

## From the Director



► I was going to start this *Welcome* message by writing “It’s a great time to be a nurse”... but then I realized it has never been a bad time to be a nurse! Over the years, I have been approached by friends, neighbors and family members sharing with me that someone close to them is “going into nursing” but they aren’t sure of the career opportunities. I have always welcomed this opportunity to talk about the infinite amount of possibilities a career in nursing presents!

While fully acknowledging the important and critical role nurses have at the bed side, I cannot think of any other career where your undergraduate degree can take you down so many different paths.

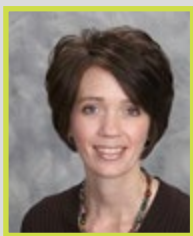
Here at Chatham we are fortunate to have graduated over 500 DNP students. These students have impacted the lives of thousands of patients with their leadership and their advanced practice skills and knowledge. We have been fortunate to witness our MSN students develop advanced knowledge of their chosen specialties. We have marveled at the many hats our RN-BSN students wear, and we have celebrated the accomplishments of our Pathways to Nursing students. Celebrating over ten years of educating nurses, Chatham nursing is proud of the positive impact our students have made on advancing the profession, and are excited to see what our alumni will accomplish in the future.

It’s a great time to be a nurse!

Sincerely,

Diane Hunker, Ph.D., MBA, RN, *associate professor and director of nursing programs*

## Message from the Editor



The Chatham University nursing programs are pleased to share this edition of InTouch, a 2016-2017 Year in Review. This newsletter was developed through collaborative writing with faculty of the nursing department serving as contributing authors. This issue provides an overview of accomplishments and various activities that occurred over the last academic year. This issue also spotlights faculty, current students and alumni achievements, and information on how to become involved

as a preceptor for our nursing programs or a member of Chatham University’s Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, Chi Zeta Chapter. Enjoy!

Best Regards,

Meigan Robb, Ph.D., RN, *assistant professor and MSN program coordinator*

## From the Dean



► Chatham University’s School of Health Sciences has spent the past year getting to know our new president, Dr. David L. Finegold. Dr. Finegold has brought a wealth of knowledge, ideas and energy to Chatham

and it has been an exciting year working with him. In addition, his wife, Sue Finegold, has generously been sharing her time and expertise in leading a weekly yoga class at Chatham Eastside to help keep us focused on our own personal health and wellness.

I would like to personally congratulate DNP alumna, Dr. Kathi Elliot, who has recently joined Chatham’s Board of Trustees. Kathi is the Executive Director of Gwen’s Girls, a female youth empowerment organization in Pittsburgh. Kathi is also part of a research team who in collaboration with Dr. Britney Brinkman, Chatham’s counseling psychology faculty member has applied for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that will explore how an empowerment-focused intervention can prevent violence and improve black girls’ health. It is wonderful to have a School of Health Science alumna on the Board and I greatly look forward to working with her in this new role.

Other highlights from the School of Health Sciences during this past year include the successful start of the fully online Masters in Healthcare Informatics ([www.chatham.edu/mhi](http://www.chatham.edu/mhi)) and the approval to begin a 5-year master’s degree in athletic training. This degree will start in the fall of 2017 and will combine an undergraduate degree in exercise science

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Julie Slade, DNP '09, RN, assistant professor of nursing, RN-BSN program coordinator



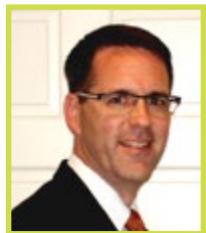
► Dr. Julie Slade has been a nurse for over 18 years with experience providing care in neurotrauma and neuroscience intensive care units. These roles helped Dr. Slade find her true clinical area of interest, end-of-life/hospice nursing. In 2009 she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree and transitioned into nursing education, first working as a Clinical Coordinator and now as Assistant Professor of Nursing and Coordinator of the RN-BSN program at Chatham University. In these roles Dr. Slade works to ensure that RN-BSN students receive high-quality education that builds on the knowledge that was gained in the student's diploma or associate program while enhancing their nursing skills and leadership ability. Dr. Slade's scholarship focus is on end-of-

life/hospice nursing and nursing education. In December 2016 she traveled to the Madridge Nursing 2016 International Nursing Conference in Dubai, UAE, to provide two podium presentations.

Chatham University nursing programs would like to acknowledge Dr. Julie Slade for being nominated for the *2017 Cameos of Caring® Nurse Educator Award*. The future of nursing relies on the quality of instruction nursing students receive from today's expert nurse educators. Dr. Slade will be honored at the *Cameos of Caring Gala* at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh on November 4, 2017.

### Rick Pessagno, DNP '10, PMHNP-BC, CGP, adjunct professor

Emily Hopkins, PhD, RN, WHNP, FNP-BC, assistant professor of nursing



► Rick Pessagno has been in the nursing profession for 33 years. His extensive education consists of a BSN from Catholic University, an MSN in Psychiatric Nursing from the University of Cincinnati, a post masters Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner certificate from Vanderbilt, and a DNP from Chatham University. In addition, Dr. Pessagno completed a fellowship in Psychiatric AIDS Care.

Dr. Pessagno has served in a variety of advanced practice, education, and administrative roles over the course of his career. His background includes service in the Army Nurse Corps to the rank of Captain and experience in national health care policy having served as a Senior Policy Analyst for the American Nurses Association. Furthermore, he has served in national and state elected leadership roles, having served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association for two terms, as well as serving as President of the Society of Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of the New Jersey State Nurses Association (SPAPN)

For the past 27 years, Dr. Pessagno's practice area of expertise has focused on advanced psychiatric care holding national board certification as

a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. Additional certifications include a Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse, a Perinatal Loss Counselor, a Group Psychotherapist, and a Bereavement Trauma Specialist. Specifically, Dr. Pessagno's clinical practice and scholarship have focused on end of life care, HIV and AIDS, group psychotherapy, postpartum depression, LGBT issues, and traumatic grief and loss. Dr. Pessagno is a Fellow in Thanatology through the Association of Death Education and Counseling and he was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2014. In 2016, he was awarded Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner of the Year by SPAPN.

As an educator, Dr. Pessagno has been part of Chatham's nursing adjunct faculty since 2010 teaching and mentoring students on the development of their capstone manuscript. Successfully publishing his own DNP capstone project, *The Use of Short-Term Group Psychotherapy as an Evidenced-Based Psychiatric Nursing Intervention for First-Time Mothers at Risk for Postpartum Depression*, enables Dr. Pessagno to impart his knowledge and learning experiences — helping students with evidence based practice publications.

# RECENT FACULTY AND STAFF SCHOLARSHIP

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Doas, M.** (2017). Increasing self-awareness when posting on social media sites. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 7(8).

**Doas, M.** (2016). Psychiatric Nursing Medication Administration: Is it just a Med Pass? *Annals of Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 4(1).

**Fisher, MD., & Robb, M.** (2017). Student Moderator: A Practical Application Exercise. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 56(6), 383.

Ullman, F., & **Fisher, MD.** (2017). Application of the EBP Process: Maximizing Lactation Support with Minimal Education. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 33, 97-100.

**Hopkins, E., Spadaro, K., Walter, L. Wasco, J., Fisher, MD., & Sterrett, S.** (2017). Incivility in the Online Classroom: A Guide for Policy Development. *Nursing Forum*, doi: 10.1111/nuf.12205

**Hopkins, E., & Wasco, J.** (2016). *Information technology strategies for honor society and organization membership retention in online nursing programs.* *Nurse Educator*, 42(4), 208-211. doi: 10.1097/NNE.0000000000000353

**Hopkins, E.,** Gazza, E., & Marzita, M. (2016). *Parental experience caring for cleft lip and palate Infants with nasoalveolar moulding.* *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 72(10), 2413-2422.

**Hopkins, E., Robb, M., Fisher, M., Slade, J., Wasco, J., Spadaro, K., & Doas, M.** (2016). Honor society membership retention strategies: Promoting membership Benefits from induction through transition to professional practice. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 6(12), 18-23.

**Robb, M.,** & Shellenbarger, T. (2017). Lifelong learning: Is a post-mater's certificate the right option for you? *American Nurse Today*, 12(7), 6-7.

Shellenbarger, T., & **Robb, M.** (2017). Returning to nursing school? Keys to success. *American Nurse Today*, 12(7), 4-6.

**Robb, M.,** & Shellenbarger, T. (2016). Technology-based solutions for collaboration woes. *American Nurse Today*, 11(11), 1-2.

**Rittle, C.** (2016). How the non-work environment can affect worker and family health. *Workplace Health & Safety*, 64(11).

**Rittle, C., & Francis, R.** (2016). The critical role of nurses in promoting immunization for adults. *American Nurse Today*, 11(2).

**Slade, J., Robb, M.,** Sherrod, B., & **Hunker, D.** (2017). Online adjunct faculty support: An innovative use of a learning management system. *Nurse Educator*, 42(3), 143-146.

Zakhari, R., & **Sterrett, S.** (2016). Attitudes toward evidence-based clinical decision support tools to reduce exposure to ionizing radiation. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 28(12). DOI:10.1002/2327-6924.12402

Schreiber, J., Goreczny, A., Bednarek, M., Hawkins, S., Hertweck, M., & **Sterrett, S.** Assessing self-reported interprofessional competency in health-care education: Impact of new curriculum. *Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences*, 14(3), 11.

**Wasco, J.** (2017). Don't go Viral: An Evidence-Based Practice Project for Increasing Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Rates on College Campus. *Building Healthy Academic Communities Journal*, 1(1), 42-51.

**Wolf, D.,** Wenskovitch, J. & Anton, B. (2016). Social media and nurses: Does age, years of experience and education level make a difference? *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 6(2), 68-75.

Xia, L., **Wu, H.,** & Cheng, Y. (2017). Interprofessional Collaboration Strategies: A Hematology Unit Case Study. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 7(4), 51. doi: 10.5430/jnep.v7n4p51

**Wu, H.,** Ren, D., Zinsmeister, G., Zewe, G., & Tuite, P. (2016). Implementation of an Early Nurse-led Family Meeting in a Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing*, 35(5), 268-276. doi: 10.1097/DCC.0000000000000199.

## RECENT FACULTY AND STAFF SCHOLARSHIP (cont)

### Podium Presentations, Poster Presentations, and Workshops

**Doas, M.** (2017). *What are the Potential Outcomes of Integrating Emotionally Competent Behaviors into the Care of Psychiatric Patients?* Podium Presentation at the International Conference on Nursing Science & Practice, Dallas, Texas.

**Doas, M.** (2016). *How do Social Determinants Drive Health Inequities in the Mental Health Population?* Podium Presentation at the Cultural Inclusion Institute, University of Texas Health Sciences Center: Relating Cultural Inclusiveness to Social Determinants of Health, San Antonio, Texas.

**Fisher, MD., & Sterret, S.** (2016). *Interprofessional Perceptions of Collaboration in a Pediatric Hospital Setting: An Academic/ Practice Research Partnership.* Presentation at 9th National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

**Hunker, D.F.,** Shellenbarger, T., Gazza, E.A. (2017). *Doctoral Nursing Students' Use of Evidence-Based Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes of Scholarly Writing.* Podium Presentation at the 28th International Nursing Research Congress, Dublin, Ireland.

Gazza, E.A., **Hunker, D.F.,** Shellenbarger, T. (2017). *Using the KSAs of Scholarly Writing to Improve Graduate Students' Writing: The Role of the Nurse Educator.* Podium Presentation at the AACN Masters Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Robb, M., & Spadaro, K.** (2017). *Inside and Outside of the Box Thinking: Strategies to Promote Engagement in Online Courses.* Poster presentation at the AACN Master's Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Shellenbarger, T., & **Robb, M.** (2016). *Rubrics to the Rescue: Effective Evaluation in Nursing Education.* Podium presentation at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, Orlando, FL.

**Rittle, C.** (2017). *Common Adult Vaccine Issues: What Employees Need, Coaching About Vaccines, and Safe Vaccine Management.* Podium presentation at the AAOHN National Conference, New Orleans, LA.

**Slade, J.** (2016). *Comparing Hospice to Palliative Care: Knowing the Difference is Important in Patient Care!* Podium presentation at the Madridge Conference Nursing 2016 International Conference on Nursing, Dubai, UAE.

**Slade, J.** (December). *Live Practice Experiences in Online Nursing Education.* Poster presentation at the Madridge Conference Nursing 2016 International Conference on Nursing, Dubai, UAE.

**Spadaro, K. & Robb, M.** (2017). *But Can They Think Critically? Use of Self-Reflection in Clinical Courses.* Podium presentation at the AACN Master's Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Wu, H. & Walter, L.** (2017). *Exploration of signature pedagogies for international Chinese Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Education students.* Podium presentation at the Ireland International Conference on Education, Dublin, Ireland.

**Wolf, D.,** & Olszewski, K. (2017). *Empowering OHN through the use of "Big Data".* Podium presentation at the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses 2017 National Conference.

**Wolf, D.,** & Olszewski, K. (2017). *Creating a virtual presence: Extending OHNs, APNs and environmental health nurses role in promoting health, safety, productivity and disability management for worker populations via the internet.* Workshop at the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses 2017 National Conference.

**Wolf, D.** (2016). *Boot camp for nurses: Integrating social media into practice.* Key-note podium presentation at the 18th International Conference on Nursing & Healthcare.

**Wolf, D.,** & Anton, B. (2016). *Empowering patients to use the WWW safely to make decisions regarding their health.* Podium presentation at the 18th International Conference on Nursing & Healthcare.

**Wolf, D.** (2016). *Big data analytics: Assessing outcomes to improve health and safety.* Podium presentation at the 30th Annual National Conferences for NAOHP (National Association for Occupational Health Professionals).

**Wolf, D.,** & Olszewski, K. (2016). *Integrating Social Media into Occupational health.* Podium presentation at the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare.

# Nursing Department Participates in Community Events to Raise Awareness

Michelle Doas, EdD, RN, *associate professor of nursing*, and Kathleen Spadaro, PhD, PMHCNS, RN, *associate professor of nursing*

► In February and April, the nursing department was a first time participant in two community events hosted by Chatham University to raise awareness. Under the leadership of Dr. Michelle Doas, the nursing department participated in the annual Chatham University *Relay for Life* event on February 3. *Relay for Life* is a community based fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. Each year, more than 5,000 *Relay for Life* events take place in over twenty countries. Events are held in local communities, campus universities and in virtual worlds. As the American Cancer Society's most successful fundraiser, the mission of *Relay for Life* is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer

patients and their caretakers. Chatham raised a total of \$10,770.70, with the nursing department proudly taking second place out of 21 teams raising \$2,000. Major fundraising events included auctioning of various themed baskets, raffling of various Pittsburgh sport teams' memorabilia, and on-line donations from students, staff and faculty.

Dr. Kathleen Spadaro led the organizing of the nursing departments participation in the *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* (AFSP) campaign held on April 8. AFSP works with various universities to coordinate student fundraiser walks to "bring mental health conditions out of the darkness" (AFSP, 2017). The nursing department participated under the team name of *You are Not Alone* to walk and

raise money for this organization's mission. Chatham raised a total of \$15,567, with the nursing department team being the second largest contributor. Dr. Spadaro contributes the successful fundraising of the nursing department team to support received from students, faculty, colleagues, family members, and private business owners, and all who participated in the events.



## Faculty Member Recognized for Excellence in Nursing

► In December of 2016, *Pittsburgh Magazine* held an inaugural award for Excellence in Nursing. A regional panel of nursing leaders, educators, and administrators evaluated and selected individuals for their notable contributions in the in the field of nursing. There were four categories of recognition – Leadership, Entrepreneur, Clinician, and Academic. Dr. Jennifer J. Wasco, Chatham University Assistant Professor of Nursing and Practice Experience Coordinator, was awarded an *Honorable Mention of Achievement* in the category of Academic. The event was held at the Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. Biographies of the awardees can be found on [pittsburghmagazine.com](http://pittsburghmagazine.com).



## From the Dean, *continued from page 1*

with a Master of Science in Athletic Training ([www.chatham.edu/athletic-training](http://www.chatham.edu/athletic-training)). The graduate psychology program has moved from Woodland Road to Chatham Eastside so we now have PA, OT, PT and Psych all in the same building. The occupational therapy program sponsored a very successful "Out of the Darkness Campus Walk" in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the physical therapy program initiated the "Go Baby Go" Program that adapts electric cars for children who have mobility impairments.

My best to you all,  
Patricia Downey, PT, Ph.D., DPT

## MSN INTERNATIONAL TRACK

### Notable Achievements and Experiences of Cohort #3

Debra M. Wolf, PhD, RN, *associate professor of nursing*, and Huixin Wu, DNP, MBA, RN, CCRN, CCNS, *assistant professor of nursing*

► Reflection on the past academic year has brought to light several notable experiences and achievements of Cohort #3. In an attempt to address challenges with studying abroad, the nursing department piloted a new initiative called “Peer Partnering Program”. The pilot was designed to partner graduate students in the School of Health Sciences (from PT, PA, OT and psychology) with the international MSN nurses from China. The objective of the pilot was to 1) provide students the opportunity to network while experiencing multicultural differences and 2) provide students the opportunity to discuss differences between a national health system and the health system in the United States. Students from USA were partnered with MSN International students based on how they completed an interest survey. Over the fall, spring, and summer terms students would meet based on their own time schedules and interests. The program was considered a success for many verbalized that multiple friendships were created, students gained an understanding of different cultures and roles as healthcare professionals.

The students also participated in opportunities to continue to network outside of the Chatham campus. They attended many academic conferences to expand their professional vision. They also enjoyed visiting several teaching hospitals to gain a broader understanding of global healthcare similarities and differences. During their experiences they continued to build friendships with individuals from the United States, Japan, Thailand, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and other countries. Cohort #3 was eager to return to China to demonstrate the knowledge and skills gained while completing their MSN, and to tell about their travels during their time of study at Chatham University.



### Giving Students Tools to Address At-risk Alcohol and Substance Use

This fall, Chatham School of Health Sciences will enter the final year of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) training grant. SBIRT is a method of addressing substance use in the at risk phase. The process is evidenced based and works in collaboration with patients using motivational interviewing techniques. Though this training is highly relevant to the current opioid crisis, the skills the students have acquired may be used to address any health or lifestyle change.

To date 431 students and 16 faculty have been trained in six programs across the School of Health Sciences. This number includes 90 RN-BSN students cumulatively, trained as a part of NUR 409, Clinical Prevention, Population, and Environmental Health. Notably, in a survey of student and graduate use of their new SBIRT skills, three RN-BSN students completed 38 informal screens, 12 formal screens, performed 34 brief interventions and 25 referrals to treatment, all over a 30-day period of time!

***“I was surprised how easy it was to speak with this patient about his drinking habits. He stated that no one really seemed to ever take the time to hear him out, and instead have only berated him and argued with him over his problem. He was appreciative in the end for me simply listening to his story.”*** (RN-BSN student report after using SBIRT skills)

If you are interested in this topic, a brief CME training (1.75 credit hours) regarding SBIRT may be found at <http://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/830331> titled Substance Use in Adults and Adolescents: Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) CME/CE. To access the course, you will need to sign up for a free account. If this peaks your interest and you would like additional information, please contact Chad Rittle ([crittle@chatham.edu](mailto:crittle@chatham.edu)) for additional resources, other continuing education opportunities, and/or access to the training materials the students have received (non-CME).

*Funding for SBIRT programs at Chatham University is made possible via grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).*

## PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT

### Marian G. Feil, DNP '14, CRNA

Jennifer J. Wasco, DNP, RN, *assistant professor of nursing and nursing practice experience coordinator*

► When you ask Dr. Marian Feil, assistant professor and program director of the nurse anesthesia program at Thomas Jefferson University, to be a preceptor for Chatham University, she is always willing and passionate to support students. Dr. Feil has been a DNP preceptor since she graduated from Chatham University in 2014. When reflecting on why she believes it is important to serve in this capacity she stated, “I always think it is important to pay it forward to the future of our profession and precepting is an excellent way to do so.” In discussing tips for success she offered the following, “Be readily available to the student, this is a key ingredient to the preceptor-student relationship and allows for a mutually beneficial experience.”

In addition to her academic work, Dr. Feil practices clinically at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Reading Hospital and Medical Center as a Per-Diem Nurse Anesthetist. She is also an active member of The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists and Sigma Theta Tau International.

### Precepting: A Rewarding Experience

Precepting is a formal arrangement between a novice and an experienced person for a defined period. Preceptors serve as role models working in a collaborative fashion with the student towards meeting established program goals.

Precepting is an immensely rewarding experience for both the student and preceptor. It is also an essential component to nursing education. The identification of preceptors grows increasingly difficult as competition for practice experience sites increase and doctorally prepared nurses are not yet vast in number. Take a moment to reflect on your practice experience preceptor and the valuable experience they provided. Please consider donating your time and knowledge to advance the field of nursing through precepting for Chatham University nursing programs.

As a preceptor, you are required to sign a student-preceptor agreement, provide a copy of your CV and your professional license number for verification and approval. If you are interested in precepting, please contact Jennifer J. Wasco, DNP, RN, practice experience coordinator at [jwasco@chatham.edu](mailto:jwasco@chatham.edu) or 412-365-1378.



### DNP On-Campus Residency Recap

► The Chatham University's School of Health Sciences Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares nurses to practice as experts in the promotion and use of evidence-based practice in health care delivery systems. Twice per year, spring and the fall, DNP students from around the country gather on Chatham University's Shadyside Campus for a two-day retreat to share their evidence-based practice change projects in the form of a professional poster presentation. During this time, the faculty and staff, peers, colleagues, and the healthcare community learn more about each student's evidence-based practice change project through interactive dialogue. This year a total of 79 DNP students attended the required event.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### Pathways to Nursing Student Studies Abroad in Spain

Lora Walter, MSN, RNC, *assistant professor of nursing, and pathways to nursing coordinator*

► Christopher Clark began his nursing career as a nursing assistant on a medical-surgical orthopedic unit at St. Clair Hospital where he learned the foundation of the nursing profession. Chris began attending UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing (SSON) in 2015 as a Pathways to Nursing student at Chatham University. Currently in his senior year at Chatham, he is an integral part of peer mentorship, providing support for newer nursing students. Demonstrating his commitment to maintaining academic excellence and clinical honors, Chris received the *Thomas and Anita F. Watson Scholarship* at SSON and the *Whiteside-Schilling Scholarship for Pathways to Nursing Students* at Chatham.

Recently, Chris decided to engage in a learning opportunity that expanded outside of the walls of a traditional classroom through participating in a fellowship with the Atlantis Project. The project is part of Chatham University's Study Abroad Program in Zaragoza, Spain. On this excursion, he observed a myriad of orthopedic surgeries and had the opportunity to shadow intensive care physicians at an urban Spanish hospital. Chris feels the global knowledge he gained in Spain is applicable to his current position as an RN in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at UPMC Shadyside Hospital. Chris hopes through both sharing and applying his lessons learned through studying abroad he can help improve patient care.

Chris plans to continue in his pursuit of demonstrating his commitment to maintaining academic excellence and clinical honors. He plans to earn certifications in neuroscience and critical care. He also aspires to become a nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist and earn a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. With this degree, he hopes to incorporate the latest evidence-based research into practice and serve as a role model and leader in the nursing field.

## HONOR SOCIETY

### Chi Zeta: Chapter Update

Michelle Doas, EdD, RN, *associate professor of nursing, and Chi Zeta chapter president*



Sigma Theta Tau International  
Honor Society of Nursing<sup>®</sup>  
Chi Zeta Chapter

The Chi Zeta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STT) again had a successful year of providing opportunities for learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses. The chapter's annual educational event was held on October 26, 2016. Dr. Chad Rittle, DNP, MPH, FAAOHN presented an informative discussion titled "Recent Update in Vaccines: Latest CDC Recommendations." The event was held live at Chatham University's Eastside campus, and was also recorded to support the opportunity for virtual viewing. The educational event corresponded with Founder's Day activities associated with STTI.

Also this year, Chi Zeta was recognized in November for a *Showcase of Regional Excellence*. The recognition was based upon the *Mental Health Awareness Symposium* previously sponsored by Chi Zeta. The symposium aligned with STTI's President, Cathy Catrambone's call-to-action specifically related to the area of Advocacy.

Chi Zeta provides many opportunities for membership involvement in leadership, scholarship, and community service. The chapter website can be found at [chizeta.nursingsociety.org](http://chizeta.nursingsociety.org). If you are a member of STTI but not part of Chatham University's Chi Zeta chapter, please consider joining our current membership by contacting STTI Membership Services at 888-634-8174 or [memserv@stti.iupui.edu](mailto:memserv@stti.iupui.edu).



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

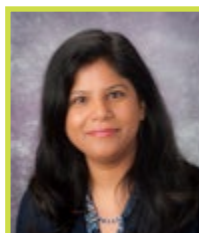
### DNP Alumnus Inducted as a Fellow



► Chatham nursing is proud to congratulate Michael W. Neft, DNP '09, MHA, RN, CRNA, FNAP, FAAN on his induction as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in November 2016. Dr. Neft is currently Associate Professor and Vice Chair/Assistant Director of the Department of Nurse

Anesthesia at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. A retired US Army lieutenant colonel, Dr. Neft is an accomplished, clinician, scholar, and educator and remains active in multiple professional organizations. Currently, Dr. Neft is furthering his education and is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Duquesne University. Congratulations, Mike on this prestigious and well deserved recognition!

### DNP Alumna Serves as Leader for Professional Nursing Organization



► Aparna Gupta, DNP '17, MBA, RN, ANP-BC, was recently elected to serve as the District 6 President of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. Dr. Gupta has established herself in the nursing profession as a change agent who is committed to working collaboratively to

lead improvement processes. This recent accolade reflects Dr. Gupta's commitment to spearhead transformation in professional nursing practice and reshape the future of population-focused health.

The Office of Alumni Relations would like to thank all the nursing alumni, students, and faculty that made a gift this year. The support and investment is much appreciated. A special thank you to all those that helped make Chatham University's first ever *Day of Giving* an enormous success. In 24 hours, 570 donors raised over \$154,218, with seven nursing alumni contributing close to \$1,000 toward that total! To make an impact on Chatham's nursing programs today, please visit <https://give.evertrue.com/chatham/nursing>

### Inaugural DNP Alumni Event Held in Baltimore

MaryDee Fisher, DNP, RN, CPN, *assistant professor of nursing*



In October at the 9<sup>th</sup> National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference in Baltimore, 29 Chatham alumni and six Chatham staff and faculty members gathered for the inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) alumni event. The event connected DNP alumni from various cohorts and from around the nation. Those in attendance were gratified for the opportunity to engage with the diverse group of individuals, representing many of the previous ten years of Chatham DNP alumni. Our DNP alumni nation now extends to over 500 in number! These types of gatherings were specifically envisioned to foster a community of DNP-prepared leaders to support scholarship

endeavors and to build strong social networks. The reception was sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and provided an opportunity for Chatham to maintain connections with graduates. Please save the date for the next Alumni Reception hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations on Thursday September 14, 2017 at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual DNP National Conference in New Orleans, LA. Visit [www.chatham.edu/alumni](http://www.chatham.edu/alumni) for information on alumni events in Pittsburgh and around the country.

**Please keep the Chatham University nursing programs updated with your achievements** – we would like to share your scholarly work and projects with the Chatham University community. Send your stories, news, and publications to [sharding@chatham.edu](mailto:sharding@chatham.edu).

**The Office of Alumni Relations would like to stay connected with you.** Please be sure to keep your contact information updated by e-mailing [alumni@chatham.edu](mailto:alumni@chatham.edu).

Did you move? Change jobs? Or have a professional or personal update to share? Keep in touch with Chatham and your classmates by visiting [chatham.edu/alumni](http://chatham.edu/alumni). There you can become a member of the alumni directory, view and share classnotes, as well as get updated information on alumni events in Pittsburgh and around the country, and register and pay for events online! E-mail Alumni Relations for your unique ID needed to login!

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