

# Reflections

Sacred Heart University College of Health Professions

2012 Issue

Athletic  
Training



Health  
Science



Physical  
Therapy



Exercise  
Science

Exercise  
Science &  
Nutrition



Nursing



EXPLORE  
Health  
Professions

Occupational  
Therapy



# Message From the Dean



Time has passed quickly since last year with many exciting events taking place. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program received accreditation from the state and will graduate its first class next spring. The Health Sciences program graduated its first class this past year and currently has over 100 students enrolled. The MS in Healthcare Information Systems will begin in the spring and the Speech Language Pathology program was licensed by the state and will begin offering prerequisite courses next fall.

Our students and faculty continue to provide service to the community from fitness programs to public health service. We are particularly proud of our partnership with St. Vincent's Medical Center's Family Health Center where our Family Nurse Practitioner faculty and students provide primary care services.

We continue to expand and enhance our facilities to support student learning. The nursing laboratories received makeovers this summer with the renovation of the simulation and ambulatory care labs. With the celebration of 15 years of service by me and other faculty in the college, all I can say is, "Time flies when you are having fun!" Please join me in celebrating the successes of the past year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia W. Walker".

Patricia W. Walker, Dean

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*Reflections* is the annual report of Sacred Heart University's College of Health Professions. Every effort has been made to assure its accuracy and completeness.

Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily reflect those of Sacred Heart University, its faculty or administration.

# Reflections

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## Sacred Heart University Announces New Health Information Systems Program

Sacred Heart University has introduced a new graduate program in Healthcare Information Systems (HIS) during the 2012-2013 academic year. The program will target professionals with a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and experience in the health care or information technology fields.

A Master of Science in Healthcare Information Systems will prepare you for leadership roles in complex and dynamic healthcare information technology environments. You will be provided with the knowledge and skills needed to use information technology in order to improve healthcare delivery and ultimately enhance patient outcomes. The program will complement the knowledge and expertise of professionals currently involved in healthcare information technology. However, the program's plan of study also accommodates the needs of healthcare professionals with little knowledge of computing and information technology experience as well as for IT professionals with little knowledge of healthcare environments and who seek employment and/or advancement in a healthcare information technology setting. You will gain the knowledge and skills to make an immediate impact.



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## Sacred Heart University Physical Therapy Program Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary.

A special evening to commemorate 15 years of growth and development for the Physical Therapy department was held at Testo's Restaurant in Bridgeport, Connecticut on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The evening began with cocktails and a silent auction from which all proceeds went to the DPT Emergency Fund.



Dr. Michelle Lusardi bids on a Silent Auction item.

Dr. Michelle Lusardi, Professor Emerita of the Physical Therapy program established a fund titled: DPT Emergency Fund for physical therapy students in 2011. The fund provides emergency assistance to students who have one time emergent needs such as: books, costs associated with clinical learning and various unexpected and burdensome costs that may be considered.

Over the 13 years that she taught at Sacred Heart University, Dr. Lusardi's experiences with students led her to recognize the need for such a fund. Her deep commitment to the Physical Therapy program and the success of its students, led her to establish the fund upon her retirement.

To learn more about the DPT Emergency Fund and what you can do to help, please visit:  
<http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/collegeofhealthprofessions/academicprograms/physicaltherapy/givetothedptemergencyfund/>



## Alumni Leadership and Community Partner Awards

In recognition of the 2006-2007 10th Anniversary year, the College of Health Professions established two Awards to be awarded annually. 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. 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.

### *Community Partner Award*

This year, October 2012, Community Partner Awards was presented to:

Lucille M. Bentley, BSN, RN, Director of St. Vincent's Family Health Center and Outreach Program, which provide services to those in the Bridgeport community who are uninsured, underinsured, low income, handicapped, homeless or frail elderly with no access to medical care.

Ms. Bentley has opened the doors of the Family Health Center to our Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) faculty and students enabling us to have a faculty/student clinic two mornings a week.

Timothy J. Callahan, Director Norwalk Health Department. Tim Callahan, Founded the Norwalk Community Health Center, a primary care center offering a comprehensive array of services for the uninsured and underinsured.

In 2006 Sacred Heart University joined forces with the childhood obesity prevention task force of Norwalk, the "Fit Kids" program was a product of the task force and is now a collaborative effort involving the Norwalk Dept. of Health and Sacred Heart University, amongst others, to expose students to physical activity and nutritional education.

Mary Therien, President and CEO, Stratford Visiting Nurse Association

The Stratford Visiting Nurse Association has been a long-standing partner in providing student learning experiences for senior first professional degree and RN-BSN students in home health care. Through their partnership with the Nursing Department they have helped prepare more than 200 future and currently licensed registered nurses.

Theresa Argondezzi, Health Educator, and Santina Galbo, Health Education Associate, Norwalk Health Department. The collaboration between Norwalk Health Department and Sacred Heart University is characterized by a shared purpose for the benefit of local community, both Ms. Argondezzi and Ms. Galbo have been an important component in this collaboration.

### *Alumni Leadership Award*

The College of Health Professions faculty and alumni submitted nominations for the Alumni Leadership Award. This year, October 2012, the following individual was presented with the award:

Thomas Denninger, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS, FAAOMPT graduated from Sacred Heart University in 2008, with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Since graduating, Dr. Denninger continues to distinguish himself as a clinician, researcher, and educator within the physical therapy profession. He has shown commitment to his professional development by first successfully completing a residency in our Sacred Heart University Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program and then a Fellowship in Manual Physical Therapy at the Evidence In Motion Institute of Health Professionals. He is recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties as an Orthopaedic Certified Specialist and he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists. He is an active participant in both organizations.

Dr. Denninger is co-author of an article on low back pain clinical practice guidelines currently in press with the Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy, he serves as a manuscript reviewer for that journal and has presented at peer-reviewed conferences. He also regularly volunteers to provide rehabilitation services to underserved residents in his community. Dr. Denninger represents what we hope for in all of our alumni.



Dr. Patricia Walker, Dean, College of Health Professions pictured with Dr. Thomas Denninger, recipient of this year's Alumni Leadership Award

## College of Health Professions Faculty Honored at Founders Day

College of Health Professions Dean, Patricia W. Walker and three faculty members of the college were honored at the Founders Day celebration held on March 14, 2012.

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### **Anne M. Barker, Ed.D., R.N.**

Dr. Anne Barker first joined Sacred Heart as director of the Nursing master's program. Today she is a professor and chair of the Department of Nursing. In that role, she is responsible for providing leadership and growth in the department. Highlights of her career at SHU include pioneering online learning both at Sacred Heart and in the nursing profession; writing four books, three of which address the theory and application of transformation leadership; and serving as an officer of the University Academic Assembly in 2007 and 2008. She received the University's Teaching Excellence Award in 2000 and the Josephine A. Dolan Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Education in October 2011. This year she was selected to represent the College of Health Professions in the Academic Research Showcase, which is part of the Presidential Inaugural Lecture Series. She received her doctor of education degree from Teachers College at Columbia University.



### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### **Linda L. Strong, Ed.D., R.N.**

Dr. Linda Strong, an assistant professor of Nursing, received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Bridgeport, her master's degree in nursing from the Catholic University of America and her doctorate of education from Teachers College at Columbia University. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she administrates the RN-BSN program and is chair of the RN-BSN/MSN committee. Her responsibilities for the program include curriculum, academic standards, events and celebrations. In addition, she coordinates service learning and community service opportunities for students, including influenza clinics and community-based outreach activities to vulnerable populations. Her volunteer service, for which she recently received several awards, includes Katrina Response and Recovery Delegations in 2005 and 2006; AAC&U Core Commitments and service as chair of the Student Projects Committee from 2007 to 2009; Emergency Preparedness Response Team and Cambridge campus coordinator from 2008 to present; member of the planning committee for the Center of Urban Policy from 2011 to the present; the Connecticut Association of Public Health Nurses (member of the Board of Directors since 2011); and the Medical Reserve Corps of Stratford from 2006 to the present.



### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### **Patricia W. Walker, Ed.D.**

Dr. Patricia Walker joined Sacred Heart in the role of founding dean of the College of Education and Health Professions and, with last year's separation of the College of Education, is now the dean of the College of Health Professions. In that role, she provides academic and administrative leadership for the college. She received her doctorate of education psychology from Loyola University in Chicago.



### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### **Donna M. Bowers, M.P.H.**

Clinical assistant professor of Physical Therapy, earned her board certification in physical therapy from the American Board of Physical Therapy, her bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Northeastern University and her master's degree in public health from Southern Connecticut State University. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves as co-chair for Physical Therapy admissions; University liaison to the RISE program; facilitator for Faculty Conversations; and coordinator for Physical Therapy faculty and student involvement in International Service Learning activities (medical mission trips) in Guatemala. On the clinical side, she provides pediatric physical therapy services through the Sacred Heart University Rehabilitation Center and provides consultation and Physical Therapy services to the Trumbull school system.



## Department of Nursing Receives \$75,000 CHEFA Grant

Sacred Heart University's Department of Nursing was the recipient of a \$75,000 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA). The funds were used to purchase a state-of-the-art SimMan 3G patient simulation system for clinical nursing training. The SimMan 3G is the most advanced computerized training system available, a sophisticated, wireless manikin that can be programmed by instructors to exhibit specific behaviors and symptoms and control how it responds to physical care and medications.

The purchase of an advanced patient simulator and the newly built labs which will be exclusively for simulation bring the department to the next level.

Dr. Barker, Chair of the nursing department, said "simulation has become popular in nursing education and has been adopted by most schools of nursing." The patient simulators allow nursing students to practice and improve their clinical reasoning skills in the lab. The simulations are based on real-life scenarios and require the students to react to patient situations that change and evolve during the session. The simulations take place under faculty supervision, and students are debriefed immediately, so they can learn from their experience.

"The best way to learn is from your mistakes," Dr. Barker pointed out. "The simulations allow the students to make mistakes without putting anyone in danger."

The new SimMan 3G allows for observation and recognition of most vital signs, it is equipped with both a computer-based remote and voice control. The system is so advanced that it can control the manikin to realistically:

- Display specific eye or pupil responses
- Experience a spike or drop in blood pressure or pulse
- Suffer seizures and convulsions
- Physically react to the type amount and administration of more than 100 drugs
- Bleed
- Experience a heart attack or other cardiac symptoms
- Speak to caregivers
- And more.

Studies have shown that when used in conjunction with classroom instruction and clinical experiences, simulation labs help produce safer, more efficient and more confident nurses.



Beth Boyd, Laboratory Coordinator, (R) gives Dr. Patricia Walker, Dean of the College of Health Professions a demonstration on the new SimMan 3G



## The College of Health Professions students and faculty continue to support underserved communities in Guatemala, Jamaica and right here at home.

### *Guatemala*

College of Health Professions students and faculty from Nursing, Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) travelled to Antigua, Guatemala in March and October as part of a bi-annual mission to take place each fall and spring semester. The students work in interdisciplinary teams, tripods, with one student from each of the disciplines.

In addition to serving children and adults with limited access to health care, working in tripods teams helped students develop a better appreciation of each other's discipline related knowledge and skills as well as an enjoyment of collaboration.

During the extended week of their visit, the SHU teams worked with patients suffering from physical disabilities and assisted children at a malnutrition center where the students worked to get nourishment into children who could barely stay erect. Dr. Donna Bowers was gratified to see a little boy who she had worked with the previous year running and playing.

The teams also worked in a wheelchair factory where they fit six of the 75 people on the waiting list for chairs and tended to elderly residents.

While delivering soup to the homeless the students came across a man who complained that his feet hurt, the students removed his wet socks and tended to his severely wounded feet using t-shirts as bandages since there were not any supplies available.

Students report that they learned much more than anticipated, especially about the importance of adapting intervention to be culturally appropriate. They gained a lot of respect for one another and the importance of their disciplines, by working in tripods they learned from each other and realized that there is a lot of overlap.



Nursing student, Kelsey Dul (L) and Physical Therapy student, Cheryl DiFabio



Dr. Gary Austin, Physical Therapy and Dr. Kerry Milner, Nursing



Nursing student, Kelsey Dul plays with a young boy at the malnutrition center.



## ***Jamaica***

Nursing faculty and students from Sacred Heart University administered intensive medical care to hundreds of people at primary care clinics in Kingston, Jamaica. The team worked with adolescents who suffered interpersonal abuse, participated in surgeries, and went out into the country to care for people developing an organic farm, provided home care visits in other areas and fitted people with new, donated eyeglasses.

Enduring 90-degree heat at the clinics, nursing students took triage and pharmacy duty, while the nurse practitioners saw and treated patients. The trip was an eye-opener for some members of the team, who witnessed firsthand the stark contrast between the advantaged and the disadvantaged and the difference between medical care in the United States and in other parts of the world as they treated nearly 700 patients. In particular, during the home care visits, students saw the conditions in which people live – under tin roofs and in cramped, barren quarters housing four to five.

Through the mission, 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.

By the end of the trip, 44 surgeries had been performed using a team approach. “The students saw how it works from pre-op to post-op, all the while becoming more comfortable and confident as they advocated for their patients.” said Shery Watson, who was on her fourth mission with SHU. “They also got to see the various roles that nurses, physicians and nurse practitioners can fill. For some of them, the experience helped them choose a specialty.”



Nursing student, Dana Brooks



Nursing student, Laurel Hibbard

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## ***The Latino Elders Access Points (LEAP) Initiative Program***

A collaborative project between Sacred Heart University/CHP Center for Community Health and Wellness, Optimus Health Care, and Southwest Community Health Center, to assist high risk elders in staying healthy and independent. This year, Dr. Susan DeNisco received funding from the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging and Sacred Heart University IRB approval to conduct a study entitled “*Impact of a Medication Management Program on Adherence and Resilience in Community Dwelling Elders.*”

The Community Based Medication Management program is an evidence-based practice program designed to increase knowledge and adherence of medication regimens in the elderly. This program has the potential to reduce medication related errors that can increase morbidity and mortality rates in community dwelling elders. This proposed program is an adaptation of a model community program under the umbrella of the National Council on Aging and Center for Healthy Aging.

Dr. Susan DeNisco, Dr. Audrey Beauvais and Professor Nina Pearlman spent the spring semester implementing a medication management program at 4 area senior centers. Fifty-one seniors participated in the sessions which focused on medication safety, drug-drug & drug to food interactions, high risk medications and strategies for adherence.



Dr. Susan DeNisco speaks with a LEAP program participant.

## Athletic Training Student Presents Research Poster at Conference

Christina Curran, a senior Athletic Training student, had her research poster accepted for presentation at the Connecticut Athletic Training Associations (CATA) Conference which was held at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut on May, 22, 2012.

Ms. Curran's poster, entitled "Idiopathic Subclavian Vein Thrombosis and Thoracic Outlet Syndrome in a High School Basketball Athlete" presented a study of an 18 year old, male, basketball athlete who was diagnosed with spontaneous subclavian vein thrombosis in the proximal upper right extremity which contributed to the development of thoracic outlet syndrome. This case study aims to discuss the diagnosis, treatment, and care of an athlete with this condition.

## Athletic Training Student Receives Awards for Research Paper



Katherine Maher, a senior Athletic Training student, was awarded a Certificate of Excellence at the Thirteenth Annual SHU College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Poster and Showcase Session on Friday, April 27, 2012. She was one of 80 students with as many as 50 research posters/showcases participating this year.

Ms. Maher's research poster, accepted for presentation at the Connecticut Athletic Training Association's (CATA) Conference at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut on May 22, 2012, was then awarded "Outstanding Poster Presentation" at the Conference.

The Poster, entitled, "Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Type II—NOS In A Division One Collegiate Softball Pitcher" presented the case of a 21 year old division I collegiate softball pitcher who sustained a grade two left anterior talofibular ligament (ATF) ankle sprain ultimately developed complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) type II not otherwise specified (NOS) as a result of this injury.

## Athletic Training Students Volunteer at Hartford Marathon

Richard Janey, Carin Wagner, Faith Westdyk and Megan Pathoomvanh (pictured left to right) volunteered as Athletic Training students at the Greater Hartford Marathon and Half Marathon on October 15, 2011. The race began at 8:00am at Bushnell Park in Hartford, Connecticut.





## Athletic Training Students and Faculty Support Athletic Training Legislation

Junior Athletic Training students attended the annual Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association (CATA) Hit the Hill Day on March 28, 2012 with Professor Eleni Diakogeorgiou as part of their Organization and Administration class. One of Professor Diakogeorgiou's duties as the Chair for the Committee on Revenue for the CATA was to be in charge of organizing Hit the Hill Day along with other members of the CATA. The association deemed the event a huge success, thanks to many athletic training students from the state including students from Sacred Heart University (SHU.) Students and certified Athletic Trainers filled the second floor atrium of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Connecticut.

After attending the legislative briefing by the CATA, Sacred Heart students sought out various legislators to speak with. The students did a phenomenal job and many legislative aides and legislators contacted them, post the event, to commend them on their professionalism and knowledge and to thank them for stopping in.

In addition to organizing Hit the Hill day in Connecticut, Professor Diakogeorgiou attended the National Athletic Trainers Association Capitol Hill Day in Washington, DC on February, 23, 2012.



(L to R) Brianna Sullivan, Amanda Jenks, Professor Diakogeorgiou, Christina Ruiz, Faith Westdyk, David Haverly, Rachel Kilburn, William Perkins, Alyssa Baldauf, Elizabeth Degnon, Carin Wagner, Lisa Scarlino, Richard Janey and Nicole Elby



## Exercise Science Faculty and Students Volunteer at “Focus on Fall” Health Fair

Professor Wendy Bjerke and students from EX 250: Exercise Physiology collaborated with the Sacred Heart University Employee Wellness Program to offer body composition and pulmonary function testing at the "Focus on Fall" Health Fair that was held on October 13, 2011 at the University Commons.

Brian Timmermans and Julia Fuller, charged with arranging student volunteers, recruited several students from the class.



(L to R) Michelle Moller, Jennifer Knox, and Carin Wagner

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## Exercise Science Students Help Plan for International Walk to School Day

Dr. Valerie Wherley's EX 320 – Pediatric Exercise Science students helped plan for the International Walk to School Day at Fox Run Elementary School in Norwalk on October 5, 2011.

It was the first year that Fox Run Elementary School participated in the event, which promotes fitness and stewardship of the environment. About 100 children, 30 percent of the student body, walked to school.

State Senator Bob Duff and Norwalk Mayor Moccia were both in attendance and each walked a group of children to school from a designated drop off location.

“Hopefully this will raise awareness for safe routes to schools, which include bike lanes and improved sidewalks” said Senator Duff.

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## Exercise Science Student Named NEC Player of the Year



Callan Taylor, a senior in the exercise science undergraduate program, was named Northeast Conference (NEC) player of the year selected to the 2011 - 2012 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division 1 Women's Basketball All-Star Second Team.

Ms. Taylor is one of the most decorated players in Sacred Heart University women's basketball history, closing out her career with more combined points and rebounds than any Pioneer in school history.

Off the court, Taylor was named to the Capital One/College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District Team for the second straight year and was named the Northeast Conference Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

## Exercise Science Students Organize and Participate in Field Day for Cooperative Educational Services (CES)

Students in Dr. Valerie Wherley's Pediatric Exercise Science class (EX 320), who recently completed a field service learning project at the Cooperative Education Services (CES) school in Trumbull coordinated and conducted a physical activity "field day" for the school.

The CES school serves youth and adolescents that are clinically diagnosed on the autism spectrum as well as intellectual disabilities. The "field day" ran from 12:30 - 2:00pm, primarily in the school's gymnasium and consisted of many different physical activity stations, targeting student's physical abilities, such as agility, flexibility, hand-eye coordination, and strength.

The Exercise Science department has been working collaboratively with CES for a number of years. CES has provided a wonderful opportunity for undergraduate exercise science students to participate in service learning while enrolled in the EX 320 course.



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## Fit Kids

"Fit Kids" is an evidence-based after school program from the Norwalk Health Department and the Exercise Science program at Sacred Heart University which promotes health among Norwalk's children. This year, more than 100 students participated in "Fit Kids" through afterschool programs offered at Columbus, Cranbury, and Kendall Elementary Schools.

Exercise Science student volunteers helped to provide the programs at each site. "Fit Kids" was designed not only to teach students' about nutrition and physical activity, but also to increase their confidence in their ability to make healthy choices. Students Interns from Exercise Physiology (EX 250), Sarah Bourque, Nicole Fontes, Jennifer Freda, Robert Mahlman, Hayley McGill, Mike Nigro, Emily Nunes, and Kimmie O'Brian were supervised by Lauren Cebello and Maria Tucker in service learning activities associated with Fit Kids.

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## Clinical News

The undergraduate Exercise Science Clinical Rotation program continues to grow; additional clinical sites were added for the 2011-2012 academic year. New sites included the Sikorsky Aircraft corporate fitness center and Sacred Heart University's Olympic Weightlifting Club.

The corporate fitness center at Sikorsky Aircraft, in Stratford, Connecticut, is managed by SHU Alumni Joseph Crudo (HMSS, 2002) and is open 24 hours, 7 days/week. This clinical site allows SHU students the opportunity to learn about exercise prescription, fitness testing, corporate promotions and health/fitness programming.

In January, two clinical students, Nick Almonte and Andrew Roche, attended a weightlifting meet in Garden City, New York, shadowing Coach Quintong to gain further insight into athlete preparation prior to competition.

Sacred Heart University's Olympic Weightlifting Club, run by Coach Joel Quintong, practices at the William H. Pitt Center and gives clinical students hands-on experience in motion analysis of Olympic lifts, critique of flexibility and power, and an inside look at program planning and periodization of competitive athletes. .





# Bachelor of Science in Health Science Receives Full Accreditation

The Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education for the State of Connecticut granted the Bachelor of Science in Health Science full accreditation in their February 2012 session. The BSHS department submitted a full report outlining the success of the program, and the objectives set forth by the committee at the time of licensure. The approval was granted without any provisions.

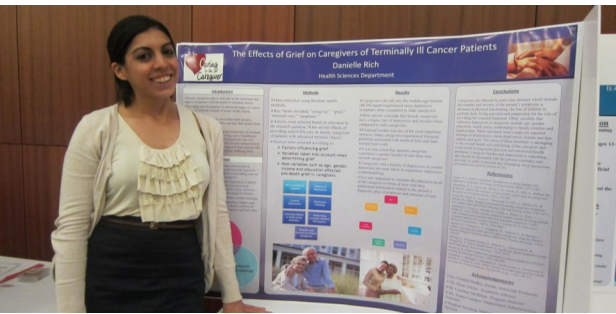
The Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) is celebrating the completion of their second year. The past two years have showed tremendous growth in the BSHS degree. The department currently has 87 declared majors. The primary growth for the program comes from the pre-professional track with 68 students seeking the degree. The students are anticipating graduate studies in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Pre-Med, Pre-Vet, and Physician Assistant. The Leadership track designed for our adult and part-time students has 19 student currently enrolled. Over the next year we anticipate continued growth in both programs.

The program had it's first graduates! Four students completed the requirements and graduated May 13, 2012. In addition one student graduated with a minor in HS. To date one student has been accepted to the NYU master's program in Social Work; one student has been accepted to NCC in the RN program. We are excited that our graduates are continuing on with their educational goals.

The program now offers a minor in Health Science. The minor in Health Science consists of 18 credits including 9 credits of required Health Science designated courses and 9 credits from a variety of health related electives. The minor in Health Science will provide an opportunity for students to gain knowledge of the current and future health care environment while pursuing technology, accounting and finance.

## Research Poster Presentation

Health Science students presented their posters at the annual Sacred Heart University Research Poster Presentation held in the University Commons on Friday, April 27, 2012.



**The Effects of Grief on Caregivers of Terminally Ill Cancer Patients.**  
Presented by Danielle Rich



**Can a Father's Workplace Exposure Affect the Health of the Fetus?**  
Presented by Marissa Gagliardo



**Artificial Tanning Related to Skin Cancer**  
Presented by Megan Spencer



**What is the Impact of Health Habits on Childhood Obesity?**  
Presented by Meghan Dooling



## Grant Awarded to Advanced Education Nursing

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration awarded a grant to Sacred Heart University for Advanced Educating Nursing Traineeships.

The support provided through this grant contributed to decreasing the financial burden of graduate study allowing some students to work fewer hours thereby enhancing likelihood of success and potentially moving degree candidates through the doctoral and master's programs more rapidly. For some students, the availability of this type of financial support is the difference between being able to attend graduate school at this time. As more and more studies validate the increasing need for doctoral and masters prepared nurses to serve as educators and advanced practice clinicians, continued support for these programs is even more crucial.

## Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging Provides Grant

Dr. Susan DeNisco received funding from the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging to implement the following Evidence Based Practice Program: Impact of a Medication Management Program on Adherence and Resilience in Community Dwelling Elders. This grant will also support the current Aging with Grace Initiative as part of the College of Health Professions (CHP)/ Center for Community Health and Wellness.

## Clinical Opportunities at St. Vincent's Medical Center for FNP Students

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program is working collaboratively with St. Vincent's Medical Center, in particular the Family Health Center, to provide increased access to healthcare services and offer our FNP students clinical experience with Sacred Heart University faculty as preceptors.

Typically students are placed with Nurse Practitioners, physicians, nurse midwives, or Physician Assistants in private offices or clinics. Dr. Julie Stewart, DNP, FNP, APRN, has joined the medical staff at St. Vincent's Medical Center and plans are for other Nurse Practitioner faculty join in the near future. This new model offers students an opportunity to provide medical care to underserved patients at the Family Health Center. The administration and the staff at St. Vincent's Medical Center and the Family Health Center have been welcoming and accommodating to our students.

## Professor Awarded Outstanding Faculty Practice Award

Julie Stewart, DNP, MSN, MPH, FNP-BC was awarded with the prestigious "Outstanding Faculty Practice Award" by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), the organization responsible for setting standards in nursing education throughout the world.

Dr. Stewart was presented with the award at the NONPF's 38th Annual Conference in April 2012 in Charleston, S.C



## Nursing Student Awarded with Nightingale Scholarship



Pictured: (L to R ) Dr. Anne Barker, Chair and Professor of Sacred Heart University Nursing Program with student and scholarship recipient, Lauren Murray.

Senior nursing student, Lauren Murray, was awarded a Nightingale Scholarship at the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing Scholarship Reception which took place on April 18, 2012 at the VNA of South Central Connecticut, Inc. in New Haven, Connecticut.

The goals of the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in nursing program are to encourage retention, inspire future nurses, focus public attention and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level. What better way to inspire future nurses then to honor nursing students for academic and community achievement.

In partnering with local nursing programs including, Sacred Heart University, the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing provides five scholarships – one scholarship to a deserving student at each of five Schools of Nursing. The respective Schools of Nursing select the scholarship nominee based on demonstrated financial need and qualities that suggest the student may be a future Nightingale nominee.

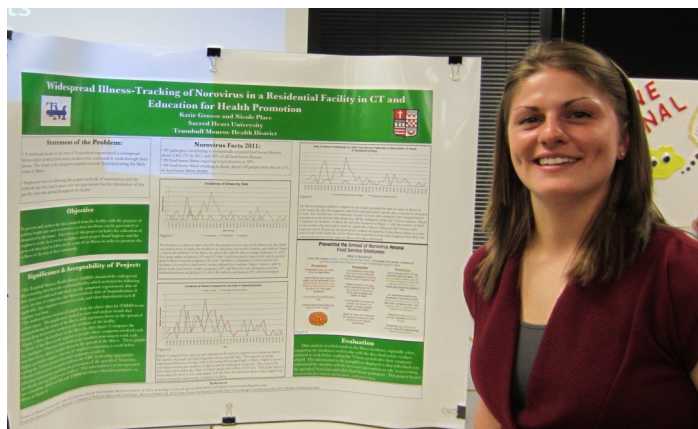
## Double Celebration for Nursing Student on Mother's Day

Nursing student, Leslie Youngblood, and her son Ulysses both received diplomas at SHU's undergraduate commencement on Mother's Day. "It's a dream I've waited a long time for, both for Ulysses and myself." said Ms. Youngblood.



## Senior Capstone Event

A Senior Capstone Event on Monday, April 23, 2012 hosted by Professor Michelle Cole, Professor Shery Watson and Dr. Kathleen Fries hosted featured presentations and poster sessions from senior students in the First Professional Degree Nursing Class of 2012. Invited guests included all nursing faculty, Anne Barker, chair of the nursing program and various clinical professionals.



Katie Grosso co-presented with Nicole Place a poster entitled "Widespread Illness-Tracking of Norovirus in a residential facility in Connecticut and Education for Health Promotion"

## Nursing Students Present at Research Poster and Showcase Session

Students from the Nursing program presented at the Thirteenth Annual College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Poster and Showcase Session on Friday, April 27, 2012. They were amongst 80 students with as many as 50 research posters/showcases participating this year.



### *"Reducing the Incidence of Pressure Ulcers in Hip Fracture Patients"*

Presented by: Michelle Chiacchio



### *"Educating Emergency Department Nurses on Maternity Care to Improve Staff's Ability to Care for and Comfort the Pregnant Patient"*

Presented by: Melissa Gildersleeve



### *"Guatemala's Economic Crisis and its Effects on Citizens"*

Presented by: Aubrey R. Solla

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## Doctoral of Nursing Program Student News

Under the leadership of DNP student **Karen Carroll, RN, MSN, CNAA-BC, Chief Nurse Officer**, Beaufort Memorial Hospital has been awarded the Pathway to Excellence designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in recognition of its nurse friendly work environment. It is the only hospital in South Carolina to achieve this status.

DNP student, **Bonnie Haupt, RN, MSN, CNL-BC**, had her abstract entitled "Instituting Quiet Hour Improves Patient Satisfaction" accepted for the MU Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International's 17th Annual Connecticut Collaborative Research Day Conference hosted by Fairfield University on March 23, 2012.

DNP student, **Linda Mascolo, CNS, APRN**, presented at the New England Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Society Regional Conference in Boston, MA in October, 2012.

She spoke on "Ostomy Stoma Site Marking and the Impact on Hospital Length of Stay and Quality of Life Issues" based on the research interests she has been pursuing at Sacred Heart University.

DNP student **Teresa Money McLaughlin, RN, MSN, AOCN**, had her abstract entitled "Preparing A Community Cancer Center to Meet the Standard of Integrating and Monitoring On-Site Psychosocial Distress Screening and Referral for the Provision of Psychosocial Care" selected by the 2012 Congress Team for a poster presentation that was held at the 37th Annual Congress in New Orleans, LA on May 3, 2012. The abstract highlights her dissertation work on the Oncology Nurse Society Annual Congress in New Orleans.



## Workshop Benefitted the Christine Busher Fund



A day long workshop was held on November 5, 2011 at the Norwalk Inn and Conference Center provided invaluable education for pediatric occupational and physical therapists, teachers, and parents but also raised funds to benefit the Memorial Christine E. Busher Occupational Therapy Award Fund. Headlining the workshop was Susanne Smith Roley, an internationally known occupational therapist with 30 plus years of experience in pediatrics who is also an author, lecturer and researcher. The award fund will help students entering Occupational Therapy as a second career with books, lab coats and field costs and other incidentals.

Ms. Busher was a conscientious student and involved student while earning her master's in Occupational Therapy (OT) from Sacred Heart University (SHU). She went on to teach OT at SHU and also worked in the New Caanan and Monroe school systems as an Occupational Therapist.

"She was dedicated to her students," said Jody Bortone Ed.D., OTR/L, the chairwoman and director of the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy at SHU, who learned that Ms. Busher's colleagues also "were impressed with her dedication to her students and to their families. The teachers at the schools where she worked said the kids loved her. It was a tremendous loss when she passed away.

## Occupational Therapy Student Volunteers at All Seasons Community Fundraiser

When Lisa Labruzzo, occupational therapy student, and four of her classmates got the information about the silent auction fundraiser for "All Seasons Community" they volunteered to work at the event. Unfortunately, the event was originally scheduled for October 29, 2012, the saturday of the weekend when Connecticut sustained a devastating snowstorm that knocked out power to millions of Connecticut residents and businesses.

The event was rescheduled for February 4, 2012, at which time the other four occupational therapy students where in the midst of their fieldwork rotation and were no longer available to volunteer. Ms. Labruzzo spent the evening with Occupational Therapists at a table which offered demonstrations on what it would be like to have a sensory disorder. The table generated a lot of interest amongst the guests, of whom a large majority were parents of Autistic children.

## Occupational Therapy Student Helps Special Needs Students

When Karen Bassett, a first year Master's Degree occupational therapy (OT) student at Sacred Heart University, began working with special needs students in Stamford schools in January 2012 she realized the limited availability of a much needed intervention tool and came up with a plan to make more available.

Ms. Bassett and a group of eight other OT students began sewing weighted vests and keypads to help students with sensory processing disorders focus better in school. Weighted vests are often used as part of an occupational therapy plan. Deep pressure input is provided by wearing weighted vests at different times during the day to help a child focus and pay attention to activities in class.

While in the Stamford school district, Bassett came across a young boy who was upset over the vests. He couldn't wear them around the halls because of the way they looked. The idea was born to make cool-looking vests that kids would like to wear, even want to wear. Ms. Bassett decided to disguise the vests' therapeutic purpose by using fabrics such as camouflage, pink floral, and denim.

The lap pads were made to be used for the same reason, they were all rectangular, about 8 x 14 inches, and filled with rice.

# SHU Occupational Therapy has Strong Presence at Spring Conference

There was a large presence from the Sacred Heart University Occupational Therapy program at Connecticut Occupational Therapy Associations (CONNOTA) spring conference on March 10, 2012 in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Master's in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) 2nd year students presented Poster Presentations of their capstone research.

## "American Heroes"



Presented by Criselda Dougherty (R), Tara Fitzgerald (L), Meaghan Flanagan, and Stacey Raimondi.  
Mentor: Mary Ellen Johnson, OTD, MAHSM, OTR/L

## "Interdisciplinary Allied Health Care: The Guatemala Service Learning Project"

Presented by (as pictured from Left to Right) Jaime Betts,



Stacey McIvor, Jeremy Cabana, Patrycja Pedzinska, Yerkis Sanchez, and Ashley Kost.  
Mentors: Lenore Frost, PhD., OTR/L, CHT and Margo Gross, OTR/L, LMFT, LMT

## "Making Senior Centers Senior-Centered: Staff Member Perspectives on the Sensory Preferences of Geriatric Clients in Adult Day Centers"



Presented by (as pictured from Left to Right) Meghan Fera, Yvonne I. Dobbelmann, Nicole S. Yarsawich, Jennifer L. Morello, and Kristen Deely.  
Mentor: Mary Ellen Johnson, OTD, MAHSM, OTR/L

## "Reflection on Occupational Therapy Teaching Assistantships: What Impact Does the Experience Have on Students' Professional Development?"



Presented by (as pictured from Left to Right) Kimberly Crowley, Kerry Nolan, Amy Kuzenka, and not pictured, Kaitlyn Cavanaugh.  
Mentor: Jody Bortone, EdD., OT/L



## SHU Physical Therapy has Strong Presence at Fall Conference

Several Students and faculty from the Physical Therapy program presented at the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association's fall conference on October 1, 2011 in Cromwell, Connecticut.

### “Hippotherapy”



Presented by (as pictured) Professor Donna Bowers, and 2011 alumnae Dr. Janet Atkins, Dr. Erin Donaldson, and (not pictured) Melissa DeLaCruz.

The purpose of this presentation was to provide an evidence-based overview of hippotherapy and examples of how to incorporate it into the elements of patient/client management.

### “Scoliosis”



Presented by (as pictured) 3rd year Doctorate of Physical Therapy students, Emma Diloreto, Jaelyn Cotreau, Monica Leisner, Amy Comley, and Professor Donna Bowers.

The purpose of this presentation was to provide evidence, including clinical practice guidelines, on the nonsurgical and surgical management of patients with neuromuscular scoliosis management before and after surgery. Family centered care regarding decisions around scoliosis management were also discussed.

### “Sacroiliac Joint and Pelvic Girdle Pain Disorders”



Presented by (as pictured) Cheryl DiFabio, Darek Candelore, Dr. David Cameron, Philip Farrelly, and Whitney Russo.

The three hour long presentation given by Dr. Cameron and the four 3rd year Doctorate of Physical Therapy students included information on Incidence/prevalence, risk factors, anatomy of region, types of sacroiliac joint dysfunctions, biopsychosocial framework, differential diagnosis, physical examination techniques as well as intervention. The presentation was well attended by practicing physical therapists around the state and feedback was very positive.



## Dr. David Cameron Participates in Kairos Prison Ministry.

Dr. Cameron participated in his third Kairos Prison Ministry weekend, October 7 - 10, 2011, where he spent 3½ days at Osborn State prison in Somers CT. The purpose of Kairos Prison Ministry is to show incarcerated men that God loves them, forgives them, and has a better plan for their life. This message is conveyed through the servitude of the Kairos volunteers. The 3½ day Ministry includes talks by Kairos team members followed by ‘table’ discussions to reflect on topic of talks, chapel meditations, and music led by Kairos team members. Incarcerated men are given the opportunity to talk about their lives, families, and experience’s without being judged or criticized, just being listened to.

"It is absolutely amazing to see what happens to men, some of whom have been convicted of horrendous crimes, after they spend three days in the Kairos Ministry. On the first night there is a lot of tension and apprehension. By the end of the weekend, men are clearly transformed into different beings – beings the Creator originally intended them to be." said Dr. Cameron.

In addition, Dr. Cameron attends Kairos reunions on the second Saturday morning of each month to encourage faithful Christian living.

The Kairos Prison Ministry believes that the way to improve public safety is to change the heart of individuals who make mistakes – not warehouse them.

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## SHU Physical Therapy students Collect Shoes for “ReUse a Shoe” Program



Pictured from left to right: Kristin Sirignano, Adriana Sodano, Stephanie Schwartz, Brett Peterson, Regina Scafariello, and Danielle Adler

Physical Therapy (PT) student Regina Scafariello, president of the Student Special Interest Group of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association, reports that SHU physical therapy is taking part in a friendly competition between all PT and PTA schools in Connecticut in which The Nike™ Reuse a Shoe Program was a part of.

The shoes were collected and sorted at Sacred Heart University and then Ms. Scafariello dropped them off at one of Nike™ Reuse a Shoe recycling locations. Once the store collects a large number of shoes, they are shipped to one of their processing centers in Meerhout, Belgium and Memphis, TN. Every shoe brought to a Nike Reuse a Shoe plant is separated into parts, recycled and made into athletic surfaces such as tennis courts, fields, or playgrounds. This recycled material decreases the need for new rubber and other materials while still meeting consumer product safety guidelines. Our donated shoes could have gone towards these courts or playgrounds anywhere – not just in our backyard (which is pretty cool to think that we can be giving back on more of a global scale!). Nike™ states on their website that 25,249,000 pairs of shoes have been collected and recycled since 1990. More information can be found here <http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/>

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## Athletic Training

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### Dr. Gail Samdperil

Dr. Samdperil was invited to do a presentation entitled "Continuing Professional Development in Athletic Training" and facilitate a peer-to-peer discussion entitled "Continuing Education Committee - Professional Development Plans for Athletic Trainers: Lessons from the IOM and other Health Care Professions" at the National Athlete Trainer's Association Annual Symposium in St. Louis, MI in June 2012.

### Eric Scibek

Professor Scibek gave a presentation with Dr. Kevin Chui entitled "Recognition & Management of Acetabular Labral Tears in Athletics" at the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) Fall Conference in Providence, RI on November 4, 2011.

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## Exercise Science

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### Dr. Wendy Bjerke

Dr. Bjerke was granted promotion from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor effective September 1, 2012.

Dr. Bjerke successfully defended her dissertation "The effects of an activities and conceptually based physical education course on college student health and behavior outcomes." The PhD in Public Health degree with a specialization in Epidemiology was conferred upon her in May, 2012 from Walden University.

Dr. Bjerke was the recipient of a University Research and Creativity Grant (URCG) for 2011-2012.

As "Fit Kids" initiative continued to grow the program was featured on News 12 Connecticut, and in the Norwalk Citizen, The Hour, The Daily Norwalk, and the websites [www.americantowns.com](http://www.americantowns.com) and [www.stamfordplus.com](http://www.stamfordplus.com)

Dr. Bjerke was the recipient of a University Research and Creativity Grant (URCG) for 2011-2012.

The Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) has accepted Dr. Bjerke's application to develop a case study (Fit Kids) for inclusion in the Healthy People 2020 and Education for Health Successful Practices Initiative sponsored by the APTR Healthy People Curriculum Task Force.

The resulting compilation of successful practice case studies will highlight innovative programs and approaches that advance the teaching of prevention, population health, and public health.

Dr. Bjerke published Feuerstein, J., Bautista, L., Bjerke, W. *A dietary approach for treating dyslipidemia and hyperglycemia.* Current Nutrition and Food Science, 7, 4: 271-274.

Dr. Bjerke published an article in the 2011, Volume 5 of the Walden University's *Journal of Social, Behavioral and Health Sciences* entitled "The Impact of Infectious Disease on Chronic Disease: A Review of Contemporary Findings." Dr. Bjerke's article is listed amongst one of the most popular papers on their website.

### Dr. Beau Greer

Dr. Greer was granted tenure effective September 1, 2013 and promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor effective September 1, 2012.

Dr. Greer and a former exercise science student, Brett Jones, had an article entitled "Acute Arginine Supplementation Fails to Improve Muscle Endurance or Affect Blood Pressure Responses to Resistance Training" published in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*. The study has recently been cited in *Obesity, Fitness, and Wellness Week*, and the websites [www.bodybuildingforall.com](http://www.bodybuildingforall.com) and [www.ehealthmd.com](http://www.ehealthmd.com)

### Dr. Matthew Moran

was featured in the Fall 2011 *New York Runner* magazine. As a collective result of Dr. Moran's running background, coaching experiences, coaching influences & philosophies, and research background he formed RUNtrix, LLC. RUNtrix's sophisticated algorithms power the customized 12 and 16 week training programs of the 2011 ING NYC Marathon. Dr. Moran developed RUNtrix to provide runners with a unique customized training experience that reduces injury rates, create lifelong runners, and guide runners in accomplishing their goals.

### Dr. Anna Price

Dr. Price has published or has In Press the following articles.

- Price AE, Reed JA, Muthukurishnan, S. (In Press). "Trail user demographics, physical activity behaviors, and perceptions of a newly constructed greenway trail." *Journal of Community Health*.
- Price AE, Reed JA, Hooker SP. (In Press). "The Association of Natural Elements and Trail Use by Adults. Preventing Chronic Disease."
- Price AE, Reed JA, Long S, Maslow AL, Hooker SP. (2012). "The Association of Natural Elements and Trail Use by Older Adults." *Journal of Physical Activity and Public Health*, 9 (6).

## Peter Ronai

Professor Ronai demonstrated exercise techniques for lowering cholesterol as part of a free series on lowering cholesterol offered by the Stratford Health Department. The series of four speakers, designed to offer tips to manage and lower cholesterol to maintain a healthy heart, was held at the Birdseye Municipal Complex during the month of April and May, 2012.

## Dr. Valerie Wherley

Dr. Wherley gave a presentation entitled "A Successful Fusion of an Undergraduate Exercise Science Curriculum and Service Learning Objectives" at the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) Fall Conference in Providence, RI on November 3, 2011.

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## Health Science

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## Dr. Carolyn Shiffman

Dr. Shiffman gave a presentation entitled "Multi-Generational Collaboration: Forget the Gaps!" at the New England Association for Continuing Higher Education conference at Assumption College on April 27, 2012. The session discussed the teaching/learning methods used to develop collaboration between adult continuing education students and full time traditional students.

The session demonstrated how interactive pedagogical teaching strategies bridge the diversity of the student populations. Generational diversity was considered when designing the course objective, content and outcomes. Emphasis was placed on the experiential learning model. Specific examples were highlighted and recommendations and suggestions elicited from the audience.

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## Nursing

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## Dr. Anne Barker

Dr. Barker gave a presentation entitled "Complexity Science: A Theoretical Model to Inform New Beginnings" as part of **A Time for New Beginnings, Presidential Inaugural Lecture Series** on February 15, 2012 in the Schine Auditorium at Sacred Heart University.

Dr. Barker and **Dr. Susan DeNisco** published a text book through Jones and Bartlett Learning entitled "Advanced Practice Nursing: Evolving Roles for the Transformation of the Profession." (2012)

Dr. Barker was selected by the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) to receive the 2011 Josephine Dolan Jubilee Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nursing Education. The award was presented to Dr. Barker at the CNA's Annual Awards Reception on October 27, 2011.

## Dr. Audrey Beauvais

Dr. Beauvais published an article in DeNisco, S. and Barker, A. (eds), *Advanced Practice of Nursing: Evolving Roles for the Transformation of the Profession* (2012) Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett entitled "Role Transition: Strategies for Success in the Marketplace."

Dr. Beauvais published an article in Jones, J., Fitzpatrick, J. & Rogers, V. (eds), *Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing: An Interpersonal Approach* (2012) New York, NY: Springer entitled "Personality Disorders"

## Dr. Susan DeNisco

Dr. DeNisco and Dr. Anne Barker published a text book through Jones and Bartlett Learning entitled *Advanced Practice Nursing: Evolving Roles for the Transformation of the Profession.* (2012)

Dr. DeNisco was nominated and selected to attend the June 2011 session of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) training program for prospective on-site evaluators. CCNE is the premier accrediting agency for baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in nursing and is nationally recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

## Dr. Harriet Fields

Dr. Harriet Fields is featured in an article for Sacred Heart University's August News. Click on [Nursing Professor guided by W.C. Fields](#) to read the article.

Dr. Harriet Fields was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Teachers College, Columbia University Alumni Council in May 2011. The Alumni Council was created to represent the diverse interests and needs of the graduates and other attendees of the College.

## Dr. Kim Kuebler

Dr. Kuebler gave a presentation entitled "Patient Care Outside the Hospital" at the Georgia Nurses Association Professional Development Conference in Atlanta, GA on Oct 19 - 20, 2011.



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Dr. Keubler's article entitled "*Comparing Perceived Knowledge of Chronic Disease Management to Quantitative Knowledge Measurement in a Sample of Baccalaureate Nursing Students: Implications for Palliative Care Nursing Education*" written for the Palliative Care Continuing Education Modules was published in Issue 3, 2011 of the Georgia Nursing Newsletter.

## Dr. Julie Stewart

Dr. Stewart was presented with the prestigious National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Annual recognition award for "Outstanding Faculty Practice" at the 38th Annual Conference, April 12 - 15, 2012 in Charleston, South Carolina. This award recognizes Dr. Stewart for her outstanding contributions as a true integrator of clinical practice and the nursing faculty role.

Dr. Stewart was a guest speaker for the Nurse Practitioner Associates for Continuing Education conference in Phoenix, Arizona on June 11, 2011 and Central Georgia's Nurse Practitioner conference on September 16 - 17, 2011 in Warner Robins, GA where she gave a presentation entitled "HIV update for Primary Care Nurse Practitioners."

Dr. Stewart published an article on HIV management entitled "Identifying and Co-Managing the HIV-Infected Adult: A Guidebook for Primary Care Clinicians" which appeared as a supplement in the September 2011, issues of both *The Clinical Advisor* and *The Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*.

**Professor Rebecca Smart** and Dr. Stewart were invited and participated in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' Leadership conference as representatives of Connecticut and Sacred Heart University Family Nurse Practitioner faculty.

The subject matter that Professor Smart and Dr. Stewart were involved with was on the review of current Healthcare issues, Bills at the Federal level, and Nurse Practitioners' at the State and Curriculum level. The conference was held in Rye, New York on September 23, 2011.

## Dr. Linda Strong

Dr. Strong received an Outstanding Volunteer award from the New England Medical Reserve Corps in November, 2011 after being nominated by the Stratford Health Department. She was also named a 2011 Healthcare Hero for Greater New Haven in the Community Service category.

## Shery Watson

Professor Watson was selected by the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) to receive the 2011 Florence Wald Diamond Jubilee Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nursing Practice. The award was presented to Professor Watson at the CNA's Annual Awards Reception on October 27, 2011.

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## Occupational Therapy

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### Dr. Lenore Frost

Dr. Frost gave a presentation entitled "Physical Rehabilitation" at the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Associations Fall Conference at Quinnipiac University in North Haven, Connecticut on October 29, 2011.

### Dr. Heather Miller Kuhaneck

Dr. Kuhaneck successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "*Sensory Processing and Praxis as Predictors of Play Performance in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*." The Doctor of Philosophy degree in Public Health was conferred upon her in May, 2012 from the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Kuhaneck was interviewed for an article on the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) website about the changes to the Diagnostic and Statistical, Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).

Dr. Kuhaneck was invited to speak at *Area Cooperative Educational Services* on "Data Based Decision Making" on October 5, 2011 and on "Ayres Sensory Integration" in May 2011.

Dr. Kuhaneck became a member of the Content Validity Panel on the Southern Connecticut State University's Center of Excellence on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Dr. Kuhaneck attended "*Designing Courses for Integrative Learning: Theory, Research, Implementation & Assessment*" a summer institute at The Center for Occupational Therapy Education at Colorado State University in June 2011.

Dr. Kuhaneck has published the following:

- Miller Kuhaneck, H. (2011). Working with Children with ASDs and Their Families in Early Intervention and School Based Practice using Principles of Family Centered Care. CE on CD, AOTA Press.
- Glennon, T.J., Miller Kuhaneck, H., & Herzberg, D. (2011). The Sensory Processing Measure – Preschool (SPM-P) Part One: Description of the Tool and Its Use in the Pre-school Environment. *Journal of Occupational Therapy in Schools and Early Intervention*.

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## Physical Therapy

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### Dr. Yvette Blanchard

Dr. Blanchard has been collaborating on a project with Dr. Mary Gannotti, Associate Professor at the University of Hartford on a project titled: Meaning of happiness and success in the 21st century for adults with cerebral palsy and its implications for health professionals. Data collection was completed in January 2012.

Dr. Blanchard was the keynote speaker at the Neuro-Developmental Treatment Association (NDTA) 2011 Building Blocks of Baby Treatment National Conference in Rye Brook, New York on May 21, 2011. Dr. Blanchard gave a presentation entitled "Getting to Know You: Key Clinical Concepts in Relationship-Based Interventions and Neurobehavioral Observations with Young Infants."

Dr. Blanchard has published the following:

- Kahn-D'Angelo, L., Blanchard, Y., McManus, B. (2011). The special care nursery. S.K. Campbell, R.J. Palisano, & Orlin, M. (Eds.).
- Physical Therapy for Children. Elsevier. (Book chapter) Blanchard, Y. (2011). Getting to know you: Key clinical concepts in relationship-building interventions and neurobehavioral observations with young infants. NDTA Network, 18(2), 1-23.
- Dr. Blanchard, Y., Cultural competence: A lifelong journey to cultural proficiency. Ronnie Leavitt. Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics, 31(2), 214-215, 2011. (Book review)

Dr. Blanchard collaborated on a project and paper with colleagues from Tromsø, Norway, Drs. Gunn Kristin Oberg and Aud Obstfelder titled: "Intersubjectivity and bodily experience of posture and movement in preterm infants during Physical Therapy."

Gunn Kristin Oberg, PhD, is a Clinical Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy at the University Hospital of North Norway and a faculty in the Department of Health and Care Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Tromsø. Dr. Aud Obstfelder, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Tromsø.

This collaboration between the Physical Therapy Program at Sacred Heart University and the University of Tromsø began in September 2010 during Dr. Blanchard's sabbatical leave.

### Donna Bowers

Professor Bowers was granted promotion from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor effective September 1, 2012.

Professor Bowers gave the following presentations at the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association Annual Meeting on September 30, 2011

- "Hippotherapy" with three 2011 graduates, Janet Atkins, PT, DPT, Erin Donaldson, PT, DPT, and Melissa DeLaCruz, PT, DPT. The purpose of this presentation was to provide an evidence-based overview of hippotherapy and to provide examples of how to incorporate hippotherapy into the elements of patient/client management.
- "Scoliosis" with four 3rd year Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) students, Emma Diloreto, Jaclyn Cotreau, Monica Leisner, and Amy Comley. Evidence, including clinical practice guidelines, on the nonsurgical and surgical management of patients with neuromuscular scoliosis were presented with an emphasis on physical therapy management before and after surgery. Family centered care regarding decisions around scoliosis management were also discussed.

### Dr. David Cameron

Dr. Cameron gave a presentation entitled "Sacroiliac Joint and Pelvic Girdle Pain Disorders" on September 30th with four third year DPT students at the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association's Annual Fall conference. The students, Darek Candelore, Cheryl DiFabio, Philip Farrelly, and Whitney Russo did an outstanding job preparing and presenting their topics. The 3 hour long presentation included information on Incidence/prevalence, risk factors, anatomy of region, types of sacroiliac joint dysfunctions, biopsychosocial framework, differential diagnosis, physical examination techniques as well as intervention. The presentation was well attended by practicing physical therapists around the state and feedback was very positive.

### Dr. Kevin Chui

Dr. Chui and professor emerita, Dr. Michelle Lusardi gave a presentation entitled "*Walking Speed: A Vital Sign And Even More*" at the American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in Chicago, IL on February 10, 2012.

Dr. Lusardi opened the Geriatrics Section session by advising the audience, of close to 1,000, that walking speed assessment is a tool that all Physical Therapists should use.

Dr. Chui and Professor Eric Scibek gave a presentation entitled "Recognition & Management of Acetabular Labral Tears in Athletics" at the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) Fall Conference in Providence, RI on November 4, 2011.

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## Athletic Training

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Leanne Snelders '11 will be attending Dowling College on Long Island to receive her Master's Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education. Leanne will also be working with athletes at the college as an athletic trainer.

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## Exercise Science

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Justin Culicci '11, Nicholas DeMarco '11, and Benjamin Wicki '11, gave a presentation entitled "A Comparison of the Rate of Force Development During a Light and Moderate Load Snatch Pull." at the New England American College of Sports Medicine annual conference in Providence, RI on November 3rd and 4th, 2011. The presentation was based on a senior project that they previously presented at the SHU annual research poster presentation.

Chris Giacchino '11, who earned a bachelor's degree in both Athletic Training and Exercise Science was hired by Moore Physical Fitness in Wilton, Connecticut.

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## Nursing

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Ms. Leona Konieczny was awarded the Ruth M. Olsen Award from Connecticut League for Nursing (CLN) for Excellence in Nursing Education. The award was presented to Ms. Konieczny at the annual CLN Leadership Convention Luncheon which was held on June 2, 2011 in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Jessica Rose Boy '07, graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing degree from MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston. Boy was one of 399 students in the graduate school's Class of 2011.

Lisa Baldwin '09, attends Brockton Hospital School of Nursing, and is employed as a certified nursing assistant at Milford Regional Medical Center.

Kristin Mahan MSN '11, has joined the health care staff at the Montville Backus Health Center in Uncasville, Connecticut.

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## Physical Therapy

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Michael Beecher, DPT '08 has become double certified in orthopedics and sports physical therapy. Becoming a board certified therapist is a long and demanding process that few therapists undertake, let alone accomplish. In Connecticut, there are less than a dozen therapists with sports certification; the number with double certifications is even smaller. Michael also lectures in the field of physical therapy and has presented at national, state and local conferences. He is a published author in the *Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy*.

Patrick Buckley, DPT '11 and Brianne Hudak, DPT '11, were both hired in June 2011 by Moore Physical Fitness in Wilton, Connecticut.

Stephen Pallazola '02, MSPT '04, has been appointed rehabilitation services manager at VNA Care Network & Hospice. In his new role Stephen will be responsible for the management and oversight of physical, occupational, and speech and language pathology services. Stephen currently resides in Topsfield, Mass.

Lindsey (Fair) Savage '01, MSPT '04, opened "Back on Track Physical Therapy" in Rutland, Vermont. Lindsey has been a practicing Physical Therapist for seven years. Prior to opening Back On Track, she worked at Slate Valley Physical Therapy and Vermont Sports Medicine Center (VSMC), both outpatient physical therapy clinics. She was the office manager of VSMC in Killington for two years, where she worked with high-level athletes from the US Ski and Snowboard teams.

Ruth Crossley DPT'09, graduated December 16, 2011 from the commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health, Officer Basic Training Course. Lt Crossley serves in the Indian Health Service at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility, Chinle, Arizona.

The purpose of the Officer Basic Course (OBC) is to establish a standardized, highly reliable core of basic information, to inspire Corps officers and to establish an emotional bond to the service. It supports acquirement of competencies that officers need to begin their careers, with emphasis on officership and readiness. When officers complete the OBC, they have the foundation upon which to develop a career in the Public Health Service and meet the basic readiness requirements for deployment.



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## Dean's Circle: \$1,000 and above

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Mr. Edward J. Boccuzzi  
Constellation Management LLC  
Core Physical Therapy & Sport Rehabilitation,  
P.C.  
Delaney Memorial Foundation  
Mr. Earl and Dr. Constance Young/  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

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## Chair's Circle: \$500 to \$999

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Dr. Yvette Blanchard  
Fairfield County Community Foundation  
Mr. John G. Kruse, Prism Medical  
New England Medical Systems, Co.  
Mr. Eden Weiss, Prism Medical

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## Faculty Circle: \$250 to \$499

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Ms. Margaret A. Donnelly  
Guldman Inc.  
MIP Inc.  
Ms. Rosemarie E. Palmieri  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Pearlin  
Sizewise Rentals LLC  
Dr. Dori T. Sullivan

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## Benefactors: \$1 to \$249

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Ms. Sara E. Alia  
Ms. Betty M. Anderson  
Dr. Gary P. Austin  
Ms. Karen G. Barthel

Mr. John E. Beauvais  
Ms. Lillian D. Belfiore  
Ms. Laurie A. Bellico  
Ms. Kathleen R. Bonaventura  
Dr. Joanne M. Bortone  
Ms. Donna M. Bowers  
Ms. Deborah K. Braxton  
Ms. Jennifer A. Bretko  
Dr. Stephen S. Burrows  
Ms. Kathleen P. Carius  
Ms. Lorraine F. Carrano  
Ms. Heidi S. Cheerman  
Ms. Michelle P. Chiacchio  
Mr. Anthony M. Christoforo  
Ms. Michelle Cole  
Mr. & Mrs. T.J. Critchley  
Ms. Larissa Deats  
Ms. Julie T. DeBenedictis  
Ms. Donna F. Dombrowski  
Ms. Elizabeth Drehwing  
Ms. Nancy M. Egede-Nissen  
Ms. Myrelle J. Farrell  
Ms. Susan E. Fowler  
Ms. Julia R. Fuller  
Mr. Brian L. Giddinge  
Ms. Susan M. Greener  
Ms. Lori L. Hartel  
Ms. Laurel B. Hibbard  
Ms. Betty Hill  
Ms. Lisa Hoffer  
Mr. Scott Holbrook  
Ms. Amanda L. Hubert  
Ms. Deborah C. Jackson  
Mr. Ernest Joy  
Ms. Carol P. Just  
Ms. Ari Karakatsanis  
Ms. Kathryn A. Katz  
Ms. Kerry A. King  
Mr. Jeffrey P. Kochan  
Ms. Kaitlin A. Kowalsky

LaMarco Physical Therapy, P.C.  
Ms. Katherine R. Lopes  
Ms. Brittany Mallon  
Mr. John Manners  
Ms. Mary J. Marchitto  
Ms. Paula Martinka  
Ms. Sharon A. McCaughey  
Ms. Susan McGinnis  
Ms. Candace E. Meader  
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## The College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University offers the following undergraduate and graduate programs:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| B.S. in Athletic Training              | M.S. in Nursing Education             |
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| B.S. in Nursing                        | Doctor of Physical Therapy            |
| Doctor of Nursing Practice             | M.S. in Geriatric Health and Wellness |
| M.S. in Nursing with concentrations in | M.S. in Exercise Science & Nutrition  |
| - Patient Care Services Administration |                                       |
| - Clinical Nurse Leader                |                                       |
| - Family Nurse Practitioner            |                                       |

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](mailto:www.gradstudies@sacredheart.edu)

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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.