

AFTER 25 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT, DIANE RENDÓN RETIRES AS DIRECTOR



Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab with Dr. Diane Rendón.

Diane Rendón was hailed for nearly a quarter of a century of remarkable achievement and leadership at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing as she announced her retirement as the school's director.

"Dr. Rendón is an extraordinary woman and nurse," said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. "She has helped transform the School into one of the city's premier institutions. She will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on."

Looking back on monumental changes in the worlds of health care and nursing since she first received her nursing diploma from Bellevue Nursing School in 1966, Dr. Rendón says one of her greatest satisfactions was to see the establishment of the CUNY nursing doctoral program spearheaded by the Hunter faculty.

"Very few nurses had doctorates when I started," she notes, "but with the progressive advancement of the profession, the need—not only for highly educated nurses but also for

[continued on page 6](#)

NURSING SCHOOL CHOSEN FOR NEW EAST SIDE BIOMEDICAL PROGRAM

Hunter's School of Nursing has been selected to be part of an ambitious and innovative biomedical program on New York's Upper East Side.

The School of Nursing—along with Hunter's Center for Study of Gene Function and Structure—will work in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medical College and a consortium of other prestigious institutions in the Hunter College neighborhood to establish the Clinical and Transitional Science Center.

This effort is being funded through a \$49 million award from the National Institutes of Health.

The new Center's goal will be to facilitate collaborative research studies that quickly and effec-

tively result in improved patient treatments and preventive interventions.

The Center will target the full range of clinical areas, including cancer, diabetes, AIDS, cardiovascular disease, women's health, reproductive medicine, geriatrics, psychiatry, Alzheimer's disease, kidney disease, obesity, multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular disorders, trauma and burns.

An extensive community outreach program, especially for ethnically diverse medically underserved areas, will be an important component of the new Center's work.

"The Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing has a long and distinguished record of preparing

[continued on page 8](#)

In This Issue:

Hunter Nurses Travel
to Dominican
Republic **3**

Graduates Honored at
Convocation .. **4 & 5**

Faculty News **7**

In Memoriam: Margaret
Gould Tyson **7**

Alumni News **8**

Student Nurses Win
National Award **9**

Class Notes **10**

Alums Gather for
'08 Reunion **11**

Getting to Know:
Donald Smith . . . **12**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

While we are sad to see Diane Rendón retire after 25 remarkable years, we are excited by the big changes that lie ahead for the School of Nursing. We are very pleased to announce we are reestablishing the School as an independent institution within Hunter College. Dr. Rendón's successor will be the acting founding dean of the "new" school—and we look forward to announcing this new dean soon.

We are revamping this newsletter to help keep you better informed about these and other developments at the Nursing School and the people who make it work. This is an exciting time in the life of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, an era of innovation and growth, and it is vitally important for all of us to share information—and stay informed. We can all take pride in the School's achievements.

Jennifer J. Raab

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Planning has already begun for the exciting 50th Anniversary of the first graduating class from nursing—the Class of '59. We hope to mobilize as many alumni as possible to attend the Annual Luncheon on Sunday, May 3, at the Grand Hyatt on East 42nd Street in Manhattan. We would particularly encourage anniversary classes to attend—the Classes of '69, '79, '89 and '99 as well as the five-year intervals. Feel free to contact me at drendon@hunter.cuny.edu to let me know how you want to help.

This will be my last column to you all. After 25 years at Hunter, 11 as your School director, I have decided to retire. I have had a rewarding career in nursing and have been blessed to be part of our School. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our wonderful School, its faculty, students, and alumni.

Diane Rendón

Mission of Hope for Hunter Nurses

Students Treat Thousands in Dominican Republic

A group of Hunter nursing students and faculty members traveled to the Dominican Republic this past spring and spent a week giving much-needed health care to thousands of people there.

The 26 graduate students and nurse practitioners provided medicine and treatment for hypertension, parasite infections, skin ailments, respiratory problems and sexually transmitted diseases in a population that has almost no access to health care.

"We held four days of clinics, spent one day visiting a Dominican hospital, and provided direct medical care to over 6,000 persons of all ages," said Dr. Joanna Hofmann of the Nursing School faculty, who led the students on their trip. "The students made the school proud."

For the Hunter students, the trip was an extraordinary experience.

"It was great to be there," said Jennifer Persad, who graduated this year as an Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. "We did everything. Eye exams, ear exams, checked for high blood pressure. The people had so little knowledge of how to prevent diseases. Many of them just accepted their diarrhea and vomiting from drinking bad water. They needed a lot of education in basic health care and hygiene."

"My memorable moments included spending time with children at the orphanage where we stayed and having no water when we needed it. The faucet broke and water was flooding our dorm and we had to get up in the middle of the night to mop the floors. It was surprising to see how quickly the nurses and professors got themselves organized to work and to provide care for many families."

Persad was also struck by how few elderly people she saw. "Their life span is so short," she explained.

Brenda Joyce Baldwin, also in the Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner program, said the trip had made her "more appreciative of living in America...after seeing so much poverty in the Dominican Republic."



"The people were so thankful to us for coming," Baldwin recalled. "They waited in line for our arrival each morning at the clinic sites and so many expressed their gratitude through interpreters and wished for God's blessing on us for serving. We gave physical examinations to families, we diagnosed and prescribed medications as needed, and we provided teaching. I will forever be grateful to Dr. Hofmann for coordinating this trip and giving me the opportunity to impact lives in another part of the world."

Christine Gilchrist, who is in the Master of Community Health Nursing/ Master of Public Health program, talked about how "personally rewarding" it was to help people at the clinics with their health problems. One especially memorable moment came when she and others met with nursing students and faculty from Universidad Central del Este in the Dominican Republic. "I am happy to see that Hunter is looking to build international collaborations," Gilchrist said.

Dr. Hofmann is already making plans to take a new group of Hunter nursing students to the Dominican Republic in January. "It was such an experience for all of us there," Hofmann said. "And everyone was thrilled with the Hunter students."



Here are some snapshots of Hunter-Bellevue nursing students and faculty members as they provided desperately needed medical care in the Dominican Republic during their mission there earlier this year. The Hunter contingent treated and helped more than 6,000 people—young and old—who have no access to health care.

REACHING OUT AROUND THE WORLD

The Dominican Republic trip is just one example of Hunter-Bellevue's leading role in service to the global community as well as our home community in New York.

Highlights of the School's ongoing international work in Korea, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa and many other areas around the world were detailed during the Annual Spring Forum held on April 1 at the Brookdale Center.

Dr. Holly Shaw, one of the Forum speakers, talked about providing trauma treatment—

particularly for children and young family members—in places like Israel and the Middle East. "I feel a real commitment to experience the world as smaller than it is—and try to make a difference," said Dr. Shaw.

Another Hunter faculty member, Dr. Carol Roye, discussed how many health tragedies around the world—such as the horrific infant mortality rates in Africa—were preventable with the right medical care. "One nurse can do something," Roye told the audience.

GRADUATES HONORED AT 200

FROM NIGERIA TO CLASS VALEDICTORIAN

Idongesit Sandy Udoh had to learn how to adjust to a whole new life—and a new language—when she came to the U.S. from Nigeria as a teenager.

Now she has graduated as valedictorian of the Hunter-Bellevue Nursing School Class of 2008 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average in her nursing studies.

Sandy Udoh was just 15 in 2002 when she joined her family in the Bronx, where she completed her high school education.

“I spoke English, but I wasn’t good at writing it,” she recalls. “That is, I wasn’t good at essays. I had to learn that in high school and college.”

Even as a young girl growing up in Nigeria, she knew she wanted to work in the medical field. But she wasn’t sure how or where.

Then, after she decided to become a nurse, she came to Hunter because “I knew it was such a good nursing program.”

“The nursing program at Hunter doesn’t just help you with academics,” Sandy Udoh says. “It develops your leadership, your sense of purpose, and it gives you a direction for where you may be headed.”

After graduation, Sandy Udoh plans to

work as a nurse while also attending graduate school for an advanced-practice degree in nursing—possibly at Hunter.

She hopes eventually to get involved in programs that will help bring more attention to, and alleviate the many health problems facing African nations. “In my homeland of Nigeria,” she explains, “a lot of people have diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular problems, and sickle cell anemia, but they really don’t know how to manage themselves.”

While at Hunter, Sandy Udoh participated and served as a peer tutor in the BEST (Becoming Excellent Students in Transition to Nursing) program, which is aimed at encouraging and helping talented minority students to become part of the nursing profession. This much-praised academic support program at Hunter is directed by Dr. Cynthia Degazon.

“BEST provides encouragement for nursing students,” Sandy Udoh says. “You know there is always someone there to help you. I was a very shy person, but being a tutor and a participant in this program has been part of my development; BEST has helped get me where I am today.”



Idongesit Sandy Udoh had a perfect 4.0 GPA in her nursing courses.



AN EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT: JENISE PRINCIPE

Jenise Principe was one of the outstanding nursing students who graduated from Hunter-Bellevue in May. Jenise had the highest overall GPA (3.943) in the class. She plans to get her master’s in a year or two, but first she wants to get nursing experience at a hospital.

Born in the Philippines, she came to the U.S. with her family at the age of 2 and grew up in Queens. “Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be a nurse,” Principe says. “Getting into the nursing program at Hunter, solidified my plans for me.”

Principe’s mother is a registered nurse at the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases and her father works as a medical coder at North General Hospital in Harlem. Principe did her internship at Joint Diseases last summer. Her job was in the Ambulatory Surgery Recovery Room, where patients can go home on the same day as their surgery.

“The environment was great, the patients were great, the teamwork was awesome,” Principe says. “I really loved it.” She hopes now to make ambulatory surgery her specialty as a nurse.

Principe, a Macaulay Honors College student, made the Dean’s List for eight consecutive semesters at Hunter.

8 BROOKDALE CONVOCATION



More than 160 nursing graduates were honored at Hunter-Bellevue's 2008 convocation, held in the Brookdale auditorium on May 28.

"You are poised to bring your skills and your caring to our neediest communities at a most challenging moment," Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab told the graduates. "Hunter has prepared you to meet any challenges that will come your way in the course of your career. We are proud of you and know you are ready to serve."

Nursing School Director Diane Rendón talked about the dramatic changes in health care in recent years—and the changes in the future which they couldn't even envision yet. "Your career adventure is about to begin," Dr. Rendón said. "We welcome you to the family of nursing."

And Joyce Griffin-Sobel, director of the nursing undergraduate program, challenged the graduates to be "troublemakers" as nurses—just as Florence Nightingale was. "Don't accept the status quo, challenge the system to make it work for us," Dr. Griffin-Sobel said. "Stand up for the downtrodden and the poor."

Students who spoke during the ceremony praised the faculty and staff for helping them to achieve their goal of a nursing degree—and helping them to prepare for the nursing world. "The great teachers inspire, you inspired us," said Rivka Mintz, who represented the master's program graduates.

Ian Sherman graduated from the School of Nursing with a 3.742 GPA. Although he dreamed of being a firefighter when he was growing up, Sherman decided instead that he wanted to help heal people by becoming a nurse. Hunter is the only college he applied to, he says, because it has the best nursing program in New York City and one of the best in America. He plans to work as a nurse in an emergency or burn unit. Thanks to a scholarship given by Joan Grabe, who graduated from Hunter in 1960 with a nursing degree, Sherman was able to pursue his studies in nursing.



DIANE RENDÓN RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS AT HUNTER

continued from page 1

extremely well-prepared nursing faculty—became clear.”

“Hunter’s nursing faculty today,” Rendón continues, “have doctoral degrees and first-class expertise in a wide range of research and practice areas. And our students are very smart men and women with a broad-based education rooted in science and liberal arts. This is essential, for nurses must be able to think critically, be problem solvers, and be autonomous, rigorously prepared practitioners.”

Rendón herself personifies this development. After getting her nursing diploma in 1966, she went on to get a BS in nursing from the recently established Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, an MS in psychiatric mental health nursing, also from Hunter-Bellevue, and, in 1983, her doctorate, from Columbia University Teachers College.

Another great change that Rendón has witnessed is the development of technology. “We can input and access medical records with a speed and efficiency we never dreamed of,” she says, “and we offer courses online, access an enormously wide range of medical literature, and communicate with one another with amazing speed. All of these capabilities can greatly improve our research, teaching and clinical practice.”

“I never thought I wanted to teach... I found that I loved it.”

However, Rendón stresses, technological innovations bring challenges as well as benefits. “Advances in technology,” she cautions, “like all new developments in the health field, heighten the need for excellent educational programs and top-notch faculty; never lose sight of the person who is the recipient of our care.”

A widespread shortage of nursing faculty is also a big issue for many schools, including Hunter-Bellevue.

“We’re trying our best to deal with it at Hunter,” she says. “The problem is simply—or not so simply—that we insist on having faculty who are extremely smart, talented, and well educated, and such professionals can make more money in government, business, and in research institutions. This means that we must seek out new recruits who are as highly committed to nursing education as our current faculty members are.”

Rendón has dedicated much of her life to these causes. She started as a staff nurse in psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital, went on to become a head nurse there, and then—somewhat to her own surprise—started teaching. “I never thought I wanted to teach,” she recalls, “and I entered the



Retiring School of Nursing Director Diane Rendón outside the Brookdale building.

master’s program in psychiatric nursing intending to be a clinical specialist. But student teaching was a required part of the curriculum, and I found that I loved it.”

Over the next ten years she taught at Hunter-Bellevue, the City College School of Nursing, and Teachers College, and she has been at Hunter-Bellevue full time since 1984—as a professor, as the director of the Nursing Undergraduate Program, and, since 1997, as director of the School of Nursing.

Her career and family life are intimately connected: She met her husband, psychiatrist Mario Rendón, when he was working as a doctor at Bellevue and she was a nurse there. They now have two grown children, Adán, who is a banker, and Renata, who is in

“I am so proud to have been part of this school.”

charge of advocacy for the Americas at Amnesty International in Washington, DC.

Rendón will not be leaving Hunter when she retires from her post as director of the Nursing School, for she is the chair of the planning committee for the 50th anniversary of Hunter-Bellevue’s first graduating class (Class of ’59), which will have a “great celebration,” she promises, in 2009.

“I’m so proud to have been part of this school,” she says. “I greatly admire the students, who deal with so many things, who often have children and elderly parents to take care of but are so determined to learn and study, so committed to the profession. I

also have tremendous respect and admiration for the faculty, who are so committed to working with the students while they also advance nursing knowledge through their research.

“And the school itself—the Nursing School and the College as a whole—has always been extraordinary. Hunter is important because of the role it plays as an urban school: we prepare students from the city for the city, and a central mission for Hunter-Bellevue has always been to prepare professional nurses who will work to improve health care in this diverse city.”

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE HUNTER MEMORY

Is there a favorite professor you remember from your days as a nursing student at Hunter?

An extraordinary event while you were here that changed your life? A special memory that you’d like to share?

Write and tell us all about it for the next School of Nursing Newsletter.

Send your memories to:

publications@hunter.cuny.edu

Or: School of Nursing Newsletter
695 Park Avenue, Rm. E1301
New York, NY 10065

DONNA NICKITAS NAMED TO TOP EDITOR'S POST



Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing professor Donna M. Nickitas has been named editor-in-chief of *Nursing Economic\$*, a professional journal that seeks to advance nursing leadership by providing information and analysis on emerging practices in health care management, economics and policymaking.

Dr. Nickitas, who is the graduate specialty coordinator of the Dual Degree MS/MPA Program at

Hunter, has been a member of the *Nursing Economic\$* editorial board since 2006.

She is a highly regarded nursing educator whose background includes high-level teaching and administrative positions; numer-

ous contributions to health care literature; and a successful stint in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps. She retired with the rank of major.

Nickitas is also a frequent speaker on health care issues, with a special interest in electronic health documentation.

"I am confident that...Donna will strengthen and help direct new ways for *Nursing Economic\$* to support nurse leaders and others who are responsible for directing nursing's impact on health care and quality outcomes," said Tony Jannetti, the journal's publisher, in announcing her selection as editor.

Nickitas earned her doctorate in nursing from Adelphi University. She first came to Hunter in 1984 as a grant assistant and was named an associate professor in 1996. She also currently serves as a nursing administration consultant to the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and is the author of two books: *Quick Reference Guide to Nursing Leadership* (1997) and *Review & Rationales Leadership & Management* (due out this year from Prentice Hall Health).

FACULTY NEWS



Acee To Study Diabetes and Depression

Anna Acee has received a Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York (PSC-CUNY)

Research Award for a study of "Diabetes and Depression in Hispanics at a Community Health Center."

"Depression is common among patients with chronic illness (diabetes)," said Acee. "This study will explore the impact of depressive symptoms in primary-care patients with diabetes on diabetes self-care, adherence to dietary and medication regimen and functioning."

Acee is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing whose special areas of interest include psych-mental health, wellness promotion, holistic practice, and health disparities.



Roye Speaks at NOW Economic Justice Summit

Carol Roye gave two presentations—both of critical importance to women's health—during the National

Organization for Women Economic Justice Summit in Atlanta on April 11.

One presentation addressed the prevalence of unprotected heterosexual anal intercourse among adolescents, which poses a high risk for HIV-transmission. Saying this danger had been virtually ignored by the public health community, Roye presented data from her NIH-funded study of adolescent girls in NYC.

She also made a presentation dealing with controversial women's health policies, including abortion and contraception. Roye offered data which showed that states with restrictive reproductive health policies are more likely to have higher infant mortality rates than states with more open policies.

A professor of nursing at Hunter since 1997, Roye is director of the Center for Nursing Research and co-director of the Office of Research and Grant Support at the Brookdale campus. She is also a practicing pediatric nurse practitioner, spending one day a week in an adolescent clinic in Washington Heights. She is the author of numerous publications on a wide range of topics involving adolescent reproductive health.

Egues Honored for Mentoring

Aida L. Egues has been named a 2008 ANY/NJ Regional Finalist in the *Nursing Spectrum* Excellence in Nursing Awards, Mentoring Category.

The *Nursing Spectrum* awards recognize

extraordinary contributions nurses make to their patients, to each other, and to the nursing profession.

In honoring Egues for her achievements in mentoring, *Nursing Spectrum* magazine wrote: "Aida was nominated by her students for the vital role she plays in their lives and for the nurses she is helping them to become. Her lectures are filled with enthusiasm and supported by sound information and evidence. She upholds standards of excellence and is everything a mentor should be. Her students really wanted her to be recognized."

Saladino Inducted into Sigma Theta Tau

Joseph P. Saladino has been inducted as a community leader into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society in Nursing. Professor Saladino has been a practicing Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for over 15 years and is currently on the Hunter College faculty in the Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Program.

IN MEMORIAM: Margaret Gould Tyson

Margaret Gould Tyson, a former dean and professor of nursing at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, died on April 25, 2008, in Sykesville, MD. She was 87.

Dr. Tyson—recognized as a national leader in nursing education throughout her career—served at Hunter from 1975-77. She retired as vice president and dean of the School of Nursing at SUNY Binghamton in 1982. She also served as the first full-time dean of the University of Virginia School of Nursing and as a faculty member in Columbia University's nursing education department. She received her BA and MA from the University of Maryland School of Nursing and her doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College.

In 2006, Tyson was given the Driscoll Award from the New York State Nurses Association for her contributions to nursing research and education. She also recently endowed the Margaret G. Tyson Dean's Fund for Excellence Award at the University of Maryland School of Nursing.



CONGRATULATIONS TO NURSING HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

This year the Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society in Nursing inducted 19 graduate students, all with a GPA of over 3.6, along with 45 undergraduate RN Pathway and Generic Pathway nursing students. The average GPA of the undergraduate students was over 3.5.

We are proud to have these outstanding new members in the organization and look forward to their continuing involvement in the chapter.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Nancy Yvonne Butt	Sabine Nord
Aney T. Chacko	Patricia M. O'Kane
Shivani Dayal	Caroline E. Ortiz
Kikelomo Ejiogu	Jennifer S. Persad
Anju Galer	Patricia Pugni
Christine M. Gilchrist	Janine Ranieri
Jae Kyun Kim	Ilona Raskina
Kenny M. Lacossiere	Mary Schaeffer
Brooke Latterell	Christine Molinari Zahler
Caroll M. Morgan	

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Omowunmi O. Abayomi	Venus Navarro
Abimbola Adenekan	Tham Nguyen
Zafar Anwar	William J. O'Neil III
Elizabeth A. Arrabito	Alena Pazniak
Ester Blanco	Jenise Ann Principe
Dujonette N. Bonitto	Steven Pantusco
Rachel S. Button	Nadezhda Rafailova
Rodelio S. Checa	Immanuel Ramiro
Julie Rose A. Dizon	Catherine R. Rizzo
Dhanwanti S. Doma	Rebekah Rice
Karsten W. Drus	Idongesit Udoh
Kaye Ocamo Estoico	Ian A. Sherman
Maryanne M. Fraser	Varinder Singh
Vivian Agbetor Gasu	Caprice Stephenson
Soo Jung Kim	Najah Tamimi
Maryna Kolbun	Tatyana Tayts
Robert Kozlenko	Nina Telitsa
Marisa Lam	Blessy Leela Thomas
Cassandra Laurencio	Mwanaidi O. Tindi
Michelle Lawrence	Esther O. Wong
Mallesha A. Malcolm	Stephen Yip
Marthalie McClean	Dong Zheng
Alta Maness	

NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

by Kathleen Nokes



Congratulations to Joan Walsh and Marilyn DeLuca, two nursing graduates who have been inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame. DeLuca, the executive director of the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, recently received some exciting news when, on August 12, it was announced that the Jonas Center was awarded a prestigious grant to address the nationwide nursing crisis.

On January 29, the Alumni Association Board voted to become a chapter of the Hunter College Alumni Association and was recognized as a new chapter at the College Alumni Association Spring Luncheon at the Hyatt. As an official chapter we will continue to collect alumni dues, which support this newsletter as well as other School of Nursing activities, such as the Spring Forum and Convocation awards.

We encourage you to visit the Hunter Nursing School web page at: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/schoolhp/nursing/alumni/default.shtml>. Thanks to Leslie Leith for the pictures there from our get together immediately prior to the spring luncheon. We are looking forward to the 50th Anniversary celebration activities being organized for spring 2009.

Mark your calendar and please save the date of October 16 for our next annual meeting. One of our graduates, Joan Marren, MS, RN, will be presenting her work.

Feel free to email me knokes@hunter.cuny.edu if you want to be more involved in the Alumni Association.

HUNTER NURSES PARTICIPATED IN THE "MAKING STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER WALK" IN CENTRAL PARK



NEW BIOMEDICAL COMPLEX continued from page 1

nurses from a diverse urban population, participating in community outreach programs and improving health education in underserved areas," said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. "We are honored to be part of this exciting new endeavor."

Led by Weill Cornell Medical College and Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, the new Center will also encompass the Cornell University Cooperative Extension in New York City; New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Hospital for Special Surgery; and an additional six Weill-Cornell-affiliated hospitals.

"Together with our collaborator institutions, we will work toward moving transitional research from bench to bedside to community," said Dr. Julianne Imperato-McGinley, the Center's principal investigator and program director.

A new Biomedical Research Building, already under development at Weill Cornell, will eventually serve as the hub for this effort.

HUNTER-BELLEVUE STUDENT NURSES WIN NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Students from the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing were honored with a prestigious award for their outstanding service to the community at the National Student Nurses Association 2008 Convention held in Grapevine, Texas, this spring.

Nine Hunter nursing students who attended received the Most Successful School Community Health Project, Silver Community Health Award from the organization, which has a national membership of more than 45,000 students, faculty and nursing leaders. The award was for two projects—the Brookdale Campus Health Promotion and 68th Street Campus Nursing Recruitment Fairs, and Peer-to-Peer Mentoring for Professional Advancement.

Both projects were carried out by junior nursing students in the Introduction to Nursing course and overseen by Aida Egues, one of the course's faculty advisers, along with Professor Donna Nickitas.

The award recognizes the importance of providing service to the community. The two Hunter projects that were honored competed against countless other submissions from schools around the country.

"It was such a joy to receive the award," said Egues, who accompanied the students to the convention. "We were thrilled, given the importance of service to the community, to

receive this award. For this tremendous work done by our students to be recognized on the national level is such a wonderful validation. I salute their dedication, as well as that of all our students in the course.

"I also salute Dr. Donna Nickitas, for all her wisdom and guidance. She and I have made a great team trying to prepare future nursing leaders. This award could not have been granted without the support of our administration, which has stood behind our students, Dr. Nickitas and me. I hope to submit more projects next year."

The two award-winning projects were among 10 community health projects carried out this year by students in the Introduction to Nursing course. The submissions to the convention were compiled with the help of student project leaders Jorge Prada (for the Fairs project) and Ryan Ross Santiago (Peer-to-Peer Mentoring).



Award-winning Hunter students at the National Student Nurses Association Convention.

Upcoming Events

All events are at the Brookdale campus, 425 East 25th Street, unless otherwise specified.

Graduate Recruitment Open House

September 23, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Annual Alumni Meeting

October 16, 5:30pm-8:00pm

Sigma Information Tea

October 21, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Holiday Party

December 12

Sigma Annual Business Meeting

January 27, 2009

Sigma Induction

April 7, 2009

Convocation

Week of May 25, 2009

Annual Alumni Luncheon, Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Class of 1959, Hunter's first nursing class

May 3, 2009, Grand Hyatt Hotel

Sigma Turnover meeting

June 9, 2009

The Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing invites you to

Save the date!

October 22, 2008

6th Annual Viola S. Shifrin, RN Lecture Series in Palliative Care Nursing

Pam Malloy, RN, MN, OCN

End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Project
Director American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)

will present

"Witnessing Moral Distress: Opportunities for Professional and Personal Growth"

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Networking

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Presentation

Brookdale Health Science Center Auditorium
425 East 25th St., New York, NY 10010

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Esther Levine-Brill (BSN '68, MSN '74) is the chairperson of the undergraduate nursing program at Long Island University (LIU) and the co-director of LIU's Heilbrunn Academy Nursing Center—the first academic nursing center in Brooklyn. She recently returned from Sierra Leone, where LIU has a partnership with Njala University.

1970s



This year **Sandra B. Lewenson (BSN '71)** became the proud grandmother of a baby girl named Georgia. Lewenson is on the faculty of the Lienhard School of

Nursing at Pace University and is the co-editor of *Capturing Nursing History: A Guide to Historical Methods in Research and Decision-Making in Nursing: Thoughtful Approaches for Practice*. She is currently conducting a historical study examining the phasing out of the Bellevue and Mills School of Nursing and the expansion of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing in 1967. If you are interested in being interviewed for this study, please contact Lewenson at slewenson@pace.edu.

Pamela Copeland (BSN '78) works for the Department of Defense as a nurse/attorney/risk manager and runs a private practice in probate law and personal injury. She holds a JD and associate degrees in risk management.

Phyllis Collins (BSN '74) is a family nurse practitioner at Staten Island University Hospital. She formerly served as an associate professor of nursing at the College of Staten Island and the president of the New York State Nurses Association.

Joan Velletri (BSN '75, MSN '85) is the director of nursing education at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, and serves on nursing program advisory boards for Kingsborough Community College, New York University, and Touro College. Velletri is the co-author of "Making the Most of Data for Patient Safety," published in the May/June 2007 *Patient Safety and Quality Health Care Journal*.



Laurel McSweeney (BSN '78) retired from the nursing profession in 2000 after 36 years of service at New York Downtown Hospital. She continues, though, to use her medical knowledge for the benefit of her community. McSweeney offers health care ministry at her local church and is a member of the Community Emergency Response Team, a branch of the Office of Emergency Management. "You cannot be inactive," she says. "You have to keep on going!"

1980s

Arlene Fellacher Speer (BSN '83) has been a practicing nurse for 25 years, with the majority of her time spent at Beth Israel Medical Center in the surgical intensive care and cardiac surgery intensive care units. "Nursing is one of the greatest satisfactions in my life," she said.



Mary Anne Suttles (MSN '84) has been named vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton. In this role, Suttles is responsible for all inpatient nursing services. She has more than 20 years of nursing leadership experience.

Diane Arneth (BSN '89) is the executive director of Community Health Action of Staten Island, a community-based health and social services organization. The *Staten Island Advance* recently profiled Arneth as a "Woman of Achievement."

1990s

Dianne Murphy (MSN '94) earned a doctorate in nursing practice from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Her dissertation is titled *The Effects of Music Therapy on Sleep of Progressive Care Unit Patients: A Feasibility Study*. Murphy is an assistant professor of nursing at Mount Saint Mary College and a staff nurse at Orange Regional Medical Center in Middletown, NY.

Margaret Reilly (MSN '95) and fellow faculty members in the Nursing Department of Queensborough Community College have received a \$35,000 CUNY Workforce Development Initiative grant for *Integrating Technology into the Health Care Workforce*. This project aims to integrate technology into the curriculum and expand Queensborough's new Virtual Hospital—a student learning tool—to include high fidelity simulations and incorporate PDAs.

Diane Maydick Youngberg (MSN '97) is the director of clinical affairs for New Jersey-based Derma Sciences, Inc., a manufacturer, marketer and supplier of products for wound and skin care. She is also a certified candidate in the doctoral program for nurse executives at Columbia University Teachers College.

Francisco Antonio Rivera (BSN '97) was married on December 6. Rivera is a chemotherapy research nurse who collects data and administers investigational and conventional drugs. He is studying for a master's degree in health sciences and management policy at the New School for Management and Urban Policy in New York.

JUDY DiSARNO WINS NIGHTINGALE AWARD



Hunter alumna Judy DiSarno was awarded the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing by the Visiting Nurses Association of South Central Connecticut on May 8.

DiSarno – who took her first nursing job in 1975 after graduating with a bachelor's degree from the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing – has spent more than three decades providing patients with home care, as well as having a successful career as a nursing administrator.

She currently visits six to eight patients a day for the VNA

Community Healthcare of Guilford, CT. Her clients range in age from their 20s to one man who's about to celebrate his 100th birthday. She also makes twice daily visits to oversee the health of her elderly mother.

After previously working for the Brooklyn VNA, DiSarno moved to Guilford with her husband and two children in 1991 to continue her VNA work. In 1995, she became a VNA nursing supervisor. But, after nine years in an administrative role, she decided she wanted to go back into the field as a visiting nurse.

Alumni Celebrate Reunion

Members of the Class of 1983 reunite after 25 years.



Rose Schechter, Class of 1973 (Nursing), (right) joins her mother-in-law, Beatrice Schechter Lindner, Hunter Class of 1938, at the reunion.



Sharing memories are (l-r) Jae Kim '03, Joanna Hofmann '69, Joanne Cregg '88, Geri Vargas '88, Suzanne Silverman Moses '73, and Debbie Smith Wynne '73.



Memories That Last a Lifetime

Nursing graduates from many different Hunter-Bellevue classes returned to see old friends and relive some wonderful memories during the annual Alumni Reunion weekend this past spring.

And next year's alumni gathering promises to be even more exciting!

In 2009, alumni will be marking the 50th anniversary of the first nursing graduating class from Hunter – the Class of '59. Plans are already underway for a gala celebration.

Celebrating together are (l-r) Marie Valdez '78, Esther Levine Bull '68, Esther Hoffman Friedman '68, and Pamela Copeland '78.



GETTING TO KNOW... Donald Smith For this Faculty Member, Nursing and Military Service Go Together

Donald Smith brings a unique blend of expertise to the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing faculty, thanks to his long and distinguished military record of caregiving with the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps as well as years of nursing service in the New York City community.

Dr. Smith began teaching at the School of Nursing in 2002. But before that he had spent much of his life with the Air Force Nurse Corps, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the reserves. His most recent experience included an eight-month active deployment to Iraq. While there he provided both direct nursing care and nursing education to the U.S. military and to Iraqi military and civilians.

“One of the most rewarding experiences I had was utilizing my faculty expertise to assist in the development of the nursing curriculum for the first new nursing school in Baghdad,” says Smith. He was also responsible for the supervision of nursing coordinators at all military medical facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For Smith, his military background has been invaluable in his teaching career at Hunter. It recently enabled him to develop the first nursing course at Hunter College on urban disasters and response to terrorism.

“My commitment to military nursing is a perfect blend with Hunter’s goal of service at home and abroad, as it brings an experience to the School of Nursing’s students that no other nursing professor shares,” Smith says.

His list of accomplishments also includes being clinical director of nursing for Mount Sinai’s Center on AIDS, one of the first AIDS centers ever funded by New York State; nursing director for the first minority-focused AIDS Clinical Trials Unit in Brooklyn; and nursing supervisor for the Cooperative Care Unit at NYU Medical Center, the only unit of its type in the U.S.

And, as nurse historian for the Air Force Nurse Corps, he has been instrumental in documenting Air Force Nursing history through several publications and by doing important research into military nursing skills and nursing retention.

“I bring to the School of Nursing a vast nursing expertise, a strong program of nursing research, and my extensive military background,” Smith says. “It was a deliberate decision to seek an academic environment in which my career in education would blend with my philosophy of nursing. Hunter-Bellevue’s commitment to provide a strong nursing foundation, built on research and advanced education, is the main reason I joined—and why I want to continue to be a part of this community.”



Donald Smith at the Air Force Hospital in Balad, Iraq.

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