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Jonas Center Scholars Mark First Year

By TRACEY BOYD

Last year, The Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence announced it would sponsor a group of nurses to continue their educations at the doctorate level. On June 1, the first group of Jonas Center Nursing Scholars met with Claire Fagin, RN, PhD, FAAN, former president of the University of Pennsylvania, Donald and Barbara Jonas, and others at a luncheon to report on the past years' experiences.

In roundtable fashion, scholars Andrea Barnes, RN, MS, GNP-BC, CUNY and Yale School of Nursing; Michael Fachko, RN, MSN, University of Pennsylvania and NYU; Adrian Juarez, RN, MSN, NYU and University of Pennsylvania; Jan Kaminsky, RN, BSN, Johns Hopkins University; Shanelle Nelson, RN, MSN, Columbia University; and Annie Rohan, RN, MSN, Columbia University, each gave an account of their experiences from the first year. All agreed it was challenging to say the least. During Barnes' first year in the program, she was part of an interdisciplinary research team, wrote two articles (one published and one pending), and interviewed President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, while completing six doctoral courses and maintaining a 4.0 GPA.



The six Jonas Scholars pose with Donald and Barbara Jonas. From left, Shanelle Nelson, RN; Jan Kaminsky, RN, Andrea Barnes, RN, Donald Jonas, Barbara Jonas, Adrian Juarez, RN, Michael Fachko, RN, and Annie Rohan.



From left: Joan S. Marren, RN, VNSNY; Jonas Scholars Andrea Barnes, RN, and Shanelle Nelson, RN; and Norman H. Volk, chairman, the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Like Barnes' stories, the other scholars' stories were equally impressive. "I am blown away by these scholars and extremely proud," Barbara Jonas said. "None of them are cookie-cutter," she said, referring to the scholars' diverse backgrounds that range from military nursing to hospital administration to women's studies.

Impressed by the inaugural class' first year, Donald Jonas offered encouragement to continue with their accomplishments. "Your achievements are vital to the entire program," he said to the scholars. "You're our 'banner class,' and we're most interested in your being wildly successful so that you can let others know that it's a wonderful program."

The Jonas Nursing Scholars program was launched last year by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence to help curb the impending nursing shortage by furnishing quality faculty for nursing programs. In recent years, scores of would-be nursing students have been turned away from nursing programs because of a lack of faculty. The program offers \$2.5 million to schools of nursing in forgivable loans to be awarded during the next five years.



Claire Fagin, RN, served as discussion moderator.



From left: Benita Walton-Moss, RN; Lorraine Tulman, RN; Fiona Newton, RN; and Jan Kaminsky, RN, a Jonas Nursing Scholar.