

## From the Director



► It is our pleasure to share the InTouch Nursing Newsletter spotlighting some faculty, student, and alumni news from the last 2021-2022 academic year.

I am also pleased to share planning began this past spring of 2022 for the incorporation of the new American Association Colleges of Nursing (AACN) essentials into our current BSN, MSN, and DNP curriculums. *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (AACN, 2021) serves as a blueprint for effective and meaningful nursing education and provides an opportunity for Chatham nursing and our stakeholders to take a deep dive into our programs and highlight opportunities for the future. Stay tuned for exciting updates to our programs!

During this time of national transition and uncertainty, I am reminded of the importance of self-care as we navigate through challenging times in our country's history. Whether it be the impact of COVID-19, gun violence, work/life imbalance, financial concerns, or issues concerning social justice potentially compromising your physical, spiritual, or mental wellness, my wish for all of you is that you find time for yourself to promote peace and health.

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 2021-2022 Year in Review. We would like to welcome Dr. Rachel Dieterich as the "editor" in training for the newsletter. This issue provides an overview of student and faculty accomplishments, alumni achievements, and various activities that occurred over the last academic year amidst our new "normal" living with the ongoing challenges

posed by the pandemic. This newsletter was developed through collaborative writing with nursing program faculty serving as contributing authors.

Enjoy!

Dr. Emily Hopkins and Dr. Rachel Dieterich



## From the Interim Dean



► I have had the honor of serving as Chatham's School of Health Sciences Interim Dean since Dr. Pat Downey's retirement last December. In this capacity, I had the opportunity to become much more familiar with our nursing program and the incredible faculty and staff

associated with it. I have attended regular meetings between Chatham and UPMC representatives to facilitate collaboration with our Pathways to Nursing program. In spring 2022, I attended DNP residency presentations and the National Nurses Week luncheon hosted by Dr. Hunker. And most recently, I joined the retirement celebration honoring Dr. Chad Rittle's storied career as a practitioner and educator. My impressions from all these interactions with Chatham's nursing faculty shared these central themes: excellence, caring, and resilience. It is no coincidence that these are essential ingredients in both nursing practice and nursing education!

In September, we will welcome Dr. Sal Bondoc as the incoming SHS Dean. As the next Dean, Dr. Bondoc will be charged with navigating all SHS programs through the everchanging landscape of healthcare education, complicated even more by the persistent effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chatham's nursing program is no exception, but I am confident that Dr. Hunker and her team are up to meeting any challenges that lie ahead. As I return to my role as a Chatham faculty member, I will treasure my past, present, and future affiliation with my nursing colleagues.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Jo Loughran

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING & PRACTICE EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR

## Dr. Rachel Dieterich

► Chatham University welcomed Rachel Dieterich, PhD, RN as an Assistant Professor of Nursing and Practice Experience Coordinator in July 2021. Dr. Dieterich started her nursing journey at Saint Francis University where she graduated with her BSN in 2015 and MSN in Nursing Education in 2018. After working clinically in various settings ranging from labor and delivery to long term care, Dr. Dieterich decided to pursue a PhD in Nursing which she obtained from University of Pittsburgh in May 2021. Dr. Dieterich is originally from Pittsburgh and is elated to have found her professional home here at Chatham.

Her areas of scholarship include psychosocial breastfeeding barriers including those related to weight stigma, childcare and workplace factors, among others. Currently, she is working with collaborators from the University of Pittsburgh on a qualitative inquiry into maternal and childcare provider experiences and perceived supports/barriers to breastfeeding in childcare centers. When not busy teaching in the MSN program and assisting students with their practice experiences, she enjoys sewing, hiking, and exploring the sights and events that Pittsburgh has to offer.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING

## Dr. Tara Orgon Stamper



► Tara Orgon Stamper DNP, CRNP joined Chatham University in August 2021. Dr. Stamper brings two decades of clinical experience as a nurse practitioner to the University's nursing programs. A nurse since 2001, she completed her MSN at the University of Cincinnati in 2003. Her

advanced practice career started as a neurosurgical nurse practitioner at University Hospital in Cincinnati, OH now a part of the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. There she managed both acute and critically ill patients along with the resident team. In 2008, Dr. Stamper helped build the UC Brain Tumor Center. Following four years in the Brain Tumor Center, Dr. Stamper worked specifically in neurotrauma. She moved to Pittsburgh in June 2013 and began working

in the neurosurgery department at Allegheny General Hospital. In 2015, Dr. Stamper began her doctoral education at Georgia College and State University graduating in 2018.

In May 2018, she switched gears in her clinical practice and joined a Palliative Medicine practice at Allegheny General Hospital, specializing in advanced heart failure. It is within the palliative care specialty that Dr. Stamper focuses her scholarship. She is an active speaker within the community on Palliative Medicine and a change leader to include Palliative Medicine in routine medical care. Dr. Stamper's scholarship focus is on quality of life in patients with mechanical support in advanced disease. In her spare time, Dr. Stamper enjoys spending time with her family, golden retriever Charlie, and competing in triathlons.

## RETIRING FACULTY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING

## Dr. Chad Rittle



► Dr. Chad Rittle, DNP, MPH, RN, FAAOHN retired from Chatham University on June 30, 2022 after an over 50-year combined career including military service. However, he will

continue to teach as an adjunct professor in the RN-BSN program and work with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) at the CDC. Dr. Rittle plans to continue scholarship efforts focused on vaccines and public health related to the pandemic. He recently published two articles developed while on Sabbatical in fall 2021 focused on the development of the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines and discussing reasons why a significant portion of the population remains hesitant about receiving COVID-19 vaccines. In addition, Dr. Rittle is contributing a chapter entitled Scientific Foundations of Occupational & Environmental Health Nursing Practice, to the 5th Edition of the *AAOHN Core Curriculum*.

When reflecting on his career, Dr. Rittle notes it was as if he was meant to finish his career at Chatham University considering he attended Chatham Grade School on the North Side of Pittsburgh many years ago. Now, he is looking forward to spending time with his grandchildren and traveling with his wife, Carol. We at Chatham wish Dr. Rittle well and congratulate him on such a long and meaningful career.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

ADJUNCT FACULTY

### Dr. Melissa A. Popovich

► Dr. Melissa Popovich, DNP, RN, AHN-BC, CNE earned a BSN and MSN (legal concentration) degrees from Capital University and a DNP degree at Chatham University in 2010. Throughout her 35-year long nursing career, this Chatham alumna has made a significant impact. Upon graduating with her BSN, she held clinical staff positions in Emergency and Trauma Care fields. Dr. Popovich also held numerous clinical leadership positions in Intensive Care and Quality departments. Her leadership positions in higher education include those of director, program chair, and campus director. Currently, she is the Director of Instructional Excellence at Jersey College. Dr. Popovich notes her experiences in understanding health care operations offered her a foundation to enrich her teaching practices. She prioritizes effective communication, respect and the distinct needs of learners. In addition, Dr. Popovich notes that she is very outcome driven and uses data to further develop processes, other faculty, and her own practices as well as the students she serves.

Dr. Popovich is proud to be fulfilling her purpose in giving back to the profession as an educator. In fact, she notes this was inspired when the Dean at her BSN graduation ceremony whispered in her ear that she was meant to be an educator. Dr. Popovich has since lived up to this calling and pursues teaching excellence with a passion. As a Chatham adjunct professor, she strives to enhance student lives and learning. She has a firm belief in being readily available and responsive to student's requests, demands, and expectations for timely and quality feedback. She also balances teaching with mentoring to create environments that foster individual growth.

When not at work, Dr. Popovich enjoys the great outdoors along with her husband Mark. They can often be found camping, kayaking and hiking across the United States.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Nursing Profession and at Chatham

► The American Association of Colleges of Nursing developed the Inclusive Excellence Ecosystem for Academic Nursing model to enhance diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) in nursing programs. The model is intended to extend beyond schools of nursing to include communities at all levels: locally, regionally, or nationally. It is through enhanced equity and inclusion that nursing can achieve greater diversity in both student populations and faculty. In addition to the Inclusive Excellence Ecosystem model, AACN (2021) developed a DEI Tool Kit that provides evidence-based resources to enhance institutional viability and capacity, access and success, climate and intergroup relations, and education and scholarship. Of note, the AACN also established the DEI Leadership Network (DEILN) to unite academic nursing professionals with the goal of sharing experiences and expertise, while offering guidance on enhancing DEI within nursing.

Chatham nursing recognizes the important role that we, as nurse educators, have in fostering a learning and workplace community founded in diversity, equity and inclusion. The demographics and background of the patient populations we serve and the healthcare professionals we collaborate with are continually changing and diversifying. As such, the department planned numerous DEI initiatives to reach this goal of better serving

our students, colleagues, and patients. Using the AACN (2021) definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Nursing Curriculum Committee modified the Curriculum Committee Assessment Tool to include a review of DEI content within nursing courses. On a three-year rotational schedule, each course is reviewed to ensure content is current and key components (objectives, program outcomes, assignments, etc.) align. By adding a comprehensive DEI assessment, inclusive teaching and learning environments can be enhanced.

In addition, program specific student and preceptor surveys are reviewed on a continual basis to ensure inclusive language is used and diverse options are available. Similarly, nursing faculty review course content and syllabi for inclusive language on an ongoing basis. Departmental meetings include faculty and staff discussion related to experiences, concerns, and strategies related to DEI within the department. Each spring (most recently April 2022), full- and part-time faculty and staff attend the annual Chatham University Equity and Inclusion Professional Development Day. We recognize constant effort is required to promote a departmental culture rooted in DEI principles. Stay tuned for additional updates related to this ongoing commitment.

## RECENT FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Birkholz, L.**, Kutschar, P., Kundt, F. S., & Beil-Hildebrand, M. (2022). Ethical decision-making confidence scale for nurse leaders: Psychometric evaluation. *Nursing Ethics*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/09697330211065847>

**Birkholz, L.** (2022). Viewpoint: Using was language in a pandemic: Rhetoric or responsibility? *American Journal of Nursing*, 122(1), 11, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/01.NAJ.0000815376.61240.f8>

Sangha, M., & **Birkholz, L.** (2021). Nurses' ability to identify human trafficking victims. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/NND.0000000000000798>

**Dieterich, R. R.**, Sereika, S., & Demirci, J. (2021, November). Early postpartum patterns of breastfeeding exclusivity and perceived insufficient milk by prepregnancy body mass index. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogn.2021.10.006>

**Doas, M.** (2021). Working on a designated COVID-19 unit: Exploring nurse perceptions and experiences. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 11(11), 41-47.

**Hopkins, E., Spadaro, K., Hoh, N., Singh, A., and Doas, M.** (2022). Nursing Faculty Experiences Transitioning to a Virtual DNP Residency During COVID-19. *Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice*, 15(1) 26-31, <https://doi.org/10.1891/JDNP-2021-0029>

**Rittle, C., and Walter, L.** (2022). Covid-19 vaccines and mRNA technology: Not as new as many believe. *The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 27(2), <https://doi.org/10.3912/OJIN.Vol27No02PPT752>

**Rittle, C.** (2022). COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitance and How to Address It. *Workplace Health & Safety*. February, 2022. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/21650799211073525>

**Singh, A., Spadaro, K., Piotrowski, M., Fisher, M.D., Walter, L., Doas, M.** (2021). Exploring Student Perceptions of a Virtual Practicum. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 60(9), 513-516.

Gallagher-Ford, L. P., Olszewski, K., Quinn, S., **Slade, J.**, & Zellefrow, C. G. (2022). *Implementation toolkit: Evidence-based practice*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). <https://www.aacnursing.org/AACN-Essentials/Implementation-Tool-Kit>

Yearwood, E., Day, J., Giscombe, C., Godzik, C. M., Rebach, G., **Slade, J.**, & Garcia, R. (2021). *5B: Trailblazing innovation*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). <https://www.aacnursing.org/5b-tool-kit>

**Walter, L.** (2022, May). Storytelling to engage staff nurses in continuing education: A proven approach. *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 53(5), <https://doi.org/10.3928/00220124-20220407-03>

### Podium and Poster Presentations

**Doas, M.** (2022). Enhancing Emotionally Competent interactions in order to minimize toxic work environments. Speaker, UPMC, leadership series.

**Piotrowski, M.** (2022). New Competency-Based Essentials for Nursing Education Accreditation and Faculty Self-Direction. Podium presentation at International Self-directed Learning Symposium (ISSDL), Cocoa Beach, FL February 10, 2022.

**Walter, L.** "Promoting Academic Success in a Writing-Intensive course: A Zoom Approach," UMSON Institute for Educators, Virtual, Poster Presentation, April 2022.

## PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT

### Judith Tinelli MSN, RN, ONC, CRRN, CNL



► The Chatham University nursing programs have been fortunate to have Judith Tinelli, MSN, RN, ONC, CRRN, CNL serve as a preceptor for our nursing students. Ms. Tinelli is the acting Programmatic Nurse Specialist, Academic Business Unit Champion, and leader of Magnet Document Preparation for UPMC St. Margaret. Ms. Tinelli has an extensive 40-year career working in the acute care hospital environment and has proven herself a lifelong learner. Since obtaining her CNL degree from the University of Pittsburgh, she has cemented herself as a regional leader in the community serving in various leadership positions including as Clinical Nurse Leader Ambassador with Washington DC and continues active membership in the Southwestern PA Chapter of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. Along with these leadership positions, she had an active part in the three Magnet designations awarded to her facility, UPMC St. Margaret, and currently serves on their Magnet re-designation team.

When asked about why she decided to pursue a career in nursing leadership, Ms. Tinelli explains “nursing leadership must be connected to the point of care—the bedside clinician and the patient. I see my role as the voice of the staff nurse. I am the bridge between staff nurses and nursing leadership. Nurses thrive in the correct infrastructure and my role as I see it, as mentor to the EBP and Research Council and as Programmatic Nurse Specialist in the Magnet department, is to

prevent fragmentation and proactively address problems.” Her vision for the future of nursing is to create a bridge with nursing schools and the strategic plans of hospitals. As she puts it, “Our academic settings need to know what is happening in the hospital and our hospitals need to know how students are trained in the academic settings.”

As a preceptor, Ms. Tinelli explains she most enjoys helping students expand the use of EBP in care delivery to improve patient and healthcare outcomes. She finds joy in helping her students develop awareness and interest in the importance of using EBP and providing students with the mentorship and skills to be the change agents of healthcare for tomorrow. Ms. Tinelli would like to offer the following advice to all nursing students at Chatham University: “Fight for things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” *Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

#### 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 resume 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](mailto:r.dieterich@chatham.edu) or 412-365-1378.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### PTN Student Overcomes Adversity to Fulfill Dream

► Parbati Gautam, BSN '22 was born and raised in Nepal, a small south Asian country between India and China. She immigrated to the United States in 2009 with her family. Even though a career outside the home was nontraditional in her culture, she was drawn to a healthcare focused career (in part due to her experience caring for her mother for many years). Parbati learned English with the help of her English as a Second Language teacher. None of her family members worked in health care or spoke English. Despite these challenges, she approached her high school guidance counselor for assistance, who directed her toward nursing at Chatham!

The guidance counselor recommended volunteering in a hospital to get the feel of working as a nurse. In 2018, as part of her service hours required for graduation, she volunteered at UPMC McKeesport. She floated to many different floors to explore different options and was intrigued by all of them. Nursing was a fit! In fall of 2018, she started Chatham in the Pathways to Nursing (PTN) program as the first woman in her family to go to college. Parbati demonstrated perseverance both in

and out of the classroom to make the dream of becoming a nurse a reality. While scholarships and grants helped finance her education, she worked at the library to help her parents make ends meet. She was a commuter student and took an hour-long bus ride to get to Chatham and UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing. Living at home was necessary for financial reasons and to care for her mother. She graduated from UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing in 2021 with her diploma RN. While completing the online RN-BSN portion of the Pathways to Nursing curriculum, she applied for a graduate nurse rotational program at UPMC Passavant to explore different floors and specialties for nursing.

In February 2022, she accepted a position as a resource nurse for UPMC Passavant covering nine floors. An inspiration to us all, in April of 2022, she was the first in her family to graduate from college. A lifelong learner, Parbati aspires to continue her education and pursue a DNP degree at Chatham.

---

### RN-BSN Student Chooses Nursing as a Second Career

► Influenced by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Jill Newhouse, BSN '22, chose the nursing profession to fulfill her desire to help others. She was graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree but knew she needed a more solid foundation to help in a disaster. Influenced by the call to nurses to help the victims in New Orleans, Jill decided to pursue a career in nursing. Just three years after making that decision, Jill graduated from UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing. She started her nursing career at UPMC Mercy's Trauma/Burn unit. There, she gained a wealth of knowledge that could never be taught in books.

After having her daughter in May 2019, Jill soon realized she needed a better work-life balance. In February 2020, she transitioned to a surgical

center in Pittsburgh. But after just three weeks, she was furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As for many healthcare workers, it was a trying and confusing time, and the future was unclear. Hospitalizations were at an all-time low and she needed a more secure job to support her daughter. While she was furloughed, she got a call from the Allegheny County Health Department. She began her career with the Allegheny County Health Department in June 2020 at the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic in Oakland. This was a fantastic introduction to a new area of nursing...public health. After working there for about a year, she had the opportunity to focus her work in epidemiology. In this role, Jill collaborated with other health care providers, school

nurses, long-term care facilities, and hospital infection control departments.

While at the Health Department, Jill realized the importance of a BSN degree and decided to further her education. She felt this degree would help her better navigate the complex situations that occur in public health. Through the RN-BSN program at Chatham University, Jill strengthened her abilities to serve the public in this new post-pandemic world. She feels more prepared to be a leader in an ever-changing environment that leaves no room for error. Her opportunities in health care are endless and she credits education earned from Chatham.

Inspired by the dedication and care of her instructors, Jill plans to continue her academic journey at Chatham by entering the MSN program.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### RN-to-MSN Student Overcomes Fears and Recognizes Calling as Nurse Educator



► While growing up, Lorie Sasinoski, RN, MSN '22 was told many times that she should work in health care as a nurse due to her kind and helpful personality. For Lorie, this seemed out of the realm of possibility given her fear of needles. That is, until her son George was born. George was admitted to the NICU and required surgery to

address pyloric stenosis at just 3-months of age. It was during these scariest times of her life that she came to rely on nurses for compassion and support. This inspired Lorie to overcome her fears to help others. She enrolled at UPMC's Shadyside School of Nursing where she found her niche as a student running study groups to help others learn class materials.

Upon graduation in 2019, she began working as a staff nurse at UPMC Shadyside. During this position, her passion to teach grew as she educated interventional cardiology patients and nursing students rotating through for clinical. This drove Lorie to further her nursing degree and pursue the RN to MSN in Nursing Education program at Chatham University.

In addition to working and attending school, she started teaching at UPMC St. Margaret's School of Nursing as a casual clinical instructor. This opportunity solidified and reinforced her desire to become a nurse educator. Lorie recognizes that being a nurse requires continual learning and new skill development, so she recently began work in an ICU at UPMC East. As a working professional and future educator, she values teamwork, open communication, providing learning opportunities for development, and reflection. Lorie hopes to uphold and instill these values among future students, helping them grow into kind, caring, and compassionate nurses.



## MSN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Q&A on the Nursing Leadership Program



► Shannon Rozyczka, MSN '21 has been a nurse since 2006. She started her career at UPMC's Shadyside Hospital on the neuro-surgical stroke and telemetry unit. Since then, she has served as unit director of a 50-bed medical telemetry unit. Currently, Shannon is serving as the nursing manager for a 36-bed medical and observation unit at AHN's Wexford hospital. Shannon completed the 33-credit online MSN Leadership program at Chatham in 2021. We caught up with Shannon recently to get her viewpoints on the leadership degree program.

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

**A:** I had completed my BSN at Chatham University and had such a great learning experience. I was able to advance my career and become a Clinician on a large Medical-Surgical Unit. Within a year I was promoted to the Unit Director. In that role you have a commitment to receive your MSN within three years. I knew Chatham University was the place I wanted to receive my education.

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

**A:** The MSN Leadership degree has been essential in preparing me for my current role. I am now a Unit Manager at Wexford Hospital, AHN. I was able to join this team a month before the opening of the new hospital. Without this degree I would not be where I am today, growing in a role I love.

**Q:** *What would you say to potential applicants and Chatham BSN alumni who*

*were considering the MSN Leadership program?*

**A:** I would say to have your goal in mind as to what type of nursing leadership you would like to obtain. It's very important to set goals for your career and to gain a professional mentor.

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

**A:** My greatest learning was during the last two semesters when I was able to complete my Capstone project. I was able to do this in an outpatient/inpatient area for Cardiovascular Services at Passavant Hospital. This proved to be a great learning for me, and I really enjoyed the entire experience.

**Q:** *Anything else you like to share?*

**A:** The work that I have done through the program has prepared me in many areas. I have been able to submit many unit-based projects. I have also been able to present my MSN collaborative project (focused on reducing readmissions) at UPMC conferences.

## DNP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Kristen Simmons, DNP '21, CRNA, CHSE

► Kristin Simmons, DNP, CRNA, CHSE, began her post-secondary education studying another passion, art history, as an undergraduate student at Villanova University. While an undergraduate, she collaborated with orthopedic surgeons at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia when assisting with a research study. This exposure to healthcare sparked interest in nurse anesthesia and she soon enrolled in a second-degree BSN program. After gaining nursing experience in medical and critical care units, she completed the University of Pennsylvania's CRNA program in 2015. While working as a CRNA, she started to teach nurse anesthesia courses and simulation instruction at Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia). In 2020, she started Chatham's DNP program.

Kristen notes she did not “fully appreciate the breadth of new knowledge and growth” she would experience as a doctoral student until completing Chatham's DNP program. Previously, she felt nurses functioned in a “silo.” In her clinical practice as a CRNA, she recognized that her site's massive transfusion protocol would benefit from a more interdisciplinary approach. As Kristen's DNP project developed, so did her leadership abilities. She spoke with individuals at all levels in the organization and learned a “global approach” was necessary to drive change.

Since completing her project on interdisciplinary crisis management education and massive transfusion protocol last summer, Dr. Simmons had an exciting year. Between December 2021-February 2022, she became a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator and presented posters at the AACN Doctoral Education Conference and AANA Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators. A journal editor at the AACN conference suggested she consider submitting her evidence-based project for publication. Her manuscript is currently under review for the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*.

Dr. Simmons continues to work as a CRNA, but her new endeavor is leading doctoral program projects as Assistant Professor in the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Jefferson. She “sees herself” in the students she teaches. Kristen understands their thinking, but finds learners often need to modify their project plan to maximize its impact on patient outcomes and healthcare. As a result of her doctoral and professional experiences, Kristen envisions more areas for healthcare improvement. In addition to applying research, Dr. Simmons is interested in contributing new research. She anticipates enrolling in an DNP-to-Ph.D. program. However, she and her husband will first welcome their third baby in September. Congratulations, Kristen!



2018 DNP Residency

## DNP Campus Residency

► Due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DNP On-Campus Residency was temporarily held through a virtual format again in summer 2021 and spring 2022. Sixty-seven students participated in the virtual events which were offered via Zoom. Students were able to share their scholarly poster of their planned projects and participate in small group sessions with faculty and student peers.

While we were grateful for the technology that afforded us the ability to meet virtually, we were very excited to resume in-person Residency again in July 2022. The in-person Residencies afford students additional benefits such as sharing their project plans with all faculty and student attendees, tour and experience the beautiful campus and surrounding areas, engage in both casual and professional conversation, and benefit from a longer agenda which includes additional activities and networking opportunities. The faculty at Chatham fully believe that as doctoral scholars, students should immerse themselves in a culture of lifelong learning and professional development. An important part of doing so is assimilating to their chosen university culture and networking with peers and faculty in a live dynamic environment.



# 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 2021

### BSN

Bartlomain, Miranda  
Davis, Vicki R  
Ehrhardt, Cheyenne  
Sasinoski, Lorie  
Talsma, Kailee A

### MSN

Baxter, Haley  
Fazio, Rebecca  
Karan, Traci L  
Parsons, Rebecca  
Rozyczka, Shannon M  
Shannon, Mary B  
Simmons, Ricardo D  
Strano, Dena

### DNP

Akwaowo, Rose  
Anoruo, Sandra  
Anselmi Moulaye, Tina M  
Atemafac, Julius  
Clement, Kim  
Griffin, Kimberly V  
Houston, Ty R  
Irick, Nicole  
Kresge, Courtney R  
Larkin, Kristen  
Londono, Daniela  
McCarthy, Melissa  
Nair, Deepti  
Napoli-McNally, Jessica  
Nwankwo, Ifeoma

Obeng, Akosua  
Omorogbe, Tina O  
Onsongo, Claudine  
Oyolu, Irene  
Perez, Sarah A  
Phillips, Sarah  
Pulimoottil Ninan, Marina M  
Salazar, Yessica  
Sasine, Katrina F  
Simmons, Kristen D  
Stathopoulos, Jennifer L  
Stewart, Amanda  
Walker, Jennifer

## DECEMBER 2021

### BSN

Eckley, Douglas  
Foster, Raya  
Garrett, Jennifer  
Lacoste, Katie A  
Macioce, Talia S  
Newcomer, Kelsey L  
Parks, Emylee R  
Pasterick, Philip R  
Tippen, James P

### MSN

Alford, Alesha C  
Duley, Kendall  
Gates, Kristin  
Kropfl, Emily M  
Singfield, Veronica  
Vanucci, Nelson

### DNP

Adibe, Elsie O  
Ballard, Tonjanika N  
Ferrie, Kellie  
Goff, Nancy  
Hughes, Velma  
Koch, Carl F  
Kyung, Joyce  
Larkin, Kristen  
Lomax, Simone  
Medina, Suzanne  
Murphy, Latoya C  
Nkemakolam, Nkenna  
Okwukogu, Francisca  
Onyebueze, Angela U  
Redden, Christopher B  
Sewell-Mentore, Diane V  
Smith, Jeffie B  
Williams, Jacqueline  
Williams, Shakedia W  
Woods, Quincy T

## MAY 2022

### BSN

Bortz, Hannah M  
Butler, Alexis M  
Cavataio, Michaela A  
Gautam, Parbati  
Gearhart, Maddison J  
Hoover, Greg  
Jacobsen, Melissa  
Jordan, Drew A  
Kristophel, Chelsea  
May, Kathryn  
McGinnis, Katie A  
McNamee, Shannon  
Montgomery, Katelyn G  
Newhouse, Jill

### MSN

Sheremet, Yuliya

### DNP

Behe, Sarah A  
Binu, JoJi  
Coleman, Sandra  
Frye, Kailey T  
Glover, Gypsy  
Hull, Amie  
Lehman, Lisa A  
McKinney, Regina  
Mordi, Karenton  
Nelson-Wilkins, Michele  
Njita, Honorine N  
Nnodim, Bobbie  
Ofosu-Mensah, Philip  
Perlik, Anna  
Timm, Jennifer



## HONOR SOCIETY

### Chi Zeta: Chapter Update

► Chatham University has successfully maintained its Chi Zeta chapter in the Sigma Honor Society of Nursing for eight years. Chi Zeta is the 508th chapter of Sigma, currently there are over 550 chapters. During the fall term of the 2021-2022 academic year, Chatham hosted a Virtual Founder's Day event. The topic of the virtual event was Women's Mental Health during COVID. Dr. Ifeyinwa Maduka, a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner, dedicated Chi Zeta member, and a DNP '20 alumni was the presenter.

Dr. Michelle Doas, Chapter President, was the Chi Zeta delegate representative for the 2021 Sigma 46th Biennial Convention. The theme for the convention was "Honor the Past, Remember the Present, Create the Future." A key thread integrated within the convention was to "Infuse Joy." One supportive example is illustrated in the quote "We must start wherever we are today to find, create, and leverage joy."



► 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 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 [memberv@sigmanursing.org](mailto:memberv@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](mailto:mdoas@chatham.edu).



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



### Nursing Gets a New Admissions Recruiter



► The Chatham nursing programs are excited to introduce the newest admissions recruiter for nursing, Anna Stephen! Anna will be leading recruitment efforts for all Chatham nursing programs. Anna graduated from Duquesne University in May of 2020 with a degree in public relations and advertising

and a minor in intercultural engagement. Anna's experience as a Peer Advisor at the Center for Global Engagement at Duquesne, as an Educational Administrative Assistant at The Watson Institute, and as a Proposal Coordinator at Automated Health Systems helped shape her interest in higher education admissions. Anna shared, "I've always

been passionate about helping people achieve their goals, so I'm thrilled to join this team at Chatham and to work with the nursing department to do just that—help nurses find the right program for them to make their ambitions a reality."

Anna is bringing energy and exciting creativity to her admissions role. The Chatham nursing programs are confident that she will be a strong recruiter for the programs as she provides interested students knowledge about nursing programs at Chatham and guides them through the application and admission process. Join us in welcoming Anna to this important role! You can reach Anna Stephen, admissions recruiter, at [a.stephen@chatham.edu](mailto:a.stephen@chatham.edu) or 412-365-1498.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@chatham.edu) or visit us at [chatham.edu/alumni](http://chatham.edu/alumni). Stay connected with the Alumni Association via Facebook.