

New Dean of Nursing, Gail McCain, Moves Quickly to Connect with Students & Graduates

Without hesitation, Dr. Gail McCain, who became the Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing on June 3, says that what drew her to Hunter were the students.

"Hunter was intriguing to me because of the diverse student body," she says. "By and large, they are the first generation in their families to go to college."

To connect with students, Dr. McCain made it her first order of business to hold focus groups with seniors and recent graduates. She wanted to hear firsthand their perspectives on the school, including what they valued and what they found challenging. Of this experience, McCain says proudly, "The students are bright, enthusiastic, and grateful to be here."

A renowned leader in the field, McCain has more than 40 years of experience as an administrator, educator, practitioner, researcher, and nursing advocate. Before coming to Hunter, McCain, a native of Cleveland, spent six years at the University of Miami, where she served as vice dean and senior associate dean for academic affairs. At Case Western Reserve University (where McCain received her PhD in nursing science), she was the associate dean for community affairs and the Sarah Cole Hirsh Professor of Nursing.

At Hunter, McCain is eager to apply her diverse background to the school's nursing education programs. "It's very important for me to be at a school that offers nursing education at all levels," she says, citing the



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— Gail McCain

undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs. "For undergraduates who may not have role models at home, it's valuable to be exposed to graduate students, so they start thinking, 'Maybe that is a possibility for me.'"

Her goal is to maintain the high quality of education Hunter provides, while also developing the newer programs, such as the doctoral program and a dual/joint program with the Queensborough Community College program in nursing.

"One focus is to produce the generalist nurses we so desperately need because of the great shortage of these professionals," McCain stressed. "There's also a shortage of educators, which the doctoral program will address."

McCain would also like Hunter-Bellevue to become more research-intensive, and with this in mind she hopes to provide support for faculty research programs.

A highly regarded researcher herself, McCain has secured two NINR/NIH grants, including a \$2.3 million grant in a program testing new protocols for nurses to transition preterm infants from tube feeding to bottle feeding. As McCain is putting the finishing touches on the report, she's thinking of ways to continue this research at Hunter, even with the demands of her new role. "It would be great for me to mentor a doctoral student or new faculty in this area," she said. "That would be ideal."

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From the President

The Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing has always been at the forefront of nursing education, providing not only practical training, but also a thorough and wide-ranging curriculum that prepares our graduates to be leaders in health care.

The foresight and determination behind this endeavor are in sharper focus than ever, as the nursing shortage and the need for high-quality health care escalate. We know that Dr. Gail McCain, the new Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of the School of Nursing — who is dedicated to nursing as a profession, science, and community linchpin — will help propel the School to unprecedented levels of achievement.

Dr. McCain will play a pivotal role in the success of the School's new doctoral program in nursing practice. We are so proud that the School of Nursing now joins the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College as our newest doctorate-granting school, a testament to Hunter's growing reputation as one of New York's great leaders in public health research and training.

We are also deeply proud of our continuing collaboration with the Weill-Cornell Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). We congratulate Dr. Laurie Glimcher, the new Stephen and Susan Weiss Dean of the Medical College at Weill-Cornell and look forward to working with her. The Center — a consortium led by Weill-Cornell in which Hunter works with leading New York medical and research institutions — carries out interdisciplinary research projects in such areas as mental health assessment, HIV prevention and diabetes.

These projects and more are opening doors for New York's future nurses, providing countless jobs and opportunities, and making us all healthier and happier. We've never been more ahead of our time.

President Jennifer J. Raab



Message from the Dean

It has only been six months since I became the Dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, and the time has flown by quickly. But what an exciting time it has been! The rich history of the School and Hunter College position us to accomplish great innovations and collaborations.

At the beginning of fall semester, the faculty started to create a new strategic plan for the School that will align with the new Hunter College strategic plan. Faculty also are in the planning phase for a newly revised undergraduate curriculum that will address the recommendations from the Institute of Medicine's report on the future of nursing. One recommendation is that nurses be able to attain higher levels of education with seamless academic progression.

This fall semester Hunter and Queensborough Community College began a dual degree program that promotes seamless progression from Queensborough's A.A.S. program into Hunter's B.S. program. We also launched our new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program this fall. This program's purpose is to educate advanced practice nurses who are prepared to be leaders in the implementation of evidenced-based care. And our faculty are involved in global outreach with an initiative to improve nursing education in Haiti.

But most importantly, when I ask faculty what they love about being at HBSON, their replies can be summarized as, "We have wonderful students!" After all, our students are the future of nursing.

*Gail C. McCain PhD, RN, FAAN
Joan Hansen Grabe Dean*



Diana Mason Named President of American Academy of Nursing

“Nurses have the solutions to improve health care, so how do we take that to the next level?” These words from Diana Mason, the Rudin Professor of Nursing, illustrate the passion that drives all facets of her health policy work. This fall, Mason has taken an even more prominent role in furthering this work. Receiving one of the highest honors in the field, Mason was recently named the President of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN), an 1,800-member organization that advances policies and practices that help drive the reform of the American health-care system.

Presently an AAN Fellow, Mason has been involved with the organization for years, serving as secretary for four years and

as co-chair of the AAN’s “Raise the Voice Campaign,” which supports an innovative, nurse-led model of care. For the next two years, she will serve as president-elect, before assuming the presidency.

“I’m looking forward to helping the academy better fulfill its mission of bringing nursing science knowledge to the important policy matters of our time,” says Mason, who is co-editor of *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care*, an award-winning book and a standard text in nursing classrooms.

Mason is the past editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Nursing*, the oldest and most widely read nursing journal in the world. She is the co-director of Hunter’s Center for Health, Media and Policy, which seeks to shape crucial health care policy conversations while making them more visible.

With her new post as president-elect of the AAN, Mason will join fellow Hunter faculty member David Keepnews in serving

on the board. She points out that it is uncommon to have two faculty members from the same institution on the national board.

“Twenty percent of the board are Hunter faculty members,” she says. “This is a great message, and it underscores the quality of the school and faculty.”

Mason joined the Hunter faculty in 2009 as the Louis and Rachel Rudin Professor of Nursing, an endowed chair.

“Starting with my grandmother’s attending Hunter High School, our family and Hunter have been connected,” said Beth Rudin DeWoody, President, Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation, Inc. “Our decision to fund a professorship of nursing here illustrates our ongoing commitment to ensuring that the next generation of nurses will benefit from the rich academic and clinical program at Hunter. We are proud that we can collaborate with Hunter as it continues to prepare excellent nurses for years to come.”

Hunter-Bellevue Opens its First Doctoral Program in Nursing Practice

After securing approval from the New York State Board of Regents to award a doctorate in nursing practice, the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing welcomed its first class of doctoral students this fall. Ten students are now enrolled in the newly minted DNP program, which offers four tracks: adult/gerontological, psychiatric/mental health, family nurse practitioner, and community/public health nursing.

The new program — a full-time course of study — includes master’s-level work along with additional courses in health organization, economics, and policy. The candidates are expected to complete 90 credits and 1,000 clinical hours in four years.

These ten students are the beneficiaries of the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholars at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing’s Doctorate in Nursing Practice Program which is made possible by a \$260,000, three-year grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence funded by the Jonas Family Fund.

A student in the first class is Bryanna Kelly, a resident of Long Beach, New York. For the past seven years, she has been a staff nurse in a cardiac intensive care unit at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset. Kelly was originally registered for the master’s ANP/GNP program when she learned about the doctoral curriculum. “I decided to go for it,” she said. “Having a doctorate will benefit me, and it is anticipated that all nurse practitioners will be required to have the doctoral degree — or be working toward it — in the future.”

Once she earns the DNP, Kelly said, she sees herself in a primary-care practice. But, she added, “I love clinical practice as well, especially critical care, so I may always want to work in a hospital setting. My hospital has many nurse practitioners and their roles are well supported.”

Another student in the program, Rory Lynch, said he chose the DNP program because of the modern trends in education and healthcare. “This degree will prepare me

for an independent primary care role in a variety of settings. I also chose the doctoral program because it is poised to become the standard of entry to advanced practice by 2015. With the changing face of health care, and shortage of primary care practitioners, DNP’s have the skills and education required to be major players in the delivery of quality healthcare,” he said.

Discussing the future roles of the doctoral candidates, Nursing Professor Steven Baumann, Coordinator of the DNP Program said, “The Doctor of Nursing Practice at Hunter is part of a national trend to require that all advanced practice nurses be educated at the doctoral level, and that this education be clinical, rather than research in focus. It is expected that our DNP graduates will not only be expert advanced practice nurses, but also able to make significant improvements in health care as it is provided in this country.”



Rory Lynch

Students Present at 5th Annual Student-Faculty Research Conference 2011



For the past five years, the School of Nursing has sponsored an annual conference to showcase the quality and range of research conducted by its undergraduate and graduate students, as well as its faculty. Close to 250 attendees were at this year's conference.

Shown here at right presenting their

research on the effects of "Clinical Coaching in a Patient-Centered Long-Term Home Care Model" are master's degree candidate Kathleen Olsen (left), Clinical Director for the Long Term Care Program Manhattan, Visiting MD Program/ Infusion Services, and her Visiting Nurse Service of New York colleague Susan



Willie, Director of Clinical Support Services for the Long Term Home Health Care Program.

Master's candidates Joyce Yeung (left), Tomeika Ulett-Garcia and Joshua Gregoire are shown opposite, answering questions about their research on "Glycemic Control and the Critically Ill."

Hunter Launches Nursing Program with Queensborough Community College

Research has shown that when baccalaureate-prepared nurses care for acutely ill hospital patients, there is a dramatic decrease in mortality and morbidity rates. Data like this underscore the need to increase the number of BSN-prepared nurses.

To respond to this need, Hunter College and Queensborough Community College this fall have launched a new dual/joint degree program in nursing, the first of its kind at CUNY. The program has been funded by the Regional Model to Increase Baccalaureate Nursing (RIBN), a grant project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson/Jonas Foundation, awarded to Queensborough and Hunter in 2008.

Upon completion of their Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in nursing from Queensborough, qualified nursing students will be prepped to transfer directly to Hunter. By the time they enter Hunter,

students will have completed their first six required credits as well as additional required coursework. Faculty and staff from both institutions have planned carefully so that students can complete their degrees in a timely manner.

"We have an opportunity as a flagship school in CUNY to help those with associates' degrees in nursing get their BSN degrees in a seamless sequence," said Gail McCain, the Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing. McCain is working on additional dual/joint degree programs at other schools within CUNY, including the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Anne Marie Menendez, professor and chairperson of the nursing department at Queensborough, said, "The students are thrilled for this opportunity, and so are we." Menendez notes that already students are

entering the general nursing program and wondering how they can get into the dual/joint degree program. "Word is getting out. The program is attracting bright students who understand the importance of earning a bachelor's degree in nursing," she said.

Comprised of 16 students, the first cohort began their studies this fall at Queensborough and will enter Hunter in spring 2013. Dual/joint degree student Ivy Mutibura is very enthusiastic about the opportunity. "It's hard work and a lot of studying, but so far it's worth it," she said.

Mutibura, who hails from Hirare, Zimbabwe, has been in the U.S. for 10 years. She has always been interested in teaching people how to take care of themselves. Now, thanks to the dual/joint degree program, Mutibura has solid support on her road to helping others.

After the Earthquake, Hunter Faculty Rebuilds Haiti's Nursing Schools

The earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010 destroyed a school of nursing building in Port-au-Prince and killed nearly a hundred of the students and faculty. The survivors carried on in two tents set up by UNICEF, but without electricity and most essential supplies.

When nursing professor Carol Roye learned of the devastation, she and several of her colleagues decided to respond. "When we thought about what we could contribute," Roye said, "the answer came quickly; help educate nurses."

Even before the earthquake, nursing education in Haiti was inadequate, with no nationally approved baccalaureate programs and no clear path for career growth. Since nurses are the only source of health care for 87% of Haitians, a better system was desperately needed.

Enter Roye and her colleagues: Professor Steven Baumann, recently retired Professor Joanne Hoffman, and Dr. Carmelle Bellefleur, a School of Nursing alumna who is originally from Haiti. In June 2010, the group traveled to Haiti to

meet with officials of the Ministry of Health and the Port-au-Prince Nursing Association.

Learning that Haiti's nursing education is badly fragmented—five state-run schools but no coordination among them—Roye and her colleagues began working with health officials, administrators, and nurses to develop learning objectives and formalize the baccalaureate program.

The group also organized Partnerships to Enhance Nursing Education in Haiti, a two-day conference in New York in April 2011 that gave Haitian professionals the chance to observe community-based health care firsthand. Roye said, "They saw patients who were happy and congenial. They had never seen anything like that."

The conference was such a success that a follow-up meeting was held in Haiti in the fall. And because of their experiences, Roye and Bellefleur were asked to join the advisory board of the CUNY Chancellor's Initiative on Haiti.

Hunter nursing students joined the cause

by raising funds with bake sales to rebuild the Port-au-Prince school—an effort that deeply moved its normally shy director, Roye said.

Although it is still early, Roye has already seen changes. "All five nursing schools are beginning to work together," she said. "Synergistically, there's been a shift."



Joining forces to help Haiti were (l. to r.) Prof. Steven Baumann, Dr. Carmelle Bellefleur, retired Prof. Joanna Hoffman, Lucille Charles, president of the Haitian Nursing Assn., and Prof. Carol Roye.



Anita Nirenberg Joins Faculty as Hearst Professor of Clinical Nursing

Dr. Anita Nirenberg joined the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing in 2010 as the William Randolph Hearst Professor of Clinical Nursing, thanks to a \$500,000 gift from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The Foundation's gift reflects its commitment to improving the quality of nursing education and increasing the numbers of practitioners and educators.

"The Hearst Foundation is greatly impressed by Hunter's many achievements, especially the renaissance at the School of Nursing," said Ligia Cravo, Foundation senior program officer. "Like the Hearst Foundation, Hunter is committed to solving the national nursing shortage and we know that Anita will help Hunter train new generations of highly skilled nursing practitioners

and educators. Hunter is one of our city's most dynamic institutions and it is a pleasure to support its nursing school in this critically important mission."

With more than three decades of experience as a clinician, educator, and researcher, Nirenberg is well-equipped to further the Foundation's mission. Her specialties are oncology and palliative care in both pediatric and adult populations.

She has been dedicated to providing quality care since 1975, when she was first certified as a nurse practitioner at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She spent 11 years at Columbia University School of Nursing, where she directed the Oncology Nurse Practitioner Program and co-directed the Palliative Care sub-specialty.

Nirenberg is thrilled to be at Hunter. "The students here really represent New York," she says. "Many will go on to practice in the city, bringing their skills to populations in need."

In the classroom, Nirenberg seeks to improve clinical scholarship in Hunter's nurse practitioner program, which she now coordinates. She says, "The experience has been very positive, being able to make a difference for students."

Nirenberg is making a difference for patients, too. Her research funded by NIH and private foundations has examined cancer treatment from both the patient's and the nurse's perspective.

In an upcoming study, Nirenberg will be looking at the "distress experience" in patients recently diagnosed with breast cancer. For patients with a solid tumor, the period between biopsy and the start of treatment can be deeply stressful. To help address this uncomfortable phase, a copyrighted instrument to measure distress in women with newly diagnosed breast cancer—the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Distress Thermometer—has been developed. Nirenberg will be using this "distress thermometer" in her study.



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Greetings. As the new president of the Alumni Association, I am very much looking forward to working with all of you. The Alumni Association is pleased to continue its involvement with the school by providing student awards, co-sponsoring school events and contributing materials to supplement the curriculum.

At our annual meeting in October, we heard an exciting presentation from fellow alumna Dr. Eloise Monzillo (BSN '72) who brought us up to date on the state of science and the art of practice of therapeutic touch. Response from faculty and students was extremely positive.

If you are interested in presenting a timely topic or know someone who is, please contact us to help plan a program.

Providing current information about the school and the field of nursing continues to be an important goal of the Alumni Association. I recently explored the School of Nursing website and was delighted and impressed to see all of the new programs and course offerings. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to visit the website at www.hunter.cuny.edu/nursing. In addition, all alumni interested in library access (among other benefits) should go to the Alumni Office (Room 1314, East Building) to receive an alumni card.

We had a wonderful time at the annual Alumni Luncheon this past May with an impressive turn out from the classes of '61 and '71. Thanks so much to the class coordinators and our board members for organizing a great event. It's not too soon to plan for next year. We always welcome news about our fellow alumni that we can include in the newsletter. Be sure to send current contact information.

Please join me in welcoming our new Dean, Dr. Gail McCain. We wish her a very successful tenure at the School of Nursing.

Diane Rendon, RN, EdD

President, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing Alumni Association

drendon@hunter.cuny.edu

Mid-life Career Change Fullfills Childhood Dream

When Daniel Kaplan (BSN '11) was in his mid-forties, he decided the time was right to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a nurse.

After working as a flight attendant for more than 20 years, the decision to change careers hadn't come easily. Kaplan loved his job, which afforded him an exciting life of world travel. But Kaplan's brother Andy never let him forget his earliest aspirations to help people.

When Kaplan shrugged off Andy's suggestions, Andy persisted. He sent brochures from nursing schools and hospital fliers. Then, in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina created unforgettable devastation in New Orleans, Kaplan knew he had to do more — and that his brother had been right all along.

In 2007, Kaplan began his pre-requisite courses for the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, 23 years after he'd earned his bachelor's in Spanish from West Washington

University. Despite the long break from academia, Kaplan thrived. "It was exciting to be back in the educational process," he says. After three semesters, he transferred into Hunter. Although the program was hard work, Kaplan says that it gave him a sense of purpose and identity. "I really enjoyed everything that I was learning. My mind felt like it was expanding, filling with wonderful and useful information," he says.

His diligence paid off. In May, Kaplan graduated as class valedictorian. In his speech, he humbly told fellow class members that the honor belonged to a first-time graduate. Although his brother had become ill with cancer and passed away before he was able to see Kaplan graduate, Kaplan paid homage to Andy, declaring when he received his pin, "Andy, I did it."

Since graduating, Kaplan has passed his nursing boards and has been on the hunt for a position as a psychiatric nurse. "I have always been interested in psychology," he says. True to his motivation to enter the nursing field, he adds, "Not a lot of people want to go into this area, so there's a lot of need."



The Hunter-Bellevue
School of Nursing
425 East 25th Street
New York, NY 10010

Tel: 212.481.7596
Fax: 212.481.4427

www.hunter.cuny.edu/nursing

The City University of New York
Matthew Goldstein
Chancellor

Hunter College
Jennifer J. Raab
President

Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing
Gail McCain
Joan Hansen Grabe Dean

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1960s

Joanna Hofmann, (BSN '69, MSN '81, ANP '00) recently retired from the Hunter faculty. She spends her time working in a clinic in Brooklyn and enjoying her eight grandchildren.



Graduates from the Class of 1961 gathered in celebration of their 50th reunion at the annual birthday luncheon held on May 17.

1970s

Maureen O'Shaughnessy Kennedy (BSN '71), the editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Nursing*, accepted Sigma Theta Tau International's Nursing Media Award for Print at the honor society's biennial convention in late October. Kennedy is a visiting nurse scholar at the World Health Organization's office of Nursing and Midwifery.

Elizabeth A. Ayello, (MSN '71) is the president of Ayello, Harris & Associates, Inc. The third edition of her book, *Wound Care Essentials: Practice Principles*, has just been published. She recently co-authored a pocket guide book to pressure ulcers: How to classify, stage and document pressure ulcers and other common wounds, which is also available as an eBook.

Adey Nyamathi (BSN '73), the 2011 Davis-Sams Visiting Professor at the Indiana University School of Nursing, made a presentation in early October about the "Engagement of Vulnerable Populations Using Culturally Sensitive Participatory Action Strategies" to a group of faculty, students, and staff. Dr. Nyamathi, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Scholarly Activities at the School of Nursing and Audrienne H. Moseley Endowed Chair in Community Health Research, has led an impressive team of multidisciplinary investigators as principal investigator of eight NIH-funded RO1s and other NIH awards over the past 27 years.

In June **Denise Soares** (BSN '73) was named executive director of the Harlem Hospital Center, where she will oversee 3,115 employees and an annual budget of \$366 million. Soares says she never planned to be an administrator, but when she had the chance to move into a position of management, she saw it as an opportunity to be a "catalyst for change."



Class of 1971. Sheila (Cody) Wilk proudly shows her classmates her student uniform from 40 years ago.

Mia Lofland (BSN '74, MSN '04), treasurer for the Greater New York Organization of Nurse Executives, attended the International Perianesthesia Nursing Conference in Toronto where **Wanda Rodriguez** (BSN '77) also spoke.

Gail Erlitz (BSN '76) continues to work as an informatics nurse at University Healthcare System in Augusta, GA, where she is leading the clinical documentation staff in implementing their new epic EMR.

Marguerite Pulvirenti Corda (BSN '76) recently joined Beth Israel Medical Center



as vice president for patient care services at the Kings Highway Division in Brooklyn. She previously was vice president for critical care and cardiac services at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY and has been a critical care nurse for more than 30 years.

1980s

Ruth Alward (BSN '80) is enjoying retirement and has a busy life of travel, board meetings, volunteer activities and lots of art, theatre, music, etc. in Washington, DC. She will be retiring from the Editorial Advisory

Board after 26 years, but will continue as treasurer of the DC/MD League of Nursing and a Director of the James Lenox House Association in NYC.

Ellen Mullally (BSN '81) has joined Mercy Medical Center as director of care management. She is responsible for directing the coordination of care for inpatients, working together with care management nurses, social workers and support staff as well as the hospital's medical, nursing and ancillary staff.

Manuel C. Co Jr. (BSN '89, MSN '97) is a contributing author to *The Power of Ten, 2011-2013: Nurse Leaders Address the Profession's 10 Most Pressing Issues*, a new book of essays from 30 international nurse leaders published by Sigma Theta Tau International.

1990s

Jo-Ann Ginsberg (BSN '94, MSN '97) has been named the new associate director



of patient care services for the Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System in Fort Meade, SD. Ginsberg will oversee a variety of programs, including pharmacy, nutrition and food services, ward administration, prosthetics, canteen services, and supply processing.

Jane Jeffrie Seley (MSN '98) presented a poster "Using Information Technology to Optimize Inpatient Insulin Therapy" at the International Hospital Diabetes meeting in Barcelona on November 17-18. She is the co-author of new guidelines for the management of patients with diabetes and or hyperglycemia in the hospital.

Nurse consultant **Juliet Scott-Campbell** (BS '99) was featured in a *New York Daily News* article on October 20th in which she says that she realized nursing was her passion when her grandmother fell ill and she observed the wonderful care that a nurse gave to her. For the past five years, Scott-Campbell has been a practicing RN with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York's VNSNY CHOICE health plans.

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425 East 25th Street
New York, NY 10010

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From Literacy to Breast Cancer, Nursing Students Tackle Big Issues

Students enrolled in Nursing 200 classes are getting — along with the traditional introduction to their new profession — hands-on experience in the social responsibilities that come with being a nurse. One of the course requirements is to work on a public service project in cooperation with a nonprofit organization.

The purpose, according to Professor Donna Nickitas, who teaches Nursing 200 along with Professors Steven Baumann and Anita Nirenberg, is to teach the students “not only the core values of nursing, but also a sense of social purpose and civic engagement.” She adds, “In doing that, they also become great ambassadors for Hunter.”

One of the most popular projects — 20 of the most recent class’s 127 students signed up — is breast cancer awareness. Students take part in a variety of activities, from joining in last October’s walk in Central Park, to raising funds, to bringing educational programs on breast cancer to Hunter students, faculty and staff.

The newest of the projects was started by Hunter nursing student Christine Ho and Elisha Lieber, a medical student at the NYU Medical School. After Lieber, a head clerk at a Motor Vehicles office, often explained to applicants about the organ donation pledge on driver’s licenses, she was dismayed by how

poorly they understood this important issue. When she and Ho discovered their mutual concern, they created the project to raise awareness about the need for organ donations.

Two of the projects are international, and the other five work with local or national nonprofits. Typically, eight to ten students sign up for each. The projects are:

- Partners in Haiti, a program to rebuild the island’s nursing schools after the devastation of the 2010 earthquake (see article on page 5 for full coverage).
- Woza Moya, a community health center that works with HIV-AIDS patients in South Africa.
- The Hunter day-care center. Nursing students give the youngsters lessons in healthy living, from proper hygiene to good eating habits.
- Bellevue Hospital’s reading program for the pediatric clinic. Nursing students donate books, read to children and promote an early love of learning.
- Music That Heals, a project that brings the therapeutic benefits of music and singing to pediatric clinics, nursing homes and hospices.
- The Bronx Food Bank, where students conduct food drives and volunteer in helping the needy.



Nursing students Lynnique Mercury (l), Divina Luistro and John Ruddy walked together as part of a Hunter team at the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in New York City on October 16th.

- The Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation. Activities range from fund-raising to taking kids to the Big Apple Circus. “Nursing 200 teaches students what it means to be a professional,” says Nickitas. “These projects are their statement that they understand those values and are ready to carry them out.”