a sense of community: service-driven clinical placements
looking for answers: creating change in haiti
This issue of the Voice highlights some of our many clinical partnerships. I am sure you will agree with me that the work our faculty and students are doing in the community is outstanding and that some of our models for community health clinical experiences are truly innovative.

Clearly, community health doesn’t just occur in this country and so we are glad to also highlight the work of our community health faculty in other countries, such as Clinical Assistant Professor Donna Cullinan’s work in Haiti (p. 26). As you will read, Mrs. Cullinan provides many services while in Haiti, including working with families in Léogâne to help identify mothers who are able to keep their children well nourished, and then having these successful mothers teach others with equally limited resources who are having more difficulty in keeping their children fed. Whether they are working in Boston or around the world, our community health faculty members bring the ability to listen to the community in developing models of care that work.

Other collaborations I’d like to bring to your attention include research partnerships such as Assistant Professor Katherine Gregory’s work with the Harvard Catalyst (p. 4). Dr. Gregory’s research is a ground-breaking project that partners Boston College with Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in conducting translational research that has the potential to improve the health of our youngest patients—preterm infants in the neonatal intensive care unit. We highlight our clinical and research partnerships in order to recognize the collaborative, interdisciplinary nature of nursing. You will see this focus continue as the Connell School strengthens existing collaborative partnerships and builds new ones, both in Boston’s top-notch healthcare community and around the globe.

I am also pleased that so many alumnae/i have sent in updates. Since I came to the Connell School in July, I’ve had the opportunity to connect personally with many of you. I look forward to creating more opportunities to celebrate your successes. I hope that many of you will join us on Alumni Weekend at the Connell School of Nursing where we will celebrate each other, our past and our future. I look forward to seeing you then.
Connell School Dean Susan Gennaro and Associate Dean for Research Barbara Wolfe have both been asked to serve on study sections for the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Susan Gennaro was appointed to the Nursing Science: Children and Families Study Section. Barbara Wolfe was named chair of the Nursing Science: Adults and Older Adults Study Section, on which she has served since 2006.

Study sections review grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations on these applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their fields of science. The study sections are concerned with preventing, delaying the onset, and slowing the progression of disease and disability within a certain population. The Children and Families Study Section focuses on preconception to young adulthood, while the Adults and Older Adults Study Section is concerned with mid-life and older adults.

Members are selected on the basis of demonstrated expertise in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities and achievements. Study section membership is a prestigious honor which represents a major commitment of professional time and energy, as well as a unique opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical research effort.

Amar also leads the STARS program at the Connell School, a project whose goal is to create an academic and supportive infrastructure to promote success in nursing students who are academically at risk, many of whom are racially/ethnically diverse, speak English as a second language, or are economically disadvantaged.

The New England Regional Black Nurses Association is part of a national effort to unify, educate, and increase the number of African American nurses. The organization advocates for and provides optimum health services to African Americans and to other underserved communities.

Connell School Dean Susan Gennaro comments, “Dr. Amar has taken her passion for improving the lives of vulnerable young women and has harnessed this to research, education, and practice initiatives. She is clearly a leader in education, research and nursing practice, and she motivates others and demonstrates her passion by taking caring and excellence to another level every day.”

Amar receives excellence in nursing award
Angela Amar, assistant professor of nursing at the Connell School, was honored with the Excellence in Nursing Award from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA) at their annual Excellence in Nursing Celebration on February 6th. The award recognizes nurses making a difference in their communities.

Amar is the force behind the new forensic nursing program at Boston College, designed to meet the demand for advanced practice nurses to provide care for victims of crime. Her research is focused on understanding traumatic experiences, particularly violence, and mental health responses in adolescent and young adult females.

Connell School Dean Susan Gennaro comments, “Dr. Amar has taken her passion for improving the lives of vulnerable young women and has harnessed this to research, education, and practice initiatives. She is clearly a leader in education, research and nursing practice, and she motivates others and demonstrates her passion by taking caring and excellence to another level every day.”

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Gregory receives harvard catalyst pilot grant
Assistant Professor Katherine Gregory, along with her investigative team, was awarded a Harvard Catalyst Pilot Grant to study the microbiome aspects of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) in premature infants. NEC is one of the most serious complications of premature infant birth, a life-threatening gastrointestinal disease associated with malnutrition, growth failure, neuro-developmental delay, and prolonged neonatal hospitalization among survivors.

As an investigator on this multidisciplinary project, Gregory will assess the usefulness of stool samples obtained from premature infants to develop a microbiome profile that will predict NEC in a population of extremely low gestational age infants. The use of stool samples for this type of research is advantageous because obtaining stool is noninvasive, and will not deplete the premature infant of a limited blood volume. Gregory believes that defining the intestinal microbiota in premature infants at risk for NEC will lead to a better understanding of the pathogenesis of the disease, and eventually an improved ability to develop disease prediction strategies and clinical interventions that will prevent it.

Harvard Catalyst is a Harvard University enterprise funded by the National Institutes of Health. It offers a systemic way for investigators from disparate disciplines and institutions to find each other and form teams, to gain open access to tools and technologies, and to obtain seed funding to embark upon new areas of investigation. In addition to Boston College, Harvard Catalyst includes the 10 schools and 18 academic healthcare centers that are part of the Harvard system, including MIT, the Cambridge Health Alliance, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and numerous community partners.

leadership for advancing nursing science and transforming care
Alumnae/i, students, faculty, and local and national healthcare leaders came together on October 21, 2008 for a day-long celebration welcoming Susan Gennaro as the new dean of the Connell School.
Gregory will work with Allan Walker from Massachusetts General Hospital and Linda Van Matter from Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Children’s Hospital, Boston. The research team exemplifies the aim of the multi-disciplinary Harvard Catalyst: to speed the reduction of human illness.

FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR EDUCATION, RESEARCH
The Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses (MARN) has honored Susan Emery, assistant professor and director of the nurse anesthesia program, and Dorothy Jones, professor of nursing, with awards recognizing their contributions to the field of nursing. The awards were presented at MARN’s annual awards dinner on April 1 in Dedham, MA.

Emery received the Excellence in Nursing Education Award. She developed, and now directs, the nurse anesthesia program at Boston College in collaboration with Anesthesia Associates of Massachusetts. Her interests include chemistry and physics of nurse anesthesia practice, the pharmacology of anesthetics, anesthesia for gynecologic patients, and endocrine and renal physiology.

Jones was presented the Excellence in Nursing Research Award. She conducts classes, cared for patients, and helped construct houses and latrines. In 1996, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for her work in Ecuador, and also received the Por Cristo Foundation’s Volunteer of the Year award.

In 2009, Krozy helped launch the Connell School of Nursing Global Health Initiative, an immersion trip which serves as an undergraduate community clinical placement and an opportunity for nurse practitioner students to earn supervised practice hours. Students bring donated medicines and supplies, provide one-on-one nursing care, and teach health promotion strategies in Spanish to a group of volunteer health promoters from the community.

Students who participated were Catherine Walker ’13, Amanda Fabian ’11 (School of Education), Bridget O’Donnell ’12 (College of Arts and Sciences), Kathearine Starrett ’12 (School of Management), and Laura Belden (sister of Sarah Belden).

KROZY HONORED WITH HISPANIC SERVICE AWARD
Ronna Krozy, recently retired associate professor, is the first faculty recipient of the Hispanic Service Award recognizing her commitment to the Hispanic community. The award was given by the John A. Dinneen, S.J. Hispanic Alumni Committee on March 28, 2009.

Krozy joined the nursing faculty at Boston College in 1973, and has been committed throughout her career to placing her students with diverse and underrepresented students, who participated have diabetes or roommates with diabetes, so they felt particularly strongly about the issue of raising money, notes Ferguson.

As many as three million Americans have type 1 diabetes, a disease most often diagnosed in childhood. Diabetes lasts a lifetime and carries with it the threat of serious complications including heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation. The Walk for Diabetes draws people together to raise money in order to help find a cure for diabetes and its complications through research.

The walk was held on October 4, 2008 at the Boston DCR Hatch Shell around the Charles River. Students who participated were Kristin Ferguson ’09, Sarah Belden ’11, Laura Bloomer ’11, Jacqelyn Clancy ’11, Erin Engstrom ’12, Kristin Gambardella ’12, Kelly Leonard ’12, Elizabeth Long ’10, Lauren MacQueen ’12, Camille Maddock ’10, Christine Mahoney ’11, Cristina Manzano ’12, Caroline McInerney ’12, Amy McGinty ’11, Megan Neuberger ’11, Lauren Nicolosi ’12, Nicole Poulos ’11, Meghan Reading ’12, Katherine Reicher ’10, Allison Sandler ’12, Hillary Senniuk ’12, Amanda Terzian ’12, Catherine Walker ’13, Amanda Fabian ’11 (School of Education), Bridget O’Donnell ’12 (College of Arts and Sciences), Kathearine Starrett ’12 (School of Management), and Laura Belden (sister of Sarah Belden).
unit nurse for 14 years and an assistant nurse manager for two years at Women and Infants Hospital. Francis is currently the neonatal clinical nurse specialist for the obstetrical service at MGH.

The FNRE seeks to promote the development of expertise in the neonatal profession and prepare neonatal nurses for the future. They do this by funding research and programs to strengthen neonatal nursing, evaluating neonatal nursing interventions and patient outcomes, and promoting neonatal education. The Foundation offers research grants to neonatal nurses who are actively engaging in a service, research, or educational role that contributes directly to the healthcare of neonates or to the neonatal nursing profession.

COAT DRIVE HELPS HUNDREDS STAY WARM IN MATTAPAN

Hundreds of coats were distributed to Haitian families last November at the Voice of the Gospel Church in Boston’s Mattapan neighborhood as part of a coat drive organized by Connell School faculty member Jennifer Allen and Master’s Entry students Ashley Younger, Dana Mars, and Maki Ishida. Over a period of two days, all the coats found owners as families in the community heard about the event on the radio or through word of mouth. Thanks to the Boston College students, faculty, and staff, as well as staff at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who donated coats, many people in this underserved community stayed warmer this past winter.

DOCTORAL STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND ONCOLOGY NURSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Clare Butt, second-year doctoral student at the Connell School, was selected as one of the recipients of an Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Foundation Scholarship for the ONS 10th National Conference on Cancer Nursing Research, held February 12-14 in Orlando, Florida.

Butt was grateful for the opportunity to hear about the latest research in cancer nursing, to network with fellow nursing researchers, and to learn more about hope and quality of life. Under the guidance of her advisor, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs Patricia Tablolski, Butt plans to study hope in cancer survivors for her dissertation, and to publish the results of this research at a future Oncology Nursing Research Conference. As a doctoral fellow in the Office for Nursing Research, Butt is currently working on the office’s website under the direction of Associate Dean for Research Barbara Wolfe.

The conference is dedicated to oncology nursing research, providing a forum for the dissemination of research findings, and stimulating translation of research into practice. Carol Ferrans, professor and associate dean for research, College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago, acted as Butt’s conference mentor.

CONNELL SCHOOL PROFESSOR, ALUMNA CO-RECIPIENT OF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

The American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) honored Professor June Horowitz and Connell School alumna Nancy Hanrahan MS ’92, PhD ’03 with the Award for Excellence in Research at their 22nd annual conference on October 17, 2008.

A professional organization of over 15,000 members, APNA is committed to the specialty practice of psychiatric-mental health nursing, health and wellness promotion through identification of mental health issues, prevention of mental health problems, and the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disorders.

Horowitz is an expert in postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. She has made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of postpartum depression and women’s mental health, due in part to her meticulous attention to method in her research. Through her work, she hopes to decrease the devastating effects of postpartum depression on mothers and their infants.

Hanrahan’s research provides one of the only comprehensive surveys of the psychiatric workforce. Her most recent research examines the quality of care in psychiatric inpatient units.

PHD STUDENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR SIMULATION SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

PhD student Brian French, along with his team of nurse researchers from the Institute for Patient Care at Massachusetts General Hospital, has been awarded a grant for simulation scenario development. The grant was given by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education as part of a statewide initiative to address the nursing shortage and better prepare nurses and nursing educators.

French will serve as program manager for the Knight Simulation Program, which will fund the development of a simulation scenario—a critical learning situation using simulation manikins. These manikins are increasingly valuable tools allowing nurses to practice skills with no risk to patients.

The Knight Simulation Program’s proposed scenario will incorporate broad principles of geriatric and palliative care, specifically the delivery of patient- and family-focused care to a patient of color at the end of life. Through this simulation scenario, French and his team hope to improve nurses’ knowledge, skills, and awareness of the importance of culture in the provision of care to diverse patients.

NEW DIVERSITY BOARD AT THE CONNELL SCHOOL

The Connell School has renewed its commitment to developing and nurturing a diverse nursing workforce through the formation of a Diversity Advisory Board. Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Program Cathy Read states, “As part of a university whose mission is to unite high academic achievement with service to others, the Connell School is uniquely positioned to provide leadership for change. The Diversity Advisory Board will provide insight and guidance as the school plans and implements programs that reflect a commitment to advancing and sustaining an organizational culture that fully welcomes diversity and inclusiveness.”

From top left to right: • Linda Battle, MSN, PHCNS-BC, manager of academic partnerships and nursing workforce development, Cambridge Health Alliance, adjunct faculty at Regis College • Eva Gomez, RN, MSN, staff development specialist, Children’s Hospital Boston, facilitator for the Multi-Cultural Nurses Forum, member of the Children’s Hospital Diversity and Culturally Competent Care Council • Norma Martinez Rogers, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor clinical, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio • Rolando Perea, RN, MN, CS, clinical director, Emergency Department at Palma Hospital, clinical director of provider services for medical strategies and management systems • Angelica Peters-Levis, RN, PhD, director, women and men’s nursing and clinical services, Brigham and Women’s Hospital • Deborah Washington, RN, MSN, director, diversity patient care services, Massachusetts General Hospital
and attitudes related to the care of geriatric patients.

Boston College is French’s academic partner on the project proposal, and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs Patricia Tabliski and Associate Professor of Nursing Rita Oliveri will be providing content expertise and serving as a review panel for the finished scenario.

DEMARCO HONORED WITH FAMILY RESEARCH AWARD

Rosanna DeMarco, associate professor, is the 2009 recipient of The Suzanne Feetham Nurse Scientist Family Research Award, given by the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS).

The award is presented annually to a nurse researcher whose program of research and scholarship focuses on the study of family and family-related research. The award acknowledges outstanding contributions to family research in its broadest context such as research relevant to individuals, families and their communities, and social and healthcare policy.

DeMarco’s work is focused on women, marginalization, and health behaviors including women living with HIV/AIDS and nurses in the workplace. Her research seeks to advance health policy using her model of collaborative community-based knowledge. She is the co-producer of the film Women’s Voices Women’s Lives, which she uses in her intervention research. The film is used by AIDS service organizations across the United States and has been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese.

DOCTORAL STUDENT RECEIVES GRANTS FOR GENETIC RESEARCH

Doctoral student Patricia Underwood was awarded two grants for her work to find genetic markers for insulin resistance in patients with hypertension. She received a National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as a grant from the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG). Underwood’s project sponsors include Catherine Read, associate dean of the under-graduate program, and Gordon Williams, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, director of the Center for Clinical Investigation at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and research professor at Boston College.

Underwood received her under-graduate degree in molecular biology at Lehigh University and completed an accelerated BSN program at the University of Pennsylvania before coming to Boston College. An MS/PhD student, she finished her master’s degree last year and is currently in the third year of her PhD program. In 2007, she also attended the Summer Genetics Institute at NINR/NIH, an intensive two-month summer research training program designed to provide a foundation in molecular genetics for use in research in clinical practice. Underwood describes the Summer Genetics Institute as instrumental in getting the grant, as it provided her with an additional foundation in genetics and how to use that knowledge in clinical research.

Underwood will train at Brigham and Women’s Hospital to identify genetic markers associated with insulin resistance among patients with hypertension by using DNA sequencing techniques and a candidate gene approach. She then plans to work with an interdisciplinary team to develop individualized prevention and treatment plans for patients based on their genetic markers. With the help of her two grants, Underwood will be able to continue this work for the next three and a half years.

ELDREDGE HONORED AT FOOTBALL GAME AS NOMINEE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Maureen Eldredge, undergraduate program assistant at the Connell School, was honored as the Massachusetts State Lottery Community Champion for the community service work that she has done at Boston College. The Massachusetts State Lottery and Boston College Athlet-ics have a partnership, and within this partnership the lottery selects a person at each home Boston College football game who has given back to the community and made Massachusetts a better place. Eldredge was honored between the third and fourth quarters at the Boston College vs. Notre Dame game on Saturday night, November 8th.

Eldredge, who has been at Boston College for 17 years, was also given the 2008 Community Service Award by Boston College President William P. Leahy, SJ this past May.

CONNELL SCHOOL UNDERGRADUATES TAKE PART IN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

On February 6, three Connell School students participated in the annual Boston College Undergraduate Research Symposium. Elizabeth Ryan, Elizabeth Johnson, and Elizabeth Long (pictured from left to right) all displayed posters and gave presentations.

Ryan, who won the award for best student poster for her work entitled “High Frequency Problems in Patients Hospitalized for the First Time with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease,” worked with Assistant Professor Jane Flanagan. Johnson and Long worked with Professor Callista Roy to update the literature review of accredited nursing degree programs that use the Roy Adaptation Model in theory teaching. Their poster was entitled “Nursing Theory-Based Research: Useful or Passé?”

The three Elizabths are all participants in the Undergraduate Research Fellows Program, which enables selected students to gain firsthand experience in scholarly work by participating with a faculty member on a research project.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN NURSING FOR WOMEN’S HEALTH


AWHONN is the specialty organization for neonatal, obstetrical, and women’s health nurses and provides professional resources and support to nurses who are caring for or developing knowledge to improve the care of women and infants.

The article, “Attracting students to professional organizations: One student’s thoughts after attending the AWHONN convention,” highlights the benefits of participation in professional organizations. In addition to the scientific knowledge she gained and the cutting-edge technology she encountered, Pomerleau says she felt a “sense of belonging and connection to the field” and inspiration from the nurse leaders she met.

INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION ON GEROLOGY AND ETHICS HELD AT THE CONNELL SCHOOL

On September 22, the Connell School hosted an important dialogue about gerontology and ethics with a leader in the UK nursing community. Derek Sellman is a mental health nurse, editor of the international peer-reviewed journal Nursing Philosophy, and faculty member at the School of Health and Social Care at the University of the West of England in Bristol, United Kingdom. Researching under the Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship, Sellman engaged faculty members and students studying gerontology in a discussion examining nurse preparation for ethical care of the elderly in hospital and residential settings. The focus of his interest has two parts: how nurses in the US are prepared ethically in relation to care of the older person, and whether ethics taught to nurses and in general distinguishes between “normal” and “elderly” adult patients.

Sellman engaged the students in conversation, asking each what brought her into gerontology. Students spoke about their experi-
ences with palliative care and the misconceptions that still surround the topic, even within the nursing community, as limited to end-of-life care. Sellman talked about the difficulties in deciding who will be best served by care, asking, “Is age a good indicator?” Students responded with examples of patients in their 40s whose quality of life was significantly lower than those in their 80s. All seemed to be in agreement that determining who is deserving of care is generally not about the number of years, that people’s lives are beneficial in their own terms at any age. Discussion also centered around the nurse’s role in supporting families, especially when preparing for death. Associate Dean of Graduate Programs Patricia Tabloski shared a story about caring for an elderly woman who was close to the end of her life. The family informed her that other relatives were planning to fly in for the funeral, to which she responded, “Why don’t they come now, while she’s here? Have them spend time with her, share stories—don’t wait for the funeral.” If family members are able to adopt this attitude, they are more likely to let the loved one go peacefully in an environment surrounded by memories and love, and nurses play a part by caring for the patient as well as the family.

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“...and love, and nurses play a part by caring for the patient...”

PhD candidate Patricia Underwood conducts her research at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, looking at genetic markers for insulin resistance in patients with hypertension. To fund her work, Underwood has received a National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and a research grant from the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG).

ALLEN, JENNIFER


AMAR, ANGELA


BURGESS, ANN WOLBERT


ARUDA, MARY


BARONE, STACEY
Responsibility in Advanced Practice. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett.


FONTENOT, HOLLY


Fontenot, H (in press). A thank you [letter]. BM.


GRACE, PAMELA


GREGORY, KATHERINE


HARRIS, ALYSSA


HOROWITZ, JUNE ANDREWS


JONES, DOROTHY


KELLY-WEEDER, SUSAN


PULCINI, JOYCE


READ, CATHERINE


ROY, CALLISTA, SR.

Barone SH, Roy CL, & Frederickson KC (2008). Instruments used in Roy

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SHINDUL-ROTHSCHILD, JUDITH


SIEFERT, MARY


TABLOSKI, PATRICIA

VESSEY, JUDITH


WILLIS, DANNY

YE, LICHUAN


Our Clinical Research Certificate Program includes a rigorous curricu- lum to prepare you for today’s competitive marketplace. The Clinical Re- search field—including careers as a Clinical Research Associate (CRA) or a Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC)—is a new, stimulating, and innovative career choice for nurses. As a result of the recent movement to speed drug and medical device development, the need for scientifically trained professionals to coordinate research studies has increased.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the demand for qualified CRAs and CRCs is expected to double over the next ten years. Profes- sionals trained for these demanding careers are currently in short sup- ply. Nurses have traditionally prepared for these roles through on-the-job training with physicians and scientists conducting pharmaceutical research. The Boston College School of Nursing, Continuing Education Office now has a program for these positions.

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Boston College Nursing Voice


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a sense of
COMMUNITY

Clinical placements that build skills and give back to the community
by Joshua J. Jensen
Community health is fundamentally about community context. Thus, we owe it to our students to put them in a context where they are poised to contribute as well as learn,” begins Clinical Assistant Professor Adele Pike, who, along with Clinical Instructor Judith Pirolli, organizes the community health clinical courses that undergraduate nursing students take their senior year. “Boston College’s Jesuit mission pushes us to take on a social justice perspective. This perspective demands that we find a pathway to meaningful involvement in the community,” adds Pirolli.

For Boston College nursing students, the clinical experience is an opportunity to apply theory in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, continuity and coordination of case, and long-term care. But according to Pike, student-learning outcomes are only half of the equation for a successful community health program. An ideal placement, she says, is one where students are contributing to the mission of the organization and making a lasting positive impact on the individuals and communities that they are serving.

To achieve this, Pike and Pirolli are building long-term, sustainable partnerships with the community organizations where they place Boston College students. Pike is an experienced partnership builder: in 2004, she established the Center for Excellence in Home Care Practice and Education, a collaborative effort between the Connell School and the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston (VNAB). Pike’s work on this effort has resulted in benefits for both organizations, including access to clinical placements for Boston College students, and access to cutting-edge nursing knowledge for VNAB staff.

It is this partnership that is serving as a model for new and existing clinical health sites. The three partnerships presented here—Cathedral Cares, Casa Myrna Vazquez, and Carelink—are examples of the range of organizations with which the community health faculty are building new models of learning—models where giving back to the local community is as important a goal as student learning outcomes.

Right: Francisco Rodriguez gets his cholesterol checked by Michelle Bruno ’09 at a Cathedral Cares health fair, while Clinical Instructor Lynn Finn looks on.

Previous page: As part of the Carelink program, Samantha Shortell ’09 visits patient Rita Carmichael, a former nurse, in her home.
CATHEDRAL CARES

Clinical Instructor Lynn Finn runs Cathedral Cares, a parish nursing outreach program at the Church of the Holy Cross in Boston’s South End. This program offers community health services to parishioners and other members of the community surrounding the cathedral. Many think of the South End as an affluent neighborhood, home to Boston’s trendiest restaurants and nightlife, but the reality is quite different. Many of the cathedral’s parishioners come from nearby Villa Victoria, a subsidized housing complex with a predominantly Latino population. Finn reports that 90% of the students that attend the nearby Blackstone School are below the poverty line.

While Finn does plan some traditional wellness programs that she cites as “typical parish nursing” fare, she is also committed to providing strong clinical services to the community. “We screen for blood sugar, cholesterol, anemia. We do a lot of health education around these topics.” Regular services are available in the cathedral, but Finn knows the value of getting into the community, so she also runs regular programs at Villa Victoria and the Irish Immigration Center.

From Finn’s perspective, she couldn’t accomplish this without Boston College students. Finn places three students each semester at Cathedral Cares, as well as additional students at the Blackstone School and nearby Boston Medical Center. The students work hand-in-hand with Finn, organizing the Cathedral Cares programs and advocating on behalf of their clients. Their clients are the largest component of their work, as virtually all of the Cathedral Cares staff—including Finn—are volunteers. Finn operates with the help of approximately 10 nurses, one physician’s assistant, and a small team of non-clinical volunteers.

Finn is quick to point out the concrete impact her students have on the community. They have helped organize health clinics at various sites, including a large-scale flu vaccination effort where students administered over 600 vaccinations.

While this type of work may seem straightforward at first, Finn notes that in practice, many of the cases are quite complex and can require untangling. “It’s not uncommon for the students to encounter someone who for one reason or another just isn’t taking their medications. Either they don’t have the money or they don’t have the appropriate dose. The students will get on the phone and follow the patient’s experience through the medical system until they figure out where the knot is. Their role is to untangle it and try to get the person back on course.”

Students experience the challenges of working with patients for whom English is not their primary language—approximately 50% of the Villa Victoria residents are Spanish-speaking, and a significant number speak primarily Chinese, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole—which further complicates the work, but also provides a real-world context that many students haven’t experienced before this placement.

In addition to the clinical work, students also have the opportunity to understand the challenges of running a community health program such as Cathedral Cares. Many of the challenges that Finn faces are budget and logistics related, but end up having a real impact on her ability to reach the community. Finn notes, “The winter was so bad this year in Boston. Father O’Leary met with us and said, ‘I’ve spent over $40,000 clearing sidewalks and I’m out of money.’ Of course, people can’t come and see us if they can’t make their way safely.” Finn’s students also learn the challenges and costs of outreach. They wrestle with basic costs such as printing signs for health fairs and taking out small ads in the local newspaper.

For Finn, these challenges are simply another learning opportunity for her students. This past November, a Boston College connection led Finn and her students to CatholicTV, which is based in Boston. Students Sarah Zumwande and Alexandra Zirimi went into a parish in the South End with Mary, the Day where they shared information about flu prevention, and promoted an upcoming flu clinic at the cathedral.

Finn explains the importance of the CatholicTV audience. “When I was a visiting nurse, in nearly every house that I went into, CatholicTV was on. And people would say, ‘Don’t come to give me my insulin during Mass.’ We were always trying to work around the Mass, so I know it’s very, very popular in a lot of households. I thought that if we could get health teaching on the TV, that’s a lot of households that you’re going to reach.” For Finn, her students, and her colleagues at Cathedral Cares, it’s the impact of their community outreach that is the reward.

CASA MYRNA VAZQUEZ

Casa Myrna Vazquez is a grassroots organization founded Casa Myrna Vazquez in the 1970s in response to stories of local South End women experiencing abuse by their husbands or partners. Today, the organization has evolved into a key resource for survivors of domestic violence seeking emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other supportive services, including legal advocacy, counseling, and housing search assistance, as well as education and outreach about domestic violence. Additionally, Casa Myrna operates the 24/7 toll-free, multilingual, statewide hotline SafeLink (877-785-2020). Just this past year, Judith Pirolli and Adele Pike approached Casa Myrna Vazquez, seeking creative ways to partner with the organization.

This spring, a clinical pilot was launched. Clinical Instructor Nancy Crouse was recruited to work with the staff at Casa Myrna Vazquez to find a meaningful role for nursing students. An expert in psychiatric nursing in the community setting, Crouse immediately saw the value of this partnership as a learning experience for her students. “All kinds of light bulbs were going off in my head. Domestic violence affects many different systems related to an individual. How does it affect just their general health? Then how does it affect socioeconomic status? How does it affect emotional status?”

Seeing a clear learning potential for their students, Crouse, Pirolli, and Pike were eager to explore how to craft a partnership that would benefit Casa Myrna Vazquez. They met with Casa Myrna’s Education and Prevention Specialist, Amanda Wolfe, to explore the value nursing students could bring to the organization, even at a very basic level. Crouse explains, “She was interested in how the students might work with the children in the shelter, who need extra support given what’s going on with their parents. They have been uprooted from familiar surroundings and faces, and their school life may have been disrupted. They may have issues with nutrition. Their mothers often don’t have time to think about these things because their energies are going in so many different directions.”

Crouse also emphasizes the importance of community health in a shelter or transitional setting, because of challenges accessing other forms of healthcare. “Everyone is talking about improving access to health insurance, which is an important step. But even if an individual or family has insurance, there is no guarantee they will have the ability to access appropriate care. If you’re moving around a lot because you’ve lost your apartment or are in a shelter, do you even have a pediatrician or primary care physician?” Crouse sees community health nurses, including student nurses from Boston College, as advocates and educators for the survivors and families who need these vital services. Even with this potential, Crouse still faces a large barrier that makes this placement different from all others: because of issues of safety and confidentiality, she is not able to go to the placement with the students, or observe their work directly. For this reason, Crouse planned for a lot of time outside of the placement to check in with the students, and has many ques- tions: “What have you seen? What’s going on? What do you think the needs are? What have people been saying to you?” In addition, Crouse is in regular communication with the students’ supervisor at Casa Myrna Vazquez, and thus is able to provide the guidance that is a key component of a strong clinical placement.

Laura Flaherty and Mary Kelly are the two students placed with Casa Myrna Vazquez this semester. Each completed 40 hours of training, orga- nized by the Greater Boston Domestic Violence Volunteer Consortium, to ensure their safety and effectiveness in the domestic violence setting. Flaherty was positive about the experience. “I learned so much about domestic violence, crisis intervention, and empowering survivors. The training that I received will certainly impact my nursing career. I wish that my fellow nursing students would have the opportu- nity to undergo the same training.”

Following this intensive training, Flaherty and Kelly went to work in a Casa Myrna Vazquez shelter, educating chil- dren and families on issues like the importance of hand washing and nutrition—seemingly small-scale issues but with a significant health impact. Crouse put much thought into choosing the right issues for her students to address.

“These relationships offer us an opportunity to show agencies and organizations what community nursing is about and how community health nurses can contribute, both as student nurses and as professionals.”

— Nancy Crouse

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“I did question what kinds of things the clients there would most benefit from, as well as how the nursing role fits into the health of these individuals and the health of the overall community in a domestic violence shelter setting.”

Crouse, Pirolli, and Pike are already thinking about building this partnership for long-term success, and they aren’t afraid to think outside the traditional framework of clinical placement. For example, early on in their conversations with Boston College, Casa Myrna noted an interest in having a nursing presence year-round, possibly bringing in additional nursing schools or incorporating nurses into their regular staff. The community health clinical faculty are supportive of these goals, and have expressed a willingness to help the organization use the Boston College relationship as a way to explore their broader goal of expanding their services to the community.

Crouse sees this type of creative partnering as a unique benefit that Boston College can offer to the sites where community health students have their clinical placements. “These relationships offer us an opportunity to show these agencies and organizations what community nursing is about, and how community health nurses can contribute to their organizations, both as student nurses and as professionals. It’s exciting to start something new.”

**CARELINK**

Clinical Instructor Mary McColgan runs a Carelink program at Catholic Charities’ Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) at the Labouré Center in South Boston. Carelink allows elders with chronic diseases to remain safely in their homes, often after a hospitalization. McColgan explains, “Medicare and health insurance only offer home care reimbursement up to a certain point, and then, many elders are left on their own even though they aren’t quite ready. Carelink fills that gap.”

McColgan’s program director at Catholic Charities, Priscilla Green, came up with the idea for starting a Carelink program at Labouré, based on programs developed by the Neighborhood Visiting Nurses Association of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Green contacted Adele Pike asking for help in establishing the program. She, Adele Pike, and McColgan worked together and piloted the idea with a group of graduate students last year. The program was a success. Mary McColgan, a nurse in the employ of Labouré’s Home Care, was recruited, hired, and oriented to the Boston College clinical faculty last fall.

Unlike more traditional clinical placements, the Carelink program is highly autonomous, and students are the core service providers. While McColgan starts the semester going with the students, the goal by the end of the semester is for them to feel comfortable going on a home visit by themselves. Students are nervous at first, but McColgan reminds them that she is just a phone call away if they have a question or a concern.

“Students work with patients to help them manage their chronic diseases and avoid relapse or hospitalization. They address issues such as dietary management and when and how to take medications. They also address issues of home-safety, such as fall risk, and how to get up and change positions slowly. Many of the issues that the Boston College students address would be minor for most healthy individuals, but are potentially life threatening for their patients. McColgan tells a story of a woman who couldn’t open her pill bottle because of severe arthritis. ‘She kept calling the pharmacy to give her a twist-off bottle cap, and it just wasn’t happening. One of the students took this on, and was able to make it happen. This patient is a nurse, completely capable of advocating for herself. There are many others who aren’t as capable who need this kind of help.’

The Carelink placement has proved as transformational for the students as it has for their patients. The home care setting offers a different experience than the students have had in their previous clinical placements. McColgan highlights the differences. “They’re not in a structure of a hospital. The patient is in total control. They’re using manual blood pressure cuffs; we don’t have any automated equipment. We’re right back to the basics.”

McColgan coaches the students on their communication skills, helping them become more at ease talking with people about their health issues. Working in a personal environment, students see the financial struggles and other barriers that some of the patients face. Some situations illustrate the value of a good support system family and friends can provide, and others show the challenges faced by those without strong supports.

The Boston College students also bring creativity to the work, notes McColgan. “People have trouble reading because they can’t see that well. One student drew a picture to illustrate a no-salt diet, showing things the patient should avoid as a reminder. I’m planning on taking that example to some of the other nurses to see if we can use it for home visits.”

In addition to learning valuable skills, McColgan notes that the students find hope in their work. “Many students don’t realize that people can live at home independently, even with some fairly severe disabilities. One woman couldn’t even stand up straight; she was bent over at an almost 90 degree angle and uses a cane to walk. She inspired the students, because she is still extremely independent and lives at home safely.”

Given initial success, McColgan is hopeful that she will be able to expand the Carelink program. She says that word is already spreading in the South Boston community. “Initially patients were a bit reluctant to take advantage of Carelink, because they were worried I was trying to put them into a nursing home. Once I talked a couple of them into it, they’ve been telling their friends, and interest has expanded.”

McColgan is interested in examining the data, to understand objectively how the Carelink program is making a difference. She’s interested in understanding how many of their clients have stayed healthy, how they are doing with medication compliance, and if they are avoiding falls. As for the students, she can already see the impact. “To see them so hesitant at first, and then to see them at the end of their placement, when they are able to do a home visit on their own . . . it’s really amazing.”
For the past six years, Clinical Assistant Professor Donna Cullinan has taken a week out of her busy life to travel to Léogâne, Haiti—a small city 18 miles outside of Port au Prince—as part of a medical mission team.

Cullinan and her close friend, Susan Daoust, had always talked about doing some kind of international service work, but for years were busy with their work and family lives. That all changed six years ago when Daoust heard that her church—Christ Church in Needham, Massachusetts—was putting together a medical mission team to Haiti. “When Susan asked me if I was interested, I realized that the timing was perfect. My kids were finally old enough that I was comfortable leaving them.”

For Cullinan, Haiti is an ideal place for a medical mission, because of the extreme need. “I really wanted to go on a medical mission, so I probably would have gone anywhere. But we are really needed in Haiti. It is the poorest of the poor. They have so little, but we’re able to provide them with some measure of comfort, and they are very appreciative of that.”

Emilie Hitron, a physician at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, organized the original mission from Christ Church, and is the team leader. Each year, around 12 healthcare professionals, including Cullinan, travel to Haiti. Around eight of the team members are previous participants. Both physicians on the team bring medical residents with them, and Cullinan brings a Connell School graduate student or recent alumna as well.

This year, Nora Sheehan ’08 joined the trip. “I jumped at the chance when Donna offered me the opportunity to be a part of the team,” recalls Sheehan, who participated in the Connell School’s Global Health Initiative trip to Nicaragua last year. “Traveling to Haiti was an amazing experience and another exposure to the disparities that are generated from limited access to healthcare.”

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Over the years, Cullinan has formed a strong bond with the other members of the team. “We have a wonderful friendship, even though many of us don’t see each other outside of planning meetings.” The team gets together once each month for planning. After the trip, they come together with their families to share pictures at a potluck dinner.

Cullinan explains that the mission team is part of a loose network of groups across the United States that travel to Haiti. Their goal is to coordinate well enough to ensure somewhat regular visits from medical professionals in each visit. While independent of each other, the teams share information through conferences and informal networking and make use of mutual local connections in Haiti.

According to Cullinan, there is almost an entire local industry set up for the purpose of supporting these mission groups. Their team employs drivers and trucks for transportation, hires donkeys to carry their supplies, employs local translators, and pays for their meals to be prepared as well as for lodging at a guesthouse on the hospital grounds. All of this helps support the local economy.

Building long-term relationships with the local support people is part of the reward for Cullinan. “I got a really nice email this week from one of my translators, Mario. I taught him a lot when he was translating for me, because he was very interested. He’s just been accepted to med school, and wrote to thank me for helping to give him this opportunity.”

Cullinan’s group stays on the grounds of the local hospital in Léogâne, where there is a guesthouse frequented by mission groups. They rise as early as 5:30 to learn about Haitian history and culture or simply take in their surroundings with a historical walk, traveling as a group for safety. This part of the day is an opportunity to satisfy their curiosity about the culture in which they are immersed, but also provides valuable cultural context for their work. “We have to understand local values and beliefs to practice effective healthcare,” explains Cullinan. “If a parent believes that their diabetic child has the devil in them, we need to...
know that so we can address it, in addition to ensuring the child gets insulin or other appropriate treatment."

By 7:00, the group is ready to go to work. They travel from their base of operations in Léogâne to a remote village. Often they start the trip in trucks, then, depending on their destination, they may hike the final distance with their supplies carried by donkey. They set up their clinic wherever they can: in homes, schools, and churches, on mountainsides, even in chicken pens.

In most cases, local community health workers have already spread the word about the clinics in advance. So when Cullinan’s group arrives in a village at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning, there may be hundreds of people already lined up and waiting for medical care. The people wear their finest clothes for the doctors and nurses, a sign of their respect and appreciation. The nurses on the team triage the patients, and then Cullinan and the other providers on the team see patients one at a time, about 1500 people over the course of the week. “We do all kinds of care, from head to toe,” Cullinan says. “We have little privacy for pelvic and personal exams, but we make do. We see lots of scabies, fungal infections, STDs, urinary tract infections, hypertension, diabetes, and a lot of malnutrition. Sometimes we’ll do incision and drainage of bad wounds. We’ve seen terrible burns and we distribute dressing supplies, and teach people how to keep their wounds clean.”

Scabies in particular is rampant among all ages, including children. Cullinan notes, “We don’t want them to put their dirty clothes back on after treatment, so now we’re fundraising to buy underwear and little undershirts for all the kids, and we send them home in that. They’re so proud of their new underwear.”

The team sets up a pharmacy as part of the clinic. They provide vitamins for women who are pregnant and nursing. They also provide medicine to treat hypertension for 3–6 months, write out prescriptions, and—through a translator—try to stress the importance of the medication and the risk and consequences of a stroke. While her patients do have access to local pharmacies, many won’t have the financial means to purchase medications. Cullinan sees both hope and frustration as the mission team think longer-term. “We’re trying to work with other mission teams to get continuity of care, but the unrest in Haiti has made this challenging. In the past, a team would visit each village approximately every three months. Last year, we went to villages where they hadn’t seen healthcare providers in well over a year.”

Even when they are able to provide appropriate medications, it’s a challenge to communicate instructions for taking the medications. They use stickers depicting the sun and moon to indicate what time of day medications should be taken. Even with the deluge of work, they are careful to take their time at the pharmacy, instructing the translator to speak slowly and ensure their instructions are communicated effectively.

Cullinan also talks about the stigma facing people with HIV/AIDS. Because their team does not have medication to treat HIV/AIDS, they don’t test for the virus. Still, they encounter individuals that they know are HIV positive. “The village health workers have told us not to tell them because of the stigma. We have done comfort care to the extent possible.”

A recent addition to the team’s services is offering basic eye exams and eyeglasses. In 2008, they brought a selection of eyeglasses in various strengths, matching them to the needs of individuals as closely as possible. This year, they are piloting a system of mailing eyeglasses to individuals for whom they couldn’t provide appropriate glasses on the spot. While most of their patients don’t read, reading
enough food. There are days they don't eat,” says Cullinan. Her group visits every year to bring supplies. “The kids look healthy, but there isn’t enough food. There are days they don’t eat,” says Cullinan. Her group continues to support the orphanage throughout the year.

Top right: Team members also buy new toys to bring to the children at the orphanage. Cullinan taught this boy how to play Barrel of Monkeys, one of her own childhood favorites.

Bottom left: Nursing students at the school where Cullinan is helping to develop a research class in partnership with the Connell School. Cullinan continues to support the orphanage throughout the year.

Top left: Cullinan with two children at a local orphanage, which the team visits every year to bring supplies. “The kids look healthy, but there isn’t enough food. There are days they don’t eat,” says Cullinan. Her group continues to support the orphanage throughout the year.

Bottom right: A family waits to be seen at one of the mobile clinics.

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I n the fall of 2008, freshmen in the Connell School of Nursing had a new class on their schedules. The Nursing Professional Development Seminar was designed by the faculty in response to feedback from students, who wanted to feel more connected to nursing earlier in their program. The course aims to facilitate the transition from high school to college and introduce the profession of nursing through peer-led seminars. Cathy Read, associate dean of the undergraduate program, modeled the course after the highly successful first-year professional development seminar at the Lynch School of Education.

The program is designed to expose freshmen to the Boston College nursing community from their first day on campus. Seminar groups of six to 12 students are led by two to three peer advisors. Cathy Read, associate dean of the undergraduate program, modeled the course after the highly successful first-year professional development seminar at the Lynch School of Education.

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New Hampshire, where Peter was great-grandmother of two. She lives teaching in associate’s degree nursing ten years ago after an enjoyable career with classmates. 11 grandchildren so we always have school teachers, work part-time for the university of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a professor of nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst this coming June at Mount Sinai in New York City. She notes, “It will be so interesting to note if and how their clinical issues differ from ours in Vermont.”

Barbara (Brownie) Elliot ’65 still lives in San Francisco, and continues to teach at the City College of San Francisco’s LVN program. Her three daughters have careers in physical therapy, acting, and environmental education. She notes to her classmates, “Let me know if you’re coming to San Francisco. There’s room to stay!”

Catherine E. Grassiano, MS ’65 spent 40 wonderful years as a faculty member at Salve Regina, including 20 as chair of the nursing department. She was elected to the Rhode Island State Senate, and spent 10 years as a state senator, where she made good use of her nursing background in addressing healthcare issues. Following retirement from Salve Regina in 1996 and from the senate in 2003, she has volunteered for many senior organizations and healthcare facilities serving hundreds of Rhode Island elders and disabled individuals. The Rhode Island State Nurses Association recognized Catherine for her contribution to the nursing profession with a lifetime membership to that association. She is the only individual who holds this designation.

Eleanor Clifford ’66 reports that she took a nontraditional path following graduation from Boston College. “With my medical background, I was fortunate to be hired as an underwriter for the Paul Revere Life Insurance Company, which later merged with Provident and then UNUM. I had a great career in various management roles and was a VP in underwriting prior to early retirement.”

Claudia (Collins) Daileader ’66 and her husband Phil (A&S ’66) are living on the eastern shore of Maryland, in Sherwood. Claudia is working part-time as staff nurse on the surgical unit of her local hospital, and Phil has retired from his career in banking. Their three children are married and they have five grandchildren. Claudia notes, “I’ve been doing my job as future-nurse recruiter. For Christmas, one grand-daughter got Cherry Ames books, another a set of size 4T scrubs.”

Joseph Nace ’65 sends word of her recent work as a poet and artist. In recent years, she has had a number of solo exhibitions, and has shown her work at local and regional galleries (see detail of her painting above). She recently published a book of her work, from which this poem, titled “Compassion,” is taken: Nurse, are you beyond all life lines? / Beyond life / mechanized by tube, pump / pill and shiny metal, / yours is pulse beat that knows / heart. / Nurse, / you with eye of compassion / listen, respond, and / monitor / touch / sound / smell, / sensing that time was / when / time had time enough. / And / that in waiting to die, know / we are yet / Same.

Beatrice Costaglolia ’67 works for the Jesuit Refugee Service in a large detention center in El Paso, Texas. She writes, “My years as a missionary in Peru, Nicaragua, and Mexico have been invaluable experience for this position. We have detainees from all over the world and each of them has his or her personal story. It is a privilege to accompany them during this time in their lives, when they are separated from their families.”

St. Maria
Patricia (Mee) Marvin ’70 reports, “I am happy to share with my classmates and the Boston College community that I have been able to fulfill a life-long dream. With the support and help of dedicated and gifted volunteers, we have created a small nonprofit charity called Bible-mates. Bible-mates are beautifully handcrafted Bible character finger puppets. The finger puppets become the ‘storytellers’ of the greatest stories ever told. The response has been very rewarding. Our greatest challenge, however, has been marketing. I sometimes think maybe I should have audited a few classes in Fulton so many years ago. Who would ever have guessed?”

Gracinda (Sebastian) Bigelow ’71 has been a professor of nursing at a New Hampshire community college since 1991, and has worked at Littleton Regional Hospital in Littleton, New Hampshire since 1977. She notes, “I have so enjoyed the nursing educator role all these years. It is so gratifying to mentor our nursing students, assuring our profession of a continued supply of qualified professionals.” Gracinda has three grandchildren.

Eileen (Dart) Bolesky ’71 retired from her work as a school nurse last year to sit for her first grandchild, Charlotte, while her daughter Kristin (A&S ’98) finished her master’s degree. Kristin and her husband Scott recently had another daughter, Kate, and bought a lovely home in Southboro, Massachusetts. Eileen’s daughter Kara (A&S ’02) lives in Boston and works for the Weather Channel in advertising. Eileen’s husband Ed is working as a senior vice president at Phillips Lifeline in Framingham and hopes to retire at the end of 2009.

Eileen (Townsend) Freeman ’73, MS ’77 was recently appointed director of nursing and allied health at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Connecticut, where she is also a professor of nursing. Eileen brings more than 35 years of experience in clinical practice and nursing education to her new role. Previously, she has taught at Boston College, the University of Missouri, the University of Illinois, and William Rainey Harper College.

Marjorie (Johnson) Schaffer, MS ’73 has co-authored a book, Being Present: A Nurse’s Guide to End-of-Life Communication, which will be published in 2009 by Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. The book includes stories of nurses from Norway and the United States, and their experiences communicating about end-of-life care. Many of the stories originated with Marjorie’s research on ethical issues and end-of-life decision-making. The research was conducted in Norway, as part of a Fulbright for research and teaching.

Mary (Blazske) Helming ’76 earned a PhD in nursing science and spirituality from Union Institute and University in 2007. She is pursuing scholarly work by writing articles and book chapters, giving podium presentations, and presenting posters. Her interests include spirituality/religion and health, as well as integrative medicine. She is an associate professor and family nurse practitioner track coordinator at Quinnipiac University. Her family includes her husband, a 22-year-old son, an adopted 17-year-old daughter from Paraguay, and two dogs. Mary lives in Cheshire, Connecticut.

Sarah Modrow, MS ’76 retired in 2006 from a fulfilling career teaching nursing in Canada. Now, she and her husband spend “the rainy half of the year” in Scottsdale, Arizona, where Sarah volunteers for the Scottsdale Fire Department in a fall prevention program for seniors. She spends the other half of the year in Victoria, British Columbia, enjoying gardening and fitness activities. She writes, “My education at Boston College has really been a life changer for me. I taught nursing full-time for thirty years and I never had a boring day at work!”

Elizabeth “Bett” Schaffhauser ’77 joined the U.S. Public Health Service as an commissioned officer after graduation and was stationed in Kotzebue, Alaska, a native village above the Arctic Circle, for two years. She currently lives in Fairbanks, Alaska with her husband, Gerald Walker, with whom she recently celebrated 25 years of marriage. Their twin sons are both sophomores at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. Bett attained a low degree from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in 1985 and she currently works as the employable and educational opportunity director for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Maryrose Coughlin ’78 writes, “After a long award-winning career in nursing administration, I am enjoying being a staff nurse in a community health center in Springfield, Massachusetts.” Maryrose is the first Baystate Medical Center nurse to achieve certification in ambulatory care nursing.

Ann Kemenick ’78, MS ’81 started a private health coaching practice four years ago. With a background in metabolics/hormones/diabetes, her focus is helping individuals integrate lifestyle changes, including diet, exercise, and stress reduction. She helps individuals with ADD/ADHD develop an understanding for how foods impact attention/mood and focus, helps midlife women and men understand why previous strategies in maintaining health no longer work, and promotes cholesterol reduction through lifestyle changes as an alternative to medication.

Mary (McCarthy) Paschal ’78, MS ’81 works as the program coordinator for the Joslin Clinic in Needham, Massachusetts.

Eileen Burke-Klein ’80 writes, “I have fond memories of my years at BC and recall the fantastic students I met and worked so closely with. I currently live in Southern California, and am married with three children. I went on and obtained an MS in industrial hygiene/occupational health. My work as an occupational health consultant was very interesting and I plan on re-entering the workforce as my last child will start driving shortly.”

Lauren (Mc-Sweeney) Labreche ’80 reports that Jennifer (Guidacci) Anderson, MS ’01, Lisa Ruffy, MS ’01, and herself all work in drug safety and risk management at Biogen Idec in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She notes, “All three of us previously worked in more traditional nursing roles but found our way into this exciting and challenging field that not many nurses know about.” Lauren learned about the opportunities available in the pharmaceutical industry while earning the Clinical Research Certificate offered by the Connell School’s Continuing Education Program.

Sandra (Price) Shapira ’80 is an adjunct nursing professor at Middlesex Community College. She recently published an article, “Addressing Self-Injury in the School Setting,” in the Journal of School Nursing. Based on the current research, this article offers a plan for preventing self-injury, referral, and early access to care for those adolescents who self-injure in the school setting.

Christine Carlock ’81 recently published “Ethics and the Double Bind of Palliative Sedation” in Nursing Spectrum. Carlock writes, “The article discusses the rule of double effect, which has its origin in Catholic theological teaching.”

Regina (Miller) Prindle ’82 earned a PhD in education from the University of Idaho, and is currently working as an assistant professor of nursing at Biola University in La Mirada, California. She writes, “Working in higher education is very rewarding. I have the opportunity to mentor and assist nursing students, as well as contribute to the growth of knowledge.”

Valerie D. Lewis-Masley ’79 is in a master’s degree program, studying pastoral ministry with a concentration in Christian spirituality, at the Immaculate Conception School of Theology at Seton Hall University. She plans to cultivate her expertise in Christian bioethics, modeled on the teachings of the Catholic Church, to serve in pastoral ministry to those who are suffering with chronic and terminal illnesses.

Valerie is looking forward to returning to Boston College in July 2009 for the AHANA Reconnect reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of AHANA, as well as her 50th class reunion.

Mary Jane (Healey) Scott ’79 has worked for the past 10 years in school health, at elementary, high school, and college levels. She currently works at the MGH Institute of Health Professions as program manager of their new accelerated BSN program. She also works as a nursing boards specialist, having privately tutored over 500 students for the NCLEX-RN exam, with a 95% pass rate.

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at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. She teaches in both the bachelor’s and master’s programs.

Karen K. Giuliano ’84, PhD ’05 has been putting her research skills to good as a principal scientist at Philips Healthcare in Andover, Massachusetts. In her role, Karen is responsible for directing the clinical outcomes research program in physiology patient monitoring. In addition to directing the clinical research program, Karen’s nursing experience is a valuable asset in product development, and she is an active member of the R&D team. She notes, “Ten years ago I could never have imagined leaving the bedside. However, from the time I entered critical care I have had a keen interest in the responsible use of critical care technology. Being able to impact the development of that technology by working at Philips has been a very rewarding experience for me.”

Cynthia C. (Schipani) Adams, MS ’85 recently earned a doctoral degree in educational leadership at the University of Hartford. Cindy earned the Regents’ Honor Award for Graduate Studies for her doctoral research. She has presented her dissertation, “Dying with Dignity in America: The Transformational Leadership of Florence Wald” at many regional conferences, and recently had an article accepted for publication in the Journal of Professional Nursing. Cindy was also chosen by Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell as the 2008 Connecticut Nurse of the Year for her contribution to educating nurses from diverse backgrounds. Cindy and her husband John live in Granby, Connecticut with their children Ben and Hanna.

Mark Huether ’85 is the chief nurse anesthetist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He writes, “I am attaching a photo of myself with Kristin Cina, a Connell School senior, spending the day in the operating room with me. As part of Kristin’s clinical rotation in our PACU, she spent a full day in the operating room observing my advanced clinical practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). In addition, Kristen had the opportunity to provide actual patient care by learning and administering airway management to several peri-operative patients. It is very gratifying for me to be able to share my experience and passion for nurse anesthesia with students.”

Donna (Malone) Fleurus ’85 recently obtained an MSN from Monmouth University, and has been working as a school nurse for the past five years. She lives in New Jersey with her husband Michael (A&S ’85) and their three children: Jennifer, a junior at Boston College; Michael Ryan, a high school senior, and Matthew, a 7th grade student.

Ann (Fallon) Hessien ’86 is a pediatric nurse practitioner, working at the Norwood, Mass. office of Dedham Medical Associates. She lives with her husband and two children in Canton, Mass.

NEWS: ALUMNAE/I, FACULTY MEMBER INDUCTED AS AAN FELLOWS

Six out of the 92 American Academy of Nursing (AAN) fellows inducted in 2008 were Connell School alumnae/i, including one faculty member. Fellows are selected by their peers for outstanding contributions and achievements in nursing. The AAN has approximately 1,500 fellows, leaders in nursing education, management, practice, and research. AAN fellows pledge to work toward a better healthcare system by enhancing quality of care, reducing health inequalities, promoting healthy behaviors, and integrating mental and physical care.

Rosanna F. DeMarco, MS ’76 is an associate professor at the Connell School. Committed to examining marginalization and health behaviors through partnerships with women living with HIV/AIDS, she is the co-producer of an HIV prevention education film entitled Women’s Voices Women’s Lives. The film is used by AIDS service organizations across the country and has been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. The Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses honored DeMarco with its Research Award and Boston College bestowed its University Alumni Award of Excellence in Health Care to her in 2007.

Deborah A. Chyun ’78 is a director of the Florence S. Downs PhD Program in Nursing Research and Theory Development, as well as associate co-director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at the College of Nursing, at New York University. Chyun’s research is focused on cardiac-related outcomes, psychosocial and behavioral factors, and quality of life in older adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Her findings have made a significant contribution to knowledge of cardiac autonomic neuropathy and asymptomatic heart disease, and have been incorporated into the American Diabetes Association’s clinical practice recommendations.

Elizabeth A. Henneman ’79 is an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Nursing and a practicing critical care nurse. Her work is dedicated to identifying and implementing the transformative changes needed to improve patient and family outcomes. Henneman’s work has consistently recognized the need for an interdisciplinary approach to solving complex healthcare problems, and she is currently collaborating on projects that include nurses, physicians, computer scientists, engineers, pharmacists, and business operations managers.

Eileen M. Stuart-Shor, MS ’94, Post-MS ’92 is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a nurse practitioner and cardiology research fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Stuart-Shor’s clinical work focuses on health disparities and improving cardiovascular outcomes for underserved populations. Her work establishing a nurse-led model for homeless individuals was recognized with a Schweitzer Fellowship and Humanitarian Award from the City of Boston.

Joseph O. Schmelz, PhD ’96 is best known for his leadership in the protection of research participants as Institutional Review Board director at UT Health Science Center in Austin, Texas. Having served in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps for more than 20 years, Schmelz worked with Elizabeth Bridges to develop a program of research focused on the unique environment of military cargo aircraft reconfigured to transport critically wounded soldiers, in which even ordinary nursing care becomes extraordinarily difficult. Their “Care in the Air” research has significantly changed nursing practice and improved outcomes of transported patients.

Dianne M. Danis, MS ’81 is the director for nursing practice innovation at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Madison. She has made many contributions to emergency, flight, and trauma nursing, and has served in many roles including clinical nurse, trauma program manager, emergency nursing clinical nurse specialist, manager for adult and pediatric emergency departments and on the staff of a state emergency medical services agency. Danis has a long association with the Emergency Nurses Association, and was awarded its most prestigious commendation, the Judith C. Kelleher Award.
Katie Manclina Galllon ’97 and her husband, Brian, had their first son, Charlie, this past July. She works in Kansas City, Missouri for Children’s Mercy Hospital as a nursing program coordinator and health coach for weight management with the PHT Kids Program. Katie writes, “I’m loving every minute of motherhood! I’m keeping busy traveling, bicycling, walking, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.”

Darlene Silva Bingham ’98 is a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Ill. Darlene is married to Jeff Bingham, and has an eight-month-old daughter, Piper.

Beth-Ann Norton, MS ’95 is a nurse practitioner at the Massachusetts General Hospital’s Concussion Center. Prior to this, she worked at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in the Division of Colorectal Surgery. She recently co-authored a poster presented at the Concussion’s and Concussion Foundation of America’s (CCFA) Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Disease entitled, “Communicating Information to Concussion’s Disease Patients for Treatment Decision Making.” Beth-Ann’s daughter, Meredith, is a sophomore at Boston College, majoring in psychology and English. On a sad note, Beth-Ann reports that her husband of 22 years passed away in November, 2005.

2000s
Talin Barsoumian ’00 is a clinical practice leader at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where she manages a 94-bed telemetry unit. She writes, “I have been there since earning an MS in nursing administration in 2005, and have enjoyed the challenges that come with a leadership position.” Talin married her husband Leon in May 2006, and lives in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Jennifer Maloney ’00 is a student at NYU, earning an MSN in adult acute care advanced practice nursing. She currently works in New York City as a critical care RN.

Jennifer (DeNino) Kolenda ’01 writes, “I continue to live in Atlanta and work as an acute care nurse practitioner in neurological care at Emory Health Care.”

Deborah D’Avolio, PhD ’01 is a geriatric specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, creating an innovative program designed to advance the care of older adults. The initiative is part of an 18-month geriatric nursing leadership academy offered by the International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau.

Cynthia Moreira ’03 completed a dual-degree program in 2008, receiving an MSN from Simmons College and an MS in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is now working at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago as a nurse practitioner in the area of breast cancer.

Britt (Frisk) Pados ’03 had an abstract published in Cardiology in the Young entitled, “Feeding Methods and Growth Trajectories in Infants Following Norwood and Norwood-Sano Procedures.” She also had an article published in the journal Pediatric Healthcare entitled, “The Blue Baby Blues: A Rare Case of Cyanosis in the Newborn.” She is working on a research project, “Heart Rate Variability as a Measure of Physiological Work of Feeding in the Preterm Infant,” and presented findings at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference this past February.

Shamsa (Saber) Chahoud ’04 earned a master’s in nursing and health care administration from the University of Pennsylvania in December 2008. She continues to work at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in the emergency department/trama center, while also teaching pediatric clinical nursing for the University of Pennsylvania.

Karen Daley, MS ’04 received the 2008 International Sharps Injury Prevention Award. Karen is currently conducting her dissertation research, which looks at the meanings associated with the experience of sharps injuries. She encourages nurses who have sustained a sharps injury in the past 24 months to contact her at dalityg@hlbi.edu for information about participating in her study.

Sarah Joy Carlson ’05 writes, “I was accepted to Johns Hopkins for a dual master’s in nursing and public health, but deferred my graduate studies for one year to volunteer in Liberia with a faith-based NGO. Liberia is five years past war and healthcare is minimal. There is no electricity, no water or sewage system, and no electric stoves. Hand pumps are now being dug to prevent the many waterborne sicknesses that are killing so many. I have been able to deliver babies, treat severe hot water and hot oil burns, assess patients, give daily health talks and daily devotions in the clinics, teach workshops for the clinic staff, organize the first-ever county health fair, organize clinical renovations, and help write clinical protocols and guidelines. I am excited to start graduate school in July of this year and excited to see the way God continues to grow my heart.”

Karen Schulte, MS ’07, pictured here (left) with Caitlin O’Callaghan Gannan, MS ’07 and Janine Zaroumski, MS ’07 at Caitlin’s wedding, writes, “I’ve been promoted to director of clinical trials nursing operations at the Cancer Institute. Recently, I started working at the Clinical Research Center at MGH on White 13 as a derm nurse practitioner where I am able to utilize my research background in a clinical setting as an advanced practice nurse.”

Laura Reed, MS ’07 is a nurse practitioner in kidney and pancreas transplants at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia. She notes, “Although I’m not currently working specifically in geriatrics, I continue to enjoy the older adult population and look forward to future endeavors dedicated to geriatrics.”
Nursing as a service profession

I knew that I wanted to be a nurse by the time I was five years old. Maybe it was the nursing cap and pin given to me by my Aunt Peg or seeing the many ways that she was able to help others. During my childhood and young adult years, I never questioned my decision to become a nurse. I believed then, as I do now, that dedicating one’s life to serving people experiencing illness was among the most noble things that a person could do. I vividly recall the first time I was present for the birth of a child born to a single mother, and the first time I held the hand of a patient who was dying alone. These experiences left me with an indelible feeling about the sacred connection that can be forged between human beings. People who are complete strangers can transcend the illusion of independence, and experience a deep sense of interconnectedness in these moments.

Over time, my practice has shifted from a focus on individuals to a focus on communities and populations. This shift has been prompted by my appreciation of the ways that social, economic, and environmental forces shape health. It has become increasingly clear to me that some groups—by nature of their socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or other characteristics—are systematically denied the resources necessary to maintain their health.

Health disparities are undeniably an issue of social justice and human rights. I have struggled with the notion that, as a highly educated middle-class white woman, I have benefited from the social systems and hierarchies of power from which these disparities arise. My deepening appreciation for this aspect of interconnectedness has altered my sense of what it means to be a member of a service profession. In my work with communities, I do not see myself as the “provider of service,” but rather a partner in pursuit of a shared agenda: health equity. There is a well-known adage: “If you want peace, work for justice.” Work in pursuit of justice is a service, and a benefit, to us all.

The insights that I offer stem from the philosophical perspective that nursing exists to serve the needs of persons for humane interactions in health and illness, choice, quality of life, and healing in living and dying. Service begins with the possibility of altruism and the understanding that we all have life experiences in which we need the help of others. Service uses knowledge about the human condition and awareness, arising out of one’s own experiences, of what “being well” and “experiencing suffering” might mean for individuals, families, communities, and societies. That is, according to Donaldson, “the knowledge of the discipline must ultimately support service to clients and the health of society.”

Historically, nurses met the health needs of humans wherever they were—in their homes, in war zones, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, mental health residential settings, etc.—and exercised their special interest in vulnerable populations, or those most in need. Service involves observing and listening to human experiences of transition, challenge, suffering, and healing, so that we know how to proceed most effectively. Service involves recognizing both the person and environmental factors that influence prospects for health and healing and transformation and change even when there are bodily disruptions in biological function, psychosocial functional status, quality of life, and perceived health. Nurses, with their acute observation skills, knowledge of human care, and consequent conception of professional responsibility, are the perfect collaborators. They are able to bring together synoptically a view of the whole that is crucial in the contemporary world given the environmental, economic, and social conditions of our time.

Danny G. Willis, DNSc, MSN, RN is an assistant professor at the Connell School.

Jennifer Dacey Allen, DSc, MPH is an assistant professor at the Connell School.

MALNUTRITION BRACELET
This bracelet is a simple tool used in Haiti to measure malnutrition. Nurses and community health workers measure the length of the child’s upper arm with the string, then wrap the band around the upper arm. The color bars show whether the child’s arm is too thin, indicating malnutrition.

Daniel Willis | Jennifer Allen