



*College of Education and Health Professions*  
*Reflections of 2007 - 2008*





October 24, 2007 - Dr. Patricia Walker, Dean of the College, cuts the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the new Education and Health Professions building at Cambridge Drive.

Also pictured, left to right: Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Thomas Forget, President Anthony Cerera, and Michael Emery, Associate Dean & Chair of the Physical Therapy and Human Movement Science Department.

## Dean's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends:

As the end of the academic year draws to a close, we end the year with the pride of a year well done, and with sadness in saying good-bye to students who graduated and colleagues who left for new careers and retirement. In regard to a job well done, nothing can top the effort made by the faculty and staff of the college and the joint efforts of the university divisions of Academic Affairs, Finance and Administration, and Enrollment Planning and Students Affair in moving the college to the Cambridge building last fall. We finalized the decision to move in April, 2007 and we were unpacked, set up, and running classes in September 2007! My heartfelt thanks go out to my faculty and staff and all those whose efforts contributed to a successful move.

We are also proud of the creation of the Isabelle Farrington School of Education, the successful Connecticut State Department of Education site visit with commendations, and the ranking of our Physical Therapy program as the best PT program in the state by *U.S. News and World Report*. Our students received numerous awards and honors, and faculty, staff and students continued to live our mission through a variety of service projects including another successful college led delegation to El Salvador.

We were saddened to hear that one of our alumni Patrick McCaughey (HMSS '97) passed away last year but pleased to work with alumni Kevin Vining and Kevin Joyce to establish the Patrick McCaughey Fund to assist athletic training students to attend professional meetings.

Finally, it is with mixed feelings that we said good bye to Dr. Dori Taylor Sullivan, Chair of the Nursing department for the last eight years. While our nursing programs were already held in high regard, through Dori's leadership our reputation has been enhanced even more. We wish her much success as she moves on to a new career at Duke University.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Walker, Dean  
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# ***MISSION STATEMENT***

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*The College of Education and Health Professions seeks to foster the development of women and men who demonstrate intellectual and professional integrity, who value compassionate service to others, and who take leading roles in communities governed by spiritual and moral values...*



Athletic Training students practice examining reflexes on each other.



Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner program student taking blood pressure readings at a Health Fair at Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport, Connecticut

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# Isabelle Farrington

## Education programs meet state standards

The Isabelle Farrington School of Education hosted the site visit team from the Connecticut State Department of Education during the week of April 6 through April 9, 2008. Their review of the education certification programs is part of the normal five year cycle of program approval in accordance with the standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

During the exit interview on April 9th, the team leaders reported their preliminary findings that the school has fully met all six standards and included a recommendation regarding increasing the number of faculty in our advanced program in Education Leadership. Two areas were noted worthy of positive commendation:

1. Our effective use of educational technology within our curriculum - including the level and variety of support for instructional technology and information technology.
2. Our implementation of the e-Star program to manage assessment data to track student progress and evaluate program performance.

The program approval process will continue with a formal review committee meeting in June which will generate a recommendation to the State of CT Commissioner of Education. A resolution regarding our program approval is expected to be on the agenda of the September State of CT Board of Education Meeting.

On receipt of the recommendation from the review committee, we will immediately make application for national accreditation through NCATE.



Ms. Isabelle Farrington and Dr. Anthony Cerna, president during the unveiling of the plaque at the entrance to the newly dedicated Isabelle Farrington School of Education.

## School of Education named for university benefactor

On November 27th the Isabelle Farrington School of Education was created. The faculty and staff are extremely grateful for Mrs. Farrington's generosity and honored to have the gift of her name for our education school. Mrs. Farrington was reared in then-rural Brewster, New York, and educated in a one-room schoolhouse. She paid her way through Danbury State Teachers College - now Western Connecticut State University - by working several jobs and graduated in just three years. She began her classroom career as an elementary school teacher in Milford, Connecticut. Dr. Edward Malin, Chair of Education, shared some comments on how this event has (and will) affect us in the New School of Education. "We are in the process of working towards national accreditation of our Education programs through the NCATE process. This has required over two years of dedicated effort and will likely require two or three additional years. The announcement of the creation of the Isabelle Farrington School of Education came at precisely the right time to raise the spirits of our staff and energize them for the continued effort needed to complete the accreditation task. As part of that accreditation process, we have created a Conceptual Framework that describes the vision of our program and the educational philosophy that underlies that vision. The theme of our conceptual framework is "Excellence in Self and Others in a Changing World." The identification of our unit as the Isabel Farrington School of Education is an appropriate hallmark of that dedication and pursuit of excellence. The establishment of the Isabel Farrington School of Education represents a wonderful evolution of this growth and challenges us to strive to deserve her continued confidence and approval."

## Education Department accepted for Membership in the AACTE

This past July the Education Department was accepted for membership in the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). We are pleased to have met the stringent AACTE membership requirements and that we share the organization's mission "To promote the learning of all PK-12 students through high-quality, evidence-based preparation and continuing education for all personnel."



Professor Edward Hendricks (L), writer of the proposal stands with Dr. Edward Malin, Chair of the Isabelle Farrington School of Education in the exhibit room.

# School of Education

## Project “Discoveries in Science Change Our Views Equality and Respectability” D.I.S.C.O.V.E.R.



**“BOOK ENDS,”** is the Sacred Heart University Reading Clinic located at 7 Cambridge Drive in the new College of Education and Health Professions building. It opened its doors for the first time on January 26, 2008 and is rapidly becoming very popular because of our quality instruction and nurturing environment.

Students in grades one through five having difficulty in reading are eligible for enrollment in the clinic. Certified teachers pursuing CT Reading Certification assess students in reading and writing, develop an intervention plan, and provide specialized tutoring based on each child’s individual needs. Karen Waters, Sacred Heart University Clinical Assistant Professor supervises and coordinates all aspects of the instructional and assessment plan along with the child’s tutor.

Parents also have the opportunity to meet and talk with their child’s tutor after every session and receive weekly take home reading materials. Progress reports are sent home every three weeks.



Karen Waters reads to her Saturday morning “Bookends” group which consists of triplets, their two brothers and a tutor for each child.

D.I.S.C.O.V.E.R. engages sixth grade students from Hall Elementary School, Bridgeport, and Hillcrest Middle School, Trumbull in exciting math activities through the use of robots and Lego RoboLab software. This inter-district program fosters student problem-solving, peer collaboration, and higher-order thinking skills by successfully integrating these skills into the sixth grade mathematics curriculum. During the school year, students construct and program their robots and participate in building activities. Dr. Antoinette Bruciati, Program Director for Education Technology is the leading expert in this project and Dr. Maria Lizano-DiMare focuses on the project data collection and research.



Dr. Antoinette Bruciati instructs elementary school students on the use of the Robotic arms to create a painting.



MAT candidates in ED 658, 5th Year Professional Seminar for Secondary Teachers share and reflect on best practices in designing, implementing and assessing an instructional sequence to promote student learning in their subject areas.



## Isabelle Farrington School of Education



Prospective certified teaching candidates meet with local school districts at the May 2, 2008 job fair, hosted by the Isabelle Farrington School of Education



## Saturday Educational Leadership program

The Educational Leadership (EDL) weekend cohort program consists of students who are all teachers working towards their certification in Educational Administration. In this particular class, EDL 626 - Assessment and Evaluation of Learning: Qualitative and Quantitative Measures, students were discussing the pros/cons related to the diverse ways we measure and collect information about student learning. As the course progresses, students gain more in depth knowledge and skill in the organization and analysis of student learning data to formulate improvement plans and next steps.



Educational Leadership students get a laugh out of their discussions during EDL 626 class one Saturday morning.

## “The Story of American Freedom”: The Stratford and New Haven Teaching American History Grant

For the last three years Sacred Heart University has partnered with the Stratford and New Haven school system to offer five graduate education courses in American History. The topics of the courses included “freedom and unfreedom”, “women’s issues”, and “immigration and labor”. These courses were supported by a Teaching American History grant from the United States Department of Education. The courses were graduate-level education courses that combined the efforts of the history and education departments plus guest historians to offer history content and instructional strategies.

In 2007 Sacred Heart University spearheaded an end-of-the year culminating event to which the university community and the public were invited *“Agents of Change: Woman, the Law, Education, and Society. From Brown V.....To No Child Left Behind. Women Leaders in History*, a panel discussion on the impact that women have made in the struggle for human rights. This year the event, titled, *Historical Background and Issues in Immigration and Labor: a Panel discussion of Current Immigration Policies* took place on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. Michael Giarratano served as Master of Ceremonies and Panelists included: **Mark D. Boughton**, mayor of Danbury, Connecticut., serving his fourth term; **Yusuf Ibn Shah**, the Alderman for the 23rd Ward of the city of New Haven; **John Weiss**, the Director of the Hartford Satellite of the International Institute of Connecticut and Special Assistant to the Director of the International Institute; **Satish Khanna**, an immigrant who has had significant difficulties for the past twelve years securing a green card and experienced significant bureaucratic problems in his quest for American citizenship.



Yusuf Ibn Shah discusses the City of New Haven’s Resident’s Identification card program and the challenges in moving forward with immigration policies.

## 2007 Teacher Quality Partnership Grant

In the fall of 2006, several professors from Sacred Heart University organized a series of meetings with teachers and administrators from selected school districts, Cooperative Educational Services and interested university professors to develop a proposal for the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program. The Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program is a competitive grant administered by the Department of Higher Education for the State of Connecticut. Last year there was approximately \$600,000 available for grants in science, math, social studies and art. Meetings were held throughout the fall and a grant was submitted in early December 2006.

The Sacred Heart University consortium consists of the Bridgeport, Fairfield, Monroe, Norwalk and Waterbury Public schools along with Sacred Heart University, Cooperative Educational Services, and the Norwalk Maritime Center. Several positions were reserved for teachers from non-public and Parochial schools. A total of 32 elementary school teachers participated.

The consortium applied for grant funding of over \$150,000.00, or about a quarter of all the funding available. The consortium was awarded \$138,000.

The grant was divided into two parts.

- The summer session which was organized and supervised by SHU and was held at Cooperative Educational Services in Trumbull from July 9 – 19, 2007.
- Follow-Up Sessions during the 2007/2008 academic year.

## New Teacher Quality Partnership Grant 2008 -2011

Reviews of the 2007-08 program were excellent. Utilizing data generated from this grant as a baseline, the consortium, with the addition of the Trumbull Public schools submitted a follow-up grant in December 2007. In February we were notified that we had received the grant, the total of which will be more than \$330,000 over a three year period.

Professor Paul Massey is the coordinator for the grant. He also co-authored both grant proposals. Sacred Heart University professors participating in the grant are as follows: Maria Lizano-DiMare, Joel Block, Jennifer Mattei, and Paul Massey. The following Sacred Heart University adjunct professors also participated. Joe Schneirlein (Norwalk Maritime Center), Ken Martinelli (Norwalk Public Schools), and Bonnie Maur (Monroe Public Schools).

## Griswold Campus



The Special Topics in Science Expo at SHU Griswold Campus featured displays and demonstrations by graduate students of innovative curriculum and lessons. This provided an opportunity for candidates to showcase their research and share ideas and best practices.

The SHU-Griswold campus espouses a “learning lab” approach in the training of graduate students in Education who are pursuing Connecticut Elementary or Secondary Teaching certification, the Master of Arts in Teaching degree, Connecticut Intermediate Administrator (092), or the Sixth Year degree in Educational Leadership. The campus is housed at Griswold High School, at the center of the Griswold Educational Campus, where the Griswold Middle and Elementary schools are also located. Graduate programs here are reflective of the program’s commitment to developing skilled educational “practitioners,” capable of applying theory to best practices.

Representative of the campus is the diversity of its faculty, primarily comprised of area superintendents, principals, master teachers and published professors who are active in the field of Education, in Connecticut, nationally and internationally. These experienced educators bring to the table their expertise and their personal passions in both core courses and the electives that are offered. Science electives offered during the summer at Griswold: *Environmental Science for Elementary Teachers* and *Special Topics in Science/Science Expo* along with others, prepare candidates to teach field-based lessons, in essence in an interdisciplinary “classroom without walls.”



Pre-service and certified elementary teachers studying invertebrates of Long Island sound up close and personal at Grass Island in Madison, Connecticut.



# NURSING

## Nursing programs expand with State & Federal Funding

Expansion of both graduate and undergraduate programs has been achieved in part due to grants received from a variety of state and federal funding sources. Funding has been received from state agencies over the past two years for laboratory equipment, academic support programs, and faculty development. Funding for equipment for the clinical nursing laboratory and faculty development came from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) in the amount of \$120,000 per year over a two year period. The Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the Department of Public Health's Office for Workforce Competitiveness (DPH,OWC) provided \$70,034 for an undergraduate academic support program, "2008 Health and Education Initiatives Program" for sophomore students.



Shelly Hoskins, Clinical Learning Coordinator, teaches sophomore nursing students the importance of proper tracheal care.

## Dr. Anne Barker accepts Chair of Nursing Department position



Dr. Anne Barker, professor of nursing and acting chair since June 2007, has agreed to serve a three-year term as Chair of the Nursing Department.

The graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Program has enjoyed a remarkable increase in enrollment this past academic year. There were approximately 80 active students in both the first and second years. Susan DeNisco, FNP program coordinator, reports a nearly one 100% pass rate of the American Nursing Credentialing Center National Certification examination for the past ten years. Graduates of this program are employed in a variety of settings including traditional primary care, cardiology, oncology, neurology, infectious disease and infertility. Other graduates have taken on general hospitalist roles in addition to working on transplant units and trauma teams.



## On-line Nursing Educators Certificate

Sacred Heart University's Nursing program is a leader in the preparation of nurse administrators, family nurse practitioners and clinical nurse leaders in the State. In 2007, a new option for students was added to advance their knowledge and skills in Nursing Education. In agreement with national thinking, SHU believes that nurses who teach must have advanced expert knowledge in a content area. Thus, a certificate program was designed that will complement clinical expertise with skills in teaching and learning and theory strategies, an understanding of issues in nursing education, application of curriculum design and evaluation theory, and experience in the role of the faculty.



Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Program student, Dawn Sawrun, provides nutritional counseling to a patient at Southwest Community Health Center.



Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Program student, Jessica Farrone, performs blood pressure screenings at Mercy Learning Center.

## Dancing with the Nurses benefits iFUN

On June 6, 2008 a benefit, "Dancing with Nurses," was held to help raise funds for the iFUN. The event was complete with a dance instructor sponsored by Sacred Heart University Ballroom Dance Club, who performed a demonstration and taught a lesson.



Dr. Connie Young led the Macarena

In 2007, Dr. Connie Young, Professor Emerita of the Department of Nursing established a fund titled: iFUN: Incidental Fund for Undergraduate Nurses. As the name suggests the fund will be used to provide financial assistance to undergraduate nursing students who have small but urgent one time needs. If you are interested in making a donation or would like more information on iFUN please go to the following webpage:

[www.sacredheart.edu/givetoifun.cfm](http://www.sacredheart.edu/givetoifun.cfm)



Nursing faculty, Audrey Beauvais, Dr. Linda Strong, and Brenda Renzulli enjoyed the benefit.

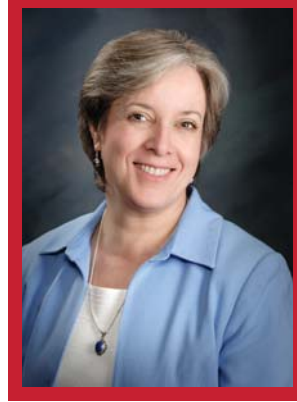
# PHYSICAL THERAPY

## Physical Therapy Program Ranks Best in State

*U.S. News and World Report* lists Sacred Heart University's Physical Therapy program as the best in Connecticut. The report also ranks the program among the best in the country.

In the magazine's "Best Graduate Schools 2009," SHU ranked among the top 5 programs in New England, along with Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston University, the University of Vermont and Simmons College. As the top program in Connecticut, Sacred Heart has been a regional and national leader in the field having introduced the first doctoral program in Connecticut in 2004.

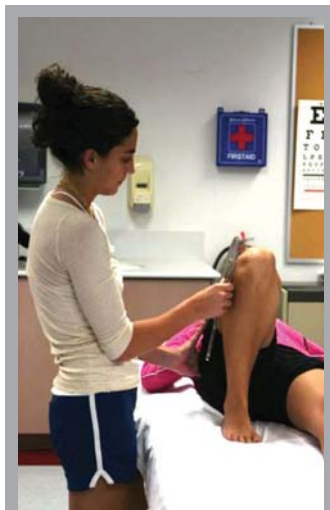
"I am very pleased to be recognized by our peer institutions as a leading physical therapy program in the northeast and ranked among the top 25 percent of programs nationally," said Dr. Michael Emery, professor and director of the Physical Therapy Program, and former chairman of the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education. "I fully recognize that this ranking acknowledges the wonderful contribution to the field of physical therapy by our faculty, alumni and currently enrolled students."



Dr. Michelle Lusardi, Associate Professor and Dr. Kevin Chui, Assistant Professor, are working with nearly 100 residents of the Duncaster Retirement Community in Bloomfield, Connecticut to develop "norms" for performance on functional measures of balance and mobility used in Physical Therapy examination for aging adults 80+ years of age. Drs. Lusardi and Chui will be re-evaluating residents periodically over the next two years to consider how function might change over time. By defining typical performance in community living aging adults, this work will help physical therapists understand what levels of performance should be achieved by patients currently in rehabilitation prior to returning home. Students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program assisted in the assessment process, a two-hour comprehensive functional assessment clinic held onsite at Duncaster. Drs. Lusardi & Chui will be presenting the outcome of the initial assessment at the 2008 Gerontological Society of America Scientific meeting to take place November 21 – 25, 2008 in National Harbor, Maryland.



Physical Therapy students performing observational analysis of standing posture.



A Physical Therapy student measures range of motion for knee flexion with a goniometer.



Clinical Assistant Professor and Physical therapist, Donna Bowers, a board certified Pediatric Specialist, challenges Chelsea with a strengthening and dynamic balance activity.



# Sacred Heart University Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Centers

Fairfield



A patient performs physical therapy exercises in the aqua-therapy pool.



Thomas Kascak, clinical director of the Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Centers, performs rehabilitation therapy on a patient.



A DPT student guides the performance of core strengthening exercises in the Physical Therapy Clinic at the William H. Pitt Center.

Trumbull



Dr. Patricia Walker, Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions, receives therapy at the Cambridge Physical Therapy clinic from Dr David Cameron, Clinical Assistant Professor, after having shoulder surgery.



Physical Therapy students place infra-red markers for high speed analysis in the Motion Analysis Lab, located in the Oakview building.

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



Dr. Jody Bortone, chair of the Occupational Therapy Department, and Professor Heather Miller Kuhaneck took the first year Master of Science in Occupational Therapy students on a field trip to KidAbilities, an outpatient Occupational Therapy clinic that specializes in Ayres Sensory Integration.

The purpose of the field trip was for the students to experience the sensory motor requirements of the activities and learn to plan and adapt sensory motor activities for their clients.







Professor Heather Miller Kuhneck took her first year Master of Science in Occupational Therapy students on a field trip to a day care center in Trumbull to observe child development and do activity analyses on typical play activities.



Highlighting the importance of connecting our students to communities we serve, Sacred Heart's innovative Master's program in Occupational Therapy (OT) is connected to both educational and health care organizations as students help clients use Activities of Daily Living to recapture the "occupation" of living in work, school, and home settings. The SHU program is unique in its approach to curriculum design, and in its responses to cultural, societal, and demographic changes. It is also one of a few programs in the nation to successfully utilize Problem-Based Learning (PBL), a case-based tutorial design that fosters critical thinking skills. Additionally, faculty mentors help students develop research skills necessary for evidence-based practice.



Second year Graduate Occupational Therapy students Robyn Pannell, Amanda Sarra, Erin Murray, Lauren Caiazzo, & Nicole Peloso attend the annual AOTA conference in Long Beach, CA. April 10-13, 2008

## Occupational Therapy Department donates books to Ghana.

After meeting Lisa Trujillo at a conference in San Diego this past October, and hearing of the need for books and related materials by Charity Beyond Borders, *Professor Margo Gross* spearheaded the donation of five cartons of Occupational Therapy journals and books to a clinic/health profession education site in Ghana.



A photo sent by Lisa Trujillo showing one of the clinic/health profession educational sites that the books and journals will be hand delivered to.

# ATHLETIC TRAINING



Therapeutic Modalities course - Athletic Training students construct a Play-Doh model of the muscle spindle to help them understand the neuro-physiology behind pain control.



Felicia Dorsey, athletic training student, applies a therapeutic ultrasound treatment to a strained hamstring to promote healing.



Mike Hann, Adjunct Faculty member and Senior Assistant Athletic Trainer, works one on one with an athletic training student on the role of the musculature and bony formation of the wrist and hand in a problem-based learning course.

Programs in Exercise Science and Athletic Training continue to expand as undergraduate students at Sacred Heart University become more interested in careers in health promotion and rehabilitation. Graduates of our Athletic Training and Exercise Science programs are employed by school systems, colleges and universities, rehabilitation and fitness centers. Some graduates of the programs also go on to graduate school at Sacred Heart University in the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy programs.

The Athletic Training program achieved full accreditation status this year which extended the timeframe for its next review to the 2013-2014 academic year. Athletic Training students have been active this past year in the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association student committees on Governmental Affairs and Revenue. AT faculty and students were engaged this year in service events such as the MS Walk, campus health and wellness fairs and local school presentations



# EXERCISE SCIENCE



Wendy Bjerke, Clinical Assistant Professor, teaches her Exercise Science students how to do timed anaerobic capacity testing on the stationary bike.

With the move to the Cambridge building both the Athletic (AT) Training and Exercise Science (EX) programs benefit from new expanded laboratories.

Laboratory learning experiences are enhanced by experiences in community-based fitness programs, research across the curriculum, health fairs and other distinctive features of the programs.

Exercise Science faculty and students again participated in the Fairfield Firefighters Wellness program which this year emphasized individualized exercise prescriptions for firefighters. Through a new service learning component EX students provided consultation to SHU athletics teams on strength and conditioning. An Exercise Science Club was established this year and participated in a variety of community and campus activities led by their advisor, Dr. Beau Greer.



After performing the testing on the stationary bike, students enter the data to determine their anaerobic capacity.



Exercise Science students performing sub maximal aerobic fitness tests and learning how to take clinical measurements, like blood pressure, during exercise.

# SERVICE

## Successful *Aging*

### A conference for seniors, their families, and caregivers promoting health and wellness.

The 2nd annual Successful Aging Conference was held on Saturday, April 12 at the new Cambridge building. Breakout Session topics included: Financial Planning Basics, The Challenges and Opportunities in Assisted Living, Legal Issues for Seniors, Non-Traditional Retirement Planning, Enhance your Stance, Exercise Guidelines for Older Individuals, and Vitamin D, Health and Daily Living. Blood pressure, balance and gait, as well as body fat screenings were performed by Sacred Heart students and faculty. The event was sponsored by Brody Printing, St. Vincent's Medical Center, and Visiting Nurse Service of Connecticut.



Exhibitors explain the usefulness of their products to the conference attendees.



Professor Michelle Lusardi demonstrates how to get up off of the floor after a fall in the "Enhance Your Stance" presentation.

## St. Charles Health & Wellness Center

From September 2007 to March 2008, 335 patients were seen at the St. Charles Health and Wellness Center located on Ogden Street for health screening, health education and referrals for medical and social services. Approximately 20 senior citizens continue to attend The Aging with Grace Program held on Wednesday mornings where Dr. Linda Strong, in collaboration with outreach workers from Optimum Health Center, provides a nutritious breakfast and lunch to the elders as well as health screening and education programs. Students from nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy spend time at the center helping with screenings and various other projects.

The 5th annual St. Charles Health & Wellness Health Fair was held on April 19th. Vendors at the event included St. Vincent's Mobile Mammography Screening, the American Red Cross, and the Bridgeport Fire Department.

## RISE Transition Program graduates 2nd class

The RISE program completed a 4th successful year of operation. Of the 9 students who attended the program, 5 graduated on June 11 in a moving ceremony held in the University Commons. FLIK provided vocational opportunities for students on campus during the year. Outside vocational training sites included: YMCA, Jewish Home for the Elderly, Bridgeport Town Hall, and Pizzeria Uno among others. Forty-one SHU students volunteered as Fitness Buddies and Lunch Buddies. A variety of SHU student organizations also volunteered including the OT club, Pre-PT club, Social Work club, Zeta Iota Lambda sorority, and the Men's Basketball team. The RISE students also participated in the SHU Habitat for Humanity chapter. This program continues to be a wonderful expression of the university's mission.



Jodi Lovegrove, lead teacher of the RISE program, looks on while graduate, Ben Dworkin, speaks to the audience during the 2nd annual graduation ceremonies.



# SERVICE

## Alternate Spring Break

While many college students, faculty and staff spend winter and spring breaks relaxing in the sun, Sacred Heart's missions turned advocacy into action in Texas, El Salvador, and Mississippi .



Beaumont, Texas



## Tierra Blanca, El Salvador

Education professors Terry Neu and Maria Lizano DiMare joined a delegation of students from varied academic backgrounds and spent spring break in Tierra Blanca, El Salvador helping to build churches and improve community health-care — continuing an annual tradition that began nearly a decade ago. The town of Tierra Blanca is a community plagued by war, poverty, earthquakes, and severe health disparities. The students raised \$5,800 prior to this year's trip to be used to support the local communities.



## Biloxi, Mississippi



Education Professor Mike Giarratano joined the delegation to Biloxi along with other staff members.



# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2008 Nightingale Award Winners



Student Nursing Association holds 2nd annual blood drive

The SNA organized and ran another very successful blood drive at the Edgerton Theatre. The group worked in conjunction with the Mid Fairfield County Chapter of the American Red Cross and faculty liaisons Dr. Kathy Fries and Brenda Renzulli to plan the February event. Nursing students and SNA members volunteered at the drive in various capacities from helping with registration to assessing for adverse reactions in donors.



Athletic Training students Kim Redman and Dan Kardos travelled to Washington to take part in the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Capitol Hill Day, which took place on February 26, 2008. They were among nearly 300 NATA members who made visits to their U.S. Senators and Representatives to lobby in support of legislation that would provide improved access to physical medicine and rehabilitation services under Medicare part B, by allowing certain allied health professionals, including Athletic Trainers, to provide such services.



Merlin Perez

Sacred Heart University nursing students Shauna O'Brien and Merlin Perez were selected to receive Nightingale Scholarships at the 2008 Nightingale Galas. Shauna was awarded one of five "Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing" Scholarships at a reception held at the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT on April 15, 2008. Merlin Perez also received a Nightingale Award on the same evening at the Stamford Nightingale Awards gala. The Nightingale scholarships are awarded to student nurses who go "above and beyond" in his/her studies and clinical practice.



Mary Kuncas, Vice President, Patient Services at the Hospital of Saint Raphael, Shauna O'Brien & Anne Barker, chair of the Nursing Department at Sacred Heart University.



# & NEWS

## A Sacred Heart University Occupational Therapy Program First

One of the Occupational Therapy student research groups was accepted to present a poster presentation at the National Occupational Therapy conference this past April in St. Louis. This same poster was also accepted at the Network of Autism Training & Technical Assistance Programs (NATTAP) Conference this past September in Columbus, Ohio.



Theresa Blum-Lemanczyk, Tajhma Burroughs and Jamie Ciancio at the National Occupational Therapy conference in St. Louis with their poster.

Senior Nursing student, Marsha Locke has been named to the 2008 College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) Academic All-American District 1 Women's Track & Field/Cross Country team. Marsha, who just graduated in May 2008, has been a three-time Northeast Conference Academic Honor roll honoree and is the first pioneer female athlete to place at the NCAA Regional meet.



Marsha participated in an Olympic style USA Weightlifting sanctioned event that was held on campus April, 13, 2008 just for fun and qualified for National competitions. Marsha exceeded the US National Championships Qualifying Total by 10 kilos - she posted the highest women's lift of the day with an amazing 224 pound clean and jerk!



The Student Physical Therapy Association donated supplies and assembled baskets for the children and families of the St. Charles Parish in Bridgeport who were in need of assistance for Easter.



## Student Athletic Training Organization teams up with Habitat for Humanity

Rob Bristol, a junior athletic training student was recently elected as Vice President to the Sacred Heart University Habitat for Humanity Executive Board. Rob's contributions to the community are tremendous and in his role with Habitat he was instrumental in a Habitat Day for the Student Athletic Training Organization (SATO) this semester. SATO plans to continue this as a yearly event.

## Three Physical Therapy Graduates Honored with Michael J. Emery Award

Physical Therapy faculty, alumni and friends honored three of our graduates with a Physical Therapy Alumni Recognition Award, the Michael J. Emery Award, at the PT Awards Dinner held on November 16, 2007 at the Cambridge Campus.

Lt. Christopher Ficke PT, MS, OCS, United States Navy, SHU PT Class of 1999 - Capt. Benjamin Hando PT, MS, OCS, United States Air Force, SHU PT Class of 2001, and Capt. Jeremiah Samson PT, MS, OCS, United States Air Force, SHU Class of 2001 were honored for their professional achievements and outstanding service to our country.



From left: Dr. Patricia Walker, dean of the College of Education and Health Professions, Capt. Jeremiah Samson, Lt. Christopher Ficke, Capt. Benjamin Hando, and Dr. Michael Emery, associate dean and director of Physical Therapy.

## Physical Therapy launches Orthopedic Residency program

Courses were successfully piloted with 2 DPT graduates during 2008 academic year for a new advanced Physical Therapy Orthopedic Residency program. The coursework (including clinical course work) will prepare physical therapists for orthopedics specialist certification by the American Physical Therapy Association. SHU alumni Katie Janzak and Chris Turuta both Class of 2007 graduates had very positive experiences at their clinical sites: St. Vincent's Immediate Health Center and SHU Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center. The SHU PT orthopedic residency program is 1 of approximately 10 in the U.S. of which only a few are located in academic institutions.

## Cervical Spine Disorder Seminar attended by Alumni

Dr. Robert Wainner, PT, PHD, ECS, OCS, FAAOMPT, presented "Evidence-based Examination and Selected Interventions for Patients with Cervical spine Disorders" a hands-on, evidence-based, course that integrates clinical expertise with the most current perspectives in physical therapy clinical examination and interventions for the cervical and thoracic spine. The presentation, which took place on November 17 & 18 at the Cambridge Campus, was attended by 20 alumni and clinicians. Continuing education units were awarded to the attendees.

Dr. Wainner is Associate Professor at Texas State University Program in Physical Therapy, Vice-President of Texas Physical Therapy Specialists, P.C., and co-founder Vice-President of Evidence-In-Motion, a company dedicated to promotion and advancement of evidence-based physical therapy practice and translating evidence into practice.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Occupational Therapy Alumnae research paper accepted for publication

A research project completed by Erika and Cristina Cerquozzi, alumnae of the SHU Occupational Therapy Program has been accepted for publication in the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section Newsletter. The paper, "An Exploratory Survey of Occupational Therapists' Role in Hippo therapy," was published in the September 2007 issue.



Christopher Fray, MAT '96, Westport's 2008 Teacher of the Year, speaks five languages: Spanish, French, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, and English at Staples High School.

He tells students that his classroom is the laboratory, "where we get our skills," but to really know a language, "You've got to travel and use it." And, he has done just that. For seven or eight years, he visited many of the more than 30 countries in which he has toured. He serves as a friend and mentor to the two Chinese exchange teachers at Staples, having volunteered for the Chinese friendship exchange program in the mid-1990s.





# ALUMNI NEWS

## College of Education and Health Professions Community Partner & Alumni Leadership Awards Presented at the Alumni Awards Presentation September 22, 2007

In recognition of the 2006-2007 10th Anniversary year, the College of Education and Health Professions established The Alumni Leadership Award 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 college.

CEHP faculty and alumni submitted nominations for the Alumni Leadership Award. This year, the following individuals were presented with the award:

**Richard Cercone**, (BS '96 & MAT '01), was among the first class of students graduating with a minor in Athletic Training and the first graduate to become a certified athletic trainer.

**Linda B. Melodia**, received her Master of Science degree in Nursing Administration from Sacred Heart University in 2004. She has contributed to the professional staffing of the Sacred Heart University/St. Charles Health and Wellness Center thus assisting the college and the university in fulfilling its service mission.

We were saddened to hear that one of our alumni Patrick McCaughey (HMSS '97) passed away last year but pleased to work with alumni Kevin Vining and Kevin Joyce to establish the Patrick McCaughey Fund to assist athletic training students to attend professional meetings.



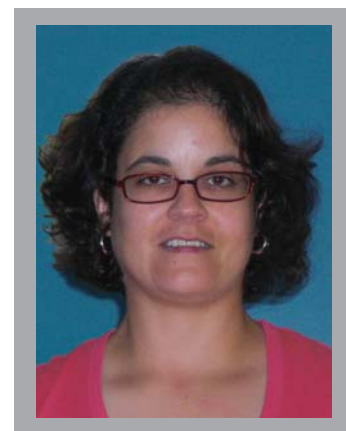
Kevin Joyce and Kevin Vining present Dean Patricia Walker and Mrs. Sharon McCaughey a donation for the Patrick McCaughey fund.

### Nursing Alumni provide leadership

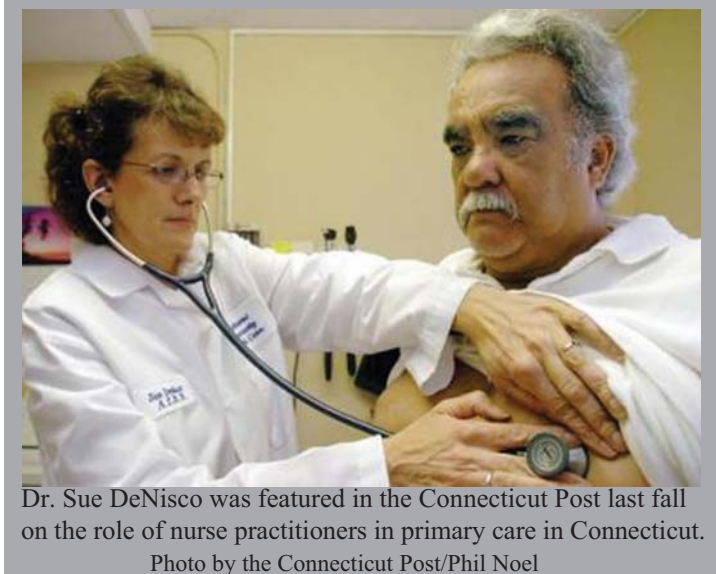
Family Nurse Practitioner program alumnae, Meredith Heyde, MSN'01 (pictured left) and Jennifer Nelson, MSN'01 (pictured right) are on the Executive Board of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society providing leadership for and representing the nearly three thousand licensed advanced practice nurses across the state.



Amy Cercone (Richard's wife) Richard Cercone, Julie Alexander, community partner award winner Dr. Michael Redler, and Program Director of SHU's Human Movement Sports Science Department, Tim Speicher.



# FACULTY NEWS



## Dr. Edward Malin, Chair and Director of Education, elected as President of AACTE CT.

AACTE CT is the Connecticut chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. (AACTE). The members of this chapter are the Dean's and Director's of College or University based teacher preparation programs in CT. This group meets bi-monthly to discover and discuss matters of mutual interest, to share resources for improving teacher preparation in CT and to effectively interact with CT state departments and education professionals. Dr Edward Malin, Chair and Director of Education programs was elected on Friday, April 20, 2007 to serve a one year term as President of this chapter.



Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy  
Volume 30 Number 3  
December 2007

Editor's Message: We're Growing!  
Michelle M. Lusardi

Dr. Michelle Lusardi, Associate Professor, began her term as editor in chief of the American Physical Therapy Association's Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy in January 2007 with her first issue in April 2007. The Journal is published three times per year and receives 40-50 manuscripts per year, accepting and publishing 18-22 per year. Michelle has now shepherded four issues to press, initiated a strategic planning process, recruited and trained an additional 24 peer reviewers, and is in the midst of re-organizing the format of the journal, possibly increasing to quarterly publication to accommodate the significantly increased quality and quantity of submitted manuscripts. She has had a very busy first year!



Heather Miller-Kuhaneck received a Recognition of Achievement Award at the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) spring 2008 conference. Heather, with co-authors, published the "Sensory Processing Measure" a standardized assessment tool for school age children through Western Psychological Services.



Dr. Julie Stewart, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was elected to a two year term as Chair of the Government Relations Committee of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society for the business years 2008 to 2010. Dr. Stewart integrated the use of the human anatomy lab into the advanced pathophysiology course this academic year, which was well received by the students.



Tim Speicher, HMSS Program Director/Clinical Assistant Professor recently accepted the post of President of the Connecticut Athletic Training Association. As president-elect, Tim's induction date was planned for May 2008 but was moved up when the previous president had to step down early.



## **The College of Education and Health Professions at Sacred Heart University offers the following undergraduate and graduate programs:**

**BS in Exercise Science**

**BS in Athletic Training**

**BS in Nursing**

**Master of Arts in Teaching**

**Elementary & Secondary Teacher Certification**

**6th Year Degrees:**

- Administration**
- Teaching**
- Literacy**

**MS in Nursing with concentrations in**

**- Patient Care Services Administration**

**- Clinical Nurse Leader**

**- Family Nurse Practitioner**

**Nursing Educator Certificate**

**MS in Occupational Therapy**

**Doctor of Physical Therapy**

**Graduate Certificate in Geriatric Health & Wellness**

Individuals who hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university may apply to the graduate programs offered by the College. Admission requirements vary by program. Please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for more details: (203) 365-7619 or [gradstudies@sacredheart.edu](mailto:gradstudies@sacredheart.edu). To apply to the full-time undergraduate programs, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (203) 371-7880.

## **About Sacred Heart University**

Sacred Heart University was founded in 1963 as a coeducational, independent, comprehensive institution in the Catholic intellectual tradition. With an enrollment of 5,800 undergraduate and graduate students, it is the second largest Catholic University in New England.

*The Princeton Review* includes SHU among the *Best 366 Colleges: 2008*, while *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2008* ranks SHU in the top tier of Master's Universities in the North in its annual college rankings. In 2008 *U.S. News* also ranked our Doctor of Physical Therapy program as the best in the state of Connecticut, and 5th among DPT programs in New England.



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