We share your commitment to preserving our natural world. YSN is reducing the use of paper products by making greater use of electronic communication whenever possible. We are also proud to announce that, as of the fall 2008 issue, Yale Nursing Matters is produced through a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified process. FSC Chain of Custody Certification assures that production of this publication has been documented as environmentally responsible, from forest management to manufacturing and distribution to print production. FSC maintains the forest’s biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes and supports the social concerns of local communities.
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Brandon Ko ’11 (right), alumnae/i advisor to the YSN Healthy Neighbors program, coordinates efforts with Manuel Aldorando, Resident Services Coordinator at New Haven’s Church Street South apartments.

Cover: Vera Belitsky ’13 is one of 15 YSN students who provide daily tutoring and semiannual health education fairs at New Haven’s Church Street South apartments.

mat•ter n. Something that occupies space and can be perceived by one or more senses; a physical body, a physical substance, or the universe as a whole. A subject of concern, feeling, or action. Something printed or otherwise set down in writing. v. To be of importance or value. Signify.
The Future of Nursing

Last fall, the Institute of Medicine released its report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. The report is revolutionary in multiple ways, but importantly, this was not a report by nurses for nurses. It was a report from a multidisciplinary panel chaired by former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala and composed of representatives from multiple fields, including nursing and medicine. In addition, the recommendations were based on high-quality evidence that met the standards of the Institute of Medicine. The key messages in the report are:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

The major recommendations in the report include:

- Remove scope of practice barriers.
- Expand opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts.
- Implement nurse residency programs.
- Increase the population of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020.
- Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020.
- Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning.
- Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health.
- Build the infrastructure for the collection and analysis of interprofessional health care workforce data.

While these messages and recommendations come as no surprise to Yale Nursing graduates, the fact that they come from this multidisciplinary panel is unprecedented. As important as these are, the real impact will be felt in how we at YSN, as a school educating clinician leaders, implement and advocate for these recommendations. Students of today and tomorrow will benefit from that work.

Over the past year, faculty, staff, and student representatives have engaged in a wide-ranging strategic planning process to determine not only our major goals for the next five years, but also to determine how we at YSN will rise to the challenges issued in the report. I am pleased to report that even though we are not yet finished, we have agreed on new, bold mission and values statements. In May, the Yale Corporation approved our proposal to develop a post-master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, which will admit students in fall 2012. The program will build on our current Nursing Management, Policy, and Leadership master’s program and will be offered as a hybrid (online and intensive sessions) for working advanced practice nurses. The faculty have embraced the use of new technologies in teaching, which will allow us to make better use of our classroom time with our extraordinary students. We have committed to ensuring that our students are prepared for the leadership roles they will be expected to play in the practice, academic, and policy worlds. And, we have committed to assuring our financial future as well. You will hear more about our strategic planning work over the next year.

In this issue, we focus on some remarkable students. They are the Future of Nursing. Our lives will be in their hands, and we at YSN are committed to ensuring that they are prepared to succeed and that they will lead the changes that are necessary to care for people and communities in the years to come. I hope you enjoy learning about them.

Margaret Grey, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Dean and Annie Goodrich Professor

YSN to Offer Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree

Beginning in the fall of 2012, YSN will offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The DNP at YSN is the product of two years of work by a faculty task force, chaired by Margaret Moss (pictured), who will direct the program. The program will enroll 12 students for the fall semester of 2012 and ramp up to 18 students by the third year of operation. “This degree will be a professional doctorate, in contrast to an academic research degree like the PhD,” commented Moss. “It will be a terminal degree that prepares senior clinicians who also are seeking leadership and policy roles related to the future of health care.”

Suzanne Bakken Presents Bellos Lecture

Suzanne Bakken, RN, DNSc, FAAN, FACMI, Alumni Professor of Nursing and Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Director, Center for Evidence-Based Practice at Columbia University School of Nursing, presented the annual Sybil Palmer Bellos Lecture, entitled “Promoting the Health of the Public Through Informatics.”

Bakken commented during her lecture, “Technology does change. But the biggest mistake I see people make in their grants...is they take a very effective human-delivered intervention and hire a programmer to put it on the phone. And they don’t think about...okay, what’s the theoretical foundation of the intervention?”

2011 Creative Writing Awards

YSN students Aislyn K. Cangialose ’13, Amanda Reilly ’11, and Meredith A. Bailey ’12 presented their winning essays at the 2011 Creative Writing Awards, which drew an audience of over 180 people to the New Haven Lawn Club on April 28. The awards were recently renamed the Griswold Special Home Care Creative Writing Awards in honor of an endowment made by Lesley Mills, a Yale Associate Fellow and passionate proponent of creative nonfiction writing.

National Magazine Award-winning author Amy Bloom (left) was the featured speaker at the event. Watch videos of this year’s awardees and read their winning essays at nursing.yale.edu/cwa11.

Morgan Schopen ’11 Recognized for Community Service

Morgan Schopen ’11 was presented the 2011 YSN Community Service Award before the Bellos Lecture. Dean Margaret Grey presented Schopen with the award and read the official citation:

[Schopen’s commitment] has been demonstrated in “hands-on” health care, development of educational strategies to put tools into women’s hands, working to encourage disadvantaged students to go into the health professions, and continuing, nonstop advocacy work. She is going to make a difference in the future of health care!

YSN Student Receives Nightingale Scholarship from VNA

Melissa Kurtz, a 2011 graduate of YSN’s Nursing Management, Policy, and Leadership master’s program, was awarded the 2011 Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing Scholarship from the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC).

Dean Margaret Grey said, “She is meticulous in detail, quietly confident in presentation, and impeccably thorough in all she takes on.”
Marge Funk Receives American Heart Association Nursing Award
YSN Professor Marge Funk has been selected for the highest award of the American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Cardiovascular Nursing. The Katharine A. Lembright Award was presented to Funk during the AHA Scientific Sessions in November. As the award recipient, Funk presented a lecture at the conference. The Lembright Award is an acknowledgment of contributions and achievements in the field of cardiovascular nursing research.

Ruth McCorkle Receives Psycho-Oncology's Highest Recognition
YSN Professor Ruth McCorkle posed with Jimmie Holland after receiving the American Psychosocial Oncology Society award, the field’s highest recognition, which is named for Dr. Holland. Dr. Holland’s dedication to the field of psycho-oncology has inspired many, including McCorkle, who said, “She has remained our biggest champion of the importance of all disciplines working together to provide mental health services for cancer patients...”

Linda Pellico Selected for Josephine Dolan Award for Nursing Education
Linda H. Pellico, Associate Professor at YSN, has been selected by Connecticut Nurses’ Association (CNA) to receive the 2011 Josephine A. Dolan Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Education. Pellico was recognized for utilizing a variety of teaching strategies that build upon the arts and humanities. She sought to integrate and test the use of the humanities, arts, and music as a way of connecting the familiar to the unfamiliar or the known to the unknown.

Nancy Redeker Receives Virginia Henderson Award for Nursing Research
Nancy S. Redeker, Professor and Associate Dean for Scholarly Affairs, has been selected by CNA to receive the 2011 Virginia A. Henderson Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Research. This prestigious honor is named for one of the most distinguished leaders in Connecticut nursing history and represents the highest honor that the nursing profession in Connecticut can bestow on one of its own. Redeker has focused her leading program of research on sleep in people with cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions.

On May 5, 2011, YSN faculty members Laura Andrews and Deborah Fahs received the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing, a program originally developed by the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) to be a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession.

YSN Hosts HealthCampCT “Unconference”
On April 2, YSN hosted HealthCampCT, an “unconference” organized by YSN alumnus Matthew Browning ’01 (pictured). Health care enthusiasts, including nurses, physicians, entrepreneurs and bloggers, gathered at YSN.

HealthCamp allows participants to choose the topics of discussion and participants are invited to lead the sessions. “The purpose of HealthCamp is to try to bring all of the diverse views together...and try to trigger action,” said attendee Mark Scrimshire.

Guest speakers U.S. Army General (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal (pictured) and Colonel Dr. Frederick Lough were introduced by YSN alumna Linda Schwartz, RN, MSN ‘84, DrPH ‘98, FAAN, Conn. Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs (featured in I Am a Yale Nurse on page 26).

The Yale University health care community saw firsthand how members of the U.S. Army provide health care in the field when members of the 947th Forward Surgical Team, based in West Hartford, set up a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter or DRASH-surgical suite at Yale on April 13.

DRASH Medicine: Inside and Out

YSN Hosts HealthCampCT “Unconference”
A Healthy Neighborhood Starts with Healthy Neighbors

BY ZOE KELLER

Yale Nurses have a century-long tradition of going into unknown territory to make change. They understand the importance of addressing not only the whole person, but sometimes the whole community, to create better health for all. Some Yale Nurses take on this responsibility from their first semester at YSN.

YSN’s Healthy Neighbors program is a student-led effort to improve the lives of some of New Haven’s most at-risk citizens. Several years ago, Everol Ennis ’09 began by crossing the busy four-lane road that divides YSN from the Church Street South (CSS) apartments, a 300-family subsidized housing project situated between the school’s campus and the grandeur of Union Station. Instead of avoiding the projects’ intimidating concrete façade, Ennis, a New Haven native raising a family of his own in the city, sought to improve the health and lives of its residents.

The program began as an annual health fair that brought screenings and education to the community meeting room of CSS. Ennis passed the mantle to Brandon Ko ’11, who recognized the community’s need for a tutoring program and larger, more frequent health fairs. Ko, now a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Fair Haven Community Health Center, has remained in New Haven and serves as alumnae/i advisor to the program. “I passed the torch but couldn’t give it up completely,” Ko said with his typically easygoing grin.

YSN students are knitting themselves into the CSS community, getting to know the younger residents through tutoring sessions during the school year. “The program started in spring 2010, but by the time we started that fall, it felt well established,” Vera Belitsky ’13 said. The student volunteers divide up the weekdays, providing academic support to approximately 20-30 children on any given day. Most of the children, ages 5 to 18, come consistently and are rewarded for frequent attendance.

Last fall, incoming Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) students Belitsky, Kari McKinley, and Jenny Osborn, all from the class of 2013, took on leadership of Healthy Neighbors.
The program has expanded to students from Yale's schools of Medicine and Public Health. They have focused on the sustainability of the program, stressing the importance of formalizing continued leadership from YSN's students and faculty, and ensuring institutional commitment from the school.

Healthy Neighbors fairs draw local community health organizations to provide education based on the needs of the community. Manuel Aldorando, Resident Services Coordinator at the CSS apartments, is the crucial point of contact for all of YSN's involvement. “We always ask Manuel for input and guidance, and keep an ear to the problems faced by the community,” Belitsky said. Community experts address issues such as substance abuse, lead paint, and nutrition. In addition, Yale students provide screenings for high blood pressure, blood glucose, and asthma.

YSN's staff and faculty are also becoming more involved in the CSS community year after year. In December of 2010, YSN faculty and staff donated, wrapped, and delivered carloads of holiday gifts to the CSS residents. The following year, YSN went a step further by taking requests from the children and hosting a holiday party at YSN for all of the CSS children. Each child was given one “need” and one “want” gift, adding up to over 100 presents. Children and their families crowded into YSN's normally spacious reading room for cookies and cider, and heard Santa Claus (played by Raymond Guthrie, husband of Associate Dean Barbara Guthrie) call out their names. The event brought the families of CSS closer to the people of YSN, both by proximity and in their hearts and minds.

“Healthy Neighbors is a good platform for YSN to think about other ways to be involved in the community, reaching across the age spectrum,” Belitsky added, in hopes of taking on more advocacy for the CSS residents.

The Healthy Neighbors fairs introduce YSN to an often overlooked neighborhood. This spring's event brought an outpouring of effort and support from YSN. “It’s a good time to talk about health and talk about nursing, and also just to be a neighbor,” McKinley explained. “It was nice to see faculty and students involved—to see they’re interested because they’re our neighbors.”

The fairs grow larger every semester. The spring 2011 event brought together 100 residents and approximately 15 community health organizations. It included a hot, balanced meal, a dance party to get everyone moving, education through Associate Professor Linda Pellico's famous “Have Bones Will Travel” program, and a raffle with generous prizes such as car seats and safety gates. The Bookmobile also rolled in, allowing kids to sign up for their library cards and check out books. “It became a gathering, and people stuck around,” Belitsky said with pride.
“So when are you coming back for your PhD?!” YSN Associate Professor Linda Pellico asked shortly after Asefeh Faraz walked across the stage at Yale University School of Nursing’s 2008 graduation. “That was the furthest thing from my mind then,” Faraz recalls, “but her words had quite an effect on me.” Only a year and a half after graduation, Faraz had applied to the PhD program, and returned to YSN.

From Student to Practitioner: Minimizing Burnout for New Graduates

by Christina Casinelli
After graduating with an MSN with a family nurse practitioner focus, Faraz worked at a community health center and in a private family practice as a primary care nurse practitioner in Seattle. It was this experience that inspired her PhD research—examining the transition from accelerated nurse practitioner programs into the workforce and the factors affecting that transition. Drawing inspiration from her personal experience as a newly graduated nurse practitioner, as well as the experiences of her peers, Faraz hopes her research will ultimately improve the transition of this unique population of health care providers into the workforce, thereby improving retention of vitally needed primary care providers and improving patient care.

“I felt there was little understanding of the transitional process and few resources to aid novice nurse practitioners, particularly from accelerated programs, in their first roles,” Faraz said. “By improving transitions between the educational and work arenas, I hope to improve nurse practitioner satisfaction and minimize burnout, in order to increase their retention in underserved, primary care settings. As advanced practice nurses are increasingly being called upon to fill primary care roles to address health inequities, improving retention in community-based primary care centers offers potential as a mechanism to facilitate better patient care and health outcomes.”

Faraz cited statistics showing the projected shortage of primary care providers, stating that current literature reveals that merely two percent of fourth-year medical students will enter general internal medicine and that there will be an approximately 20 percent deficit of physicians certified in internal medicine by the year 2020 or 2025. “This gap is increasingly being filled by nurse practitioners,” Faraz asserted. However, a 2009 practice survey has revealed that the percentage of nurse practitioners in community-based primary care settings has decreased from 12.8 to 8.8 from 2003 to 2009. “This dramatic decrease is concerning, and remains unexplained,” Faraz stated.

In the PhD program, she aims to understand the primary care nurse practitioner’s perception of the preparation for the initial nurse practitioner role upon graduation from an accelerated degree program. In addition, Faraz is exploring the barriers and facilitators of the nurse practitioner role transition and is making recommendations based on a theoretical framework in order to support new graduates in their first roles in the primary care setting. “This information has implications for educators as they prepare nurse practitioners, to nurse practitioners themselves, as well as to employers who wish to retain these much-desired providers,” Faraz explained.

Faraz’s interest in nursing began during her days as an undergraduate at the University of Washington. Already on her way to completing a BS in psychology and a BA in Spanish, the nursing adviser at UW suggested she wait until after graduation and apply to an accelerated master’s program in nursing. After applying to programs on both the east and west coasts, Faraz ultimately decided YSN was the best fit. “It had a strong program and a great location, as well as a great sense of community,” she added.

On campus, Faraz has been deeply involved in the Yale community from the moment she arrived. She has not only been on the YSN Alumnae/i Association (YSNAA) Board of Directors since 2005, she is currently president of the organization and is a class agent for the class of 2008. “I was invited by the Board to take on the leadership role of president and gladly accepted the privilege to do so. I felt a great sense of gratitude to YSN and wanted to show my appreciation for the wonderful experiences I had as a student and the opportunities I have had as an alumna by striving to provide the same for other students and alumni,” Faraz explained.

Her involvement with YSNAA has continued to be a rewarding one. “My favorite memories from the alumnae/i association are being able to connect with alumnae/i during reunions and hearing their amazing stories and achievements as Yale nurses,” Faraz says. She has also had the opportunity to participate in the AYA Assembly, which allows her to connect with alumni from the entire Yale community. “Yale is so rich in history and tradition,” she states, recalling this past year’s Yale Medal dinner and the invitation extended to her by Yale College alumni to take that “traditional trip” to Mory’s Temple Bar. “It was really special to be invited to participate in a Yale College tradition with new friends,” Faraz recalls. “I’m still working on learning all the Yale songs, though!”

“By improving transitions between the educational and work arenas, I hope to improve nurse practitioner satisfaction and minimize burnout, in order to increase their retention in underserved, primary care settings.”
Real Lessons in Nursing Through Simulated Patients

BY ERIN NEMETH

They cry, sneeze, sweat, and even give birth. But these patients are not quite human. Earlier this year, the Yale School of Nursing welcomed three special members to the community: a trio of patient simulators that are already making an immense impact on the learning and confidence of Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) students. The sophisticated simulators include one male patient, and a mother and child duo.

Allison Shorten, RN, RM, PhD, FACM, YSN Associate Professor, has played a key role in bringing the mother and child patient simulator to life for YSN students. “The simulators are wonderful tools that can help students to learn about effective communication, critical thinking, and teamwork with their peers,” Shorten explained. Simulation scenarios range from “situation normal” to emergency care situations, and all of the scenarios help students hone their ability to work effectively as a team.

The mother and baby were brought to YSN in order to provide students with the chance to further their skills in maternal-newborn care. The technological tandem expands students’ learning beyond both the classroom and the clinical setting. Students can be placed in a variety of situations in which they assist the mother giving birth, care for the crying newborn, and assess the well-being of both patients, all in a “risk-free” supportive setting.

The maternal-newborn couple join another simulator—a male who isn’t afraid to cry (as long as his tear ducts have been filled with water). The male simulator also has the ability to sweat, sneeze, and seize. His pupils dilate and his...
blood pressure can rise or drop in a fraction of a second in response to treatments, allowing faculty to set up scenarios that test the students’ ability to react based on their classroom and clinical knowledge.

Angie Ballas ’13, a GEPN student, said a “role-playing” scenario in maternity care “gave me a great opportunity to observe and critique how my other group members handled the situation.”

The simulation labs encourage students to recognize not only the importance of teamwork, but the necessity of having the self-confidence to care for patients. Practicing with simulators “in a safe, clinical setting... allows us to make mistakes and learn from them before we make them on patients,” GEPN student May Cao observed. Working with simulators is not a substitute for clinical experience, but serves as a supplement to boost learning. Mimicking realistic situations pushes students to recognize their individual improvements and test their ability to improvise.

Linda Pellico, PhD, APRN, YSN Associate Professor, believes that replicating real-life events in creative ways is what brings the technology to life. “I wanted to create an environment where students can practice without fear of harming the patient,” Pellico stated. “It’s the perfect risk-free environment.”

While a simulation scenario may go smoothly, students learn the most about themselves as caregivers through peer feedback and self-reflection after the simulated event. The simulation lab encourages improvement on a personal level, and builds on newly developed clinical skills. “Simulators don’t just allow students to practice clinical skills and decision making—it goes further than that,” Shorten commented. “The idea is not only to prepare students for new clinical experience, but to consolidate what they have learned.” Even if students have areas that need further development, Shorten has observed the growth in her students. “Simulation is not always about testing students. Rather, it is about students testing themselves. They often realize how far they have come, how much they have learned, as well as what they need to learn for the future.”

Along with YSN’s Tracy Evans, simulation coordinator, and Jayne Mednick, clinical preceptor, the teacher controls the functions of the virtual patients and remotely gives them a voice. Shorten believes that these practices help enhance the learning experience for students. Pellico added that, by observing students’ on-the-spot reactions to situations, “It evaluates them, and us; it assures us that we’re teaching the right things.”

GEPN student Julia Martin ’13 understands that the simulation lab goes beyond enhancing self-confidence and education; it represents the future. “We have such a great opportunity to build skills in our patients.... It’s a good reminder that the kind of care we give should be more geared toward patient education, comfort, and skill-building whenever possible,” she added.
He has more hair, a thinner face, and doesn’t need glasses. When I look at the person pictured on my Yale ID card—issued to me almost 10 years ago—I can’t help but sigh at the speed of which our lives travel. Some don’t like to think about it. Others depend on it. It depends on your perspective, I guess. Changes that inevitably occur can be distressing, or exciting, or an intriguing combination of both.

In those 10 years as dean of students, I’ve witnessed the incredible advancements in nursing education. Changes in health care delivery, technology, and certification requirements have spurred the School to alter its curriculum. But you’ve witnessed those things, too.

What is special about my perspective, and what makes me pause at times, is to reflect upon the faces of all the students who have become part of our community during that period. They are each so different; from person to person, year to year, and era to era. For me, it’s the change in the culture of our students that has impacted nursing education more than anything else, especially when you look forward. Today’s nursing student, like the rest of society, is extremely customer service oriented. Students don’t just want to earn an education—they come here to experience it. They expect a standard of service far beyond the academic content shared in the classroom. YSN has tried to keep pace with a dramatic increase in expectations around academic support, social and co-curricular activities, and career and networking assistance. We strive to provide the best experience possible.

What has also increased dramatically over the years is the financial burden faced by students. Ten years ago, the average student graduated with $63,000 in loans. That amount has risen to over $103,000. These numbers have changed the way our students approach their education. Many of them are forced to work while studying full time. YSN alums reading this may have been part of an era when full-time study was the priority and anything else was encouraged to be put on hold. Students today are no longer given that luxury. It saddens me to think how the stress of juggling responsibilities affects their studies.

This financial reality also changes career expectations. Our students come to YSN with a dream of answering the call for social justice and equity. Many of them are not able to realize their professional goals of helping the underserved because they need higher-paying jobs to survive financially. I cannot imagine the number of vulnerable populations that will not be touched by our extraordinary practitioners because of this issue.

This generation of students has also shaped the way the School delivers knowledge. Rather than the student keeping up in the classroom, today, it is the School that must keep up with the student. The students are multitaskers accustomed to information delivered instantly at their fingertips. They don’t just want to hear about primary care. They want to see it and touch it. They no longer rely on course packets. Everything is online. They sit in class searching the Web on their laptops and tablets for information. As the instructor presents, they pull related images from the Web and drag them into their notes.

This changes the game. Interactive learning is critical. We must blend classroom instruction with online learning. We need to use state-of-the-art simulation equipment to give them firsthand experiences minutes after they receive the content in class.

I have been fortunate enough to be dean of students for some time. The picture on my ID card is a daily reminder of the length of my tenure. And although the School has its share of challenges to keep up with the student of the present (and future), there is one thing that makes me proud to be a member of this community: the consistency within the transforming student. For all the differences between generations, the Yale Nurse’s strength of character remains consistent. Yale Nurses are still passionate. They continue to fight for those without quality care, at home and across the globe. And their compassion for those in need is equally unmatched. No matter the person, time, or place. Whether they used computers or index cards. The constant that makes YSN special is the students’ skill and desire to make a deep impact, and the humility and unity to know that there is always much more to do and they need each other to do it.
“It is a joy to work with YSN students and to see the difference they are making.”

Elaine Gustafson, MSN, APRN, CS, PNP ’86, has experienced Yale School of Nursing in numerous roles. She first came to YSN as a student with years of experience as a nurse, having specialized in public health and school health after graduating from Boston College. She began her studies with a supportive husband and five children between the ages of one and 15, and in 1986, she earned a master’s degree at YSN in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Specialty.

Following graduation, she moved with her family to Hong Kong. Finding no positions available for a PNP in primary care, she used her talents working in a refugee camp caring for Vietnamese families and teaching classes, as well as traveling throughout Southeast Asia.

After leaving Hong Kong, she moved to England, where she worked on a research project on the implementation of a new vaccine in the United Kingdom. These experiences provided remarkable opportunities for both Elaine and her family to see the world differently and appreciate some of the challenges of health care and health policy abroad.

Upon returning to New Haven in 1990, she began her practice as a PNP at the Fair Haven Community Health Center. She often expresses what a joy it was to work with families and colleagues at Fair Haven. “I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to work with so many families facing immense challenges in their lives; what little I could offer was so appreciated and my life so enriched by having had these experiences,” she stated.

During this time at Fair Haven, she reestablished her connections with YSN, first as a preceptor for students, and then as a faculty member in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner specialty. She remained on faculty for 10 years until her “retirement” in 2006, though she remains active in many roles. She continues today on the courtesy faculty as an Associate Clinical Professor and can be spotted frequently in the halls and classrooms of YSN delivering guest lectures or interacting with students.

This March, Elaine will make her fourth trip to Managua, Nicaragua, with YSN faculty and students to care for children at La Escuelita, “The Little School,” in Managua. “I so look forward to visiting the school each year to see the changes and improvements in the lives of these impoverished children. It is a joy to work with YSN students and to see the difference they are making for these families,” she added.

Elaine currently serves on the School’s External Advisory Board, having recently completed a two-year term as chair. This group of committed volunteers provides counsel and advice to the Dean on strategic, policy, organization, and philanthropic matters.

“Elaine is one of those special friends to both YSN and to me: so consistent, generous, and observant,” Dean Grey said. “If she sees a need, she gives of herself and her resources to address it. We are indebted to her for her invaluable guidance, integrity, and example.”

Finally, Elaine is a generous and committed donor. Keenly aware of the burden of debt that many students carry after graduation, she and her late husband, Paul, established the Gustafson Family Scholarship in 2007. “It is one of the special privileges of my life to be able to provide this scholarship,” Elaine said. “Others helped make opportunities available to me in my life, so being able to do this is a great blessing for me.” She also supports the annual YSN Creative Writing Award. “Every year I am more delighted to hear the writing of YSN students showcased at this event—it is a gift to nursing,” she added.


Barbara Hackley


Joanne DeSanto Iennaco


Sarah Jaser


Holly Powell Kennedy


Dena Schulman-Green


Allison Shorten


Martha K. Swartz


Ivy M. Alexander

Alexander, I. M. (2011, May). Midlife women’s health. Lecture presented at Yale HEALTH, Clinical Round Table, Yale University, New Haven, CT.


Patricia Jackson Allen

Laura Kierol Andrews

Nancy Cantey Banasiak

Angelia Chambers
Chambers, A. N. (2011, January). Impact of prison policies on incarcerated mothers: Parenting, reunification, and recidivism. Lecture presented at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, Houston, TX.

Jessica Coviello

Angela Crowley


Elizabeth Eroloano

Marjorie Funk


SCHOLARSHIP FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Funk, M. (2011, April). Optimizing ECG monitoring. Lecture presented at the Cardiac Nursing Visiting Scholar Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.


Funk, M. (2010, October). The PROSE trial: Improving ECG monitoring in hospitals. Lecture presented at the Yale University School of Nursing Reunion, New Haven, CT.

Margaret Grey


Sarah Jaser


James Mark Lazenby


Geraldine Marrocco


Ruth McCorkle


Mikki Meadows-Oliver


Mary D. Moller


Moller, M. D. (2011, April). The MAPP recovery model: Milestones of adjustment post-psychosis. Lecture presented at the Nebraska Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Omaha, NE.


Moller, M. D. (2011, March). From the couch to the bus depot to the mall to work: The MAPP recovery model. Lecture presented at the Georgia Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses Association, Atlanta, GA.

Moller, M. D. (2011, February). The MAPP recovery model: Milestones of adjustment post-psychosis. Research lecture presented at the University of Nebraska College of Nursing, Omaha, NE.


Alison Moriarty Daley


Margaret Moss


VoLu ME Nu MBER YALE NURSING MATTERS 23
SCHOLARSHIP FACULTY PRESENTATIONS


Moss, M. P. (2011, April). Yale School of Nursing and moving toward technology: Keynote speech presented at HealthCampCT, Yale School of Nursing, New Haven, CT.


Linda Honan Pellico


Pellico, L. (2011, March). Listening is not hearing. Use art and music to refine observational and auditory skills. Lecture presented at Yale Club of the Suncoast, Sarasota, FL.


Pellico, L. (2010, October). Have bones will travel. Lecture presented at Bicentennial Community Day, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.

Pellico, L. (2010, October). Listening is not hearing. Integrating both the art and the science. Lecture presented at the Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development, Baltimore, MD.

Pellico, L. (2010, October). Writing your story. Lecture presented at Waterbury Hospital School of Nursing, Waterbury, CT.

Nancy S. Redeker


Nancy R. Reynolds


Patricia Ryan-Krause


Lois S. Sadler


Sadler, L., & Slade, A. (2010, October). Mentalization-based programs with infants and young children: Mirroring the baby. Lecture presented at Mentalization Based Interventions for Children, Young People and Their Families International Meeting, sponsored by Anna Freud Centre and Yale Child Study Center, New Haven, CT.


Lawrence D. Scahill


SCHOLARSHIP FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Scahill, L. (2010, December). Recent development in Tourette syndrome. Lecture presented at the Research Institute of Seattle Children’s Hospital Neurosciences Center, Seattle, WA.


Dena Schulman-Green


Allison Shorten


Shorten, A. (2010, November). What are the methods for supporting patients in their choice to attempt a VBAC? Lecture presented at the Quebec Public Health Association (QSPA), Birth of the World Symposium (Enfanter Le Monde), Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.


Robin Whittemore


IN MEMORIAM as of September 30, 2011

Janet M. Foster ’37
10/27/09

Dorothy K. Stein ’38
5/11/11

Barbara B. Moran ’39
5/19/11

Mary S. Symonds ’40
9/12/11

Ida B. Spilman ’40
6/8/11

Muriel B. Petruzelli ’43
5/3/11

Vivian S. Crabtree ’46
4/21/11

Helen B. Hildebrandt ’46
8/22/11

Jean B. Milligan ’46
7/6/11

Barbara D. Johnson ’47
5/3/11

Ernest G. Edwards ’48
5/9/11

Virginia H. Rogers ’50
5/6/11

Mary B. Floyd ’51
8/29/11

Dorothy J. MacLennan ’52
7/29/11

Peggy A. Masterson ’53
7/11/11

Jane S. Mauro ’53
5/27/11

Beverly N. Dunston-Scott ’55
7/11/11

Esther R. Sherrod ’55
3/24/11

Winifred D. Garrity ’59
9/4/11

Nelda K. Severin ’65
9/29/11

Barbara A. Levine ’77
6/29/11

Marianne H. Lewis ’80
3/11/11

Pamela Hicks ’87
3/3/11

Vanessa B. Morgan ’01
3/23/11

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3 YALE NURSING MATTERS 25

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The theme of this issue is students, YSN’s raison d’etre. Think back to when you were in school. What kept you engaged?

Go to p. 10 and find out how faculty are using interactive technology to help students learn with simulated patients.

Spotlight News (p. 4) includes students awarded for their advocacy, talents, and skills in writing, scholarship, and community service.

Q: Why do YSN students cross the road? A: To get to the Church Street South apartments (p. 6). There, they participate fully in the lives of the vulnerable families who live there.

Mary Lou Graham ’04 went halfway around the world on a Yale alum trip to provide health care education. Find out on p. 28 why she was not allowed to give her presentation.

There’s a whole world out there waiting for Yale Nurses, isn’t there? On this page, look for Linda Schwartz’s advice to new graduates. (Hint: it’s applicable to all of us!)

And speaking of graduates, turn to p. 32 to relive the pomp, circumstance, achievement, and excitement of commencement.

Sometimes, it’s all about transitions. Asefek Faraz ’88 went from GEPN to graduate, to practitioner, and back to student (p. 8), now in the YSN doctoral program and president of the Alumnae/i Association.

Don’t forget to check out your classmates’ whereabouts on p. 30. Where are they now? If you read Frank Grosso’s Truth of the Matter (p. 12), you’ll see what a difference 10 years makes.

Karla A. Knight ’77

What convinced you to become a nurse? What convinced you to become a nurse? Watching the [Vietnam] war on TV. Then, I simply wanted to help. As of today, I have found that a simple nursing framework fits many life situations.

If students spend their spring break in the air, it’s usually because they are headed to a warm destination. Tell us about your spring break in 1983.

I was attending the psychiatric liaison nursing program at YSN and spending my spring break doing my U.S. Air Force Reserve duty. During an in-flight training exercise, I sustained a blast concussion. A door blew off at 30,000 feet and that was the end of my Air Force career—but the beginning of my advocacy for veterans.

You always credit your recovery from that decompression event with the care and support of YSN faculty and fellow students. How did they help you?

Six weeks after the accident, I was told by doctors at Andrews Air Force Base that I could never go back to nursing and that I should go home to my family and bake bread for my husband. Faculty members Madelon Baranoski ’74, Donna Diers ’64, and Judy Krauss ’70 and my student colleagues had other ideas. They not only helped me graduate with my class, but they also taught me how to advocate for myself back in school and with the Air Force, and ultimately, for other veterans.

How would you characterize the way you felt when you received your MSN? I think there was an unintended good consequence of the faculty and student support that you will never find in a marketing brochure for the school. Having the support of such strong women and by the mere fact that I had to graduate with my class in 1984, there was this spirit of cooperation and intensity of experience that may not necessarily happen now when there are more options for completion of the degree.

How did you become the Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs? About nine years ago, I was serving out the last two months of my term on the Board of Trustees for the Rocky Hill VA facility. At that time, the VA system in Connecticut was rocked by a very publicized incident involving a patient with AIDS who had not been told of his diagnosis for more than eight months. I told then-Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell that serving on the Board was ruining my credibility as a nurse. In true nursing form, I wrote down for Lt. Gov. Rell what was really wrong with the facility, what needed to be done to fix it, and the kind of person who should be commissioner, but never thinking it should be me.
When you were offered the position as Commissioner right after that conversation, why did you decide to accept?

Once again, the faculty at YSN helped me. They understood how I could bring a nursing perspective to the VA and encouraged me to leave my research assistant position at the school. In the first weeks on the job at the VA, I did what any good nurse does: I walked the corridors assessing the situation. There were 300 disenfranchised patients living in 60-year-old buildings with no air conditioning and no handicapped-accessible facilities or entrances. I encountered a man who said he had lost his job and his family, and if this was to be his life, he no longer wanted to live. And so my mission has evolved into saving lives. In many ways, what happened to me in 1983 in terms of returning to my family after an injury is what is happening to many of our servicemen and women today.

Since your arrival at Rocky Hill, what has changed?
I have been appointed and reappointed by three governors (two Republicans and one Democrat!). In 2007, we opened fully renovated facilities as a result of a $33 million grant that my chief of staff and I wrote in my first month with the VA in 2003. We have conducted needs assessments that identify what we need to do today for our veterans and also what we will need to do for our veterans in 20 years. We have arranged for Oasis Centers at all of the state and community college campuses so that our veterans who go back to school can have a place to meet, chill, and relax. Our annual Stand Down event attracts 1,400 homeless vets, including 40 women. Stand Down is an opportunity for our veterans who are homeless to get medical, dental, and eye care in addition to a rich and vast array of services, including access to the courts. Each year, YSN Associate Professor Linda Pellico, APRN, MSN '89, PhD, brings first-year GEPN students to participate in this eye-opening experience.

When you went before Congress to advocate for yourself and women veterans the first time, how did you feel?
Scared to death. I had been told that by telling the truth about my experience with the VA, my benefits would be removed, which had been known to happen. But as a nurse who was experiencing the system, I needed to be an advocate not only for women, but also for men. I have testified before Congress more than 30 times and most recently in March before Senator Patty Murray, the first woman chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. I took this opportunity to talk about our women veterans who are leaving the military. Senator Murray told me that this was the first time that anyone had mentioned women in their testimony.

A new group has started with the intent to identify Yale Nurses who have served in the military. How can they join this group?
We are trying to identify them for a larger Yale veterans group as part of a School of Management initiative. They can contact me by e-mail at Linda.Schwartz@po.state.ct.us or by phone 860-616-3603.

You don’t have to be a veteran to volunteer at either Stand Down or the VA. How can other Yale Nurses participate?
Volunteers are always welcome, not just at Stand Down but every day. We meet with volunteers individually to find out their interests and how much time they’re able to commit. They can fill out the volunteer form online at www.ct.gov/ctva.

What would you tell recent YSN graduates?
Someone once introduced me in this way: “Linda is a nurse and a veteran who has devoted her life to healing the wounds of war.” I can think of no greater goal, but I also never envisioned myself in a position like this or aspired to doing what I’m doing. So to graduates I would say, “Look for opportunity and when you see it, just go for it.”

Eight faculty from the Yale Schools of Nursing and Medicine led 32 first-year GEPN students to Stand Down on September 9. This annual event provides services to needy veterans from across Connecticut.

YSN joined volunteers from 50 government and private organizations providing a range of support, including medical screenings, social service assistance, legal help, job counseling, and VA benefits information. Veterans were also given haircuts, a hot meal, and new clothing.

YSN students checked blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and blood glucose, gave immunizations, assessed lung function, and washed the feet of veterans.
Collaboration Across Cultures

By Mary Lou Graham, APRN ’04

When I signed up to be part of the summer Yale Alumni Service Corps (YASC) cultural exchange group to a rural part of China, I knew my trip would be far from a leisurely vacation. The YASC spent one week in Xiuning as part of a cultural exchange, and the next week in Beijing. As a psychiatric nurse, I was excited to learn about China’s rich medical traditions, policy, and practice at Xiuning Hospital in Anhui province.
Most of the 200 service corps travelers spent the week with children at local schools. Since the goal was a cultural exchange, many alums brought their own children, some of whom had already become pen pals with the children they would meet in China. The alums led children in activities related to their professional expertise. For instance, engineers built bridges of popsicle sticks and musicians taught instruments. There was also time to teach baseball.

Of our corps of 200, I was part of the medical group of 25 who spent the week at a mid-level hospital in the center of town. In the spirit of exchange, the hospital asked us to provide educational talks and case studies, as opposed to direct patient care.

I offered to lecture on depression and the use of screening tools. However, we were told depression does not exist in their country and that my talk was unnecessary. This highlighted how cultural differences shape our respective health care systems. Another YSN alum on this trip, Sherrie Najarian, commented that in China, “Culturally, pain is seen as something one endures, whether physical or mental.”

All people view illness, emotions, and behavior through a cultural lens. Even in America, where depression and antidepressant therapies are openly discussed, many still feel a stigma from this diagnosis. In a 2001 article, the authors reported that Chinese may express depression in different ways. The authors concluded, “depression appears to be less evident [in China]...and is more likely to be expressed somatically, as a result of a rich set of interconnecting influences.”

Were our hosts in denial, or were their patients expressing depressive symptoms in other ways? There is no easy characterization of our experiences. The word “rural” has different connotations in a country with a population as large as China’s. The town square of Xiuning seemed as dense as New Haven’s downtown, while a mile outside of town were fields of rice and yellow chrysanthemums grown for tea.

While hospital services were both excellent and modern, they looked different on the surface. Families washed patients’ laundry in sinks. Chinese nurses wear traditional white uniforms with stripes to indicate rank. They reported a 70% C-section rate, perhaps related to the preciousness of the one birth permitted by the government. I’ll always have the powerful memory of the father beamng while showing me his twins. Large boards in the hospital lobby listed the prices of various lab tests. Wouldn’t it be nice to have transparent costs in America?

Despite these differences, it was soon clear that Chinese nurses, like American nurses, want to provide the best health care possible. This connection quickly bonded our two groups. Clinicians thirsted to learn from one another through clinical rounds and case discussions. Speaking informally, they asked about our patient load, scope of practice, shift work, how much American nurses are paid, even about our social lives. We found the Chinese nurses hardworking, warm, and engaging. Teaching their patients about diagnoses and illnesses was a point of pride for them.

Although we weren’t able to directly discuss mental illness or the emotional dimensions of physical illnesses, we did sprinkle some information in our medical lectures. For example, in neurology, we observed that treating depression improves post-stroke outcomes.

Xiuning has a long, illustrious history of scholarship. Students work hard, attending school for 12 hours a day, all year round. We were the only YASC group that didn’t work with schoolchildren; our peers said the high schoolers expressed many emotional concerns. Some wished they had someone to talk to about their stress but kept it inside. To talk to one’s parents about concerns was seen as ungrateful and shameful. Suicide attempts were not uncommon among students, but were kept secret.

Certainly, depression exists, and the need for clinicians to evaluate, diagnose, and treat it seems obvious. Our group report will include a recommendation for embedding a nurse at the high school who can respond to the medical and emotional needs of the students.

“...however, we were told depression didn’t exist in their country and my talk was unnecessary.”

Figuring out how to create and support mental health screening and care, and how to raise a very sensitive topic, will be left to others. But if they need a volunteer, call me!

This trip has made me more passionate about psychiatric nursing and the need to talk about mental health. I hope to someday have an opportunity to give my talk in Xiuning.

Class News

Class of 1950 classmates Virginia Brown, Mary Colwell, and Jean O’Brien Butler came together at YSN’s Reunion weekend. They especially enjoyed the keynote speaker, as well as Dean Grej’s explanation of the elements of a research protocol. The following day, Virginia reported on a New York Times front-page article entitled “Calling More Nurses ‘Doctor,’” A Title Physicians Begrudge.” She urges all alumnae/i to spread the message that YSN is ahead and on top of the trend.

Marjory Heyd ’66 reports that, after leaving YSN 45 years ago, she devoted her professional life to undergraduate nursing education in several colleges and universities, as well as in community health for expectant mothers and their families. Retired now for six years, Marjory remains active by serving as a volunteer on several community boards, as a volunteer educator, and as president of a local women’s organization. Marjory is widowed and living in Fairview Park, Ohio. She has two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Judy A. Beal ’75 was named Dean of the Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Sciences, where she has taught for 30 years. She oversees three undergraduate and graduate programs: nursing, nutrition, and physical therapy. Judy has published more than 40 refereed publications, has received a three-year Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship, and has regular speaking engagements.

Margaret Flinter ’80 is now the Senior Vice President and clinical director of CHC, Inc., one of the country’s largest federally qualified health centers, and the director of its Weitzman Center for Research and Innovation in Primary Care. Among her current favorite projects is the construction of CHC’s new, green, 30,000-square foot building in Middletown, Connecticut. Margaret has been with CHC since 1980, and has seen it grow from a single storefront. Margaret and husband Paul have two sons.

Carole McKenzie ’73 has taught undergraduate and graduate maternal-newborn nursing, and worked as a nurse midwife and clinical specialist. She completed her PhD and was director of Women’s and Children’s Services in East Texas until five years ago, when she moved to Oklahoma to head a BSN program. As Professor and Chair of the Division of Nursing at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Carole is proud of their innovative curriculum, simulation lab, and student successes. Carole is researching the development of reflective judgment utilizing proactive reflection and simulation. Carol and husband Roger celebrate 42 years of marriage and have three children and one grandchild. They are pictured with son Rory and daughter Katie.

Suzanne Abbot Harris ’85 sends happy news that she was married last December to James Harris, pictured here in the gulf near their home in Brooksville, Florida. Suzanne is an instructor for first-year nursing students at a community college and recalls the privilege of working with former dean Judith Krauss as her adviser. Suzanne hopes she can reconnect with friends.

Alexandra Brenner Usdavin ’06 gave birth to daughter Sophia Claire Usdavin on April 4, 2011. Sophia decided to arrive 10 days late, but when she determined it was time for her grand debut, she made a quick appearance in five hours from start of labor to birth!

Beth Cheney ’89 was honored in June with the Connecticut Hospital Association Healthcare Hero award. She is Director of the Prenatal Clinic and Oncology Programs at Windham Hospital and an assistant clinical professor at YSN. A third-generation nurse, Beth has provided health care for 15 years to women and their unborn infants. She published an article in Connecticut Medicine magazine’s June/July edition on reducing health care disparities.

Rima Jolivet ’99 received her DrPH from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, MD in May 2011. She was inducted into the Fellowship of the American College of Nurse-Midwives in San Antonio, TX. Pictured are Rima with fellow Yalies Lisa Summers ’83, Sharon Schindler Rising ’67, and former faculty member Carrie Klima.
Danuta Bujak, PhD, FNP, is a unique individual who, through sheer determination and hard work, has surpassed the normal expectations of an advanced practice nurse.

After arriving in the United States from Poland in 1972 with little knowledge of English, and a degree in education, Danuta learned English, switched careers, and worked her way up the nursing career ladder from associate degree in 1977, to a Master’s in Community Health and certification as an FNP in 1981, to a PhD in 1998. In the 34 years since her nursing career began, Danuta has demonstrated an insatiable love of learning, along with a remarkable ability to implement her knowledge in clinical practice, in grant-supported research and publication, in teaching and mentoring on the university level, in presentations at professional conferences, and in community education.

Danuta has helped to facilitate the awareness of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases as persistent public health threats while also researching and demonstrating the long-term effects of untreated Lyme disease, which has resulted in more rapid diagnosis and treatment and improved outcomes. In 1990, in a presentation in Stockholm, Sweden, she coined the term “Post-Lyme Syndrome (PLS),” which is now widely used. Many doctors at that time believed that patients with post-Lyme symptoms were malingerers, but Danuta persisted in presenting evidence-based research about PLS, which assisted in the acceptance of the concept.

In addition to Danuta’s contribution to evidence-based knowledge about Lyme disease, Danuta has made important contributions to current professional knowledge about rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and osteoarthritis.

Through her scholarship, teaching, clinical practice, leadership and research in clinical nursing, Danuta has made significant contributions to the professional community and to society as a whole.

The following is an excerpt of Danuta Bujak’s acceptance speech:

Distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends.

Each and every one of you honors the Yale School of Nursing by your presence. In a way you all share in this award, as you all share in making the Yale School of Nursing the great institution that it is today. I am grateful. You, my friends, colleagues, and mentors, have empowered me to achieve so much.

On a larger scale, we the nurses and our nation are engaged in a battle; our mission is to provide health care for all. We received a superb education and training here; with this comes leadership and opportunities. We must speak up for the advanced nursing role in a new milieu as described in the health care reform.

It is up to us to complete the work that we have thus far moved forward through advanced practice. “It is up to all of us gathered on this occasion to commit ourselves to this great mission remaining before us—which this nation, under God, shall have health care for all and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall ensure this right.” These powerful lines paraphrased from Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address resonate well with me here in America.

What will it take to achieve this grand vision? Is it collaboration across the nation, or professions? YES. It will require spelling out the challenges before us. We must determine why it is so hard to create change in health care and within the ranks of nursing. Why is there so much resistance to change? This is a focus of translational research that is a current priority area for the NIH.

I envision the Yale School of Nursing educating a large cadre of advanced practice nurses prepared to participate in health care reform, shaping the new system so all will benefit. This takes audacity and a vision, and this creates an unprecedented opportunity for us.

To build the future is to offer an educational opportunity here at Yale to so many talented individuals who will carry our work forward. I’ve joined the Yale Legacy Partners and bequeathed 10% of my estate to help create this opportunity at the school that influenced my life so profoundly.

It is true that the name Yale opens many doors. It’s also true that my education and training at Yale School of Nursing has enabled me to walk through those doors with confidence.

Thank you Yale School of Nursing for selecting me—a girl with a Meryl Streep accent from Sophie’s Choice—to attend this prestigious school 30 years ago. Thank you to the mentors who groomed me, my colleagues who supported me, and my parents for their love.

It is truly a great privilege and a pleasure to see my lifelong work worthy of your consideration.
Alumnae/i Reunion Weekend
September 30-October 1, 2011

The Future of Nursing: It’s Up to Us

Reunion was a success thanks to student volunteers! (l-r) Janine Sun, Kaitlin Anderson, and Sarah Gilbert from the Class of 2013.

Elaine Gustafson, Audrey Courtney, and Valerie Holcomb of the Class of 1986 25th Reunion Class.

Shirley Girouard ’77, Margaret Grey ’76, Mary Colwell ’50.

Yale University President Richard Levin.

Shirley Girouard ’77, Peg Cushman ’76, Bernadette Forget ’76, 2011 YSN Reunion Tri-Chairs.

Alumnae/i and students joined together in the fun. (l-r) Brittany Diaz ’13, Heather Jacobs ’12, Jodi Winemiller ’11.

Kate Damon ’12, Sarah Morse ’13, Lisa Summers ’83, Peg Cushman ’76.

Sharing perspectives on nursing, Virginia Brown ’50 and Karlyn Nieland ’73.

Special recognition of Donna Diers ’64 for receiving the 2010 Living Legend Award from the American Academy of Nursing.

Reunion weekend is a great opportunity to celebrate friendships.
Anthony Luczak ’14, a YSN GEPN student, asked for the chance to thank YSN alumnae/i for his financial aid support. This is an excerpt of his address.

I started my nursing career at Yale a month ago. I am a recipient of a YSN scholarship, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you about my journey to YSN.

About a year and a half ago, I was living with my wife and small children in northeast Mexico. We had chosen to live with the poor and vulnerable in developing countries, connecting needy people to those who wanted to help. It was small-budget, grassroots work. We organized material and medical aid trips to Mexico, helping to ensure that the most dire needs were met first.

I graduated in 2004 with a degree in theology and philosophy from a small private school and had never thought of nursing for myself, until I saw the selflessness of the U.S. medical teams that would come to our town. I saw their positive impact, and when it came time for them to leave, I knew that health care would revert to an inadequate level. All too often, sick children, including my own, suffered from diseases that were not only treatable, but also preventable.

So the journey began toward nursing school. I was moved by the service inherent in the profession. The deciding factor between schools would be a fine balance between cost and education. I really wanted to attend Yale, but the lower my loans upon graduating means the sooner I can return to my life’s work of helping the underprivileged. For me, the decision was highly influenced by the YSN scholarship.

To you, the alumni: Truthfully, you are our mentors. You have made the profession of nursing what it is today. We read your work. We read about your work. You are our preceptors. We hear about the profound impact that you have made in your fields, in research and in clinical practice. You have each contributed to the reputation of YSN, our alma mater that we will one day hold in common. I would like to thank each of you for giving of yourselves to the profession of nursing, and for the example that you establish for those of us who are as yet learning what it is to be a nurse. Also, I would most sincerely like to thank you for your generosity toward us current students, in helping us to make this education affordable through the YSN Scholarship.

To make your gift to the YSN Annual Fund, visit www.yale.edu/givenursing. 100% of Annual Fund donations are directed toward student financial aid.
Commencement 2011

Yale University School of Nursing celebrated its 85th commencement on Monday, May 23, 2011, with 101 MSN, two Post Master’s Certificates, and three PhD graduates.

Family and friends gathered at the historic Shubert Theatre to congratulate the Class of 2011.

Kaitlin A. Adams received the Milton and Anne Sidney Prize for promotion of evidence-based care.

Melissa Kurtz with Dean Emerita Donna Diers. Kurtz received the Charles King, Jr. Prize for excellence in scholarship.

Faculty member Lisa Meland won the Annie Goodrich Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Bagpipes led the procession.

Gradsuates gathered on Yale’s Old Campus.

Kendra Grimes led the YSN graduates with the School’s official banner.
Allison Shue.

Emily Williams.

Associate Dean Barbara Guthrie congratulates a graduate.

Katherine Rushfirth.

Commencement Speaker Susan Michaels-Strasser and YSN Dean Margaret Grey.

Timothy Jones received his diploma.

Jennifer Mygatt received the Connecticut Holistic Health Association Prize.

Sarah Wheeler.

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Yale Nursing Legacy Partners was created to recognize and thank alumnae/i, family, and friends who have included Yale School of Nursing in their estate plans. The School will honor the generosity of members through special recognition and invitations to Yale Legacy Partners events.

For more information on including Yale School of Nursing in your estate plans, or to document your gift intentions, contact Steve Varley in the YSN Office of Development 203-785-7928 or steve.varley@yale.edu