Nalbandian</td>
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## Credits

### Reviewers
- Laura Dzurec, Kim Deely Emery, Kathe Gable, Brian Lachapelle, Arthur Sorrentino

### Photography
- Liz Anderson, Kim Deely Emery, Kathe Gable, University Communications

### Graphic Design
- Carla Willey

### Printer
- Racine Company

### Contributors

### Special Thanks
- Laura Koulet, Matthew LaPorta, Jen Topkin
The Paul L. Jones Fund has made a $300,000 commitment to fund scholarships for students enrolled in the Master's Entry into Nursing (MbEIN) program.

In announcing the gift, Jeffrey Otis, vice president and trustee of The Paul L. Jones Fund, noted, “We recognize the significant contributions that UConn's School of Nursing has made to the nursing profession in the state and region. The Master's Entry into Nursing program will surely continue this tradition and we are very pleased to provide financial support to ensure its success.”

The MbEIN program was established in 2000 to help address a looming crisis in the availability of trained nurses over the next decade. Its purpose is to increase the number of bedside nurses in advanced practice positions, nursing education and research.

Scholarships from The Paul L. Jones Fund will allow the School to accommodate more students and increase the pool of nurses available to fill vacancies in Connecticut and the region. It is expected that these students will continue to have an impact on the quality of nursing and patient care in Connecticut as they go on to complete graduate level degrees.

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According to Dean Laura Dzurec, the MbEIN program is making significant contributions in addressing the nursing shortage in Connecticut. “There is incredible enthusiasm among the students and the health care providers for this program. The students bring a maturity and certainty about what they want to do as they practice nursing. We're very grateful to the Paul L. Jones Fund for their support of this important initiative,” she said.

Twenty-four students began the MbEIN program in January 2003 and 32 students were admitted for January 2004. Of these, more than half demonstrated significant financial need and, given the accelerated nature of the program, there is little to no time for students to work during the academic year. Dr. Carol Polifroni, the program's coordinator, states that pending resource availability, the school plans to increase annual enrollment to 40 students in 2006.

“We thank the Paul L. Jones Fund for their contributions to enable these students to make nursing their first priority without needing to balance other work responsibilities,” Polifroni said. “The scholarships facilitate our ability to meet a student demand and subsequently address the nursing shortage.”
Senior nursing students, Matthew LaPorta (left) and Amara Luong (right), are pictured using the School’s Universal Patient Simulator, “SimMan™,” during a realistic patient-care scenario. Peter Tedone, President of Savings Bank and Life Insurance (SBLI) Company of Connecticut, says “providing opportunities for training on equipment like SimMan™ is one reason that SBLI is supporting the UConn School of Nursing. We are helping to educate the workforce of tomorrow, the young men and women who may be attending to you or your family members in the next few years.” In addition to the Clinical Recognition ceremony, SBLI has provided support for equipment for SimMan™ and has made a donation to the School of Nursing’s Emergency Aid Fund.