



January 2014 Letter

Happy New Year!

Its going to be an Exciting Year

In 2014, the School of Nursing will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of our institution. We'll be looking back at the numerous accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni, while also looking forward to many more years of success. We hope that you will be part of the festivities! Mark your calendar for Alumni Day on May 16, 2014. We will also host a special alumni reception during Pitt's Homecoming Weekend (date has yet to be announced). All School events are posted at <http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/events> and will be noted in future newsletters and in Pitt Nurse Magazine.

Have a special memory that you want to share? Want to note how a School of Nursing class or faculty member particularly influenced your career or professional interests? Do you have a funny or touching story about one of your classmates or your experience at Pitt? If so, you can submit it via the form located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/75thmemories>. Or, feel free to e-mail it to jad154@pitt.edu. We'd love to hear about your fond remembrances of your time at the School of Nursing.

School of Nursing Student Spotlight



Victor Bench isn't just sitting around ...he's a full-time senior with class work and clinical rotations, and an active member of multiple organizations.

In particular, he is a performer with -- as well as president of -- the University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club. The oldest extra-curricular organization at Pitt, the Glee Club comprises 85 undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty members. The club is funded entirely through its fundraising efforts and donations. The Men's Glee Club offers several concerts each term, performs at numerous campus and community events, and even tours Europe annually.

A member for four years, Victor contributes greatly to the Glee Club both on-stage and off. In addition to his performing duties as a baritone, he has served as vice president and now president of the organization, driving much of the group's fundraising endeavors. Indeed, they've been quite successful as they were able to support a tour through Belgium, the Netherlands and France in the summer of 2013; in 2012, they toured throughout Europe performing the challenging Cherubini's Requiem in D Minor.

Victor's fundraising abilities are also put to good use with his fraternity, Delta Chi's Pittsburgh Chapter. He helped them to raise over \$7,000 last term for the fraternity's national charity beneficiary, the V Foundation for Cancer Research. During his time with Delta Chi, Victor has served in several leadership positions.

But wait, the list goes on. He is a member of the Outside the Classroom Curriculum Honorary Society, which promotes Pitt students' involvement in campus activities and community philanthropic programs; a graduate of Pitt's Emerging Leaders and Leadership in Action, programs which strengthen leadership capabilities and promote charitable involvement for outstanding students; and a counselor at a residential camp for adolescents with diabetes.

Undergraduate Research Accolades!

Undergraduate students at the School of Nursing have a remarkable opportunity to become involved in research through the school's Research Mentorship Program. BSN students who maintain an acceptable QPA and progress-to-degree are permitted to work five hours per week with faculty, doctoral student or post-doctoral researchers. For the 2013 academic year, almost 100 undergraduate students enrolled in the mentorship program, gaining hands-on experience with different facets of academic and clinical research. In many cases, the student's work is recognized with publication in a journal or an invitation to present at a local, state or national conference. Congratulations to the following students in the mentorship program for having their research excellence acknowledged.

Amy Liptak (BSN '12) co-authored an article published in the Journal of Holistic Nursing on "Humor and Laughter in Persons with Cognitive Impairment and Their Caregivers." Amy co-wrote the article while she was student here at the School of Nursing and participating in the Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program under the supervision of her faculty mentor, Dr. Jennifer Lingler. Her co-authors include School of Nursing faculty Dr. Judith Tate and others from Pitt's School of Medicine.

Melissa Stritzinger (Class of 2015) was invited to give a podium presentation at the Greater Pittsburgh Nursing Research Conference on October 25, 2013. The presentation discussed "Comparison of Mood, Physical Functioning and Symptoms Between Women with Bilateral and Unilateral Breast Cancer." She is being mentored by Amanda Gentry (staff) and Dr. Catherine Bender (faculty) of the School of Nursing.

Kelly Billet (Class of 2014) presented a poster on her survey of tobacco use at the University of Pittsburgh's Science 2013 Undergraduate Research Poster Reception on October 3, 2013.

School Co-Sponsors Second Capital International Nursing Conference in China



Dean Dunbar-Jacob, Dr. Catherine Bender and Dr. Dianxu Ren participated in the Second Capital International Nursing Conference, which was held in October in Beijing, China. The School of Nursing was proud to serve as a co-sponsor of the event, along with the School of Nursing at Capital Medical University and the China Medical Informatics Association. The theme of the conference was

“Translational Research, Evidence-based Practice, and Securing Health.” Almost 500 scholars attended this international event which featured presentations and posters on the fields of health and nursing informatics. Congratulations to Dr. Ren, whose presentation entitled "Group-Based Trajectory Modeling of Patient's Adherence to a Cholesterol-Lowering Regimen Over Time" was recognized as the "Outstanding Oral Report" at the conference.

CE at the School of Nursing

Are you scrambling to find continuing education opportunities at the end of each year? Do you take sessions simply to meet credit requirements? Start planning now for 2014 by visiting the CE schedule for the School of Nursing, located at <http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/continuing-education>. Pitt Nursing CE is proud to present both live and Web-based learning activities, providing nurses with the most up-to-date knowledge and skills to keep them confident and competent in practice every day. These learning activities are specifically designed to meet the needs of advanced practice nurses, nurse leaders and educators, and specialty nurses.

The School of Nursing is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (P0229).

Keep track of upcoming events at the School of Nursing...visit our [Events Page](#) often!