



**Kathy Savage, RN**  
Nurse Manager, TUFTS UNIVERSITY  
**2008 NECHA  
LOUISE GAZZARA AWARD**

Since your arrival to Tufts in 1997, you have been a central force in the multitude of changes that have occurred at the University's Student Health Center. You are a tireless and centering force in the practice, a "go-to" person for a multitude of issues.

You are dedicated to the students with your guiding principles of making things convenient and easy for them. If it's better for students, then that is what counts. When you arrived at the Health Service, the scope of the medical practice provided was somewhat limited. Kathy, you felt that Health Service could effectively and safely provide IV rehydration, which would get many students feeling better quicker, and back to school, work, and classes more rapidly. You then set out to train the other nurses in the requisite skill of starting IVs.

Responsive to individuals who need extra help with unusual medical needs, you truly enjoy the students and have tremendous empathy and patience with them. This past year you oversaw the care of a freshman student who, 1,000 miles from home, developed osteomyelitis of his ankle. From a family with limited resources, and non-weight bearing for months, you were in contact with him, his family, his orthopedist, and the visiting nurses almost daily. You helped arrange accessible housing and transportation, kept up with his IV medication doses, provided daily dressing changes, noticing subtle changes that helped identify complications early on. You made sure the young man was getting the academic accommodations he needed, and perhaps other support that nobody even knew about! You played a significant role in keeping this young man in school and on track academically while dealing with a very serious health issue.

As a colleague, you are delightful. Your usual response when hearing about a concern or problem is to think positively and consider a better solution. You respond with a "yes, I can help you" attitude all the time. You persist until problems are solved. Transitioning to an EMR requires a lot of work and persistence, but you, along with the staff, have kept at it. You worked with others to best puzzle out how to effectively use the EMR to document the numerous nursing procedures, and over time, have been able to offer ideas for improvements.

Recruiting for college health nurses is extremely challenging in the Boston area and you have often had to live with very prolonged searches and long periods of short staffing. Throughout each search, you keep good humor, even when working many extra nights and weekends over a prolonged time.

Kathy, you clearly embody the characteristics exemplified by Louise Gazzara: a tireless leader who has made significant contributions to the Tufts Health Service and the University's students. On behalf of the New England College Health Association, I am pleased to present to you, the 2008 Louise Gazzara Award.

Byrant Ford, PhD  
President, NECHA 2007-2008