Nursing professor awarded prestigious fellows honor

Christine Vourakis, a Sacramento State professor of nursing and a nationally recognized expert on mental health and addictions, has been named to the 2014 Class of Fellows by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). She will be inducted during the organization’s October conference in Washington, D.C.

“Fellowship in the academy is highly selective and is considered the highest honor in the nursing profession,” says AAN spokesman Michael Marriott.

The academy’s mission is to serve the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Its more than 2,200 fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice and research.

Vourakis, who began teaching at Sac State in 2006, is one of the 168 nurse leaders from throughout the United States and 24 foreign countries singled out this year for their “extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care.”

“It is a wonderful honor to be inducted into the Academy of Nursing and to be recognized for my lifelong contributions to nursing and health care,” Vourakis says.

She earned her diploma in nursing from Vassar Brothers Hospital School of Nursing, her bachelor’s degree from Texas Christian University, her master’s degree from Emory University and her doctorate from UC San Francisco.

She co-edited a landmark textbook about addictions, *Substance Abuse: Pharmacologic, Developmental and Clinical Perspectives*, and is the editor of *Journal of Addictions Nursing*, a publication for nurses and other health professionals involved in addiction prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Vourakis’ research interests include the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders in adolescents and women, the role of self-help groups in addiction recovery and the relationship between pain and addiction.

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