



DR. SUSAN L. DAVIS, R.N.,
& RICHARD J. HENLEY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Sacred Heart University

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SHU Scripts: Stories from the Heart of Nursing

From the Editor

Welcome to the winter 2021 edition of *SHU Scripts: Stories from the Sacred Heart of Nursing*. The overwhelming response to our inaugural, October 2020 edition reinforces our belief that you appreciate content that is informative, relevant and makes you proud to be associated with the DHCON.

To our alumni, we hope you are inspired to reconnect with SHU, and with your former faculty and classmates. To our current students, we are proud of your commitment to compassionate patient care, which is the sacred heart of nursing.

On behalf of Fred Flynn, DHCON executive-in-residence, and Anna Goddard, assistant professor of nursing, I thank you for reading.





Welcome to Mu Delta

Mu Delta is DHCON's chapter of Sigma, formerly known as Sigma Theta Tau International. Nursing's only honor society, Sigma was founded in 1922 by six nurses and was chartered at SHU in 1987.

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College of Nursing Introduces First Telehealth Certificate Program for Nurse Practitioners

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged traditional models of care delivery, including home-based care. SHU graduate Deborah Cavalier, RN, MA, MBA observes, "Many of our patients are isolated, and the pandemic has only made it worse for them."

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SHU's Online Nursing Programs Rank First & Second in State

Online degree programs at the Dr. Susan L. Davis, R.N., & Richard J. Henley

College of Nursing [earned top ranks among Connecticut colleges](#) and universities, according to the latest ratings from *U.S. News & World Report*. The online bachelor's degree programs took first place, and the online master's degree programs ranked second.

"Taking classes online is the best option for many working professionals," said Dean Mary Alice Donius. "I believe what sets Sacred Heart apart is that all our online programs provide students with individual attention from dedicated, full-time faculty members who are committed to student success."

The *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, which appear in the publisher's 2021 editions of *Best Online Bachelor's Programs* and *Best Online Master's in Nursing Programs*, evaluate online programs from hundreds of universities and colleges nationwide. Categories considered during the process include engagement, services and technologies, faculty credentials and training, expert opinion and student excellence.



DHCON Students Among First to Administer COVID Vaccine

When the much-anticipated COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Connecticut, students from the Dr. Susan L. Davis, R.N., & Richard J. Henley College of Nursing were among the first to administer it to health-care workers on the front lines at Danbury Hospital.

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New Clinical Model Successfully Pilots with Yale New Haven Health System

Senior students in Sacred Heart's Dr. Susan L. Davis, R.N., & Richard J. Henley College of Nursing were among the first to respond to a call from Yale New Haven Health System seeking participants for an innovative program.

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Digital Digest Corner: Eye Examination Simulator

Sacred Heart University has awarded an Academics for Creative Teaching (ACT) grant to Ann Weltin, DNP, FNP-BC, CNM, clinical associate professor in SHU's online master of science in nursing/family nurse practitioner (MSN FNP) program, to purchase an eye examination simulator. The device will assist family nurse practitioner (FNP) students in performing funduscopic examinations and making clinical judgements about the findings. The simulator comes with slides to enable students to simulate the examination of patients who may be near- or far-sighted and detect abnormalities. It also will help the FNP students learn to recognize retinopathy caused by diabetes or high blood pressure, signs of increased intracranial pressure, glaucoma and macular degeneration. It will be available to students in the MSN FNP program and those in the Family Nurse Practitioner Doctor of Nursing Practice program, as well.



SHU Activates Medical Reserve Corps to Help with COVID Crisis

Sacred Heart University's Medical Reserve Corps has been called on yet again to help the state in time of crisis.



Student Nurse Association Successfully Promotes Student Engagement

SNA is a voluntary service organization that supports nursing students who

In this instance, its members are ensuring that first responders receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

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seek initial licensure as registered nurses, as well as nurses enrolled in baccalaureate completion programs.

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MSN Graduate Featured in National Panel Discussion

Emily Nguyen '17, nurse manager, Hartford HealthCare Inpatient Rehabilitation, participated in a [national panel discussion](#), "COVID -19 and Medical Rehabilitation—What We Have Learned and How to Plan for the Future," at the fall 2020 American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association conference.

Nguyen is a graduate of the online Master of Science degree in nursing, for which she was on the nursing management and executive leadership track. When she was asked to reflect on how her graduate education at SHU prepared her to lead during this pandemic and other challenging times, she said, "The Nursing Management Executive Leadership program provided me with a foundation to develop myself both professionally and clinically. I would consider the professors I had as my life coaches, because they fostered a flourishing learning environment while mentoring me through life experiences. The lessons I learned have guided me through my leadership journey to be present for my team, especially through this COVID pandemic."



Welcome New Faculty

Welcome to Clinical Assistant Professors Shannon Pranger and Mary McDonough.

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Meet Our Faculty

Meet Clinical Associate Professor of the First Professional Degree Program, Mary E. Dietmann.

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DHCON Faculty Achievements

Check out the latest and greatest things our faculty have been up to.

[View Achievements](#)

Upcoming Events

Don't miss out on the upcoming events within the Davis & Henley College of Nursing.

- **March 12:** DNP Project Leadership: Guiding the Student
- **April 10:** Mu Delta Induction Ceremony
- **April 17:** Human Trafficking
- **April 25:** Third Annual Dialogue on Compassion: The Need for Compassionate Leaders

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