

Hartwick Nursing News

Fall/Winter 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Jeanne-Marie Havener
Ph.D., APRN, CNS

A recent trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC caused me to reflect on Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* (1959) and the phrase *et lux in tenebris lucent*—and the light shineth in the darkness. This Latin phrase strikes me as symbolic of the hope one can feel and elicit in moments of deep despair and loss.

As we struggle as a nation and a college community to grapple with current economic events amidst our everyday struggles, I remain hopeful. Part of that hope springs from my encounters with students who represent a bright and promising future, and part springs from alums who continue to share with us all of the good work they do to make the world a better place for those in need of care.

While nursing schools nationwide report cuts in expenditures, reductions in workforce, and decreased enrollments, we have not faced such drastic measures. Certainly, we have tightened our belts and watched our expenditures closely, and we expect to continue to do so. But we will weather this storm.

As Chair of the Department, I thank you for what you do to bring hope and inspiration to the lives of others, and I encourage you to share those stories with us and others. As well, I urge you to tell bright and promising students in your local universe about the richness of a career in nursing and the transformative power of a Hartwick nursing education. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Celebrating and supporting Nursing at Hartwick



The Yager Museum of Art & Culture celebrates the story of generations of Nursing students in a new exhibition, "**The History of Nursing at Hartwick College**," which opened October 2 and runs through December 18. The exhibition traces student experiences from the program's beginnings in 1943 through today. Text panels describe the evolution of the program, including the Cadet Nurse Corps, the establishment of the Nursing Department and the baccalaureate degree, accreditation, and the establishment of J Term programs. The exhibition demonstrates how administrators balanced a liberal arts education on campus with meaningful clinical experience off campus. Museum Studies students planned and researched the exhibition.



Congratulations to **Sharon Davidson Dettnerieder '65**, who was honored in October during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend as the first recipient of the President's Award for Liberal Arts in Practice. The recognition celebrates Sharon's dedication to a Hartwick education and the values she has incorporated into her work. She developed the College's Transcultural Nursing program, which provides an experiential link for Hartwick nurses and has benefited the lives of people in St. Thomas' Parish, Jamaica. She also established the Omicron Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Hartwick and was instrumental in development of the Partnership for Nursing Opportunities Program with Bassett Healthcare, benefiting Hartwick students and the broader community.

Dr. Jeanne-Marie Havener, Department Chair and Associate Professor, announced the launch of the **Friends of Hartwick Nursing Fund** at the Nursing Recognition Dinner during Reunion Weekend. This fund will provide restricted support for Hartwick's Nursing Department. Funding priorities may include scholarships for transcultural nursing, nursing lab equipment, Nursing Students without Borders, and the Hartwick College Association of Student Nurses. Look for more information in the mail in the coming months. If you would like to make a gift to the Friends of Hartwick Nursing Fund, contact Stacey Grady '03 at gradys@hartwick.edu or 607-431-4044.

Why I Give

Candace Jeffres '77, MS, RNC, CWOCN, FNP

It doesn't seem possible that it was more than 30 years ago I first visited Hartwick College. I learned about Hartwick's Nursing program through the sister of a friend who was already a Nursing student at Hartwick. She had great things to say about the College and the Nursing professors. I wanted to attend a small, private college with a friendly atmosphere, an excellent reputation, and smaller classroom sizes. Hartwick seemed to have just what I was looking for.

Not a day goes by that I am not thankful for the education I received. My professors were very kind, compassionate people who were interested in the emotional well-being of their students. One afternoon, I was caring for a terminally ill elderly man. When I went to lunch, he passed away. When I returned to the floor, my professor told me the news. I was heartbroken and consumed with guilt because I was not with him when he died. My professor called me at the dorm that night and talked to me for an hour. She wanted to make sure I was OK. It was an act of kindness I still think about some 33 years later. That night, I learned about some of the qualities that define a nurse. It isn't just about the compassion and kindness nurses show to their patients. It also is about caring and supporting one another. Behind every nurse is a teacher or mentor who provides inspiration, encouragement, and support.

I often reflect upon the education I received at Hartwick and how it provided the foundation for a successful and rewarding career in nursing. I invite you to think about your own Hartwick experiences and how they contributed to your personal and professional growth. Although we are living in challenging economic times, I am asking you to pay it forward and consider making a financial contribution to the Nursing program. These contributions help sustain the program and ensure that the same quality Nursing education we received will continue for generations to come.

IN MEMORIAM



Harriet Babcock 1924-2009: Harriet Babcock '46, friend of the Hartwick College Department of Nursing, died at Otsego Manor on June 16, 2009. Harriet entered the first Cadet Nurse Corps class at Hartwick and was the first nurse 'capped' at Hartwick.

Harriet continued her education at Western Reserve University and the University at Pittsburgh, where she earned her master's degree. She was a community health nurse in Chenango County, a supervising nurse for the Central New York district, and a professor of nursing at SUNY Morrisville.

Perrie Saxton, former Chair of the Department, remembers Harriet's alumni involvement and interest in students and the program. An early advocate of Baccalaureate and continuing education for women, she established the Harriet Babcock Nursing Scholarship, awarded annually to a non-traditional rising Nursing senior transfer student or RN student pursuing a baccalaureate degree.

The RN Mobility program decided to document the Cadet Nurse Corps story at Hartwick for its senior thesis project, and Harriet's involvement in the videotaping sessions, luncheons, and the Research Evening Dinner was invaluable to students presenting this project. Her cap was hand embroidered with "HC" by the founder of the Cadet Nursing program, Edith Lacy, and a friend when the caps did not arrive as ordered, and has been donated to the College Archives.

ALUMNI NEWS

Marlene Forpahl Calhoun '63 retired in 2008 and is spending time in Cooperstown and Clarkdale, AZ.

Dinah McClure '62, Mary Downing, Carol Anderson '62, Emily Mikulewicz '62, Mary Lu Eshelman '62, Barry Browning '62, and Merriam Boening '62 were at the dedication ceremony for the granite bench at Leitzell, a gift from the Class of 1962, who still remembers the joys and successes at Hartwick.

Mary Kinyon Cox '79 sent best wishes to **Pat Knapp** and said **Allison Dorn, Elaine Kansas, Debbie Ashton, Suzi Berger, Miggie Hamblen, and Mary Hensberry** continue to meet each summer in New England for a Hartwick Ladies Weekend. They are thankful for the education, experiences, and friendships made at Hartwick.

Shelley Polinsky Lynch, CCRN '00 is a clinical adjunct professor. Shelley became a travel nurse after graduation, journeying all over the United States and in Central America, Southeast Asia, and Europe. She traveled to Nepal this fall in hopes of forming a relationship with a Sherpa clinic for volunteer opportunities. She has published continuing-education courses with RN.com on ICU topics and is now completing her MSN coursework. "I never stop learning," she said, which is an asset for an educator.

Tara Sacco '03 had an article published in June's issue of *Critical Care Nurse* about a family support group she developed with her former manager, tied to family inclusive care in the ICU.

Jess Benetti Palozie '05 shared that she and her research advisor's study for a motivational pamphlet to learn CPR and AED has been accepted for publication in 2010 by the *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*. She has begun clinical at Hartford Hospital in CT Surgery ICU, a different role with new responsibilities and challenges.

Congratulations to **Joanna McCall '05** on giving birth to a baby boy, Jacob Daniel, in July.

Best wishes to **Laura Nester Amedro '05**, who will begin her master's in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at University of Michigan. Laura worked at a local hospital in Denver in the mother-baby unit right after graduation, then spent several years as a mother-baby travel nurse and now is settled in Michigan, where she works in the trauma burn intensive care unit at Michigan Hospital. A dramatic change, but she says it is an excellent learning experience.

Congratulations to **Deborah Lumia '06**, who graduated in May 2009 from Stony Brook as a psych nurse practitioner.

Rita Casassa '07 is now the maternal child health coordinator for the Otsego County Public Health Department.

Martha Desta '08 is working as a dialysis nurse in NYC.

Juliana Van de Krol '09 was offered a position in medical oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando.

Stacey Datthyn '06 is living in Connecticut and working at Yale New Haven Hospital in the Pediatric ICU. She and **Katie Holley '05** were in the same orientation class!

Wick Nurses Blog:

Check out www.hartwick.edu to read the Wick Nurses Blog. **Christina Evans, Catherine Bell, and Rebecca Martt** are answering questions and writing about their activities in the Nursing program.



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Hartwick College Department of Nursing Alumni Committee is accepting nominations for its Distinguished Alumnus/a Award.

Our alumni represent the Department and College locally, nationally, and internationally through their work as nursing professionals. The Department takes pride in the accomplishments of its alumni, but needs assistance in identifying those who meet the following award criteria:

The Distinguished Alumnus/a Award is the highest recognition given by the Department of Nursing's Alumni Committee to an alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated continuous, outstanding, creative, and exemplary contributions to the profession of nursing or to healthcare. Nominees must be Hartwick College Nursing graduates and will be considered on the basis of leadership, achievement, and contribution in the areas of academia, administration, clinical practice, research, and/or service (professional and community). When submitting nominations, please indicate in which area the nominee should be considered. Nominations should be accompanied by information that supports the nomination (e.g., letters of support and pertinent materials such as a CV or resume). All nominations should be submitted no later than January 30 to Hartwick College, Attn: Alumni Committee, Department of Nursing, PO Box 4020, Oneonta, NY 13820.



(HCASN) represents Nursing students throughout the community. This year, they've painted pumpkins for local nursing homes and the pediatric unit at Albany Medical Center, raised money for the Senior Pinning Ceremony through a fundraiser at Applebee's, decorated for the Fox Gala, volunteered for a Bassett Healthcare study, and sold syringe pens and T-shirts during the spring semester.



Sigma Inductees Congratulations to **Alexandra Brophy**; **Cathy Coughlin-Phraner, RN**; **Christina Evans**; **Erin Fleming**; **Ashley Gee**; **Khadine Harrow**; **Sarabeth Henderson**; **Lisa Lucas**; **Patricia Otis, RN**; **Elizabeth Sauerbier**; and **Catherine Scorzafava**, who were inducted October 16 into the **Omicron Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International**, the only international nursing honor society in the world. Membership is a privilege bestowed upon those who exhibit leadership and excellence in nursing. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by Dr. Jeanne Westcott to **Sarah Hardic Lidell** for her support and involvement in the Nursing program.



Pinning Ceremony, May 22, 2009 Congratulations to students **Elizabeth Alonzo**; **Jennifer Babcock**; **Samantha Bernholz**; **Emily Biers**; **Stacey Clark**; **Matthew Cramer**; **Ashley Daigle**; **Brittany Decker, RN**; **Shirley Earl, RN**; **Amelia Feller**; **Nicole Finger**; **Shana Hall**; **Lindsay Kurtz**; **Lauren Moak**; **Samantha O'Leary**; **Dominica Roberts**; **Daniel Rodriguez**; **Richelle Schmidt**; **Anna Siudy, RN**; **Katherine Swanson**; **Nicole Timi**; **Juliana Van de Krol**; **Melissa Worthington, RN**; and **Rheanna Wright**.

Nursing Success

Senior Thesis Theatre Project Sarabeth Henderson '10

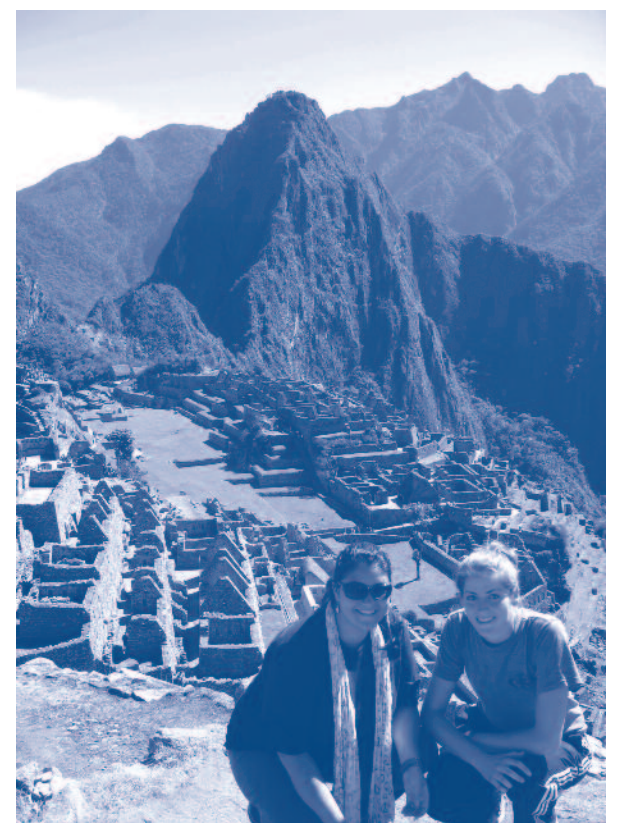
Every action a nurse takes is based on an extensive body of knowledge, whether it involves empirical facts or something more abstract. In Nursing education, the focus has been almost exclusively on empirical and ethical knowledge, leaving students to engage in their own personal growth and knowledge of the deeper human connection in a much more independent manner. Teaching the humanistic aspects of care is more difficult, as it relies on one's personal interpretation of experiences. Literature, poetry, visual arts, and drama are being explored as a means to foster a deeper human connection between nurses and their patients. In particular, theatre arts are being explored as an innovative way to give nurses insight into the human experience of patients. My senior thesis will explore current literature on the effectiveness of using theatre arts as a teaching method to help teach non-empirical knowledge. The last section of the thesis will outline a plan for a theatre arts program that invites elders from the community to share their experiences. In the spring, this will be used to apply for a Freedman Prize, which would be used to invite a group of elders from the Oneonta community to meet once a week and work on writing skits about their own experiences in the healthcare system and the impact these experiences had on their lives. The goal of the project is to introduce new teaching methods that foster the growth of nursing knowledge beyond the boundaries of traditional empirics.

Honors Convocation 2009 Award Winners

Amanda Carvill '10
Nursing Alumni Award
Erin Fleming '10
Andrew B. Saxton Fellowship
in Nursing
Khadine Harrow '10
Faculty Scholar Award
Sarabeth Henderson '10
Faculty Scholar Award
Lindsay Kurtz '09
A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital
Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice
Juliana Van de Krol '09
Omicron Rho Chapter Sigma Theta Tau
Denise Ruley, RN '09
Omicron Rho Chapter Sigma Theta Tau
Catherine Scorzafava '10
Harriet Babcock Nursing Scholarship
Katherine Vergara-Cajiao '10
Edith M. Lacey Memorial Nursing Award
Grace Jones Spain Scholarship



Distinguished Alumna Award This year's Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Dr. **Linda Reckhow Thomson '72** during the Pinning Ceremony in May. The award honors a Hartwick College Nursing graduate who represents excellence through contributions to practice, research, education, or service. Dr. Thomson was honored for her educational credentials and dedication to the principals of Hartwick Nursing. Thomson, who as a student was named a John Christopher Hartwick Scholar, continued her education and received a nurse practitioner degree in 1975, a master of science in nursing degree in 1977, and her Ph.D. in 2001. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner and medical hypnotherapist in Vermont and has published on various subjects for professional journals.



The Peru Trip '09

BY **KATHERINE VERGARA-CAJIAO '10** &
CAROLINE POWERS '10

What noise does a llama make? During the summer of 2009, we ventured to Cusco, Peru, to find out. Along with a plethora of new cultural experiences, we were able to work and live among the community members of the small and historically preserved portion of South America. We traveled to Peru as volunteers at Mantay Casa, a woman's shelter that opens its doors to young mothers who are victims of sexual violence. Mantay not only offers its facilities as a shelter for the mothers and their children, but as a school and workplace that teaches them the skills to support themselves and their children when they leave the shelter. Living among local Cusqueñas was a truly unique experience. Throughout our time in Peru, we found ourselves out of our comfort zones, working within a culture very different from our own, and indulging in the unique local cuisine for an average of \$3 per meal. Weekend trips to archeological sites, such as Machu Picchu and Ollantaytambo, helped us not only appreciate the beauty of the country, but gain cultural information about the Peruvian people. Reflecting on our experience, we were able to gain additional cultural and clinical competence. Round trip flights to South America: \$1,400. Fuzzy llama fur slippers: \$10. Finding out that llamas do not make noise: Priceless.

The Department of Nursing is saddened to announce the death of senior Nursing student **Brandi Estelow**, 23, of Oxford, NY. Brandi was the eldest daughter of Steven and Dena (Diamond) Estelow and a member of St. Joseph's Church of Oxford. She graduated from Oxford Academy and Central School in 2004 and attended Gannon University for three years prior to enrolling at Hartwick to study Nursing. Although Brandi is no longer with us, her cheerful presence will long be remembered. Memorial contributions may be made to Oxford Dollars for Scholars, PO Box 192, Oxford, NY 13830.