Yale Nurse

Yale School of Nursing Newsletter

Fall 1991

A PRESIDENTIAL PAIR

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From the Dean

As we begin a new academic year I bring you an update on the Report of the Committee on the Yale School of Nursing, commissioned by President Benno Schmidt, Jr. and chaired by Professor Frank Ruddle, PhD. I must caution you that the President and the Provost have not yet decided how to respond to the Report or the recommendations; and, you should know that the Yale Corporation will eventually deliberate the recommendations concerning the School’s future.

The recommendations include plans for streamlining the School’s administrative and educational programs, downsizing the faculty, and bringing the operating budget into balance. In addition, it is recommended that the University provide resources for the addition of senior faculty research positions and the initiation of a doctoral program and a new master’s program in nursing systems and policy. The Report emphasizes the necessity of cooperative research programs among the health professions schools as well as the need to better integrate the teaching programs of the school into the University and vice versa. Finally, the Report underscores the need for a new facility for the School that would be designed to meet the School’s expanded programmatic missions.

Accordingly, we have already further streamlined our administrative organization. I have recently named an Associate Dean for Students, Jim Fain, PhD, and we have centralized the first year of the Non-Nurse College Graduates Program in his office. We have also eliminated the Research Division and integrated the research faculty into the clinical divisions, hoping to achieve better integration of our research, clinical, and teaching missions. So, we now have three major Divisions, Adult, Child, and Community Health which house our various programs of study. We will be working over the next several months to consolidate our programs of study and to find ways to achieve a reduction in the operating budget roughly equivalent to ten fulltime equivalent faculty positions (although I want to emphasize that we will not actually be eliminating ten positions).

We are confident that we can achieve these objectives without compromising our mission—indeed, the need to tighten and streamline may well stimulate us to be more creative and effective in our various enterprises. We are eager to achieve the cost savings on the one hand in order to gain the new resources and programs on the other.

Simultaneously, we will be working with the faculty to step up our efforts to establish several funded programs of research. Our focus will remain clinical and we will continue to nurture the joint appointment structure in order to maintain ties to practice, but we will begin to concentrate on implementing our clinical research agenda more vigorously.

In the meantime the President and Provost of the University will continue to consider the University’s response to the recommendations—taking programs, the School’s reputation, cost, and the role that nursing is likely to play in the future of the health care system into account. I will be appearing before the Education and Policy Committee of the Yale Corporation in late September to discuss our programs and we anticipate that decisions will be made relative to the School’s future over the course of the next months.

There is an old Chinese saying that, “Crisis is opportunity riding on dangerous winds.” We have most certainly set sail on a ship called opportunity and we are headed straight into the wind. Though not without risk, the journey is essential and the benefits to YSN could be great. I will keep you posted.

—Judy Krauss
Commencement 1991

By now some may think that it's not "news" anymore. "President George Bush attends the 290th Yale Commencement ceremony on May 29 and delivers a highly publicized policy address on U.S.-Sino relations." After all, Mr. Bush is in the news everyday. However, for anyone who was anywhere near the Yale campus on May 27, it will long be remembered as a lot more than "news" or "another Yale graduation."

Rumors of the presidential visit had been circulating around the Yale community for weeks, and the national press did their part to speculate if he would actually attend. Both Yale and White House officials did their best to officially deny the rumors but resident-Yalies and town-folk agreed that something big was in the works. However, it was not until Barbara Bush took her seat in the Yale President's box that the reality of such an event could be seen or felt.

President Bush was the last of nine individuals who received this year's honorary degrees. He then became the second honorary degree recipient ever to make a speech at a Yale commencement, the first having been delivered in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy received a Doctor of Laws degree and spoke about his domestic economic policies. The President's remarks were delivered in 20 minutes over thunderous applause, a few hecklers and amid some silent protesters. Often his comments elicited cheers and laughter from the crowd, especially when he quipped, "...I have the best of both worlds: a Yale education and a Yale degree."

Excitement from the President's Old Campus appearance prevailed as YSN graduates, their guests, and faculty convened at the Yale golf course where the Certificates in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing degrees were conferred. Dean Judith B. Krauss presented the candidates with provocative remarks on their, "just being a nurse." For the second year, the YSN Alumnae/Board was included on the program with the presentation of pins to each of the graduates.

The Class of '91 asked Elizabeth Francis Gunhus to present their Class Gift. Like so many YSN alums before them, this class also had fond memories of the building they entered on their first day at YSN. Their gift, a watercolor drawing of this YSN building at 855 Howard Avenue, was presented to Dean Krauss and now hangs in the front foyer of YSN's temporary home on Park Street.

Elizabeth Gunhus '91, presented the class gift.
The Graduating Class also had a surprise in store for Director of Student and Alumnae/i Affairs, Barbara Reif. Judy Moriarty read the following citation as the graduates’ and faculty’s standing ovation endorsed her words:

The Class of 1991 would like to recognize an individual who has been with each of us from the very beginning of our inquiries to the School of Nursing. She was a source of guidance through the application and interview process. As we matriculated at YSN, she remembered each of our names and something about our past. As our studies moved forward, she followed that progress with enthusiasm and encouragement. She has celebrated each of our victories with us, whether it was passing a class or landing a coveted position. She exudes warmth, happiness, intelligence, and efficiency. She can always be counted on to meet a request promptly, with a smile, of course. For these reasons, and many more, we recognize Barbara Fenn Reif, Director of Student and Alumnae/i Affairs, for her unending support.
Jane Tuttle, RN, MSN, was presented with the 1991 Annie Goodrich Recognition Award by Mary Ann Polacek.

Jane Tuttle, R.N., M.S.

A lexicographical resource has defined nurse as, “a person that nourishes, fosters, or protects someone.” With a strong commitment to clinical practice, research, teaching, and mentorship, the 1991 recipient of the Annie Goodrich Award truly personifies the spirit of excellence inherent in this definition of the word nurse.

In describing her, my fellow classmates and YSN faculty have used phrases like facilitator, source of empowerment, and stewardship. She has been variously called a wealth of knowledge and a receptive resource for colleagues, faculty, students, and most of all, her patients and their families, to whom she remains most committed.

It is appropriate then, that the 1991 recipient of the Annie Goodrich Award has focused her interests in recent years on the study of the growth and development of families. Whether completing research for her doctorate in family systems at the University of Connecticut, teaching courses in child development at YSN, or providing care to the young patients in her practice, she remains strongly committed to an open-door policy of communication and an unparalleled willingness to provide encouragement and support to others.

Awards are not new to this YSN faculty member. Having garnered many throughout her student days, she went on to be named Outstanding Nurse of the Year in Virginia in 1982 and most recently was named Connecticut Nurse Practitioner of the Year.

More than by her numerous awards and commendations, her continued involvement in and support of others is evidenced in her daily activities. She has written numerous articles documenting clinical efforts in health care. Papers she has written for her course work at the University of Connecticut are eagerly used as resources by students at YSN. Perhaps more than anything, however, the scope and depth of her involvement with the community of New Haven and surrounding areas best expresses her dedication to others. She has presented lectures to interested community organizations on topics as diverse as childhood nutrition, to the breaking down of financial barriers, to health care for families. Finally, she has been a thoughtful and longtime active participant in the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies program here in Connecticut.

As a representative of the graduating class and the entire student body at the Yale School of Nursing, it is both a pleasure and an honor for me to present the 1991 Annie Goodrich Award to Jane Tuttle.

The official ceremonies concluded with Dean Krauss awarding the 1991 Charles King Jr. Memorial Scholars Aid Prize and the Milton and Anne Sidney Prize.

Jayne Mianda Poorbaugh

Her admissions essay notes her commitment to work in rural clinics and underserved areas of the United States after graduation, “in places where my being there will make a difference in the quality of health care.” Maturity and consummate professional are words which are repeatedly used to describe her, not only at Yale, where we have come to appreciate her work, but wherever she goes. It is clear that her presence does make a difference, whether it be in an urban primary care clinic serving the poor, with her colleagues healthcare professionals, or with her peers in nursing.

As a graduate student she has emerged as a quiet leader through the use of her significant organizational skills, role modeling behavior in difficult interpersonal situations, assisting peers in the computer lab, discussing the nature of nursing practice and research with a distinguished university committee and her active involvement in the Student Organization. She blends maturity and compassion with superior clinical expertise and critical thinking.

A member of Sigma Theta Tau since her undergraduate days, she continues to demonstrate significant scholastic achievement, exemplary leadership qualities and a commitment to the ideals and purposes of the nursing profession. Her thesis, a study of pain experienced by newborn infants during routine blood collection procedures, will make an immediate contribution to practice and will doubtless find its way into the scientific literature.

The faculty of the Yale School of Nursing is pleased and proud to award the Charles King, Jr. Memorial Scholars Aid Prize to Jayne Poorbaugh.

Theresa Mary Friend

She moved to South Dakota to fulfill a childhood dream of learning the life of the Native American and pursued graduate nursing study to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to provide health care to an underserved population. Through the years she has been committed to meeting the health care needs of people of many colors and cultures. Her thesis exemplifies this commitment as well as the Yale School of Nursing's commitment to contribute to better health care for all people through the study of the nature and effect of nursing practice.

Her study set out to determine the incidence and prevalence of gestational diabetes in women of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, a health care problem which had not been adequately documented in Native Americans prior to her work. The implications of her study, which found the incidence of gestational diabetes for women receiving prenatal care to be twice the national average, will have a direct impact on the lives of Pine Ridge mothers and infants affected by this problem, and will hopefully affect policies which guide clinical screening and management of this at risk population.

The faculty of the School are certain that her work will be invited for presentation at key national scientific sessions. They are pleased and proud to award the Milton and Anne Sidney Prize to Terry Friend.
I thought I would speak to you today about the power and privilege of being, "just a nurse." A book by that title (Kraegel and Kachoyeanos, 1989) recounts the stories of many nurses, moving us eloquently and permanently away from the well known stereotypes of the angels of mercy, mother figures, handmaidens, martinetts, and sex symbols that have characterized nursing through decades of novels, motion pictures, and prime time television — the stereotypes which have led our parents, teachers, and physician colleagues to say to us at one time or another, why do you want to be "just a nurse," you're capable of so much more. Each of today's graduates is a breed of nurse known as a nurse specialist — clinical specialist, nurse-midwife, or nurse practitioner. They have been prepared, through their Yale education, to bring the power of expert knowledge to bear on difficult and complex patient care situations whether it be through direct care of the patient, guidance of the nursing staff in the delivery of care, research into creative patient care methods, or nursing a system which impedes care. They are clinical scholars. In the words of a patient, let me tell you what it means to be cared for by a clinical scholar, an educated nurse. "I found that the more education the nurses had, the more comfortable they were with letting you do things differently. You were less likely to be bullied. The educated nurse is more understanding and less threatened by authority. If the nurse sympathizes and relates to the patient — is not threatening — the patient does better... In the hospital, the people who know the patient have to make the decisions; we can't let the ones making the money run things. Nurses are the only ones taking care of the human relationships. They should be given more freedom to do that..." And the patient's daughter states, "The only bright spot in my mother's care during the final year of her life was the nursing care. The nursing was just fine. It was the system and policies and procedures that were a problem. But the nurses, especially the educated nurses, were not thwarted by an uncaring system. They simply went around it and made it bend so that my mother and the family was cared for." (Kraegel and Kachoyeanos, 1989)

In her recent inaugural address as the Annie W. Goodrich Professor of Nursing, Donna Diers once again reminded us that nurses do two things. They care for the sick or potentially sick and they tend the environments in which care happens. As a profession we have always been better at the former and less clear about how to achieve the latter. But it will always be true that among the ranks of nurses there will be those who use exceptional talents to challenge the status quo. These strong nurses won't tolerate artificial barriers to their rights to practice and their responsibility to do so in the best interest of patients. We like to think that we graduate a whole class of such nurses each year.

One such nurse is Ruth Lubic, a nurse-midwife who is best known for her work as director of the Maternity Center Association of New York. In her own words she teaches us about the power of being just a nurse. "For many years, the underprivileged were the only people nurse-midwives were permitted to serve, and we did very well in serving them. Whenever nurse-midwifery services were set up, infant mortality would fall. For instance, in the sixties, nurse-midwives set up a pilot project in Madera County, California. The infant mortality rate in that county was halved within the two years of the project. The two nurse-midwives were not allowed to call themselves nurse-midwives; the physicians insisted they be called nurse obstetrical assistants. The California Medical Association did not permit them to continue after the two years, despite the reduction in infant mortality. As soon as the midwives left, the infant mortality rate went right back up to where it was before they came." (Kraegel and Kachoyeanos, 1989)

Lubic recounts countless other stories of successful, data based demonstrations of the high quality, low cost effectiveness of nurse-midwifery services which were repeatedly allowed to die. Herein lie the lessons of policy, politics, money, and power.

Even while the nurse-midwives associated with the Maternity Center continue to focus their attentions on delivering the very best care possible to their individual clients, Lubic's career has increasingly focused on the legislators, hospital administrators, and health care insurers. She recognized that the system needed to be changed and she went where the money and power live. Her work isn't done, but there are a lot more choices for childbearing families today, including the birth center. Nurse-midwives have used data and cost to demonstrate to people in the major industries, such as IBM, that it is in their interest to write birth centers into their health insurance packages. IBM, for instance, will reimburse 100% for birth center care, whereas they have a first day deductible for hospital birth care.

Policy and politics in nursing, like policy and politics in general, is a complex undertaking that moves at a very slow pace. For many, the lack of immediate results is intimidating or discouraging. For others, policy and politics issue a challenge that cannot go unheeded.

At any given point in history there has been a disease which has forced the public to confront its policies, politics, values, fears, and beliefs about how we live and care for one another. Cancer and schizophrenia were once such magnets; but, our biomedical advances have moved us closer to understanding, control, and perhaps eventual cure of these ravaging illnesses. Indeed we now think of them as persistent
but controllable illnesses that can be treated and coped with. Now, in this point in history, AIDS is the disease which challenges our human and health care systems policies to the maximum. It has been said that if you are not infected by the AIDS virus, you will be affected by it — no exceptions. There is not a graduate here or a member of the faculty whose practice has not been directly touched by AIDS — not in a city like New Haven which ranks among the top cities in America for incidence and prevalence of the disease, particularly among substance abusing mothers and children. AIDS, more than any other disease, brings the need for individual care and systems of care into sharp focus and conflict.

And, it brings into focus the need for nurse specialists — people who can use their clinical, research, and information skills to fashion interventions where they don’t exist and to create systems out of the chaos that results when societal rage, apathy, and passion collide.

I have recently read the short stories of a feminist writer, Anne Beattie, who is well known for her works of fiction which depict people in their 30’s and 40’s who have little to complain about and even less to care about. I am painfully aware that it is this climate which will confront you both inside and outside the health care system in America as you begin your careers as nurse specialists. You needn’t go to a third world country to find people and systems in desperate need of your skills and care.

The good news is that you have been well prepared to meet the challenges of care and change. Most of you came here out of a desire to serve the underserved and to find more creative solutions to social problems and health care problems which had begun to seem insoluble. You know, but let me acknowledge, that you have spent years of intensive study of the nature and effect of nursing practice and systems of care, through in-depth, ongoing clinical practica; the study of nursing and basic science; theoretical courses in the human, social, ethical, and financial aspects of care; and research courses and an independent master’s thesis which addressed a problem of a direct clinical or policy nature. You have learned to make distinctions among health, illness, and disease which means that you look at the world through different lenses and maps than do your colleagues in other health professions. You have come to understand that everything happens in context and that health and illness have meaning for people. Even when no treatment is available and no cure is possible, understanding the meaning of the illness for the person and for that person’s life is a form of healing, in that such understanding can overcome the sense of alienation, loss of self-understanding, and loss of social integration that frequently accompany illness.

My wish for you is that you will both make and find a health care world as ready to celebrate your skills and accomplishments as we are today. In a recent New York Times Op Ed piece, Joseph Califano wrote about the profound changes we need to make in our health care system. He called for major reforms. He said that central to those reforms was a need to wrest control of the health care system away from doctors and insurers. He pointed out that we no longer needed doctors to control the system, to protect us from quackery and charlatanism. Guess what else he said? That we needed to give nurses, especially nurse specialists, a more powerful role in the system since they had demonstrated that they could diagnose and treat common diseases and chronic illness as well, if not better, than physicians. He said that because nurses, educated nurses, have provided data and empirical studies to demonstrate their effectiveness.

Each and every one of you was just a nurse. Now, you are a Yale nurse. That fact will open doors and raise expectations. It will be expected that you will do more than just give good care. Thus it is that people will look to you to engage in clinical nursing research, as well as in historical and philosophical inquiries which are relevant to nurses’ work. Your mission will be to make nursing practice reliably effective, skillful, humane, just, and ethical, as well as cost effective and satisfying both to patients and to nurses. In accepting your degree you accept the challenge of our first Dean, Annie W. Goodrich, to relate the adventure of thought to the adventure of action toward the creation of a new social order. Let me say on behalf of the entire YSN faculty that we are proud to have you join us, indeed lead us, in that endeavor.

**"THE CONNECTION — A MOMENT IN TIME"**

I recently took care of an 84 year old woman when she returned from the recovery room after having a breast biopsy. Her eyes were closed and facial expression blank. I found her non-communicative and disoriented, — although when asked, she gave what was apparently her maiden name, — eyes still closed. When her daughter came to take her back to the nursing home we chatted as we got her mother dressed. The daughter lamented her mother’s deteriorating condition due to Alzheimer’s disease and said that she had once been a vibrant woman who had graduated from Yale Nursing School. I turned to the daughter showing her my Yale nursing pin. The daughter exclaimed to her mother that she was being cared for by another “Yale Nurse”! The mother’s eyes suddenly opened widely and as she turned her face towards me her mouth broadened into an ear to ear smile although no conversation followed on her part. For that brief, poignant moment, I realized that the “Yale Connection” had spanned the years and the ravages of Alzheimer’s disease. That fleeting moment was another example of how the nursing profession can touch others in small but often significant ways.

Vivienne (Vippi) Patterson Jacobson, YSN 1953
“Is the Health Care System Out of Control?” The distinguished 1991 Alumnae/i College faculty presented the legal, ethical, and moral dilemmas of this question especially as it relates to an ever-increasing culturally diverse and at-risk segment of the population.

Madelon Baranoski ’74, RN, PhD, delivered the day’s keynote address, “The Health Care System: A Moral Marketplace.” In her presentation, Dr. Baranoski told the audience that she sees two categories of health care consumers: patients or potential patients and their families, and the health care professionals. In both cases these individuals desire the best health care money can buy and not the best my money or your money can buy. Following the keynote paper, a panel moderated by Donna Diers ’64, MSN, The Annie Goodrich Professor of Nursing, YSN responded to Dr. Baranoski’s remarks. Panel members included Marie Roberto, RN, DrPH, Deputy Commissioner for Policy & Programs, CT Department of Health Services; Terri Clark-Coller ’79, MSN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, YSN; Bradford Gray II, PhD, Executive Director, Non-Profit Organizations Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University; and Carole Passarelli, MSN, Associate Professor of Nursing, YSN. Virginia Henderson, Research Associate Emeritus, YSN, offered thoughts along with the panel.


Saturday morning’s program was highlighted by a stimulating presentation by three YSN alums who are health care providers at the Fair Haven Health Center. Miriam Ford ’88, MSN, Jane Loubier ’89, MSN,
and Elizabeth Magenheimer '76, MSN, presented their experiences with the school based clinic, better known as "The Body Shop," which is located at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven.

Friday Evening Banquet

This year’s Social Hour and Banquet returned to the Old Campus setting in the President’s Room at Woolsey Hall. The room was filled to capacity as old friends shared memories and reflected on the day’s stimulating presentations.

The Class of 1936

The Class of 1941

The Class of 1946 W
Alumnae/i Weekend (cont.)

Distinguished Alumna Award recipients (l to r), Phyllis Graves ’41; Jean Milligan ’46; Marie Milliken ’51; Margaret Grey ’76; Jane Mulaik ’51

Alumnae Awards

The presentation of five Distinguished Alumna Awards culminated the festive evening’s events.

Phyllis Graves

Pioneer, founder, innovator, developer, and a woman of substance, her career has been marked by an ability to adapt her commitment to nursing to any situation. Nursing is as much an integral part of her identity as mother and wife.

From her early career days she was recognized as a valuable practitioner.

The demand for her operating room skills was so great Yale-New Haven Hospital provided on site day care services for her four month old son! When she and her family moved to a rural community in Vermont, she provided public health services for those in need. This work laid the foundation for her outstanding achievement in nursing practice with the establishment of a home health nursing agency in North Carolina. From the agency’s inception she nursed the patient, not the files, providing direct care throughout the county, as well as managing the agency, which set a standard for home health care that was a model for the region. With the word “retirement” foreign to her vocabulary, she assisted in the formation of a hospice group in her community where she has continued her commitment to care as a volunteer to this day.
Jean B. Milligan

From Connecticut to Vermont, the New England states know her as a quiet and determined nursing leader. Immediate past Dean of the School of Nursing at the flagship university in her state, former state nurses' association president, member of the State Board of Nursing and seminal leader in the New England Organization for Nursing, she has worked tirelessly for nursing education in our sister state to the north.

Realizing that nurses in her home state needed access to current information concerning nursing practice, she campaigned for and reinstated a state-wide continuing education program, and established a part-time RN to BSN program to better enable nurses to take advantage of educational opportunities while providing essential nursing services to the state. Ever aware of the role that pride and excellence play in the development of a profession, she nurtured the University of Vermont School of Nursing to its current position as a standard bearer of the best nursing education has to offer — developing an alumni association, a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and the first master's program in the state.

Educator and administrator par excellence, her quiet presence and counsel is often sought and always appreciated. Her name has become synonymous with professional nursing in the state of Vermont.

Marie M. Milliken

Colorado claims her and applauds her efforts on behalf of nursing education. Professor, scholar, college administrator, educator and dean. She has dedicated her life to the persistent pursuit of excellence in health care education.

Integrity, skill, credibility, and concern for the individual are qualities which characterize all she does. Ever the nurse, she is recognized for her capacity to heal and nurture systems to their fullest potential. She has nursed a private college system from bankruptcy to thriving success, all the while setting and keeping standards of educational excellence.

Though her talents have been in broad demand, she has remained committed to the development of the profession of nursing. Her innovative RN to BSN programs have brought an ever increasing supply of educated nurses to Colorado. She is often the architect of creative coalitions, forged through patient persuasion, which result in cost effective, needed, high quality health profession education programs.

She has encouraged hundreds of nursing students to pursue advanced education, and has served as role model and mentor to many neophyte teachers. She has nurtured many environments to promote nursing scholarship. Indeed, she was instrumental in the establishment of the very first chapter-at-large in Sigma Theta Tau International, where she held numerous offices including that of president.

Jane Stacy Mulaik

Her forty years of professional experience have been marked by honor and accomplishment. She is described as an inspiring and creative teacher, an exemplary role model to both graduate and undergraduate students, and a developer of innovative nursing curricula. Her studies of non-compliance with medication regimens in the chronically mentally ill, the use of nursing touch in a general hospital setting, and nurses' attitudes toward violent patients have contributed to our understanding of the nature and effect of nursing practice. In addition to her own research, she has contributed significantly to the research productivity of other nurses in the Atlanta area, having been instrumental in the formation and continued development of a Nurses for Research interest and work group.

Teacher and researcher, she has published not only on research related topics, but also on such subjects as adolescent suicide, attrition in nursing schools, and turnover in nursing. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of mental health advocacy in her community.

Margaret Grey

She provides living testimony to the Yale mission to contribute to better health care for people through the systematic study of the nature and effect of nursing practice — a true "Yale Nurse" according to her patients and colleagues. She has softened a sometimes harsh health care system through her volunteer board and legislative activities on behalf of underserved, chronically ill children and she has devoted her career to the design of better primary care education programs for nurses and to the study of the primary care problems of chronically ill children and their families.

Though she has strayed to our sister school in Pennsylvania, she has nonetheless remained true to the Yale ideal, to nurse the patient and the system until such time that we achieve better health care for all. She has incorporated the ideas of clinicians, educators, and researchers to build a model primary care program and she has distinguished herself through her clinical research on coping and adaptation of children with diabetes.

A superb teacher and admired mentor, she instills in her students and colleagues a sense of community and patient advocacy that gives new definition to clinical excellence. She is an inspiration to all nurses who know her and her work.

Honored already by the University of Pennsylvania for her teaching and by the American Academy of Nursing and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, it is time for her to return to the roots of her practice and research.
DIVERSITY IN PRACTICE

"Are You Really A Nurse?"

Last fall forty organizations throughout Connecticut launched a new coalition called Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc. (CURE). CURE was established to better inform the public about the advances in biomedical research, the scientific process, and the role and reliance upon the humane use of animals in science.

Chosen as the first Executive Director of CURE was Debra K. Pasquale, YSN '87. "Debra's clinical, management, education, and policy background made her the obvious choice from a very diverse and impressive group of applicants," says Dr. Myron Genel, President of CURE’s Board of Directors. "As a nurse she understands the individual and collective benefits of biomedical research and the research process. She continually demonstrates this keen understanding through her program planning and implementation work, as well as numerous public speaking engagements."

Debra tells us that, "People wonder how I came to this position and even more often have asked 'why'. The answer to both questions is very simple. Networking and an opportunity of a lifetime. In less than a year I've had to do everything from ordering paperclips, hiring a staff, selecting a corporate counsel, filing for an IRS tax exempt status, to working with the Board to define our products and methods of delivery."

"Perhaps more importantly, is that the founding members of CURE constitute an alliance drawn from research and academic institutions, science-based manufacturing firms, health care professional societies, and voluntary health organizations. Collectively, the organization comprises beneficiaries of biomedical research and the scientists who conduct this research. The prospect of working with and for such a diverse organization, toward clear goals that have far reaching benefits to the health and well-being of Connecticut and the region is a community health clinical specialist's dream come true."

"This summer the space shuttle Columbia made history when the seven astronauts performed
biomedical research experiments on the effects of space travel through tests on themselves, jellyfish, and laboratory rats. However, in a few days the headlines were gone and other events quickly gained the attention of reporters and therefore the public,” says Debra. “The media plays an incredibly powerful role in our lives; therefore, it stands to reason that we in science and health need to develop relationships with the media. I want them to see CURE and CURE’s members as a resource; and Connecticut’s scientists and health care providers need to increase their comfort level in talking with these gatekeepers. They are gatekeepers who on a daily basis tell the public what should demand their attention.

“However, the biggest part of my job is to keep the process of biomedical research in the public’s mind long after the headlines are forgotten and that’s a job for public education. Very few individuals — and this often includes health care professionals — really understand the years of laboratory research that precede medical advances. We have come to expect and take for granted the advances of modern science — to save lives, prevent illness, and generally improve the quality of our lives.” Debra states that through CURE’S mission of public education and information, the coalition will insure that these advances remain the norm and that science, research, and health care will be seen as an attractive career for children. To accomplish this, representatives of CURE’s member organizations are collectively designing educational programs for community, civic, business, and school groups. “There is so much outstanding biomedical research being conducted in Connecticut and so few of us really know about it and fewer still understand the economic, social, as well as the health implications of the process or the industry.”

Many nationally prominent scientific and health care societies are advising their members to, “take their heads out of the sand, meet the public and tell their story.” CURE is working with these organizations to bring the message of science to Connecticut’s residents. Last spring, CURE hosted a presentation by Ms. Mary Woolley, President and CEO of Research America. And this past summer, CURE co-sponsored a nationally focused press campaign entitled, “Saving Lives, Celebrating Medical Research.” The program was organized by the Washington, D.C. based Foundation for Biomedical Research and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Prior to coming to CURE, Debra held other nontraditional practice roles. She was employed with Visiting Nurse And Home Care, Inc. as a Research and Development Associate. During her graduate study she worked as an intern with the Connecticut General Assembly’s Public Health Committee. These experiences, coupled with her background in cancer clinical trials at the National Cancer Institute’s Naval Hospital Branch, gave her a unique perspective about biomedical research.

“For the last ten years or so when people have asked me what it is that I want to do, the best answer that I can come up with is that of being a change agent. The members of CURE have contributed significant resources; financial, yes, but more importantly individuals’ time and talent to get this alliance off the ground. They want to change how people view biomedical research and the change will come through knowledge, through public education. I think that’s an exciting idea and one that is a natural fit for a nurse in advanced practice.”

If you are interested in more information about CURE please contact:

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Tish Knobf ’82, and Ann Williams ’81, have been elected to the American Academy of Nursing.

Carole Passarelli was recognized for her outstanding service to the Connecticut Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on School Health, at the Annual School Health Conference held during March in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Judith B. Krauss ’70, has been elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of Boston College, her undergraduate alma mater. She begins her term in September, 1991.

**IN MEMORIUM**


Eleanor M. Chenuy ’37 died in March 1991.

Emily W. Shaw ’49 died in May 1991.

**MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Each of us, from time to time, is touched by the death of a relative, friend or colleague. In many instances we often make a charitable contribution in memory of that person. The next time this occurs, would you please consider the Yale School of Nursing as the recipient of your charitable donation. Your gift will affect the lives of so many others. For more information, please contact: Barbara Reif, Director of Student and Alumnae/i Affairs, Yale School of Nursing.
Class News

Jewel Patton ’47, and her husband were recently featured in a story highlighting her contributions to Salinas Valley Hospice, Salinas, CA. Jewel is serving her second term as a member of the Board of Directors of Salinas Valley Hospice. Her husband, Rev. Carl Patton, is on the Hospice’s Multi-Disciplinary Team working with patients and their families. In the late 1970’s Jewel was one of a number of originators of the Salinas Valley Hospice.

Joan Milligan ’56, PhD, retired from the faculty of UW-Madison School of Nursing with emeritus status in August, 1990. On retirement she received a citation from the Wisconsin Senate in recognition of her contributions to legislation supporting health care of women and children and the nursing profession. Dr. Milligan was a founding member of the Women’s Health Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Angela Barron McBride ’64, PhD, served as the commencement speaker at the Eastern Kentucky University in May. At that time, she received the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws. The citation read, “Noted scholar whose accomplishments as teacher, author, and nurse have earned for her deserved international reknown; skilled researcher who has contributed to the society’s knowledge of women’s health and mental illness; respected teacher of teachers whose expertise has directly benefited the faculty of Eastern Kentucky University.”

Doris Banchik ’74, and Dr. John Howard Moxley, III were married on May 25 in Los Angeles.

Jo-Anna Rorie ’78, was featured in a lengthy Boston Globe story entitled, “Birth in the Death Zones.” Jo-Anna and her physician and outreach worker colleagues told reporters of the critical health, social, and economic problems facing urban women and their unborn children. “What we need is a Marshall Plan for the inner city for 10 years to save the next generation,” says Jo-Anna.

Catherine Deering, ’80, has been awarded a PhD from the University of Rhode Island.

Lisa Summers ’83, is currently a full-time doctoral student in the School of Public Health at Columbia University. Lisa was married to Chris Ryder, Yale Law ’83, in March.

Alice Duigon ’84, has been in independent practice as a cancer care consultant since 1985. She provides consulting services to patients, their families, other health professionals, and the general public on cancer pain management. A board certified Fellow of the American Academy of Pain Management, Alice is working to establish a New Jersey Cancer Pain Initiative modeled after the Wisconsin Cancer Pain Initiative. Since serving as the Director of Infusion Therapy for a national homecare company, she has expanded her consultative services to include home infusion therapy as an independent contractor for a number of different home infusion therapy companies.

Deborah K. Mayer ’85, has been appointed as a Science Member of the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) by the White House. She is the first nurse appointed to a scientific seat in the history of the 18 member NCAB. The NCAB was created by the National Cancer Act of 1971 to advise the Director of the National Cancer Institute and other officials of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about the Institute’s programs and policies. The Board also must approve all grants awarded by the Institute in amounts over $50,000 per year. Deborah has served as President of the Oncology Nursing Society from 1987 to 1989. She has published more than 60 chapters, articles, and abstracts in the field of oncology and oncology nursing and is currently a doctoral student in health policy at the Hellner School, Brandeis University.

Bonnie Baloga Altieri ’89, tells us that she and Paul Altieri were married in September, 1990. Bonnie is employed as a clinical nurse specialist in critical care at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and as an Instructor at Seton Hall University in the graduate program for critical care. She was also recently appointed to the Education Committee of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Clifton P. Lee ’89, has begun a doctoral (PhD) program in clinical psychology at California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles and is working for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health as a therapist for the chronically mentally ill.

Stacey Young-McCaughan ’89, and Dorothy Sexton, EdD, Professor of Nursing at YSN, prepared the article, “A Retrospective Investigation of the Relationship Between Aerobic Exercise and the Quality of Life in Women with Breast Cancer,” which was published in ONCOLOGY NURSING FORUM in June.

Leslie Ludka ’91, and Catherine Roberts ’91, won the 1991 Research Award at the 36th Annual Competition of the American College of Nurse Midwives.

1992 ALUMNAE/I WEEKEND JUNE 4, 5, 6

SAVE THE DATES NOW SO THAT YOU CAN JOIN US IN JUNE! DETAILS WILL FOLLOW IN THE WINTER ISSUE OF YALE NURSE
The tradition of honoring outstanding alumnae/i was started at the time of the 50th Anniversary celebration in 1973. It is a very special opportunity to honor colleagues and classmates who have distinguished themselves with special talents and achievements. We again solicit your nominations of YSN alums who, you feel, should be recognized in this way. Those alumnae/i who were suggested last year will be considered along with new ones submitted this year. These awards will be presented during the Alumnae/i Weekend in June. The deadline for receipt of your nomination is March 1. Please send all nominations to Barbara Reif at the above address.

Review the criteria below and provide as much specific information as possible to indicate the ways in which your nominee meets these criteria. You may wish to solicit help from your friends or colleagues. A curriculum vitae would be helpful, if one is available. The committee will also seek additional information on nominees where necessary.

Criteria for eligibility for nomination:

**Achievement and outstanding contributions to any of the following categories:**
- Teaching and scholarship
- Clinical practice
- Leadership
- Research in clinical nursing
- Community/society
- YSN growth and development

**Explanation:**
1. How is the achievement or contribution beyond the normal expectation of the activity or position?
2. How is the achievement or contribution unique and innovative, having more than local impact?
3. Describe how the service to YSN/community/profession is continuous and sustaining.
4. How do the activities contribute to the development of new dimensions and directions in nursing?

Your NOMINEE ___________________________________________ CLASS _________

Your Name ___________________________ Class ___________

Address ______________________________________________

Phone ( ) _____________________________________________