Welcome to this latest edition of the School of Health and Human Services Newsletter. Both the School and the University have been busy. The University has been engaged in searches for a Chief Information Officer; a Vice President for Student Affairs; a Dean of Human Development, Learning, Achievement, and a Dean of Arts and Sciences, which is of course critical that my good friend and colleague, Dr. Dornick-Frederik, will be leaving SCSU to become Provost at Rider University in New Jersey. The School has also been conducting searches for new faculty in Nursing and Communication Disorders. Having sufficient faculty in our programs remains an important priority. Your School is committed to student centeredness, and our programs that are greater than we can accommodate without faculty. The School of Health and Human Services continues to rise to the occasion in care for the health and human services professionals. As I talk to these health professionals, the quality of the School’s programs is clear.

As you graduate and go on to advance your career, I want you to want that you’ve been provided with the skills you need to function in your chosen careers in health and human services. Are you convinced that the quality of the education you receive, and for the skills and professional skill you exhibit in your professional practice once you are on the workforce.

Dr. Gregory J. Pavao

NURSING

Alumna Focus: Vanessa Pomarico-Denino

The Department of Nursing is pleased to highlight alumna Vanessa Pomarico-Denino, MS, RN-BC, APRN. Vanessa was one of four graduating classes of NPs from the Nurse Practitioner Program at SCSU. Following graduation, she has been working as a Nurse Practitioner in a variety of settings, including general gynecology, University Health Center, hospital-based primary care, and internal medicine. She has been practicing for the past 10 years at Medical Associates of Hartford, LLC, in the area of primary care, women’s health, and transgender healthcare. Vanessa frequently serves as a preceptor for Nurse Practitioner students, including those from SCSU. Since Fall 2012, she has been serving as the Nurse Practitioner Program Director at the Nurse Practitioner Program at SCSU.

Vanessa was inspired to become a Nurse Practitioner to be granted hospital privileges at Yale New Haven Hospital in the Department of OB/GYN, this was the first NP allowed to practice in this area and was a milestone. She was also the first NP Practitioner to practice at SCSU’s student health center. Vanessa has received numerous honors, including the Air Force Leadership Award, Norwalk Hospital’s Volunteer Award for Patient Care Skills, and was the New Haven Honor roll student for all four years of her college years.

Vanessa is the co-author of two nursing pathology textbooks and is contributing author on Women’s Health for a Medical/Surgical nursing textbook. She has presented numerous national and state conferences on topics such as accessible health care for transgender clients and civil rights negotiations for nurse practitioners. She frequently serves as a guest lecturer for the nurse practitioner program at Hartford Hospital and Yale University and for the Physician Assistant Program at Quinnipiac University. She currently serves as an advisor to a new project at the University of SCSU company dedicated to offering continuing education to the nurse practitioner community.

In addition to her practice, Vanessa is engaged in a variety of community-based professional and advocacy activities. She is President of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CAPNRS) and serves on the board of the Connecticut Nurse Practitioner Association. She has also served in the capacity of liaison, Sigma Theta Tau International. Additionally, following Hurricane Katrina, she has volunteered her healthcare services at a clinic in Mississippi.

Kathryn Jack Receives Nurse Practitioner Award

Kathryn Jack, who graduated from SCSU’s PhD program in 2009, was one of three nurse practitioners to receive the prestigious HP Excellence Award from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The award is given to nurse practitioners for their contributions to excellence in their area of practice. She was honored at the AANP’s 2012 conference in Las Vegas.

Kathryn is a board and national expert in the area of clinical practice. She has extensive experience in several major new studies for new medications and is a consultant for several pharmaceutical companies. Kathryn is the Past Chair of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and President of the Connecticut Chapter. The focus of her research was to increase the awareness and knowledge of the nurse practitioner community concerning this role.

Robbie Sambet Samir Essay Contest

ACSE student Robbie Sambet Samir was selected as the New Careers in Nursing essay winner for October 2012. He is a sophomore in his second year in the ACSE program.

The following is the story of how the essay, “Believe This About Nursing: ‘Nursing is the latest Improvisation Theatre’” was written.

Just like my past vacations bring with them a different story each night, feeding off the energy of the bond and speaking to the soul, my nursing experiences brought to light the need for improvisation and collaboration, and improvisation, the nurse too, has no choice but to be on her feet, walking through the front door with an open mind and heart, and talk with a patient, a family, or a nurse...

To read the entire essay, visit newcareersinnursing@chs.org essay/contest/winners/robbie-sambet

The Nurse as Advocate: A Grounded Theory Perspective

By Pennie Seidler, PhD, RN

Dr. Michael Perle is a long-time member of the public health faculty, whose collegiality, mentorship, excellence in teaching and collaborating devotion to students and academic integrity were legendary. His death was a great loss to the University and to his many students, and there is no way we can express our love and respect for him. The OHMS Michael J. Perle Student Award was given for the first time this year, to Southern MPH student Averie K. Welde. Among her

PUBLIC HEALTH

MPH Student Michael J. Perle Award

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