2013

Reflections (2013 Issue)

College of Health Professions

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Service Learning In Guatemala
Message from the Dean

We also recognized an alumnus and community partners for their service during homecoming and other events.

The doctor of nursing practice received accreditation and graduated its first class in May. This was followed by the establishment of the new school of nursing in June thereby enhancing its national stature.

We continued to implement new programs in response to health care trends and workforce needs while focusing our attention on interprofessional education and global service and study experiences. To support this expansion, we will welcome twelve new faculty members to the college for fall 2013.

Our clinical activities were highlighted this year as we transitioned to sole ownership of the Physical Therapists Specialists clinic at the Wm. H. Pitt Center and the opening of the Life and Sport Analysis clinic in the Oakview building. Our facilities at Cambridge increased with the addition of a new faculty office suite and new labs for simulation, ambulatory care, and speech-language pathology.

In addition to acknowledging the contributions of our all our talented faculty and staff this year, I again congratulate two members of our faculty who celebrated 15 years of dedicated service.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our magazine as it chronicles another year in our journey to excellence.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Walker, Dean

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Reflections

In This Issue

2012-2013 highlights

SHU-Well Living Learning Community: An Exciting First Year 03

advocacy

Service Learning in Guatemala and Jamaica 06

faculty focus

Faculty Awards Celebration 23

Departments

Athletic Training 08
Exercise Science 10
Healthcare Informatics 13
Health Sciences 14
Nursing 16
Occupational Therapy 19
Physical Therapy 20
Speech Language Pathology 22
Life and Sport Analysis Clinic Launched

The Life and Sport Analysis Clinic (LSAC) is a unique partnership between Sacred Heart University professionals in athletic training, biomechanics, physiology, and strength and conditioning. The clinic was started in response to a need within Sacred Heart and the local community for providing an in-depth analysis of everyday activities (e.g. walking) and dynamic sporting movements.

The LSAC was officially launched earlier in the spring semester and is running at capacity with a dedicated, full-time staff which include faculty from the Exercise Science, Athletic Training, and Physical Therapy Departments. Additionally, undergraduate and graduate students have employment opportunities at the clinic, including clinical rotational hours.

Dean’s Service Awards

Each year Dr. Patricia Walker, Dean of the College of Health Professions presents an award to an individual who has a sustained record of service to the college and who has in one year of outstanding service, in the current year, assisted the College in fulfilling its mission. This year Dr. Walker presented the awards on April 3, 2013, during “The Dean’s Hour” a casual event designed to encourage faculty and staff of the college to join the Dean and their colleagues for a light snack and some conversation.

Pictured left: Christina Gunther, nursing department technology administrator/Guatemala missions coordinator was presented with the Dean’s Service Award for the outstanding job she has done in the development and continued coordination of the service learning trips to Guatemala.

Pictured right: Michele Peloso, administrative assistant; alumni & community relations coordinator was presented with the Dean’s Service Award for the outstanding job she has done serving the needs of faculty and staff within the College for the past 17 years.

Dr. Patricia Walker Honored

Dr. Patricia Walker, dean of Sacred Heart University’s College of Health Professions, was honored recently by the Greater Bridgeport section of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). She received the organization’s Distinguished Educator Award at the 10th Annual Bethune Recognition Luncheon on Saturday, September 29, 2012.

Dr. Walker was honored for her work as founding dean of Sacred Heart’s College of Education and Health Professions and her continued work. The college had seen significant growth under Dr. Walker’s leadership, so much so that the Isabelle Farrington College of Education was created and Dr. Walker maintained her position as dean of the now College of Health Professions. The faculty, staff and students contribute to the university’s mission through their commitment to service to the Bridgeport area and beyond.

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Alumni Leadership Awards

In recognition of the 2006-2007 10th Anniversary year, the College of Health Professions established two Awards to be awarded annually. The Alumni Leadership Award was created to give recognition to alumni of a department within the college who has shown one or more of the following: service to the University, distinction within a profession, or contribution to the fulfillment of the mission of the college.

The Community Partner Award, which will be awarded to Mr. John Maloney and Winding Trails, Farmington, Connecticut on October 4, 2013, was created to recognize an individual or corporation that has demonstrated exceptional collaboration to further the educational goals and mission of the college.

The College of Health Professions faculty and alumni submitted nominations for the Alumni Leadership Award. This year, September 2013, the following individual was presented with the award:

Mr. Keith A. Hovan '84, '93 MSN

Keith A. Hovan is President and Chief Executive Officer of Southcoast Health System, Inc. and Southcoast Hospitals Group, Inc., a subsidiary of Southcoast Health System. The hospitals group is comprised of Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, MA, St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford, MA and Tobey Hospital in Wareham, MA.

Keith was appointed President and CEO of Southcoast Hospitals Group, Inc. in July 2008 and in July 2011 as President and CEO of Southcoast Health System, Inc. Previously, Keith served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Danbury Health Systems since December 2001. Prior to Danbury Health Systems, Keith was employed at Montefiore Medical Center of New York, where he served as Vice President of Clinical Services for Henry and Lucy Moses and Einstein-Weiler Hospitals. Other assignments at Montefiore included serving as Associate Hospital Director and Administrator for Surgical and Emergency Services. Previously, he served as Director of Nursing for Surgical and Emergency Services, Nurse Manager of Emergency Services, Outpatient Orthopedics Manager, and staff nurse at Bridgeport Hospital. He holds a Master of Science degree in Nursing from Sacred Heart University (graduating with an Award for Academic Excellence), and is a member of several professional associations.

Keith has been awarded numerous honors over his career, including the Margaret Cinchack Award for Excellence in Clinical Nursing, Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, and the 1990 Emergency Nurses Association Nurse Manager of the Year Award.
The Living Learning Community (LLC) concept, LLCs give students a unique residential learning experience that connects classroom learning with residence life. The SHU-WELL LLC aims to provide students with opportunities for personal growth through examining issues related to physical, mental, spiritual and environmental wellbeing. In the first year of SHU-WELL, we had 16 committed students, 14 females and 2 males. The majority of our students are preparing to enter careers within the health professions. However, our experiences were enriched with the perspective of one student with an Education-Social Work double major.

It has been an exciting year including a variety of Health and Wellness lectures, discussions, and applied activities. These experiences were made possible thanks to contributions from SHU professors and staff as well as health professionals in the local community. Assistant Professor, Dr. Kerry Milner and I also owe a huge thank you to the 16 SHU-WELL students who are enthusiastic, eager to learn, and willing to fully engage themselves in each activity.

The table below gives you a sense of the variety of activities from this year. We had two culminating events this spring that were particularly exciting; students were given the choice to complete one of two large projects. For the first, SHU-WELL students were asked to work with students from the other LLCs (Business, Community Connections, and Honors) to write a proposal for a campaign to raise funds for a local non-profit agency. The winning proposal was a Zumbathon to raise $5,000.00 for CT Challenge© (www.ctchallenge.org), a non-profit agency that empowers cancer survivors to live happier, healthier, longer lives. The sophomores LLC students will work with the incoming freshmen LLC members to implement this fundraiser in October, 2013. The majority of our LLC students chose to participate in the second option which was to plan and implement a health education program in a classroom at Discovery Magnet School in Bridgeport, CT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension of Health</th>
<th>SHU-WELL Example Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Meatless Monday Dinners, Food Choices lecture with Dr. Beau Greer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>Sleeping Giant Hike, Calculating Global Footprint with Dr. Barbara Pierce, Fall Hike at Lake Mohegan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>Zumbathon, Exercise Band Workout with Peter Ronai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Health</td>
<td>Discussion with Father Anthony Ciorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress Management</td>
<td>Meditation with Dr. Van Buren, Stress Workshop with Karen Flanagan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Health</td>
<td>Balancing Work and Wellness with Dr. Jody Bortone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The lessons were based on topics chosen by Discovery Magnet School teachers and staff and included personal hygiene and balanced nutrition. The students did a fantastic job and have been asked to return next year for more health promotion programming.

The LLC will expand for the 2013-2014 academic year allowing this year’s freshmen to continue their experience in a sophomore SHU-WELL LLC.

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*Left to Right: Brian Mecca, Jon Goldfarb, Suzanna Ciebielski, Gabriella Didiano, Olivia Marshall, Karina Merino, Stephanie Lendroth, Holly Maggio, Nicole Miksinski, Stephanie Dossopoulos, Marcella Ferraro, Autumn Walsh*
Founders Day

Founder's Day represents the anniversary of the signing of the charter that established Sacred Heart University in 1963 and traditionally, faculty and staff are honored for the milestone number of years that they have worked at SHU. This year’s celebration kicked off the University’s 50th anniversary.

Four members of the College of Health Professions were each honored for fifteen years of service at the Founders Day celebration held on April 10, 2013.

Gary P. Austin

Dr. Austin is an associate professor, director of the orthopaedic physical therapy residency program and director of the certificate program in advanced orthopaedic physical therapy. His teaching work in the program revolves around the areas of musculoskeletal examination and intervention, manual therapy and evidence-based orthopaedic physical therapy practice. He has more than 25 years of experience as a physical therapist and is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists and The Gray Institute.

Susan M. DeNisco

Dr. DeNisco is the interim chair of the School of Nursing and the executive director of the College of Health Professions Center for Community Health and Wellness. She is responsible for the didactic and clinical instruction of graduate nursing students in the doctor of nursing and family nurse practitioner programs and oversees five graduate nursing programs. In 2010 and 2011, she earned national certification as a nurse educator and clinical nurse leader so she could fully understand the complexities of the roles her graduate students were undertaking. Additionally, since joining the University, she has participated in five service learning trips to El Salvador, Guatemala and Jamaica. She holds a doctorate of nursing practice from Case Western Reserve University.

He is board certified in orthopaedic physical therapy and practices at the University’s Physical Therapy Specialists Center. He received his doctorate from the University of Connecticut.
Sheila Thomas Watts

Dr. Watts earned her master’s degree and doctorate from Sacred Heart University and now serves as a clinical physical therapist and a member of the clinician faculty in the Department of Geriatric Health and Wellness. She is a past recipient of the University’s Alumni Leadership Award and the Outstanding Clinical Excellence in Geriatric Physical Therapy award. She also works as director of the Geriatric Residency Program at the Jewish Home for the Elderly. In addition to her SHU degrees, she holds a master’s degree in business administration in health care from the University of New Haven.

Victor G. Vaughan

Dr. Vaughan serves as clinical manager for the Sacred Heart Physical Therapy Specialists Center and as an instructor for the Department of Physical Therapy. He is responsible for the management and direction for the two physical therapy clinics on the University campus. He oversees clinical care for patients referred to the clinic and the provision of clinical services to Silver Hill Hospital’s Chronic Pain and Recovery Center. He is active in the leadership of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association involved primarily in political advocacy and legislative activities for the association. He earned his Doctor of Physical Therapy from Sacred Heart University.
Service Learning In Guatemala

When the Nursing program began the service learning program in Guatemala in March 2010, one never could have imagined the impact their work would have. The first clinic was held in the municipal building gymnasium of Pastores, Sacatapequez, in the Greater Panchoy Valley of Guatemala. Tarps were used to fashion walls for exam rooms and simple card tables for exam tables. During the latest visit in March, 2013, the team toured the new clinic that is being built for the town which will be completed by September of this year. There will be ten exam rooms, a pharmacy, a compounding room, and waiting and reception areas. The SHU group received a police escort to the building and a tour from the mayor. It has come a long way since that first trip in March 2010, now involving the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy programs as well.

In Santa Maria de Jesus, SHU’s work was lauded by the Pastor and Director of Iglesia de Aposento Alto. The clinics ran by SHU faculty and students have served hundreds of people there. There are repeat patients and the seriously ill are followed by the next service learning team who arrives. The teams treat the homeless in Antigua and provide home visits in Ciudad Vieja. On the first home visit during our first trip, there were five patients. At the last home visit, we had 50 patients. They know us now and trust us.

Lives have been changed, including those of all SHU faculty and students who have taken part in a service learning trip. More than 5,300 patients have been treated in the Greater Panchoy Valley; and over 170 nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy students, residents and faculty have been exposed on our ten service learning trips which they all affirm to be “life changing”. These teams have affected true social change in the three towns supported through their caring, innovation and support.

The Nursing Program had a team of four faculty members and 17 students participate in a service learning activity in Guatemala, January 19 – 26, 2013. Faculty members participating were: Dr. Michelle Cole, instructor, Rebecca Smart, clinical assistant professor, Dr. Julie Stewart, assistant professor, and Eileen Yost, clinical assistant professor. They were accompanied by undergraduate, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students and one RN-BSN student. The group worked together to complete comprehensive community assessments and develop a framework for future DNP’s to contribute to improving population health within the communities served in Guatemala.

Clinics were offered in several locations. The DNP students provided educational seminars for patients on several topics including: general hygiene information, women’s health & reproduction, nutrition, and diabetes screening and education. DNP student Kristiane Proto, FNP completed diabetes screenings in three villages. Carol Gallo, RN, MSN, also a DNP student, performed growth measurements on infants and children for a project involving stunting of growth in Guatemala, as well as using her experience as a lactation consultant to educate on breastfeeding.

The Physical Therapy Program had a team of 15 that participated in a service learning activity in Guatemala, March 2 – 9th. Dr. Gary Austin, associate professor was the lead faculty. Alicia Spiro, clinical instructor and professor emerita, Michelle Lusardi, also attended. They were accompanied by two Physical Therapy residents and 10 Doctor of Physical Therapy students. The team volunteered at Hope Haven, a wheelchair clinic where they helped build and fit wheelchairs, they provided pain clinics with shoe fittings in Santa Maria de Jesus, San Antonio Aguas Calientes and Pastores. The students organized and ran a shoe drive during the months prior to their departure, they were able to collect, transport and fit 600 pairs of shoes. They also treated the homeless on two nights, many of whom suffered from burns on their feet, and provided wound care.
Service Learning In Jamaica

Service Learning activities in Jamaica took place in October and March during the 2012/2013 academic year.

Students and faculty from the Nursing Program joined students and three faculty members from Molloy College, Long Island as well as four doctors, a Physician’s Assistant and two RN’s from PRN Relief International on October 6 – 13, 2012. The team provided free health care in five urban and rural communities in Kingston and its vicinity. They saw between 100-140 patients’ daily, treated minor surgical problems, primary care complaints, pediatrics, and gynecological problems and administered free prescription medications. They also started a medical record for each community in order to keep medical records on the people they have seen and might see again on future trips.

The Sacred Heart University Nursing group included two faculty members, Shery Watson, clinical assistant professor and Heather Ferrillo, clinical assistant professor, pediatric adjunct & Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) alumna, Keilihia Reid, ’12, two FNP students, and 12 undergraduate students.

A team of 2 faculty members and 6 students joined Dr. Robert Barnett, a physician from Yuma, AZ in Kingston, Jamaica, March 11 – 15, 2013. Faculty members participating were: Shery Watson, Clinical Assistant Professor and Dr. Susan DeNisco, Associate Professor, they were accompanied by 5 second year Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students, a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) student who is also a midwife in Bridgeport, and two Joel Barlow High School students. The team concentrated on women’s health, seeing 150 people in 3 days and fulfilling the needs of the communities in Kingston, Jamaica.

Through the service learning activities, the students obtained the same clinical experience they would in the U.S., albeit on a more intensive, time-restricted level. They administered medications, did the required note-taking of each patient visit and partook in the surgical rotation. They also educated the patients about medications and how to properly take them.

As she contemplates the successes, Watson said, “The trips serve the learning and it serves our mission here at Sacred Heart University of educating our students. They received the nursing education as well as the cultural education. We served our mission, our University mission of providing service to humankind, the greater society good.”

Left to Right: Back Row: Joel Barlow High School students, Jordan Williams and Allie Grimes, Dr. Robert Barnett, Dr. Susan DeNisco, DNP student: Wilhelmina Jackson, FNP student: Laura McPhee
L to R Front Row: FNP students: Brianna Greco & Carla Mapelli, Professor, Shery Watson, FNP students: Samantha Ward, Ann Marie Ritchie
Students Participate In Academic Festival

Athletic Training students participated in the first annual Academic Festival which was held in the William H. Pitt Center on May 1, 2013.

Nicole Elby was awarded with a Single Author, Excellent Achievement Award for her poster entitled “Proximal Adductor Longus Avulsion in a 21-year old Division 1 Football Player”

Elizabeth Degnon presented a poster entitled “Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease Type 1A with a History of Guillain-Barre Syndrome in a 21-year-old Male”

David Haverly presented a poster entitled “Compartment Syndrome of the Flexor Pronator Mass in a 20-year Old Division III Female Gymnast – A Case Study”

Rachel Kilburn presented a poster entitled “A Case of Babesiosis in a 19-year Old Female Division 1 Lacrosse Player”

William Perkins was awarded with a Single Author, Excellent Achievement Award for her poster entitled “Peroneal Nerve Entrapment in a 20-year-old male Division 1 Collegiate Sprinter”

Christina Ruiz presented a poster entitled “A 22-year Old Male Division 1 Soccer Player With Femoroacetabular Impingement and a Contour Bulge Causing an Acetabulum Fracture and a Labral Tear”

Faith Westdyk presented a poster entitled “Partial Hamstring Autograft Tear in the Ipsilateral Knee of a 21-year old Female Field Hockey Player After a Previous Anterior Cruciate Ligament Recon”

Student Athletic Training Organization Works to Keep Connecticut Warm.

The Student Athletic Training Organization collected 112 coats for “Button Up Connecticut” in December 2012. “Button Up Connecticut” has a mission to collect new and gently used coats and distribute them to those in need. In the past 16 years, over 125,000 coats have been distributed to Connecticut men, women, and children.

Pictured Left (L to R) Student Athletic Training Organization President, Faith Westdyk and Vice President, Wil Perkins.
Junior athletic training students, Miguel Dias, Anna Acciarino, LaurenMae Petrillo, Jessica Cerrato and Nina Scarpetti participated in a “practicing management of spine injuries” class at the University of Bridgeport’s Wheeler Recreation Center under the direction of Daniel Smith, Head Athletic Trainer.

Athletic Training Students Practice Management Of Spinal Injuries

Athletic Training Students Hit The Hill

Junior Athletic Training Students volunteered their time in March during National Athletic Training Month in order to assist the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association (CATA) in their yearly lobby day at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Connecticut. Students were able to organize the event with Professor Diakogeorgiou who serves as a Committee Chair for the CATA, and was in charge of the event this year. Students were also able to speak with legislators one on one regarding athlete safety in secondary schools as well as an injury surveillance pilot program that would help track the number of injuries occurring in the secondary school setting.

Athletic Training Students Hit The Hill Day: Miguel Dias, Emily Cocola, Anna Acciarino, Kaitlyn Doyle, Megan Pathoomvanh and Nina Scarpetti sign people in and direct them to their legislator during Hit the Hill Day.

Students share in experience with Exercise Science Students

The Athletic Training Program had a wonderful opportunity to share in educating the athletes involved in a cross country program that the Exercise Science program initiated at Blackman Middle School in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Five Athletic Training students volunteered their time to speak with middle school athletes about various topics including: the importance of warming up and cooling down during workouts, when to use hot and cold modalities, household items that can be used as hot and cold, and how to distinguish between injury pain and soreness.

The middle school athletes were taken through a dynamic warm up and active cool down and were engaged and excited to learn about these topics. The Athletic Training students enjoyed the experience and hope to continue this initiative with Exercise Science in the spring semester.
Exercise Science students participated in the first annual Academic Festival which was held in the William H. Pitt Center on May 1, 2013.

Fit Kids of Norwalk

Fit Kids teaches elementary school children about nutrition and physical activity through fun, interactive lessons during after school programs. In each hour-long lesson, students participate in 30 minutes of nutrition education and 30 minutes of physical activity. Nutrition lessons are based on the US Department of Agriculture MyPlate nutritional guidelines and include games, crafts, and taste tests to introduce the students to new, exciting foods. During physical activity time, the students play games such as relay races, badminton, and soccer, and learn that physical activity can be fun and should be part of their everyday lives.

Students participate In Academic Festival

Pictured L to R: Julianne Cappadona, Amanda Stuart, and Stephanie Walters were each awarded with a Single Author, Excellent Achievement Award.

Sarah Burkart presented a poster entitled “The Effects of Group Exercise on a Student with Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy”

Julianne Cappadona, presented a poster entitled “Kinematic and Spatiotemporal Analysis Between Sprint Drills and Maximal Sprinting”

Jaclyn Carabott presented a poster entitled “An Electromyographical Analysis and Biomechanical Comparison of a TRX Push-up vs. a Standard Inclined Push-up”

Brian Dilorio presented a poster entitled “An Analysis and Determination of Percentage of Bodyweight Lifted During Three Variations of the Inverted Row Exercise”

Courtney Muscat presented a poster entitled “Validity and Reliability of a 2-Axis Portable Force Plate During Two-Legged Hopping”

Jaclyn Pabis presented a poster entitled “Feasibility of a Brief Intervention to Improve Adherence to At-home Exercises Among Physical Therapy Patients”

Amanda Stuart was awarded with a Single Author, Excellent Achievement Award for her poster entitled “The Effects of the Physical Environment and Self Efficacy on Physical Activity Adherence in Cardiac Rehab Patients”

Kristen Tusa presented a poster entitled “Effect of Fit Kids Intervention Program on Gender and Age”

Stephanie Walters presented a poster entitled “Benefits of a Group Exercise Program on a Student With Congenital Hydrocephalus and Multiple Co-Diagnoses”

Click on poster title to read the students’ abstracts

Fit Kids was developed by the Norwalk Health Department, Dr. Wendy Bjerke and the exercise science program at Sacred Heart University and Norwalk Community College. Dr. Bjerke’s students help Health Department staff deliver the program during the school year.
Exercise Students Complete Over 680 Hours Of Service Learning.

Students enrolled in Dr. Wherley’s EX 320: Pediatric Exercise Science course completed over 680 hours of service learning work this past year. Service learning locations included Madison Elementary School in Bridgeport, Cooperative Educational Services School in Trumbull, and Blackham Middle School in Bridgeport. The culmination of the service learning experience was a 20-30 minute presentation to school-age children based on the topics and concepts taught in the EX 320 class.

Final presentation topics included: agility training for sports, identification of primary motor skills, nutrition and hydration for track athletes, and balancing nutritional options using the “My Plate” guidelines.

Exercise Science students provided live demonstrations during clinical associate professor, Peter Ronai’s presentation entitled “Teaching the Olympic Lifts and their Derivatives Safely to Novices” at the New England American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) annual conference in Providence, Rhode Island on November 9, 2012.
While the AT students and Professor Diakogeorgiou reflected on the lectures and injury clinics, they noted that many injuries the athletes were suffering from were due to improper footwear and lack of knowledge on appropriate running shoes.

Professor Diakogeorgiou contacted and visited Fleet Feet Sports, a running apparel shoe store, in West Hartford, CT who host various training programs for runners and have an Athletic Trainer on staff for sports medicine services. Fleet Feet Sports was able and ever willing to donate gently worn running shoes to the Blackham program.

This program was a wonderful experience for our students at Sacred Heart University and the Blackham School cross country and track program benefited greatly.

Dr. Valerie Wherley, Clinical Assistant Professor of Exercise Science and Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Clinical Assistant Professor of Athletic Training participated in the Presidential Seminar for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition during the 2012-2013 academic year. During the seminar faculty were asked to foster the Catholic Intellectual Tradition within their classrooms and students. From this seminar the Exercise Science program and the Athletic Training program were able to share in a wonderful and unique experience this year bringing health, wellness and sport to local Bridgeport Middle School students.

Dr. Wherley initiated the start of a cross country and track and field program with Blackman School in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The Athletic Training Program was able to provide students with basic sports medicine services to aid in their athletic journey. During the Fall of 2012 five Athletic Training students volunteered their time to speak with the middle school athletes about various topics including: the importance of warming up and cooling down during workouts, when to use hot and cold modalities, household items that can be used as hot and cold, and, how to distinguish between injury pain and soreness. The middle school athletes were taken through a dynamic warm up and active cool down and were engaged and excited to learn about these topics. In the Spring Junior Level Athletic Training students continued this service learning project with another lecture on hydration status and how proper hydration can aid in performance. Furthermore SHU Athletic Training students hosted an injury clinic at Blackham Middle School where they provided assessments for those athletes in need, in addition to answering any questions athletes may have had in regards to pain and soreness.
Advisory Council Created for New Healthcare Informatics Graduate Program

Sacred Heart University created an Advisory Council for its new Healthcare Informatics Master of Science graduate program. The 36-credit program, announced in 2012, will focus on the many ways healthcare information technology is evolving; its important role in helping hospitals, other health care providers and government improve how data is collected, reported and utilized; and the systems and processes that will drive this continuing transformation.

The 10-member volunteer council is comprised of respected leaders who have made significant contributions in health care, health care IT and through special health care-related projects, says Stephen Burrows, DPM, MBA, department chair and director of the program and clinical assistant professor.

“Our goal was to bring in health care leaders who could help guide this new graduate program, support faculty and student recruitment efforts, assist with curriculum development and evaluation and generally champion the program and its participants,” says Burrows. “We value and respect the diversity of opinions and experiences they represent and know the University and its students will prosper from their insights and knowledge.”

The new master’s program, launched in January 2013, will appeal to nurses, lab and radiology technicians, systems and information technology workers and many other candidates currently using technology to support clinical research, health care and related fields.
Health Sciences students participated in the first annual Academic Festival which was held in the William H. Pitt Center on May 1, 2013.

Kathryn Bruder presented a poster entitled “The Effects of Artificial Sweeteners on Weight Gain in Adults”

Candice Cooper presented a poster entitled “Diet and Exercise Impact the Prevalence and Susceptibility of Depression Among Adults over the Age of 50”

Tara Dalton presented a poster entitled “Maternal Nutrition and Intrauterine Factors Cause Predisposing Risk of Childhood Obesity”

Lindsay Holinko presented a poster entitled “What are the Effects of Animal Assisted Therapy on Young to Middle Aged Adults with Psychiatric Disorders”

Kathryn Bruder presented a poster entitled “The Effects of Artificial Sweeteners on Weight Gain in Adults”

Kristen Kudravy presented a poster entitled “Does a Gluten Free/Casein-Free Diet Positively Affect Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder?”

Mariela Mihaylova presented a poster entitled “Hospital Acquired Infections in Intensive Care Unit Patients and Revolutionary Techniques to Prevent Them”
Rachel Turzer presented a poster entitled “The Effects of the Mediterranean Diet for the Prevention or Risk of Cardiovascular Disease in Adults”

Nancy Point-Dujour presented a poster entitled “The Effect of Obesity in Young Children”

Colin Seidl presented a poster entitled “The Effects of Animal Assisted Therapy on Children with Autism”

Kendra Williamson presented a poster entitled “Lowering your cholesterol without medications”

Lindsay Villamil presented a poster entitled “The Effects of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors on Fetuses and Newborns Taken During Pregnancy”

Julie Wandzilak presented a poster entitled “The Effect of Physical Therapy for Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis”

Marina Paiva presented a poster entitled “Non-Pharmaceutical Treatments Options for Children with Adolescent ADHD”

Click on the poster title to read the students abstracts.
Donation Received Towards Service Learning In Jamaica

John F. Welch College of Business Assistant Professor, Kwamie Dunbar, Ph.D., presented the Nursing Department with a donation funded by the West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport (WIAAGB) through the Sacred Heart University Rotaract club on February 22, 2013.

The generous donation was given towards the service learning Nursing trip to Jamaica in March, which provided care for women’s health.

Dr. Dunbar, advisor to the SHU Rotaract club, and his Rotaractors saw the “Global Request” that was sent by the Nursing department. They wanted to see how they could make a contribution given Dr. Dunbar’s affiliation with the West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport (WIAAGB), who sponsors these types of community efforts in the greater English speaking Caribbean.

Dr. Linda Strong Receives Award For Her Work And Dedication

Dr. Linda Strong, director RN-BSN & RN-MSN Programs & assistant professor, was the recipient of the 1st Annual Connecticut National Hispanic Nursing Association Community Nursing Award for her work on behalf of the Hispanic community. Her tireless dedication and ability to unite people into action has directly contributed to the opportunity for Hispanics to obtain health care. The work she has done at the St. Charles Center and CHP/ Center for Community Health and Wellness has allowed the Hispanic population in that area the opportunity to receive health care and participate in health promotion activities to improve their health outcomes.

Dr. Strong was presented with the award at the 1st Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, CT on Friday, May 24, 2013.
Doctor Of Nursing Practice Program Receives Accreditation

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education’s Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on April 25 – 27, 2013, to grant accreditation to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program (DNP) for 5 years, extending to June 30, 2018. The accreditation of the DNP program contributes to the continued success of nursing programs at Sacred Heart University.

Dr. Audrey Beauvais honored with Ruth M. Olson Excellence in Nursing Award

Dr. Audrey Beauvais, director undergraduate nursing and assistant professor, was the recipient of the Connecticut League for Nursing (CLN) "Ruth M. Olson Excellence in Nursing Education Award". She was honored at the 24th Annual Nursing Leadership Convention on Friday, June 7, 2013.

Nursing Faculty And Staff Enjoy “Phantom Of The Opera” Theme At Discovery Gala.

Sacred Heart University hosted its 24th Annual Discovery Awards and Scholarship Gala, a benefit to raise money for much-needed student scholarships on Saturday, April 6, 2013. More than 250 guests dined and mingled at the Linda E. McMahon Commons, which had been transformed into a Viennese ballroom and opera house reminiscent of The Phantom of the Opera.

Left to Right: Ilene Yost, clinical assistant professor, Shery Watson, clinical assistant professor, Nancy Pires, administrative assistant to the chair, Heather Ferrillo, clinical assistant professor, Dr. Julie Stewart, assistant professor, Corinne Lee, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Anne Barker, chair, Dr. Jo-Anne Gatti-Petito, assistant professor, and Dr. Michelle Cole, assistant professor.
Nightingale Scholarship Awards

Two Sacred Heart University Nursing students, Sandra Quigley and Patricia Skrzypek, were awarded Nightingale scholarships for going above and beyond in their studies and clinical practice.

Ms. Quigley was awarded a Nightingale scholarship from the Greater New Haven County chapter, it was presented to her during the Awards Gala at Anthony’s Ocean View in New Haven on May 13, 2013.

Ms. Skrzypek was awarded a Nightingale scholarship from the Greater Fairfield County chapter, it was presented to her during the Awards Gala at the Marriot Stamford in Stamford, Connecticut on May 9, 2013.

Nursing Students Awarded In Academic Festival’s “Writing Across The Curriculum” Contest

Elizabeth Acuna received first prize for her paper entitled “Childhood Obesity and School Food Choices: Should the Government Intervene?

Lauren Bierman was awarded second prize for her paper entitled “Eastern Equine Encephalitis: An Assessment of Vermont’s Treatment Plan and the Lack of Preventative Treatment.”

Graduate Nursing Student News

MSN student, Lan Nguyen, BSN, received a Nightingale award from St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

DNP student, Susan Goncalves, MSN, received a Leadership award from St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

DNP Student, Deborah Warzecha, MSN, CEN, had her abstract entitled “Developing a Community Care Team to Reduce Re-admissions with the ED: Structure, Process, Outcomes” for a podium presentation at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) National Magnet Conference in October 2013.

The Doctor of Nursing program (DNP) graduated its first class in May 2013, congratulations to the following students who have successfully defended their dissertation.

Dr. Linda Mascolo - February 13, 2013
Dr. Leona Konieczny - March 25, 2013
Dr. Karen Banoff - March 26, 2013
Dr. Susan Goncalves - April 10, 2013
Dr. Susan D’Amico Pettorini - April 23, 2013
Dr. Theresa Money McLaughlin - April 23, 2013
Dr. Patricia Giannelli - April 26, 2013
Dr. Dorothea Esposito - April 26, 2013
Dr. Karen Burows - April 29, 2013
Dr. Pamela Manor - April 29, 2013
Dr. Tracy McGowan - April 30, 2013
Dr. Kristiane Proto - May 1, 2013
Dr. Theresa Burdick - May 7, 2013
Dr. Victoria Chang - June 27, 2013
Dr. Irene Haight - August 9, 2013
Dr. Sharon Kowalchuk - August 13, 2013
First Year Students Engage In Service Learning Project.

Dr. Heather Miller Kuhaneck, clinical assistant professor implemented a service learning project as a course requirement for her pediatrics class. The students provided respite care for two mothers of children with autism as they learned about family centered care and family stress in families of children with autism. One mother said “I would like to thank the wonderful students whom my son adored for the thoughtful gifts and for spending time with my son. He loved and lived for your visits. Every week he would tell me that the girls (mostly girls) were coming at four o’clock. He still asks for you. You brightened up his afternoons and gave me some much needed respite. Thank you, I’ll never forget it.”

Faculty, Students And Alumni Attend Annual Conference In San Diego, CA.

Dr. Jody Bortone, chair and director of Occupational Therapy, Dr. Lenore Frost, clinical assistant professor, and Dr. Heather Miller-Kuhaneck, clinical assistant professor along with students, and alumni’s high profile presence at the annual conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) featured several peer reviewed presentations. The conference was held in San Diego, California, April 25—28, 2013. All enjoyed the alumni celebration at Jolt’n Joe’s Bar & Grill on Friday evening.

Students Volunteer At Walk For Autism

Pi Theta Epsilon honor society students volunteered at one of the family activities of the annual Walk for Autism in Wallingford, CT on May 5, 2013.
Sacred Heart Physical Therapy Specialists Center Opens in the William H. Pitt Center

The Sacred Heart University Physical Therapy Specialists Center officially opened its doors Wednesday, December 5, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony within the University’s William H. Pitt Center. The center previously existed in a shared-ownership arrangement, but is now being launched as an academic practice owned and operated solely by the university. “It’s the same place, the same great staff, the same high-quality service that patients have always gotten,” says Dr. Michael Emery, professor and chairman of SHU’s Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Science and associate dean of the university’s College of Health Professions.

“But now this is a new business entity that is held by Sacred Heart, and we’re excited to have it as part of the university system.”

The center provides a professional setting for students to learn clinical skills, while simultaneously providing outpatient services in many specialty areas, including pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, vestibular rehabilitation and neurologic physical therapy.

“The practitioners are faculty who both practice and teach physical therapy at Sacred Heart University,” Emery says. “These are people who are teaching the discipline and practicing the discipline, and they have advanced board certification in their specialty areas.”
On October 21st, a group of students from the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) class of 2013 participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s at Riverside Park in NY. “A Team to Remember” consisted of 26 students, friends, and family coming together to help raise awareness and funds to support those affected by Alzheimer’s disease. During the past semesters stories of loved ones who lived with or are living with some form of dementia surfaced and discussions increased as the students clinical experience increased.

As a group they adopted the mission to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. The team raised $3,611.00 to donate to the Alzheimer’s Association.

The Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s™ is the nation’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide.

The Alzheimer’s Association is committed to speaking up for the needs and rights of those facing Alzheimer’s through public policy initiatives. The Association helps families across the country by providing programs focusing on education and support and is constantly researching methods of treatment, prevention and ultimately, a cure.
SHU to Offer Speech-Language Pathology Master’s Program

A state and national shortage of speech-language pathologists that’s only expected to grow has led Sacred Heart University to develop a master’s degree-level Speech-Language Pathology program as part of the College of Health Professions. The program will include an undergraduate minor that health science, psychology and other students can consider. Classes for the undergraduate course of study will begin in the fall of 2013. Recently accredited by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education and pending accreditation from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, the University anticipates accepting graduate students for the fall of 2014. When it starts, Sacred Heart will be the only college in the state that has speech language pathology (SLP) students studying alongside occupational and physical therapy students – professions that, in the real world, work together on a daily basis. “The importance of that kind of consistent, collaborative training can’t be stressed enough, because collaborating with other therapists is what most speech-language pathologists do every day,” said program Director Rhea Paul. “Patients who need speech-language therapy generally have other issues that also need treatment. And as most of us know, collaborative, multidisciplinary care is generally most effective.”

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 72 percent of schools, including many in Connecticut, report a shortage of speech-language pathologists. The Connecticut Department of Education has, in fact, designated speech-language pathology as an official “shortage area.”

In all areas, job openings for Speech Language Pathologists have increased 39 percent since 2000. Another 23 percent increase is expected between now and 2020.

“Our proposed Speech-Language Pathology graduate program will be a great course of study for recent undergrads or those with a bachelor’s degree looking to change careers,” Paul said.

Program Awarded “Readiness” For Candidacy For Accreditation.

The Speech Language Pathology Program was awarded “Readiness” for candidacy for accreditation by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA.) A site visit is scheduled September 16 - 17, 2013 by which time ASHA will make the decision on the award of accreditation.

Program Starts SHU Chapter Of The National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association.

The Speech-Language Pathology Department has started a Sacred Heart University chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association. Over 20 SHU students attended the first meeting. The department is applying for recognition as a club by SHU Student Activities, and chapter status from the national organization. Students elected to hold a fundraiser to benefit Cooperative Educational Services as their first club activity, to celebrate “May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.”
Faculty Awards

College of Health Professions faculty received awards at the Faculty Awards Celebration on April 29, 2013.

Dr. Anne Barker, professor, Nursing was awarded a sabbatical for AY2013-2014.

Dr. Beau Greer, associate professor and program director, MS Exercise Science and Nutrition was awarded an ACT grant and a sabbatical for AY2013-2014.

Dr. Anna Price, assistant professor, Exercise Science was awarded a URCG grant and an ACT grant.

Dr. Gail Samdperil, clinical associate professor, Athletic Training was awarded an ACT grant.

Pictured Left: Dr. David Cameron, clinical assistant professor, Physical Therapy was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor, effective September 1, 2013.

Dr. Wendy Bjerke, clinical associate professor, published:

Dr. Bjerke also made the following presentations:


Dr. Beau Greer, associate professor, had the following manuscript accepted:

Dr. Greer, associate professor and Dr. Anna Price, assistant professor, had the following manuscript accepted:

Dr. Matthew Moran, assistant professor, published:

Professor Peter Ronai, clinical associate professor, published:
- Professor Ronai will be co-chairing the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) National Student Bowl at the Annual Meeting of the ACSM in Indianapolis, IN. on May 29, 2013.

Dr. Stephen Burrows, chair & director was a panelist on the Brooklyn College student forum entitled “Finding Your First Job in Health Sciences.” on April 11, 2013.

Dr. Burrows was the keynote speaker at: Organization of Nurse Executives · Connecticut; “Key Healthcare Information Technology Topics for Nurse Executives,” Cromwell, CT January 2013

Dr. Burrows published “What It Takes to Launch a Healthcare IT Graduate Program” - Healthcare Information Technology News; January 5, 2013

Dr. Burrows became a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American Nursing Informatics Association, and the Healthcare Finance Management Association.

Nursing

Dr. Anne Barker, director and professor, was presented with a Dean’s Service Award at the College of Health Professions Faculty Staff meeting on April 18, 2013.

Dr. Barker was awarded a sabbatical for AY2013-2014 at the Faculty Awards Celebration on April 29, 2013.

Nursing faculty and staff made the following collaborative presentations:


Dr. Michelle Cole was conferred the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice in Public Health Nurse Leader from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst on May 10, 2013.

The title of Dr. Cole’s DNP Capstone Scholarly Project was “A model for Global Service Learning Experiences.”

Dr. Julie G. Stewart, assistant professor gave a presentation on “Interpersonal Violence and HIV” for physicians at Waterbury Hospital on May 11, 2013 and continuing medical education at Connecticut Valley Hospital on May 21, 2013.
Nursing

Dr. Julie G. Stewart, assistant professor gave a presentation entitled “An HIV Update for Primary Care Nurse Practitioners” at the Connecticut Advanced Practice Nurses annual convention at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury, CT. on April 25, 2013.

Dr. Stewart reviewed over 30 grants during the month of March, 2013 that had been submitted to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) related to advancing nursing practice and advancing collaborative approaches to healthcare, submitted by various institutions (hospitals, universities, etc.)

Physical Therapy

Dr. Lenore Frost, clinical assistant professor gave the following three presentations at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. April 26, 2013

- “Evidence-based Safe Patient Handling and Movement for Therapists and Student” (workshop)
- A Paradigm Shift: Educators Teach Evidence-based Safe Patient Handling as Best Practice (workshop)
- Extensor Tendon Injuries: Evidence-based Rehabilitation Protocols (short course)

Occupational Therapy

Dr. Jody Bortone, associate dean and associate professor wrote a successful proposal to attend the American Association of Colleges and Universities Summer institute on High Impact Practices and Student Success selected from a record number of submissions to attend the institute. Dr. Bortone will lead a team on developing a plan to integrate High Impact Educational Practices across colleges and throughout undergraduate and graduate study.

Dr. Heather Miller-Kuhaneck, assistant professor

- Will be working on an Evidence Based Practice Review of research on Occupational Therapy for families with children with Autism this summer for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).
- Was awarded a University Research and Creativity Grant - Development of the Classroom Sensory Environment Assessment (C-SEA)
- Presented a poster entitled “Using Children’s Books About Disability to Help Promote Inclusion” at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in San Diego, CA on April 26, 2013
- Presented two posters, one entitled “Childhood Obesity Prevention Program” and the other “Maternal Self Efficacy in Mothers of Children with ASD” at the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Cromwell, CT on March 2, 2013.

Dr. David Cameron, clinical assistant professor was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor at the Faculty Awards Ceremony on April 29, 2013, to be effective September 1, 2013.

Several of the Physical Therapy faculty presented papers at the national combined scientific meetings of the American Physical Therapy Association in San Diego, CA on January 21-24, 2013. The conference was attended by over 10,000 physical therapists. SHU PT faculty presenters included:

Dr. Wendy Romney, clinical assistant professor,

“Outcome Measures Recommendations from the Neurology Section Spinal Cord Injury EDGE Task Force.” The Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Evidence Database to Guide Effectiveness (EDGE) Task Force was appointed by APTA’s Neurology Section to make recommendations on the use of outcome measures in SCI.

Dr. Emmanuel Yung, clinical assistant professor,

“Management of Lateral Epicondylitis Targeting Scapular Muscle Power Deficits: a case report” (Platform), and

“Blood Pressure and Heart Rate Response to Posterior Glide of the Cervical Spine Compared to Placebo in Normal Health Volunteers.”
Dr. Yvette Blanchard, Professor, presented a paper entitled “Global Opportunities in Physical Therapy Education: An Introduction to Fulbright Scholar Grants for U.S. Faculty and Professionals.” at the national combined scientific meetings of the American Physical Therapy Association in San Diego, CA on January 21-24, 2013.

Out of 300,000 Fulbright Scholars and Fulbright Specialists, there are only 9 recipients who are also physical therapists. The purpose of this presentation was to introduce the different Fulbright programs to physical therapists and to clarify the application process in order to encourage more to consider applying for a Fulbright Scholarship.

Dr. Kevin Chui, associate professor was recently elected to a four year term on the Geriatric Specialty Council of the American Physical therapy Association. This 3-member national council is responsible for developing and validating the geriatric specialty certification examination in consultation with the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) testing agency and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). The three council members are nominated by the profession and elected by the Specialty Council and ABPTS. This is a significant honor and recognition for Dr. Chui and for Sacred heart University.

Dr. Rhea Paul, Professor, Speech Language Pathology was appointed to Education Advisory Board of the League of United Latin American Citizens of New Haven.

Dr. Rhea Paul recently published:

Exercise Science

Christine Becker ‘12 MS Exercise Science and Nutrition, has joined the personal training and group fitness team at Bodyphysics in Southbury, Connecticut. A certified spin instructor and a certified personal trainer with the American College of Sports Medicine, she is currently pursuing certification as a registered clinical exercise physiologist. She spent last summer in Southern California working with overweight youth to develop healthy lifestyles, and has experience working in clinical settings and with older adults.

Nursing

Nadine Southard ‘08 MSN, was presented with a Nightingale award at the Greater Fairfield County Chapter Awards Ceremony on May 9, 2013. She was nominated by St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

Sue Storck ‘10 FNP and Brenda Renzulli ‘10 FNP, received an Excellence in Poster Presentation award at the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CTAPRNS) annual conference, April 26, 2013. Their Poster was entitled “Avoiding Admission in Geriatric Population.”

Physical Therapy

Anthony Ciaburri ‘07 DPT, is a Partner and Director at the new Orange, Connecticut branch of Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Centers (PTSMC).

Christopher Kennedy ‘03, ’06 MSPT, has joined St. Joseph Hospital Outpatient Rehabilitation Services at Milford Medical Center in Milford, New Hampshire. He previously worked with the New England Patriots rehabilitation staff.

Kristy Meade ’00, ’02 MSPT, oversees SJH Sports RehabCare in Tomlin Station Park, New Jersey. The facility offers sports and orthopedic physical therapy, occupational therapy, spine care and worker’s compensation services including FCE and Pre-Work Screens and lymphedema services.

Michael Moschella ’06, ’09 DPT, has joined the Naval Branch Health Clinic Groton Physical Therapy Department in Groton, Connecticut.

Erin Prastine ’05 MSPT, inpatient physical therapist, was named the 2012 Employee of the Year at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare. A resident of Middlefield, Connecticut. Ms. Prastine joined the Gaylord staff in 2005 as a staff physical therapist and is now a level II therapist and therapy team leader. She is also the coordinator of the spinal cord injury support group.

Jillian Wagner ’07, ’09 DPT, has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Rehabilitation Services at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, Connecticut. As assistant director, she supervises the full staff of physical, occupational and speech therapists in both the inpatient and outpatient setting and assists the Director of Rehabilitation with patient and staff scheduling, billing, and the daily operations of the department. Prior to joining Masonicare in 2010, Ms. Wagner was a geriatric resident at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, Connecticut.

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http://alumni.sacredheart.edu
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- Nursing Educator Certificate
- M.S. in Geriatric Health and Wellness
- M.S. in Occupational Therapy
- M.S. in Speech Language Pathology (anticipated start date Fall 2014)
- Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Professional Speech Language Pathology Plan of Study
- B.S. in Athletic Training
- B.S. in Exercise Science
- B.S. in Health Science
- B.S. in Nursing
- Certificate in Geriatric Health and Wellness

Individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or University may apply to the graduate programs offered by the College. Admission requirements vary by program. Please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for more details: (203) 365-7619 or www.gradstudies@sacredheart.edu

To apply to the full-time undergraduate programs, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (203) 371-7880 or www.enroll@sacredheart.edu

About Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart University, founded in 1963, is an independent, co-educational University in the Catholic intellectual tradition that offers more than 40 academic programs to over 6,000 undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students in the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Health Professions, Isabelle Farrington College of Education, and AACSB-accredited John F. Welch College of Business. SHU’s main campus is located in Fairfield, CT, with international campuses in the Irish-speaking community of Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland and the only American-accredited MBA program in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The Princeton Review includes SHU among the Best 371 Colleges: 2010, while U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges ranks SHU in the top tier of Master’s Universities in the North in its annual college rankings. In 2008 U.S. News ranked our Doctor of Physical Therapy program as the best in the state of Connecticut, 5th among DPT programs in New England, and in the top 25% of all DPT programs in the nation.