2014

Reflections (2014 Issue)

College of Health Professions
Sacred Heart University

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Faculty-Student Research
Accelerometer Concussion Study
The good thing about change is that it will happen whether you are ready or not. The bad thing about change is that it will happen whether you are ready or not. Fortunately for the College of Health Professions, the changes have been good and we have been ready for most of them.

One of the most exciting things that happened this past year is the commencement of the planning for a new state of the art building for the college scheduled to open fall 2017.

The new building will incorporate shared facilities to support pediatrics, ambulatory care, home care, human anatomy, motion analysis, simulation, and other learning activities in the context of interprofessional education. The building will also allow us to expand our clinical activities to include not only Physical Therapy Specialists but also other clinical areas such as occupational therapy and speech language pathology. This will enable us to better fulfill our mission through service to the university and surrounding communities.

Another exciting thing that happened is the hiring of members of the leadership team for the developing physician assistant studies program. The program director, director of clinical education, and the medical director have been identified. The program will be located in Stamford, Connecticut on the campus of Stamford hospital. We are very excited about this partnership and this will be the college’s first offering at an on-ground satellite location.

Faculty and students had another successful year of teaching and learning, scholarship and service, and they were recognized by several honors. I’m also particularly pleased with our continued commitment to internationalize the college through expanded service learning and course offerings.

I invite you to join us in the journey as we continue to evolve so that you can experience for yourself the excitement of change in the air.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Walker, Dean

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Reflections

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Sacred Heart University celebrated its 50th anniversary and its remarkable transformation from a local commuter school to the second-largest Catholic University in New England with a series of special events, that began in the fall of 2013 and continued through the spring 2014 semester.

The College of Health Professions sponsored a number of activities in celebration of the 50th anniversary, including:

- A colloquium series on Global Health, Education, and Poverty titled, “A Dollar a Day,” a panel discussion by SHU Faculty on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks: Issues of Race, Poverty, Health Care, and Ethics was held on September 18, 2013 in the Schine Auditorium. Co-sponsored by The Human Journey Colloquia Series, the Farrington College of Education, the Welch College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences.

- A panel titled, “The Impact of Health Care Reform on Connecticut Hospitals,” September 25, 2013 in the Schine Auditorium. The program was well attended by college faculty and students and was streamed live to students enrolled in on-line programs. The speakers were Dr. Susan Davis, President and CEO of St. Vincent’s Health Services and Dr. John Murphy, President and CEO of the Western Connecticut Health Network.

- A presentation titled “Multisensory Integration” by Dr. Sophie Molholm, associate professor of pediatrics and neuroscience at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine took place October 10, 2013 at Cambridge Commons. Sponsored by the Autism Research Interest Group made up of faculty from the College of Health Professions and the Isabelle Farrington College of Education.

- A documentary titled, “United States of Autism” was shown in the Schine Auditorium on October 23, 2013. The film was sponsored by a capstone group in the occupational therapy program, with proceeds to benefit the development of a social group for

- A panel discussion on “Patient Safety and eHealth” was held in University Commons on November 13, 2013 featuring Linda Godleski, MD; Director, National Telemental Health Center and Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine; Susan Brown, RN, MSN, Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services, Greenwich Hospital; and Dr. Emmanuel Yung, Clinical Assistant Professor, Sacred Heart University. Sponsored by the Healthcare Informatics program.

- A colloquium Series on Global Health, Education and Poverty titled “Academia’s Response to Global Health: Training Activities, Opportunities, and Ethics” was presented by Dr. Majid Sadigh, Director of Global Health at Danbury Hospital, on December 3, 2013 in the University Commons. Facilitated by Dr. Julie Stewart, associate professor, Sacred Heart University and co-sponsored by The Human Journey Colloquia Series, the Farrington College of Education, the Welch College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences.

- A colloquium Series on Global Health, Education and Poverty titled “Poverty and Women and Children: The Powerless Majority,” presented by June Ann Greeley, Stephanie Kirven and Colleen Butler-Sweet on December 4, 2013 in the Schine Auditorium. Co-sponsored by The Human Journey Colloquia Series, the Farrington College of Education, the Welch College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences.

- A colloquium Series on Global Health, Education and Poverty titled “The Ripple Effect: Perspectives on Health in Developing Countries” presented by a panel by students from Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy on December 4, 2013 in the University Commons. Co-sponsored by The Human Journey Colloquia Series, the Farrington College of Education, the Welch College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences.
Founders Day 2014

The 50th Anniversary Founders Day celebration took place on March 19, commencing with Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit followed by the Awards Ceremony in The Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts and a reception in University Commons.

Julianne Pavia was honored for 25 years of service.
Ms. Pavia began her career at Sacred Heart working part time in the Political Science Department. She was the program assistant for the Physical Therapy Department where she had worked for Dr. Michael Emery for more than 19 years until retiring in June 2014.

Juliette Pavia
Michele Peloso
Gail Samdperil

Janet H. Betts, MA, was honored for 15 years of service.
Ms. Betts joined Sacred Heart as a program assistant for Campus Ministry. She is now a student services coordinator for the Occupational Therapy Department and an adjunct instructor the Health Sciences Department.

Joanne M. Bortone, Ed.D., “Jody” was honored for 15 years of service.
Dr. Bortone first came to Sacred Heart as the program director for the Occupational Therapy Department. Since then, she has become chair of the Occupational Therapy and Health Sciences Department and an associate dean for the College of Health Professions.

Michael J. Emery, Ed.D., was honored for 20 years of service.
In his role as program director, chair and associate dean of the DPT program, Dr. Emery was responsible for academic programs that include athletic training and exercise science for undergrads and exercise science and nutrition, physical therapy and advanced orthopedic physical therapy for graduate students. He was also director of Clinical Practice for SHU Physical Therapy Specialist - an on-campus faculty practice organization that operates both Physical Therapy clinics and clinical service contracts in the community until he retired in June 2014.

Michele R. Peloso, BA, was honored for 20 years of service.
Ms. Peloso began working at Sacred Heart in 1994 as an administrative assistant to the vice president of Public Affairs. She is now an administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Health Professions and also serves as the colleges’ alumni community relations coordinator.

Gail S. Samdperil, Ed.D., was honored for 15 years of service.
Dr. Samdperil first came to the University to develop and implement the undergraduate human movement and sports science curriculum. She established course work for the athletic training and exercise science majors, coordinated clinical placements for athletic training students and has taught a variety of courses. She now serves as an associate dean for the College of Health Professions and director of clinical education in the athletic training major.
Alumni Leadership Award

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
- contribution to the fulfillment of the mission of the college.

The College of Health Professions faculty and alumni submitted nominations for the Alumni Leadership Award. This year, September 2014, the following individual was chosen for the award: **Antonio Reale '01, '03 MSPT**

Unfortunately, Mr. Reale was unable to attend the Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday, September 19th due to his athletic training obligations with the San Francisco Giants baseball team. Dr. Kevin Chui accepted the award on his behalf.

Mr. Reale graduated from Sacred Heart University with a Master’s of Physical Therapy in 2003. Shortly after, he accepted a position in New Milford, Connecticut at a Sports Medicine/Orthopedic facility working with local high school athletes. After two years as a Staff Therapist, Tony was promoted to Site Coordinator, managing operations for two rehabilitation clinics in Connecticut.

In 2007, an opportunity came knocking when Mr. Reale was asked to interview for the Organizational Physical Therapist position with the San Francisco Giants. “Being that I had played baseball at the collegiate level and have a passion for the sport, my dream had always been to work with the elite. I am proud to say that I have been working with the Giants since 2007, and have been fortunate to be a part of two World Series Championships thus far.” says Reale.

In order to continue to educate himself within the field of Physical Therapy, Mr. Reale began studies towards his Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the University of Scranton in 2011. Currently Tony resides in Scottsdale, Arizona with his wife Marissa, and daughter Elyse.
The Community Partner Award was created to recognize an individual or corporation that has demonstrated exceptional collaboration to further the educational goals and mission of the college.

This year, Community Partner Awards were given to Dr. Majid Sadigh and Mrs. Lisa Stump. Dr. Sadigh and Mrs. Stump were presented with the awards at a breakfast celebration on October 9, in the Hearth Room at Sacred Heart University.

Majid Sadigh, MD
Dr. Sadigh has been a partner of the College of Health Professions since 2012 when he joined the Western Connecticut Health Network as Director of Global Health Programs. Dr. Sadigh is a master clinician and educator and has won numerous teaching and humanitarian awards with extensive experience internationally in classrooms and at the bedside of patients across the world. He unselfishly shares this knowledge and expertise at Sacred Heart University by lecturing on epidemiology and infectious disease to graduate nursing students on an annual basis.

Lisa Stump, MS, RPh, FASHP
Mrs. Stump is Vice President and Epic Project Director at Yale New Haven Health. Ms. Stump has been involved with the Healthcare Informatics program since April 2012 when she agreed to serve on the Advisory Council. She continues to assist the Program as an advisor. Mrs. Stump hosts our students with a tour of the Epic headquarters, provides the main speech at a virtual open house and works to obtain Epic access to the Healthcare Informatics students.

Dr. Sadigh was called away to help fight the Ebola Crisis in Liberia. Accepting the award for him was his assistant, Emma Vick, Program Coordinator- Global Health & Simulation at Danbury Hospital.
Global Programs

The College of Health Professions is committed to providing students with international opportunities to promote global health awareness, cultural competence and providing education to engage in social justice in support of the University’s goals of service learning and student social responsibility.

Last October, Christina Gunther was appointed to the position of Director of Global Programs & Assessment to provide leadership and support for the college’s growing international initiatives.

To fit the confines of the health profession’s curricula, global programs have been developed to include short-term study abroad, one-week service learning and clinical experiences. The global service learning approach envelops our academic programs with community service in combination with critical, reflective thinking.

Jamaica

This one-week clinical service learning trip runs in the fall with a focus on pediatrics and medical-surgical practice for undergraduate nursing students, family nurse practitioner graduate students, and doctor of nursing practice students. The mission focuses on inter-professional learning while providing free medical and major surgical care to the impoverished people of the urban Kingston area. On average, each service learning trip provides primary care to over 1,000 people. Students are immersed in the local culture, work in make-shift clinics, educate communities on disease prevention, and participate in home care. The students learn the importance of being flexible, resourceful, and sensitive to the culture. The trip shows the students the importance of developing and sustaining a health care program in a developing country through collaboration with two other universities and non-governmental organizations that continue to serve the same communities throughout the year to meet the needs of the people.

Guatemala

The first clinical service learning trip to Guatemala took place in March 2010 with an emphasis on obstetrics nursing. Faculty and students worked with local doctors in the village of Pastores near La Antigua, Guatemala to meet the needs of 1,157 patients. Service learning trips run twice a year in the Greater Panchoy Valley surrounding Antigua focusing on medical-surgical type practice, public health, obstetrics and pediatrics, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Students collaborate with local community leaders to meet healthcare needs of the marginalized populations in three locations. Students also experience caring for the homeless and providing visits to homebound patients while learning the ethical values of development work. This service learning experience is open to undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral nursing students, as well as physical therapy and occupational therapy graduate students.

Haiti

The Haiti Clinical Service Learning experience is a new one-week opportunity for PY2 Occupational Therapy students to experience the country of Haiti, specifically its health delivery model. In rural Haiti, people are seen in local clinics, triaged and treated by doctors, nurses and community health workers. The role of the visiting team...
is to assess children and adults for occupational therapy needs including orthotics, assistive devices, and provide patient and family education. Working alongside a local doctor on patients with diseases often not seen in the U.S like polio, tuberculosis of the spine and hydrocephalus; visiting students will learn the value of evaluating and treating children and adults with severe disabilities without the resources available in the United States.

**Luxembourg**

(Analysis of Comparative Health Care Systems; an International Perspective): Graduate students in Nursing and Physical Therapy attend a two-week course each May. This inter-professional course compares characteristics of health care delivery, the demands/needs of the population and how societies respond differently to these demands/needs in the US and selected European countries. The perspectives of patients/consumers, health care providers and policy-makers will be considered. Additionally the course explores ways in which societal expectations, health care financing, and national priorities influence the delivery system. The course is taught in a two-week, intensive format in Luxembourg with morning classes and afternoon professional and cultural field visits to selected health care groups and organizations in Luxembourg, France and Germany.

**Ireland**

This short-term study abroad experience affords undergraduate nursing students the opportunity to learn about professional leadership issues including quality improvement, healthcare policies, and nursing education through a comparative global perspective. Field experiences include a collaborative classroom with Irish nursing students with topics on leadership styles; Irish nurse and physician guest speakers; and visits to three different types of hospitals. This rich cultural experience allows for immersion into the local Irish life.

**Oaxaca, Mexico**

This one-week service learning experience was launched in March 2014 with Exercise Science in partnership with Simply Smiles of Westport, Connecticut. Students experience rural life in Mexico including time in a Zapotec village in the jungles of Santa Maria Tepexipana. Projects include feeding programs, working with the community living at a dump, food distribution and building projects. This new initiative will take place during spring break as an annual service learning experience.

Future programs include an interdisciplinary public health course in Cuba expected to be launched in May 2015, an athletic training course in the Dominican Republic integrating cultural immersion through home stays, community service with little league teams, and internships with the Major League Baseball facilities, and a partnership with Makerere University in Uganda supporting collaborative interdisciplinary research, grant writing and curricula development for doctoral level students. In the next academic year, it is projected that student participation will increase by 34%. The goal of the College is to provide opportunities for every student who desires an integrative, global experience. For more information, visit our global programs web pages at [http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/collegeofhealthprofessions/chpglobalprograms/](http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/collegeofhealthprofessions/chpglobalprograms/)
2013–2014 Highlights

Academic Festival

The Second Annual SHU Academic Festival, a day-long event to celebrate the academic accomplishments of our students was held on April 25, 2014.

Student contributions included research projects with SHU faculty or external mentors, significant class projects or papers, work presented at professional conferences, service learning projects, and honors senior capstone projects. Congratulations to all of this year’s participants! To view pictures and abstracts please go to:

http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/academicfestival2014/collegeofhealthprofessionsposters/

Athletic Training Poster Presentations

• “An 18 Year Old Male Division I Lacrosse Player with an Anterolateral Right Acetabulum Osteochondroma Causing a Possible Labral Tear.” Anna Acciarino, Mentor: Theresa Miyashita

• “The Case of Eczema Herpeticum in a High School Male Wrestler with a Previous History of Skin Conditions.” Alyssa Brandofino, Mentor: Kelly Copperthite

• “Right shoulder calcific rotator cuff tendinopathy and a milk of calcium present with no trauma or predisposing factors: A case report.” Jessica Cerrato, Mentor: Theresa Miyashita

• Pictured below “Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis with Suspected Relating Endocrine Conditions.” Emily Cocoia, Mentor: Eleni Diakogeorgiou

• Parsonage Turner Syndrome in a Male High School Rugby Player.” Sydney Judkins, Mentors: Theresa Miyashita, Kelly Copperthite

• “Unilateral Facial Nerve Paralysis Secondary to a Concussion in a NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Player: A Case Report.” Megan Pathoomvan, Mentor: Shannon Bonini

• “NCAA Division 1 Female Lacrosse Athlete Diagnosed with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.” LaurenMae Petrillo, Mentor: Brittani Flanagan

Exercise Science Poster Presentations

• “Two-Dimensional Kinematics of Running: A Descriptive Investigation.” Cristin Antimisiaris
Mentor: Matthew Moran

• Pictured above “Two-Dimensional Kinematic Study of the Gallon-Jug Shelf-Transfer Test Among Older Individuals.” Elizabeth Bennett, Mentor: Matthew Moran

• “Electromyographic Analysis of the Gluteus Medius during three weight-bearing exercises when normalized with Manual Muscle Testing.” Jacqueline Brandt, Mentor: Peter Ronai

• “An Electromyographical Analysis of Three Different Pull-ups.” Charles Brunckhorst, Mentor: Eric Scibek

• “One Year Follow-Up to Infection Prevention Strategies in Outpatient Settings.” Meghan Feeney, Mentor: Wendy Bjerke
Exercise Science Poster Presentations, continued

- “Community members’ individual-related community empowerment: influence of a community member audit of the physical activity environments in parks.” Rochelle Graveline, Mentor: Anna Price

- An Analysis and Determination of Muscle Activation and Electromyographic (EMG) Activity During the Performance of Three Variations of the Inverted Row Exercise.” Nicole Hentnick, Mentor: Peter Ronai

- “Environmental Factors Related to Sedentary Behavior in the Sacred Heart University Full Time Faculty.” Mary Keenan*, Mentor: Anna Price

- “Direct Observation the Demographic Characteristics and Physical Activity Behaviors of Park Users in Bridgeport Parks.” Colleen Mulkern and Julianna Kushnir, Mentor: Anna Price

- “EMG Analysis of Scapulo-Humeral and Elbow Joint Extensor Muscles During the Goldbeck-Davies Closed Kinetic Chain Upper Extremity Test.” Kristin Murray, Mentor: Peter Ronai

- “Isometric Hip Strength in Female Collegiate Distance Runners.” Katrina Rossi, Mentor: Matthew Moran

- “Perceptions of University Gluten-Free Food Environments among Undergraduate Students with Diagnosed Gluten Intolerance.” Aileen Trella* and Kaitlyn Stanford, Mentor: Anna Price

Health Sciences Poster Presentation

Pictured below “Does living in a nursing home increase or decrease the quality of life in the elderly population?” Breana Medeiros, Mentor: Clotilde Dudley Smith

School of Nursing Poster Presentations

- “Nursing Implications for New Thrombolytic Therapy: EKOS.” Jillian Fortunato*, Mentor: Shery Watson

- Pictured above “The Influence of High-Fidelity Pre-operative Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Simulation Education Interventions on Veterans.” Bonnie Haupt, Mentor: Julie Stewart

- “Nursing Compliance with Sedation Holiday.” Colleen Jensen*, Mentor: Shery Watson

- “Decreasing the Incidence of Unplanned Extubations on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center: An evidenced based PICU collaborative plan.” Mellissa LaParre*, Mentor: Shery Watson

- “The Interrelationship of Polypharmacy on Functional Status and Quality of Life in the Elderly Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Patient.” Patricia Karwan†, Mentor: Linda Strong

- “Emergency Nurses Attitude Towards Sexual Assault Victims.” Mary Hugo Nielson, Mentor: Julie Stewart

- “Educating Parents on the Importance of Kangaroo Care.” Cassandra Pavlowich*, Mentor: Shery Watson

- “Nursing Education for the Caregiver on Pediatric Fever Reduction.” Ciara Scrope*, Mentor: Shery Watson

School of Nursing Oral Presentation

- “Curricula Changes to Promote Inter Professional Education.” Colleen Jensen, Mentor: Shery Watson
Nursing Program expands to School of Nursing

The rapidly growing nursing program was expanded into a new School of Nursing at the start of the fall semester 2013. The decision to transition the university’s Department of Nursing into a School of Nursing reflects the program’s steady growth over the past 33 years and was “a natural next step,” said Patricia Walker, dean of the College of Health Professions, in the development of the nursing department. The School of Nursing opened with 150 freshman scheduled to enter, a 50 percent increase over the 100 freshman who entered the program the previous fall.

The Nursing program was launched in 1980 as an RN to BSN program in which registered nurses could receive their bachelor’s degree. Today it offers a wide range of academic programs, including programs for pre-nursing students, first professional degree students, a campus-based family nurse practitioner program, a doctorate of nursing practice, a nursing program designed specifically for onsite students and several programs for online students, including RN to BSN, RN to MSN and MSN programs in three different tracks: patient care services administration, clinical nurse leader, and nurse educator.

Mary Alice Donius Named Director of School of Nursing

Mary Alice Donius, Ed.D., was named director of the School of Nursing, effective July 1, 2014.

Dr. Donius previously served as associate professor in the School of Nursing at the College of New Rochelle, where she was dean for seven years. Her prior experience includes director of Medical Center Education from Sound Shore Medical Center in New Rochelle, New York.

Dr. Donius holds a bachelor of science in nursing from D’Youville College, a master of education and doctor of education from Columbia University Teachers College, and a post-master’s certificate in holistic nursing from The College of New Rochelle.

Her research interests include the development of an attitude scale to measure caring as a three-dimensional construct of compassion, empathy and altruism, and the design and implementation of a caring-healing nursing practice model intended to increase patient satisfaction and support nursing recruitment and retention.

“She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and I have every confidence that she will continue our legacy of preparing top nurse leaders for a lifetime of success.” said Patricia Walker, dean of the College of Health Professions.
Kevin Chui Named Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Science

Kevin Chui PT, DPT, PhD, GCS, OCS, FAAOMPT was recently named chair of the department of physical therapy and human movement science. In this role, Chui will provide leadership for the athletic training and exercise science programs in addition to serving as the director of the physical therapy program and director of clinical practice for Sacred Heart University Physical Therapy Specialists. He will also be responsible for the strategic planning of the program, faculty mentorship, creating and implementing a budget for the program, accreditation, admissions to the program and more.

Dr. Chui has been with the University since 2005 and has extensive experience in the physical therapy field—focusing on geriatric and orthopedic physical therapy, research methods and statistics.

Teresa Thetford Named Chair and Program Director of Physician Assistant Studies Program

Teresa Thetford DHSc, PA-C, was recently named chair and program director of the Physician Assistant Studies program, being developed. Dr. Thetford comes to us from Marshall B. Ketchum University where she was assistant dean, Interprofessional Education; founding program director, School of Physician Assistant Studies.

Dr. Thetford studied at A.T. Still University where she completed a Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) in Leadership and Organizational Behavior and a Master of Science (M.S.) in Education and Leadership. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern California in Physician Assistant Studies.

Gail Samdperil Named Associate Dean

Gail Samdperil, Ed.D., ATC, clinical associate professor was appointed associate dean for the college replacing Dr. Mike Emery who retired in June 2014. Dr. Samdperil’s responsibilities will include assisting the dean with academic program reviews, developing clinical partnerships, academic standing decisions and graduate open houses.
Faculty Awards

College of Health Professions faculty were presented with awards at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 7, 2014. The following faculty were honored.

The following faculty have been awarded tenure by the Board of Trustees:

Susan DeNisco, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE, CNL, professor of Nursing.

- Matthew Moran, Ph.D., associate professor of Exercise Science
- Julie Stewart, DNP, APRN, MPH, FNP-BC, AAHIVS, associate professor of Nursing

The following faculty received promotions from assistant professor to associate professor:

- Matthew Moran, Ph.D., associate professor of Exercise Science
- Julie Stewart, DNP, APRN, MPH, FNP-BC, AAHIVS, associate professor of Nursing

Susan DeNisco, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE, CNL, professor of Nursing, was promoted from associate professor to full professor.

Lenore Frost, Ph.D., OTR/L, CHT, F.A.O.T.A., was promoted from clinical assistant professor of Occupational Therapy to clinical associate professor of Occupational Therapy.

Linda Strong, Ed.D., RN was promoted from assistant professor of Nursing to associate professor of Nursing.

Donna Bowers, DPT, PT, MPH, PCS, clinical associate professor of physical therapy was awarded with an Excellence in Teaching award.

The following faculty received URCG grants for academic year 2014—2015:

- Anna Greer, Ph.D., CHES, HFS, assistant professor of exercise science
- Beau Greer, Ph.D., CSCS, program director of MS exercise science and nutrition, associate professor
- Heather Kuhaneck, Ph.D., OTR/L, FOATA, clinical assistant professor of occupational therapy
- Theresa Miyashita, Ph.D., ATC, program director of Athletic Training, assistant professor

The following faculty received ACT grants for academic year 2014-2015:

- Wendy Bjerke, Ph.D., PAPHS, clinical associate professor of Exercise Science
- Donna Bowers, DPT, PT, MPH, PCS, clinical associate professor of physical therapy
- Pennie Sessler Branden, Ph.D., CNM, RN, assistant clinical professor of Nursing
- Nancy Dennert, MS, SN, FNP-BC, CDE, BC-ADM, clinical assistant professor of Nursing
- Joanne Gatti-Petito, DNP, RN, CNE, assistant professor of Nursing
- Kerry Milner, DNSc, RN, assistant professor of Nursing
- Nina Pearl, MA, BSN, RN, instructor of Nursing
- Wendy Romney, DPT, PT, NCS, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy
- Rebecca Smart, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, assistant clinical professor of Nursing
- Julie Stewart, DNP, APRN, MPH, FNP-BC, AAHIVS, associate professor of Nursing
- Michelle Wormley, Ph.D., MPT, PT, CLT, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy
- Eileen Yost, MSN, RN, assistant clinical professor of Nursing
- Emmanuel Yung, DPT, PT, OCS, MA, FAAOMPT, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy
Alison Cubbellotti of Trumbull, received her bachelor’s degree in nursing after taking two years off during her college years for a liver transplant. Her donor, John Vales ’10, assisted in the presentation of her degree. “After everything I have been through, it is wonderful this day has finally come,” she said.

“We have a lot to be grateful for,” added her mother, Karen. “Not only did Sacred Heart provide her with a wonderful education, coming here saved her life.”

Five years ago, Ms. Cubbellotti, was in critical condition due to primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare liver disease. The young woman who had dreamed of becoming a nurse was fighting for her life; she needed a partial liver transplant but was unable to find a compatible donor. With her health deteriorating, Ms. Cubbellotti’s mother turned to the SHU community about her daughter’s need for a donor.

John Vales, a fellow student from New York, stepped forward. He was a successful match and donated 60 percent of his liver in fall 2009. It was a long road back to health, there were complications and additional surgeries. “There were times I felt like giving up, just closing my eyes and letting it all end,” she said, “but I had such a strong support system, between my family and John, they just wouldn’t let me.”

Ms. Cubbellotti gradually healed and resumed classes, graduating two years later than she had originally planned, Mr. Vales by her side. “He is such a big part of my life now because, I wouldn’t have a life if it weren’t for him, He is like my older brother,” said Cubbellotti.

Physician Assistant Studies Program in Development

Development of a graduate Physician Assistant Studies program is in progress to be offered on the campus at Stamford Hospital. Teresa Thetford, DHSc, PA-C joined the College of Health Professions as the chair and program director in August, 2014 and Reynold Jaglal joined the college in mid-September as director of clinical education.

Dr. Thetford and Mr. Jaglal will prepare the program proposal for licensure by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education and the application for provisional approval by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

Approval will be sought from the accreditation commission in March 2016. Pending approval, the program is projected to start in fall, 2016.

With successful proposal approvals, the program will proceed with a site visit by the ARC-PA scheduled for October 2015.
Accelerometer Concussion Study

Theresa Miyashita, Ph.D., ATC, director and assistant professor, is heading up an accelerometer concussion study using the men’s lacrosse team to help with the research on concussions and their effects on the brain. The athlete’s helmets have been equipped with accelerometers, sensors that detect the amount of impact in standard gravity acceleration (G’s) a player receives when hit by a ball, stick, another player or the ground. The players will be wearing these sensors in their helmets for the entire season, both in practices and games. The information received from the sensors is then uploaded and analyzed by a research team here at Sacred Heart. The data is being compared to a number of different variables such as neuropsychological function, modified IQ scores, depression/anxiety, alcohol/drug dependency screens and concussion injuries. The players were baseline tested and will be given a post-test when the season is complete.

Dr. Miyashita and her team are one of the first in the country to embark on an accelerometer concussion study of this size in men’s lacrosse. They are collaborating with Professor Michael Higgins at Towson University, who is conducting a similar study to compare impacts on different helmets. The research began in January of this year and will hopefully continue over the next four years to ensure a longitudinal study. They are currently monitoring a group of freshmen and will follow them through their four years of lacrosse playing.

Dr. Miyashita’s team consists of Professor Eleni Diakogeorgiou, clinical assistant professor and Kelly Copperthite, adjunct instructor, both from the Athletic Training Program, Kaitlyn Marrie, head athletic trainer for the men’s lacrosse team, Mary Jo Mason from the Health and Wellness Center, and a number of her athletic training students.

“The men’s lacrosse team and their coach, John Basti, have been huge supporters and have been instrumental in getting this project running,” Miyashita said. “This project would not be possible without them and the rest of my team.”

Uploading data from helmet sensors are, from left, athletic training student Sydney Judkins; Dr. Theresa Miyashita, and Kaitlyn Marrie, head athletic trainer for the men’s lacrosse team.

Athletic Training Professor Elected Athletic Trainer of the Year

The Connecticut Athletic Training Association (CATA) Athletic Trainer of the year award is presented annually to a CATA member for outstanding contributions to the Athletic Training profession in Connecticut.

The Athletic Trainer of the year for 2014, is our own, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, MBA, ATC, clinical assistant professor of athletic training. Eleni was presented with the award at the CATA Annual Symposium at Quinnipiac University on May 22, 2014.
Exercise Science Students Participate in NEACSM Conference Presentation

Students of clinical associate professor, Peter Ronai’s EX-358: Exercise and Aging course participated in a presentation at the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) on Friday, November 15, 2013. The two-day conference titled, “Embracing Our Disciplines” was held in Providence, Rhode Island attracting over 1,000 exercise professionals, physicians, physical therapists, students, professors and researchers from throughout the Northeastern United States. The presentation titled, “Tips and Tools for Testing Function and Fitness in The Elderly” was given by clinical associate professor Peter Ronai, MS, RCEP, CSCS-D, FACSM. The presentation incorporated live demonstrations and video clips from a number of students in his EX-358 (Exercise and Aging Course). Students filmed video clips and performed a number of field-based tests to help identify the physical fitness, walking speed and balance of older populations.

Session attendees remarked on the benefit and value of being shown the test items by the students as opposed to a purely lecture approach.

Participants included, Brendan Rickert, Lizzy Bennett, Hayley McGill, Emily Nunes, Rachel Amato, Gabriella Garofano, Renee Cocozza, Sarah Geary, Julianna Kushnir, Vincent Cotto, Kristin Tusa, Katrina Rossi, Peter Casella and Charlie Brunckhorst.

Exercise Science Students Hold Clinics With Children From Bridgeport Schools.

Exercise Science students have been busy this semester participating in various service-learning initiatives and clinics.

Professor Valerie Wherley’s pediatrics exercise science students have partnered with local schools in the Bridgeport area as a part of their coursework. Madison Elementary School in Bridgeport serves as one of the host sites for this component of the program.

During the semester, students are asked to complete 20 hours of service learning work so they get first-hand experience working with children and adolescents, engaging them in physical activity and sports and seeing classroom and textbook concepts come to life.

Wherley has since created various clinics and partnerships with schools so that her students can get real-world experience working with children and adolescents. At these clinics, children from the Bridgeport area are invited to Sacred Heart to participate in various athletic events with SHU’s athletes and exercise science students. The exercise science students actively engage with the children by taking part in these athletic events themselves while offering the children helpful tips and instructional points for the skills or activities that they are doing. Senior Juliana Kushnir agrees that these programs are making a difference “Getting hands-on experience helps us to understand what this field is all about.” she said.
School of Nursing Awarded Federal Grant to Educate Family Nurse Practitioner Students

The School of Nursing has been awarded the largest grant in the program’s history. The Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship grant was issued by the Health Resources and Services Administrations (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“We’re very excited and honored to be awarded this grant,” says Susan DeNisco, project director and co-grant writer. “It shows how our program has risen up in the ranks with other highly competitive nursing schools. We already have an excellent family nurse practitioner program with expert faculty, a rigorous curriculum, excellent clinical training sites and a high pass rate on the national board certification examination, and this grant will help us continue to attract a diverse and talented study body.”

According to DeNisco, the funds will be used to provide financial aid to full- and part-time students in the family nurse practitioner program. DeNisco says the school will also use the funds to help enroll more minority students. “We have a rapidly changing demographic population, and we need to educate primary care providers who will be poised to meet the health care needs of the elderly and culturally diverse groups,” she says. We want to try to recruit minority students and educate them so they can go back into the communities and provide these important medical services with a topnotch foundation under them.”

2014 Winner of the Carole E. Boccuzzi Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Catherine A. Chittick of was the 2014 winner of Sacred Heart University’s Carole E. Boccuzzi Memorial Nursing Scholarship. The award commemorates Carole Boccuzzi’s life and recognizes her life-long commitment to the education of nurses and her work to advance the discipline of the nursing profession.

Eligibility for the award includes a minimum grade point average of 3.6, two letters of recommendation from SHU’s Nursing faculty and submission of a personal essay on an appropriate student-selected topic. The recipient must also show respect and sensitivity to patients’ needs, respect and empathy to families of patients and demonstrate an overall persistence in advocating for patients.

Chittick, who is a senior in SHU’s nursing program was presented with the award upon her return from studying abroad in Dingle, Ireland instead of the traditional presentation at the annual capping and pinning ceremony.
Global Health Evening at Danbury Hospital

Service learning coordinators, Dr. Michele Cole, assistant professor, Shery Watson, MSN, and Eileen Yost, MSN, spoke about “Developing a Sustainable Global Health Program: Experiences from the School of Nursing at Sacred Heart University” on February 12, 2014.

Dr. Cole earned her doctorate in nursing practice specializing in public health nurse leadership. She teaches pediatric nursing and public health nursing and has co-led clinical service learning trips to Guatemala since March 2011.

Shery Watson, is a Ph.D. candidate specializing in nursing education. She teaches adult nursing, senior synthesis and nursing leadership. Professor Watson leads the Jamaica clinical service learning experience for Sacred Heart University in partnership with PRN and teaches nursing courses in Dingle, Ireland.

Ilene Yost is a Ph.D. candidate specializing in nursing education, and is nationally certified in high risk intensive care nursing. She teaches health assessment, care of the childbearing family, and nursing leadership. Professor Yost traveled to Guatemala in 2009 as part of the team for the clinical service learning and has been co-leading teams since March 2010.

Nursing students represent SHU Student Nurses’ Association

On February 6, 2014, nursing students Ashley Kilcommons, a junior, and Melissa Haggerty, a sophomore represented the SHU Student Nurses’ Association (SNA) at the annual Scholarship Selection Committee for the Foundation of the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) in New York City. This event is an opportunity for student nurse leaders and faculty to be part of the scholarship selection committee and to begin to understand the process. The SHU SNA was one of six university nursing school groups to be invited to this event. The students were accompanied by Dr. P. Sessler Branden, a faculty member of the School of Nursing. Ashley and Melissa, as SNA leaders, were active participants in selecting scholarship awards for a portion of the more than 300 applicants and represented SHU with aplomb and pride. They hope to share this information with other student nurses at the university.

Left to Right: Dr. P. Sessler Branden, Melissa Haggerty, Ashley Kilcommons, and Dr. Diane Mancino, Executive Director of the National Student Nurses’ Association
An exciting new partnership has been formed between the School of Nursing and the Institute of Technology Tralee located in County Kerry, Ireland. The partnership is a natural progression and something SHU Professors Susan DeNisco and Shery Watson believe to be a commitment to higher education in an ever-changing, rapidly evolving professional landscape.

Born out of the implementation of a successful nursing leadership course led by Watson in Dingle several years ago, this cross-continental relationship will provide students with a global skill set and a valuable perspective.

In facilitating the partnership, SHU’s School of Nursing faculty is excited to help the Institute build an advanced practice nursing program—one that will help SHU’s goals to send students overseas for important clinical experience and transatlantic research.

“Currently, U.S. and Irish nursing students share a class on nursing leadership, comparing and contrasting their perspectives on the topic. This allows students from both countries to see nursing from a global perspective and understand that the nursing profession transcends geographic boundaries,” DeNisco said. “Now students will be able to experience clinical in a different country, better preparing future nurses to work in a global world.”

With this partnership, current and prospective SHU nursing students can expect clinical observation for a limited number of undergraduates to ensure one-on-one training; clinical placement in medical surgical nursing, community and psychiatric mental health; collaborative nursing leadership; participation in formal IT Tralee courses (including Cultural Orientation, Evidence Based on Practice, Clinical Skills, etc.); participation in the nursing master’s program modules; and a viable visiting nurse exchange program between IT Tralee and SHU.

With the championing of collaboration versus individual efforts, the future looks bright for this particular program. By continuing to grow and expand on the original objectives set forth—sharing of research and expertise to develop further programming, facilitating clinical placement and collaborating on research initiatives—this promising partnership should flourish in the years to come.
Blessing of the Hands

The School of Nursing hosted Sacred Heart University’s third annual Blessing of the Hands on September 19, 2014 in the University’s Chapel of the Holy Spirit. A total of 98 nursing students gathered for this special event during which their hands were anointed with holy oil by the faculty.

“The onset of the clinical experience is a milestone. The nursing faculty at Sacred Heart recognizes the value of spirituality and plan this celebration to embody the great significance our hands represent in healing. The hands are a critical tool for nurses, and we thought this would be a meaningful way to celebrate this stage of the student’s nursing education.” said Kim Foito, clinical assistant professor of nursing.

Professor Emerita awarded Bishop Walter Curtis 50th Anniversary Medal.

In celebration of Sacred Heart’s 50th anniversary, four retired faculty members were awarded the prestigious Bishop Walter Curtis 50th Anniversary Medal. The medal is given to those who embody the central elements of the University’s core values in their lives. Professor Emerita Dr. Constance Young

Constance Young, who joined Sacred Heart at the startup of the baccalaureate nursing program Her knowledge, philosophy and previous experience influenced the design and ongoing improvement of the program, which has grown from an initial cohort of 30 to more than 300. She was co-chair of the Statewide Articulation Plan for Nursing Education in the 90s and helped to facilitate the transfer of nursing credits to baccalaureate nursing programs from associate degree and hospital-based nursing programs. She was the recipient of the Connecticut Nurses Association’s prestigious Josephine Dolan Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nursing Education in 1998.

Upon her retirement, she started the iFun—an incidental fund for undergraduate nursing students to help them pay for needed books and supplies. That fund has since grown to be an endowed fund.

If you would like more information about the iFUN or wish to contribute to it please click on the iFUN button below.
Award Established to Support Global Service Learning.

An award fund to be distributed annually to two occupational therapy students to support travel for international service learning or international field work experience, has been created by Ellie and Lorry Weinstein. Second year students, Danielle Nicoletti and Kelly Sasso, were recipients of the Ellie Weinstein Award which contributed to their travel to Guatemala on an interprofessional service learning trip. Ms. Nicoletti and Ms. Sasso were with a group of three other occupational therapy students, Dr. Lenore Frost, assistant professor in occupational therapy, nursing students and faculty, and physical therapy students and faculty in October, 2013.

Student Capstone Projects Provide Service

Capstone students implemented an active play group at Madison elementary school with the entire first grade. Another group sponsored the movie “The United States of Autism.” [http://usofautism.com/](http://usofautism.com/) as a way to raise funds to create a social group for teens and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder for the 2014/2015 academic year. The movie was shown in the Schine Auditorium on October 23, 2013 with an admission price of ten dollars.

Occupational Therapy Students Acknowledged for Their Work With Dr. Kuhaneck

Occupational Therapy students who assisted Dr. Heather Kuhaneck, assistant professor, in completing a systematic review of the literature to answer the question: What is the evidence for the effectiveness of interventions within the scope of the occupational therapy practice for persons with ASD that improve parent self efficacy, family coping and resiliency (including spouse and children) and family participation in daily life and routines?

The review was presented as part of a panel of reviews at the American Occupational Therapy Association’s national conference, April 3rd – 6th, 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland. The students attended the presentation and were acknowledged for their work.
Physical Therapy Students Recognized at American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Honors and Awards Ceremony

Physical Therapy students recognized at the annual APTA Honors and Awards Ceremony on June 12, 2014 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The award is given to minority students with strong academic performance and significant professional involvement.

Amy Tran, a third year DPT student received the (APTA) Minority Scholar award this spring.

Dr. Michael Emery, professor emeritus, was selected to receive the Curtis 50th Anniversary faculty medal for the college at the convocation in September 2014. He was also approved by the board of Trustees to receive the designation of Professor Emeritus upon his retirement on June 30, 2014.

Through his leadership and vision, the master's program in physical therapy evolved into our first doctoral program. During his tenure here, he participated in the El Salvador delegation served as co-director of the SHU-St. Charles Health and Wellness Center and participated in the Gulf Coast delegation to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina.

Physical Therapy Program Completes Successful Accreditation Review

The Physical Therapy program completed a successful accreditation review and site visit for the DPT program by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) in October, 2013.

Dr. Michael Emery Received Designation of Professor Emeritus Upon his Retirement

Dr. Michael Emery, professor emeritus, was selected to receive the Curtis 50th Anniversary faculty medal for the college at the convocation in September 2014. He was also approved by the board of Trustees to receive the designation of Professor Emeritus upon his retirement on June 30, 2014.

Third year DPT students, Meredith Kerner, Brett Petersen, and Charles Ferruza were recognized for their efforts in raising over $16,000 during the year for the Foundation for Physical Therapy, the research funding arm of the APTA. Meredith Kerner, PT, DPT ‘14 was the President of the Student Physical Therapy Association. Brett Petersen, PT, DPT ‘14 and Charles Ferruza, PT, DPT ‘14 were the Marquette Challenge Representatives.

The DPT was awarded re-accreditation in April, 2014 for 10 years with no (negative) citations. This is a relatively rare event and it speaks to the quality of the DPT program at Sacred Heart University.
Program Awarded Candidacy

The Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program was awarded candidacy, the first stage of accreditation awarded by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). This status is awarded to new programs that demonstrate compliance with the Standards of Accreditation as outlined in CAA’s Standards Compliance Continuum, for an initial period of five years. It allows the program to matriculate and graduate students who, upon successful completion of the program, will meet all requirements for national certification and state licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist.

The first graduate class of thirty-eight students, which began this fall, was accepted from over 250 applicants.

Dr. Rhea Paul to be Honored

Dr. Rhea Paul, department chair and program director, has been selected to receive the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Honors of the Association, the highest recognition offered for lifetime achievement from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. The award will be presented to Dr. Paul at the ASHA annual Convention in Orlando, Florida on November 21, 2014.

SLP Student News

Members of the Sacred Heart University chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association held a fundraiser for Small Steps for Speech, a national agency that provides scholarships for speech therapy for children in need.

The Speech-Language Pathology student organization presented iPad software to Cooperative Educational Services as their first community service activity, using funds raised through a raffle held last spring.

The department held a series of community outreach days during the first week of the Fall semester at the Cambridge Building, organized by clinical education director, Prof. Alison Sprengelmeyer, in which families with young children were invited to bring their youngsters to the department for speech and language screening and assessment by newly arrived Speech-Language Pathology graduate students. Twelve families and fourteen children participated.
Athletic Training

Eleni Diakogeorgiou, MBA, ATC, clinical assistant professor, managed legislative affairs for the Connecticut Athletic Trainers’ Association and participated in a Board of Certification work group at the National Athletic Trainer’s Association 65th Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 25 – June 28, 2014.

Dr. Theresa Miyashita, program director and assistant professor was selected to serve on the Connecticut State Concussion Task Force.

Dr. Gail Samdperil, clinical associate professor, participated in the first phase of the President’s Catholic Intellectual Tradition Seminar which is a concentrated eight day immersion program of study on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition that took part in May, 2014. The second phase is four all day workshops, scheduled during the course of the academic year.

Exercise Science


Peter Ronai, MS, RCEP, CSCS-D, FACSM, associate professor and Eric Scibek, MS, AT clinical assistant professor published two articles together in the Strength & Conditioning Journal (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins) recently.

- “The Inverted Row” was published in August 2014, Volume 36, Issue 4, pages 94-97.

Dr. Anna Greer, assistant professor was selected to receive the Naclerio Faculty Scholars award for the 2014-2015 academic year. The purpose of the program is to support and facilitate the work of emerging academic leaders from among university faculty.

Healthcare Informatics

Dr. Stephen Burrows, chair and program director,

- completed an eight week on-line Sloan Consortium 2013 Certificate Program (for on-line teaching certification) in November 2013. Dr. Burrows was also interviewed about the Healthcare Informatics program on November 8, 2013 by a reporter from US News and World Report for a future publication.
- joined the Board of Directors for New England chapter of Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and is a member of its Committee for Student Engagement. He also passed the exam to become a Certified Profession in Health Information Technology (CPHIT).
School of Nursing

Dr. Susan DeNisco, professor and Dr. Julie Stewart, assistant professor of nursing, published a textbook for nurse practitioners titled, “Role Development of the Nurse Practitioner.”

The textbook is designed to show students, practitioners and administrators what is needed for an empowering work environment, role satisfaction and opportunities for improved patient outcomes. It is the first textbook to focus solely on nurse practitioner roles and has received five stars and a perfect score of 100 from Doody’s Review Service. According to reviewer Kathleen M. Woodruff from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, it is “a wonderful guide for nurses transitioning into the advanced practice role.”

Dr. Susan DeNisco, professor, Dr. Julie Stewart, associate professor, Eileen Yost, MSN, clinical assistant professor and Nina Pearlin, MA, RN, adjunct professor, were honored with the Nightingale Award for excellence in Nursing Education at the annual Nightingale Awards Ceremony in New Haven, Connecticut on May 8, 2014.

Dr. Michelle Johnson, assistant professor, Dr. Linda Morrow, assistant professor and Dr. Linda Cook, clinical assistant professor recently completed a year-long Sloan C Consortium certification program in online learning.

Dr. Pennie Sessler Branden, clinical assistant professor and Eileen Yost, MSN, clinical assistant professor had their abstract submission titled “OBSimulation Day: A Learning Opportunity for Students in NU330: Care of the Childrearing Family” accepted for submission. This project was approved for funding through the Academic and Creative Teaching Grants.

Dr. Susan DeNisco, professor, was the keynote speaker at the Regional Nursing Conference, titled “Transforming Practice in Primary Health: A New Direction” held on May 28, 2014 at the Tralee Institute of Technology in Tralee, Ireland.

Dr. Kerry Milner, assistant professor,

- was selected to receive the Naclerio Faculty Scholars award for the 2014-2015 academic year. The title of her project is “Implementation of Self-management of Warfarin Therapy in a Health System.”

- was awarded the Jospeh A. Zaccagnino Patient Safety and Quality award from Yale New Haven Health System on May 2014 for a study titled “Quality and Efficacy of Patient Self-Management of Warfarin.”

- presented a poster titled “A Study Examining the Association of a New Clinical Condition Tool to Hospital Length of Stay, Direct Variable Costs and 30-Day Readmission” at the Eastern Nursing Research Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in April 2014.

- gave a presentation titled “Piloting the Mini-CEX tool to Assess FNP Student Clinical Competence using BSN Students as Patients and DNP Students as Evaluators.” at the Sigma Theta Tau International Collaborative Scholarship Day, hosted by Yale School of Nursing in April 2014.
Dr. Linda Morrow, assistant professor
- was selected to attend the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) 2014 Winter Faculty Summit that was held January 8-11, 2014 in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Dr. Morrow joined fellow change agents to discuss ways of better integrating service-learning, internships, community engagement, independent research, and field studies in study abroad programs, particularly in the disciplines of public health and nursing, development studies, and education.
- was invited to join the Wiley Deltak Faculty Fellows Program. The program recognizes a small group of distinguished educators from Wiley’s partnered online programs. During the two-year term, Fellows will learn from like-minded educators and share their insights with Wiley and Deltak to foster innovation and education. Fellows are chosen because of their work to promote excellence in teaching.

Linda-Jo Pallotto-Russo, MSN, had her abstract titled “Nursing Faculty Reports of the Strategies They Use to Support BSN Students Civility in the Classroom” accepted for a podium presentation. She presented this topic at the 2014 New England Educational Research Organization Conference, April 30—May 2, 2014 in Dover, Vermont.

Anne-Marie Saranich, MSN, clinical assistant professor, had her abstract titled “Strategies That Promote Academic Success in the Classroom for Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: A Qualitative Study Examining Faculty and Student Reports” accepted for a podium presentation. She presented this topic at the 2014 New England Educational Research Organization Conference, April 30—May 2, 2014 in Dover, Vermont.

Dr. Pennie Sessler Branden, clinical assistant professor, has been accepted as one of eight nursing leaders across the country to participate in Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Dr. Linda Strong, associate professor
- was elected president of the Connecticut Association of Public Health Nurses (CAPHN) in December 2013. She is the second academic to assume the role in the ten year history of the organization.
- has been selected to receive the Doris M. Armstrong award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Administration. The award recognizes outstanding achievement, innovation and leadership in nursing service, health care delivery or public health. Dr. Strong will be presented with the award during the Diamond Jubilee Awards presentation at the Connecticut Nurses Association 108th annual convention on October 21, in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Shery Watson, MSN, assistant clinical professor, passed the National League for Nursing Certification Exam for Nurse Educators on May 13, 2014.

Occupational Therapy
Dr. Lenore Frost, clinical assistant professor, was recognized as a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (FAOTA) during the annual Conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association held in Baltimore, MD in April 2014. Dr. Frost, nominated by her colleagues, earned the highest honor in occupational therapy for her outstanding contributions to the profession. “Excellence in Education Through Practice and Service.”
Occupational Therapy continued

Dr. Heather Miller Kuhaneck, clinical assistant professor

- was invited to give a presentation titled “Alternative Interventions for Children with ASD” for the Bridgeport, Connecticut Parent Support Group for Parents of Children with Autism on February 5, 2014.

Physical Therapy

Dr. Donna Bowers, clinical associate professor, completed the requirements to earn her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in August, 2014.

Dr. Beverly Fein, associate professor, completed the requirements to earn her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in August, 2014.

Dr. Wendy Romney, clinical assistant professor, was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship by the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences — Rutgers University to support her PhD coursework in health sciences rehabilitation and movement sciences.

Dr. Michelle Wormley, clinical assistant professor,

- completed her PhD Physical Therapy at Nova Southeastern University. Her dissertation topic was “Physical Therapy student experiences regarding problem-based learning and development of professional core values.”
- received a grant from the Breast Cancer Alliance to help fund an intensive 126-hour certification course on lymphedema management.

Dr. Emmanuel Yung, clinical associate professor,

- has been elected as the Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist Item Writer, Specialization Academy of Contents Experts, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Appointment Term: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015.
- received a grant from (American Academy of Orthopedic and Manual Therapy) for a study assessing autonomic nervous system response to cervical spine manual therapy techniques. Data collection is currently underway.

Speech Language Pathology

Dr. Robin Danzak, assistant professor

- and student Shelley Ransom have co-authored a poster based on data collected during Dr. Danzak’s Fulbright project in Italy last year. The poster has been accepted for presentation at the National Convention of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, in Orlando, Florida on November 21, 2014
- initiated the SLP Online Prerequisite Series (SLP-OPS), a part-time, online option for individuals who wish to apply for graduate study in speech-language pathology, but earned their Bachelor’s degrees in other fields. Four courses were run during the summer term. More info can be found at www.sacredheart.edu/slpops
Ellen Massucci, MA, SLP/CCC, clinical instructor, worked on reading readiness skills with children in SHU’S Horizons program this summer. Horizons at Sacred Heart University is a program to bring low-income students from Bridgeport Public and Cathedral Education Cluster schools to the Sacred Heart University campus for a six week, tuition free summer enrichment program.

Dr. Rhea Paul, department chair and program director

- traveled to Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne, Australia from January 5 to January 19, 2014 on a speaking tour. She gave two-day training sessions on treatment for children with autism in each city.
- gave the keynote address at the International Research-to-Practice Conference on Autism, in Moscow, Russia on June 2, 2014. The conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Moscow State University, and the Autism Speaks Foundation. It was aimed at increasing access to rehabilitative services for children with autism and their families.

Dr. Robin Danzak, assistant professor, pictured above; was awarded a Fulbright grant to do research on bilingual students in Italy. The project took place from March—June, 2014.

Dr. Rhea Paul, department chair and program director

- published the third Edition of her bestselling core text-book titled “Introduction to Clinical Methods in Communication Disorders.” The book has been thoroughly revised and based on updated ASHA standards.

Dr. Robert Shrintzen, adjunct professor, was awarded Honors of the Association by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the organization’s highest honor.

Dr. Alison Sprengelmeyer, director of clinical education and clinical assistant professor, conducted hearing screenings in order to identify clients who may suffer from hearing loss at Cooperative Educational Services on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the spring 2014 semester.
The Dean’s Circle: $1000 and above
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists
Edward J. Boccuzzi
Delaney Memorial Foundation
Karín N. Douglas ’84
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
Greenwich Breast Cancer Alliance Inc.
Paul J. Hesketh
Avgerini Mouzakitis-Fazio
Northeast Utilities Foundation
Pauline S. Novak
Laurence M. Weinstein

Chair’s Circle: $500 to $999
AIG (American International Group)
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Faculty Circle: $250 to $499
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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.