



Alumni Newsletters

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Healthy Times - Fall 2005

Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni,

The start of the 2005-2006 academic year has been one of change and integration into the McNichols Campus. Summer at the College does not slow down, with year-round students (nurse anesthesia, physician assistant, and the accelerated second degree nursing program). We started a new group of students in the accelerated program in May, and graduated another group in August. There is certainly a strong demand for our health professions programs, and our enrollment is strong in the College this fall, with more than 1,000 students. Our student numbers include: 750 nursing (undergrad and grad), 100 physician assistant students, 70 nurse anesthesia students, and 80 health services administration (undergrad and grad). We also started three new BSN completion cohorts with Henry Ford Hospital, St. Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids, and the DMC at Sinai Grace Hospital. A new initiative for the graduate nursing program in health systems management was the addition of two certificate programs in outcomes performance management and leadership. As in previous years, the College is still the second largest college in the University after Liberal Arts and Education.



We also welcomed several new faculty to the College of Health Professions: Dr. Joyce Conley joined the McAuley School of Nursing and serves as the project director for the McAuley Health Center grant; Deborah Tierney joined the undergraduate nursing faculty; Nutrena Tate and Zorica Klein also joined the MSON and teach in the pre-licensure and accelerated programs; Karen Burritt and Kristine Herrington joined the faculty in Grand Rapids to teach in the pre-licensure and BSN completion programs. We are delighted that these colleagues have joined us in a time of expanding enrollments in our programs.

We are also happy to report outcomes of several successful accreditation visits and decisions. The McAuley School of Nursing is now officially fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission for another eight years, and with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for five years (this was an initial visit by this organization). The Nurse Anesthesia program also received continuing accreditation for 10 years from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. Currently, the health services administration program is preparing for initial accreditation for the graduate program in fall 2006.

Past Issues

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Alumni Classnotes

Find out the latest about your classmates! Visit [Alumni Classnotes](#) on the UDM web site.

Alumni Events



[Calendar](#)

[Theatre Season](#)

Giving to UDM

Make a new or increased gift to the University between September 1 and December 31 to be entered to [win two tickets to the Super Bowl XL](#) on February 5, 2006 at Ford Field in Detroit.

UDM News and Events

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[Honors program inducts 27 new members](#)

I am pleased to announce that we are planning a new initiative in the College for the 2006-2007 academic year: a [5-year accelerated physician assistant program](#). There is an increased demand for physician assistants with tremendous growth opportunities in this field. This program will combine both an undergraduate degree with a master's degree in five years and will be the only one in the state of Michigan. This program is being done in partnership with the Department of Biology in the College of Engineering and Science. Please see the special article in this newsletter regarding this exciting [new program](#).

While we are enjoying tremendously our new facilities on this campus, we continue to be grateful for all the support and investment we have received from health systems, foundations, and donors for our building and scholarship support for students. We know that these new opportunities could not have happened without the generous investment and support of many of you. We thank you for your strong support for the programs in the College that prepare excellent practitioners, administrators and leaders that truly make a difference in our community. The graduates who are practicing and working in the community are joining a strong tradition of excellence established by all of you.

*Suzanne Mellon
Dean, College of Health Professions
McAuley School of Nursing*

[News and Events](#)

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Five-Year BS/MS PA track to begin, fall 2006

In Fall Term 2006, University of Detroit Mercy will offer a five-year BS/MS track in addition to its current Master's of Science in Physician Assistant (PA) studies. The five-year accelerated track will allow a select number of highly qualified, entering freshmen to earn early acceptance in the graduate PA Program.

"Physician assistants are a key provider in addressing access to primary care and especially meeting the primary care needs of a

growing aging population in our country," says Suzanne Warnimont-York, associate professor and chair, Physician Assistant Program. "National data indicates a physician shortage is emerging and by 2020, the deficit is projected to be as great as 200,000 physicians. This accelerated program will allow students interested in the field to be practicing medicine as a PA in less time and with a lower financial commitment."



The BS/MS track will include three years of undergraduate studies toward a Bachelor of Science in Biology and two years of master's level studies for a master of science degree. The undergraduate curriculum consists of medically related science courses (biology, chemistry, physics), social sciences (psychology), along with all the components of the core curriculum and general education requirements for a bachelor's degree. This phase also includes pre-requisite introductory courses related to health care and a required co-operative education component in the health care field that students complete in the second and third summers of the program.

During the fourth and fifth years, students take graduate courses in the medical sciences and educational experiences, which address the physical, interpersonal and psychosocial needs of patients. Also during the fifth year, students acquire medical expertise through a broad range of intensive clinical rotations, community health education and health projects with medically underserved communities. Each student completes the program with a preceptorship in primary care medicine.

Admission requirements are rigorous for this program with enrollment capped at 35 students per year. But interest is high with physician assistant becoming one of the fastest growing health care professions today.

Partnerships expand educational opportunities for students

Ongoing partnerships with dozens of health care organizations and hundreds of practitioners have helped the College of Health Professions and the McAuley School of Nursing develop innovative programs that enhance the educational experience at the University of Detroit Mercy.



The benefits of these partnerships go far beyond the clinical experience that is required for the licensing of nurses and other health care practitioners upon completion of their academic degrees.

The cooperative nature of managing these clinical educational programs creates a valuable dialogue between the University and health care providers. Hospital administrators help shape academic programs that are responsive to their changing needs, while the faculty at the College of Health Professions stays current with the latest trends in health care.

This process also leads to new programs that offer exciting educational opportunities to students.

“We’re always open to new partnerships,” says Judith Lewis, associate dean of the McAuley School of Nursing. “We’re always looking for ways to collaborate with health care systems.”

The shortage of nursing and healthcare professionals across the country is a great concern for both the College of Health Professions and its partners. One reason why the University and health care providers work so well together is that they share the common goal of attracting talented students to the healthcare profession.

Creating new and exciting educational programs is a great way to accomplish that objective. The College of Health Professions will continue to seek new partnerships—like the following examples—to open up new opportunities for its students.

- [BSN Completion](#)
- [Grand Rapids Program](#)
- [Health Services Administration](#)
- [McAuley Health Center](#)
- [Nurse Anesthesiology](#)
- [Physician Assistant Program](#)

CHP Partnerships

BSN Completion: Delivering education to hospitals

A partnership between UDM and hospital systems brings educational opportunities to nurses where they work. Once they are licensed and on the job, many nurses find they are unable to get back to the University to pursue a higher degree because their work schedules are so demanding.

In 1999 the McAuley School of Nursing developed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Completion program that now operates in more than a dozen hospitals in metro Detroit. Partners

include Trinity Health, St. John Health System, Oakwood Healthcare System, Beaumont Hospital and most recently the Detroit Medical Center.

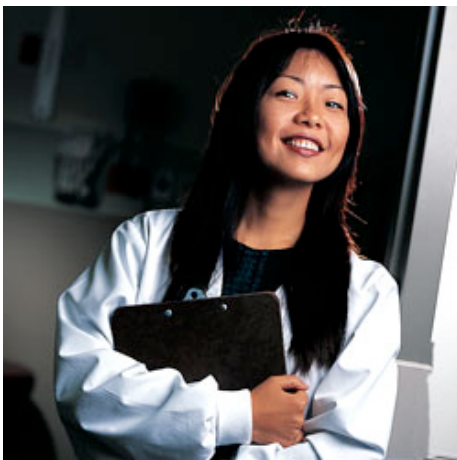
It's a partnership that helps hospitals improve the educational level and the retention rate of their staffs. The hospitals provide tuition assistance and classroom space. Hospital administrators work closely with UDM nursing faculty to make sure the program runs smoothly.

"There's good communication back and forth to facilitate the program. Without that it probably wouldn't work," says Assistant Professor Bonnie Korn, the chair of the BSN completion program.

Going online

Trinity Health operates hospitals in six other states that also have many nurses who want to earn a bachelor's degree. When Trinity Health administrators saw the success of the BSN completion program in metro Detroit, they provided seed funding to help develop an online version. Currently around 30 nurses in four time zones are enrolled in the program.

That innovative program has in turn made the original classroom program at local hospitals even more convenient. Some students do coursework online at home and meet with a faculty member once a week to go over what they have learned.



CHP Partnerships

Grand Rapids Nursing Pre-Licensure Program: Expanding the University's reach

The BSN completion program with St. Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids was the catalyst for another unique educational program. The McAuley School of Nursing now offers its pre-licensure undergraduate program to western Michigan students in partnership with Aquinas College in Grand Rapids and St. Mary's Health Care.



Students earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from UDM while taking all their classes at Aquinas. They benefit from a broad liberal arts and science education from Aquinas, while UDM faculty give the same quality of instruction in nursing available at the McNichols Campus. Saint Mary's Health Care provides the clinical component.

"All three institutions have very similar missions and values, so the students are immersed in the culture of service, learning, spirituality, diversity and cultural sensitivity," says Robi Thomas, an assistant professor at the McAuley School of Nursing and chair of the Grand Rapids program.

The program also has served as a good recruiting tool for Saint Mary's Health, which hired 10 of the 12 students in the inaugural class that graduated in May 2004.

CHP Partnerships

Health Services Administration program: Linking with executives

The ongoing relationship between UDM's Health Services Administration program and the local chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives has provided a number of benefits for students such as scholarships to assist with tuition and funds to attend the organization's national conference.

The Michigan Healthcare Executive Group and Associates (MHEGA) also has developed a job-shadowing program that enables seven or eight UDM graduate students to spend a day watching health care administrators perform their jobs. For one student that single day turned into a volunteer job and then a one-year paid fellowship.



CHP Partnerships

McAuley Health Center: Fulfilling an important mission

The long and fruitful relationship between the McAuley School of Nursing and Trinity Health has created the opportunity for nursing students to get a close-up view of community health care while also meeting the University's mission of service.

Two years ago, faculty members with student assistance began the McAuley Health Center at the former Mercy Primary Care Center on Detroit's east side where Trinity Health opened the Mercy Primary Care Center. The McAuley staff handles more than 1,500 visits a year.

The UDM project enables the Mercy Primary Care Center to serve many more patients than would otherwise be possible. It is supported in part by funds from the Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions.

Each semester senior and accelerated-option students in the community health undergraduate degree program are assigned to the health center. Family nurse practitioner students also spend time there.

These students have the opportunity to see the positive impact that community health services can have on an underserved population. Last spring nursing students taught a basic hygiene class for teenagers.

Having the clinic run by nurses also provides an unusual education opportunity for the students. "They wend their way through the health care system and develop business savvy," says nurse practitioner Nora Creighton, who leads the McAuley Health Center.



CHP Partnerships

Nurse Anesthesiology Partnerships: A Growing Need

The primary goal of most CHP partnerships is to provide the clinical experience that students need to go along with classroom instruction. Those partnerships have grown in scope in recent years as the academic community responds to the national shortage of nurses and other healthcare professionals.



A good example is the Nurse Anesthesiology degree program, where the number of nurse anesthesia candidates continues to increase. Eighteen hospitals in the metro Detroit area provide invaluable on-the-job education in a clinical setting with direct supervision by nurses and doctors.

Nurse Anesthesiology candidates are involved in 900 cases during 2,000 hours of clinical experience over the course of the 27-month degree program. They typically spend a month at each hospital.

"The advantage of rotating is to see how things are done differently. Students can pick and choose from the best practices," says Associate Professor Michael Dosch, chair of the Nurse Anesthesiology program. "They also learn how to deal easily with change."

The program has proven to be a valuable recruiting tool for the hospitals. About two-thirds of the graduates take jobs at one of the hospitals where they received their clinical education. The month-long rotation gives the hospital staff a good opportunity to get to know the students, while the variety of settings helps the students decide where they want to work.

CHP Partnerships

Physician Assistant Program: Learning on the job

This fall students in the Physician Assistant program have had the opportunity to earn money in a diagnostic and evaluation program that involves a longtime affiliate faculty member.

Physician Assistant Bob Ross has helped with the clinical education of many UDM students in the past. Now students are working with him in conducting peripheral vascular evaluations at Triad Diagnostic Technologies in White Lake.



In addition to making money, the students are learning about a growing health concern for the diabetic and elderly populations. The program offers students in-depth experience with clinical evaluation that will help later in their careers.

"He has had many of our students on clinical rotation, and this is an outgrowth of that ongoing relationship," says Associate Professor Suzanne York, chair of the Physician Assistant program.

CHP adds certificate programs

The College of Health Professions has introduced a new postgraduate certificate for nursing and is working on two more.

This fall six nursing managers from Sinai-Grace Hospital and St. John Macomb Hospital began taking the first of four courses in Outcomes Performance Management, a program that will provide a strong academic foundation in outcomes management and quality improvement.

"Most of their learning has been on the job. This gives them the opportunity to study the latest research and latest trends in an academic setting," says Assistant

Professor Julia Stocker Schneider, who is coordinating the new program.

The certificate program will help nursing managers respond to the call for increased accountability in health care. Having a good skill set for improving patient outcomes will provide nurse managers with new opportunities to improve the overall quality of patient care.

A second new certificate program, Financial and Nursing Leadership, should start winter term 2006. This program includes accounting and financial management courses to help nurse managers prepare and manage budgets.

"This is an area where nurse managers typically don't have as much background," Stocker Schneider says. "They need to utilize financial skills as they organize the work of their unit."

The Financial and Nursing Leadership certificate program also will cover human resources and leadership issues in health care systems.

The courses for both certificate programs are part of the curriculum for the nursing master's degree program in Health Systems Management.

The College of Health Professions and the College of Liberal Arts & Education are collaborating to develop a new master's degree program in nursing education that will include a certificate in nursing education. The program is tentatively scheduled to begin in fall 2006, pending the outcome of a grant application and a survey to determine interest.



A nurse educator certificate would be appropriate for nurses who are already teaching as well as those who would be good teachers because of their academic and/or clinical background.

“Because of the nursing shortage, we need to increase nursing enrollment, but we can’t do that unless we have the faculty,” says Judith Lewis, associate dean of the McAuley School of Nursing.

Alumni join CHP Alumni Council

Several members of the Alumni Council have provided their perspective on the role of the Council and a CHP education:

Vandella Campbell '00

Senior Quality Information Consultant, Care Choices

Campbell joined the Alumni Council in 2003 as "an opportunity to make a difference in the College of Health Professions. We are always reaching for a higher goal and doing all we can to make life easier for all of our fellow alumni."



click to view larger image

Gina Coccitti '04, '05

Staff Nurse, Favorite Nurses, Inc.

"Grad school at UDM was a uniquely gratifying experience. Participation on the Alumni Council provides me the opportunity to give back to the University as well as the community it serves."

Nancy Ann Dillon '71

Education Supervisor, St. John Home Care

Dillon joined the Council in 1997 and currently serves as its chair.

"Over the years as we reviewed nominations for the CHP Alumni of the Year awards, I have been impressed by the truly great contributions on personal and professional levels that our alumni provide for local and global communities. I take great pride in belonging to such a wonderful group of alumni."

Barbara Donahue, '65

Public Health Nursing Administrator, Oakland County Health Division

As a Council member since 1997, "I have appreciated the opportunity to interact with alumni in various health disciplines and to receive timely updates about programs."

Six new members have joined the College of Health Professions Alumni Council this fall to help support the College in achieving its goals and objectives. The new members are:

- **Rene Bacholzky '05**
- **Bettina Howie '01**
- **Antoinette Castelow**
- **Cindy Golusin '99**
- **Melissa Schwartz '01**
- **Susan Synderburn '04**
- **David Wiley '05**

Bernadette Mary Frank, RSM, '56, '58

Nurse Volunteer, Mercy Place Clinic, Pontiac

In addition to its new members, the CHP

The role of the Council is to "stimulate continued interest in the University/College and encourage graduates to contribute their knowledge, skills and support of the University/College during their life-long professional lives."

Bettina Howie '01

Provider Representative, MCARE

"The most valuable aspect of my education at UDM was interacting with so many interesting people in various fields of health

care. Since my health care experience is from the payer side, discussions with the people who represented the provider side of the equation always proved to be lively and worthwhile."

Jon R. Lechner '91, '92

Practice Manager, Visiting Physicians Association

Lechner joined the Alumni Council in 2002.

"Serving on the Alumni Council allows me to share with current students and alumni the outstanding education and professional experiences/networking that began while I was a nursing student. Activities such as being a guest speaker during alumni week, hosting open house activities, etc., allow me to contribute something more valuable than money - the gift of time and the chance to mentor/be mentored."

Cinde Rutkowski '72

Customer Care Analyst, Compuware

Although Rutkowski officially joined the CHP Alumni Council in 2004, she has long been involved in alumni activities at the College and University, serving on a number of alumni committees, including the UDM Alumni Association and Alumni Leadership Council. She was recognized for her contributions in 2005 with the Colleges' Allied Health Alumni of the Year Award.

Susan Synderburn '04

Physician Assistant, Pulmonary and Critical Care Specialists, Novi.

"I believe the role on the Alumni Council is to enlighten the future graduates on the contributions they can make to their chosen professions. I think this can be accomplished by a mentor program. As a member of the Alumni Council, I would like to ensure this is a requirement for each new student accepted into a program."

Sheila J. Thacker '03

Registered Nurse, Bon Secours Hospital

Thacker joined the Alumni Council in 2003.

"The CHP Alumni Council allows me an opportunity to mentor, nurture, associate and network with current and future colleagues in the health care profession."

Alumni Council includes:

- **Linda Alexander '97**
- **Marilyn Bachelor '84**
- **Vandella Campbell '00**
- **Gina Coccotti '04**
- **Nancy Dillon '71**
- **Belinda Dokic '02**
- **Barbara Donahue '65**
- **Bernadette Mary Frank, RSM '56, '58**
- **Jon Lechner '92**
- **Cinde Rutkowski '72**
- **Mary Ann Stella '67**
- **Sheila Thacker '03**
- **Jennifer Viggiano '03**

**Seeking Nominations for
2005-2006 College of Health Professions
Alumnus of the Year Awards**

Alumnus of the Year Awards will be presented at the 2006 Honors Convocation of the College of Health Professions.

Professional disciplines include:

- Health Services Administration/Management
- Nurse Anesthesia
- Nursing
- Physician Assistant
- Allied Health (Nutrition, Medical Records, Medical Technology, Health Care Education)

If you know of an outstanding alumnus who deserves recognition, please complete [this nomination form](#) and return it by Jan. 7, 2006.

Prior to nominating an individual, it is important to ascertain that the honoree will be able to attend the Honors Convocation on April 2, 2006, during which the Alumnus of the Year awards will be presented.

[\[Download the Form\]](#)

Healthy Times - Fall 2005

College Updates

The **McAuley Health Center** helped care for about 10 survivors of the Katrina hurricane who had relocated to the Detroit area as part of an initiative of St. John's physicians.

The **BSN Completion Program** will be starting three new cohorts in the fall at Henry Ford Main and Sinai Grace Hospital in Detroit, and Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids

Student Profile: Education helps HSA student reach career goals

Even as a young girl, Tyra Tomlin, a graduate student in UDM's Health Services Administration program, always knew she wanted to pursue a career in health care. "I never had a fear of doctors when I was growing up," says Tomlin. "I never wanted to work anywhere else but in a hospital."

To make that career choice a reality, Tomlin began researching universities with health care programs.

"I kept hearing that UDM was a great school. I liked the small campus and that the Health Services

Administration program catered to working people," says Tomlin, who is married and the mother of two school-age children. Pleased with her findings, especially the personal interaction with the counselors, Tomlin earned a bachelor's degree in this program in May 2003 and immediately began her graduate studies. She expects to graduate in May 2006 with her master's degree.

An internship in the Marketing and Planning department at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland led to her current role as coordinator of Mission Integration where she applies her classroom experiences on a daily basis. "My job is to ensure that the hospital keeps in line with its mission and ethics," says Tomlin, who aspires toward a management position that impacts hospital policies.

On top of classes and full-time work, Tomlin leads the local student chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). She is the organization's president for the second consecutive year. Her involvement allows her to share her passion for the health care industry and generate awareness of the diverse job options available to students with degrees in Health Services Administration.

Tomlin also plans to guide the chapter by building on last year's successes. She will continue to enlist leaders from local health care organizations as guest speakers and she intends to provide members with plenty of networking and mentoring opportunities.

"My advice to students is to network, network, network," says Tomlin. "Also, join professional healthcare organizations; volunteer whenever you can; grab a mentor and have a positive attitude."



Student Notes

This summer, **Physician Assistant students and faculty** volunteered to provide physicals for the Detroit Rescue Mission programs and helped Habitat for Humanity build some homes in Detroit.

Nurse Anesthesia senior student **Tara McLaren-Gibson, RN**, competed in the AANA College Bowl at the national meeting.

BSN completion/Trinity Online I student **Christi Paradise** presented her NUR 446 Project at the Trinity fall conference in Chicago. Her project was on MRSA and high school athletes.

Nurse Anesthesia senior students presented at the 27th Annual Senior Seminar on September 10 at the Marriott Troy. This all-day conference was attended by 170 nurse anesthetists, NA students, and RNs. Seniors and their topics included: **Shelly Glover** on Porphyria, **Cecile Floresca** on Malignant Hyperthermia, **Ryan Gingrich** and **Glenn O'Connor '01** on Spinal Headache.

On Aug. 23, the new **PA students** received their white coats in a ceremony attended by their families and friends. The ceremony is a traditional rite of passage where the second-year students assist the first-year students don their white jackets prior to starting their clinical education.



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Faculty Notes

Joyce Conley, assistant professor, Nursing and **Mary Serowoky**, coordinator, McAuley Health Center, presented "Hypertension Outcomes in an Urban Nurse Managed Center" at the National Nursing Centers Consortium in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October.

Mike Dosch, associate professor, Nurse Anesthesiology, spoke on "Learning to love the new anesthesia gas machines" at the AANA National Meeting in Washington, D.C. in August.

Shirley Escamilla, assistant professor of Nursing, is co-author of the article, "Health Risk Assessment in an Urban Hispanic Community," published in *The Clinical Nurse Specialist - The Journal for Advanced Nursing*.

Rose Higgins and **Mary Urbanek**, clinical track instructors for the Physician Assistant program, are involved in a community project with Sinai Grace and the Heart Association for blood pressure screenings, as well as a May walk-a-thon.

Carla Groh, professor, Health Professions and Women's Studies was a co-presenter of the paper, "Constructing LGBTQ Discourse in a Catholic Context: Intersection of Theory, Theology, and Pedagogy" as part of "Out There: First National Conference of Scholars and Student Affairs Personnel Involved in LGBTQ Issues on Catholic Campuses," at Santa Clara University, Oct. 29. She also co-presented the paper, "Women and Mood Disorders: How biological gender differences may impact advanced practice prescriptive decisions," at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association 19th Annual Conference in Nashville, Tenn. in November. In addition, she was the keynote speaker at the Wayne State University College of Nursing annual conference, "Building Psychiatric-Mental Health Competencies: Mind-Body Connection," in October.

Suzanne Mellon, dean, College of Health Professions, has written the article, "Families' communication and decision-making about inherited cancer risk information" for publication in *Psycho-Oncology*.

Sharon Moser, assistant professor, Physician Assistant, presented "Predictors of Success in PA Education" at the annual meeting of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs in November.

Pamela Nelson, assistant professor of Nursing, served on the planning committee for the state-wide Community Health workshop, "Power of Involvement: The Impact on Population Health," held in November in Ann Arbor. Also, as part of an interdisciplinary team of faculty, Nelson discussed "Link between transit funding and obesity" at the Institute for Transportation Engineers in July. The research showed that physical activity of walking to bus stops promotes health. **Judith Mouch, RSM**, assistant professor of Nursing, also participated in the research.

Pat Rouen, assistant professor-clinical track, Nursing, co-researched the project, "Menopause Effects on the Adipokines and Insulin Resistance Risk: A

Cross-sectional Pilot Study." She also received a Nurse Practitioner Excellence Award from the North American Menopause Society.

Mitzi Saunders, assistant professor, Nursing and **Maureen Anthony**, assistant professor, Nursing, co-authored the article, "Homecare Nurses' Perception of Control over Pain" in *Home Healthcare Nurse*, October.

Joan Urbancic, professor, Nursing, serves as co-principal investigator on a research grant for depression in primary care patients. The project will investigate whether formal screening increases the identification of depressed patients in primary care settings, and study the differences in effectiveness of four interventions in achieving remission from depression. The two-year study will involve a sample of 220 primary care patients that screen positive for depression. In addition, she and **Carla Groh**, professor, Health Professions, presented the paper, "Collaborating with Psychiatric Mental Health NPs to Optimize Health Care Outcomes in Primary Care Settings," at the 4th annual National Nursing Center Consortium in Albuquerque, N.M. in October.

Suzanne York, associate professor and chair, Physician Assistant, was elected to the executive board of the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant in September. She will serve a two-year term as commission secretary.

New faculty who joined the CHP this fall include:

Joyce Conley, assistant professor, Nursing

Karen Burritt, instructor, Nursing

Suzanne Guzelaydin, coordinator, Simulation Practice and Technology Integration Center

Kristine Herrington, instructor, Nursing

Zorica Kauric-Klein, instructor, Nursing

Nutrena Tate, instructor, Nursing

Alumni Notes

Earl Auty '87, has been appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on the Michigan State Board of Nursing. Auty, a nurse anesthetist for almost 20 years, is an administrator in surgical services at Providence Hospital. He currently serves as the elected president of the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Jerry Fushianes '96, served as program manager of the Department of Defense's Post-deployment Health Reassessment Program at Fort McCoy. The program utilizes PAs to provide post-deployment examinations to National Guard and Army Reserve troops to ensure that treatment of any deployment-related ailments do not interfere with the soldiers' civilian lives.

Physician Assistant **Chris Stramecky '95**, led an allied health medical group, Dharma Wheel Medical, down to Waveland, Mississippi, and Bayou La Batre, Alabama, during early September in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina devastation. Stramecky set up an emergency medicine clinic in a gymnasium community shelter in Bayou La Batre where he and his team saw and cared for more than 350 patients. The team delivered insulin and other pharmaceutical supplies to the mobile hospital established in Waveland, Mississippi. The group treated patients brought to them with a variety of chronic and acute medical needs, and cared for dozens of severely ill patients such as "crashing" diabetics and lung disease and cardiac patients, loading many of them onto ambulances and even a medevac helicopter from the field next to the shelter once they were stable. The team slept at the shelter every night and met up with the rest of the group early each morning and worked late into each night.