

# DeckerScope

35th Anniversary Edition

News from DECKER SCHOOL OF NURSING

## Decker celebrates 35 years of excellence in nursing education



The Decker School of Nursing has planned a number of events to celebrate its 35th anniversary. For more information, visit the website at [dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/35th\\_Anniversary\\_Calendar\\_Events.htm](http://dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/35th_Anniversary_Calendar_Events.htm).



This year marks the 35th anniversary of excellence in nursing education for the Decker School of Nursing (DSON). Established in 1969, the Decker School has built a regional and national reputation for outstanding professional nursing education through its visionary commitment to teaching, research and practice, and for the excellent caliber of nursing professionals it graduates. The school is especially proud to be the only nursing school in the nation with a PhD program in Rural Nursing and the first PhD program in nursing to be offered at a public institution in New York.

One of 31 schools of nursing in New York that offer baccalaureate and higher degrees, in April 1999 the Decker School received 10-year accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) with no recommendations, denoting the highest level of accreditation that can be achieved. The school's standards of excellence are reflected by the current 91 percent pass rate on the State Board Examination, which is considerably higher than the national norm.

Each year Decker produces the second largest number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in the state. The May 2004 graduating class boasted 83 baccalaureate degree graduates, 28 Baccalaureate Accelerated Track graduates (the Decker School's one-year program for persons who already have a

bachelor's degree in another field), 15 master's degree graduates and one graduating PhD student (see commencement story, page 2). It's hard to believe that the Decker School's very first graduating Class of 1973 had just 20 students.

In the past two years, the school has had more than a 200 percent increase in applications to the undergraduate nursing program. Fall 2004 undergraduate enrollment reached 420 students, with more than 180 of those enrolled in the junior clinical class. Notably, 12 percent of enrollees are male compared with the national average of only 5 percent.

"The Decker School of Nursing has a remarkable history, producing more than 3,000 graduates who are filling critical positions in the healthcare system at the local, state and national levels," said Dean Sarah H. Gueldner. "And the best is yet to come! We have as many outstanding applicants as we can accept, and in fact I have never worked with finer students and faculty. Decker School alumni all around the country, on faculties in many states, in the NIH, hold prestigious positions with many having gone on after graduating to earn master's and several earning doctoral degrees in nursing," she said.

In 1975 the Decker School acquired a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission that

*(continued on page 5)*

# Decker News

## Decker School celebrates August 2003 BAT and Class of 2004 graduates

Congratulations to Decker School of Nursing Class of 2004 and Baccalaureate Accelerated Track August 2003 graduates! For the first time in 20 years, the Binghamton University campus hosted commencement in the new Binghamton University Events Center. Families and friends gathered for the excitement of the professional schools ceremony on Sunday, May 16. Attendees witnessed conferral of degrees to graduates, including 83 Decker School of Nursing baccalaureate degree candidates, 28 Baccalaureate Accelerated Track graduates, 15 master's degree candidates and one graduating PhD student.

Keeping with tradition, the Decker School hosted its annual recognition ceremonies and receptions to honor outstanding academic work, clinical practice

and other achievements of nursing school students and faculty. Recognition awards were bestowed to accelerated students completing programs of study in August 2003. Traditional track grads received their honors Saturday, May 15. Both recognition ceremonies were held in the Anderson Center for the Arts Osterhout Concert Theater (see page 3).



*In honor of the 35th anniversary of the Decker School of Nursing, Professor Connie Bareford, PhD, MA, BS '73 (above with Dean Sarah H. Gueldner, DSN, FAAN, during Homecoming '04 weekend) was invited to participate in the May recognition ceremony as a representative of Decker's first graduating Class of 1973. Dr. Bareford is the contact for other 1973 Decker alumni wishing to participate with former classmates in 35th anniversary events. Dr. Bareford's bio is available at [dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/bareford.html](http://dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/bareford.html), and she is profiled in this issue (see page 10). All Decker alumni interested in 35th anniversary events should view the schedule of events online at [dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/35th\\_Anniversary\\_Calendar\\_Events.htm](http://dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/35th_Anniversary_Calendar_Events.htm). The schedule will be updated periodically as planning progresses.*

At the May recognition ceremony, guests and degree candidates were welcomed by Dean Sarah H. Gueldner, DSN, FAAN, and Vice President for External Affairs Thomas F. Kelly, PhD. Following Dean Gueldner's welcome, graduating senior Amy K. Liebenow '04 sang "The Star Spangled Banner." The student-elected undergraduate faculty speaker was Alison Dura, MS, ARPN, BC, clinical lecturer, who was followed by Kane M. Carpentier '04, elected by classmates to give the student address. The student-elected graduate faculty speaker was Mary (Masha) X. Britten, EdD, RN, director of undergraduate programs and professor.



*David McDonald '04 (center) after receiving a 2004 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence at the April 19 ceremony held at the Empire State Convention Center in Albany. McDonald is shown with H. Stephen Straight (left), vice provost for undergraduate education and professor of anthropology and of linguistics; and Chancellor Robert L. King.*



*Heather L. Ungleich '04 (center) after receiving a 2004 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence at the April 19 ceremony held at the Empire State Convention Center in Albany. Ungleich is shown with H. Stephen Straight (left), vice provost for undergraduate education and professor of anthropology and of linguistics, and Chancellor Robert L. King.*



*Lisa A. Kurz '04 (right) poses at the Binghamton University Honors Day celebration on April 23 with Dean Sarah H. Gueldner after receiving a 2004 University Award for Student Excellence.*

## Decker School of Nursing Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients 2004

### Air Force Nursing Excellence Awards

(Presented to students with a 3.0 and higher GPA)  
 43 Traditional Program May 2004 nursing degree candidates and 24 Baccalaureate Accelerated Track August 2003 nursing degree candidates received this award.

### Army Nurse Corps Spirit of Nursing Award

Denise A. Cornell

### Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence

David McDonald and Heather L. Ungleich (see photos at left)

### Decker Foundation Award for Academic Excellence

(Presented at the Baccalaureate Accelerated Track recognition ceremony held August 2003)

Rebecca A. Smith '03

### Decker Foundation Award for Clinical Excellence

(Awarded at the Baccalaureate Accelerated Track recognition ceremony held August 2003)

Emily A. Sorge '03

### Dennis Jimenez Memorial Award

Nancy R. Schneider

### Excellence in Advanced Nursing Awards

For Family Health Nursing — Stephanie E. Sullivan

For Community Health Nursing — John Rovente (Deceased)

### Foundation Award for Academic Excellence

Julie M. Mangano

### Geraldine M. Dowling Memorial Award in Gerontological Nursing

Rita C. Bergevin, MA, RN, BC, clinical assistant professor

### Jessica Mally Memorial Award

Tara Matteson

### José Reichel Research Awards

Gina M. Myers and Mary Ann Baron

### Mary E. Mahoney Leadership and Service Award

Nadege Elol

### Mary Pillepich Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice

Tara Matteson

### Registered Professional Nurse Baccalaureate Award

Melissa A. Schmutzler

### Sara Ainspan Memorial Award

(Awarded at the Baccalaureate Accelerated Track recognition ceremony held August 2003)

Martha L. Stivers '03

### Sigma Theta Tau Zeta Iota Thesis Award

Mary Ann Baron, Carolyn Christie-McAuliffe and Cori Pane

### Margaret G. Tyson Dean's Award for Excellence

Elizabeth Kay Boland, MS '82, FNP '81, BS '79, vice president of patient care services at United Health Services Hospitals in Binghamton, N.Y.

### University Award for Student Excellence

(Presented at University Honor's Day on April 23)

Lisa A. Kurz (see photo at left)

## DeckerScope

DECKER SCHOOL OF NURSING

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# Decker News

## Kudos



Mary (Masha) X. Britten, EdD, RN

The Decker School congratulates **Mary (Masha) X. Britten, EdD, RN**, associate professor and director of undergraduate programs, on receiving the 2004 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. This award recognizes individuals whose long

history of service to the campus, State University, local community or professional societies and organizations sets them apart, as well as those who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in local or system-wide faculty governance. Britten was honored at an awards ceremony Thursday, October 21, in the Susquehanna Room on campus, where a dinner reception was held.



Dean Sarah H. Gueldner, DSN, FAAN (right) congratulates Maureen M. Daws, MS, APRN, BC, clinical lecturer, on receiving the ELNEC award from the AACN.

are recognized for demonstrated excellence in implementing the ELNEC curriculum. Daws collaborated with **Pat Faber, MS, RN, PNP**, DSON clinical instructor, to develop a course in palliative care offered at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Geraldine Bednash of AACN presented the award at the sixth annual Baccalaureate Education Conference, *Leadership in Baccalaureate Education: Focusing on Students, Faculty, and the Curriculum*, November 16-18, in San Antonio.

Congratulations from DSON also go to **Carolyn Latham, MS, RN, CARN, FNPC**, clinical assistant professor, for being selected as the NYSNA District 5 Honored Nurse of the Year. In celebration of her almost 40 years in the nursing profession, Latham was recognized by District 5 nurses at a special breakfast hosted in her honor this past spring.

**Gale A. Spencer, PhD, RN**, professor and director of the Kresge Center for Nursing Research, received the Faculty Excellence Award in Graduate Mentoring. Spencer was one of four award winners honored at a dinner held at the Copper Cricket restaurant in Binghamton September 8. Nancy Stamp, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, presented each honoree with a certificate of recognition and honorarium of \$1,000.

## Welcome to new faculty and staff

**Jemma Bailey-Kunte**, *clinical lecturer*

**Linda Barnfather**, *lecturer*

**Geraldine (Gerri) R. Britton**, *research assistant professor*

**Donna Eaves**, *adjunct clinical instructor*

**Jackie Kerr**, *administrative assistant for DSON, SEHD and SOM Development*

**Alice March**, *adjunct clinical instructor*

**Mary Ann Nemcek**, *clinical assistant professor*

**Elizabeth (Betsey) M. Romeo**, *clinical instructor*

**Kelly Storrs**, *clinical instructor*

**Jean M. Van Kingsley**, *lecturer*

## Promotions

**Maureen M. Daws**, *from clinical instructor to clinical lecturer*

**Judy A. Monroe**, *from administrative assistant (3/4-time status) to senior academic advisor (full-time status)*

**Judith E. Quaranta**, *from clinical lecturer to clinical assistant professor*

**Elizabeth A. Reese**, *from clinical assistant professor to clinical associate professor*

**Laura Terriquez-Kasey**, *from clinical instructor to clinical lecturer*

## Appointments

**Mary (Masha) X. Britten, EdD, RN**, *undergraduate program director*

## Retirements

**Malithunya (Pinky) J. Mahlangu, MS, RN, FNP**, *clinical lecturer*

## In memoriam

**Hope F. Eason**

**Diane B. Harris, RN, PCNP '03**

**Dennis J. Jimenez**

**John Rovente, BS '02, MS '04, PCNP '04**

## 2004-05 Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Foundation Doctoral Fellowship in Nursing

Elizabeth Austin

Milton M. Evans III

Jamie Klesh

Alice March

Lisa A. Stroud

Nannette F. VanDyke

## 2004-05 Scholarship Awards

**A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation Nursing Scholarship**  
Allison L. Pinney and Meghan S. Shaw

**Arnell Hall Scholarship**  
Kristen M. Ackerbauer and Molly K. MacVean

**Binghamton General Hospital School of Nursing Scholarship**  
Faith M. Burke

**Broome County Community Charities**  
Walter Muzichuk

**Decker School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship**  
Lisa M. Mathew and Doris M. Ortega

**Dr. and Mrs. Orville Nielsen Nursing Scholarship**  
Cory J. Bennett, Heather A. Young and Mikhail Kolomoitsev

**Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Scholarship**  
Kelli L. Ayres, Jennifer M. Blazey, Desiree L. Cabot, Amy L. Chmielewski, Jamie L. Cole, Karen B. Edwards, Haley R. Engel, Marion Gnadt, Larry L. Jenkins, Christine P. Knapp, Jessica A. Lake, Bobby-Jo A. Lutner, Laureen L. Naik, Christy A. O'Donnell, Bonnie J. Parker, Chloe A. Pusey, Pamela J. Simonds-Hess, Jodi Sutherland, Antonette E. Tobin, Kelly D. Winters, Amy M. Day, Melanie D. Farley, Kelly J. Swartz

**Dyer-Johnston-Dixon Scholarship Program given by Binghamton Rotary**  
Faith M. Burke, Antonette E. Tobin, Sarah J. Young

**Good Shepherd-Fairview Foundation Scholarship**  
Amy E. Cron and Brenda L. Kosydar

**Lester Casper Nursing Scholarship**  
Tara Tulowiecki

**Robert and Susan Goodman Okin Scholarship**  
Naomi Rogan

**United Health Services Nursing Scholarship**  
Tierra C. Oliver and Diedrian S. Williams

**William H. Lane Incorporated Scholarship**  
Caitlynn N. McMullen and Sherry Rae

**Wilson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Scholarship**  
Sara J. Beautz

## Decker celebrates 35 years

(continued from page 1)

provided a springboard to begin the post-baccalaureate Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certificate program. The FNP program quickly evolved, and in 1977 the Graduate Nursing Program was initiated, giving candidates the opportunity to earn a master's degree in Family Nursing. Ultimately, candidates had the opportunity to earn masters degrees not only in Family but also in Gerontological and Community Health Nursing.

Decker's FNP program is one of the oldest and most respected in the country, and the Decker School is the primary provider of advanced practice nurses in central New York. Ninety-five percent of Decker School graduate students pass certifying exams on the first attempt — a considerably higher pass rate than the national norm. Currently 68 students are enrolled in the master's degree program.

In addition to preparing students for acute, primary and community health care, the Decker School is nationally recognized for its commitment to and expertise in rural nursing. Located in upstate New York, DSON is within minutes of numerous rural communities, enabling the school to address the healthcare needs of this uniquely underserved group.

In 1999 the Decker School received approval from the state of New York to offer a doctorate in nursing with a focus in rural health. Eight students to date have completed their doctoral programs of study and have been awarded PhDs in rural health nursing. Thirty more are currently enrolled in the doctoral program. Two graduates have gone immediately into post-doctoral research fellowships upon graduation, and the others have assumed important teaching and leadership positions in New York.

With a long history of federal support for its training programs, the Decker School has two federal grants totaling more than \$1.5 million to support the Baccalaureate Accelerated Track undergraduate and Community Health graduate programs. The school also has a considerably larger endowment for faculty positions and student scholarships than most other schools of comparable size.

Additionally, Decker School students and alumni have received a number of state and national awards, including the New York State Coalition of Nurse Practitioners Nurse Practitioner Student of the Year, the New York State Rural Health Association Rural Nurse Practitioner of the Year (see story, page 13), the National Rural Health Association John Snow Award and the SUNY Chancellor's Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards (see awards, page 3).

The school employs 40 highly qualified faculty members, including 22 nurse practitioners, seven clinical nurse specialists and one physician; 17 faculty members are doctorally prepared and have research publications in peer-reviewed journals. Faculty members have also been recognized with numerous state and national awards, including Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Service (see note, page 4) and induction as fellows into the American Academy of Nursing.

Help celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Decker School. Alumni are encouraged to become involved and reconnect with classmates, friends and alma mater. A series of scholarly and social events are in the works. A full calendar of events for the current and coming semesters will continue to be updated online at [dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/35th\\_Anniversary\\_Calendar\\_Events.htm](http://dson.binghamton.edu/alumni/35th_Anniversary_Calendar_Events.htm).

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Decker professor and students travel to Dominican Republic for community health nursing experience

*Cultural awareness and sensitivity to differences and similarities among cultures is a critical part of nursing in our world today. Laura Terriquez Kasey, MS, RN, CEN, clinical instructor, shares her story of a first-time educational experience several Decker School students had while traveling with her to the Dominican Republic in the summer.*

**"Alarga su mano al pobre, y extiende sus manos al menesteroso"**

*Proverbs 31-20*

*Translation: She opens her hand to the poor, she reaches out to the needy*

Our educational objectives while in the Dominican Republic were to engage students in direct patient care, to have them participate

in a community health assessment, and to teach health promotion behaviors to indigenous residents to mitigate the impact of major sources of morbidity and mortality.

The goal of trying to develop an educational program that encompasses nursing in another environ-

ment forces us to then reevaluate how sensitive or insensitive we are in our own culture to the needs of our patients and their families.

The students while in the Dominican Republic were exposed to a variety of patient-care scenarios in different situations in a different environment. Home community visits revealed many patients suffered from chronic diseases and had inadequate medications and inadequate funds to seek initial and follow-up treatments.

In this austere environment, we found ourselves feeling the inadequacies of our own skills and the inadequacies of an entire healthcare system of a third-world country. The knowledge and attitudes we carried from home had not prepared us for some of the problems we would encounter. Each student came with his or her knowledge level and own fears.

As a team, we helped the students to refine their observational and nursing skills to better meet the demands of largely underserved communities in which we worked. We did so by interviewing community health workers and nurses both in the community and in a hospital setting. We also worked with several physicians and several paraprofessionals to become better prepared.



*Decker School of Nursing students experience a slice of everyday life shopping on the streets of the Dominican Republic.*

The communities we visited were both small rural villages, called "bateys," and urban barrio districts. We entered a batey by invitation only, but many allowed us to provide follow-up care after the initial visit because no homecare nursing services are otherwise available.

The Decker team performed basic health screenings for patients. We also educated patients about the need for continued treatment when appropriate. In many cases, the only real assistance we could provide was to offer a referral to one of two regional clinics and to discuss patients' concerns about their medical conditions. The largest problem we encountered was patients running out of medication prescribed by a previous medical team, and the patients' need for a healthcare professional to confirm continued medication still was required.

Students also visited Antonio Musa Hospital, a public hospital where we were invited to work

*(continued on back)*



*Carey L. Stelmack '04 (left) and Alexandra R. Gotea '05 performing a health screening on a baby during one of the team visits to a rural village. Health screenings were performed inside local churches, where the team would go beforehand to set up the clinic in lieu of other accommodations.*

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Generous support for Decker School programs in 2003-04

In the 2003-04 academic year, the Decker School of Nursing received \$444,170 from 434 generous donors, including alumni donations which increased by 26 percent. Private support helped establish student scholarships and fellowships, faculty and academic programs, teaching and learning technologies, and enriched the educational experience for all undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

Leadership contributors of \$1,000 or more earmarked solely for nursing programs include alumni: E. Kay Boland '79, '81, '82; Joseph M. Bress '66; Dr. David R. Cooper '67; Lucille Albergio '82; Mary Ann McCowan Fuchs '82; Robert '77 and Susan Goodman '78 Okin; and Karen S. '76 (Casper) and Jeffrey L. '73 Tanenbaum.

Faculty, staff, parent and friend supporters at this level were: Drs. Sarah H. and Richard C. Guedner, Beverly and William H. Lane, Marcela C. Leahy, Ann and Mark T. O'Neil Jr., Mary Ann and Donald Swain, and Carole Lee (Eustis) and Warren A. Schwomeyer.

Additional corporate, foundation, and organization support was provided by the Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Foundation, Binghamton General Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Broome County Community Charities, Good-Shepherd Fairview Foundation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Rotary Club of Binghamton, the Wilson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Crane Fund for Widows and Children, the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, and William H. Lane, Inc.



*Decker School doctoral student Mary Ann Baron, RN, MS '04 (center), with visitors to the FAST booth at the Meredith Dairy Fest in Meredith, N.Y., in June. FAST team members conducted a program on stroke prevention for festival attendees.*

## Support for FAST enables DSON outreach to rural counties

The O'Connor Office of Rural Health Studies, under the direction of Dr. Pamela Stewart Fahs, received a \$14,500 matching grant from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation in September to support the Facts for Action to Stroke Treatment (FAST) program in Delaware County, N.Y. Matching support was received from the Crane Fund for Widows and Children, the Robert B. and Addie P. Thomson Trust, the Kenneth M. Axtell, Jr., Foundation, Assemblyman Clifford Crouch and other donors. FAST provided DSON faculty and graduate students an opportunity to extend the school's mission and provide outreach to a rural county where the incidence of stroke is significantly higher than the state average. Vital information on how to identify the signs of stroke and what actions to take to ensure immediate treatment was presented county-wide. The Delaware County Public Health Nursing Service worked with the FAST team to provide blood-pressure screenings at many presentations. At press, approximately 400 Delaware County residents had participated in more than 30 programs.

Data collected for a research study were presented by FAST team members in August at the second National CDC Prevention Conference on Heart Disease and Stroke in Atlanta. The research abstract was published in *Preventive Medicine* in 2004 and authored by Fahs, P. S., Baron, M. A., Dura, A., Folks, T., Fronczek, A. Kasey, L.T., Morgan, L.L., Srnka-Debnar, F., Sutherland, M.

A FAST team research sample of 364 subjects to date completing the pre- and post-tests demonstrates that the FAST program significantly improves knowledge of stroke symptoms, at-risk persons, and the necessity to seek immediate emergency care for stroke symptoms. New funding from a Venture Grant from the United Way of Broome County will enable the presentation of FAST in Broome County in 2005.

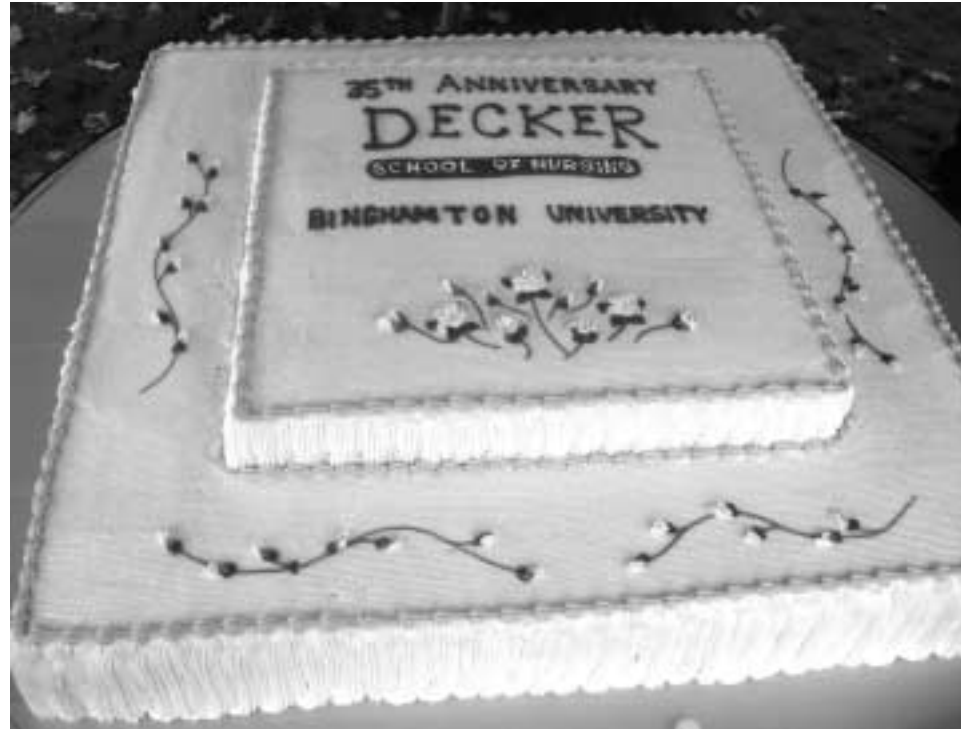


Dean Gueldner was honored to have President Lois B. DeFleur (center) and August P. Mueller, associate professor emeritus, PhD '60 attend the DSON 35th Anniversary cake cutting ceremony. Dr. Mueller was chair of the search committee to appoint the very first dean of the School of Nursing, Mary Pillepich. He was instrumental in the establishment of the nursing department, taught in both the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs prior to retiring and remains a staunch supporter of the Decker School and its programs. President DeFleur ceremoniously cut the first slices of cake for guests.

Paulette L. Maney, BS '92, MS '99 (left) and Frances M. Srnka-Debnar, BS '86, MS '90, Decker School clinical lecturer and coordinator of the Student Services Office during the DSON social hour



## 35th Anniversary Celebration Mardi Gras Homecoming '04 Weekend, October 8-10



The Decker School of Nursing 35th anniversary cake weighed in at 350 pounds. The finished cake was made from 15 individual sheet cakes and took 10 hours to make, bake and assemble. Enough cake was available to serve 1,200 people during a cake-cutting celebration on the Peace Quad Saturday, October 9.



Faye E. Utyro, MS '91, PCNP '97, director of nursing at Binghamton Psychiatric Center (left), shown with husband Edward Utyro and fellow alum Karen J. Steigerwald '91, MS '90, PCNP '99 during the 35th Anniversary Reception at the Anderson Center



Decker alum Lynn Gallagher-Ford, BS '81, (right) with lifelong friend and Harpur alum Patricia A. Manley, BA '81, on the deck outside the President's Reception Room during the social hour and reception



(From left) Patricia A. Faber, MS '87, RN, PNP, clinical instructor, Ann Fronczek, MS '99, RN, FNP, clinical lecturer, and David McDonald '04 enjoying the social hour and reception at the Anderson Center President's Reception Room on Saturday evening



(From left) Yvonne A. M. Johnston, BS '93, MS '97, FNP, clinical assistant professor, research associate for the Kresge Center for Nursing Research; Sheldon Fields, BS '91, MS '95; and Mary (Masha) X. Britten, EdD, RN, associate professor, director of the undergraduate programs, during Homecoming weekend



Alum E. Kay Boland, BS '79, FNP '81, MS '82, vice president of patient care services at United Health Services Hospitals in Binghamton, gets one of the first slices of 35th anniversary cake as served by President Lois B. DeFleur (left) during the cake-cutting ceremony.



Celebrating during DSON's 35th Anniversary Reception and Social Hour were alumni of the first graduating class 35 years ago, Mary Walter Henkel, BS '73 and Connie Gleim Bareford, PhD, MA, BS '73. There were just 20 in their class; this year's senior class has more than 100 students.



Decker School students represent the Nursing Student Association in the Brain Train parade on Saturday afternoon.

## A LUMNI PROFILE:

Connie Gleim Bareford, PhD, MA, BS '73

# Committed to community health nursing after 35 years

By Jennie M. Orton

Connie Bareford is proud to be among the 20 alumni who comprise the first graduating class of the Decker School 35 years ago.



Connie G. Bareford,  
PhD, MA, BS '73

"The faculty at the Decker School of Nursing had the biggest influence on me as I finished my education at Binghamton University (BU) and began to practice," said Bareford. "I especially remember Jane Fielding and Grace Dowling [founders and professors of the nursing school curricula], women whose character and commitment to nursing had a tremendous effect on me. As I began to practice, I remember asking myself, 'What would they do in this particular situation?'"

Bareford's sense of connection with the Decker School was rekindled when she took part in the annual recognition ceremony in May. Soon a Decker School liaison to her 1973 classmates, she began making contacts and raising awareness about upcoming 35th anniversary events.

Bareford remembers being a

student at BU. "I recall the sense of a learning community, including concerts by the Guarneri Quartet [a classical string group]. Most fondly, I remember learning to play poker for chips in the pub at lunchtime between chemistry and biology labs. Actually, I am a very good poker player," she said.

Also a good student, Bareford earned baccalaureate degrees in psychology and nursing while at Binghamton. She continued her educational pursuits, ultimately earning a master's and a doctoral degree in nursing from New York University in 1976 and 1988, respectively. In 1987 Bareford became a professor of nursing at William Paterson University (WPU) in New Jersey, where she continues to teach today.

Bareford's clinical teaching focus is community health nursing for undergraduate students in urban and suburban settings. Her lecture focus is on community health nursing and advanced practice nursing, including nursing research and advanced practice role competencies at the graduate level. She provided clinical supervision of graduate students in preceptorships and was the director of the graduate program in nursing at WPU from 1999 to 2003.

"I have spent the majority of my career in education with a continued interest in research," said Bareford. She was recently involved

in a study that developed and used a tool to audit patient charts in the community to determine if outcomes for pain management were achieved. "I am continuing with the project in efforts to determine the educational needs of nursing staff that care for these patients at home."

Bareford's commitment to community-based research is no surprise considering she feels the most "engaging" aspect of community health nursing is making home visits. "Providing care to patients in their own homes remains a source of great interest and satisfaction to me," she said. "I feel it is a critical piece of helping to improve the health of the local community." Bareford also enjoys "the challenge of demonstrating to students how complex practicing as a community health nurse can be because many

are eager to work in high-tech acute care settings like the ICU."

Encouraging her students to consider varied nursing career options led Bareford to take on

her own unique career-broadening experience. "As an educator, I had an opportunity to learn more about the Army as a career choice for students; in the process, I decided to join the reserves," said Bareford.

From 1993 to 2002 Bareford served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps, organizing and providing educational training for medical personnel. She liked

(continued on page 12)

**Bareford graduated from the first DSON undergraduate class**

## A LUMNI PROFILE:

David McDonald, BS '04

# A desire to help others is his driving force

While David McDonald attended the Decker School of Nursing, keeping track of the organizations and committees he was involved in was a daily task. He was so active in campus life that he had to write his schedule down to figure out where he had to be and when for the organizations and committees he served.



David McDonald '04

McDonald was busy. He served as crew chief for Harpur's Ferry, was a member of the University Judicial Board, treasurer for the Nursing Student

Association and a resident assistant for Onondaga Hall.

As a result, it was not a surprise he was chosen to receive a 2003-04 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, recognizing his leadership within the campus community as well as his academic excellence (see page 3).

Vickie Monticello, clinical instructor, said McDonald had always been focused in his work. "He remains grounded in his beliefs and values," Monticello said. "He has the ability to discuss issues or situations and maintain a high level of respect for other people's opinions when they are diametrically opposed to his own. His enthusiasm, attitude and pursuit of knowledge impressed the faculty at the Decker School."

McDonald saw his commitment as influencing his view on life. "I think the various organizations I was a part of taught me different mini lessons, and the various

people at the Decker School influenced me in both my spiritual life and educational life," McDonald said. "Sometimes I tried to do too much, but it was from a desire to put other people before myself in order to make it a gratifying experience."

His dedication and desire to help others was one reason he was chosen as one of the seven medical participants to travel to the Dominican Republic in the spring 2004 semester to help the poor. "We provided a free clinic," McDonald said. "It was a very humbling experience for me. It made us examine our lives and realize how petty we can be. I enjoyed the experience of being able to help the people there."

McDonald also has a great support system. "Family has always been very supportive of me in whatever decisions I make," said McDonald, adding that with his family's support, the decision to become a nurse was not a hard one.

Since graduating, McDonald has not slowed down. In late August, he began working as an emergency department (ED) nurse at Morristown Memorial Hospital in New Jersey, a 642-bed Level II trauma center designated a magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

"I am in a special program called the Hire Learning Program which allows new graduates to transition

into the specialty fields, primarily areas of critical care, faster and more efficiently," said McDonald. "The program incorporates ongoing education such as basic arrhythmias class, critical care classes, triage courses, courses put on by the ENA (Emergency Nurses Association) such as TNCC (Trauma Nursing Core Course) and ENPC (Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course), and more. The program also gives me the chance for what is called Full Circle Training which sends me on days with the MICU (Mobile Intensive Care Unit), a day in the Trauma OR, and a day in the ICU allowing me to see the patient circle from in the field through admission. The program provides a 1:1 preceptorship for the first 6 months and a mentor/adviser for 6 months after that."

This training is important to McDonald, who needs emergency department experience to pursue his next two goals. The first is to acquire certification as an emergency nurse

(CEN) from the ENA, and the second will be to pursue a master's degree in nursing with a functional role of clinical nurse specialist whose area of specialization is emergency/critical care.

"I am very motivated," said McDonald. "I am a very compassionate and caring person and enjoy being able to help people."

**McDonald graduated from the latest DSON undergraduate class**

## ALUMNI PROFILE:

### Connie Gleim Bareford, PhD, MA, BS '73

(continued from page 10)

"being a part of a larger team and the spirit of working together to get the job done." She also felt a great sense of respect from those around her. "The respect was not solely because you were an officer, but a nurse and an officer," said Bareford.

That respect is well-earned given Bareford's steadfast commitment to the profession she chose "to help people improve their physical and emotional well being." Through her experience as an educator and practicing nurse she gained perspectives that allowed her to develop a better understanding of the U.S. healthcare system. She said profound changes in that

system have a negative effect on some U.S. citizens' healthcare choices.

"The intent of managed care was to curtail costs," said Bareford. "In reality, it has created a system in which wealthier citizens can buy the best health care in the world, and the rest of the population is at risk for receiving inadequate health care. Professionally I see how difficult it is for patients to navigate the healthcare system and to negotiate for the best possible care for themselves and their families."

Bareford recently renewed certification as a clinical specialist in community health nursing from

the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In addition, she is a classical music fan, and has continued playing the piano for a number of years. She is a Metropolitan Opera subscriber, catching shows once per month with her husband. She also enjoys collaborating with WPU department professors in a cross-curricular writing group out of a desire to publish more of her work. Two of her current projects include continued research on pain management and an in-progress proposal for an undergraduate textbook.

## Decker School dean connects with Southern Tier alums



(From left) Diane Armon '78, UHS systems analyst, clinical systems; Pam Hall, nurse manager of telemetry on South Tower 3 at Wilson Memorial Regional Medical Center; and Dean Sarah H. Gueldner get to know each other at a Meet the Dean reception held October 2003.

Dean Sarah H. Gueldner, DSN, FAAN, coordinated efforts with Binghamton University's Alumni Association, Lourdes Hospital, Robert Packer Hospital, United Health Services and the Visiting Nurses Society of New York to invite Southern Tier and New York City Decker alumni to "Meet the Dean" receptions in October and November 2003. Staffs of host agencies were also invited to attend.

The dean's message expressed appreciation and celebration of the continued partnerships between clinical agencies and the Decker School. On behalf of Decker, Gueldner expressed thanks by presenting to agency administrators framed certificates of appreciation and books detailing the history of Binghamton University.

Gueldner spoke to reception attendees regarding increased enrollments at the Decker School

and updates on Decker's programs, mentioning the \$1 million program expansion grant acquired in summer 2003 to increase Baccalaureate Accelerated Track enrollment in a three-year period. She also thanked agencies for support of Decker's involvement with the Empire Promise Nurse Corps Opportunity (EPNOC) program, now in its second year, which introduces economically disadvantaged youths to the nursing profession.

During receptions, attendees were invited to visit the Decker School. Dean Gueldner also expressed the desire of the Decker School to form Southern Tier and New York City Decker School of Nursing alumni groups. Interested volunteers may contact the alumni office via e-mail at [alumni@binghamton.edu](mailto:alumni@binghamton.edu) or by calling 607-777-2431 for further information.

## CLASS NOTES

### Graduate Notes

**Staci Covey, MS '90**, administrator of Guthrie Home Care, is also administrator of Troy Community Hospital. Staci was formerly associate administrator for Tioga Nursing Facility.

### Undergraduate Notes

'73

Linda Zeccola, BS '78 writes: "I am working as a nurse/lactation consultant at Seton Northwest Hospital and have a practice as a massage therapist. I have started a part-time job working with women recovering from eating disorders. My son, Carlo, got married last August, and my daughter, Gina, is a sophomore at St. Edward's University in Austin."

'79

**Barbara Ruth Stein Sprung**, a psychiatric nurse practitioner and family therapist in private practice and also a clinical assistant professor at the Stony Brook School of Nursing, writes: "Enjoying a great location for living and working. [I will be celebrating my] 25th wedding anniversary to Lance this summer. Eric will be 13. Brandon, 19, is a sophomore at Binghamton."

'89

**Jeffrey Weiss '88** writes that he is a police officer in the 49th Precinct of New York and is practicing law part time, in his own private practice. Jeffrey and his wife, **Stacy Kastens Weiss**, have three children, Kyle, 10, Emma, 7 and Noah, 9 months. Stacy is a part-time nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital. The family lives in Palisades.

'94

**Jennifer Louise Liska** received accreditation as a geriatric nurse practitioner.

'95

**Jeanine R. Jerro** completed her MS at Columbia University and earned certification as both an adult and an oncology nurse practitioner. Jeanine also received the Faculty Award for Professional Excellence in a Sub-Specialty for her work in cancer genetics.

### Weddings

**Michelle Kapp '99** married Joseph Lorge May 31, 2003, in Lenox, Mass. Michelle is a community health nurse for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. **Erica Montag '99** officiated at the ceremony. **Cara Romano** and **Elissa Douchy**, both '99, and **Ilana Cohen '00** attended the wedding. The couple lives in Queens.

### Births

To **Helene Brachfeld-Colvin '86** and husband, Stephen, a son, Sean Isaiah, Oct. 2, 2003. Helene is a nurse practitioner at New York University Medical Center. The family lives in New York City.

To **Maura McAuley Carroll '94** and husband, Timothy, a son, McAuley Patrick, Aug. 5, 2003. Maura is a registered nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. The family lives in Northport.

## Alumni Snapshot

**Margaret L. Young, MS, PCNP, '98**, received the 2002 Rural Health Practitioner of the Year award given by the New York State Association for Rural Health at the 2003 annual awards ceremony. Young has worked as a family nurse practitioner at the North Country Children's Clinic in Watertown, N.Y., since 1998.

"... Margaret is responsible for making the North Country Children's Clinic's school-based health center at Watertown High School a success.

Because she is respected, liked, and trusted, she has provided early diagnosis and treatment of hundreds of ailments, some life threatening, to underserved, uninsured students who would otherwise have not received care....

She shares her knowledge frequently, speaking to teen service organizations, church, scout, and school groups whenever she is asked" (excerpted from the North Country Children's Clinic nomination narrative submitted in support of Young's candidacy to win the Rural Health Practitioner of the Year award).

Young is the mother of three children and also serves as a major in the Army Nurse Corps Reserves 865th Combat Support Hospital, a unit that has deployed waves of its members to the Middle East. In early 2004 she completed a two-week humanitarian medical exercise in Belize with the Army. While studying at BU, she received a Decker School Excellence in Advanced Nursing award presented to graduating master's students in each area of specialization who exemplify excellence in advanced nursing practice. Young's master's degree is in community health nursing with a primary care nurse practitioner functional role.



Margaret L. Young, MS, PCNP '98

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**Attendees at the Decker Scholarship Reception in December 2003: (Front row, from left) Amy L. Chmielewski '05; Haley R. Engel '05; Kelly E. Marshall '04; Marion Gnadt '05; Cheryl (Cheri) A. Sarton, PhD student; Desiree L. Cabot '06; Antonette E. Tobin '05. (Back row, from left) Gerald Putman, executive director of the Decker Foundation; Jamie Kleish MS '98, PhD student; Fran Srnka-Debnar, clinical lecturer, student services coordinator; Dahlia Nichols '03; Jennifer M. Blazey '05; Catherine Sentz, senior director of development; Associate Dean Joyce Ferrario; Dean Sarah H. Gueldner; and Ferris Akel, chairman of the Decker Foundation**

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Decker professor and students travel . . .

(continued from page 6)



*Children gather outside a neighborhood church during a visit to one of the local "bateys" by Decker School nursing students and faculty while in the Dominican Republic.*

with the staff. The hospital provided the students with interesting comparisons to the U.S. hospital system. We toured the orthopedic and surgical units and also were able to visit a labor and delivery unit. Each unit had its own nurses and own charting format. After the initial visit, the students were invited to

return to spend another day with an assistant professor and head nurse of labor and delivery. These experiences gave students new perspectives on health care and taught them different strategies for patient care due to a lack of technology and trained personnel within the hospital.

As a nurse visiting the Dominican Republic, you realize that nursing and health care are everyone's business and even more so in a country struggling to provide for its people. Nursing is not an art as much as it is a constant labor of love and a process of constant information gathering. These communities showed us that high-tech nursing is important, but not as important as having hands-on skills. Having technology but not having the medications to afford to treat patients can be as disappointing as not having any care.

I feel our work in the Dominican Republic further raises awareness of the needs of our fellow man. The students learned about sharing and being part of a team — and that it is as important as working in a well-developed nursing facility.

## DeckerScope online

The spring 2005 issue of *DeckerScope*, and each spring edition published thereafter, will be published online. Spring issues of the newsletter will be posted via an electronic link to be found on the Decker School's home page at [dson.binghamton.edu](http://dson.binghamton.edu).

If you would like to receive an e-mail notification as spring issues are posted to the Web and do not already have your electronic information on file with Binghamton University's Alumni Office, please send your name, class year and e-mail address via an e-mail message to [alumni@binghamton.edu](mailto:alumni@binghamton.edu).

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