

From the Director



► Not surprisingly, many people approached me during the recent pandemic and shared what they thought was a comforting observation, “*Oh things really haven’t changed for you; your programs were mostly online anyway.*” I would have to go on to explain that while that is true, the social isolation, the presence of anxiety and fear amongst students and colleagues, the extra burden on our students, and the grief experienced by those who had loss, were all impactful despite the need to alter our teaching strategies.

As we muster through—hopefully—the final days of the pandemic, I am encouraged by the resiliency of society to continue to embrace the life that we knew before, and the baby steps that are needed by some to resume business as usual. While the pain of the losses and the impact will never be forgotten, we must join together as a department, a profession, and a school to embrace all that is gained by working together and supporting each other. I commend the students who persevered with their education despite the challenges. My hope is that we all learn to find the joy again in everyday things and embrace the opportunity to collaborate and connect with each other again.

I would be remiss if I did not give a warm congratulations to our esteemed dean, Dr. Patricia Downey, as she heads into her final term of her academic career. Dean Downey’s support of our students and faculty/staff have been immeasurable and she will be dearly missed. Best of luck to Dean Downey for a peaceful, healthy, and happy retirement!

Best regards,

Dr. Diane F. Hunker

Director of nursing programs, DNP program coordinator, professor

Message from the Editor

► The Chatham University nursing programs are pleased to share this edition of *InTouch*, a 2020-2021 Year in Review. This issue provides an overview of student and faculty accomplishments, alumni achievements, and various activities that occurred over the last academic year amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. This newsletter was developed through collaborative writing with nursing program faculty serving as contributing authors.

Enjoy!

Dr. Emily Hopkins

From the Dean



► I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about my retirement plans at the end of this year. I have had the privilege to be a part of Chatham University since 1994. My journey has included being a faculty member, a program director, and for the past seven years I have served

as the inaugural Dean for the School of Health Sciences. This announcement gives me the opportunity to do some reflection regarding both our School and the nursing programs. When I became the Dean in 2014 and the University restructured and formed the School of Health Sciences, most of our programs were in the College of Graduate Studies. However, the nursing program was in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies. It was clear to me that having nursing within the School of Health Sciences, although unique to most other academic institutions, was the best way to proceed for both the faculty and the students. The inclusion of nursing provided the faculty a clear opportunity to form collegial bonds with other health professionals and engage in collaborative teaching and scholarship. The interprofessional education committee welcomed its first nursing faculty member to join and collaborate in the education of all our first-year graduate students. Our student’s education has been significantly enriched by having nursing represented on this important committee.

Over the past seven years, I have seen the nursing programs grow in terms of enrollment, but more significantly, in terms of quality. This is a testament to the impressive faculty who are dedicated to student success through teaching and mentoring, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I would like to thank Dr. Diane Hunker for her strong leadership and vision. She has taught me a lot about the profession of nursing and nursing education, and I am very grateful to her.

Warm regards,

Dr. Pat Downey

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Dr. Lorri Birkholz



► Chatham University had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Lorri Birkholz, DNP, RN, NE-BC, as an assistant professor of nursing in August 2020. Dr. Birkholz originally entered nursing after graduating from Presbyterian/St. Luke's School of Nursing in Denver, CO. After

two years of working as a med-surg float RN, she moved to the emergency department where she remained for nearly 20 years, as a staff nurse, charge nurse, and department manager. Dr. Birkholz then completed an RN-BSN degree at the University of WI-Green Bay and an MSN in Nursing Leadership at the University of TX-Arlington. While focused on leadership, she obtained an ANCC certification as a nurse executive. Dr. Birkholz later chose to continue her education and completed a DNP program

at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Upon graduation, she accepted a faculty position in Old Dominion's DNP program. After teaching there for three years, she accepted a position at Chatham and enjoys being back in Pittsburgh.

Her areas of scholarship include ethics, moral distress in nurses, incivility, and power/powerlessness in nursing. Currently, Dr. Birkholz is part of an international team working on publishing findings from a study identifying moral distress in nurse leaders which included the development of an Ethical Decision-Making Confidence Scale. Two upcoming publications include one on the topic of pre-existing assumptions of nurses toward victims of human trafficking and another on responsibilities associated with the use of war language with the pandemic.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Dr. Cheryl Wagner



► Cheryl Wagner, Ph.D., MSN/MBA, BSN/BA is homebased in Davenport, IA with an impressive nursing career spanning almost forty years. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Chatham since 2014 and serves as

editor for *Nursing Interventions Classification* (NIC) at the University of Iowa.

As a pre-med undergraduate, she transitioned to nursing due to family circumstances. Her early work as a staff nurse in oncology and perioperative nursing advanced to administrative roles. During nursing shortages, she felt she could better contribute as a nurse educator by developing new nurses. Dr. Wagner completed an MSN/MBA program in 1996. Her nurse educator positions involved creation of mostly online BSN and MSN courses. Continued graduate work led to a research assistant opportunity at the University of Iowa's Center for Nursing Classification. In 2006, she completed her Ph.D. in Nursing Administration. Dr. Wagner presents NIC worldwide, publishes, and is actively revising the next book on NIC for 2023.

Following professional networking, she secured adjunct nursing faculty roles at several universities nationwide. At Chatham, Dr. Wagner works with DNP students in the Structural Knowledge and Ethics/Policy courses. She appreciates the high standards seen in Chatham students and notes many schools are diluting quality in their programs.

Personally, she also served as a parish nurse in her community. She and her husband have four children. As a family, they enjoy participating in community theatre and support sports activities now with their grandchildren.

RETIRING FACULTY

PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Dr. Kathleen C. Spadaro



► Congratulations to Kathleen Spadaro, Ph.D., PMHCNS, RN! Dr. Spadaro joined Chatham in 2010 and during that time she has served in several key leadership roles, including IRB Chair and MSN Program Coordinator, and was a key member of the team that designed

and implemented the international MSN program. Another key contribution by Dr. Spadaro includes being the founding President of the Chi Zeta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Along

with these key accomplishments were many other professional service activities as well as the publication of over 30 peer-reviewed publications and dozens of professional presentations. Dr. Spadaro has been able to establish herself as an expert in mindfulness meditation and online, graduate nursing education. Dr. Spadaro's last day will be in August 2021. We wish her well in her new endeavors and congratulate her on a productive and meaningful career!

RECENT FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Fisher, M., Walter, L., Slade, J. (2020, August). A helping hand to promote nursing. *Nursing2020*, 50(8), 67-69. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.NURSE.0000684248.99237.a4>

Fisher, M.D. & Wolf, D. (2021). Remote Learning Environments: Lessons Learned from Collaborative Small Group Activities. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 60(2), 120. <https://doi.org/10.3928/01484834-20210120-13>

Hopkins, E., & Spadaro, K. (2020). Virtual induction ceremonies: Upholding time-honored tradition. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 10(5), 77-81. <https://doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v10n5p77>

Hopkins, E., Wasco, J., Spadaro, K., Fisher, M., Walter, L., & Piotrowski, M. (2021). Crisis response to COVID-19: Elements for a successful virtual event transition. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 11(3), 36-40. <https://doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v11n3p36>

Hunker, D.F., Robb, M. (2021) Using Visual Feedback to Support Ongoing Adjunct Faculty Mentoring. *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*, 16(2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.teln.2021.02.002>

Hunker, D.F., Wolf, D.M., Spadaro, K.C., Wu, H. (2021) Faculty Development Prior to an International Cohort. *Open Journal of Social Science*, 9, 165-172. <https://doi.org/10.4236/jss.2021.93011>

Rittle, C. (2021). Change for the better. *American Nurse Journal*, 16(6):22.

Robb, M., Hunker, D.F. (2020) Students' Perceptions of the Value of Learning the Skill-Sets of a DNP Prepared Nurse: an Exploratory Study. *Journal of*

Doctor of Nursing Practice, 13(3), 224-228. <http://doi.org/10.1891/JDNP-D-20-0000>

Singh, A., Spadaro, K., Piotrowski, M., Fisher, M.D., Walter, L., & Doas, M. (in press). Exploring student perceptions of a virtual residency. *Journal of Nurse Education*.

Spadaro, K., & Hunker, D. (2020). Experience of an 8-week online mindfulness intervention for nursing students: Qualitative findings. *Nurse Educator*, 46(2), 2020, e-Version First TM.

Wu, H., Spadaro, K., Hunker, D., & Wolf, D. (2020). Impact on Chinese nurses roles after study abroad: An Exploratory Study. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 10(5), 2020, e-Version First TM

Book Chapter

Hopkins, E. & Hoh, N. (2021) Epigenetics. In *J. Leffers, C. Smith, K. Huffing, R. McDermitt-Levy, R. B. Sattler (Ed.) Environmental Health in Nursing (2nd Ed.) E-textbook*.

Podium and Poster Presentations

Birkholz, L.J. "Ethical Nursing During Difficult and Uncertain Times: The Power of Words", American Society of Bioethics & Humanities, Nursing Affinity Group Virtual Conference, October 17, 2020.

Hopkins, E. (2021, January). Nursing Faculty Experiences Transitioning to a Virtual DNP Residency During COVID-19. Poster presentation for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Doctoral Education Conference, Virtual Event.

Hopkins, E. & Wasco, J. J. (January 2021). Crisis Response to Covid-19: Elements for a Successful

Virtual Event Transition. Poster presentation presented at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Doctoral Education Conference. Virtual Event.

Doas, M. (2021). Getting in touch with your emotional self, during the pandemic and beyond, Podium Presenter, Nursing Diversity, Global virtual summit on Nursing Education.

Doas, M. (2021). Increasing nurse morale during a global pandemic. Speaker, UPMC Mercy, luncheon leadership series.

Piotrowski, M. (2020). Sparking Timely Communication for Learning Innovation in Online Doctoral Nursing Students. Podium presentation for OLC Accelerate 2020 conference in Orlando, FL November 16, 2020.

Piotrowski, M. (2020). Application of EBP as a healthcare professional: Importance of inquiry and collaboration for best practice. Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Remote Area Medical (RAM) pre-med organization. Invited Guest Presentation 9-14-2020.

Spadaro, K. *How (and why) to cultivate leadership skills throughout your nursing staff*. Live invited webinar for the American Nurses Association Nurse Leaders series on May 25, 2021. Released on May 26, 2021 on demand.

Spadaro, K. *Mindfulness in online teaching*. Invited podcast for *Nurse Educator*. Recorded April 15, 2021. Scheduled for release on June 16, 2021.

Spadaro, K. *Self-compassion for nurses*. Interview for *Healthy Nurses, Healthy Nation*. Interviewed

PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT

Darlene Morocco, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, FACHE



► The Chatham University nursing programs have been fortunate to have Ms. Darlene Morocco MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, FACHE, Clinical Director of Cardiovascular & Respiratory Care Services for UPMC Passavant McCandless and Cranberry, serve in a preceptor role for students during their journey to higher education. Mentoring has always been one of her favorite professional activities and personal contributions to nursing.

As a preceptor, Darlene is astutely aware of what students may be encountering. She never forgets what it was like for herself to be embarking on a new degree or certification and feeling scared and insecure about the requirements. Nor how being a student and holding down a family and a full-time job can feel so overwhelming. Therefore, she feels it is of the utmost importance to share success stories with them and let them know that the “sky is the limit” and that one day, they too will achieve their goals.

Darlene has had countless rewarding experiences meeting new students and learning more about their journeys noting she is forever impressed with the

dreams of new students. Students never cease to amaze her with how much they appreciate the mentoring experience and that someone cared enough to sacrifice their time for them. However, Darlene truly feels mentoring “is a two-way street” since she is always able to take new idea or two from the student and implement new things into her current practice simply because of something that inspired her from a mentee.

Darlene hopes that her preceptees gain just as much satisfaction from the experience as she does. She understands the importance of precepting and its critical impact by noting that “healthcare leaders are pulled in many directions with competing priorities and increasing demands, however, we should always care about the new generation of nurses and healthcare leaders—we need to inspire and support them as they grow. If we make it a good experience for the mentee, they too will want to be mentors someday and follow in our footsteps.”



Scholarship, continued from previous page

March 5, 2021. Posted March 24, 2021. #healthynurse blog- <https://engage.healthynursehealthynation.org/blogs/8/3929>

Spadaro, K. *Effective tools for practicing self-compassion and self care in the time of COVID-19.* Invited to present this webinar as a part of the American Nurses Association COVID- 19 webinar series. Recorded December 10, 2020 and released December 15, 2020.

Spadaro, K. *Experience of an 8-week online mindfulness intervention for nursing students: Qualitative findings.* Invited to present mindfulness study findings on a podcast hosted by *Nurse Educator* on August 25, 2020. Posted September 23, 2020.

Wasco, J.J. (June 23, 2020). The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. Invited Speaker. Environmental Carcinogens, Endocrine Disruptors, and Cancer. A Cancer-Free Economy Network Project. GPC-ONS Chapter Meeting

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 doctoral 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 Rachel Dieterich, Ph.D., RN, practice experience coordinator, at r.dieterich@chatham.edu or 412-365-1378.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BSN to DNP Student Secures Management Position Amidst Pandemic



▶ Chris Wise RN, MSN '20 originally began his career in retail sales in marketing. However, shortly after completing an associate degree in business administration he began volunteering at a local ambulance service. It was during this volunteer service that Chris started to have an interest in health care. A year later he obtained EMT certification, became a volunteer firefighter and started a position as a patient care technician. Within a few more years Chris had graduated

from nursing school. His first job was in the Cardiothoracic ICU and eventually he became a Flight Nurse with STAT MEDEVac. Determined to further his education, Chris enrolled in Clarion University's RN-BSN program which sparked his interest in the business side of health care and possible future leadership interests. Therefore, he chose to continue his education and enrolled in Chatham's BSN-DNP Executive Leadership program.

During his MSN course work, Chris has steadily advanced his career. His first leadership position as Manager of Hospital Operations at West Penn Hospital, solidified the pursuit of nursing leadership and a desire to mentor and coach peers. A year later, he chose to learn more about human resources, and finance and

accepted a position as Assistant Nurse Manager Registry/Float Pool within West Penn Hospital. However, several months into the pandemic, Chris was recruited by the Chief Nursing Officer to become interim nurse manager of the surgical ICU/ burn unit, COVID ICU, and outpatient burn clinic. A second COVID peak occurred during this transition resulting in maximum census COVID operations and protocols. This created a challenging workload having to simultaneously manage high patient acuties and volume. Subsequently, the mental strain on COVID ICU staff was apparent and Chris collaborated with senior nursing leadership to provide them with counseling services that assisted with stress and coping.

Despite his intense workload, Chris completed his MSN degree in August 2020 and by September 2020, he was recruited by executive nurse leadership again to become interim manager of West Penn's surgical unit. In November 2020, Chris became the permanent nurse manager for this surgical unit which is a 38-bed post-operative medical-surgical unit that is the primary post-operative admission floor. He also is involved with union negotiations, pandemic management, agency nurse onboarding and utilization, and leading through extensive change initiatives. We look forward to seeing where Chris's career takes him next while he works to complete the DNP program.

RN-BSN Students Choose Nursing as a Second Career



Candice Croft

▶ Many individuals who receive post-secondary education find themselves changing careers. Those who change their career often have valuable skill sets to enhance their newly chosen profession. This is often the case with nursing, as it is commonplace to find students returning for a second degree. In fact, many of Chatham's

nursing students have a variety of business and healthcare experiences prior to beginning their

nursing career. This was the case for recent graduates Candice Croft, BSN '21 and Josie Barnicle, BSN '21.

Candice worked in psychology for ten years prior to entering nursing school, stating she wanted to provide care for people in a different way. On the other hand, Josie decided on a nursing career after many years in administration with a pharmaceutical firm. Then, she changed careers after getting a "calling" since something was missing from her life. In over a year of working as a nurse, both Candice and Josie have developed their nursing skills and

knowledge and find that a second career in nursing has been a rewarding choice. As for further goals within the nursing profession, both students plan to become nurse practitioners. Chatham faculty and staff congratulate Candice and Josie for accomplishing their career change and wish both all the best in achieving their academic and career goals.



Josie Barnicle

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Pathways to Nursing Student, from Animal Science to the Bedside



► Shannon McNamee started her college career at the University of Rhode Island studying animal science on a pre-veterinary track. She had hopes of being a veterinary doctor at a zoo working with exotic animals. After working on a farm birthing piglets, shearing sheep, herding cattle, brushing horses, and tending to goats, she moved on to have two internships at the Connecticut Beardsley Zoo where she was responsible for running animal encounters and shows for education with over 200 species of animals. However, when Shannon's grandmother passed away during her second term at

University of Rhode Island, her future shifted, and she knew nursing was the career she wanted to pursue. This led her to transfer to Chatham University to obtain a degree in nursing.

Upon Shannon's transfer to Chatham University, she received a Trustee Merit Scholarship due to her outstanding academic record. During her time at UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing (SSON), she continued her academic achievements and excelled in the clinical arena. As such, she was inducted into the Honor Society at UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing and was chosen to complete the clinical component of her transitions course at UPMC Children's Hospital. It was during this time that Shannon discovered her love for pediatric nursing. She found the population to be enriching and satisfying as she made a difference in the lives of children and their families. Shannon has accepted a position at UPMC St. Margaret's where she will rotate on four different units over the course of six months to gain nursing experience. After completing this program, she plans to return to pediatric nursing while earning an MBA. Shannon hopes to use her experience as a bedside nurse and the MBA she earns to manage a pediatric unit, make policy changes, and implement practices based on evidence in the clinical setting.

DNP Campus Residency

► The pandemic of 2020-2021 continued to bring many changes to the faculty, staff, and student practices in our nursing programs. Part of the DNP program requirements, the DNP Residency offers an opportunity for students to showcase their important work and network with faculty and peers. Unfortunately, the July 2020 and April 2021 DNP Residencies were held virtually again. Slightly differing from the virtual Residency that was quickly pulled together in April 2020, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following two Residencies attempted to offer virtual activities similar to what is typically offered in person. Overall, 77 students participated in virtual Residencies during the 2020-2021 academic year. We thank students for their versatility and resiliency and hope to be able to offer the traditional, on-campus Residency that students and faculty have grown to love next April of 2022.

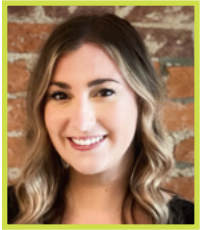
Nursing Faculty Meeting the Call for COVID-19 Vaccinations

► Assisting with the efforts to prevent COVID-19 illness was a natural fit for four nursing faculty members. Drs. Fisher, Walter, Rittle and Birkholz responded to a call to action and assisted with mass vaccination efforts across our local communities. Each routinely volunteered their time and talents through the Allegheny County Health Department, as supported by the Pennsylvania Medical Reserve Corps. While each of the nursing faculty members had different professional and personal reasons for their service contributions, a common thread was identified among them to fervently support public health efforts that prevent hospitalizations and deaths. Moreover, Dr. Rittle is the American Nurses Association Liaison Representative to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice meeting regularly to evaluate science, develop vaccine policy, and encourage acceptance of newly approved vaccines for emergency use. The goal is better health now and for the post pandemic world.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DNP Alumni Q&A: MSN Nursing Informatics Program



► Savannah Reisinger completed the MSN Informatics program at Chatham in 2019. The degree is an online, 33-credit program intended to prepare

nursing professionals for an academic role. We caught up with Savannah recently to get her viewpoints on the degree.

Savannah has been a nurse since 2013. She started her career at a on a surgical oncology floor. Since then, she has worked on inpatient rehabilitation floor and as a transplant coordinator. Currently, Savannah works as an informatics nurse. In her spare time, she enjoys relaxing with her two cats and boyfriend and exploring new restaurants in Pittsburgh.

Q: *Why were you interested in the MSN Informatics program?*

A: One day when I was working on the floor, an informatics nurse was rounding and approached me. She explained her role. I cannot remember what exactly we talked about but at the end of the conversation she mentioned that this job might be a good fit for me. The next time I saw her she was with a student. She introduced her student as an MSN student from Chatham. I looked up Chatham online and saw all that this was a flexible, all online program that I could complete while working full-time and applied.

Q: *How do you think the MSN Informatics degree has further prepared you to meet your professional goals?*

A: This degree has prepared me for my current position as an informatics nurse. It helped me think not only has a nurse but also as an analyst, project manager, and change agent. After completing my degree, I was more confident presenting PowerPoints, approaching nurses on the floor, and interacting with leadership.

Q: *What would you say to potential applicants and Chatham BSN alumni who were considering the MSN Informatics program?*

A: I would say explore the opportunity. If you are unsure, speak with the Chatham informatics program faculty. All my experiences with the Chatham faculty have been positive and they have always been willing to help.

Q: *What was your area of greatest learning in the MSN Informatics program?*

A: My area of greatest learning was data interpretation and excel skills. In my current role, I run numerous reports and analyze them for trends.

Q: *Anything else you like to share?*

A: I am looking to expand my informatics knowledge and hopefully receive a certification in informatics sometime this year.

DNP Alumna Appointed to Quality Assurance Officer



► Carol DiParisi, DNP '21, APN, CRNA has been a board-certified registered nurse anesthetist since 2014. Her nursing career began in New York City at New York Presbyterian's Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in 2007. As a

result of providing immediate postoperative recovery to an array of children requiring congenital heart defect repairs or heart transplants, she realized her true passion was for anesthesia and pharmacology. Dr. DiParisi eagerly moved onto her MSN at Columbia University with a focus in nurse anesthesia. After MSN completion, she chose to pursue further education at Chatham, earning her DNP in 2021.

During her degree completion, Dr. DiParisi faced extraordinary challenges related to budget cuts and the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in a project redesign but nevertheless she was able to successfully implement a project that transitioned the OR to Epic EHR. Results from this evidence-based practice project demonstrated significantly improved charting, patient flow, and a drastic reduction in OR healthcare costs. Based on her academic and work accomplishments, Dr. Parisi was recently recruited to take on a newly created position as the Quality Assurance Officer for the anesthesia department at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. She looks forward to this new position and the important impact it has within the organization.

Future of Nursing Education

► Building on the foundation set forth a decade ago in *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* report, *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity Report* was recently released. This new report, aimed at promoting a more equitable and healthier society, clearly identifies influential social, economic, and environmental determinants of health. The overarching goal of the report is to understand how to leverage the capacity of nursing, representing the largest numbers within the health care profession, to advance health equity throughout our nation by strengthening the capacity and overall expertise of our nursing workforce.

To accomplish this goal, the report offers specific key messages to support all acute care and community practice settings. Some of these messages include the need to permanently remove practice

barriers, consistently value the contributions of the profession of nursing, and to intentionally promote the health and well-being of nurses. Schools of nursing are charged to educate and hire nurses from a range of diverse backgrounds to ensure future generations of nurses not only reflect the communities they serve, but to also educate nurses to understand and ultimately address health equity issues as fundamental components of nursing practice.

Chatham programs support this endeavor and are committed to educate Chatham students so they will continue to be well equipped with skills that serve members of a diverse society. These skills encompass leading change efforts while minimizing costs, utilizing technology, and maintaining patient/family-focused care delivery efforts to influence health at the individual and population levels from the present day—well into the future.

Nursing Faculty Member Selected for AACN Task Force



► Julie Slade, DNP, RN, associate professor of nursing, has been selected for an American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) faculty task force. This task force, funded by Johnson & Johnson, is

charged with developing an educational tool kit that encompasses the themes presented in the award-winning documentary 5B. This documentary captures the real-life story of nurses making a difference in the lives of patients on the first AIDS unit at San Francisco General Hospital in the early 1980's and demonstrates

nurses are much more than a health care provider carrying out orders and tasks. The tool kit will help nurse educators teach future nurses how to carry into their practice that nurses are essential care givers who can provide innovative and fearless interventions in the name of compassionate person-centered care, while leading with moral courage. The completed tool kit will be posted on the AACN website this fall and shared extensively. The full press release from AACN can be found at www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Press-Releases/View/ArticleId/24986/johnson-johnson-nurse-faculty-tool-kit.

AACN Transforming Nursing Education with New Essentials

► The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) was established in 1969. AACN sets curriculum standards and competencies through the *Essentials* for each level of nursing education. Accredited nursing programs seek to ensure consistent expectations among graduates in knowledge, skills, and abilities.

On April 6, 2021, deans of nursing programs across the country voted to approve AACN's new model and framework *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*. Some of the most significant shifts are the focus on competencies and the dichotomization of entry level and advanced roles.

The plan at Chatham is to transition from three levels of nursing education *Essentials* for the BSN, MSN, and DNP to the entry level and advanced role dichotomization over the next three years. We look forward to the challenge ahead to incorporate the new *Essentials* into our curriculums to meet the demands of the ever-changing healthcare industry, and most importantly to meet the evolving health needs of our patients.



American Association
of Colleges of Nursing

NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES

► We are pleased to extend our congratulations to the following Chatham University nursing programs students that received a degree conferral in this past academic year.

AUGUST 2020

BSN

Baxter, Haley
Beals, Sofia A
Cortazzo, Cynthia
Fardo, Sophia
Hinkle, Kasey
Pagbeleguem, Melissa
Parks, Amy
Whipkey, LeeAness

MSN

Spencer, Todd E
Wise, Christopher N

DNP

Hamel, Angela M
Hammond, Gina P
Haynes, Joan D
Knudsen, Lisa L
Krupa, Joanie M
Leanyuy, Lilian “Lily”
Malachevsky, Yury
Neumont, Madea L
Ngezem, Vera
Obaseki, Lisa T
Onoh, Mabel
Robinson, Alexis N
Saunders, Terri A
Trutsch, Karen
Ugochukwu, Eunice
Vess, Heather R
Zidor, Daphney

DECEMBER 2020

BSN

Bonfiglio, Anna
Durkin, Katherine
Hodge, Kathie
Ostrowski, Chelsea
Sheremet, Yuliya

MSN

Foster, Katherine
Ricketts, Morgan J
Tomasits, Dana
Wasler, Marieta E

DNP

Agbor, Seraphine O
Arteaga, Elizabeth J
Asante, Amoah Y
Asare, Vida-Lynn
Baboolall, Jennifer
Bagley, Leah
Bais, Rajlaxmi “Raj”
Bowden, Sarah
Brelsford, Kristina
Chan, Christina
Clemmons, Danika H
Daye-Lee, Tiffany
Deaver, KuWanna
Demby, Taheerah
Dixon, Chantel
Fletcher, MarieChantal
Frank, Lisa
Freeman, Natalee

Gang, Janet A
Gomes, Elisangela
Groom, Summyji
Kelly-Brown, Tisha A
Lebowitz, Rachel L
Lee, Kayla R
Mack, Jamica
Maduka, Ifeyinwa
Matallana, Barbara
Miskovic, Joyce A
Omotayo, Stephanie
Pickering, Mary M
Rebello, Liza J
Sampson, Elizabeth
Sherali, Anita
Stevenson, Joanna M
Stohr, Anne M
Thomas, Lannie
Vaughn, Tamara
White, Chicquita

MAY 2021

BSN

Anderson, Erica L
Barnicle, Josie M
Brubaker, Claire M
Carney, Keriann
Crawford, Megan A
Croft, Candice
Cushey, Paige
Flynn, Rose E
Gray, Cassandra N
McKnight, Kacee
McLaren, Jenifer A
O’Brien, Michelle
Ruhl, Alexis R
Sabatino, James
Stathakis, Allison
Wilkinson, Sarah E

MSN

McCutcheon, Tiffany

DNP

Brinit Stiffler, Georgia
Delmore, Jeremy J
DiParisi, Carol A
Fiasorgbor, Emil K
Gheusneaud, Myrtha
Gregoire, Marissa
Kiggins, Robin A
Kolawole, Tolulope
Liverman, Jemina M
Mohammed, Arif
Nervina, Timothy J
Ntosi, Rita
Opaleye, Maryanne
Riley, Victoria
Roberts, Peggy A
Sanders, Jacob P
Sarno, Jessica E
Taylor, Branden D
Williams, Gia M
Wolanski, Matthew

HONOR SOCIETY

Chi Zeta: Chapter Update

► Chatham University has successfully maintained its Chi Zeta chapter of the Sigma Honor Society of Nursing for seven years. During the fall term of the 2020-2021 academic year, Chatham hosted a Virtual Founder's Day event. The topic of the virtual event was *Transitioning Your Simulation Lab onto a Live Video Conferencing Platform*, presented by Cynthia Betron, DNP, CRNA, CHSE, CNE. Dr. Betron is a dedicated member of Chi Zeta, serving as the Chair for the Education Committee since 2010.

Prior to becoming a CRNA, Dr. Betron functioned as an assistant clinical manager and unit educator in the PACU/ICU setting for 25 years at the Susquehanna Health System in Williamsport, PA. She completed her MSN at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA and her CRNA education at the Frank J. Tornetta School of Anesthesia in Norristown, PA. A Post Master's Certificate in Nursing Education was complete at La Salle University School of Nursing, and she is credentialed as a certified nurse educator. Dr. Betron completed her DNP at Chatham University in 2010. In addition, she is an active member of the International Society for

Simulation in Healthcare and is certified in healthcare simulation education. She is also currently on the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists simulation sub-committee.



► Chi Zeta provides many opportunities for membership involvement in leadership, scholarship, and community service. The chapter website can be found at chizeta.nursingsociety.org. If you are a member of Sigma but not part of Chatham University's Chi Zeta chapter, please consider joining our current membership by contacting Sigma Membership Services at 888-634-8174 or memserv@sigmanursing.org. If you are a current member and interested in joining the leadership succession committee or education committee, please contact the Chi Zeta Chapter President Dr. Michelle Doas at mdoas@chatham.edu.



Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®
Chi Zeta Chapter



Chatham Alumnae Receive Honorable Mention

► Congratulations to Kathi Elliot, DNP '14 and Lynn Belice, MSN '15 who were featured in *Pittsburgh Magazine's* "Rising to the Challenge: Excellence in Nursing Honorees for 2020." Kathi received honorable mention for her service to the community as CEO of Gwen's Girls, and Lynn received honorable mention for her clinical role as an administrator on duty for UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Chatham's nursing program thanks both outstanding alumnae for their continued dedication to the nursing profession during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 G.McClellan@chatham.edu.

Also, consider joining our *Chatham University Nursing Programs* group on Facebook. It's a great place for students, alumni, and faculty to share and connect.

Stay connected and get involved with the Office of Alumni Relations! We offer numerous volunteer and networking opportunities as well as alumni receptions at professional conferences and exclusive events at local Pittsburgh attractions. Interested? Please send us an e-mail at alumni@chatham.edu or visit us at chatham.edu/alumni. Stay connected with the Alumni Association via Facebook.