



VILLANOVA

NURSING

SUMMER 2019

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

How Dean Havens envisions
the College's upward spiral

Conversations with alumni and student leaders
on the issues, the challenges and their hopes

Center Court Salute

At the Wells Fargo Center in South Philadelphia, a capacity crowd at the January 18 men's basketball game against Xavier applauded the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

Villanova Nursing presented the game together with Recovery Centers of America, whose executive Sean Hanrahan (4th from right), received a commemorative game ball from Drew Young of Villanova Sports Properties.

Representing faculty were (from second on left) Nancy Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, CNE, professor and interim director of the Center for Global and Public Health; Amy McKeever, PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, associate professor; and Sue Ellen Alderman, MSN, RN, PHMCNS, clinical assistant professor. The College's nurse scientists use collaborative research and education to empower nurses to be leaders in restoring and promoting health in our communities.

The College brought good luck to the Wildcats: They defeated the Musketeers, 85-75.



Departments

2 • Perspectives

4 • College Highlights

Committed to immigrants and refugees... LEAD on the front page... high rankings for our graduate program... huddling for patient safety... Jonas Scholars... cybersafety... undergraduate leaders, researchers and athletes... food security

23 • Faculty Focus

Trauma-informed care... mock code simulation... Team Latina's community impact... Hall of Fame researcher... a Fulbrighter in Finland

34 • Supporting the Next Generation

Doctoral study on complementary healing... the Eastwood family's generosity... the year's scholarship recipients... thank you, donors!

39 • Alumni Focus

Three Medallion recipients... caring for Montana's children... the gift of a kidney... Dean Havens meets alumni on two coasts... Voices of Villanova's veterans... still teaching at 82... AARP Well-Being Champion



Where Faith and Science Lead 3

Richard '83 VSB and Marianne Kreider further their support of nursing science.

14 A College Spiraling Upward

Dean Havens reflects on innovation, education and sophisticated research.



Step into Leadership 18

Meet 17 Villanova nurses who are advancing the profession and health care.

48 Nine Minutes

How teamwork, training and staying calm saved baby Mary.



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As a beautiful spring unfolds on campus—my first spring as Connelly Endowed Dean of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing—I am taken with how much deeper my understanding is of what makes Villanova Nursing a leader in so many vital areas.



“I love the energy here where we are re-imagining nursing practice, education, research and the provision of health care.”

Leadership is a strong thread running through the fabric of our Undergraduate, Graduate and Continuing Education programs, as well as our centers and among our alumni around the world. I am proud of the numerous honors that faculty, students and our College and its graduates have received. If you needed to find a Villanova nurse recently, we were in New York City at the United Nations; in Europe discussing climate change and health; at the head of the table with countless national and state professional organizations; in the international media; with lawmakers shaping health policy; partnering with vulnerable communities nearby and globally; and speaking from podiums across the country at conferences, in boardrooms and in classrooms.

On March 12, in the *U.S. News & World Report 2020* edition of Best Graduate Schools, our graduate Nursing program was ranked among the top 30 in the nation. That rise from 46th last year is indicative of what is happening in the College. We are in the midst of a research renaissance here, putting in place the pieces that facilitate the critical work conducted by our faculty and students. Our nurse scientists are courageously posing crucial questions and at times, disrupting as they advocate for patients and populations, with a goal of bringing health and health care to a higher level.

As we innovate, it is important that we collaborate. I held a Nurse Leaders Dialogue event in the Fall Semester and I, along with the College administrators, learned much from our clinical partners, such as their hopes for the future and challenges they face today. Our discourse illuminated insightful and impassioned conversations about what we can do together. I look forward to continuing these dialogues and collaborations. We also have encouraged other schools and colleges on campus to “Ask a Nurse” when they want to know about health care and are ready to create the next, smarter version of the health-care system alongside us as collaborators. We are also considering bringing an Entrepreneur-in-Residence to Driscoll Hall to advise our budding and seasoned nurse innovators. No matter where they are in their careers, I charge our nurses to never stop developing and testing “big ideas” while keeping patients and families front and center—*always*.

I said to some colleagues recently, “Every day I hear something new about Villanova Nursing, and it just keeps getting better and better!” I love the energy here where we are re-imagining nursing practice, education, research and the provision of health care. Please enjoy reading this issue of the magazine and see how we are making magic. We invite you to join us on this journey.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna S. Havens".

Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor

Where Faith and Science Lead

Melding spirituality and belief in the impact of research, Richard '83 VSB and Marianne Kreider further their support of nursing science to advance the College's strategic agenda.

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing will be home to the new Kreider Nursing Research Suite, following a gift from Richard '83 VSB and Marianne Kreider of Huntington, N.Y. Their gift provides for capital renovations to create this suite in Driscoll Hall as well as support for faculty research.

The suite will house space for the associate dean for Research and Innovation, the director of Grant Development, a statistician and a Villanova University-funded research assistant.

Their gift also includes The Kreider Endowed Fund for Nursing Research. Used at the discretion of the dean, the Kreider Fund provides ongoing support for faculty research, including but not limited to start-up funds, travel costs, conference fees and data acquisition.

Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, observes that "This College is poised to accelerate our robust research agenda and this funding for studies and the construction of our new Kreider Nursing Research Suite is the launching pad for that innovation. This gift enables us to actualize our strategic plan—evolving from the University's strategic plan— to enhance research efforts. We are so grateful to Rich and Marianne for their forward-thinking generosity and value their friendship and counsel."

Richard Kreider, a Villanova trustee, was an inaugural member of the College's Board of Consultants and has served as its chairperson as well as its representative to the University's recent Campaign Executive Committee. He is a director in the Global Markets Operations Group at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P.

Kreider notes that several reasons led the couple to make this gift, including Villanova's emphasis on research at the trustee, University and College levels. "We believe that research-oriented gifts help attract top talent. This is something that will keep the University and College competitive. We also want to show our support for Dean Havens, whose tireless energy and strategic vision will build upon the legacy of the late Dean Louise Fitzpatrick and propel the College to the next level." He explains, "Research is critical to the advancement of health care and the profession. Marianne and I wanted to make a difference, and we can't do it alone. The College has the expertise and the experience to do this, and every year you see the results."

The Kreiders have been loyal supporters of the College—through funding as well as their time. One of their five children, Kristen Kreider Triesch '05 BSN, MSN, a family nurse practitioner, was a Nursing student. Kelly '09 CLAS and Brian '18 VSB also are Villanovans. Michelle graduated from Long Island's St. Joseph's College and Kevin from High Point (N.C.) University.

In 2004, the Kreiders established The Kreider Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship.

In 2015, they established the College's first Distinguished Term Professorship with The Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professorship in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations, now complemented by their current gift. The professorship gift supports a distinguished faculty member whose teaching and research significantly contribute to the health care of populations at high risk for chronic and or life-threatening illnesses. The inaugural holder is Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, professor and director of the Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation. Dr. Smeltzer is a pioneer in advocacy and research related to the care of, and access to care for, people with disabilities.

"Research is critical to the advancement of health care and the profession."

— Richard Kreider '83 VSB

Speaking about his family's relationship with the University, Kreider summarizes, "Villanova, and especially the Augustinians, have played an enormous role in our lives. It was this relationship that led us to the College of Nursing. We view this gift as giving back to something near and dear to all of us. What profession better embraces the mission and ministry of the Church to 'Go out and serve?'" ●

Loyal supporters of the College, Richard '83 VSB and Marianne Kreider through their recent gift make possible a research suite in Driscoll Hall, as well as a fund for ongoing support of faculty research.



Award Commends Initiatives Aiding Immigrants and Refugees

Villanova University was honored with the Nationalities Service Center (NSC) Margaret Harris Award at the April 4 “Global Tastes” gala in Philadelphia.

The award from this resettlement agency salutes those “on the front lines of immigrant and refugee assistance and advocacy” in Philadelphia. The efforts of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and the Charles Widger School of Law were recognized as part of the University’s commitment to these populations.

For eight years, Villanova Nursing has supported NSC through health promotion clinical work. The initiative is co-led by Ruth A. McDermott-Levy ’96 MSN, MPH, ’08 PhD, RN, associate professor and director of the Center for Global and Public Health, and Bette A. Mariani ’82 BSN, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor. For four years, they have guided students in the “Imperatives for Global and Public Health” course on a health access project at NSC.

Juniors developed an assessment tool and patient education materials in each client’s language. The screenings coincide with the law school’s legal clinic. (See the Summer 2018 *Villanova Nursing*.) ●

At Philadelphia’s Nationalities Service Center, Associate Professor Ruth A. McDermott-Levy ’96 MSN, MPH, ’08 PhD, RN (right) co-leads a health promotion clinical initiative for immigrants and refugees. Last year, juniors Megan Conway (left) and Stephanie Yea were among the Nursing students taking part.



Top Rankings for Graduate Program

Once again, the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is ranked among the country’s top graduate nursing programs in the *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Graduate Schools. The 2020 edition was released March 12. The top-30 ranking reflects a continued upward trajectory acknowledged by nursing deans from across the nation who participated in the peer evaluation survey. The ranking used 14 quality indicators,

including research activity and faculty expertise. Villanova Nursing is ranked second in the Philadelphia region. For the second year in a row, the College’s post-master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice is ranked in the top 50 national programs.

“Building on strategic initiatives and aligning with national priorities, we have invested in our Graduate Program to meet the professional needs of nurses and the populations they serve,” notes Donna S. Havens ’83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. “That investment is growing an already strong reputation we have earned among our fellow dean and C-suite colleagues since launching graduate nursing education at Villanova in 1980.” ●

“...we have invested in our Graduate Program to meet the professional needs of nurses and the populations they serve.”

—Dean Donna S. Havens ’83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN

Villanova Nursing has a top 30 ranking in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2020 Best Graduate Schools.



15-Minute Huddles Address Patient Safety

With two decades of health-care leadership experience, Paul Minnick '18 DNP, RN, NEA-BC has become a firm believer in gathering hospital staff into a daily proactive, pre-emptive huddle on patient safety. He takes his job "very seriously," and with good reason. As senior vice president and chief operating officer for the regional Virtua Voorhees Hospital and campus in New Jersey, he provides executive oversight of all operations, services and equipment, among other extensive responsibilities.

Yearly, Virtua Voorhees handles "85,000 emergency department patients, nearly 6,000 births, 30,000 admissions and 5,000 surgeries," Dr. Minnick notes. But those people are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. "The buck stops with me for their safety and quality of care," he observed in a recent interview about his experience in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program.

Dr. Minnick recognized that hospitals can harm patients and that there needed to be broader dialogue around safety. Examining the literature, he noted that safety huddles reduce re-admission rates and improve communication and transparency, as well as team member

trust and event reporting. Thus, he chose for his DNP scholarly project "Creating a Safe Environment for Open Dialogue of Gaps in Patient Safety for Hospital Leadership Through the Implementation of a Daily Safety Huddle."

Each weekday at 9:30 a.m., Dr. Minnick guides that Safety Huddle, focusing on early detection of errors that could lead to harm of hospitalized

"The buck stops with me for their safety and quality of care."

— Paul Minnick '18 DNP, RN, NEA-BC

patients. For 15 efficient minutes, his department leaders stand together and follow a prescribed agenda. They report on any safety concerns from the previous 24 hours and any anticipated issues for the coming 24.

"Daily safety huddles provide a forum for interprofessional teams to analyze complex practice and organizational issues in a safe environment," Dr. Minnick

notes. As evaluation leads to even more improvements, he will continue to model the leadership behavior that fosters open dialogue on threats to patient safety. ●



As well as managing the 400-bed Virtua Voorhees (N.J.) Hospital, Paul Minnick '18 DNP, RN, NEA-BC oversees administratively the Health & Wellness Center on the campus.



The LEAD Story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

As an example of how forward-thinking universities are supporting career development for students and alumni, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* featured the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's LEAD Professional Development Program in a front-page article on March 8. Headlined "The Push is on at College Career Centers: They Work with Students Earlier and Alumni Decades Later," the article reported on a February 21 LEAD lecture and networking session. Higher education reporter Susan Snyder followed two students as they practiced their skills. ●

The College's LEAD Program (Learn, Engage, Advance, Develop) offers career development events and exercises for BSN students.



Students Inspired at Forbes Under 30 Summit and on Capitol Hill

Would you like to be part of the “world’s top community of young leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries?” “Yes!” enthused Nursing seniors Antonio “Tony” Garcia and Lauren Munter, who were chosen to attend the 5th Forbes Under 30 Summit, held last fall in Boston. The diverse group of more than 7,000 movers and makers could choose from 24 tracks, including health care, education, venture capital, politics and cybersecurity.

Recalled Munter, “I wanted the opportunity to explore new innovation and medical technology on the horizon, as well as the ability to network across different industries and assert myself as a woman and an investor and entrepreneur.” She has conducted research related to toddlers involved in unintentional shootings in the United States.

Garcia was impressed that all the speakers “had a sense of curiosity, a willingness to venture out of their comfort zone and a burning persistence to carry out their vision of bettering society once they had identified a pressing issue, no matter how difficult it seemed. Nurses can learn from this by having the courage to challenge the status quo. And who better to ignite change than nurses?”

Bettering their profession and the world through research is a goal shared by seniors Lauren Munter and Antonio “Tony” Garcia. Their entrepreneurial spirit earned them a place at the Forbes Under 30 Summit, which took place in Boston last fall.

Garcia also was selected to attend Villanova on the Hill, a six-day immersion program in Washington, D.C., last October. The students visited 18 iconic sites and listened to politicians, thought leaders and policymakers speak about their work. He was drawn to the program by his interest in health policy, as well as his research and activism guided by Linda Maldonado, PhD, RN, assistant professor. Her Team Latina research project serves Philadelphia’s Puerto Rican community. ●

Three Doctoral Students Chosen as Jonas Scholars

The National League for Nursing has selected three PhD in Nursing students as Jonas Scholars for 2018-2020. These Jonas Scholars at Villanova University are made possible by a grant from Jonas Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. The grant supports the following scholars and their research:

- **Caroline Ortiz: Jonas Scholar PhD Program—Chronic Health:** “Decía Mi Mamá [My Mom Used To Say]: Traditional Mexican Healing Practices Among Mexican American Women Living in the Texas Rio Grande Valley” (see page 34);
- **Mary “Meg” Kloster: Jonas Scholar PhD Program—Environmental Health:** “An Educational Intervention on Air Pollution as a Cardiac Risk Reduction Strategy”; and
- **Gwendolyn Hamid: Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar PhD Program—Psych-Mental Health:** “Predictors of Depressive Symptoms in Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury.” ●



Caroline Ortiz

Mary “Meg” Kloster

Gwendolyn Hamid

Glimpsed in Action: Undergraduate Leaders

ERIN DONNELLY, a senior and Presidential Scholar, delivered a paper, “Wounds of War: Understanding the Dimensions of Moral Injury from a Healthcare Perspective,” at the 5th Annual Conference on the Ethics of War and Peace, on March 29. Co-sponsored by Villanova University and the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), it was held this year at Villanova. Donnelly, a researcher and published author mentored by faculty, was inspired by her clinical experience with veterans to better understand the complex problem of moral injury, a topic now receiving more attention in the literature. Last November, Donnelly and junior **MORGAN MICARI** spearheaded Villanova’s Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

COURTNEY KOJAK, a senior, led Villanova’s New Student Orientation Program for the 1,686 members of the Class of 2022, who arrived on campus in late August. As administrative coordinator, she took charge of all physical aspects of the program, working with the student chairperson and Steering Committee from January through August 2018.

Juniors **MADELEINE OTTIGNON** and **ALYSSA DANNER**, along with Ethan Dean, a Villanova School of Business junior, launched in February an official student group: the Villanova University Chapter of the College Diabetes Network (CDN). The chapter’s advisor is Christina R. Whitehouse ’04 BSN, ’16 PhD, CRNP, CDE, assistant professor. CDN focuses on providing young adults with Type 1 diabetes the peer connections they need to manage their disease through the College, diabetes advocacy and fundraising events that foster cross-campus relationships. The chapter is on Facebook @*VillanovaCDN*.

LIANA PEREZ, a sophomore, was appointed to the new Health Policy and Education Task Force of the National Student Nurses’ Association and named a Promise of Nursing scholar.

MAURA SMITH, a second-degree accelerated BSN student, at Villanova’s Gender and Women’s Studies Student Research Conference in April received the competitive Health Paper Award for “Nursing Care of Women with Stillbirth Trauma.” Her paper addressed pain



At the National Student Nurses’ Association convention in Salt Lake City in April, sophomore Liana Perez was interviewed by a Johnson & Johnson video crew following the plenary session that featured a panel of nurse innovators.

experienced by mothers when their babies die and the transformative impact of nursing care focused on grief and loss.

PATRICK TREACY, a junior, this spring was elected president of Villanova’s Student Government Association (SGA). Formerly SGA’s director of finance, Treacy as a member of the executive committee was responsible for financial transactions, allocating funds and creating the budget. Since his freshman year, Treacy has researched issues related to gun violence. His mentor is Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor.

Villanova Nursing Without Borders (VNWB), a student group, was named “Community Service Club of the Year” at Villanova’s Student Involvement awards ceremony for exemplary commitment to the community through service. VNWB is committed to building relationships with local vulnerable populations to provide nursing services requested by individual sites, including health screenings, flu shots, education and empowerment.

JULIANNA SCHNEIDER, the previous clinic coordinator, also won honorable mention for the “Ignite Change” award for involvement in campus activities that push for positive change for the greater good and not for personal gain.

Four students from the Villanova chapter of Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) were elected to its Board of Directors at SNAP’s convention in Harrisburg last November. Senior **MADELINE STADLER**, re-elected state president, led the state caucus at the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) meeting in Salt Lake City in April. The three second-degree accelerated students elected were: **CONNOR COCHRAN**, secretary-treasurer; **ALEXANDRA WAWRZONEK**, region coordinator; and **KATE PAYNE**, Nominations and Elections Committee. Among other successes, SNAP-Villanova won SNAP’s highest award: Chapter Excellence (Category 1). ●

Toward Social Justice, Step by Step

Sophomore Tiffany Pearson, a Presidential Scholar with triple minors in Global Health, Peace and Justice, and Honors, vividly remembers one of the most defining moments in her journey to nursing. “I was interning at a local ER through my high school’s clinical rotations program and a patient came in for alcohol detoxification, becoming fearful, overwhelmed and ashamed,” she recalls. Pearson’s purpose became clear when she felt “an instinctive need to alleviate her suffering and to be there for the patient.”

Fascinated by the science of nursing even as a young child, Pearson says the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing has given her the opportunity to explore the intersection of her passions for nursing and social justice. As an executive board member of Villanova Nursing Without Borders, she can provide care, health education and advocacy for vulnerable populations. She also gains an opportunity to learn about pressing social justice issues, such as housing and food insecurity and psychological trauma due to violence and other experiences, and how that trauma impedes the ability to pursue a healthy life.

The sophomore’s involvement in the College’s Center for Global and Public Health and Villanova’s Center for Peace and Justice Education furthers her knowledge of the many forms of social inequality and marginalization. That has re-ignited her commitment to bettering not just her patients but society as a whole.

Pearson has worked as a research assistant for Jennifer Yost ’00 BSN, PhD, RN, associate professor. Dr. Yost’s study, “Making Decisions in Healthcare,” addressed the conducting of redundant research, which she points out is unethical, limits available funding for critical research and diminishes the public’s trust in research.

Pearson keeps a laser focus on her goals: to combine her passions for humanitarian nursing and critical care/emergency nursing and eventually pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. ●



At a foot care clinic for homeless clients, Nursing sophomore Tiffany Pearson (right) melds her commitments to social justice and patient care. Villanova Nurses Without Borders (VNWB) created this clinic in Philadelphia’s Kensington district. Also taking part were junior Morgan Micari (left) and senior Alexandra Santamaria. For more photos, see Instagram @villanovanursingwithoutborders.



Cybersafety: A New Realm for Nurses

While earning her MSN to become a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP), Lindsay Hanno ’12 BSN, ’18 MSN, CPNP, RN sparked a new interest by taking an elective on privacy and security in health information technology (IT). For class assignments at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Hanno looked for topics relevant to her clinical knowledge to help further the science of pediatric nursing.

Hanno was fascinated with diabetes management technology and devices, including the continuous glucose monitor, insulin pump, networks, the cloud, and smartphones. But this technology can open up a wide area for security problems and privacy issues. She notes, “Thankfully, there have been no known cyber-targeted attacks to date with the use of diabetes-monitoring devices. However, cybersecurity experts such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology warn that medical devices must have unique security recommendations in order to ensure patient safety.”

In her final semester, last November Hanno presented “The Highs and Lows of Technology in Modern Diabetes Management” at the College’s Third Annual Nurse Practitioner Program Poster Conference. She emphasized to her peers the importance of security for patients and familiarizing clinicians with medical technology’s benefits and risks. She will take that knowledge with her as she transitions to an advanced practice role in oncology at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del. ●

Fast-paced, Focused and Fit

We asked four Nursing seniors—each a student-athlete—to share insights into their rigorous schedule, competitive spirit, and the joys and challenges of their chosen sport and profession. Our questions included: What are they most proud of in terms of personal or team accomplishments? What does a Nursing student-athlete need to be successful? All mentioned how they were grateful for the support from family, coaches and professors and how that contributed to their resiliency and ability to reach their goals. Here are excerpts from their responses. Read the full interviews at villanova.edu/nursing.

JASON APPLIGATE

Baseball: right-handed pitcher

“Since I am mild-mannered most of the time, it would surprise people that I am very intense during competition. There is no better feeling than working hard in order to help the team succeed.”

“I am extremely proud of the resiliency that my team possesses on a daily basis. On an individual basis, I am very proud that I am within the top 10 all-time for appearances throughout a career for any pitcher that has come through the program.”

“Do not be afraid to be different. I am one of four males in the senior class that study Nursing here at Villanova... and the first baseball player to enter and complete the program.”



CHRISTINE GRAZIANO

Lacrosse: attack

“I love everything about my sport: the team mentality, the fast pace, the competition. I love my team, and the bond we have made together. We are extremely close, which makes 7 a.m. lifts and long practices a lot more enjoyable.”

A successful Nursing student-athlete needs to be: “extremely proficient in



managing time, driven, self-motivated, goal-oriented, resilient.”

“I find inspiration in all of the successful nurses who have come before me and in my patients and their individual stories. My Nursing experience has pushed me athletically because I have confidence in my ability to balance Nursing and lacrosse, and I know that I can push myself to accomplish difficult tasks both on the field and off.”

GRACE STANT

Basketball: shooting guard

“I am a very competitive person in most aspects of my life so I love that this sport is not only a team sport where you can rely on your teammates but also has one-on-one aspects where you must push yourself to be better than the person in front of you.”

Most proud of? “My ability to maintain a high level of academic success off the court while still being 100 percent dedicated to basketball. I have grown so much as a person being a student-athlete who plays a high-level Division I sport and is also in a very



demanding major. This part of my life has taught me skills that will help me excel in the workplace.”

“Nursing is a huge time commitment. I also have practice every day for at least two hours, plus film [of her performance or a competitor’s], life, traveling, meetings and so many other things that take time out of the day. I tell everyone that I have a full-time job on top of being a full-time Nursing student.”

ADDISON WALLACE

Soccer: defender

“Soccer requires a team mentality in order to win and have success. All 11 players must be on the same page and work together to achieve one goal, and that is to win. This relates to nursing because nursing requires endless amounts of teamwork in order to achieve one common goal of protecting and taking care of our patients.”

Most proud of? “...being named part of the Big East All-Academic Team throughout my four years of playing, while being a Nursing student.”

“You need to be disciplined, organized, have a strong work ethic and a strong sense of focus.” ●

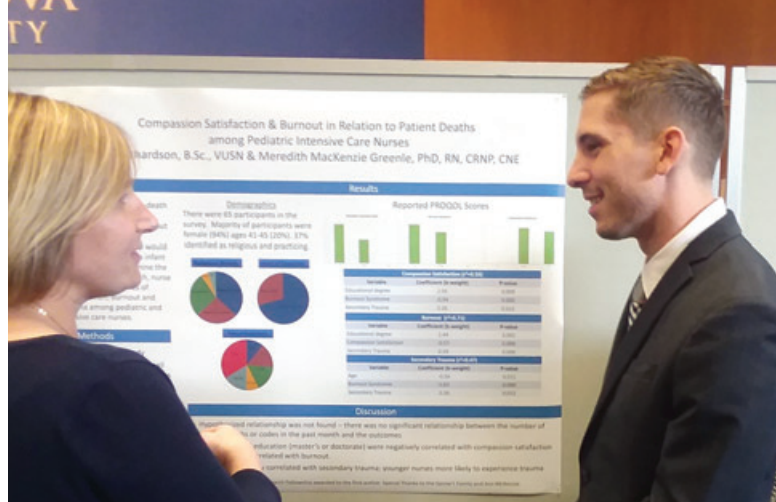


Student Researches How Trauma Affects Pediatric Nurses

While interning in a pediatric critical care unit, second-degree BSN student Kyle Richardson started thinking about how witnessing trauma such as patient deaths, code events and rapid responses affected nurses. Did experiencing patient deaths or near-death events relate to nurse compassion fatigue, burnout or secondary trauma?

To study that question, Richardson was awarded a research fellowship from the Villanova University Research Fund (VURF). While VURF requires only one presentation on-campus, Richardson jumped at the chance to submit an abstract to multiple conferences and to write a manuscript. The VURF study, conducted last summer, was: “Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Nurse Evaluation of Compassion Fatigue and Burnout in Relation to the Death of a Patient.” By the end of the academic year, he will have presented it to local, regional and national audiences. They include a paper at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses’ National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition 2019 in May in Orlando, Fla.; a paper at the College’s Annual Research Symposium; and a podium presentation in April at the Eastern Nursing Research Society’s 31st Scientific Sessions in Providence, R.I.

Meredith MacKenzie Greenle, PhD, ANP-BC, CNE, assistant professor, who has mentored Richardson, recalls “I first met Kyle as his clinical instructor for the junior-level medical-surgical course and was really impressed with his curiosity. He would e-mail me after clinical to say, ‘I’m still thinking about this’ or ‘I’m wondering



By the end of the academic year, Kyle Richardson (right), a second-degree BSN student, will have presented his study to local, regional and national audiences.

if this patient factor could have caused this finding.’ He always wanted to explore just a little further and really wanted to gain understanding.”

Observes Richardson, “With an interest to begin a career in a pediatric ICU and having an affinity for research, I wanted to perform a study that applied to clinical settings. While I was in my medical-surgical rotation, we briefly discussed compassion fatigue and burnout. Dr. MacKenzie Greenle and I then formulated the idea to create a survey using demographics and the ProQOL (Professional Quality of Life) measure, which could be utilized and easily accessible to practicing registered nurses.”

For the study, Richardson surveyed 65 pediatric and neonatal intensive care nurses. He did not find any relationship between patient death/near-death events and his research outcomes of interest. But he did find that age, experience and educational level were associated with those outcomes.

Following his graduation in August, no doubt Richardson will continue to ask questions and seek answers. ●

“Food Security: A Human Right, Not a Privilege”

That title of a January 31 symposium drew attention to an important issue: More than 41.2 million Americans don’t have reliable access to affordable and nutritious food.

Some of them live not far from campus. The “Food Security: A Human Right, Not a Privilege” symposium was co-sponsored by two centers at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing: the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE) and the Center for Global and Public Health.

Between 2005 and 2017, food insecurity in Pennsylvania increased by 7 percent while decreasing in neighboring states. In the Philadelphia metro area, 16.3 percent of children are food-insecure, up from 14.5 percent in 2005-2007, according to COPE’s

director, Rebecca Shenkman, MPH, RD, LDN.

The symposium featured leaders of a local emergency food distribution center—Chester County Food Bank—and a local

food pantry—Martha’s Choice Marketplace (MCM) at Catholic Social Services (CSS) in Norristown. They discussed the threat to public health of food insecurity and offered solutions for addressing both hunger and health.

Marginalized populations that suffer from food insecurity rely on diets rich in processed food and carbohydrates, increasing their rates of co-morbidities such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This dual burden of food insecurity and chronic disease is compounded by the fact that many supplemental food programs, primarily due to limited resources, focus on the quantity of food distributed rather than its quality.

The audience of local health-care and public health workers, in addition to Villanova students and faculty, learned how they can take action in their own community to ensure access to real, healthy food.

“COPE has taken notice of this public health issue and has partnered with MCM over the past few years to implement a peer-mentor-led, nutrition-focused programming for pantry clients,” Shenkman points out. She notes how the “evidence supports peer mentors as effective in helping individuals meet basic health needs” in low-income communities. “Thus, COPE’s continued partnership with CSS is testing whether peer-mentor-led education can lead to improvements in food choice and self-efficacy within the emergency food setting.” ●



Understanding the Risks of Frailty, Falls and Depression

A faculty member's dissertation and experience point to the need for better assessment, intervention and prevention strategies for geriatric trauma patients.

Michelle McKay '00 BSN, '09 MSN, '18 PhD, CCRN appreciated starting her career on an intermediate surgical ICU, then moving into the surgical ICU (SICU) as a staff nurse and later charge nurse for both units. For five years she served as an adjunct clinical faculty member and now is an assistant professor in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

During her 15 years in a Philadelphia SICU, Dr. McKay recalls, "I noticed the trauma patients were increasingly older and were most often severely injured after experiencing a traumatic injury. That piqued my interest in understanding the difference in treatments and outcomes for geriatric trauma patients as compared to younger trauma patients, and how we can improve care of the older adult affected by traumatic injury throughout the continuum of care."

Enjoying her interactions with nursing students in critical care, Dr. McKay started on the path at her alma mater to becoming a nurse educator. She earned an MSN with a concentration in Nursing Education and ultimately pursued a PhD in Nursing to develop expertise as a teacher-scholar. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Independence Blue Cross Foundation and Villanova provided generous financial and educational support. As an RWJF Future of Nursing Scholar, she completed the doctorate within three years. She defended her dissertation shortly after joining the faculty last year.

"My dissertation work focused on and demonstrated associations among frailty, fear of falling and depression with the risk for falls and health-related quality of life in community-dwelling older adults," Dr. McKay summarizes. These adults "met nursing home admission criteria but chose to live at home with the support of comprehensive health-care services. My study included primarily African-American adults 55 and older, since

As a critical care nurse and as a teacher-scholar, Michelle McKay '00 BSN, '09 MSN, '18 PhD, CCRN (right), assistant professor, has enjoyed interacting with students.

minorities are typically understudied, so having data related to the needs of this population is necessary," she notes.

"One in three older adults falls every year, and falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries in this age group," Dr. McKay says. "Treatment for fall-related injuries in older adults costs over \$31 billion dollars annually."

She has found that "Understanding how modifiable risk factors such as frailty, fear of falling and depression influence the risk for falls and health-related quality of life can assist in the development of assessment, intervention and prevention strategies."

Following a traumatic injury, frailty increases the risk for poor outcomes, yet it is not routinely assessed in older adults. Depression is also frequently underrecognized and undertreated in this population. "Therefore," says Dr. McKay, "if health-care providers, including primary care and trauma, consistently include frailty assessment and depression screening, then interventions and prevention strategies can be instituted earlier to decrease the risk for falls and improve quality of life for the older adult."

Dr. McKay's future research will focus on how traumatic injury affects the lives of older adults throughout the continuum of care, from living in the community to hospitalization to discharge. ●

"If health-care providers, including primary care and trauma, consistently include frailty assessment and depression screening, then interventions and prevention strategies can be instituted earlier to decrease the risk for falls and improve quality of life for the older adult."

—Michelle McKay '00 BSN, '09 MSN, '18 PhD, CCRN



PhD Student Honored at the United Nations

A dedicated community health nurse and midwife from Kenya, Sister Jackline Mayaka, FSJ, '15 BSN, '17 MSN, RN wished to expand her knowledge and practice through education to best serve those in her care. Having earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, she is now pursuing her PhD in Nursing here.

On May 10, Sister Jackline was honored at the United Nations with a 2019 Inspiring Global Nurse Award during the 3rd Annual International Nurses Day celebration. She was applauded by a faculty, staff and student group led by Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor.

For her dissertation, Sister Jackline is examining the vast clinical data from maternal child health clinics funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and that treat HIV-positive pregnant women in Kenya, a country with a high burden of this infection. She hopes to determine what factors promote their good maternal and infant outcomes in her homeland, with the goal of better supporting the health of mothers and their babies.

Sister Jackline also was a co-investigator of a Delphi study to determine ethical principles and guidelines of global health nursing practice. Their findings were published in the September-October 2018 *Nursing Outlook* (see page 13) and will serve to further develop her research with nurses from African nations. At Villanova, as a global health diplomat for the Center for Global and Public Health, she visits classes that will be participating in international learning experiences. She discusses with students the expectations of host country receiving agencies and best practices while in low-resource countries. ●

Celebrated as a nurse with global impact, Sister Jackline Mayaka, FSJ, '15 BSN, '17 MSN, RN in her doctoral study seeks to determine what factors promote good maternal and infant outcomes of HIV-positive women in her homeland of Kenya.



In the Dominican Republic, Villanova Nursing students and two faculty members last October joined this mobile clinic team serving in Batey Lechuga. The team included doctors, dentists, women's health experts, interpreters, and coordinators and staff from the Batey Relief Alliance. Leading the Villanovans were (back row, right) Bing Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN, associate professor, and (front row, right) Sherry Burrell '15 PhD, RN, CNE, assistant professor. During Fall and Spring breaks, Nursing students also partnered with community teams in South Africa, Peru and Ghana. For more images from these four locales, see our Facebook albums @VillanovaNursing. ●

Finding Themselves by Serving in East Africa

Last summer, as part of their clinical hours, two Nurse Practitioner (NP) students traveled at their own expense to provide health care through the Blair in Kenya project, a nonprofit founded by a teacher at Blair Academy in New Jersey. This is the second year that Villanova Nursing NP students have participated in the partnership between this East African community and the Americans who assist in sustainable ways.

Their preceptors at the Blair Educational Center in Kisumu, a port on Lake Victoria, were Blair volunteers Jane Ferry, MD, and Bobbie Monaco, CRNP. Monaco earned a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) post-master's certificate from the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and for many years has precepted Villanova PNP students.

Katelin "Kate" Phelan '08 BSN, '18 MSN found it eye-opening to be in an area with unreliable electricity and limited clean water and to see Dr. Ferry using a bicycle pump to power a nebulizer for a patient in respiratory distress. Phelan says the two meals provided at the Blair school are the only ones many of the children will have that day. Alyssa Denenberg '13 BSN, '18 MSN remains humbled by her experience in Kenya.

For most of the year, this community has no access to health care. Notes Phelan, "We are hoping eventually to help provide them with a self-sustaining health-care clinic so that the children may receive access to basic health care while at school."

The two graduate students also took part in the Days for Girls International program, which provides reusable feminine hygiene products and health education. They helped supply 200 menstrual kits to the girls and teachers, as well as much-needed women's health education to the community.

Upon returning home, both students shared with faculty and peers the professional development significance of their experience and their growth as global citizens. During their presentation at a student poster conference, they spoke



(Top) In Kenya last summer, Katelin "Kate" Phelan '08 BSN, '18 MSN examines an infant at the Blair Education Center clinic as part of her clinical hours as a Family Nurse Practitioner student. (Below) Alyssa Denenberg '13 BSN, '18 MSN (left), at the time a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner student, taught girls at the center about women's health issues. With her is Dorothy, a Blair teacher who was her interpreter and soon a new friend.

poignantly about the care and the community. They will return to Kenya this June.

Denberg chooses Mahatma Gandhi's words to summarize her experience: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." ●

Setting Ethical Standards for Global Health Nursing Practice

Beneficence, nonmaleficence, dignity, respect, autonomy, social justice, professional practice: Those are important parts of an ethical framework to guide nurses who go abroad to engage in service or learning experiences in low-resource countries. The principles were identified in an article, "Ethical Principles and Guidelines of Global Health Nursing Practice," in *Nursing Outlook*, 66 (5), 473-481, co-authored by two Villanova nurses and a colleague from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth College of Nursing. They are: Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, MPH, RN, associate professor

of Nursing and director of the Center for Global and Public Health; Sister Jackline Mayaka, FSJ, '15 BSN, '17 MSN, RN, a PhD in Nursing student; and Jeanne Leffers, PhD, RN, FAAN from UMass.

"Nurses are among the many U.S. health professionals engaged in international learning or service experiences and often travel to low-resource countries lacking guidance for ethical practice, respect for host partners or collaborative work in different health systems," note the authors. Their study culminated in 10 guiding principles and 30 guidelines for more specific actions. ●

A COLLEGE SPIRALING UPWARD

Dean Havens,
in an interview
with the editor of
Villanova Nursing,
envisions the
College poised
to ascend “...to an
even wider national
and international
profile” through
innovation,
education and
sophisticated
research.

Last June, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, University president, appointed Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN as the Connolly Endowed Dean and Professor of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. Dean Havens returns to Villanova Nursing, where she earned her MSN. During her 15 years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, she served as a professor, division chair and from 2014-2016 interim dean. Her numerous leadership roles include twice chairing the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) International Magnet Recognition Program®. She has served on various state task forces about the nursing workforce, on American Academy of Nursing expert panels and on the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Foundation and Research Commission. Dean Havens succeeded the late M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, '15 DHL (Hon.), whose almost four decades of service are honored in the College's name.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO RETURN TO VILLANOVA AND THE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING?

I was drawn back to Villanova because of my prior experiences as a Nursing student here and at the University. Villanova with its Augustinian values is enveloped in a culture of caring that I had not experienced at other well-known institutions where I have worked. In addition, the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is a highly regarded college of nursing that is on the edge of “becoming even greater.” Building on the legacy of Dean Fitzpatrick and the talented faculty, staff and students is very exciting. The College is poised to ascend to a new level, developing an even wider national and international profile. It is my pleasure to collaborate with faculty and staff to create this magic.

Dean Fitzpatrick was one of my mentors over the course of my career. Together she and the College faculty have built a robust foundation for the future. I look forward to collaborating with the University and College community to write the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's next chapter. This College is ready to seize new opportunities. In my research, publications and lectures in the United States and abroad, I examine and discuss successful health-care organizations and the strength of their nursing practice from a positive angle. I call it “spiraling upward.” And that's exactly what I envision the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing doing.

Every day we are innovating and educating—to improve health and health care for all globally. This means that every day we are thoughtfully pondering how to



Faculty and students are “addressing important policy issues while improving the welfare of those across our nation and the world.”

best educate nurses—the largest group of health-care providers in the United States at 4 million strong—including advanced practice nurses like nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists. Our doctoral students (PhDs and DNPs) are conducting sophisticated research studies and applying research to improve clinical practice and systems to promote positive patient outcomes.

We develop nurses at all levels who are formidable thinkers grounded in the liberal arts, who thoughtfully question and who strive to always *be* better and *do* better for patients, populations and health care, here and around the world.

WHAT ARE YOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, AND WHY?

Research. Innovation. Entrepreneurship. And while we are engaged in those, I want us to collaborate even more with other disciplines to lead interprofessional projects. I want to see more global opportunities for students and alumni—we are already collaborating with colleagues and communities in 14 countries—

but we need more of those experiences. What was once a large world is now a small one, and what affects our brothers and sisters near and far affects us. Health and factors that influence health play a significant role in the stability of families, communities and nations. Our students need to be prepared to practice as nurses who influence and impact health and determinants of health for all.

These priorities will be reflected in our new strategic plan. It will evolve from the University’s new strategic plan, which is being unveiled later this year.

THE GOALS ARE AMBITIOUS. HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

I’d say how do *we* get there. We are tackling this mission with explicit intention. First, we need to build capacity. We are most fortunate that our University president, Father Peter Donohue, and Villanova’s provost, Dr. Patrick Maggitti, have prioritized research as we do and are putting resources in place at the University level that benefit the colleges. The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is also putting additional resources in place to build our research infrastructure to enable faculty and students to excel in research and scholarship to promote betterment in humankind.

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors who make our efforts possible, including Richard and Marianne Kreider, who will be supporting a newly named suite for nursing research that will house our research infrastructure (see page 3). We have hired a talented grant development specialist and begun a search for our first-ever associate dean for Research and Innovation, as well as a statistician. A University-deployed research administrator has joined our team to handle the massive amount of technical work involved in submitting funding proposals so that the faculty can concentrate on showcasing their science to develop extraordinary proposals.

As faculty conduct their own research, they are mentoring undergraduate and graduate students to ask and answer important questions as well. We are very proud that such experiences begin with opportunities for freshmen to be mentored by faculty as they work together as teams on research and scholarship. An outcome of these unique opportunities is that the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is delighted to have undergraduates presenting posters nationally at conferences and authoring scholarly articles with faculty in top-tier journals. Along with faculty, they study globally important foci, and are addressing important policy issues while improving the welfare of those across our nation and the world.

WHAT ABOUT INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP?


We are working to kindle a flame amongst more of our students and faculty about nursing's potential contributions to health-care innovation. We are engaging nurses as partners in entrepreneurial enterprises, including the business of health-care and health technology and also in the development and use of health-related software and computer applications. My goal is to draw faculty and students to campus maker spaces, the Idea Accelerator, pitch competitions, and other ways of stimulating and unleashing their creativity to address significant issues about health care and the systems in which care is delivered. My aspiration is that faculty will model these behaviors for students and include them in creative efforts to improve health care. We have introduced to our faculty the new director of the University's Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Institute, Ann Miller, and look forward to collaborating more with this institute. We are using technology such as apps and virtual reality in our work. There will be many more inspiring stories to tell soon.

YOU ARE VERY COLLABORATIVE IN YOUR LEADERSHIP APPROACH. IN WHAT WAYS ARE ALUMNI, DONORS AND OTHERS IMPORTANT TO THIS NEXT CHAPTER OF THE COLLEGE?

We certainly will not do these things alone. Our alumni are a critical part of our story. We advance the future of nursing here in Driscoll Hall and that is reflected in all that our alumni accomplish on behalf of patients and health care. I have enjoyed traveling this year and meeting alumni and friends on both coasts—and I look forward to meeting even more in future visits around the country. They love their alma mater and value the education they received here. They freely give back to the next generation, and we treasure their support. We need alumni to continue to be part of us—the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing family—through their engagement; helping our students and each other; and keeping us informed about their work, their insights and networks.

At the College, we are a team that works together to accomplish goals, but we also know that we need partners in and outside of our profession, in health care and in the community, in politics and business and science and engineering.

We need donors who believe in what we do and understand that the legacy of their gift is meaningful not only to them but



“We need nurses to lead in health-care research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Anything short of that jeopardizes the health of patients and populations.”

to the health of the world. Donors have been, and we hope will continue to be, generous in their support of our students through scholarships. We need to keep this distinctive nursing education within reach for all.

We need donor support in the form of research funding and endowed professorships and visiting professorships to attract even more top faculty. These ultimately are gifts that allow us to tap the bravery and the brain power of nurses and our Nursing faculty, gifts that will bring us together to the summit of what nurses do best: leading care. We get there by tapping the strengths of all nurses and giving them the tools to succeed. We need nurses to lead in health-care research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Anything short of that jeopardizes the health of patients and populations.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU?

My parents—especially my dad who died three weeks prior to his 100th birthday and told everyone that I was the “Chief Nurse of the United States.” He was a hard-working man who held strong values about doing the right thing and working hard to make good happen. My mentors guided me to develop as a scientist who 30 years later is still thrilled to focus on the same body of science and asking new and important questions to advance this science.



HOW HAVE YOUR WIDELY USED RESEARCH, PASSION FOR NURSING AND HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS SHAPED YOUR OUTLOOK AS A DEAN?

My professional career and my research focus on stimulating and shaping the best nursing practice and patient care. During my dissertation I developed the Decisional Involvement Scale (DIS), which has been used by hundreds of researchers around the world. For decades, I have been studying and enhancing professional nursing practice environments with the goal of shaping systems to promote desired outcomes, because evidence strongly associates outstanding nursing practice environments with positive patient, provider and organizational outcomes. Merging participatory action research and implementation science, I measured elements of practice and then worked with nurses at the bedside and in the boardroom to build positive evidence-based practice environments in hospitals. It has been an exhilarating experience, one that has kept me grounded in the real world of practice and energized to educate the future generation of nurses to improve nursing practice and patient care.

Leadership roles in professional organizations—such as chairing Pennsylvania’s nurse workforce taskforce, the ANCC’s International Magnet Recognition Program®, and the American Academy of Nursing’s Expert Panel on Creating Healthcare System Excellence, as well as leadership in AONE’s Foundation and research activities—all grow from and are aligned with my professional education, passion and my research program. One could not ask for a better career trajectory. Finally, it was my honor to serve as the interim dean of Nursing at UNC-Chapel Hill for two-and-one-half years, which was outstanding preparation for my current role as the Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor.

My career to date could be titled “Shaping Systems to Promote Desired Outcomes.” Here in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing we are shaping our system to promote capacity and vitality around our priorities of research, innovation and entrepreneurship to educate the next generation of professional nurses and improve health and delivery of care for the world.

WHAT’S THE BEST PART OF BEING THE DEAN HERE?

There are so many things...the beautiful campus and the impact that new buildings and programs will have, our diverse learning environment, the reputation of the University and the College, the sports of course. But the best part of being dean here is our nurses and the stories of their work, which have a lasting impact on people, our practice as nurses and health care at large.

I can’t wait for us to ignite even more change. ●

STEP INTO LEADERSHIP

THESE 17 PASSIONATE AND COMPASSIONATE ALUMNI AND STUDENTS ARE AMONG THE VILLANOVA NURSES WHO HAVE TAKEN PROMINENT POSITIONS TO ADVANCE NURSING AND HEALTH CARE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

Villanova nurses are leaders in many realms around the globe, reflecting the spirit of major national imperatives and initiatives. Their commitment puts into play the call to action in the landmark 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report: “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” which recommended “nurse-led solutions” and becoming “full partners” in redesigning health care in the United States. Villanova nurses also exemplify the Nurses on Boards Coalition’s charge to “increase the number of nurse leaders in pivotal decision-making roles.”

As young alumna Michelle Turner '15 BSN, RN, CNOR commented, “Take any opportunity to step into leadership roles. If there is no clear opportunity, create one yourself.” Turner followed her own advice and within her first year of practice was assuming managerial roles. She is now a nurse manager in ambulatory surgery at New York Presbyterian Hospital/David H. Koch Center.

Here, 17 alumni and undergraduates from the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing enthusiastically pass along their thoughts and advice about stepping up to serve professional organizations. These conversations are excerpts. Find the full profiles at villanova.edu/nursing in the News section, with more to come from additional spheres of our profession.

Cindy Blank-Reid '83 BSN, MSN, RN, TCRN, CEN

*Trauma Clinical Nurse Specialist, Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia
Immediate Past President, Society of Trauma Nurses (STN)*

Biggest challenge? The global need for trauma care is immeasurable, and connecting the continents requires an amazing amount of time, patience, flexibility and constantly rebooting things. The STN has greatly expanded its global footprint and I have traveled to different continents. There is such a need for education and technology to advance trauma care and to educate nurses in various countries. We are partnering with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations and other international teams, but nothing goes smoothly or quickly.

What’s critical to your success? Most good leaders spend more time listening to those around them and developing consensus.

Innovation? STN is working with WHO on a global basic trauma nurse course available from a cell phone. Many nurses do not have computers, but they have a cell phone and with that they can access almost anything anywhere in the world.

Anything you wish you’d done differently? I would have written more grants. I partnered with various physician organizations around the globe but we need funding that is independent and that nursing is in charge of.

Mark C. Crider '93 MSN, PhD, RN

*Executive director and professor of nursing at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology
President, Board of Directors, Pennsylvania State Nurses Association*

What are the issues you deal with? The issues we deal with are not new and include education of and advocacy for the contribution of professional nursing to the health and wellness of our society.

Anything you wish you’d done differently? Actually, no. In retrospect had I done anything differently I would not be in this position. My past prepared me to take on the challenges of my role and provide the necessary leadership to Pennsylvania nurses.

Leadership philosophy? My philosophy aligns with the situational leadership style. Good leaders assess the situation, stakeholders and desired outcomes, and provide the appropriate and necessary leadership to support those involved in achieving their shared goals in a given situation. So, adaptability is critical.

What’s your hope for our profession? ...that we continue to find opportunities for members to speak in a collective voice. In doing so we would be able to assure consumers of health care are equally engaged as stakeholders in optimizing the health of our communities.

Anne M. Fink '11 PhD, RN, CNE

Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's assistant dean for College and Student Services; director, LEAD Professional Development Program; assistant professor Member, National League for Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator Commission, 2018-2021

How did you rise to this leadership position? I believe that I was selected for the ballot due to the long history of service with the NLN that I had cultivated. I did not get elected on the first try. The disappointments were discouraging, but I was passionate about making a difference at that level of service, so I continued to apply.

Who influenced you? The stand-out mentor for me has been Dr. Nancy Sharts-Hopko [professor of Nursing]. She has an illustrious career with a wealth of experience and a vast network of colleagues from whom to draw additional knowledge. She encouraged me to seek national service opportunities and wrote the recommendation for my first application.

Why is your work important to you? I was frustrated by the experience of pursuing and renewing my certification and I wished to improve this process for other nurse educators. As a new member, I am learning a lot about why the processes work as they do and am working with the subcommittee to bring a different perspective. I am enthusiastic about learning from the other commissioners who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience as well.

Jennifer Gil '13 BSN, RN

Staff nurse, Neuro ICU, Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston

Director-at-Large (Staff Nurse), American Nurses Association (ANA), 2019-2021

Who influenced you? Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick [the late dean of the College] and Dr. Carol Weingarten [associate professor of Nursing]. They encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone, explore new opportunities and take advantage of all the nursing profession has to offer.

Why are you enthusiastic about this role? I want young nurses to realize their true potential in influencing the profession and health care. I hope to inspire them to take on leadership roles and have a voice at the table.

Anything you wish you'd done differently? I wish that I had been kinder to myself and appreciated my creative thinking. I know that I can make a difference. I just need to believe in myself and further define my voice.

What's critical to your success? My prior experience with the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania and the ANA-Massachusetts provided me with the foundation necessary to function effectively in my role on a national level. My previous success has been credited to my ability to be open-minded and challenge the status quo. These attributes are critical to my ability to represent staff nurses and advocate for effective policy change.

“LEADERSHIP IS NOT AN ENTITLEMENT BUT A REWARD AND HONOR TO SERVE OTHERS AT A HIGHER LEVEL.”

Jennifer Graebe '97 BSN, MSN, RN, NEA-BC

Director, Accreditation in Nursing Professional Development and Joint Accreditation for the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Washington, D.C.

How did you rise to this leadership position? Stepping into leadership was an organic experience for me. As I became more expert in my clinical practice, my role as an informal leader in the emergency trauma department began to evolve.

Biggest challenge? The biggest challenge is the unfortunate patriarchal culture in health-care organizations. Nurses are still vying for a seat at the table and especially as mid-level managers. The role of a mid-level manager/leader, both theoretically and financially, is underrated and not routinely supported compared with physician colleagues in similar roles.

Anything you wish you'd done differently? I would have learned to negotiate my “worth” a little better.

Leadership philosophy? Servant leadership. Leadership is not an entitlement but a reward and honor to serve others at a higher level.

What's your hope for our profession? I hope that health-care organizations develop strategic relationships with their academic partners both nationally and regionally to address the health-care workforce shortage, particularly in nursing, and to identify opportunities for the growth of employees and those responsible for their growth.

Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN

Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor

Chair, American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet® Commission, 2014-2018

Chair, American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Expert Panel on Building Healthcare System Excellence, 2013-2016

Director, American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Foundation for Leadership, Education and Research, 2010-2014

Chair, AONE Foundation's Nursing Research Committee

How did you rise to these leadership positions? All of my leadership roles in AAN, ANCC and AONE came about because of my enlisting to participate in task forces and committee work and to put my name on the ballot. In addition, my research program on shaping systems to promote desired outcomes was extremely complimentary to important work in these organizations.

Anything you wish you'd done differently? Become a dean earlier! While I had always planned to become an academic leader in nursing, I had never thrown my hat into the ring for many reasons, including fear of the process. Once I had been invited to serve as the interim nursing dean at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I learned that I was truly passionate about working with faculty and nursing leaders to improve academic nursing, nursing education, nursing practice and patient outcomes.

Leadership philosophy? Along my journey, I discovered the field of positive organizational scholarship that helped me to see that there is much good in the world and that people and organizations aspire to do good rather than always focusing on what is wrong and where “problems” exist. I use theory from this area to shape who I am and how I interact with people and organizations. I frequently ask those individuals “What would right look like?”—it provides a platform of common action to move forward. I am honored that some have called me a transformational leader. I call it “leading from the middle.” To some degree it would also qualify as servant leadership—developing others and enlisting them to move to a better place with me.

Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN

*Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, associate professor
National President, American Nephrology Nurses
Association (ANNA), 2019-2020*

Who influenced you? I have long received great support from my ANNA colleagues. As a member of this association for nearly 30 years, I have a strong base of support due to my many volunteer activities.

Biggest challenge? A shortage of nurses. My platform is to use my recent research to build a pipeline of nephrology nurses. I have recently started collaborating with the leadership of the two largest dialysis providers—employing more than 40,000 nurses—as they are facing severe nurse shortages. I have shared my research, and the need to create externship and residency programs to attract novice nurses early in their career development process.

What's critical to your success? Association best practices have shown a personal touch is the best way to motivate and connect members of a volunteer association. This has and will be my ongoing focus.

What's your hope for our profession? Empowerment!

Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, ANEF

*Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, associate professor
Immediate past-president, International Nursing
Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning
(INACSL), 2019-2020*

How did you rise to this leadership position? With my continued engagement in the organization, pursuing the position

of president provided the opportunity for me contribute to the strategic vision for INACSL as we continue to advance the science of simulation around the globe.

“FIND YOURSELF A GOOD MENTOR OR TWO ... WILLING TO PUSH YOU BEYOND WHAT YOU THOUGHT WERE YOUR LIMITS.”

Why are you enthusiastic about your work? Simulation and nursing education are the future of nursing and health-care education. Helping those around the world who are just beginning their simulation programs, and seeing their enthusiasm for it, are one of the most exciting parts of the role.

Biggest challenge? The work of our volunteers is invaluable but sustaining that vision and enthusiasm can be difficult with competing responsibilities.

Advice? Collaborate with other experts in the field. Find yourself a good mentor or two who will be honest and open with you, but also be willing to push you beyond what you thought were your limits. Dream big and be happy; do things for the right reason, and always be honest.

Matthew McCoy '05 MSN, '13 DNP, CRNA

*Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, associate director,
Nurse Anesthesia Program
Vice President, Pennsylvania Association of Nurse
Anesthetists (PANA)*

Why is it important to you? It is important for me not only to belong to our state organization but to be active in the mission. It is easy to forget how important “community” is until you encounter an obstacle insurmountable as an individual.

Biggest challenge? We have many challenges including resistant legislators and a very powerful opponent organization, the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists. We are currently one of only two states that does not officially recognize CRNAs with title protection or advanced title designation. That, along with scope of practice, have been some of our largest hurdles to date.

How are you effective? Listening, understanding and communicating are critical.

Is there anything you wish you'd done differently? No. I continue to adjust my approach not only to this leadership role but my professional development as well.

“IT IS EASY TO FORGET HOW IMPORTANT ‘COMMUNITY’ IS UNTIL YOU ENCOUNTER AN OBSTACLE INSURMOUNTABLE AS AN INDIVIDUAL.”

Pennie Sessler Branden '12 PhD, RN, CNM, CNE, FACNM

*Adjunct faculty member, Department of Nursing, Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven
Sigma's liaison to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), 2019-2021*

How did you rise to this leadership position? I have been interested in and consistently focused on global issues in health care, nursing, research, education and advocacy throughout my career. I wanted to be more actively engaged in global health issues and their solutions, applied for this position, went through a thorough vetting process and was chosen to be one of the Sigma liaisons.

Who influenced you? I have had the pleasure of working with and being mentored by some fabulous nurse leaders. Without them, I would not have the level of knowledge and assertiveness I have.

Why is it important to you? I believe that nursing clinical excellence, leadership, research and education are key components to the improvement of global health care and its access. To this end, I always attempt to connect my passion for women's health and advocacy for better, more equitable health care and education.

What's critical to your success? I hope to be able to promote human rights for all individuals but most importantly for the women and children of the world whose voices are often absent or silent and whose needs are frequently ignored.

Jodie Szlachta '07 MSN, '11 PhD, CRNA

*Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, director,
Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Anesthesia Doctor of
Nursing Practice Track*

*Immediate past-president, Pennsylvania Association
of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA), 2018-2019*

Member, Pennsylvania Governor's Health Policy Board

*Board trustee, Arthritis Foundation of Eastern
Pennsylvania, 2017-present*

“A GREAT WAY TO LEARN IS TO GET INVOLVED AND ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS.”

How did you rise to the PANA leadership position?

I volunteered. A great way to learn is to get involved and ask lots of questions. There is definitely some trial and error involved, and significant courage is needed at times.

Why is it important to you? Political activity intimidated me due to my lack of previous involvement and knowledge deficit related to the legislative and political processes. I have learned a great deal participating, networking and asking questions. Nursing can have a big impact on health policy if nurses are educated and empowered to participate.

Innovation? Our board is constantly analyzing the legislative landscape, individual legislators, lobbying groups, committee membership assignments, election cycles and dynamics, and subsequently developing strategy and action plans to achieve our legislative goals.

What is your hope for our profession? I hope to inspire nurses to engage in the political process so that nurses are appropriately represented in Harrisburg and our legislature has a working understanding of the care and value we offer to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Tresa E. Zielinski '90 BSN, DNP, RN, APRN-PC, CPNP-PC

*Pediatric nurse practitioner, Emergency Department,
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
at Central Dupage Northwestern Medicine*

*Immediate past-president, National Association of
Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)*

Why are you enthusiastic about your role? Through NAPNAP, I have become very involved with health-care policy on a national level. Spending a day on the Hill in Washington, D.C., is very inspiring. It helps keep you motivated, as do national conferences.

Biggest challenge? I am still struggling with defining what a pediatric nurse practitioner is to families, even after 20 years, and fighting for independent practice both in my state and nationally with incident-to billing.

Anything you wish you'd done differently? I wish I had taken more time and done more on the national board level before jumping into the president role. I will miss it desperately.

Advice? Start small on a committee and work your way up to more responsibility. Find someone you admire and work with that person. Offer to help on projects. Follow health policy. Watch the money.

UNDERGRADUATE LEADERS

Beginning in their freshman year, our students are exposed to leadership modeling and opportunities. They demonstrate their potential every day, in the classroom, at clinical and volunteer sites, and through organizations shaping future nurses.

Kendall Connolly, senior

*President, Undergraduate Nursing Senate (UNS),
2017- 2019*

Why are you enthusiastic about your work? I became particularly enthusiastic about the work when we began to see results, such as putting in the first hydration station in Driscoll Hall.

What's critical to your success? I believe I am effective in my role because I have an amazing team. Every member of UNS is necessary for us to be effective, and this team is critical to my success as a leader.

Innovation? I devised the idea for the Study Hall Pop-Up because I noticed nurses shying away from studying there on Reading Day. Overall, by offering snacks and reserving classrooms, we are trying to create a space conducive to studying for nursing exams.

Advice? ... constantly take initiative in whatever it is you are doing. Another big part of being a leader is being available.

Dana Galgano, junior

President, Villanova Nursing Without Borders, 2018-2019

Who influenced you? My advisor, Dr. Elizabeth Bruderle [clinical professor]. She has always pushed me to take leadership roles on campus and ignite change.

Why is it important to you? Organizing weekly clinics is directly helping local Philadelphians and is such a rewarding pursuit. Learning how to care for patients from varying cultural backgrounds and circumstances is imperative for Nursing students to experience.

Advice? Lean into discomfort and take on risk.

What is your hope for our profession? ...that nurses and students will stop saying "I'm just a nurse." In addition to inspiring nurses to be proud of their careers, nurses need to be taught that they can create their own rules.

Meghan Galvin, senior

President, Chi Eta Phi, Theta Delta Beta Chapter

How did you rise to this leadership role? I was elected as secretary junior year. When it came time to elect positions in our senior year, we all spoke about what positions we were interested in, and it was soon agreed that I would serve as president.

Biggest challenge? You have to make sure you are communicating with every member in the club. You need to be receptive to their ideas and try to work with them to make them come to life.

Innovation? We try to create new service projects that would be interesting to participate in but also effective.

Leadership philosophy? Always move forward but enjoy it along the way. It is important to set goals and work towards them and be able to be flexible to navigate roadblocks. If you love what you are doing and feel inspired by it, that inspires the people you are leading.

"I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WRITE AND ENACT POLICY, THEREBY INFLUENCING HEALTH-CARE PRACTICE EVEN AS A STUDENT."

Meghan Scanlon, senior

Immediate past-president, Villanova Chapter, Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP)

Immediate past-vice president, SNAP state level

Who influenced you? The main supporter in my SNAP and National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) endeavors is Dr. Carol Weingarten [associate professor]. She has served as my mentor since freshman year, and I am so appreciative of her. I have also had tremendous guidance from other experienced leaders at the SNAP state level and in NSNA.

Why is it important to you? My leadership roles allow me to guide other nursing students and organize us to impact the profession. I have been able to write and enact policy, thereby influencing health-care practice even as a student.

What's critical to your success? ...that the students feel true passion about the cause they are addressing.

Innovation? Students need to think abstractly about new ideas that can be promoted to enact change. Technological innovation has been wonderful in allowing us to connect with other states to spread our message.

Madeline Stadler, senior

President, State Board, Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (2017-2019)

Why are you enthusiastic about your work? I love meeting new nursing students and encouraging them to get more involved.

Biggest challenge? Pennsylvania is such a large state. In some regions, schools are not close together, which makes communication a little more difficult.

Advice? Get involved with the professional organization. It is a great way to learn more about that area, and you get to meet leaders within the field.

Leadership philosophy? The most important thing you can do is inspire and empower others to achieve their own goals and vision. ●

Faculty and Alumni Collaborate on Teaching About Trauma-Informed Care

Nurse educators know that optimal and potentially transformational learning occurs when classroom content can be applied to real-life experiences.

Thanks to a successful collaboration with the Homeless Health Initiative (HHI) at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), seniors at the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing who are taking the "Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents" course can apply their theoretical knowledge while assisting with fitness, nutrition and wellness programs in shelters serving women and children. They are focusing on growth and development, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma-informed care and protective factors. The seniors are part of an interdisciplinary team of nurses, social workers, fitness instructors, nutritionists, physicians, dentists and medical students.

The term ACEs comes from the Center for Disease Control's 1997 research that shows a correlation between childhood trauma and adult health outcomes. A child's developing brain is affected by these adverse experiences, which can lead to many chronic diseases, mental health and substance-abuse problems and violence. The 10 ACEs measured in the research are: physical, sexual and verbal abuse; physical and emotional neglect; having a family member who is diagnosed with a mental illness, an addiction or in the prison system; witnessing a mother being abused; and losing a parent to separation, divorce or death. Children, adolescents and mothers experiencing homelessness are often affected by multiple ACEs.

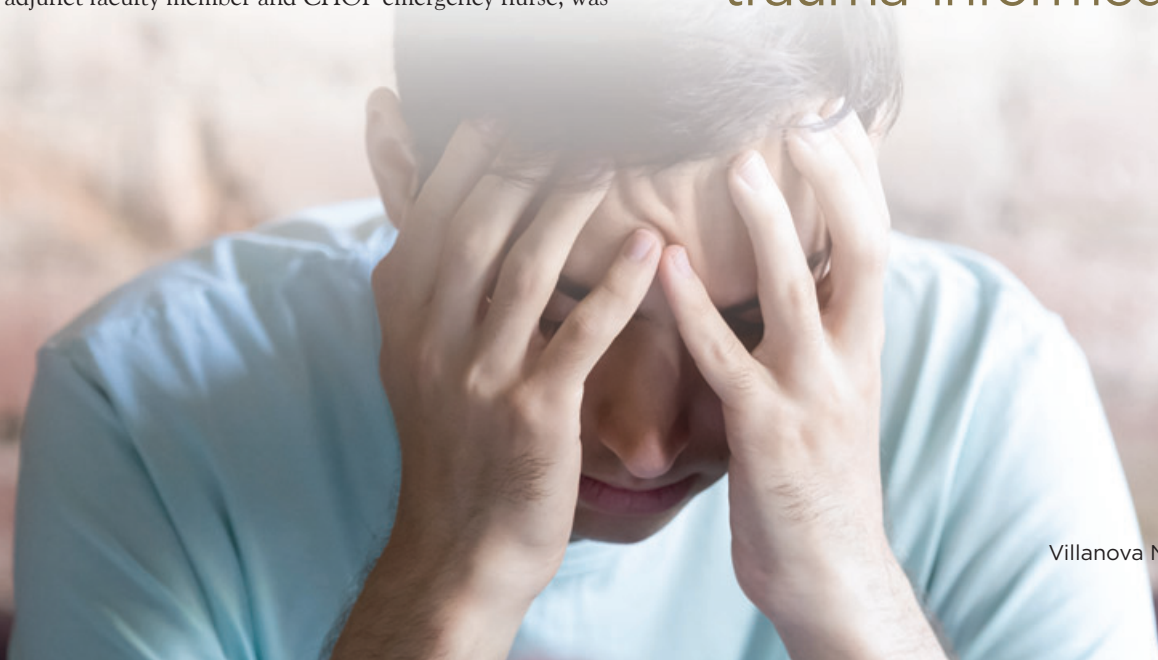
The course is taught by Professor Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, an expert on the effects of violence on children. At CHOP, Sally Poliwoda '87 BSN, MSN, RN, community nurse advocacy fellowship coordinator, has been facilitating this involvement with HHI since the collaboration's initiation in 2011. Misty Conlan '97 MSN, RN, a Nursing adjunct faculty member and CHOP emergency nurse, was

also instrumental in developing this experience. Melissa Berrios Johnson, MSW, HHI's social work trainer, has provided expert mentoring.

At the shelters, the Nursing students are briefed by the nurse leader and social worker to identify children needing additional support during fitness and nutrition activities. They discuss strategies to promote positive interactions and emotional regulation. The students serve as role models for the children. During the interdisciplinary debriefing, they share their concerns and observations and benefit from the perspectives of team members. Students discern the importance of asking not "What is wrong with you?" but "What happened to you?," a foundation of trauma-informed care.

The experience challenges the seniors' preconceptions about homelessness and transforms them. Seeing the impact of adverse childhood experiences pushes them to think about the nurse's role and to graduate as members of the nursing workforce who are prepared to assess and respond to ACEs. ●

Students discern the importance of asking not "What is wrong with you?" but "What happened to you?," a foundation of trauma-informed care.





Mock Code Simulation Involves Interdisciplinary Team to Improve Safety

For patients hospitalized with Parkinson’s disease (PD), instances of missed, omitted or delayed medication occur frequently. These medication errors increase length of stay and can also cause significant co-morbidity, including falls, aspiration and death. To prevent such errors, Diane M. Ellis ’84 BSN, ’92 MSN, RN, CCRN, clinical assistant professor and an expert in the care of people with Parkinson’s, designed an evolving body of simulation research, assisted by faculty, simulation staff and research seminar students.

This spring, this research entered its third phase, which includes an interprofessional mock code simulation. Its goals are to increase awareness and educate health-care professionals regarding the harm such PD medication errors can cause during a care transition and to improve interprofessional collaboration and communication. Participants include students from the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing’s graduate Nurse Anesthesia program, Nursing undergraduates, and students from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and Doctorate of Psychology programs.

This study, being conducted in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing’s Simulation and Learning Resource Center, holds great potential for dissemination among health-care professionals to improve quality, safety, education, communication and collaboration specific to Parkinson’s patients during care transition. A novice nurse’s top concern is what to do in a code situation, according to the literature. Mock code simulations have been shown to increase nurses’ confidence when a crisis does occur.



In this interdisciplinary mock code simulation (top), Nursing students assess a post-op patient with Parkinson’s disease and call for the rapid response team. After his condition deteriorates further, they start CPR and call the code team. In resuscitating, other team members, depending on their program of study, take the role of ICU nurse, nurse anesthetist, physician and psychologist. They also support and educate family members at the bedside during the emergency. During the debriefing (bottom), a student takes the psychologist’s role, joined by team members studying Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia, and medicine.

Observes Ellis, “It was our aim to create innovative case studies for simulation to improve care for this vulnerable population by increasing awareness of the impact of errors with patients’ PD medications. When completed next year, this third study will have reached over 600 health-care professionals from various disciplines. This is just the start.”

The two earlier phases of the study involved Nursing students exploring quality improvement strategies related to PD medications in care transitions and an intraprofessional mock code with Nurse Anesthesia students. In April, this second study was presented at the 31st Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society in Providence, R.I. In June, it will be presented at the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses International Forum in Ohio and at the 5th World Parkinson Congress in Kyoto, Japan. ●

From Research to Community Impact

In collaboration with Philadelphia's Kensington community, Team Latina intertwines research and advocacy in support of Puerto Rican mothers and babies.

Linda Maldonado, PhD, RN wants Latina mothers to empower themselves through her research. Why is the assistant professor of Nursing—an expert in maternal-child health and intergenerational care—concerned about their welfare? “We know that of all the Latina subgroups, Puerto Rican women have the poorest maternal/fetal outcomes,” Dr. Maldonado notes. They may only start prenatal care in the third trimester, if at all. These women experience “fear of loss of work and other financial concerns due to pregnancy, concerns over neighborhood crime, and the stress of the cultural expectation that they (often singularly) care for older family members while simultaneously caring for their own family and themselves.” This concern forms the basis for her scholarly endeavors.

Dr. Maldonado educates students in the research process as they learn to address this health disparity and investigate how those stressors, over time, affect maternal/fetal outcomes. The members of her group, formed several years ago, call themselves Team Latina. They engage the mothers in Philadelphia's underserved Kensington area, which has made national headlines related to the opioid epidemic. Establishing a relationship with Temple University Hospital's OB/GYN clinic opened the door for the Villanova Nursing research team to earn the trust of and interview the pregnant women.

Dr. Maldonado's goal is a patient-directed intervention to counter the high rates of missed prenatal care, thereby preventing the poor outcomes. While her research led to her own publications and presentations, as well as those involving her students, it has grown beyond that. Senior Antonio “Tony” Garcia took the lead in creating a Facebook group for the

In yuletide-themed T-shirts, Dr. Linda Maldonado, PhD, RN, assistant professor (third from left), and the College's Team Latina students and Nursing alumni hosted a community health event last December for Kensington mothers and babies. From left are: senior Antonio “Tony” Garcia, second-degree student Basil Weiner, Kerlyn Rodriguez '18 BSN, junior Kemi Babalola, sophomore Liana Perez, Anna Michelle “Mika” Inigo '18 BSN, senior Nora Cipressi, and research participant and Team Latina member Leslie Gonzalez.

mothers who, students had learned through focus groups, desired a safe space to share their problems and solutions.

Last December, Villanova nurses who yearned to remain involved after graduating returned to join students in designing and hosting a Women's Health Holiday Community Group event. It was held at Kensington's Community Center at Visitation, co-sponsored with the OB/GYN clinic. They invited local women and families to enjoy food, door prizes, health screenings and conversations about health. Explains Dr. Maldonado, “Even some of the Puerto Rican women who were part of the initial research expressed a desire to remain with Team Latina and have actively participated in the community outreaches. These former research participants hope to see things improve for their community.”

“We know that of all the Latina subgroups, Puerto Rican women have the poorest maternal/fetal outcomes.”

—Linda Maldonado, PhD, RN

As Team Latina's work expands, the group has partnered with Villanova University's Office for Mission and Ministry. Through a new relationship with Prevention Point Philadelphia, a nonprofit providing harm reduction services, Team Latina has achieved a greater level of knowledge about what is happening in the area related to the opioid and K2 (synthetic marijuana) epidemics. They hope to participate more with the community in creating safe spaces to live and grow.

From Dr. Maldonado's study have come powerful stories of resilience—as well as evidence of the high cost to the women's mental and physical health. Building on her study, she wants to further investigate, potentially to inform culturally sensitive interventions and improve outcomes in this high-risk population. She hopes to see “a future neighborhood united by wellness.” ●



In Finland, a Far-sighted Look at Climate Change

As a Fulbright Scholar in Finland last fall, Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, MPH, RN especially appreciated learning about the country's culture and introducing to Finnish colleagues climate change and health as part of nursing practice, education and research. Associate professor and director of the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's Center for Global and Public Health, Dr. McDermott-Levy was a Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Health and Environmental Sciences Scholar at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) in Kuopio, from last August to December.

While in this Scandinavian country that reaches into the Arctic, Dr. McDermott-Levy:

- worked with a student in UEF's new nursing Master's in Public Health on her thesis, a qualitative study of Finnish nurses' observations of health changes related to climate change in Finland. This work will be the foundation of Dr. McDermott-Levy's Delphi study to quantify what health changes the nurses are observing related to climate change in various patient populations. The Delphi will be completed this year in collaboration with two UEF nursing faculty members and the graduate student;
- met with the Finnish Nurses Association (FNA) to discuss climate change and health related to how the country's nurses prepare to address patient needs. Dr. McDermott-Levy posted a blog and collaborated with the graduate student to deliver a webinar. FNA will assist with recruiting nurses for the Delphi study;
- spoke at The Global Climate and Health Summit in Katowice, Poland, last December on "Nurses, Climate Change and Health: A Growing Movement." The summit,



It was Vs up at a reception for Fulbright Scholars, held at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki last fall. Dr. McDermott-Levy enjoyed speaking with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pence (right) and Gabriel Lopez '18 COE.

held in conjunction with COP24 (the United Nations climate meeting), was sponsored by the World Health Organization, the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the European Committee of the Regions and Pro Silesia; and

- guest lectured in four graduate nursing courses at UEF on the environment, climate change and global health, as well as at Laurea University of Allied Technology in Vantaa on "Megatrends in Global Health."

She played street hockey, enjoyed salmon, saw ambulatory devices adapted for icy conditions and learned the transportation system as she traveled throughout Finland. "I developed a lasting collaboration with nursing, public health, and environmental and climate scientists. I also saw what can be possible as far as living sustainably and learned to appreciate the darkness, cold and quiet," she reflects. The semester abroad was an "amazing opportunity to represent the United States."

"I developed a lasting collaboration with nursing, public health, and environmental and climate scientists."

—Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, MPH, RN

Back in Driscoll Hall, Dr. McDermott-Levy has been meeting electronically with UEF nursing and public health faculty, as well as medical faculty in Nigeria and public health faculty in India, to develop an asynchronous climate and health course for students from Villanova and those three universities. On May 10, at the United Nations in New York City, she spoke on "Engaging Nurses in the Health Impact of Climate Change in Finland" for the 3rd Annual International Nurses Day. ●



Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, MPH, RN (left) is grateful to faculty, staff and students at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF), especially her host, Hannele Turunen, PhD, RN, director of the Department of Nursing Science (right). Dr. Turunen "helped me navigate my research and life at UEF," says the Fulbright Scholar.

Raija Törrönen

TRANSITIONS

Andrea “Andi” O. Hollingsworth, '68 BSN, PhD, RN, dean emerita of the Gwynedd Mercy University Francis M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions and former associate professor and director of the Undergraduate Program at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, has returned to the College as a fellow with the PhD in Nursing Program. The accomplished maternal newborn and women’s health author teaches and serves on the dissertation and the PhD advisory committees. Dr. Hollingsworth was president of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Nursing Schools Association from 2006-2008. In 2018 she was recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) as “Advocate of the Year” for her work in government affairs for AACN and nursing education. She serves as chief nursing advisor for Synergis Education. She earned her MSN and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.



among African-Americans with serious illness and their families, as well as advanced care planning. Dr. Laury received her BHS from the University of Florida and her BSN and PhD from the Indiana University School of Nursing. She completed post-doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania in Nursing and Health Policy and is pursuing her Master of Science in Health Policy Research at Penn.

Michelle McKay, '00 BSN, '09 MSN, '18 PhD, RN, CCRN, who in August 2018 joined the faculty as an assistant professor, teaches advanced medical surgical nursing. Her research interests focus on the effect traumatic injury has on older adults throughout the continuum of care from living in the community, to hospitalization, to discharge. Dr. McKay, a Robert Wood Johnson Future of Nursing Scholar, earned all three degrees at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.



Barbara Stephen, '05 BSN, RN, OCN joined the College in January as the faculty coordinator of BSN Traditional and Transfer Programs. She provides academic and non-academic support to students, assists in the transfer admission process and tracks student progress with ATI. She also teaches leadership and medical surgical nursing. Prior to joining the faculty,



the BSN alumna was an assistant clinical professor at Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions. She practiced as an oncology nurse at the Duke University Medical Center and received her MSN in Health Care Systems: Outcome Management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Christina R. Whitehouse, '04 BSN, '16 PhD, CRNP, CDE, assistant professor, joined the faculty last August and teaches older adults. Her research focuses on transitional care, diabetes self-management education, telehealth and post-acute care. Dr. Whitehouse earned her AS in Medical Technology from Hahnemann University, her BA in Anthropology from Temple University and her BSN from the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. She received her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania before returning to Villanova to complete her PhD in Nursing.



Irene Handlon, JD, MPH, MA joined the College in October 2018 as the first director of Grant Development (part-time). She brings extensive experience with non-governmental organizations, universities and community-based nonprofits to secure funding from government agencies and foundations. Dr. Handlon has experience in conducting prospect research; analyzing funding trends; and writing, managing and editing proposals and projects. In addition to degrees in English literature, she earned her law and Master’s in Public Health/Health Law degrees from Boston University.

Sigma Inducts Dr. Smeltzer to Research Hall of Fame

Based on the significant impact her research has made on the nursing profession, Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN is a 2019 inductee to Sigma’s International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. Inductees will be honored July 27 at Sigma’s 30th International Nursing Research Congress in Calgary, Canada. Dr. Smeltzer is the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations and director of the College’s Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation.

Her global reputation results from more than three decades of research, education and service-related endeavors to address the health-related needs of people with disabilities and to educate health professionals to better care for this vulnerable population, one that is often underserved and whose needs are frequently ignored. She has consistently published her research in high-impact nursing and interdisciplinary journals, presented it at numerous national and international conferences, and is a highly sought-after speaker. Dr. Smeltzer has served on several national task forces devoted to educating providers and has led teams in producing programs and toolkits to help nurses, advanced practice nurses and nursing faculty advance the care of this population. ●

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN is one of 23 distinguished nurse researchers from four countries being honored in 2019 by Sigma for their contributions to health around the globe.



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Sherry A. Burrell '15 PhD, RN, CNE, ACNS-BC, assistant professor, published with Yeo, T. P.; **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN**, the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations and director of the Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation; Leiby, B.; Lavu, H.; Kennedy, E.; and Yao, C.J., "Symptom Clusters in Patients Undergoing Surgical Resection for Pancreatic Cancer: Part One—Symptoms and Symptom Clusters," in *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 45 (4), E36-52, followed by "Symptom Clusters in Patients Undergoing Surgical Resection for Pancreatic Cancer: Part Two—Influencing Factors and Clinical Outcomes," E53-E66.

Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, professor and director of the PhD in Nursing Program, published:

- "Millennial Nursing Students' Experiences in a Traditional Classroom Setting," in the *Journal of Nursing Education*, 58 (1), 27-32;
- with Kirkpatrick, A.J. and **Professor Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN**, the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations and director of the Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation, "Relationships Among Nursing Student Palliative Care Knowledge, Experience, Self-Awareness, and Performance: An End-of-life Simulation Study," in *Nurse Education Today*, 73 (2), 23-30 (Epub. ahead of print, November 14, 2018); and
- with McKinley Yoder, C.L., "Childhood Disability and Educational Outcomes: A Systematic Review," in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 45 (2): 37-50 (Epub. ahead of print, January 23).

Theresa "Teri" Capriotti '95 MSN, DO, RN, CRNP, clinical professor, published:

- with Nursing senior **Meghan Scanlon**, "Osteoporosis: Update for the Home Health Care Provider," in *Home Healthcare Now*, 36 (4), 216-224;
- with Nursing seniors **Simonne Brissenden** and **Erin Donnelly**, "ALS: Update for the Primary Care Provider," in *The Clinical Advisor*, 21 (6), 15- 20; and
- "HIV/AIDS: Update for Home Healthcare Clinicians," in *Home Healthcare Now*, 36 (6), 348-355.

Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, CNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor, published the chapters "Major Neurocognitive Disorders" and "Somatic Symptom Disorder" in the book *Behavioral Health Procedures and Skills* (5th edition), edited by Linda Ruhf.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor, published:

- with Gonzalez-Guarda, R.M.; Marino, M.A.; Anderson, J.C.; and Laughon, K., "American Academy of Nursing on Policy: Recommendations in Response to Mass Shootings," in *Nursing Outlook*, 66 (3), 333-336;
- with Carretta, C.M.; Burgess, A.W.; and Caldwell, B.A., "Adolescent Suicide Cases: Toxicology Reports and Prescription Drugs," in *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 14 (7), 552-558; and
- with **Meghan Long '16 BSN, RN**, "Online and Health Risk Behaviors in High School Students: An Examination of Bullying," in *Pediatric Nursing Journal*, 44 (5), 233-239.

Diane M. Ellis '84 BSN, '92 MSN, RN, CCRN, clinical assistant professor, published with **Colleen H. Meakim '84 MSN, RN, CHSE, ANEF**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Second-degree Programs; **Patricia Prieto, MBA, BSN, RN, CHSE**, Nursing simulation operations specialist; and **Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, FGSA**, associate professor, "Transitional Care Experience in Home Health: Exposing Students to Care Transitions Through Scenarios and Simulation" in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 39 (1), 48-50.



Dean Havens Invited to Give the Fitzpatrick Lecture

At Bryn Mawr Hospital last December, Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor (second from left), was the speaker for the Dr. Louise Fitzpatrick Lecture Series. In her lecture, "Helping Patients and Providers to Spiral Upward," Dean Havens shared her research and work with health-care organizations. With her are (from left) Main Line Health's Barbara Wadsworth, MSN, RN, FAAN, NEA-BC, senior vice president/chief nursing officer; Linda Carrick '75 BSN, PhD, RN, the hospital's regional vice president, Patient Care Services; and Maggie and Brien Murphy, MD, who established the lecture series. Dr. Murphy is a former member of the College's Board of Consultants. ●

In the Media

Texting while sleeping: Unable to say good-night to their smart phones, more adolescents and college students are connecting with friends into the wee hours of the morning, sending garbled messages but often without remembering doing so. It's because they're sleep texting, according to the research of Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor (left) and co-author Brianne Q. Clayton '14 BSN, '18 MSN, RN (right). They drew widespread media attention with their article, "Interrupted Sleep: College Students Sleeping with Technology," in the *Journal of American College Health*, (Epub. ahead of print, October 26, 2018).

"The majority of the sleep texting students had no memory of the texting behavior as well as who or what they texted," Dr. Dowdell says. One student even put on mittens to avoid texting in bed. Journalists—national and international—have been fascinated by the researchers' findings, leading to nearly 100 stories. These radio, phone and TV interviews afford multiple opportunities to educate the public about the importance of quality sleep.



More men in nursing: Interviewed by Philadelphia's KYW Newsradio, James Mendez '15 PhD, CRNP, ANP-BC, assistant professor, said he believes having more men in nursing can only be a benefit. "It always helps the people we care for get better care because we understand them better by our diversity," he said, whether that diversity is economic, gender, or ethnic. The story, "Number of Men Entering Nursing Profession Is Growing" was posted January 20.

Safe havens for unwanted newborns: "Abandoned Infants Could Have Found Safe Havens" was the headline on the opinion piece published by Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, RN, CRNP, assistant professor, and Robert Leggiadro, MD, adjunct faculty member of Villanova University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on January 16. Concerned about infants continuing to be discarded in trash bags, bathroom stalls or parking lots, they ask: "Why is information on Safe Haven laws not provided at every high school, every recreation center, every house of worship, and every bus or train station?" They point out that "A mother or father relinquishing a newborn to a safe haven will not be punished for ensuring the safety of the child." ●

Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN, associate professor, published two articles with Ulrich, B.:

- "A Window into the World of Nephrology Nursing: Nephrology Nurses' Views of the Health and Safety of Their Work Environments, the Impact on Patient Care, and Opportunities for Improvement," in *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 45 (5), 437-449; and
- "The Health and Safety of Nephrology Nurses and the Environments in Which They Work: Important for Nurses, Patients, and Organizations," in *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 45 (2), 117-139, 168.

Esther R. Laury, PhD, RN, assistant professor, published:

- with Hines, D.D. and Habermann, B., "They Just Don't Get Me: A Qualitative Analysis of Transgender Women's Healthcare Experiences and Clinician Interactions," in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care* (Epub. ahead of print, December 19, 2018); and
- with **Meredith MacKenzie Greenle, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CNE**, assistant professor, and Meghani, S.H., "Advance Care Planning in African Americans: An Empirical Look at the Trust Variable," in *The Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 22 (4), 442-451.

Evelyn "Evie" Lengetti, PhD, RN-BC, assistant dean, director of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care and assistant professor, published:

- with Kronk, R.; Ulmer, K.; Wilf, K.; Murphy, D.; Rosanelli, M.; and Taylor, A., "An Innovative Approach to Educating Nurses to Clinical Competence: A Randomized Controlled Trial," in *Nurse Education in Practice*, 33 (November 2018), 159-163 (Epub. ahead of print, September 8, 2018); and
- with **Patricia Haynor, PhD, RN, NHA**, associate professor, "Return on Investment: Building the Case for a Nurse Manager Certificate Program," in *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 49 (10), 446-448.

Meredith MacKenzie Greenle, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CNE, assistant professor, published:

- with Smith-Howell, E.; Bomba, P.; and Meghani, S.H., "Respecting Choices® and Related Models of Advance Care Planning: A Systematic Review of Published Evidence," in the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 35 (6), 897-907;
- with Morgan, B.; Sayani, S.; and Meghani, S.H., "Identifying Mobile Apps Targeting Palliative Care Patients and Family Members," in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 21 (10), 1380;
- with Hirschman, K.B.; Coburn, K.; Marcantonio, S.; Hanlon, A.L.; **Mary Duffin Naylor '71 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN**; Mauer, E.; and



Ulrich, C., "End of Life Health Care Utilization Patterns among Chronically Ill Older Adults," in the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, (Epub. ahead of print, January 29); and

- with **Kristina Terzakis '17 BSN, RN**, "Preparing Family Members for the Death of a Loved One in Long-Term Care," in the *Annals of Long-Term Care: Clinical Care and Aging*, 27 (2), 25-31.

Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor, published:

- with O'Rourke, J.; Horsley, T.L.; Doolen, J.; and Pariseault, C., "Integrative Review of Interprofessional Simulation in Nursing Practice," in *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 49 (2), 91-105;
- with Fey, M.K. and Gloe, D., "The Simulation Research Rubric: A Pilot Study Evaluating Published Simulation Studies," in *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, 22 (September 2018), 1-4;
- with Badowski, D.; Horsley, T.L.; Rossler, K.; and Gonzalez, L., "Electronic Charting During Simulation: A Descriptive Study," in *Computers, Informatics, Nursing*, 36 (9), 1-8; and
- with Zazyczny, K.A.; Decina, P.; Waraksa, L.; Snyder, P.; Gallagher, E.; and Hand, C., "Simulation for Clinical Preparedness in Pediatric Emergencies: A Pilot Study" (CE article), in the *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 35 (1), 6-11.



Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, associate professor, and **Linda Maldonado, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, published with Bloch, J.R.; Zupan, S.K.; Birati, Y.; Chiatti, B.; Devido, J.A.; Geller, P.A.; and Barkin, J.L., "A Practice-Based Research Database to Study Perinatal Nurse Home Visiting to Pregnant Women with Diabetes," in *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*, 16 (1), 1-10.

Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz, Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, published:

- with Winter, L.; Short, T.; and True, G., "Exploration of Factors Related to Depressive Symptomatology in Family Members of Military Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury," in the *Journal of Family Nursing*, 24 (2), 184-216;
- with Yanke, E.; Carayon, P.; and Safdar, N., "The 'Invisible Staff': A Qualitative Analysis of Environmental Service Workers' Perceptions of the VA *Clostridium difficile* Prevention Bundle Using a Human Factors Engineering Approach," in the *Journal of Patient Safety*, (Epub. ahead of print, June 11, 2018);
- with Bradway, C.W.; Bunting-Perry, L.; and Robinson, J.P., "Caring for Men With Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms and Parkinson's Disease: Coping Experiences of Female Spouses," in *Urologic Nursing*, 38 (3), 113-120. The article was honored with the 2017-2018 Catherine-Ann Lawrence Literary Excellence Award at the *Urologic Nursing Conference* in San Diego last October; and
- with Robinson, J.P.; Bradway, C.W.; and Bunting-Perry, L., "Increased Odds of Bladder and Bowel Symptoms in Early Parkinson's Disease," in *Neurourology and Urodynamics*, 38 (1), 418-419.

Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, FGSA, associate professor, published with **Carolyn Astrup '18 BSN, RN**, "Fuel for Life: A Literature Review of Nutrition Education and Assessment Among

Older Adults Living at Home," in *Home Health Care Management and Practice*, 30 (2), 61-69.

Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE, assistant professor, published:

- "Repetitive Practice with Peer Mentoring to Foster Skill Competence and Retention in Baccalaureate Nursing Students," in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 40 (1), 48-49; and
- with Beckmann, B. and Goumas, C., "Baccalaureate Nursing Students' Perceptions of the Use of a Facebook Case Study as a Teaching Strategy," in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 40 (3), 175-175.



Ann Scheve '81 BSN, MS, RN, clinical assistant professor, published a chapter with Galik, B., "Care of the Older or Disabled Adult," in the *Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice*, (11th edition), edited by Sandra M. Nettina.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations and director of the Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation, published:

- with Mitra, M.; Long-Bellil, L.; Iezzoni, L.I.; and Smith L., "Obstetric Clinicians' Experiences and Educational Preparation for Caring for Pregnant Women with Physical Disabilities: A Qualitative Study," in the *Disability and Health Journal*, 11 (1), 8-13 (Epub. ahead of print, August 1, 2017); and
- with **Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor; **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, ANEF, ANEF**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Second-degree Programs; **Elizabeth A. Bruderle '90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical professor; **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C, RN**, assistant professor; and **Serah Nthenge '04 MSN, '19 PhD**, "Innovative Approach to Address Disability Concepts and Standardized Patients with Disability in an Undergraduate Curriculum," in the *Journal of Nursing Education*, 57 (12), 760-764.

Christina Whitehouse '04 BSN, '19 PhD, CRNP, CDE, assistant professor:

- authored questions for "Transitions in Care" in the *Geriatrics Review Syllabus: A Core Curriculum in Geriatric Medicine* (10th edition), edited by G.M. Harper, W.L. Lyons and J.F. Potter;
- published with **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, CNE**, professor, and **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN**, the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations and director of the Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation, "Supporting Transitions in Care for Older Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Obesity," in *Research in Gerontological Nursing*, 11 (20), 71-81;
- with **Kathryn H. Bowles '90 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI**; Ratcliffe, S.J.; Holmes, J.H.; Keim, S.; Potashnik, S.; Flores, E.; Humbrecht, D.; and **Mary Duffin Naylor '71 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN**, "Using a Decision Support Algorithm for Referrals to Post-Acute Care," in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 20 (4), 408-413 (Epub. ahead of print, November 3, 2018); and

- with Hirschman, K.B., “Case in Point: Key Components of Transitional Care—When Hospitalizations Happen,” in the *CSA Journal* (Society of Certified Senior Advisors), 72 (3), 57-61.

Jennifer Yost '00 BSN, PhD, RN, associate professor, published:

- with Belita, E.; Dobbins, M.; Squires, J. E.; Ganann, R.; and Burnett, T., “Measures Assessing Attributes of Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM) Competence Among Nurses: a Systematic Review Protocol,” in *Systematic Reviews*, 7, 181;
- with Kennedy, J.; Missiuna, C.; Pollock, N.; Wu, S.; and Campbell, W., “A Scoping Review to Explore How Universal Design for Learning Is Described and Implemented by Rehabilitation Health Professionals in School Settings,” in *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 44 (3), 1-9; and
- with O’Keefe-McCarthy, S.; Taplay, K.; Yates, E.; Vasilaki, M.; Romas, S.; Flynn-Bowman, A.; McPherson, M.; and Keeping-Burke, L., “The Predictive Value of Prodromal Symptoms on Major Adverse Cardiac Events: a Systematic Review Protocol,” in the *Canadian Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 28 (1), 10-15.

LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Angelina Arcamone '82 BSN, '86 MSN, PhD, RN, assistant dean, director of the Undergraduate Program and clinical assistant professor; **Shelley Hickey '07 MSN, RN**, clinical assistant professor; P. Abdalla; and K. Lawrence in March co-presented “Strategies for NCLEX-RN Success Without High Stakes Testing,” at the University of Maryland School of Nursing’s Institute for Educators, “Teaching in Nursing: What’s Now, What’s New, What’s Next?”

Sherry A. Burrell '15 PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, CNE, assistant professor, last October was appointed chairperson of Sigma’s Tri-State Consortium. She was also elected to the Membership Committee of the Eastern Nursing Research Society. Among her podium presentations were two in Washington, D.C.: “Standardized Training for Treatment and Symptom Management” at the Oncology Nursing Society’s 43rd Annual Congress in May 2018, co-presented with K. Bink, L. Nemec and C. Reddy, and “Standardized Patient Simulation as an Active Learning Strategy in Oncology Symptom Management: A Pilot Study,” co-presented with **Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor, at the Nursing Education Research Conference, a Sigma/National League for Nursing event held in April 2018.

Elizabeth M. Blunt, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Programs and clinical professor, last spring and again this spring was a visiting faculty member at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She presented “Teaching Evidence-Based Nursing Practice” to graduate nursing students.

Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, professor and director of the PhD in Nursing Program, last September was inducted as a fellow in the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education during NLN’s Education Summit in Chicago.



Her research areas include cancer survivorship among adolescents and clinical simulation, and she has taught at all levels of nursing education.

Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, CNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, professor:

- presented “Mental Health and Stigma: What People Need to Know” last November at the Mental Health Forum, sponsored by Villanova University’s Department of Sociology and Criminology; and
- presented “Interprofessional Education: What Faculty Need to Know,” at the National League for Nursing’s Education Summit, held in Chicago last September.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor, is the lead co-chair of the Expert Panel on Violence for the American Academy of Nursing. She will complete her three-year commitment in 2020.

Anne M. Fink '11 PhD, RN, CNE, assistant dean for College and Student Services and assistant professor, gave a podium presentation, “Evolution of a Professional Development Co-Curriculum in Nursing Education,” at the National League for Nursing (NLN) Education Summit, held in Chicago last September. Last fall she was elected to a three-year term on NLN’s Certified Nurse Educator Commission, to a two-year term on the NLN’s board and to the Pennsylvania State Constituent League. Dr. Fink is a graduate counselor for Villanova’s Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma.

Sunny G. Hallowell, PhD, PPCNP-BC, IBCLC, assistant professor, is the lead author of the 2017 article honored with the 2018 Nursing Outlook Excellence in Practice Award from the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). The article, “Human Milk and Breastfeeding: An Intervention to Mitigate Toxic Stress” in *Nursing Outlook*, 65 (1), 58-67, was written during her time as a Jonas Health Policy Scholar with the AAN and in collaboration with Froh, E.B.; Spatz, D.L.; and the AAN Expert Panel on Breastfeeding.



In April 2018 Dr. Hallowell was an invited panel speaker on “A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding Implementation of Evidence-Based Lactation Practices” for the National Association of Neonatal Nurses Research Summit and the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Executive Committee Research Exchange, held jointly in Phoenix, Ariz.

Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN, associate professor, in April began a one-year term as president of the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA). In May 2018, she received the ANNA Keystone Chapter’s Outstanding Contribution to the Chapter Award and in November the Leadership Award from Villanova’s Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma.

Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, RN, CRNP, assistant professor, was selected as a scholar for the third cohort of the Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (ENFLA), a highly selective 12-month program. In the academy’s triad design, each scholar is supported by a self-selected mentor and ENFLA faculty members. The curriculum includes educational strategies for developing leadership knowledge, competence and outcomes.

Evelyn “Evie” Lengetti, PhD, RN-BC, assistant dean, director of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care, and assistant professor, serves on the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Accreditation and is an appraiser for its Practice Transition Accreditation Program. Dr. Lengetti is a reviewer for *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.



Linda Maldonado, PhD, RN, assistant professor, contributed Chapter 11, “Health Care as Women’s Rights: The Maternity Care Coalition—The Philadelphia Story,” to *Nursing History for Contemporary Role Development*. The book has since won the Mary Roberts Award from the American Association for the History of Nursing. The award recognizes outstanding original research and writing in an edited book of nursing history.

Dr. Maldonado co-presented a poster, “Home Sweet Home: Urban Pregnant Women with Diabetes Receiving Perinatal Nurse Home Visits,” with J.R. Bloch; J. Barkin; **Amy E. McKeever ’08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC**, associate professor; Y. Birati; S. Zupan; J. Devido; and P. Geller at the American Public Health Association’s 146th Annual Meeting, held in San Diego last November.

Colleen H. Meakim ’84 MSN, RN, CHSE, ANEF, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Second-degree Programs, was appointed in February 2018 to the INACSL (International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning) Regulatory Initiatives Committee, which reviews nursing board regulations on simulation throughout the United States and Canada. In January, Dr. Meakim was re-appointed to INACSL’s Standards of Best Practice: SimulationSM Committee to review the debriefing standard.

Susan K. Meyers ’92 BSN, ’18 PhD, RNC, CRNP, clinical instructor, and **Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF**, associate professor, gave a podium presentation, “Understanding Multiple-Choice Item Test Statistics: Student Evaluation and Teaching Excellence,” at the National League for Nursing Education Summit last September in Chicago. In January 2018, Dr. Meyers defended her PhD in Nursing dissertation, “Nurses’ Perceptions of Identifying and Caring for Mothers at Risk for Postpartum Depression.”

Helene Moriarty ’77 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, co-presented with K. Mooney-Doyle and J. Horowitz an international webinar last September on “Writing a Winning Abstract: A Walk through the Abstract Submission Process with our International Nursing Colleagues.” It was sponsored by the International Family Nursing Association.

Dr. Moriarty co-presented a poster, “The Role of Family Caregivers in Supporting Quality, Patient-Centered Care for Post 9/11 Veterans: Findings from a Photovoice Study,” at the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, held in Seattle last June. Co-presenters were G. True, L. Lorenz, R. Facundo, L. Winter and S. Ono.

Also last June, Dr. Moriarty co-presented “Parkinson’s Disease and Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms in Men” at the 50th Annual Conference of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society, held in Philadelphia. Joining her were L. Bunting-Perry and J.P. Robinson.

Dr. Moriarty in May was selected as one of *Main Line Today* magazine’s Healthcare Heroes for 2019. She serves on the American Academy of Nursing Expert Panel for Military and Veterans Health.

Melissa O’Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, FGSA, associate professor, in May was named a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. Last August, she was appointed to a three-year term as a 2018 Fulbright U.S. Scholar discipline peer reviewer for nursing. In 2015-16, she had mentored a Fulbright Visiting Faculty Scholar from Thailand. Last November in Boston, Dr. O’Connor was honored by the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence through its Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing Program. Also in November, as the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing’s 40th Annual Distinguished Lecturer in Nursing, she spoke on “Caring for Chronically-III Older Adults at Home: Optimizing the Evidence.”

In Santiago, Chile, last October, Dr. O’Connor co-presented the “Use of Technology to Provide Better Care to Older Adults: Telehealth Technologies” at the 14th International Seminar in Nursing, held at the University of the Andes. Her co-presenter was **Kathryn H. Bowles ’90 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI**.

In Cleveland in April 2018, at the Midwestern Nursing Research Society’s 42nd Annual Research Conference: “The Future of Nursing Research: The Economic Realities and Creative Solutions,” Dr. O’Connor and Dr. Bowles co-presented a paper, “Emergency Room Visits in Older Post-Acute Home Health Care Patients: Does Race/Ethnicity Matter?” Joining them were J. Chase, L. Huang, D. Russell and A. Hanlon.

Tracy L. Oliver, PhD, RDN, LDN, associate professor, is chair-elect of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/Weight Management Dietetic Practice Group.

Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 BSN, ’05 MSN, ’11 PhD, RN, CNE, assistant professor, was elected to the International Nursing Association for Clinical and Simulation Learning (INACSL) Nominations and Elections Committee. Her presentations include a poster, “The Effect of Deliberate Practice and Peer Mentoring on Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Competence in, and Retention of, Vital Signs, Breath Sounds, and Heart Sounds,” at the 30th Annual Eastern Nursing Research Society Scientific Sessions, held in Newark, N.J. In April 2018. Dr. Ross gave two podium presentations at the Sigma/National League for Nursing’s Nursing Education Research Conference in Washington, D.C. They were: “Promoting Safe Medication Administration Using Simulation,” co-presented with **Bette A. Mariani ’82 BSN, PhD, RN, ANEF**, associate professor, and **Susan Fretz Paparella ’86 BSN, ’02 MSN, RN**, and “Student Perceptions of Presenting a Case Study on Facebook,” co-presented with B. Beckmann and C. Goumas.

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, CNE, professor, gave the keynote address, “Scholarly Evidence and Best Practices for Healthy Academic Work Environments: Deployment by Degree,” at the Sigma/National League for Nursing’s Nursing Education Research Conference, held in April 2018 in Washington, D.C. She also presented there on “Incivility in Academic Environments: If You See Something, Say Something.”

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations and director of the Office of Nursing Research and Evaluation, presented “Transforming Nursing from Problem to Solution in Health Care of Persons with Disabilities,” at the Maimonides Medical Center’s Annual Nursing Research Conference, held in Brooklyn, N.Y., last November.

At the American Public Health Association’s Annual Conference, held in San Diego last November, Dr. Smeltzer and Nursing colleagues presented a poster, “Effect of Nursing Students’ Interaction with Standardized Patients with Disabilities on

Attitudes.” Co-presenters were **Bette A. Mariani ’82 BSN, PhD, RN, ANEF**, associate professor; **Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 BSN, ’05 MSN, ’11 PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor; **Colleen Meakim ’84 MSN, RN, CHSE, ANEF**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Second-degree Programs; **Elizabeth A. Bruderle ’90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical professor; and **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C, RN**, assistant professor.

Dr. Smeltzer was an invited panelist for the “Redirecting Health Literacy Efforts to Bridge Existing Health Information and Health Literacy Gaps Among People with Disabilities” panel at the Health Literacy Annual Research Conference, held last October in Bethesda, Md., on the Boston University Medical Campus.

Jodie Szlachta ’07 MSN, ’11 PhD, RN, CRNA, director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, in April received unanimous confirmation by the Pennsylvania State Senate to serve on Gov. Tom Wolf’s Health Policy Board, a prominent advisory panel that helps shape policy. Dr. Szlachta was a podium speaker at the 2018 Spring and Fall Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists symposiums on “Politics 101: What CRNAs Need to Know!”

Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF is president of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of the National Student Nurses’ Association (FNSNA). In April 2018, she spoke at NSNA’s annual convention in Nashville about her experiences in Germany as a civilian volunteer with the chaplains and as volunteer consultant to the Department of Nursing at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; she was honored by ROTC for her work. Dr. Weingarten presented “The Role of a Chapter Advisor” at NSNA’s Leadership Conference in New York City last July.

Christina Whitehouse ’04 BSN, ’19 PhD, CRNP, CDE, assistant professor, co-chairs the Research Committee for the American Association of Diabetes Educators. Her presentations include:

- with **Kathryn H. Bowles ’90 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI** and Y. Barron-Vaya, P. Feldman, L. Jordan, P. Deb and C. Murtaugh, “Adding Precision to Visit Patterns: Effects of Early Home Health Nursing Visits and Outpatient Follow-up,” at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science’s State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research, held in Washington, D.C., last September;
- with Dr. Bowles and the other co-presenters above, “Profiles of Sepsis Survivors Entering Home Healthcare: Clues to Prioritize Care for Medicare Beneficiaries,” at the Gerontological Society of America’s Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Boston last November and
- also at that Boston meeting, with Dr. Bowles, L. Jordan, J.A. Chase and C. Murtaugh, “Prevalence and Significance of Geriatric Syndromes After Hospitalization for Sepsis Among Home Health Recipients.”

Jennifer Yost ’00 BSN, PhD, RN, associate professor, presented abroad:

- with H. Lund, “Aspects of Consumer Involvement in Identifying and Prioritising New Research Questions,” at the 7th Annual National Health and Medical Research Council’s Symposium on Research Translation: “Ensuring Value in Research,” in Sydney, Australia, last November;
- a workshop with M. McLeod, H. Lund and M. Westmore on that same topic at the Australian Clinical Trial Alliance Summit: “Building a Self-improving Healthcare System,” also in Sydney last November; and
- a workshop with K. Brunnhuber, M. Nasser, H. Lund, K. Robinson and M. Westmore, “The Role of Patient Involvement in the Evidence-based Research Process,” at the Cochrane Colloquium in Edinburgh, Scotland, last September. The colloquium drew attendees from 57 countries.

The “Triple Threat” of Poverty, Toxic Stress and Born Preterm

Premature children who grow up in poverty and extremely stressful environment—a “triple threat”—are prone to developmental delays and learning disabilities, according to new research. “Toxic stress—the results of exposure to difficult childhood experiences—causes changes to a child’s brain structure and function that really affects their future health,” says Michelle M. Kelly ’94 BSN, ’12 PhD, RN, CRNP, assistant professor. She is lead author of “Poverty, Toxic Stress, and Education in Children Born Preterm,” published with Li, K., in *Nursing Research* (Epub. ahead of print, March 25). They based their research on a subset of data from the 2016 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH), compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Their study shows that 47.4 percent of these children 6 to 11 years old who had been born prematurely have experienced toxic stress. “This stress can disrupt brain architecture, alter organ systems and negatively affect stress regulation systems and the capacity to adapt to future adversity,” notes Dr. Kelly. She presented the findings at the Eastern Nursing Research Society’s Annual Scientific Sessions, held April 4 in Providence, R.I., and at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners National Conference on Pediatric Health Care, held March 7 in New Orleans. Dr. Kelly notes that because these children are at increased risk for impaired educational outcomes, primary care providers must understand this interaction and intervene to increase resiliency and maximize the potential of those born preterm. ●



Supporting the Next Generation

Doctoral Study of Complementary Healing Will Help Shape Best Practice

With a nod to her past, Caroline Ortiz, MS, MPH, RN, NC-BC is pursuing her PhD in Nursing to become a teacher-scholar, thanks to her mother. Zulema Q. Rodriguez, ADN, RN, a nurse for 53 years, is “always teaching and inspiring others,” observes her daughter.

With an eye to the future, Ortiz will conduct a phenomenological study of the complementary healing practices being used by U.S. residents of Mexican origin. The use of these non-conventional health and healing practices in the United States has been growing for the past few decades. In light of the country’s changing demographics, her study will inform and guide tomorrow’s health-care practice and professional education. People of Mexican origin, the largest subgroup of Hispanics, have increased to 20 percent of U.S. residents. Along with other Hispanics, they face a poorer health status, barriers to care access, and socioeconomic challenges disproportionately to other racial and ethnic populations.

Two scholarships from the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing help support her doctoral study: the Donna DiPalma Cassidy Doctoral Nursing Scholarship and the Mruz Doctoral Nursing Scholarship. “I have received two gifts—financial support from generous Samaritans—to complete my studies and a community of other nursing leaders with whom to share moral and professional support beyond my Villanova family. I am grateful,” Ortiz says.



At the Integrative Healthcare Symposium, held in February in New York City, PhD student Caroline Ortiz, MS, MPH, RN, NC-BC (left) uses the “M” Technique.® This meditative “structured touch,” a sequenced set of strokes, involves applying essential oils for care and healing.

A fluent Spanish speaker, Ortiz holds two master’s degrees (in Community Nursing and Urban Public Health) from Hunter College. In the New York City area, she participates in complementary medicine in clinical practice research and is an instructor of holistic nursing programs at the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine. She practiced as a staff nurse for Mind/Body Services at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

Ortiz notes that her research interests and goals are “to continue exploring holistic approaches within health-care systems and care-delivery models, expanding nursing practice to include such approaches and promoting health in diverse communities by utilizing the nurse as a care partner and coach.” ●

Eastwood Family Endowed Fund Provides Support for the College’s Early-Career Faculty Members

“This endowed fund provides us with a distinct advantage in recruiting and retaining the highest quality faculty.”

—Dean Donna S. Havens
'83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN

Through the generosity of the Eastwood family, the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing will further its efforts to attract and support talented tenure-track faculty members. The gift, the Eastwood Family Endowed Fund for Assistant Professors of Nursing, will directly benefit a faculty member early in his or her career through enhanced salary support, research funding or other support that will lead to the successful attainment of promotion and tenure. Once the original recipient receives tenure, support will be awarded to a new assistant professor, thus establishing an enduring impact.

Rear Adm. (Ret.) James W. Eastwood '68 BCE, retired chairman of Granary Associates, is a member of the College’s Board of Consultants. He and his wife, Linda, and their family have long demonstrated their belief in the endeavors of the College of Nursing and invested in its future successes. They have funded four scholarships for Nursing undergraduates. He notes, “Our hope is that this gift supports strategies to bring outstanding faculty to campus and further expand the leadership and achievements from this College.”

Endowments are attractive to prospective faculty. Explains Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, “One of my priorities is to continue to strengthen and diversify our faculty ranks. This endowed fund provides us with a distinct advantage in recruiting and retaining the highest quality faculty.” She adds, “Gifts like this from the Eastwood family make a real difference in the future of this College. We are most thankful for their philanthropic spirit and their confidence placed in us as we move forward to create positive change in health care.” ●

Donors Advance Education Through Scholarships

Thanks to the support of our donors, a Villanova Nursing education is accessible to numerous students. The students, and the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, are grateful to these alumni, parents and friends for their generosity. The following scholarships were awarded for 2018-19.

Donna DiPalma Cassidy Doctoral Nursing Scholarship
Caroline Ortiz, MS, MPH, RN, NC-BC,
PhD in Nursing student, New York City

*Pamela M. and John W. Cembrook
Family Endowed Scholarship*
Kristal Kim, senior, Creeskill, N.J.

Beatrice A. Chase '54 Scholarship for Nursing
Elizabeth Antwinsiah, sophomore, Skokie, Ill.

David and Christine Clark '94 Endowed Scholarship
Emilio Ponciano, junior, Los Angeles

Richard W. and Martha B. Coyle Nursing Scholarship
Jasmine Lima, senior, Randolph, Mass.

Jill Laura Creedon Scholarship for Nursing
Candace Fraser-MacGregor, junior,
Stoneham, Mass.

Michael Daly School Scholarship
Jennifer Hernandez, senior, Brooklyn, N.Y.

*The Frances Farrell D'Ambrisi
Endowed Nursing Scholarship*
Stefanie Delvecchio, sophomore, Orange, Conn.
Jonathan Tran, sophomore, Manville, N.J.

*Eileen A. Dowrick and Joseph Cassidy
Doctoral Nursing Scholarship*
Ginger Schroers, MS, RNC, CNE,
PhD in Nursing student, Oreland Park, Ill.

Dumais Family Scholarship
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Be brave.... Ask tough questions and be resolute in your determination to solve problems and better patient care.... You have limitless opportunities to provide leadership.

— Dean Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, at Winter Convocation, December 14, 2018



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Three Outstanding Alumnae Honored with College's Medallion


“We are honoring three brilliant, accomplished women who have *definitely* been igniting change,” observed Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, in commending the caliber of those awarded the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Medallion for 2019. She added, “Thank you for inspiring us. We are so proud to call you Villanova nurses.”

The alumnae were honored on February 23 at the College's 30th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony. It was held in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church, with the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, University president, celebrating Mass. Alumni and friends of the College gathered to recognize the accomplishments of these alumnae and their innovative contributions to health care:

- **Stephanie Butler Buxhoeveden '09 BSN:** the Medallion for Clinical Excellence in Nursing. She is senior clinical science liaison at Biogen, a neuroscience biotech company, and a PhD student at Virginia Commonwealth University. After a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis (MS) while studying to become

a nurse anesthetist, Buxhoeveden became a certified MS nurse, then a nurse practitioner in the specialty. To empower the MS community, she cares for patients; advocates on Capitol Hill; and educates patients internationally through multiple platforms, including her award-winning blog at justkeepsmyelin.com.

- **Deborah Capone-Swearer '85 MSN:** the Medallion for Excellence in Nursing Education. Patient education coordinator and nurse educator for the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, she is a champion of veterans and families, implementing new paradigms of care and education. As she mentors and inspires staff to innovate in addressing complex problems, Capone-Swearer has created multiple programs to prepare nurses to meet the evolving needs of veterans returning from deployment.
- **Carol Filicetti Chwal '91 BSN:** the Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Nursing Practice. Nurse director and administrative director of the Women and Children's Service Line for Abington-Jefferson Health at Abington Hospital, Chwal champions patient safety and quality care. She leads Pennsylvania's second-largest obstetrical department, engaging her team to transform patient care and work flow, capture revenue and redesign processes. She is a founding member of the Philadelphia Area Magnet® Consortium and advocates for victims of domestic abuse. ●



The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, University president, and Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor (right), congratulate the three Medallion recipients: (from left) Deborah Capone-Swearer '85 MSN; Carol Filicetti Chwal '91 BSN; and Stephanie Butler Buxhoeveden '09 BSN.



Forever Changing Care for Montana's Children

This spring, as Montana opens its first pediatric medical center, its young patients may not know Rachel Fisherkeller-Desimone '06 BSN, CPNP-PC/AC. But because of her efforts, they can now stay close to home during illness, testing and treatments. A pediatric surgical nurse practitioner at Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC), a 138-bed hospital, she was recruited in 2015 from Children's Hospital of Colorado to join a small group of pediatric subspecialists involved in KRMC's building of the Montana Children's Medical Center (MCMC). This 190,000-square-foot facility is in Kalispell, known as the gateway to Glacier National Park. To staff the new facility, KRMC attracted more than 40 pediatric subspecialists to the area, all with the same accessible care goal: to treat Montana's children in-state.

Previously, families had to go to Seattle, Denver or Salt Lake City for anything from simple follow-up appointments to complex surgeries. Now the pediatric subspecialists housed all over the KRMC campus will be centralized.

“One of the greatest joys of helping to establish the Montana Children's Medical Center has been witnessing families' appreciation of our local presence.”

—Rachel Fisherkeller-Desimone '06 BSN, CPNP-PC/AC

“One of the greatest joys of helping to establish MCMC has been witnessing families' appreciation of our local presence,” notes Desimone. “Parents are grateful they don't have to drive nine hours to Seattle, for instance, and that we are working and living here, establishing ourselves within the community. This not only improves the health of the children but expands access to care and increases educational opportunities for local pediatricians, nurses and families alike.”

The new Montana Children's Medical Center in Kalispell features a 12-bed NICU, a six-bed PICU, a 12-bed pediatric unit, dedicated space for family caregivers and many other special features.

Desimone has years of experience in the pediatric ICU (PICU), starting in Philadelphia. In Colorado, she transitioned to advanced practice in the children's hospital after earning her master's degree at the University of Colorado. When she moved to Montana, she increased her involvement with the pediatric surgical program.

Her list of accomplishments and responsibilities is impressive. She recaps, “In this process, I have helped to open the PICU, and cross cover the PICU, managing these children in collaboration with a pediatric intensivist. I cover the pediatric surgery practice and am a 'Jill of all trades.' I created a bowel management program and chest wall deformity program and manage inpatient/outpatient and ED consults. I assist all pediatric surgical cases in the OR, travel to our outreach offices across Montana and provide telemedicine to many of our rural patients. I have had the ability to work with multiple subspecialties, designers and architects in helping to create MCMC.”

Desimone says, “My education at Villanova's College of Nursing prepared me not only to physically care for kids, but taught me how to embrace opportunities, be vulnerable and stretch beyond what my perceived limits are—not only within my career, but throughout all aspects of my life.” ●



Rachel Fisherkeller-Desimone '06 BSN, CPNP-PC/AC applies her extensive pediatric expertise in the state's first hospital for children, as well as through her outreach statewide.

A Gift That Keeps on Giving—and Inspiring

She knew she wanted to be an organ donor at death. But when that opportunity came much earlier, it opened the way to educating future nurses.

First came the text message: Cait, the niece of a colleague and friend, needed a kidney transplant. That's how the journey to becoming a living-kidney donor began for Kelly Prendergast Nestor '96 BSN, '08 MSN, ANP-BC. She received the text while studying for her PhD in Nursing and Health Policy at the University of New Mexico. Nestor knew that to reduce the risk of coercion, potential donors must contact a kidney transplant center and express their interest in donating. So she phoned the transplant center at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, S.C., where Cait lives.

Why did Nestor make that phone call? "Because I could. I'm a donor in death, why not in life?," she replies. Reflecting back on her own accomplishments and fun in her 30s, she wanted Cait to be able to live life to the fullest at that age, too.

Following a health history, multiple blood tests and 24-hour blood pressure monitoring, Nestor learned that the transplant team was happy with the results. In the intervening six months, as another transplant candidate was evaluated, she resumed her life as a doctoral student and then accepted a new position as a post-acute hospitalist nurse practitioner for Tower Health in Reading, Pa. Two weeks into that new job, she received a call from MUSC, asking if she would re-initiate the evaluation process with two days of testing and meetings in South Carolina. Bolstered by understanding colleagues, Nestor proceeded. Ten months after her first MUSC contact, she was notified that she was the match. At that point, Cait, whose brother graduated from Villanova University, learned who her donor was.

On April 27, 2018, Nestor was rolled into the transplant center's operating suite, where she spent the next six hours with a strong OR team facilitated by Michele "Micki" Ballister '08 MSN, '13 DNP, CRNA, who serves on MUSC's nurse anesthesia faculty. Shortly after the successful surgeries on the two women, Nestor was reassured by Cait's husband that the transplanted kidney was stable and Cait was doing well.

Nestor was discharged the next day to recover at her friend's house nearby. Several days later she returned to Pennsylvania.

She found the immediate post-operative period tougher than expected but thanks to technology, she could complete follow-up appointments with the transplant team via virtual "office visits." Nestor was back at work 23 days post-surgery, appreciative of the value of her support networks in both states.

Cait has returned to her jobs as an elementary school teacher and entrepreneurial baker.

Nestor herself affirms that she is "feeling great and as busy as ever." An educator and loyal alumna, she is a former faculty lead in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Program. As a guest speaker she has shared with the next generation of Villanova nurses her organ donation experience. Nestor says she "looks forward to doing more work to spread awareness about end-stage kidney disease and organ donation." ●

A year ago, Kelly Prendergast Nestor '96 BSN, '08 MSN, ANP-BC (left) donated a kidney to make it possible for Cait (right) to live life to its fullest.



Across the Country with the Nursing Alumni Association

Thank you to all the alumni who have come out to meet Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, as she connects with Villanova nurses across the country.

- In New York City on November 26, 2018, the Nursing Alumni Association (NAA) was delighted to co-sponsor with the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing the fourth annual alumni dinner in Manhattan, thanks to the generosity of Terri '74 BSN (front, left) and Gerry '74 CLAS Bernaz. It was held at Rossini's, their Manhattan restaurant. Dean Havens (second from left) gave an update from the College, and alumni enjoyed getting to know her, reuniting, sharing stories and networking.
- In Philadelphia on January 27, the NAA sponsored a men's basketball game and meet-up event at Wells Fargo Center, attracting alumni from near and far. They rallied and shared



memories at P.J. Whelihan's and then cheered the 'Cats on to a 80-52 victory over Seton Hall.

- Dean Havens also met alumni at NAA co-sponsored events in San Diego, Florida, New Jersey and Washington D.C. ●

Veterans: Capture Your Story for the Future

If you are a veteran, your story is important...for you, your family and for Villanova University to bear witness across the decades. The Voices of Villanova's Veterans, an audio history project of the University's Office of Veterans and Military Service Members and of Falvey Memorial Library, aims at capturing your stories.

We invite you to come to campus to be photographed, to be interviewed about your service in the military and your life after, and to reflect upon that experience. Your story will become part of an archive, available online and searchable from anywhere in the world.

Can't make it back to campus? You could record a sound file and e-mail it for editing and online posting.

For more information, contact Mike Brown, director of the veterans office, at (610) 519-4448 or e-mail him at michael.d.brown@villanova.edu. ●

How to Connect with Villanova Nursing

Are you looking to become more involved with the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing? If so, in addition to attending College events, look for us at conferences, send us your news, become an alumni ambassador so future students can ask you about your employer or specialty area, encourage your employer to attend the College's Career Day and come along, or help plan the future of the Nursing Alumni Association. Feel free to share your ideas and interest by e-mailing ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu. ●

A Keen Mind and a Passion for Nursing Keep Her Going

"My dad came home late from work one night," recalls Rosalie Mignogna Stevenson '58 BSN, MSN, RN, "and said, 'Guess what, Roe, you're going to Villanova to become a nurse.'" He knew the school as a deliveryman and also as a "friend of the football team." Excited that Villanova was now admitting women, she applied. As a Nursing student, she frequently made the Dean's List.

After graduating, Stevenson started in medical-surgical nursing then quickly moved into management and nursing education at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden, N.J. Through marriage, job transfers, moves and the birth of her children, she continued to work clinically or in supervisory or educator roles.

Landing in Greenwood, S.C., in 1978, Stevenson started teaching in the Practical Nursing program at Piedmont Technical College (PTC). Later she was instrumental in launching its associate degree program.

Stevenson holds the bar high for her students and is well regarded by her peers. She has retired multiple times but keeps returning to PTC—even serving as nursing dean and interim vice president for Academic Affairs. In 2012 she was honored with PTC's Presidential Award as an outstanding faculty member.

Devoted to her profession and students, Stevenson is still going strong at 82. In January, she taught a nursing course. She notes, "People who retire are supposed to do what they enjoy. I enjoying teaching my students." ●



Now 82, Rosalie M. Stevenson '58 BSN, MSN, RN (left) tried to retire several times, but much prefers teaching. She has contributed greatly to the nursing program at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, S.C.

Nursing Alumni Notes

1970s

Linda Carrick '75 BSN, PhD, RN in 2018 became the regional vice president for nursing at Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital, part of Main Line Health.

1980s

Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin '80 BSN, PhD, CPNP, assistant professor at Minnesota's St. Catherine University, was awarded two honors last summer: a national DAISY Award®, voted by the graduating class and given to one faculty member each year, and *Mpls.St.Paul* magazine's Outstanding Nurse Educator Award. Dr. Gorlin's research includes facilitating Story Corps Legacy to assist in interviewing more than 30 families at Children's Hospital—Minneapolis—patients with either sickle cell anemia or hemophilia. Those interviews are now publicly available at the Smithsonian.

Madeline McCarthy Bell '83 BSN, MS, '15 DHL (Hon.), RN, president and CEO of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, was recognized in March as a 2019 Girl Scout of Eastern Pennsylvania "Take the Lead"

Greater Philadelphia honoree. This signature fundraising event, held in Philadelphia, honors "our community's most distinguished women whose leadership and professional achievements make the world a better place." She serves on Villanova Nursing's Board of Consultants.

Janice Beitz '86 MSN, PhD, RN, CS, CNOR, CWOCN-AP, CRNP, APNC, MAPWCA, ANEF, FAAN, professor and program director of the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse Certificate at the Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden, in March was inducted as a fellow of the National Academies of Practice. This interprofessional organization advises governmental bodies on health-care delivery in the United States. Noted Dr. Beitz, "I am honored to be able to influence decisions based on my clinical expertise and scholarship regarding safe, effective patient care."

1990s

Jeanne Jellig Alhusen '93 BSN, PhD, CRNP, RN, FAAN was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing last

November in Washington, D.C. She is an associate professor and assistant dean for research at the University of Virginia School of Nursing in Charlottesville.

Meghan O'Regan Coleman '93 BSN, '13 DNP, RN, CRNP-BC, AOCNP, ACHPN last September passed the exam to become an Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse.

Stacy Grant Hohenleitner '93 MSN, '17 PhD, RN, NE-BC, NHA took first place in the Best of Posters Award for her Villanova Nursing dissertation research, "New Nursing Graduates and their Perceptions of Support," at the Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders Annual Leadership Conference, held last October in Lancaster. In September, she became an assistant clinical professor at Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions in Philadelphia.

Nada Hussain Al Moosa '99 BSN, '03 MSN, '14 PhD last August became director of Quality at the Oman College of Health Sciences, based in Muscat. This newly formed college is affiliated with the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Health.



In underserved neighborhoods in Philadelphia, Newark, Watts and other areas, Gloria J. McNeal '70 BSN, PhD, MSN, ACNS-BC, FAAN has reached out to improve health.

AARP "Well-Being Champion" Transforms Communities

"Mobile health services are one way to bring health care to people who need it most. But how can a van that comes and goes truly become part of the community? Gloria McNeal found a way to ditch the van concept and connect with people." That's how AARP's Public Policy Institute summarized a major initiative led by Gloria J. McNeal '70 BSN, PhD, MSN, ACNS-BC, FAAN in naming her to its elite group of 10 "Well-Being Champions." AARP noted that these age-50-plus innovators are cultivating "a culture of health" to transform their communities.

Dr. McNeal is dean of the School of Health and Human Services at National University (NU) in San Diego. "My current work focuses on improving access to care for residents of the underserved communities of Watts, Inglewood and Compton in Los Angeles County," she observes. The dean serves as project director of NU's Nurse Managed Clinic, a virtual initiative that has delivered primary-care services to more 600 patients in its three years of operation. Students and faculty in eight disciplines participate in this nurse-led interprofessional collaborative practice model funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

After identifying churches, community centers, the Salvation Army and other organizations willing to provide space, Dr. McNeil established nurse-managed clinics at those sites, according to AARP. This partnership model of clinics embedded in the community brought her previous mobile clinic initiatives to a new level, one that helps engender more trust from clients. Her next step was reaching patients in their homes via telehealth technologies that "monitor biometric data remotely."

As Dr. McNeil told AARP, "The mobile clinic was great when we started 20 years ago, but it was time to improve on the model and disrupt the way care was delivered." Noted AARP, "with thought leaders like McNeal at the helm, yesterday's solutions are often set aside for something better still." ●

2000s

John A. Ervin '00 BSN, RN, MBA, a candidate in Jefferson University's Doctorate of Management in Strategic Leadership program, has accepted a position as director of Clinical Support for New Jersey and New York with Physicians Endoscopy in Jameson, Pa.

Claire Trojan Barrette '01 BSN represented Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital last October at the Florida Hospital Association's 2018 Celebration of Achievement in Quality & Service Awards in Orlando. Her hospital, located in Hollywood, Fla., was recognized for Innovation of the Year in Patient Care (Over 150 Beds) for developing the NICU RN Navigator Program. With a goal of effective communication and coordination of care from admission through return to the community, the navigator serves as a patient care coordinator, clinician-to-patient liaison, parent educator, and resource for patients and families. The program has improved NICU outcomes and empowers families to care successfully for their infants. Barrette served as the NICU RN navigator from the implementation of the program in 2015 to 2017. Promoted to NICU quality specialist, she uses video software to enable families with infants who have an extended stay to participate in virtual rounds with the health-care team. Barrette notes, "While, this 2018 award moment was very gratifying, year after year my greatest moment was becoming a Villanova nurse. The education, experience and holistic foundation I received will always be instilled in the work I do every day, and for that I am most thankful."

Megan Allen '02 BSN, MSN, RN, CCM, CCDS co-authored her first publication, "Keep It Moving and Remember to P.A.C. (Pharmacology, Ambulation, and Compression) for Venous Thromboembolism Prevention," with Wilson, K; Devito, D.; Zavotsky, K.E.; Rusay, M.; and Huang, S. in *Orthopaedic Nursing*, 37 (6), 339-345. She serves as performance improvement coordinator at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset in Somerville, N.J.

Bridgette Carter Brawner '03 BSN, PhD, MDiv, APRN, associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing's Department of Family and Community Health, has won the 2018 Richard L. Sowell Article of the Year Award from the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*. Her article is "Focus Group Findings to Develop an HIV/STI Prevention Program for Heterosexually



Now earning her MSN at Villanova Nursing and caring for preemies, Trish Juhline Brunner '03 BA, '08 BSN, RNC-NIC in February was inducted into Villanova's Varsity Club Hall of Fame.

Hoops Fame Lives on for NICU Nurse

At the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Trish Juhline Brunner '03 BA, '08 BSN, RNC-NIC melds high-tech and high-touch, leveraging data and nursing expertise to help the tiniest babies heal and grow. But heart rate, O₂ saturation and core temps in the NICU aren't the only numbers associated with the Juhline name. 1,659...385...283...157...and three NCAA tournaments: It was numbers like those that made her one of the most decorated players in the history of Villanova women's basketball. In February, her legacy was honored with induction into the University's Varsity Club Hall of Fame at its 43rd annual dinner.

As a Wildcat, she ranked third in school history with 1,659 points and twelfth in career assists with 385. Until this winter, she owned the school record of 283 career three-point field goals. She was twice named a first team All-BIG EAST selection, making her only the third player in program history to be a multiple first team All-Conference selection. She set a then-BIG EAST record with 157 career three-pointers in league games and, as a senior, won the BIG EAST scoring title. Plus, she led the 'Cats to the 2003 conference title—ending powerhouse UConn's 70-game streak and earning MVP honors. During her career, she helped Villanova go 85-41 while appearing in three NCAA Tournaments. After catching the eye of the WNBA's Washington Mystics, she was drafted in the third round.

Now earning her MSN in Nursing Education at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Brunner as a NICU nurse applies focus and dedication to her nursing practice and studies. She volunteers as an RN in a Parkinson's medication simulation scenario.

In a *Philadelphia Inquirer* article (February 14), Maria Panaritis wrote about discovering the basketball past of her tall neighbor. Brunner, she wrote is a nurse "who brought what truly mattered: calm under fire and a gift with parents under great stress."

The Hall of Fame induction took place in the Finneran Pavilion. Says Brunner, "I grew up as a Villanova basketball fan, so just to be able to become a member of the program was a dream come true. To be recognized in such a unique and special way fills me with such gratitude and wonderment." She looks forward to earning her PhD and launching a career in academia one day. ●



Active Black Adolescents with Mental Illnesses," 29 (1), 30-44. She presented the paper and accepted the award at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care's Annual Conference, held in Denver, Colo., last November.

Amy Witkoski Stimpfel '06 BSN, PhD, RN, an assistant professor at the Rory Meyers College of Nursing at New York University, teaches health policy and occupational and environmental health in the DNP and PhD programs. She received a one-year grant from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to conduct a qualitative study of sleep, stress and substance use among nurses in their first five years of practice. Her project, beginning in September, will use innovative virtual focus groups to collect data from new nurses across the country.

Becky Coyle Mueller '07 BSN, '17 PhD, CRNP last August became an assistant professor of nursing at Neumann University in Aston, Pa., teaching in the undergraduate and graduate programs. She is also a nurse practitioner at

Swarthmore College's Student Health and Wellness Center.

2010s

Cynthia "Cindy" Rubenstein '10 PhD, RN, CPNP-PC last July at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., became professor and founding chair of the BSN program that begins next fall.

Elena Sciulli '12 BSN, FNP-C, DNP graduated last December from the Family Nurse Practitioner (NP) Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh. In March, the former NICU nurse became a palliative care NP at Allegheny Health Network, also in Pittsburgh.

Faith Atte '13 MSN, '17 PhD, RN is a tenure-track assistant professor at William Paterson University's Department of Nursing in Wayne, N.J.

Jana Goodwin '15 PhD, RN, CNE attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Leadership for Academic Nursing

Program (LANP), an executive leadership fellowship tailored for emerging administrators. She is assistant professor and director of the University of Maryland School of Nursing's BSN program in Baltimore.



Robin M. Wood '16 PhD, RN, CEN, NEA-BC was notified by ProQuest, a repository of dissertations and other content, that her doctoral study at Villanova Nursing, "Workplace Bullying Between Registered Nurses: Occurrence and Perceived Effects on Work Productivity," was one of the 25 Most-Accessed Dissertations and Theses during October 2018. The repository includes 2.25 million full-text graduate works across all subject areas. Dr. Wood's major findings included: workplace bullying between RNs did exist, there was a negative

In My Own Words

By **Erin Esposito Shand '13 BSN, RN, CCRN, CPN**
Staff nurse, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, Children's National Health System, Washington, D.C.

I have known I wanted to participate in a medical mission trip since before I was a nurse; Villanova and the College of Nursing helped lay that groundwork for me. I had four years of memorable teaching moments, but almost none compared to noticing a banner as I left St. Mary's Hall after an NCLEX review course. I distinctly remember reading on the banner as I walked out of Villanova for the last time as a student: "To whom much is given, much is expected." Luke 12:48. *That's what it means to be a Villanova nurse*, I thought to myself.

In November, I had the pleasure of traveling to the Uganda Heart Institute in Kampala for a two-week medical mission trip. Our team was comprised of one surgeon, two anesthesiologists, two cardiologists, four ICU nurses, one scrub nurse, one biomedical engineer and one perfusionist. Together we successfully completed 12 open heart surgeries. The majority of the cases were valve replacement, repairs related to rheumatic heart disease and congenital repairs.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime, and of course I had to bring a piece of Villanova [her scrubs] with me since it was Villanova that got me there in the first place. I was given a lot as a Villanova nurse, and this trip allowed me to give back so much more than I ever imagined possible. ●



Volunteering in Uganda, Erin Esposito Shand '13 BSN, RN, CCRN, CPN assisted in a dozen open heart surgeries.

Kemper Ruth

inverse relationship between workplace bullying and decreased work productivity, nurse leaders indicated that they were bullied more than clinical nurses, and there was no significant relationship between bullying and years of experience and age.

Allen Cadavero '18 PhD, RN, CCRN last November joined the Duke University School of Nursing as an assistant professor, clinical track.

In Memoriam

Stella Randzio Doherty '57 BSN, of Lansdale, Pa., died September 20, 2018, at age 89. She practiced as a nurse for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dorothy M. Witmer '57 BSN, of Boise, Idaho, died August 20, 2018, at age 89. She served as an Air Force nurse and later earned a doctorate in education and became a state supervisor of health occupations education.

Margaret "Peggy" McLaughlin Duffy '60 BSN, of James Island, S.C., died July 8, 2018, at age 79. She served as both a Navy and Army nurse and as an educator at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing in Charleston.

Ellen Corcoran Spaur '60 BSN, of Owings Mills, Md., died August 21, 2018, at age 79. A former Navy nurse, she also worked as a civilian at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Marlene Hegarty Turnbach '61 BSN, of Sugarloaf, Pa., died October 12, 2018, at age 83. She was a nurse for the Hazleton (Pa.) Area School District before she retired.

DNP Alumna Receives National Award

Congratulations to Martha Mulvey '17 DNP, ANP,BC, who was honored with a prestigious, competitive 2018-2019 AACN Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice Award at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing 2019 Doctoral Education Conference, held in January in San Diego. Her project, "An Electronic Health Record Cue Identifies Adult Epilepsy Patients at Risk for Obstructive Sleep Apnea," was identified as the outstanding one nationally in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. One reviewer described it as a "high quality project with potential to impact other settings."

Based on her experience as a nurse practitioner in the epilepsy center at University Hospital in Newark, N.J., Dr. Mulvey recognized the clinical problem that epilepsy patients are not routinely screened for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Treating OSA can reduce the frequency of seizures; prevent sudden unexpected death; and improve chronic disease, mental health and quality of life. She developed, implemented and evaluated the effectiveness of an electronic health record alert with the Assessment Obstructive Sleep Apnea (AOSA) for adult patients with epilepsy. Her work significantly increased the identification of patients at risk for OSA with referral for a sleep study. The alert increased the previous patient screening rate of 7.23 percent to 97.8 percent.



Mary Louise Scanlan Quigley '63 BSN died March 23 at age 79. A resident of Morrestown, N.J., she was a nursing instructor at Helene Fuld School of Nursing for 23 years.

Margaret R. Johnson '64 BSN, of Wynnewood, Pa., died June 21, 2018, at age 79.

Mary C. Moses '65 BSN died August 15, 2018, at age 73.

Donna Marie Nahass '78 BSN, of Philadelphia, died December 3, 2018, at age 61. She was a geriatric nurse practitioner in Philadelphia.

Carol L. Warner '85 MSN, of Forks Township, Pa., died August 24, 2018, at age 74. She was a nurse practitioner and nursing instructor at St. Luke's School of Nursing in Bethlehem, Pa.

Nora Schwabe Psula '88 MSN died December 12, 2018, in St. Augustine, Fla., at age 77. She was a certified gerontological nurse.

Nancy Burns Reilly '92 BSN, of Rydal, Pa., died November 29, 2018, at age 48. She is remembered for her warmth, kindness and commitment to nursing and the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. Daughter Jean has followed in her mother's footsteps and is a freshman in Nursing; Jean's twin brother Michael is studying at Villanova's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Kelly Soule '95 MSN, of Camp Hill, Pa., died January 8, at age 54. During her career, she was honored with the Florence Nightingale Award as an outstanding nurse of Pennsylvania.

Susan C. Mills '99 MSN, of West Chester, Pa., died November 4, 2018, at age 53. An assistant professor and sophomore-level coordinator at Widener University School of Nursing, where she had earned her BSN and PhD, she loved teaching—especially pediatrics. ●

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Nine Minutes from Crisis to C-section Delivery

A remarkable team effort—plus staying calm and calling upon Villanova Nursing knowledge—saved baby Mary.

Amazing things can happen when the right people are in the right place at the right time. This is one of those stories. For years, Eileen Brennan Ferrell, MS, BSN, RN, a Georgetown University alumna, had recruited Villanova nurses to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (MGUH) in Washington, D.C. For the last 11, she served as the director of Nurse Recruitment and Retention, a role she loved. Many at Villanova University—from the Career Center to Driscoll Hall—remember Ferrell as a valued colleague and an enthusiastic, annual attendee at Nursing Career Day.

Now senior vice president and chief nursing officer at MGUH, Ferrell notes, “Some would say I started a ‘pipeline’ for Villanova graduates and summer nurse technicians to join our Georgetown nursing team. Why? They are clinically strong, dedicated to providing exemplary patient care, and understand and practice our values in their daily environment at Villanova. They also have a strong connection to our Jesuit tradition based on their Augustinian influences.”

Kate Ferrell Avery '09 BSN, RN, CCTN, who is Ferrell's daughter, earned her BSN as a second degree at Villanova and like her mother and other Villanova Nursing alumni, landed a job at MGUH. On the solid organ transplant unit, Avery ultimately became the manager and then was promoted to clinical director for Surgical Services. In August 2018, she and her husband Gordon, parents of then-21-month-old Eleanor, were expecting their second child. That's also when Colleen Yost '17 BSN, RN was completing her Nurse Residency program at MGUH as a newly minted nurse on the labor and delivery unit.

Avery was admitted to Yost's unit August 10, due to elevated blood pressure in an otherwise routine pregnancy. The evening was uneventful. Yost arrived the next morning at change of shift to find Avery as her only patient. Avery recalls they discovered they had a Villanova Nursing education in common and chatted about professors. “Colleen even reviewed with us the monitor and what all of it meant. We had a good laugh about the fact that I still remembered the mnemonic VEAL CHOP (the letters represent the causes of normal and abnormal fetal monitoring activity) from nursing school. Little did we know how important that would be later in the day.”

Around 3 p.m., Avery's water broke and she called Yost for assistance. After helping her patient, Yost—just nine months off orientation—was about to leave the room to alert the residents.

“I noticed that her baby was having variable decelerations with contractions—a common occurrence after a mother's water breaks due to the loss of fluid,” recalls Yost. “I decided to turn Kate on her side and initiate an IV fluid bolus to help with the decelerations while the residents arrived to assess her.”

During their exam, two physicians felt the umbilical cord and declared an umbilical cord prolapse—a rare event as well as an emergency since a compressed cord obstructs the flow of oxygen and

“Bonded forever” is how Eileen Brennan Ferrell, MS, BSN, RN (left) describes those pictured here. Ferrell's daughter, Kate Ferrell Avery '09 BSN, RN, CCTN (right), underwent an emergency C-section to deliver Mary. Holding the infant is the quick-thinking labor and delivery nurse, Colleen Yost '17 BSN, RN. All three nursing professionals work at same hospital in Washington, D.C.



All smiles now, Mary entered the world last August following a rare and dangerous umbilical cord prolapse.

blood to the baby. Explains Yost, “My preceptors had mentioned cord prolapse and I remembered learning about it in my OB lecture, so I did what I knew to do in that situation. I put on a pair of sterile gloves and I lifted the baby’s head

off of the cord to allow the resident to scrub for an emergency caesarean section.” The OR was alerted and the team prepared.

Avery felt something wasn’t right when Yost “wasn’t taking her eyes off the monitor” then directed her to change position in bed. Hearing about the cord, Avery knew “things were about to get crazy.” She remained outwardly calm, something she attributes to her experience as a transplant nurse staying cool in front of her very ill patients. Avery’s husband notified Ferrell, who arrived quickly to her daughter’s hospital room, as she lives nearby.

Yost was perched on the end of the bed to keep lifting the baby’s head off the cord. She recounts the quick actions that followed in this amazing orchestration of people and skills, thanks to their frequent drills. Colleagues ran in and unplugged monitors and IVs to expedite transport to the OR. Says Yost, “Other nurses had already opened the OR and completed the first instrument count, while the physicians scrubbed. My co-workers completed all the tasks of a circulating OR nurse (which would have been my responsibility as Kate’s primary nurse) while I was under the drape lifting the baby’s head. As soon as I heard the baby’s cry, I was able to step out from under the drape and take a deep breath.”

The residents had declared the cord prolapse at 3:10 p.m. Mary was delivered via C-section at 3:19 p.m. Nine minutes, 540 seconds.

Welcome, Mary Virginia Avery, 8 pounds 3 ounces, 21 inches long.

All three women are quick to credit the full team that helped bring Mary into the world. At the end of the day, Yost and the clinical group sat down to perform an event debrief, which she thinks should be done after every emergency delivery to celebrate successes and highlight areas of continued improvement so all can learn from the experience. She later got to meet Mary during a postpartum visit.



“We each play a crucial role in patient care, and when we perform that role well with the rest of our teammates, it can be very rewarding,” shares Yost. “The experience left me feeling so, so proud of my profession.”

Notes Ferrell as chief nursing officer, “With Kate’s permission, we have shared this story as a ‘safety moment’ throughout our MedStar system. We share moments like this to focus our leaders and staff on outcomes like this one. We are very

proud!” But what of her reaction as a grandmother? “Mary is a gift from heaven to us. I am well aware that the outcome could have been very different. The gratitude that I feel as Mary’s grandmother is overwhelming and difficult to quantify. I can only say thank-you to our team.”

Villanova Nursing graduates “are clinically strong, dedicated to providing exemplary patient care and understand and practice our values in their daily environment at Villanova.”

— Eileen Brennan Ferrell, MS, BSN, RN, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and grandmother of Mary

Avery, who returned to work after Thanksgiving, reflects that “I have always been extremely proud to be a nurse and this experience reaffirmed all of those feelings.” Appreciating how fortunate it was to have been surrounded by talented colleagues, Avery praises “Colleen’s confidence and calm nature.” She notes that it came from not only her personality but her Villanova Nursing education. “That day, Colleen didn’t just take care of my medical needs, she cared for and supported my entire family. I will be forever grateful for her swift actions, attention to detail and compassionate care,” reflects Avery.

Avery describes Mary as being enamored of her older sister and “incredibly sweet and mild-mannered. She is always smiling—now giggling—and loves sitting in her activity table and playing with the toys.”

Yost credits Avery for her calm demeanor, which proved to be critical for the speed with which the team needed to work. “As for Mary...she gave all of us a good scare, but she came out pink and crying as if nothing had gone awry,” says Yost. “She’s definitely a fighter, that one.” ●



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