

## NHNA Award Winners Named



**DIRECT CARE NURSE OF THE YEAR – Danielle Salvas, RN** – was nominated by colleagues at DHMC who categorize her as a someone who embodies the qualities to which every nurse should aspire: a compassionate caregiver who puts patient needs above all else; a model of professionalism, integrity and respect for her peers, who strives to excel personally by continually furthering her academic education – now embarking on Nurse Practitioner studies. In just three years at Dartmouth she has amassed many accomplishments some of which include becoming: certified to administer chemotherapy; a preceptor for students and new employees; board certified in Pediatrics, and Chair of her unit based Practice Council – a shared governance position. Last year she taught a Pediatric Oncology class at her alma mater St. Anselm College and has been invited back to reprise that role. Danielle is currently being oriented to the Charge Nurse role and intends to become certified in Pediatric Oncology. On her unit, Danielle has “...spearheaded efforts too numerous to list – but including developing the policy for suicide precautions, becoming a liaison between nursing and respiratory therapy to improve communications and enhance education, and creating a system for decreasing lab specimen errors.” One colleague writes: “She is unwavering in her ability to advocate for her ‘kids’ as she lovingly refers to our [pediatric] patients.” In addition to her direct care role, Danielle has helped to raise money for CHaD by running their half marathon in support of the children she calls her “heroes”. “Danielle is the kind of nurse that reflects so well on the profession. She has an amazing attitude, boundless energy, and compassion that knows no limits. Her desire to learn, to help, and to make things better are an inspiration to all who work with her.” Congratulations, Danielle!



### **PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT AWARD – Deborah A. Sampson, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC**

Although Deborah was not able to attend to receive her award in person, part of the nomination letter from the NH Nurse Practitioner Association was shared. Deborah has been a registered nurse in many settings including trauma and critical care, public and home health, epidemiology, and academia. Currently Dr. Sampson is a Senior Advisor to the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) where she is providing leadership for the implementation of programs under the 2010 Patient Care and Affordability Act through the Bureau of Health Professions. Her work centers on assuring that programs and funding initiatives through HRSA promote and advance nursing education, practice, and workforce - in ways that support the “real world” of patient care and nursing practice. She is also a faculty member at the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College, and maintains her clinical skills by working as a nurse practitioner at Monadnock Community Hospital, occupational health sites throughout NH, and at Star Island Conference Center – Isle of Shoals. As a nursing scholar, Deborah has been the recipient of multiple prestigious awards. Other accomplishments include consulting to health and education leaders in foreign countries; mentoring undergrad and graduate students; genetic research in Mali, Africa; and many national / international speaking engagements. “Deb Sampson is a champion of nursing in all aspects of her life ... She is generous with her time to promote nursing and support her colleagues. She believes in the power of nursing excellence to transform people’s lives.”

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### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD – Susan Fetzer, RN, PhD**

This award is granted at the discretion of the president of NHNA. Said President Jim Biernat: "There were many candidates under consideration for this award, but there was one that stood out among the rest. Sue Fetz-er has given of herself tirelessly in service to the nurses of NH. She has done this through numerous venues over many years. Her contributions through NHNA have been exemplary of her belief in hard work and advocacy of the profession of nursing. She has served on the NHNA's Commission of Continuing Education and currently serves on the Government Affairs Commission. She is editor in Chief of NH Nursing News and a recent Past President of NHNA. When I first became a Board member, Sue was welcoming and served as my mentor. She took the inherent anxiety of a novice newbie and deftly transformed it into productive work for the profession. Sue introduced me to the ANA House of Delegates. She served as narrator, historian, translator and skillful powerbroker. She represented NH well and cultivated the delegates so that they could fully carry out the duties entrusted to them."

"Sue actively encourages seeking perspective so that all may better understand. As a dedicated nursing educator, Sue teaches with gusto and brings forth new members into the nursing profession. Sue has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. She is fiercely independent but also nurtures the power of interdependence. She is a nurse worth celebrating."

Jim also related the story of his trip to ICN in South Africa last year – where the name of Professor Fetz-er was recognized / praised by the Taiwan contingent! "To know that one person can influence the lives of so many is inspiring. Sue is developing a legacy that transcends time and borders".

*Please be sure to review the NHNA Awards program brochure on our website.*

***We encourage your nominations for 2011!***



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