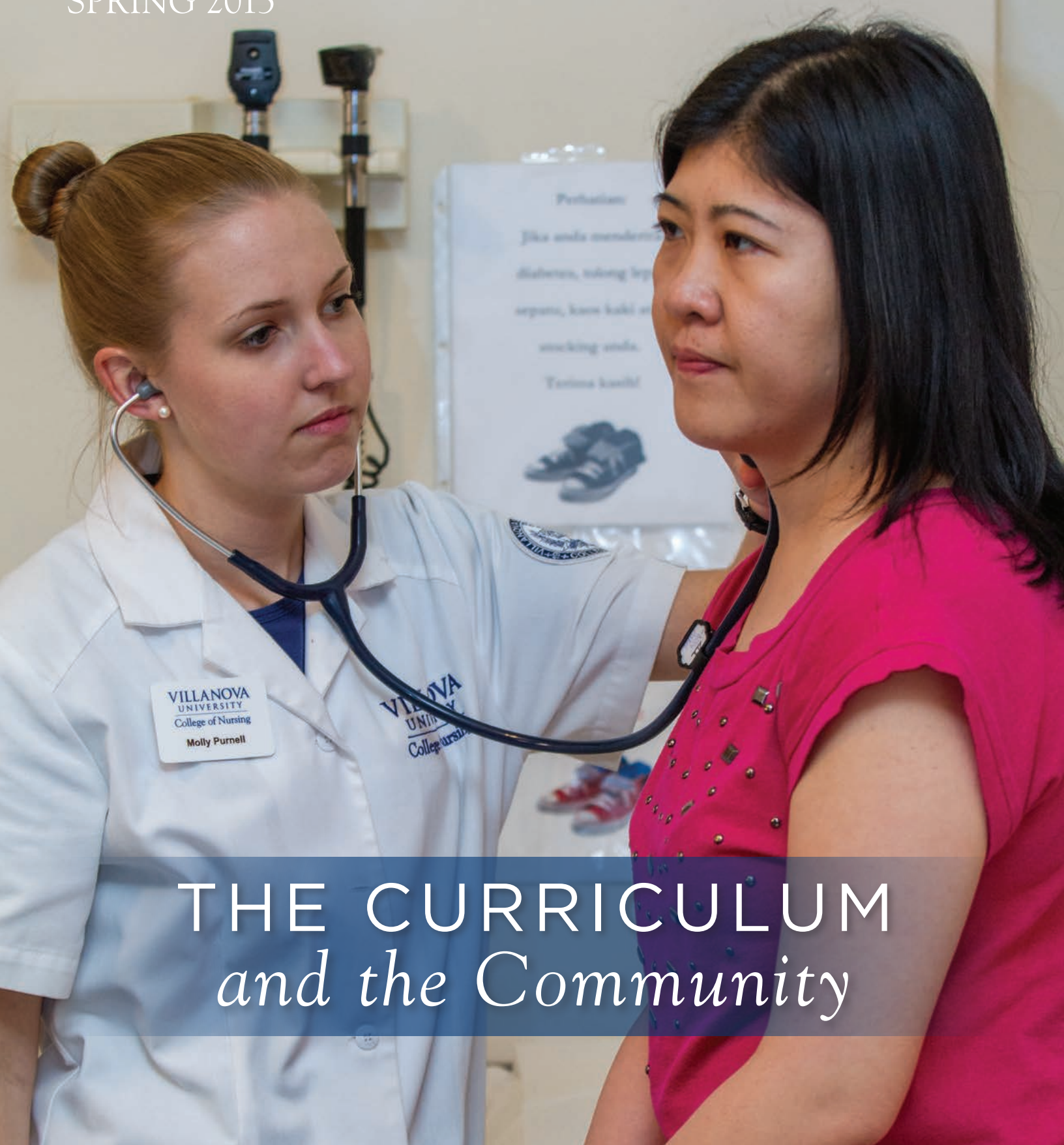


# VILLANOVA NURSING

SPRING 2015



THE CURRICULUM  
*and the Community*

## Three Alumnae Receive Nursing Medallion



In honor of their achievements, three alumnae were awarded the College of Nursing Medallion, the College's highest honor, on April 11 at the 26th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony, which took place in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, bestowed the Medallion.

- **Paula Devlin Agosto '85 BSN** received the Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Administration of Nursing and Health Care Services. She is senior vice president and chief nursing officer at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
  - **Diane Wink '85 MSN, EdD** received the Medallion for Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Education. At the University of Central Florida College of Nursing in Orlando, Dr. Wink is a professor, coordinator of the Nurse Educator master's program and the Hugh F. and Jeannette G. McKean Endowed Chair in Nursing.
  - **Sidia Rose '08 BSN** received the Medallion for Outstanding Service to the Community. Rose is a staff nurse in the emergency department of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. In September 2014, she was the only health-care provider permitted to care for the first person to be diagnosed with Ebola in the United States in his initial hours after admission to the hospital. Later, she and several colleagues shared their story with the CBS news magazine "60 Minutes."
- For more information about the Medallion recipients, visit [www.villanova.edu/nursing](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing).

## Mark your calendar!

- June 4-7:** Alumni Reunion Weekend
- July 1:** Application deadlines for MSN and post-master's certificate programs
- September 29:** Health and Human Values Lecture by Susan Paparella '86 BSN, '02 MSN, RN on "Medication Safety: Empowering Nurses Beyond the Five Rights"
- October 13:** Graduate and Adult Learner Open House
- November 17:** Annual Distinguished Lectureship
- December 1:** Application deadlines for DNP and PhD in Nursing programs

For the full Continuing Education listing, visit [www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce).

# VILLANOVA NURSING

Vol. 34 No. 1 Spring 2015

## FEATURES

The Curriculum and the Community	2
First Endowed Professorship Focuses on Vulnerable Populations	11
Multiple Reasons to Smile and Inspire	Inside Back Cover

## DEPARTMENTS

Perspectives	1
College Highlights	12
Faculty Focus	18
Supporting the Next Generation	28
Alumni Focus	35

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*Graduate assistant:* Molly Sexton '09 BSN  
*Contributing editor:* Donna Shoemaker  
*Design:* The Barnett Group

*On the cover:* Junior Molly Purnell performs an examination at Unity Clinic in South Philadelphia, which serves a predominantly Indonesian immigrant population. Photo by Paola Noguera.

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*Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing:*

**W**e live in a time of great transition, ambiguity and an unpredictable future. Preparing the next generation with the skills to adapt and develop in an uncertain world is a challenge for families, institutions and governments. The benefits of positive change compete with the consequences of unexpected and unplanned change. However, it is also a time of opportunity if we can advance clearly articulated goals in conjunction with flexibility and nimble responses to unanticipated change.

In the United States, we are experiencing transitions in health care. Although our system is fractured and far from seamless, the movement of care from acute care institutions to ambulatory and long-term care, including home care, is occurring rapidly. In nursing, the expanding role of nurse practitioners, especially as primary care providers, has accelerated. Similarly, those practicing in acute care settings are becoming more highly specialized since their patients are almost exclusively the critically ill.

Higher education is also in transition. The “halls of ivy” are competing with proprietary vendors of higher education, and the balance between education in the liberal arts and the professions is somewhat skewed. Technology has expanded the venues through which education can be obtained and while this is positive in the many possibilities it affords, it does not come without cost and challenges.

At Villanova, we are in transition guided by a well-developed Strategic Plan. We are advancing in research and graduate education while maintaining and protecting the quality of undergraduate education in the disciplines and professions that we offer. It is a daunting but important journey that will position our university for the future.

The College of Nursing is part of the transition. Although graduate education is well-established at both master’s and doctoral levels, the growth of research is both a reality and a goal. As the profession advances, the development of new knowledge and best practices that ensure patient safety and the quality of the care delivered are paramount. Nursing research addresses these priorities.

The curricula of our programs, although continuously scrutinized and updated, have gone through rigorous external and internal reviews. They have been updated to reflect the demands of a health-care system that is changing. Our applications for admission to all our programs are robust and, increasingly, our graduates are among the most highly qualified and successful in the employment market.

Simultaneous with other transitions, our faculty is also in transition. Individuals who have served for more than 20 and 30 years are retiring, although several remain as part-time faculty.



*As the profession advances, the development of new knowledge and best practices that ensure patient safety and the quality of the care delivered are paramount.*



These faculty have been critical in making our current success possible. They have prepared thousands of our alumni who are making a difference, and they have been committed to student learning and clinical excellence. They have been integral to developing our stature and the scaffolding on which our future reputation and tradition of excellence will continue to be built. They have promoted the mission and values of Villanova, as

well as the culture and traditions of our College of Nursing. We thank them for their many contributions. Simultaneously, we also encourage the once-new faculty, now experienced and developed, as they move into the leadership within the faculty.

Welcome to the new faculty, some of whom come to us following post-doctoral research activities but who teach undergraduates and who will also contribute to the growth of our graduate programs. They are enthusiastic, well-prepared and have chosen to become part of our community, just as we have selected them as individuals with the ability and desire to contribute to Villanova.

We are in transition but we are stable and clear about our objectives and the essential elements of a Villanova Nursing education and how to make it even stronger as we move into the future.

Thank you for your continued support and the contributions your work makes to our reputation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN  
*Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor*

Unity Clinic, a nurse practitioner-run clinic, offers Nursing students a cross-cultural experience in an Indonesian immigrant community in South Philadelphia. Here senior Ashley Phillips checks blood sugar.



# THE CURRICULUM *and the Community*

In adapting to changes in health care, the College of Nursing is placing a greater emphasis on community-based experience for undergraduates. This further positions them for careers as expert clinicians and leaders in health care.

**H**ealth care is changing as the borders blur between hospital and community. “High tech” and “home” are no longer mutually exclusive. Hospital stays are shorter, there is more ambulatory care and prevention is being emphasized to achieve health. Nurse practitioners are filling the high demand for primary care. Public health, environmental and societal issues have become even more critical around the globe. In seeking improved outcomes and contained costs, quality and safety are key factors in the

workplace, reimbursement and patient lives. Collaborative practice among professionals is increasingly important. What does all this mean for nursing education? Integrating these trends into the College of Nursing’s commitment to acute care is essential to current and future practice.

In 2012-13, the College implemented a revised curriculum, “Core Nursing Knowledge for the 21st Century,” to position undergraduates for the future of their practice. Faculty designed it



using current evidence, student-centered approaches, and innovative teaching and learning strategies. Building on a rich heritage of nursing education at Villanova University, the curriculum creates an excellent educational foundation to enable students and graduates to minister to patients, families and the global community. Demographic projections, along with the following reports and recommendations from nursing and health-care organizations, also helped to shape the program.

- **The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.** Enacted in 2010, this health care insurance reform necessitates preparing future nurses for a health system that gives consumers more control. Health care now demands greater coordination and continuity of care, and more focus on disease prevention and cost-effective models. Nurses must be ready to care for elderly patients and their chronic illnesses in a variety of settings, including the community. Regardless of age, patients are moving more quickly

from hospitals to rehab, home or long-term care. Nurses must be well-versed in how to practice in those less acute settings. The greater focus on global health care exerts a major influence as well.

- **“Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice.”** This 2008 report from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing highlighted such trends as technological advances affecting disease prevention, detection, information management, clinical decision-making and interdisciplinary collaboration. The growth of genetic knowledge and interventions means that nurses must have foundational knowledge in genomics. An increasingly diverse population requires them to provide culturally sensitive care. Nurses must recognize that the public seeks quality, accessible, accountable and cost-effective health care.

- **“Quality and Safety Education for Nurses” (QSEN).** Those factors are of great importance in the new curriculum, which integrates recommendations from this 2008 project. Patient-centered care is based on evidence-based practice provided through teamwork and collaboration. Quality improvement data is used to monitor outcomes of care processes and continuously seek ways to improve systems.

- **“Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality.”** This 2003 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report includes competencies on evidence-based practice, interdisciplinary teams and quality improvement.

- **“The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.”** The College’s undergraduate curriculum isn’t just about clinical practice today but about further developing Villanova nurses. This IOM 2010 report includes recommendations for practicing to the full extent of a nurse’s education and calls upon nursing schools to provide the means for nurses to progress academically. The new curriculum acknowledges the attention to the professional role BSN graduates play, as well as to knowledge and skills that enable success in graduate nursing education.

Building on the College’s liberal arts foundation, the curriculum’s organizing framework exposes students to a more community-based education experience, whether that community is reached by car, train or plane. “Where we live, work, play and worship has a direct effect on our health status and our health outcomes,” notes Ruth A. McDermott-Levy ’96 MSN, ’08 PhD, RN, associate professor and director of the Center for Global and Public Health. “By placing a greater emphasis on the community,” she adds, “our students gain a greater understanding of the complexity of health determinants and factors that influence the health of the patients they care for in the hospital setting.” Information is infused into coursework about special care needs of groups such as veterans, people with disabilities or mental health issues, chronically ill children and the elderly. In matching this with additional community experience, students graduate well-prepared for their careers.

### In Schools and Shelters, Students See Trauma—and Triumphs

In their senior year, students gain additional pediatric perspective through their work in the community. They do health screenings—including hearing, vision and for scoliosis—for the Radnor School

“By placing a greater emphasis on the community, our students gain a greater understanding of the complexity of health determinants and factors that influence the health of the patients they care for in the hospital setting.”

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



District's elementary through high school students. Notes Kathryn M. Reynolds '79 BSN, MSN, CPNP, RN, clinical assistant professor, "It gives them an opportunity to evaluate growth and development of 'well' children. For instance, when screening for scoliosis in 6th graders, they see the range of normals related to physical and emotional development."

Seniors who shadowed school nurses for a day were surprised by the complexity and responsibilities of this role, especially as it relates to children's psychosocial or behavioral needs arising from ADHD, depression, violence, anxiety or chronic illnesses. At a health fair that Nursing student groups organized last year at a local school, the topics including Internet safety, nutrition and stress management. "Because hospitalized children are acutely ill and often delayed, students need opportunities to interact with 'well' children to better focus on prevention and health promotion," notes Reynolds.

As they conduct screenings and promote health at schools in Philadelphia's underserved communities, students also see the learning environments of—and the impact of socioeconomic issues on—young children. At Philadelphia's Delaplaine McDaniel Elementary School, seniors during a health promotion practicum conducted a vision, height and weight screening for all K-8 pupils, in conjunction with school nurse Rodney Abary, MSN, CRNP and classmates from two pediatric clinical groups doing rotations there to focus on wellness. In their community assessment, the health promotion seniors identified asthma as a priority topic. "Asthma triggers abound around McDaniel," observes Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor, who teaches the Health Promotion and Home Health in the Community course and led one of its two health promotion groups. The group led by adjunct faculty member Lindsey Waters '11 BSN, RN developed "Asthma Allies" courses that seniors taught to 6th-8th graders. Students also taught the children CPR, nutrition and about "growing up." At McDaniel, Nursing students discover that "within the most challenging urban school environments are found the enormous richness of a vibrant community," notes Dr. Weingarten.

Through The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, students may participate in the Homeless Health Initiative, specifically the fitness night at a shelter. "When they play with the children," Reynolds observes, "students see firsthand the effects of trauma in the lives of these children. They witness the value of exercise and play as an outlet. There is also a debriefing to help students better understand how trauma is manifested in childhood behaviors and how we as nurses can respond to these children to help them cope."



As part of a practicum this spring, seniors taught CPR at Delaplaine McDaniel Elementary School in Philadelphia. The mannequins were donated by the Ross clothing company, which provides CPR equipment to underserved areas.



During an Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments retreat in January, nursing students from across the United States joined with environmental health nursing leaders to advocate and meet with legislators and representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Shown here are Nursing second-degree accelerated BSN students Elena Moran (left) and Jessica Mengistab.

## Global View of Health Enhances Students' Perspective

A new course for juniors, Imperatives for Global and Public Health, covers critical health issues. In January, four students in the course participated in the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments' Young Nursing Leaders initiative. They met in Washington, D.C., with legislative and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives. Juniors and seniors can take part in global health experiences as part of a clinical practicum or elective; as seniors, they may choose to promote health abroad or locally. They return to patient care with an enhanced perspective on culture, health, socioeconomics, politics and the nursing role. The College also offers a Global Health Minor (see page 17).

## Listening as the Elderly Share Their Concerns

In their Nursing Care of Adult and Older Adults course, juniors develop a teaching plan for a specific community population. For instance, in November 2014, several clinical groups rotated through a local Presbyterian residence. They reviewed topics important to the elderly residents, including exercise routines, flu prevention, and safety issues relating to falls and medications. They checked blood pressure for those interested and had follow-up conversations with residents after their presentations. As the students listened to concerns about hospitalizations and confusion over prescriptions, they realized how the nurse's role is visible in any setting.

To further promote understanding of issues affecting the elderly and continuum of care, as well as new roles for nurses, in conjunction with Main Line Health HomeCare & Hospice, juniors gain a unique and early exposure to transitional care. This helps them optimize caring for the vulnerable elderly (see page 9).

## Lessons in the "Lived Experience" of Mental Health

Psychiatric and mental health nursing is another area of practice where community interaction is critical. The psychiatric nurse becomes a leader in assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of community resources. This role also includes making recommendations to improve access and the quality of care using scientific evidence. During their practicum, juniors are given an independent community outpatient assignment. Patricia K. Bradley, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor, explains, "Students are asked to access a mental health resource of their choice—for example Alcoholics Anonymous or an eating disorder group—to understand the



Juniors took turns developing teaching plans on preventative health topics at a Presbyterian senior residential community in Rosemont, Pa. Here, Dylan Toolajian fields questions during a lively discussion.

'lived experience' of accessing care in the community for a mental health issue." They must analyze the experience in terms of accessibility, types of clients served, cost and therapeutic factors observed. They also participate in the same simulation used to train emergency first responders: While hearing a recording of auditory hallucinations through headphones, they must perform tasks required of psychiatric outpatients. Later they are debriefed. Dr. Bradley notes, "Through the simulation experience students increase their empathy and understanding of the lived-experience of psychiatric disability."

## A New Module on Domestic Violence

In line with the strategic goal to include more community-based experiences, the College has added a domestic violence module to the junior-level Nursing Care of Women and Childbearing Families course. This module has evolved into a seven-hour clinical day devoted to the nursing role in domestic violence and includes a speaker from Delaware County's Domestic Abuse Project. The module covers the definition, how to correctly assess, nursing documentation of injuries, behaviors, effective communication, legal issues and resources to assist victims. "We needed to include it because the effects of domestic violence are profound on women's health," notes Jane Ierubino '09 MSN, RN, the adjunct faculty member who developed the





To better understand the experience of domestic violence victims, juniors (including from left) Corrine Kane, Marykate Hamilton, Danielle Wicks and Alysia Bresnicky role-play by moving through the 17 stations of “In Her Shoes.” They read scenarios such as “forgive and forget,” the police station and a funeral. Here at the “abuse happens” station, they receive a visible symbol, such as a bandage, brace, crutches or bruise applied with makeup.

module. “Despite many believing a pregnancy will stop any violence, during pregnancy a woman is at highest risk.”

Students role-play using “In Her Shoes,” in which they move through 17 stations to gain insight into a victim’s experience. Debriefing is a key part of this exercise. The day concludes with more role-playing in which students practice interviewing and talking with victims. Because of privacy and security issues, they do not visit safe havens for the abused.

### Nursing Interventions for High-Risk Pregnant Women

To promote better health for mother and baby, as well as increased awareness of the health issues of the underserved, juniors now have greater involvement with community-based care and education, with the ultimate goal of targeted nursing interventions. Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, assistant professor, points out that “The students are out in the community offering prenatal teaching to low-income, high-risk pregnant women; two of the settings are drug abuse recovery centers where clients are

in various stages of pregnancy and early postpartum. Our students develop and implement prenatal teaching through postpartum teaching.” This education continues for seniors who undertake community-based projects for their Health Promotion practicum at sites such as those sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Catholic Social Services.

### Practica Reach Out to Underserved Populations

Working with underserved populations gives students a broader perspective of their world and helps to make the care they will be delivering more sensitive and relevant. For their course on Care of the Adult and Older Adult, juniors may have a practicum experience at Unity Clinic in South Philadelphia. Elise Pizzi, MSN, CRNP, adjunct clinical assistant professor, is the medical director of this nurse practitioner-run clinic. Established in 2006 by the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (ADROP) with the assistance of the College, Unity Clinic provides free care to uninsured patients, most of whom are Indonesian immigrants.

Meredith MacKenzie, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CNE, assistant professor, notes that students at Unity Clinic participate in a cross-cultural experience and gain skills in assessments, injections and working with interpreters. “In addition, they are able to observe a nurse practitioner (NP) interact with the patients and gain an appreciation for the advanced practice role. The students commented very positively on being able to watch the NP work with the interpreter and on the breadth of cultural, societal and financial factors she has to take into account in giving patient care.” The students feel they are able to contribute positively to patient care.

The Unity Clinic experience, Dr. MacKenzie adds, allows students to consider the range of factors “that influence community health—the availability of health information in the native language, the availability of interpreters at health-care organizations, financial barriers such as lack of insurance and the cost of medications, the types of jobs that this community is able to obtain, the exposures that come along with those jobs, adapting the native cuisine to American food resources, cultural belief systems, disease exposures from country of origin, the fact that early childhood immunization is not common in many Third World countries—and to think about the nursing interventions that do and do not work.”

At the Arab-American Development Corporation (AADC) in

“The students are out in the community offering prenatal teaching to low-income, high-risk pregnant women...”

— Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC





Seniors Michelle Turner (left) and Breanne Hayes met with Amneh Ahmad, program director of the Arab-American Development Corporation in Philadelphia, to learn about health needs in the community before preparing their presentations, including one on healthy eating.

Philadelphia, seniors Michelle Turner and Breanne Hayes planned health education programs. They reviewed the literature; met with Amneh Ahmad, AADC’s program director; and worked with her to make the program culturally and linguistically appropriate, including being translated into Arabic. The students, guided by Dr. McDermott-Levy and her 2010 health-needs assessment, identified that cardiovascular disease and diabetes were problems for these Arab-American women, due to being overweight or obese. The students included healthy eating and cooking choices, portion sizes and food groups using the “My Plate” government recommendations. They offered healthy food samples prepared by the Halal market next to the Mosque. Later they presented a diabetes management program to the AADC community, including blood glucose and blood pressure screenings, as well as a nutrition program for children at a Muslim school.

Observes Turner, “I learned what it is really like to work in public health. While we as health professionals have our ideas of what we want to do with the population, we really need to listen to what they are telling us as well.... Having that dialogue was valuable.”

### Seminars Offer a Deeper Immersion

In the revised curriculum, new one-credit seminars allow seniors to delve deeper into a timely topic. Among their choices are Societal Health and Genetics: Nursing’s Role and Interdisciplinary Research Opportunities and Ethical Issues; Chronic Pain Management

(pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic); Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (see page 8); and advances in the Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) and Care for Chronically Ill Children and Adolescents: Implications for Practice and Research. That seminar also covers family-centered care, parent perspectives, complexity in the coordination of services and nursing implications. Evidence presented in these seminars enhances students’ knowledge and builds a strong foundation for practice.

Through such initiatives that begin in the classroom and extend into the community, the updated curriculum develops and nurtures a Villanova nurse. Intellectually prepared, mission-driven and globally-centered, graduates are ready to meet the health-care needs of individuals, families and communities, locally and around the world.



For their Health Promotion practicum, (from left) seniors Alyssa Harmon, Patricia O’Connor and Victoria Martorano reached out through a community baby shower to educate low-income, high-risk pregnant women. The event took place at a Catholic Social Services Family Service Center in Chester, Pa.

## Safety for Health & Healing

Starting in the freshman year, quality and safety have become integrated in multiple ways into the College of Nursing's curriculum, note Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE, assistant professor, and Elizabeth A. Bruderle '90 MSN, PhD, RN, clinical assistant professor. In the simulation lab, for example, the capstone event focuses on communication and includes safety elements. Students meet standardized patients with actual disabilities and must pull together their knowledge of how to care

for these patients. They take vital signs, engage in therapeutic communication, and identify and document the patient's learning needs.

Using a grant from Villanova University, Drs. Ross and Bruderle have woven the 2008 "Quality and Safety Education for Nurses" (QSEN) project competencies into the sophomore Essentials of Nursing Practice course. "Safety is pulled through every unit," says Dr. Ross about infusing its culture and science. The two faculty members integrated safety components into the three sophomore capstone scenarios, enhancing one of them to concentrate primarily on safety. They are creating a safety-based assignment for the sophomore clinical experience. In a 60-second situational awareness scenario, for example, students must quickly scan a patient and his or her environment to properly identify the patient, follow hand hygiene and remedy any safety issues they spot. This experience is valuable before entering the real clinical setting.

Medication administration and safety simulation have also become part of the learning experience. For instance, seniors, in preparation for their practica for Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents, participate in a pediatric scenario. They must identify safety hazards, and throughout the lab—and later in their clinical practice—must be sure they have the right patient. With the repeated exposure to safe practices, students learn to perform safely almost as a reflex. "Safety becomes part of who they are," says Kathryn M. Reynolds '79 BSN, MSN, CPNP, RN, clinical assistant professor.

Seniors further benefit from a leadership-level scenario, also based on QSEN competencies, developed by Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE, professor; Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor; and Colleen H. Meakim '84 MSN, RN, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center. The faculty filmed a scenario with a young man with Crohn's disease; it included certain safety risks and presented elements of staff handoffs, effective communication and professional behavior. Students review the film in the lab setting and debrief as a group. "The goal of the simulation is for them to learn how to prevent, identify and analyze potential and actual errors, and strategies to effectively address them," explains Dr. Mariani.



Stephen Noll, shown during his freshman year with a standardized patient with a disability, learns how to communicate with patients—a skill taught beginning in the freshman year.

"Safety becomes part of who they are."

—Kathryn M. Reynolds '79 BSN, MSN, CPNP, RN





Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, PhD, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, CCRN, clinical assistant professor, invited Shawn Murphy '83 VSB as a guest lecturer to share a parent's perspective. Murphy's son, at the time a pre-adolescent, had a near-deadly infection that was initially misdiagnosed until his nurses expressed their concern to the medical team. Murphy led students through an exercise in how damaging poor communication can be. He praised nurses for what they do and reinforced their critical role in patient safety. Students were moved by his account and gained insight into the frustrations and fears of families. Murphy's son has since recovered.



Colleen H. Meakim '84 MSN, RN, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center, debriefs seniors as they analyze issues stemming from the safety risk simulation film. Faculty created the film to help students learn to prevent errors in patient care.

From the bedside to the C-suite, nurses frequently become part of complex situations as they provide care to patients or lead teams and develop systems to do so. To enhance students' knowledge and skills, Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, PhD, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, CCRN, clinical assistant professor, developed the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety seminar for juniors and seniors. As new graduates, they will be using these advanced topics as they transition to practice. Building upon content threaded through the new curriculum, the seminar concentrates on patient-centered care with emphasis on teamwork, collaboration and seeing health-care situations from the patient's perspective. Among the topics covered are effective strategies for communication and conflict resolution, quality improvement tools and processes, cultures of safety, safety design principles and error reporting. Dr. Gray-Siracusa also includes the family perspective to elevate student understanding. She notes that after one such presentation, a student commented that "All classroom lectures should be like this. Getting the personal story behind the issue makes it feel more real."

## Navigating Transitional Care

*Mr. Johnson, age 86, is being discharged following hospitalization for congestive heart failure. Is his daughter filling his prescriptions? Will she make sure he takes his medications correctly? Who is preparing his meals? Will he stick to his low-sodium diet? How is he getting to follow-up visits? Is his home environment safe to navigate?*

Sending vulnerable elderly patients home from the hospital, or moving them from hospital to rehab to home and then back to primary-care providers, can be risky. Critical information may not be communicated, or tasks could fall through the cracks. Unable to fully care for or advocate for themselves, these patients—who often have additional complex health issues—may end up back in ER or even dying because of such lapses.

"Transitions, or 'handoffs,' are vulnerable exchange points that contribute to unnecessarily high rates of health services use and health-care spending," notes Mary D. Naylor '71 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN. "They expose chronically ill people to lapses in quality and safety," she and co-authors noted in a 2011 article ["The Importance of Transitional Care in Achieving Health Care Reform" in *Health Affairs*, (30) 4, 746-754].

Dr. Naylor is the pioneer in transitional care (TC). At the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, she is the Marian S. Ware Professor in



At a morning team meeting at Main Line Health HomeCare & Hospice in Radnor, Pa., Nursing juniors Jaclyn Betz (left) and Cedar Nelson learn from nurse Gina Boyd, RN-BC, how she documents patient visits using a tablet as Mary Beth Hoban '77 BSN, '10 MSN, RN, staff development specialist for the health organization, looks on. Juniors Megan Hayes (second from right) and Morgan Neill, along with Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C, assistant professor of Nursing, watch nurse Theresa Marcelli, RN-BC demonstrate how easy it is to use a smart phone to access patient information before driving to the patient's home.

Gerontology and director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health. A member of Villanova University's Board of Trustees, she is a former member of the College of Nursing's Board of Consultants.

TC focuses on the vulnerable chronically ill. In their article, Dr. Naylor and colleagues defined TC as "a broad range of time-limited services designed to ensure health-care continuity, avoid preventable poor outcomes among at-risk populations, and promote the safe and timely transfer of patients from one level of care to another or from one type of setting to another."

Last year, the College piloted a successful program for juniors to introduce them to the TC model in the classroom and clinical setting. Villanova is one of the first, if not the first, in the country to open TC this early to undergraduates. The pilot program, which received rave reviews from students, was instituted by Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C, assistant professor, National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Claire M. Fagin Fellow, and Visiting Nurse Service of New York Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow. Juniors read Dr. Naylor's scholarly publications describing the TC model and then discuss it in class with Dr. O'Connor. The inclusion of TC raises the level both of the curriculum and interprofessional education and care.

Juniors then gain TC experience in home health in conjunction with Main Line Health HomeCare & Hospice in Radnor, Pa., where

they visit patients newly discharged from the hospital. "The nurses at Main Line Health HomeCare & Hospice are committed to mentoring students and educating them on the importance of the transition of care from acute care settings to the patient's home," notes Mary Beth Hoban '77 BSN, '10 MSN, RN, staff development specialist. "Working with juniors from Villanova Nursing has provided our field nurses with a wonderful opportunity to share the experience of caring for patients in their own environment. The nurses help students to understand that the home is a part of the continuum of care and that rehospitalizations can be avoided with the care provided by the home health team."

Dr. O'Connor realizes how students are changed by their TC experience. "They wouldn't have considered certain things before. Now they are thinking about issues differently," she explains, noting the future will bring an even greater need for TC as the cost of hospitalization rises.

Erica Peters, a senior, recalls her TC experience last year: "It provided an insight into what kind of setting we were discharging patients to and what kind of care they needed before they were fully healed or fully independent." Joshua Beltran, a junior, calls it "eye-opening." He says "I now look at patients in a hospital setting and question how they can move from that setting to their home, along with what steps and precautions need to be taken to make that move. It's a different way of thinking."

**"Working with juniors from Villanova Nursing has provided our field nurses with a wonderful opportunity..."**

**—Mary Beth Hoban '77 BSN, '10 MSN, RN**



# FIRST ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP FOCUSES ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Richard '83 VSB and Marianne Kreider have generously established the College of Nursing's first Distinguished Term Professorship. The Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professorship in the Nursing of Vulnerable Populations will support 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. It is expected that the first appointment to the professorship will be in 2018.

Of the professorship, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, notes, "It is symbolic of the complementary nature of contributions that nursing makes to the people it serves through education, research and service. It reflects the Catholic and Augustinian mission of the University and College."

Richard Kreider is an inaugural member of the College's Board of Consultors and has served as its chairperson.

The Kreiders, who reside in Huntington, N.Y., have been loyal supporters of the College since coming to know it when one of their five children, Kristen Kreider Triesch '05 BSN, MSN, was a Nursing student (daughter Kelly '09 CLAS and son Brian '18 VSB also are Villanovans, while Michelle went to Long Island's St. Joseph's College and Kevin attends High Point University). In 2004, the Kreiders established The Kreider Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship.

Richard Kreider, who retired in April 2014 from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. LP (though he remains active on one of its boards), understands "return on investment" given his long career in the asset management field. "The College transforms people," he says, and with this scholarship they are "giving people the incentive to continue their passion in the service of others. 'Return on investment' is more than dollars and cents; this return is seeing young students being able to continue their education and follow their calling. Knowing there is another Villanova nurse out there to take care of someone's mother, father, spouse or child is a great feeling."

It was the inspiration of Kreider's mother that led to this current gift. A woman ahead of her time, Gloria Kreider, a speech pathologist, graduated from college at age 20 and earned her master's degree the following year. She put her career on hold to raise five children before returning to work in the late 1960s. For her family members, who knew her focus and sharp mind, her illness with Alzheimer's disease was that much tougher. Following a final hospitalization and hospice care, she died on July 23, 2014. Kreider recalls those days and her nurses: "We saw the care she got. It was something special." In memory of his mother and what she went through, and in recognition of how she and the family were helped by nurses, he wanted to do more.

Kreider represents the College on the Campaign Executive Committee of the \$600 million comprehensive capital campaign, "For the Greater Good®: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change." Knowing



*"The College transforms people."*  
—Richard Kreider '83 VSB

Richard Kreider '83 VSB, an inaugural member of the College's Board of Consultors, and his wife, Marianne, through their generous gift wanted to give "people the incentive to continue their passion in the service of others."

that the University is in the midst of this campaign, and that the College did not have an endowed professorship, he put his faith in Dean Fitzpatrick, for whom he has great admiration and in whom he sees tremendous passion for the University and the College. "She listens, she really listens," he says. The idea to target vulnerable populations, and the first endowed professorship, was born. "If I could be the first to set the table for others, I'm going to do it," offers Kreider. He was interested in attracting high-quality faculty and keeping the College as a top-tier nursing school.

Kreider appreciates the focus of the professorship on vulnerable populations, relating it to the care his mother received and a broader meaning. He explains, "If you think about the College's mission and what Catholicism is all about...it's about taking care of those in need." •

## Research Assistant Examines Prenatal Care with Faculty Mentor



Maria Gagliardi (left), a second-degree accelerated BSN student, is conducting a study with Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, assistant professor.

As an enhancement to the second-degree accelerated BSN program, the College of Nursing has established a new junior research assistant position. The first student to hold it is Maria Gagliardi, who holds a BS in pharmacology and toxicology from University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. With her faculty mentor, Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, assistant professor, Gagliardi is conducting a mixed method study on the “Learning Needs and Barriers to Prenatal Care and Prenatal Education for Low-Income Minority Women.”

After two years in an oncology lab at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Gagliardi wanted a “more hands-on career helping people,” though she knew she would continue to pursue research. “In nursing, we rely on research to guide our practice. It helps us develop professionally; it helps us to better serve our patients,” she notes.

Dr. McKeever and Gagliardi, with Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NPC, RN, assistant professor, are completing the quantitative study and collecting the qualitative data using female focus groups at Catholic Social Services in Philadelphia.

“The experience has helped me see the lack of prenatal care and prenatal education, as well as the barriers many women

experience,” Gagliardi observes. “I found many women do not seek a provider’s assistance until the third trimester. There are many problems women encounter that prevent them from attending classes. I found this really disheartening; however, this is the exact purpose of nursing research. This will be a starting point for more research—how do we make prenatal care more accessible?”

Gagliardi looks forward to another mixed methods study with Dr. McKeever, on substance abuse during pregnancy. They are finishing a case study on a young woman with adenocarcinoma, as well as additional papers. She hopes to begin “a more independent project to look at the effect of community baby showers on prenatal care.”

Initially thinking she would become a midwife, Gagliardi still may do so but, inspired by Dr. McKeever, she now plans on graduate school to become a women’s health or family nurse practitioner. “Child development starts in utero and the best way to ensure a healthy baby—mentally, physically, emotionally, socially—is through proper prenatal care and women’s health,” she explains. “I hope to work with underprivileged women” and “eventually go back to school for a doctoral degree so I can teach at a university.” •

## Jonas Center Funds Two Nursing Doctoral Students

Two PhD in Nursing students were selected as 2014-16 Jonas Scholars by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence programs. The grant is part of a national initiative to address the nursing faculty shortage and to prepare future nurses as America’s health-care system continues to evolve.



**Christina Lam, MSN, RN** is supported through the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholars Program. She is studying nursing faculty experiences in

preparing students to teach chronically ill patients about symptom recognition and response. Lam is an instructor at James Madison University’s Department of Nursing in Harrisonburg, Va.



**Hannah Thomas '09 BSN, '11 MSN, RN** is supported through the Jonas Veterans Health-care Program. She is examining students’ use

of electronic health records in relation to developing nurses’ competency and promoting quality care in Veterans Administration (VA) and non-VA health-care settings. Thomas is an adjunct faculty member at the College. •



## PhD Student Among First Future of Nursing Scholars

PhD in Nursing student Faith Ikarede Atte '13 MSN, RN is among the first 16 nurses to receive Future of Nursing Scholars program awards. This new multi-funder scholarship program, spearheaded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), aims to increase the number of nurses holding PhDs. Atte's scholarship, funded by the Independence Blue Cross Foundation, was awarded by Villanova University.

Atte intends to focus her PhD research on the impact of stigma towards people with mental illness, who not only must endure their debilitating symptoms but also the public's misconceptions and stereotypic views. Atte, who was a charge nurse at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, is a staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Deborah® Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J. In her blog (at [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org)), she wrote that she came from Kenya, "hungry for knowledge."

Atte notes, "I am so grateful to receive this scholarship and other support, which will allow me to focus on my PhD course work without worrying about finances. I also feel fortunate that I get to have two cohort groups: from Villanova University and my fellow Future of Nursing Scholars at RWJF. With all the incentives provided by RWJF and my College of Nursing, I am sure that the knowledge I will gain will enable me to



Working with patients with mental illness drew Faith Ikarede Atte '13 MSN, RN to pursue her doctoral research.

make positive contributions to society."

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, noted that "Faith Atte is an outstanding nurse who will make many contributions to society as a scholar and leader as a result of this transformational opportunity that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and

**"Faith Atte is an outstanding nurse who will make many contributions to society as a scholar and leader as a result of this transformational opportunity that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Independence Blue Cross Foundation have afforded her and our College of Nursing."**

—M. Louise Fitzpatrick,  
EdD, RN, FAAN



Independence Blue Cross Foundation have afforded her and our College of Nursing."

Future of Nursing Scholars provides grants to schools of nursing so that they can provide scholarships to candidates who will commit to completing the PhD program in three years. Atte will receive an award of \$75,000, as well as mentoring and leadership development. •

## NEF Grant Supports Dissertation on Healthy Eating



PhD in Nursing student Nancy Wise '09 MSN, RN has again received funds from Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. (NEF), which

supports baccalaureate-prepared RNs who need scholarship assistance for graduate study. Her competitive research grant will fund her dissertation, "Nutrition Knowledge, Healthy Eating Behaviors and Personal Self-Efficacy in Pregnant Adolescents." Wise will conduct interactive cooking workshops as an intervention in

the Lancaster and Berks County school districts.

Wise received her first NEF award in 2013-14 (the Cynthia Davis-Sculco Scholarship for Nursing Education) for her doctoral tuition expenses. •

## Meet Two Members of the Board of Consultants

For perspective on leadership and strategy, look no further than Sandra Myers Gomberg '85 BSN, '90 MSN, RN and Rear Adm. (Ret.) Joseph F. Kilkenny. These two executives serve on the College of Nursing's Board of Consultants, whose members share their expertise in an advisory capacity to the dean in matters that affect the nursing profession, the College and its strategic direction.

For a full listing of the board's members and additional profiles, visit [villanova.edu/nursing](http://villanova.edu/nursing).

### "SERVING ON THE BOARD OF CONSULTORS IS A SPECIAL WAY THAT I CAN CONTRIBUTE..."

At the time she was a Nursing student on Villanova University's campus, it was not a great leap to envision **Sandra Myers Gomberg '85 BSN, '90 MSN, RN** as a nurse in an executive-level leadership position in health care. While earning her BSN, she became president of the Villanova Chapter of the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania and the entire state organization.

Gomberg, a member of the College of Nursing's Board of Consultants since 2010, began her clinical career as a staff nurse in the pediatric ICU at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. She quickly assumed administrative responsibilities, including nurse manager and department head positions. She earned her MSN degree in Nursing Administration from Villanova and juggled her family life as a wife and mother of two young children while leading larger and more complex clinical entities. In parallel, after the birth of her son Nick, she co-founded ICAN, the International Children's Anophthalmia Network, a volunteer-run nonprofit organization of parents and health professionals created to support and educate families like hers that were raising a child born with too small or absent eyes.

Bringing with her a sense of humor, positivity, endless energy and a generous spirit as a mentor, Gomberg continued her career in academic medical centers. She

earned top positions at Temple University Children's Medical Center, where she was CNO and COO, and at Temple University Hospital, where she was ultimately president and CEO. She is an expert in leading multi-site organizations and building the interprofessional relationships and creative business strategies and tactics to achieve growth, quality care and operational efficiencies.

Today, Gomberg is COO for Philadelphia's Aria Health System and president of Aria's Population Health enterprise, managing a multi-payer "pay for performance and full risk" enterprise.

Gomberg shares her expertise as an adjunct faculty member in the College's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, educating students on critical subjects such as health policy; quality improvement and patient safety; ethical and legal issues; and epidemiological approaches to health care and health disparities. She has received not only the College of Nursing Medallion but the University's St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal.

Driven to serve on the Board of Consultants, she notes that "The College of Nursing provided the foundational undergraduate and graduate education that has allowed me the privilege of serving patients, families and communities in many leadership roles. Serving on the Board of Consultants is a special way that I can contribute to sustaining that powerful educational foundation for the Villanova nurses of our future."

Gomberg's reputation extends well beyond the College. She was named one of the *Philadelphia Business Journal* Top 40 Under 40 Business Leaders and a Philadelphia Chapter March of Dimes' Woman of the Year in Healthcare. In September 2014 she was honored by the Philadelphia Diversity Council as one of its Most Powerful and Influential Women. Just as she is dedicated to her profession, Gomberg also remains committed to the community, including volunteering for the Blind Sports Organization of Philadelphia.



Sandra Myers Gomberg '85 BSN, '90 MSN, RN is COO for Philadelphia's Aria Health System and president of Aria's Population Health enterprise. She draws upon her high-level experience in the city's academic medical centers—including having served as president and CEO of Temple University Hospital—to teach in the College's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.



**“HE IS A GREAT LEADER AND GETS THINGS DONE.”**

**Joseph F. Kilkenny, MSM**, who joined the Board of Consultors in May 2014, brings to the College of Nursing a wealth of experience in leadership and education. As Rear Adm. Kilkenny, USN, he retired after 34 years of service in the Navy with a 2011 ceremony at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla., the home of naval aviation training. It was an appropriate location for this naval flight officer who launched his career in Pensacola and who later, as commander of the Pensacola-based Naval Education and Training Command, was in charge of all education programs including those from which he benefited, such as flight training and Naval ROTC.

A Philadelphia native, Kilkenny came to the Navy through the ROTC program

**In the Navy and in nursing, “The optimum word shared by both occupations is service.”**

—Joseph F. Kilkenny, MSM



at The Citadel in South Carolina. He flew several jets (among them the A-6 Intruder and F-14 Tomcat) and served with attack squadrons and aircraft carrier air wings and battle groups. Whether operating on land, sea or air around the world, Kilkenny served with distinction. “He is a great leader and gets things done,” notes former colleague Maryalice Morro ’83 BSN, MSN, RN, a retired Navy captain and fellow member of the Board of Consultors.

Later in his career, Kilkenny served on the staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations and Commander of Naval Air Forces; he also commanded a Carrier Strike Group

and Navy Recruiting. Given the fast pace and complexity of his work in the military, Kilkenny is widely experienced in departmental management and program oversight roles within large, complex organizations. He has not slowed down in retirement but rather built a second career in his civilian life.

Kilkenny, who resides in Jacksonville, is president of Mantraindevelop LLC, serving as a consultant and leadership instructor. Mantraindevelop specializes in talent acquisition, training and development, talent management and leadership fundamentals. He also is a consultant and Navy advisor with Bohemia Interactive Simulations, a global software company producing simulation training solutions for military and civilian organizations. Having earned a Master of Science in Management degree at Troy University, he is now pursuing a master’s degree in education leadership at the University of North Florida.

His interest in becoming involved at Villanova University began when his niece, Abbey Howard, received a Naval ROTC scholarship for nursing and decided to attend the College of Nursing, where she is now a freshman. Kilkenny looks forward to sharing his experience to enhance the work of the College by “advising and assisting where able with my experience as the former commander of Naval Education and Training Command in the U.S. Navy.” Overall, through that command, he carried the responsibility of developing highly skilled officers and sailors across all communities, in addition to leading Recruit Training Command, Officer Candidate School, NROTC and Junior ROTC.

Kilkenny can attest to teamwork being the key to success, and believes “Villanova instills that from day one.” He recognizes that nurses are part of a health-care team, and that working together with physicians, technicians and support staff is a major ingredient for success in many aspects of patient care. When asked about parallels between the Navy and nursing as a profession, Kilkenny offers, “The optimum word shared by both occupations is service. Those



A retired Navy rear admiral, Joseph F. Kilkenny, MSM is president of Mantraindevelop, LLC. During his 34 years of Navy service, he developed extensive expertise in leadership, education, training and management. His niece, Abbey Howard, is a freshman in the College of Nursing.

in the Navy and Armed Forces serve others in need or the oppressed. Nurses serve those who are ill and in need of care.”

By joining forces with the Board of Consultors, Kilkenny hopes to learn more about the challenges within the nursing community, aid in the growth of Villanova’s Nursing program and promote nursing as a profession. •



## Poland Is Latest Global Field Experience Site

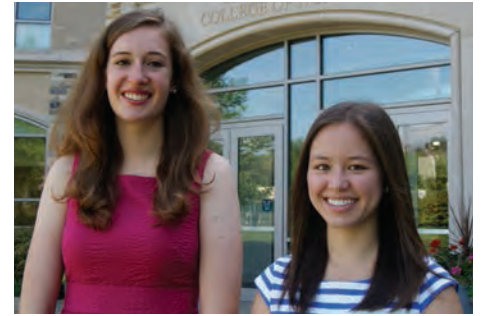
Eight Nursing undergraduates and two faculty members will head to Poland for two weeks in May. This central European country, slightly smaller than New Mexico, is the College's newest site for an international field experience in nursing.

The students, led by Elizabeth Blunt, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, assistant professor and coordinator of Nurse Practitioner Programs, and M. Frances Keen, DNSc, RN-BC, clinical associate professor, will explore locales. In Kraków, they will work with Jagiellonian University, a research institution founded in 1364 A.D., and in Jarosław with PWSTE University, where the students will present at the 3rd Annual Conference on the "Interdisciplinary Aspects of Beauty, Health and Disease." They will also visit hospitals, talk with midwives (who deliver over 80 percent of babies in Poland), spend time in community-based clinical sites, meet with home care nurses, and converse with faculty and students. To experience history and culture, they will travel to Auschwitz, Wawel Castle and the Wieliczka Salt Mine and its underground health resort. •

## Two Davis Scholars Devote Their Summer to Research

Seniors Teresa Yang and Liz Long, the College's inaugural Davis Undergraduate Summer Nursing Scholars, chose to study two important topics: technology for campus safety and human trafficking, respectively. In gaining research experience last summer, they worked closely with Elizabeth B. Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor of Nursing.

Yang designed a quantitative pilot study, "Using Technology to Increase the Safety



Seniors Elizabeth Long (left) and Teresa Yang hope to have an impact on nursing.

**"These students exemplify the potential of undergraduate research at the College of Nursing, which, through the generous support of the Davis family, brings together students, faculty and clinical questions that have meaning in today's society."**

— Elizabeth B. Dowdell,  
PhD, RN, FAAN



of College Students," an issue of growing concern all the way up to the White House. She tracked how female college students use "Circle of 6," a safety smart phone app, and examined risk behavior correlation to its use. "Circle of 6" connects friends in case help is needed. Yang found that overall, most women in the study reported feeling safer with the app available on their phone and that they would recommend it to others.

"I have enjoyed comparing my results to my hypotheses and thinking about how the results can have an impact on the nursing profession," notes Yang. Through a greater understanding of how college students use and integrate technology, nurses can develop better screening, assessment, intervention and education for safety with this generation.

Long conducted her qualitative study, "Policies and Perceptions of Human Trafficking: Examining Nurses' Views on Human Trafficking (HT) Victims in the Emergency Department," at a Philadelphia

academic medical center's emergency department (ED). She learned that the nurses were knowledgeable regarding places for victims of domestic violence to seek refuge, but were not aware of specific sites where victims could be treated. Long discovered that the ED did not provide any in-service or continuing education courses on how to care for or screen for these victims.

After becoming more aware of human trafficking in this country, Long has realized the potential for students to advocate for screening and care. "At Villanova," she says, "we are encouraged and taught to be more than 'just a student' by advocating for our patients and communicating with the interprofessional team." She adds, "This experience has influenced me to think about how research can be a powerful tool to bring awareness to a topic in nursing and how research serves as the basis for policy change."

In emphasizing the importance of the Davis summer research program, Dr. Dowdell points out the quality of the students' work: "These students exemplify the potential of undergraduate research at the College of Nursing, which, through the generous support of the Davis family, brings together students, faculty and clinical questions that have meaning in today's society. Having the Davis family support for undergraduate research gave Elizabeth and Teresa the opportunity to take part in building nursing science and what it means to be engaged in nursing research." •



## DNP Project Is a Sure Shot

Thanks to the efforts of Sheryl Timpanelli '14 DNP, ANP and her team, more than 96 percent of the Kennedy Health System's (KHS) 4,000 employees received influenza vaccines this year. Timpanelli is an employee health (EH) nurse practitioner for KHS, a multi-hospital health-care system in southern New Jersey.

Over the past several years, the KHS corporate leaders and its EH Department have been trying to improve flu vaccination rates for employees. After noting statistics about the flu, the team agreed to make the issue—implementing a *mandatory* policy—a top priority. Timpanelli made this the topic of her Doctor of Nursing Practice scholarly project and led the team in its efforts to



Nurse practitioner Sheryl Timpanelli '14 DNP, ANP (left) led the effort to implement a new mandatory flu vaccine for staff at the southern New Jersey health system where she specializes in employee health.

seek approval of the new policy.

The quality improvement effort was so well-received that KHS CEO Joseph W. Devine plans to nominate EH for the system's Patient Quality Award. The vaccination rate exceeded the 90 percent mandate from The Joint Commission.

Why focus on the flu? In the United States alone, the virus causes more than 36,000 deaths annually. As a high-risk population, health-care workers are in frequent contact with the flu virus, yet their vaccination rate is under 60 percent. If they are unvaccinated, as asymptomatic carriers they can unknowingly spread the flu to vulnerable patients. "I felt like it was our responsibility to protect our patients with a well-established, safe vaccine," says Timpanelli.

Timpanelli and her project mentor, Cheryl Rosselli, MSN, RN, corporate director of EH, pulled together data about the flu and the department's efforts and created a two-hour educational session for seven corporate leaders. The leaders soon voted unanimously to implement this mandatory policy for employees to increase protection of the staff and patients, as well as to drop both the need for prophylactic therapy for staff and the number of compensation claims. After employees were educated about the new policy, a vaccine day—"Flulapalooza"—followed in the fall, where more than 1,100 associates received their vaccines in a fun, outdoor environment. •

## New Minor Addresses Global Health

The College of Nursing and its Center for Global and Public Health launched a new Global Health minor this year, open to all sophomores, juniors and seniors. It offers a basic understanding of the issues, drawing upon Villanova University expertise.

Health is influenced and determined by factors as diverse as gender, race, ethnicity, political priorities, socioeconomic status, climate, geography, accessibility and acceptabil-

ity of care, as well as cultural and religious traditions. Through this new minor, Nursing seeks to educate students about these factors and the interdisciplinary response to addressing global health challenges. •

*Questions? Learn more on the College's website or contact the center's director, Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN, associate professor of Nursing, at [ruth.mcdermott.levy@villanova.edu](mailto:ruth.mcdermott.levy@villanova.edu).*

## Teaching Children to be "Wild for Wellness"

Villanova Nursing's MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE) has partnered with the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA to implement Wild for Wellness, a pediatric obesity prevention after-school program at the Christian Street YMCA. Geared to children ages 10 to 14, it began in January. Wild for Wellness educates students on healthy eating habits and provides an opportunity for regular physical activity.

The program is funded by a one-year Aetna Foundation, GoLocal: Cultivating Healthy Communities grant. This national foundation supports projects to promote wellness, health and access to high-quality health care for everyone. •

## First RN-to-BSN Students Graduate



Angela Caccavo '14 BSN, RN (right) and Gina Newman '14 BSN, RN are the College of Nursing's first online RN-to-BSN graduates. They, along with other BSN, MSN, post-master's certificate and DNP degree candidates, were recognized at the College's Winter Convocation, held in December 2014 in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. The online BSN completion program first accepted students in summer 2013. Caccavo is an Emergency Department staff nurse at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Arizona and Newman is a case manager with KeystoneCare Homecare & Hospice in Wyndmoor, Pa. •

# Speaking out for Accurate Information on Fracking

Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy addresses the public health risks of this controversial method of drilling.

As Pennsylvania experiences a natural gas boom, the related industry of fracking has generated concerns about environmental and health issues. In fracking (hydraulic fracturing), rock deep in the earth is fractured by a hydraulically pressurized liquid to stimulate natural gas flow from the well.

Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN, associate professor and the new director of the College of Nursing's Center for Global and Public Health, is a public and community health specialist. She has spoken in favor of improving the state Department of Health's practices in sharing safety information with the public and nurses who live in the areas where natural gas is being extracted. She has ties to upstate Pennsylvania, where fracking is occurring, having earned her BSN at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre.

Through editorials and invited testimony at State Senate hearings, Dr. McDermott-Levy is teaching legislators, the public and health professionals about these environmental and health issues. On October 1, 2014, she testified at the State Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing, held at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, on the subject of tracking, reporting and acting on public-health concerns related to natural gas drilling. Health-care providers need to know the chemical composition of these sometimes dangerous fracking fluids so they can better care for patients and share cases with colleagues, Dr. McDermott-Levy testified. The Department of Health must develop a health registry that is accessible to the public, she urged, so that people can make informed decisions about exposure risks and the steps to take to protect their health and the health of their families.

"Fracking is a complex issue and it is taking place in close proximity to where people live. To adequately address the health impacts in Pennsylvania we need accurate, timely information that can be found in a



Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN (right), associate professor, guides her research assistant, Victoria Garcia '09 BS, in community-based participatory research.

**“Fracking is a complex issue and it is taking place in close proximity to where people live.”**

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



publicly accessible health registry,” explains Dr. McDermott-Levy, who is earning a post-doctoral degree in public health.

Since January, she has served as secretary of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP). A nonprofit environmental health organization, EHP was created to assist and support Washington County residents who

believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by natural gas drilling activities. EHP plans on expanding its work across the state and nationally as unconventional natural gas and oil extraction advances throughout the country. Additionally, Dr. McDermott-Levy is working with the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, Physicians for Social Responsibility, other health professionals and PennEnvironment to form a coalition of health providers to put health in the forefront in policies related to the state's natural gas resources.

While researching the health concerns of local communities, Dr. McDermott-Levy mentors research assistant Victoria Garcia '09 BS, a second-degree accelerated BSN student. “Under the guidance of Dr. McDermott-Levy, I learned about research methods utilized in public health, specifically community-based participatory research,” Garcia observes. “Cur-



## In Home Health, a New Model in Decision Support

rently we are forming partnerships in the Marcellus Shale community and recruiting participants for focus groups. I am also monitoring local newspapers to familiarize myself with the community.”

As a Biology major at Villanova University, Garcia completed her senior thesis in a marine ecology lab on campus, fieldwork in the Galápagos islands during a study abroad semester and a National Science Foundation research experience in the Chesapeake Bay area. After graduation she worked in an immunology research laboratory at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia. “As a second degree student I wanted to combine my passion with research and nursing, which is why I pursued this research assistant position,” Garcia notes.

Other Villanova students also have been conducting fieldwork with faculty on the effects of fracking. Dr. McDermott-Levy’s research study, “Perceived Health Concerns and Learning Needs of Northeast Pennsylvania Communities,” is the seed for a potentially larger scope of work. Steven T. Goldsmith, PhD, and Nathaniel B. Weston, PhD, professors in Villanova’s Department of Geography and the Environment, have been studying water quality in the streams in North-Central Pennsylvania’s natural gas extraction areas. Dr. McDermott-Levy has been in conversations with them to collaborate eventually in a larger study related to fracking in the region.

“This is what public health nurses do—advocate for the health of a population,” notes Dr. McDermott-Levy. •

**M**elissa O’Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C, assistant professor, and her research team have as their goal “to build a discharge decision support tool designed to support home health clinicians to determine readiness for discharge from skilled home health.”

In April 2014, Dr. O’Connor received a National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Claire M. Fagin Fellow Award (2014-16) for her study, “Determining Readiness for Discharge from Skilled Home Health Services: A Mixed Methods Study.”

The Fagin Fellow Award Program focuses on building academic gerontological nursing capacity through the development of leaders in this field, according to its website. This two-year fellowship in advanced research training and mentorship is designed to assist doctorally prepared nurses committed to academic careers in gerontological nursing. Dr. O’Connor was one of five Fagin Fellows selected for 2014-16.

In collaboration with their mentors, Fagin Fellows create professional development plans to develop “new competencies and enhanced effectiveness as an academic

leader and researcher.” Dr. O’Connor’s team includes:

- her two teaching mentors: Isabella “Belle” Erickson, PhD, RN and Elizabeth K. Keech ’66 BSN, PhD, RN, both assistant professors;
- her two research mentors: Helene Moriarty ’77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, and Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor; and
- Kathryn H. Bowles ’90 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, the van Ameringen Chair in Nursing Excellence and professor of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Dr. O’Connor also conducts gerontological studies as the Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY). “This study builds directly upon my current pilot with the VNSNY,” she notes, “and involves patient interviews that will be conducted at the VNSNY and the Main Line Health Home-Care and Hospice, as well as Medicare data.” •



As a Fagin Fellow, Melissa O’Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C studies an emerging field that has important implications for older adults in home health settings.

## TRANSITIONS

**Shelley Hickey '07**

**MSN, RN**, clinical assistant professor, joined the College in May 2014, teaching global health and medical-surgical nursing to undergraduates. Her clinical background is in critical care nursing. She has been a lecturer in nursing at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa., and a clinical nurse educator at Lankenau Medical Center. She earned her BSN at Widener University and her MSN in Nursing Education at Villanova.

**Meredith MacKenzie, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CNE**

joined the faculty in August 2014 as an assistant professor. She was most recently a pre-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where she taught undergraduate medical-surgical and geriatric courses as well as physical assessment. Dr. MacKenzie, an adult nurse practitioner, earned her BSN from Messiah College and both her MSN in adult and geriatric primary care and her PhD from Penn Nursing. Her clinical background is in orthopedic and emergency nursing and her research focuses on family caregivers, end-of-life and patients with heart failure.

**Ann Syseskey Scheve '80 BSN, MS, RN**

clinical assistant professor, joined the faculty in August 2014 after teaching three years as an adjunct faculty member, including in the online RN-to-BSN Program. She earned her BSN from Villanova and her MS at Georgetown University and is a member of the College's Board of Consultants. Scheve has served as a part-time faculty member with Drexel University and the University of Maryland. Her clinical background is in gerontological nursing. She practiced as a clinical nurse specialist in this field and has published and presented widely on subjects relating to the elderly.

**Anne Schneider, MSN, RN**

clinical assistant professor who joined the College in August 2014, has experience in home health care and community health. She teaches community health and health promotion to traditional and accelerated Nursing undergraduates. Schneider's clinical and management experience in her specialty includes work with the Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia and KeystoneCare Home Care and Hospice. She has served as an adjunct faculty member for the College. Schneider holds a BA in English and BS in nursing from Cedar Crest College and an MSN in community health from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

**Kathleen Williams Yates '96 BSN, '01 MSN, RN**

clinical assistant professor, joined the faculty in August 2014 after having served in the past as an adjunct faculty member, teaching sophomores, juniors and seniors. She also has been a faculty or adjunct faculty member at other area schools of nursing. Yates brings a background in medical-surgical nursing and staff education to her new role, where she will be teaching Nursing seniors about care of adults with complex health problems. She earned her BSN and MSN in Nursing Education at Villanova.



**Cheryl Wert** joined the College in January 2014 as a recruitment specialist for all BSN, MSN and doctoral programs. She represents the College at education fairs in the region and helps develop partnerships with area agencies. Wert also assists with the transfer student admission process. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Neumann University and brings to her new role years of experience in advertising and sales.



Assistant Professors **Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN** and **Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE** have been appointed to positions leading to promotion and tenure.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Patricia K. Bradley, PhD, RN, FAAN**, associate professor, published a paper with R. Linuse; **Sara J. Reeder, PhD, RN**, associate professor; and N. Polis: "Nurse Leaders' Perception of the Value of a Nurse Residency Program," in the *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 30 (3), 117-121.

**Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE**, professor, published with M.A. Posner the article "Psychological Distress Between Survivors of Childhood Cancer and Matched Cohorts Surveyed in the Adolescent Health Study," in *Cancer Nursing: An International Journal of Cancer Care*, 37 (4), 271-277. She was the lead author with **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, and **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center, of "An Innovative Approach Using Clinical Simulation to Teach Quality and Safety Principles to Undergraduate Nursing Students," accepted by *Nursing Education Perspectives*.

**Theresa Capriotti '95 MSN, DO, RN, CRNP**, clinical associate professor, published in *The Clinical Advisor* two articles with students: with junior **Madeline Nocero** "Don't Overlook the Resurgence of Rubella," 17 (11), 36-39 and with senior **Mary Kate Kline** "Home Genetic Test Kits: What the Primary Care Provider Should Know," 17 (6), 52-67.

**Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF**, professor, published three book chapters:

- "Health Promotion and Education" and "Homeostasis, Stress and Adaptation" in *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical Surgical Nursing*, 13th edition, edited by J.H. Hinkle and K.H. Cheever, and
- "Disorders of Children and Adolescents" in *Psychiatric Nursing Made Incredibly Easy*, 2nd edition, D. Murphy-Parker, clinical editor.

**Lynore DeSilets, EdD, RN-BC**, assistant dean and director of the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, published in the *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing* two editorial columns, "A Decade in Retrospect," 45 (2), 52-53 and "Turning the World Right Side Up," 45 (9), 375-376.

**Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN**, assistant professor, published three articles (see sidebar on page 21 for the third):

- with B. Ulrich, "Patient Safety and Patient Safety Culture: Foundations of Excellent Health Care Delivery," in *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 41 (5), 447-456, 505 and;



## Landmark Study in Nephrology Nursing Care

*"...achieving patient safety and creating positive patient safety cultures requires ongoing, focused efforts of every member of the healthcare team."*

—Dr. Beth Ulrich and Dr. Tamara M. Kear, from their article "Patient Safety Culture in Nephrology Nurse Practice Settings: Initial Findings," in *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 41 (5), 459-475.

In the first national survey of patient safety culture in nephrology nurse practice settings, Beth Ulrich, EdD, RN, FACHE, FAAN, editor of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, and Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN, assistant professor, gained "a voluminous quantity of rich data," they noted, based on responses from nearly 1,000 nephrology nurses. They compared their data with the results of two Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) safety surveys.

The practice settings they surveyed included acute and outpatient care for patients with kidney disease, failure or transplants. They found the overall rating of patient safety in these settings was favorable, with 26 percent of respondents ranking it "excellent" and 51 percent "very good." Respondents described teamwork in their practice settings as a primary strength. This finding did not surprise the two researchers, as dialysis units and transplant centers have long been involved in interprofessional practice.

The issues that received scores lower than AHRQ comparative data included handoffs, infection control, medication errors, communication, prioritization, staffing and workload. The two researchers consider their findings worthy of future research to focus on the qualitative data they collected and the fundamentals of nursing care that are being overlooked. Dr. Kear will focus on handoffs. Last fall, she submitted a grant proposal to study this glaring issue revealed in their data.

Dr. Kear presented their data in April at the American Nephrology Nurses' Association National Symposium in Orlando, Fla.



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

with E. Evans, D. Hain, C. Schrauf and L. Dork, "Hemodialysis Catheter Outcomes Pilot Study: No Dressing Coverage with Prescribed Showering," in *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 41 (1), 53-65.

**Elizabeth K. Keech '66 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, published a chapter, "Health Care of the Older Adult," in *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 13th edition, edited by J.H. Hinkle and K.H. Cheever.

**Margaret G. "Peggy" Lyons '87 BSN, DNP, CRNI**, nurse faculty coordinator of the online RN-to-BSN Program, co-published an article with A.G. Phalen, "A Randomized Controlled Comparison of Flushing Protocols in Homecare Patients with Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters," in the *Journal of Infusion Nursing*, 37 (4), 270-281.

**Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, published three papers (see the sidebar on page 22 for the third):

- with **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE**, professor, and **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center, "Nurse Educators' Perceptions About Structured Debriefing in Clinical Simulation," in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 35 (5), 330-331; and
- with L.R. Allen, "Development and Psychometric Testing of the Mariani Nursing Career Satisfaction Scale<sup>®</sup>," in the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 22 (1), 135-144.

**Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN**, associate professor and director of the Center for Global and Public Health, published two articles:

- with **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE**, professor, and **Kathryn M. Reynolds '79 BSN, MSN, CRNP, RN**, clinical assistant professor, "Promoting Cultural Understanding Through Pediatric Clinical Dyads," in *Nurse Education Today*, 34 (11), 1346-51; and
- with J. Leffers and K. Huffling, "Global Earth Caring through the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond," in the *International Journal of Human Caring*, 18 (2), 9-17.
- Another of Dr. McDermott-Levy's articles, co-authored by J. Leffers, C. Smith and B. Sattler, has been accepted by *Nursing Forum*: "Nursing Education's Response to the 1995 Institute of Medicine Report: Nursing, Health and the Environment."



Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN

## Special Issue Focuses on Children with Chronic Illness

*"As nurses we are compelled to advocate for ways to minimize family burden and maximize child potential... We can all be agents of health promotion for our patients."*

—Dr. Michelle M. Kelly, from her guest editorial, "The Children Are Our Future," about children with chronic illness, in *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 40 (1), 4.

The prominent journal *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing* celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with a series of special issues. Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN, assistant professor of Nursing and an MCN reviewer, was selected to be a guest editor for the January-February issue. For the section she edited, Dr. Kelly, along with College of Nursing pediatric faculty colleagues, decided on the theme of children with chronic illness. Why? The 2011-12 National Survey of Children's Health reported that the incidence of chronic conditions in children is as high as 54 percent, depending on which conditions are included. "Families and health-care providers must appreciate that maximizing our children's potential goes beyond disease management," noted Dr. Kelly in her editorial. "Conversations between nurses and families often echo in the minds of caregivers long after they have left you."

The three articles Dr. Kelly developed and co-wrote for the issue (the last two are continuing education articles) are:

- with Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, assistant professor, "Growing Up with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis," 8-15;
- with Kathryn M. Reynolds '79 BSN, MSN, CRNP, RN, clinical assistant professor, and adjunct instructors Lynn Boyle '92 BSN, '12 MSN, RN; Misty Conlan '97 MSN, RN; and Felisha Taylor '08 MSN, RN, "The School Age Child with Congenital Heart Disease," 16-23; and
- with Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE, professor, "Health-related Quality of Life for Chronically Ill Children," 24-31.

**Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC**, assistant professor, published (see also the sidebar on page 23):

- a chapter, "Prevention of Neural Tube Defects" in *Medical Disease and Nutrition: A Case-Based Approach*, 5th edition, edited by L. Hark, D. Deen and G. Morrison;
- an article with J.R. Bloch and M.A. Marrell, "Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Uptake and Completion as a Preventive Health Measure Among Female Adolescents," in *Nursing Outlook*, online September 15, 2014;
- an article with T.D. Suplee, J.R. Bloch, L. Borucki, K. Dawley and M. Kauffman, "Focusing on Maternal Health Beyond Breastfeeding and Depression During the First Year Postpartum," in the *Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing*, 43 (6), 782-791;
- an article with J.R. Bloch and A. Bratic, "Pharmaceutical Drug Shortage and the Burden of Access to Care: A Critical Issue Affecting Patients with Cancer," in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology Nursing*, 17 (5), 490-495;
- an article with L. Clauss, "Practical Strategies for the Diagnosis and Management of Binge Eating Disorder," accepted by *Nurse Practitioners for Womens Health*; and
- an article, with K. Choma, "Cervical Cancer Screening in Adolescents: An Evidence-based Internet Education Program for Practice Improvement Among Advanced Practice Nurses," accepted by *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*.

**Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC**, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, co-authored with L. McKinley, T.H. Short, A. Ranum, S. Valentine and N. Safdar, "Regional Differences in Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* Colonization Rates in Critically Ill Veterans," in the *American Journal of Infection Control*, 42 (11), 1226-1228. That journal has accepted another article that she co-authored (with C. Zellmer, E. Yanke, S. Van Hoof, P. Crayon and N. Safdar): "Understanding the Current State of Infection Prevention and Interventions to Prevent *Clostridium difficile* Infection: A Systems Engineering Approach."

**Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C**, assistant professor, National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Claire M. Fagin Fellow and Visiting Nurse Service of New York Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow, published two papers:

- with A. Hanlon and **Kathryn H. Bowles '90 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN**, "Impact of Frontloading of Skilled Nursing Visits on

the Incidence of 30-day Hospital Readmission," in *Geriatric Nursing*, 35, S37-S44; and

- with J. Bellot, D. Carthron, K. Rose, C. Shillam, J. Van Cleave and A. Vogelsmeier, "Advancing the Future of Nursing: A Report by the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Alumni Policy and Leadership Committee," in *Nursing Outlook*, 61 (1) 55-57.

**Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C, RN**, assistant professor, published a chapter, "Assessment and Management of Patients with Endocrine Disorders," in *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 13th edition, edited by J.L. Hinkle and K.H. Cheever.

**Bing-Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, published three papers (see sidebar on page 23 for the third):

- with B. Resnick and E.S. Nahm, "Reliability and Validity of the Revised Osteoporosis Knowledge Test," in the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 22 (2), 342-356 and
- with **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, "The Practical Implications for Nurses Caring for Patients Being Treated for Osteoporosis," in *Nursing: Research and Reviews*, 4 (4), 19-33.

**Sara J. Reeder, PhD, RN**, associate professor, co-authored three articles:

- with L.A. Sebastian and M. Williams, "Determining Target Heart Rate for Exercising in a Cardiac Rehabilitation Program: A Retrospective Study," in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, online May 23, 2014;
- with S.E. Smith, "What Nurse Practitioners Should Know About Gene Therapy," in *Nurse Practitioner*, 38 (11), 17-22; and
- with D. Smith and N. Cuttic, "Fried or Satisfied: A Healthcare System's Look at Compassion Fatigue in the Emergency Department," accepted by the *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

**Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor, with **Elizabeth A. Bruderle '90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant professor, and **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center, has had an article accepted by the *Journal of Nursing Education*: "The Integration of Deliberate Practice and Peer Mentoring into an Essentials of Nursing Course."

**Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing, published:

- with Y. Morishima and H. Niki a book in Japanese (translation: *5000 Handy*

## Mentoring's Vital Role in Clinical Simulation

*"An 18-month Nurse Faculty Mentored Leadership Development (NFMLD) program provided the opportunity for a novice nurse faculty to collaborate with an expert faculty leader to develop exemplary leadership skills and lead a team-based simulation project. The concept of a mentoring triad served as the relationship foundation. Each scholar and mentor dyad was linked to a faculty advisor to form a triad."*

—Dr. Bette Mariani and Dr. Barbara J. Patterson, from their article in "Mentoring: An Approach to Developing Leadership in Nurse Faculty Through an Innovative Clinical Simulation Project," in *Nurse Leader*, 13 (1), 58-61.

While clinical simulation is no longer new in nursing education, faculty members like Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor, strive to make this teaching-learning strategy an evidence-based one and stay ahead of the needs of health-care organizations. For newer faculty members building a body of scientific inquiry, mentorship can be critical. Dr. Mariani was the lead author of this study published in *Nurse Leader*. Her co-author is Barbara J. Patterson, PhD, RN, ANEF, professor of nursing and director of the PhD Program in nursing at Widener University in Chester, Pa.

Dr. Mariani was able to benefit from a unique opportunity from Sigma Theta Tau International, nursing's honor society. From her experience in the Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy mentoring program, combined with her initiative and interest in simulation, she has expanded nursing science in the field. She has conducted faculty interviews on structured debriefing, developed and integrated safety and quality targets with medication safety scenarios, written and tested new research instruments to measure the outcomes of simulation, and with colleagues developed competencies in leadership related to quality and safety in health-care facilities. Dr. Mariani also works with colleagues to integrate into the Nursing curriculum simulations related to people with disabilities.



Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN





Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC

## Pregnancy and Prescription Drug Addiction

*"Drug addiction during pregnancy is a complex health and social issue that requires an interdisciplinary health-care team providing nonjudgmental, comprehensive care."*

—from "The Role of Nurses in Comprehensive Care Management of Pregnant Women with Drug Addiction," by Dr. Amy E. McKeever, Sylvia Spaeth-Brayton and Sarah Sheerin, in *Nursing for Women's Health*, 18 (4), 284-93.

A College of Nursing senior's assignment on an obstetric unit led to the birth of a seminal article, which she co-authored with two Nursing faculty members, on the nursing care of pregnant and post-partum women with substance abuse. During her maternal-child health practicum, Sarah Sheerin '13 BSN was assigned to a 25-year-old patient who had had a C-section. The woman, who was in recovery following prescription opioid dependency and was on maintenance therapy with Buprenorphine, was not obtaining post-op pain relief.

Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, assistant professor, is well-versed in the care of pregnant and post-partum women with substance abuse. She addressed this clinical issue with Sheerin (her student) and with the patient's primary nurse, informing them of the updated evidence-based care that included pharmacologically appropriate pain relief.

Prescription drug abuse is rising in epidemic numbers among pregnant women and can have significant implications for both mother and baby.

Dr. McKeever and the third co-author, Sylvia Spaeth-Brayton, MSN, RNC-LRN, a part-time Nursing faculty member, felt that dissemination of pertinent information with updated guidelines was critical. Their article delivers information on providing "nonjudgmental, comprehensive care," but it is just the start. After more research, Dr. McKeever will be closer to her goal of delivering a teaching program to care providers and a toolkit for pregnant women to educate them on their rights, what they can ask for and what they should receive in terms of pain medications.

*English Hospital Phrases for Health Professionals*), 2nd edition;

- a chapter, "Function Within the Educational Environment," in the *Certified Nurse Educator Review Book*, 1st edition, National League for Nursing;
- an article, with M.S. Alamri, "Nursing Educational Motivational Barriers Inventory," accepted by the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*;
- two articles in *Nurse Leader*: "Health Information Privacy Reconsidered," 12 (4), 58-61 and "Strategies to Transform Health Care," 12 (2), 39-43; and
- an article, "The Coming Revolution in Personal Care Robotics: What Does It Mean for Nurses?," in *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, 38 (1), 5-12.

**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN,**

professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, published six papers:

- with **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing; **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE**, professor; **Mary Ann Heverly, PhD**, associate adjunct professor; and doctoral students **Nancy Wise '09 MSN, RN**; **Amanda Jenkinson, MSN, RN**; and **Serah Nthenge '04 MSN**, "Nursing Doctoral Faculty Perceptions of Factors That Affect Their Continued Scholarship," in the *Journal of Professional Nursing*, online March 28, 2014;
- the same team of seven also collaborated on "Challenges to Research Productivity of Doctoral Program Nursing Faculty," in *Nursing Outlook*, 62 (4), 268-274;
- with **Elizabeth M. Blunt, PhD, RN FNP-BC**, assistant professor and coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Programs; **Heather Marozsan '05 BSN, '10 MSN**; and **Lisa Wetzel-Effinger '08 MSN**, "Inclusion of Disability-related Content in Nurse Practitioner Curricula," in the *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, online June 20, 2014;
- two articles with L.I. Iezzoni, J. Yu, A.J. Wint and J.L. Ecker: "Conditions Causing Disability and Current Pregnancy Among U.S. Women with Chronic Physical Disabilities" in *Medical Care*, 52 (1), 20-25 and "General Health, Health Conditions, and Current Pregnancy Among U.S. Women with and Without Chronic Physical Disabilities," in *Disability and Health Journal*, 7 (2), 181-188; and
- with M. Mitra, L.I. Iezzoni, J. Zhang, L.M. Long-Bellil and B.A. Barton, "Prevalence and Risk Factors for Postpartum Depression Symptoms Among Women with Disabilities," in the *Maternal Child Health Journal*, 19 (2), 362-372.

## Overcoming Cultural Challenges in Research

*"These study findings can be used to facilitate and develop community-based, motivational, self-efficacy enhanced educational intervention strategies to provide better prevention and treatment of osteoporosis in Mandarin-speaking immigrants known to have a high risk for osteoporosis ...."*

—Dr. Bing-Bing Qi and Dr. Barbara Resnick, from their article, "Reliability and Validity of the Chinese Versions of Self-efficacy and Outcome Expectations for Osteoporosis Medication Adherence Scales in Chinese Immigrants," in the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 22 (3), 1-17.

Asian/Chinese immigrants live within a bicultural and bilingual context, and the issues regarding their medication compliance, preventive behaviors and osteoporosis management are complex. Researchers need reliable, valid and culturally appropriate instruments, as well as appropriate bilingual education materials.

Bing-Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor, has a special concern for the vulnerable Chinese who emigrated to the United States at an older age. In one of her studies, as many as 84.3 percent spoke little or no English. Their lack of language proficiency contributes to their lack of access to health care, and contributes to a lack of attention from researchers and policymakers. Dr. Qi has conducted measurement studies and written about instrument development.

For this study, Dr. Qi and Barbara Resnick, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, the Sonya Ziporkin Gershowitz Chair in Gerontology at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore, sampled Mandarin-speaking immigrants in Philadelphia's Chinatown. All of the researchers' measurement tools were translated from English to Chinese, back-translated and then validated by bilingual measurement experts. The researchers note that the dissemination of these valid and reliable instruments and bilingual education materials would benefit other research projects and participants.



Dr. Bing-Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN

**Joyce S. Willens '83 BSN, PhD, RN, BC,** assistant professor, published:

- as the lead author, with I. Bucior, S. Bujanover and N. Mehta, the article "Assessment of Rescue Opioid Use in Patients with Post-bunionectomy Pain Treated with Diclofenac Potassium Liquid-filled Capsules," online February 4 in the *Journal of Pain Research*, 8, 53-61;
- two articles in *Pain Management Nursing*: "Nurses' Knowledge and Attitudes About Pain," 15 (3), 555-556; and with C. R. Jungquist, D.R. Dunwoody, K.J. Klingman, and R. C. Polomano, "Monitoring for Opioid-Induced Advancing Sedation and Respiratory Depression: ASPMN Membership Survey of Current Practice," 15 (3), 682-693.

## FACULTY LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF,** professor, presented a poster, "Student Perceptions of Human Trafficking: It's in Our Community!" at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, held in September 2014 in Phoenix, Ariz., as well as the paper, "Stopping Verbal Abuse Experienced by Military Wives," at the "Engaging the Emotional Brain" Family Therapy Networker, held in Washington, D.C., in March 2014.

**Marcia Cauley Costello, PhD, RD, LDN,** assistant professor, in May 2014 presented "Evidence Based Strategies to Prevent Obesity" to nursing faculty of Aomori University, in Aomori, Japan.

**M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN,** Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, in May 2014 was awarded the Legion of Honor Gold Medallion of the Philadelphia-based Chapel of Four Chaplains, the highest and most prestigious national award presented by this organization that "advocates for cultural harmony and religious tolerance." In September 2014 in Beirut, Lebanon, Dean Fitzpatrick delivered the opening address, "Advancing the Nursing Research Agenda: Challenges and Opportunities," at the HSON Research Conference and Chartering Ceremony at the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) at the American University of Beirut. This nursing school, established in 1905 as the first one in the Middle East, also invited her to be a member of its External Advisory

Board. In Fall 2014, Dean Fitzpatrick became a member of the Radnor Township (Pa.) Board of Health.

**Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN,** assistant professor, gave a podium presentation, "Exploring the Evidence in Nephrology Nursing," and a workshop, "Developing the Detective in You," at the 45th National Symposium of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, held in Anaheim, Calif., in April 2014. Also in April Dr. Kear became chairperson for the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) Research Committee and was appointed a member of its newly created Education Committee.

**Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN,** assistant professor, presented two papers:

- "Working Memory of 9-11 Year Old Children," at the Pennsylvania-Delaware Valley NAPNAP conference in King of Prussia, Pa., in September 2014; and
- "Life after Prematurity: A Look at Where the Kids Are Now," for the Advanced Practice Nursing Lecture Series at the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., in April 2014.

**Margaret G. "Peggy" Lyons '87 BSN, DNP, RN, CRNI,** nurse faculty coordinator of the online RN-to-BSN Program, presented a poster, "A Randomized Controlled Comparison of Flushing Protocols in Homecare Patients with Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters," at the Infusion Nurses Society's Annual Convention in May 2014 in Phoenix, Ariz., as well as at the National Home Infusion Association Annual Conference and Exposition, held in April-May 2014 in Orlando, Fla.

**Meredith MacKenzie, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CNE,** assistant professor, co-presented at two conferences:

- "Comparing Predictors of Heart Failure and Cancer Caregiver Satisfaction with Hospice Care," at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, held in November 2014 in Chicago; and
- "Testing a Model of Caregiver Satisfaction with Hospice Care in the Cancer Population," at the AAHPM/HPNA Annual Assembly (American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the Hospice & Palliative Care Nurses Association), held in Philadelphia in February.

**Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN,** assistant professor; **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD,**

**RN, CNE,** professor; and **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN,** director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center, presented a paper, "Nurse Educators' Perceptions About Structured Debriefing in Clinical Simulation: A Qualitative Study," at the 13th Annual Conference of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning, held in Orlando, Fla., in June 2014.

**Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN,** in May 2014 received tenure and was promoted to the rank of associate professor. This academic year, she was named director of the College's new Center for Global and Public Health. Dr. McDermott-Levy:

- co-presented a paper, "Ethical Principles for Global Health Nursing," at the Global Nursing Caucus, held in Boston in November 2014;
- presented a paper, "Laying the Groundwork for Community Based Participatory Research in Fracking Communities," at the Center for Environmental Health at the George Washington University, in Washington, D.C., in September 2014; and
- presented a paper, with **T.R. Fitzpatrick '13 BSN,** "Mobile Phone Impacts and Utility for Nicaraguan Community Health Workers," at the 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association, held in November 2014 in New Orleans, La.

**Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC,** assistant professor, received the 2014 Susan Baird Excellence in Clinical Writing Award from the Oncology Nursing Society. The award, presented to a paper's first author, is for "Pharmaceutical Drug Shortage and the Burden of Access to Care: A Critical Issue Affecting Patients with Cancer," (with J.R. Bloch and A. Bratic) in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology Nursing*, 17 (5), 490-495.

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

- co-presented in March two sessions at the 2015 National Capital Area TBI Research Symposium in Bethesda, Md.: "Evaluation of the Veterans' In-home Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and Their Families: Impact on Family Members" and "Effectiveness and Acceptability of a Home-based, Family-inclusive Intervention for Veterans with TBI: A Randomized Controlled Trial";



- presented a paper, “Nursing Research Exemplar: An Intervention Study with Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and their Families,” at the 3rd Annual Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Nursing Research Conference, “Nursing Research: Looking Back, Moving Forward,” held in November 2014 in Philadelphia; and
- presented in September 2014 an international webinar, “Writing a Winning Abstract: A Walk through the Abstract Submission Process with Our International Nursing Colleagues,” sponsored by the International Family Nursing Association.

**Melissa O’Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C**, assistant professor, National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Claire M. Fagin Fellow and Visiting Nurse Service of New York Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow:

- presented three co-authored papers and chaired a symposium at the Gerontological Society of America’s 67th Annual Scientific Meeting, held in November 2014 in Washington, D.C. The papers were “Identifying Critical Factors in Determining Readiness for Discharge from Skilled Home Health Services,” “Patient Characteristics Predicting Readmission Among Individuals Hospitalized for Heart Failure” and “Predicting Early Versus Later Readmission Among Home Health Care Patients with Heart Failure.” Her symposium was “Hartford Change AGENTS Working in Interprofessional Teams to Improve the Outcomes of Older Adults”;
- co-authored a paper, “Hartford Gerontological Nursing Leaders: Advancing Nursing Science to Optimize Health Care,” presented at the Annual Research Meeting of The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, held in September 2014 in Washington, D.C.;
- presented “Identifying Critical Factors in Determining Discharge Readiness from Skilled Home Health,” for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, in October 2014 in New York City; and
- co-presented with **Angelina Arcamone ’82 BSN, ’86 MSN, PhD, RN, CCE**, assistant dean, director of the Undergraduate Program and clinical assistant professor; **Frances Amorim, MSN, RN, CCE**, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Clinical Education; **Mary Beth Hoban ’77 BSN, ’10 MSN**; and **Dean Fitzpatrick** a paper, “Innovations in Gerontological

Nursing Education: Exposing Baccalaureate Nursing Students to Transitional Care,” at the 41st Annual Meeting of The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, “The Changing Face of Aging Around the World,” held in Nashville, Tenn., in February; and

- is the primary investigator on the grant, “The Role of Patient Engagement and Nursing Contact in Health Outcomes in a Community-based Care Coordination Model.” Co-investigators include **Helene Moriarty ’77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC**, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research; **Tamara M. Kear ’09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN**, assistant professor; and A. Hanlon. The grant is funded by the NewCourtland Center for Transitions in Health, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

**Jennifer Gunberg Ross ’00 BSN, ’05 MSN, ’11 PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor, with co-authors **Elizabeth A. Bruderle ’90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant professor; **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C RN**, assistant professor; **Colleen M. Meakim ’84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center; and **Joyce S. Willens ’83 BSN, PhD, RN, BC**, assistant professor, presented the paper “Ready, Set, Go: Sophomore Capstone Scenarios Prepare Students for Clinical Experience,” at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, held in September 2014 in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing, in June 2014 was recognized as one of 100 Alumni Legacy Leaders by her alma mater, the Indiana University School of Nursing, in honor of its 100th anniversary.

**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research:

- co-presented three posters with **Bette A. Mariani ’82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor; **Elizabeth A. Bruderle ’90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant professor; **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C RN**, assistant professor; **Colleen M. Meakim ’84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center; and doctoral student **Serah Nthenge ’04 MSN**. The posters were: “Standardized Patients with Disabilities’ Perceptions of Working with Undergraduate Nursing Students” at the American Public Health Association Annual Meet-

ing, held in November 2014 in New Orleans; “Improving Care of Patients with Disabilities Through Standardized Patient Program” at the American Academy of Nursing’s “Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference,” held in October 2014 in Washington, D.C.; and “Use of Standardized Patients with Disabilities in an Undergraduate Nursing Program” at the 13th Annual Conference of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning Learning, held in Orlando, Fla., in June 2014 (see “Posters Win International Awards,” page 26);

- a paper, “The Integration of Standardized Patients with Disabilities into an Undergraduate Nursing Program,” at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, held in September 2014 in Phoenix, Ariz.; and
- the papers, “Inclusion of Standardized Patients with Disabilities in an Undergraduate Nursing Program” and “Perceptions of People with Disabilities About Their Experiences as Standardized Patients in an Undergraduate Nursing Program,” at the 13th Annual Conference of the Association of Standardized Patient Educators, in June 2014 in Indianapolis.

**Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF**, associate professor, presented “Adding Risk to High Stakes Testing? Student and Faculty Conduct During Course Exams” at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, held in September 2014 in Phoenix, Ariz. Dr. Weingarten last June received the 2014 National Faculty Award from the Foundation of the Delta Gamma Fraternity, which has 142,000 members worldwide. In September 2014, she was appointed a trustee of the Foundation of the National Student Nurses’ Association. •

## COLLEGE WAS WELL-REPRESENTED AT ENRS

Twelve faculty members and seven students presented at the 26th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), "Promoting Health Across the Lifespan: The Art and Science of Person-centered Care," in April 2014 in Philadelphia.

### Faculty

- **Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF**, professor, presented a paper, "Stopping Verbal Abuse: Evaluation of an Educational Program for Military and Civilian Spouses";
- **Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN**, assistant professor, presented a paper, "Child Health-related Quality of Life: My Opinion or Yours?";
- **Margaret G. "Peggy" Lyons '87 BSN, DNP, RN, CRNI**, nurse faculty coordinator of the online RN-to-BSN Program, co-presented a poster, "A Randomized Controlled Comparison of Flushing Protocols in Homecare Patients with Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters";
- **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor; **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE**, professor; **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center; and doctoral student **Amanda Jenkinson, MSN, RN** presented a paper "A Study to Assess Student Learning of Quality and Safety through Simulation." Dr. Mariani, with L.R. Allen, also co-presented the paper "Development and Psychometric Testing of the Mariani Nursing Career Satisfaction Scale";
- **Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC**, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, co-presented three papers: "Predictors of Community Reintegration in Military Veterans with Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury"; "Using Dyadic Analyses with Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and Their Family Members: Implications for Family Relationships"; and with **Dr. Kelly** and others "Benefits and Challenges in Using Dyadic Analyses in Research of Families Across the Life Cycle";
- **Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C**, assistant professor, National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Claire M. Fagin Fellow and Visiting Nurse Service of New York Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow, with co-authors including **Kathryn Bowles '90 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN**, presented a paper, "Frontloading and Intensity of Skilled Home Health Visits: A State of the Science";
- **Bing-Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, presented the paper, "Reliability and Validity of the Revised Osteoporosis Knowledge Test (OKT)"; and
- **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research; **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing; **Dr. Cantrell**; **Mary Ann Heverly, PhD**, associate adjunct professor; and PhD students **Nancy Wise '09 MSN, RN**

and **Amanda Jenkinson, MSN, RN**, co-presented a paper, "Perceptions of Doctoral Faculty about Factors Affecting their Scholarship." Dr. Smeltzer also co-presented (with **Sherry Burrell '14 PhD**) "State of the Science: Symptoms and Quality of Life in Individuals with Pancreatic Cancer Undergoing Surgery."

### Students

- **Schuyler A. Bates Perez '14 BSN** presented a poster, "*Acciones Peligrosas*: a Secondary Analysis of Hispanic College Students and Risk Behaviors." She developed the paper from a summer 2013 Villanova University Research Fellowship; her faculty advisor was **Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor;
- **Sherry Burrell '14 PhD** co-presented with **Dr. Smeltzer** "State of the Science: Symptoms and Quality of Life in Individuals with Pancreatic Cancer Undergoing Surgery," and a poster, "Utilizations and Expectations for Primary Care";
- PhD student **Carey Heck '87 BSN** presented a poster, "A Concept Analysis of Moral Distress";
- MSN student **Grace Mansilla '13 BSN** presented a poster, "Pain Assessment of the Critically Ill Patient Unable to Self-Report;" and
- **Meghan O'Regan '13 DNP** presented a poster, "An APN Home Care Intervention: Implementing Evidence Based Coping Mechanisms for Breast Cancer Patients."

## POSTERS WIN INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

**Elizabeth M. Blunt, PhD, RN, FNP-BC**, assistant professor and coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Programs; **Debra Shearer, EdD, MSN, FNP-BC**, director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program and assistant professor; and **Colleen Stellabotte, MSN, RN, FNP-BC**, adjunct faculty member, won the 1st Global Conference on Emergency Nursing and Trauma Care 2014 Poster Award for their poster "Innovative, Accessible

and Inexpensive Simulations for Teaching Minor Procedures." The conference took place in Dublin, Ireland, last September.

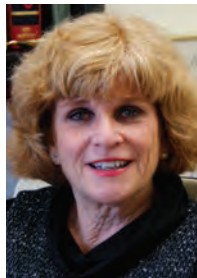
**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research; **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor; **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Simulation and Learning Resource Center; **Elizabeth A. Bruderle '90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant

professor; **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C RN**, assistant professor; and doctoral student **Serah Nthenge '04 MSN** were awarded first place in the research poster category at the 13th Annual Conference of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning, in Orlando, Fla., in June 2014. Their poster was "Use of Standardized Patients with Disabilities in an Undergraduate Nursing Program."

## Six Faculty Members to Retire

We wish our College of Nursing colleagues well in their new adventures following their retirements at the end of this academic year.

For 25 years and with countless students, **Christine Crumlish '74 BSN, PhD, RN, CCRN**, assistant professor, has shared her expertise in medical-surgical and critical care nursing and her interest in cardiovascular nursing issues. She has taught advanced nursing care of adults and nursing leadership and management in the classroom and clinical setting. She was a semifinalist for the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Outstanding Teaching. Dr. Crumlish also has been active nationally, consulting for the National Heart Attack Alert Program of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. As an alumna, she has invested in preparing new generations of Villanova nurses.



**Isabella "Belle" Erickson, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, came to the College 36 years ago after earning her master's degree from Adelphi University. The Mineola, N.Y., native has taught undergraduates medical-surgical nursing during that span of time and in 2007 received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Outstanding Teaching. While at the College, she earned her doctorate in education with a concentration in measurement and evaluation from the University of Pennsylvania School of Education, skills that assisted Nursing in many ways. She has taught and mentored many master's and PhD students on their way to becoming educators and has been a great advocate for students.



**Patricia Haynor, PhD, RN, NHA**, associate professor, is retiring after nearly 23

years of service to the College and 50 years as a practicing nurse. She taught health-care administration courses to students in the MSN Program and leadership and management to undergraduates, sharing her rich experience as a nursing administrator and supervisor and mentoring countless nursing leaders. In recent years, she has also been the coordinator of the campus-based RN-to-BSN Program. Since 2001, she has taught in the Nurse Manager Certificate Program and for nearly three decades taught leadership in the Post-Master's Nursing Administration Certificate Program. For 10 years Dr. Haynor taught and consulted in Barcelona, Spain. In the Sultanate of Oman, she was the lead faculty member teaching five courses in The Post Diploma Basic Program in Nursing Administration at the Oman Specialized Nursing Institute.

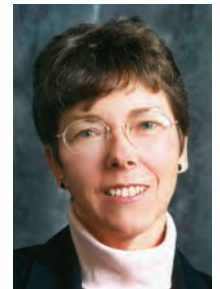


**Elizabeth K. Keech '66 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, retires after serving the College for 36 years. Known for her pleasant outlook, this Nursing alumna earned her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Dr. Keech has taught both undergraduate and graduate students and has led multiple student groups during global health promotion experiences in Peru and Nicaragua. She has been a major advocate for the underserved and for students from marginalized groups. She has organized flu shot campaigns in the community and has participated in interdisciplinary projects with the College of Engineering. An expert in gerontology, she presents and publishes on health-care issues related to aging and long-term care. Dr. Keech is on the board of Philadelphia's Ralston Center (a gerontologic philanthropic organization)



and the Professional Advisory Board for Main Line Health HomeCare and Hospice, and also is active with the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

**Mary Pickett, PhD, RN**, associate professor, is retiring after nearly 14 years of service to the College. She earned her BSN from Salve Regina University, her MSN from Saint Louis University and her PhD from The University of Texas at Austin. A specialist in oncology nursing, she has shared her expertise with both undergraduate and graduate students throughout the years, including sitting on dissertation committees. Dr. Pickett has taught courses related to medical-surgical nursing, oncology nursing, care of adults, community health nursing, the philosophy of science and nursing, and contemporary issues and trends in nursing. Dr. Pickett has conducted research and published on many cancer-related topics. She continues to be a member of the editorial review board of *Oncology Nursing Forum*.



**Suzanne Zamerowski, PhD, RN**, associate professor, retires after 35 years on the Nursing faculty. She is an expert in maternal-child health and genetics as well as health promotion, with a special interest in individuals with disabilities. Dr. Zamerowski integrated genetics into the undergraduate curriculum and developed a genetics course at the graduate level. Having delivered genetic counseling services to prenatal, pediatric and oncology patients in her practice, her research and publications centered on genetics and psychosocial responses to prenatal testing. ●





## Breakfast Brings Together Scholars and Donors

Generous donors make possible the education of future Villanova nurses. Scholarship recipients and their families had a chance to share their stories with donors at the College of Nursing's annual Scholarship Breakfast, held in Driscoll Hall last September during Villanova University's Parents' Weekend.

*The Robert and Frances Capone Scholarship*  
**Shannon Myers**, sophomore, Clarksboro, N.J.

*Pamela M. and John W. Cembrook Family Endowed Scholarship*

**Vallena Lipske**, junior, Sebastopol, Calif.

*Beatrice A. Chase '54 Scholarship for Nursing*  
**Adam Boroughs**, freshman, Swedesboro, N.J.  
**Gregory Thesing**, junior, Millville, N.J.

**Renee Vidal**, junior, Corpus Christi, Texas

*David and Christine Clark '94 Endowed Scholarship*

**Kelly Lam**, junior, Forest Hills, N.Y.

*Richard W. and Martha B. Coyle Nursing Scholarship*

**Bridget Sweet**, junior, New York City

*The Jill Laura Creedon Scholarship for Nursing*  
**Maryrose Purdue**, freshman, Hopatcong, N.J.

*The Frances Farrell D'Ambrisi Endowed Nursing Scholarship*

**Karli Miller**, senior, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

**Makenzie Miller**, senior, Moorestown, N.J.

*Michael Daly, M.D. Memorial Scholarship Fund*  
**Joshua Beltran**, junior, Huntington, N.Y.

**Kristen DiDomenico**, senior, Paoli, Pa.

*The Eastwood Family Nursing Scholarship*  
**Kathryn E. Dolan**, senior, Havertown, Pa.

*The Linda D. and James W. Eastwood '68 Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship*

**Kathryn Scully**, sophomore, Springfield, Pa.

*PPJOC Endowed University Scholarship*  
**Jessica Ngo**, junior, Philadelphia

*The Memorial Endowment of Margaret S. and Jeremiah J. Enright*

**Rachelle Dambman**, senior, Aston, Pa.

**Melissa Pfeifer**, senior, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

*The Daniel M. and Christine A.*

*Finnegan Endowed Nursing Scholarship*

*in Memory of Eileen S. Lupton '03*

**Blessings Mbamala**, senior, Bronx, N.Y.



The College's fall 2014 scholarship recipients include (front row, from left) Shannon Myers, Meghan Long, Jessica Ngo, Alison Mabery, Kristen DiDomenico, Renee Vidal, Holly Blakley, Kelly Lam, Maryrose Purdue, Agnes Tran, Ashley N. Phillips (back row, from left) Anna Wortman, Jennifer Warren, Karli M. Miller, Mikaela Gill, Taylor Noll, Kathryn E. Dolan, Elizabeth Long, Yifan Wu, Gregory Thesing, Melissa Pfeifer, Adam Boroughs, Kathryn Scully, Joshua Beltran, Bridget Sweet and Brittany Wyatt. Not pictured: Vallena Lipske, Makenzie Miller, Rachelle Dambman, Blessings Mbamala, Vera L. Shaw and Tiffany Cedar.

*The Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 Scholarship for Nursing*

**Brittany Wyatt**, senior, Cincinnati

*Mary Alice Holland Memorial Scholarship*  
**Alison Mabery**, sophomore, Ashburn, Va.

*Christina Larson Kelly Scholarship*

**Anna Wortman**, sophomore, Winchester, Mass.

*The Kreider Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship*  
**Joshua Beltran**, junior, Huntington, N.Y.

*The Eileen S. Lupton '03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship*

**Elizabeth M. Long**, senior, Kensington, Conn.

*Gerald M. and Carolyn A. Miller Family Scholarship*

**Yifan Wu**, sophomore, Miamisburg, Ohio

*The Mother Teresa Endowed Nursing Scholarship Established by Peter and Colleen Schleider in Memory of Richard and Ellen Wright*

**Mikaela Gill**, freshman, Lenexa, Kans.

*Theresa Wilson & Michael J. Mrusz Scholarship in Nursing*

**Taylor A. Noll**, senior, Haddonfield, N.J.

*The Mary V. O'Donnell Endowed University Scholarship*

**Meghan Long**, junior, Kensington, Conn.

*The Julia B. Paparella Endowed Nursing Scholarship*

**Alison Mabery**, sophomore, Ashburn, Va.

*Daniel D. Peschio, Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship*

**Vera L. Shaw**, senior, Brooksville, Fla.

*The Pompizzi Family Endowed Scholarship for Nursing*

**Agnes Tran**, sophomore, Quincy, Mass.

*The Alexis Rosenberg Foundation Endowed Scholarship*

**Holly Blakley**, senior, Huntington, N.Y.

**Jennifer Warren**, senior, Stoneham, Mass.

*The Margaret Mary Starzynski Memorial Fund Scholarship*

**Tiffany Cedar**, senior, Hazlet, N.J.

**Ashley N. Phillips**, senior, Maplewood, N.J.

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For more information regarding donation to scholarship funds or other opportunities within the College of Nursing, contact Edward Stephen '05 CLAS, director of Major Giving for the College, at (610) 519-5315 or by e-mail at [edward.stephen@villanova.edu](mailto:edward.stephen@villanova.edu). •

## Inspiring the Future of Helping Hands

Gift of a sculpture graces the lawn of Driscoll Hall

“**T**alitha koum” (“Little girl, I say to you, get up!”), Jesus says in the Scripture accounts of one of His miracles as He brings the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus, a synagogue leader, back to life. This moment of healing is represented in a new sculpture, “Christ Raising the Daughter of Jairus,” that has been installed on the front lawn of Driscoll Hall and was dedicated April 11 by the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, University president. Cast in bronze and emblematic of the healing mission of the nursing profession, it was made possible through the generous donation of William “Bill” and Diane Parrett in honor of their children.

With the expertise of the project’s consultant, the Rev. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA, MFA, professor in Villanova University’s Studio Art/Theatre Department, the Parretts’ gift of art took shape in Philadelphia. The figures were sculpted by artist Anthony Visco, founder and director of The Atelier for the Sacred Arts. They further came to life at the foundry Independent Casting.

“Bill and Diane Parrett’s commissioned gift of sculpture enhances the campus landscape on the Driscoll Hall front lawn, and reflects the seminal connection between the nursing profession and its scriptural roots,” says M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. She notes, “This raising of the young girl, one of the miracles of Christ’s ministry, communicates the message of hope, life and compassion that comes from God and is expressed by those who call out in need. Further, it expresses the rationale for nursing within the Christian tradition.”

The Parretts, of New Canaan, Conn., have been loyal supporters of Villanova Nursing. Bill Parrett is retired chairman of the Board of the United Way of America and of the United States Council for International Business. He was previously CEO of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, where he began his career as a certified public accountant after graduating from St. Francis College in New York City. Building on his 40 years of experience in professional



A generous donation from William and Diane Parrett (center), in honor of their six children, made possible the bronze statue “Christ Raising the Daughter of Jairus.” The Parretts’ twin daughters are Courtney ’09 BSN, RN-BC (second from left) and Christie ’09 BSN, RN, CPEN (right). Also pictured are the Rev. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA, MFA (left), a Villanova University professor who consulted on the project, and the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, University president.

services, he remains active on many boards, including UBS, AG; The Blackstone Group; and Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. He is committed to community service, for example, through his position as a Carnegie Hall trustee.

Married for 47 years, the Parretts have raised six children: Debra; Steven; Suzanne; Gregory; and twins Courtney ’09 BSN, RN-BC and Christie ’09 BSN, RN, CPEN. These two Villanova nurses launched their careers in New York City. Courtney is a clinical nurse I on the Medical-Surgical Amenities Unit of New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. Christie is a clinical nurse II in the Pediatric Emergency Department of the Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian.

The Parretts embrace a proud history of nurses in the family. Diane Parrett and her mother, Eleanor, graduated from St. Vincent’s Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. When Courtney and Christie were visiting

nursing programs, Bill Parrett recalls that he and Diane “were immediately impressed with the College of Nursing and Dean Fitzpatrick during Open House. We knew the dean ran a caring, disciplined college, deep in values.” He offers that the family was attracted to Villanova and the College because of their foundation of Catholic and Christian values and the emphasis on truth, unity and love. That foundation had meaning for the Parretts. “It must be obvious to everyone who visits the campus for the first time that Villanova is an oasis of calm, values and dedicated professionals led by a committed president, Father Donohue, and the Augustinian priests,” he says.

The Parretts hope the message of nursing as a healing ministry will emanate from the sculpture. They feel the gift is timely. Diane Parrett notes, “At a time when the world needs a ‘caring community,’ the sculpture will remind all who admire it how the College of Nursing is inspiring the future of helping hands.” •



## New Scholarship Enhances Spina Bifida Care and Research

On Valentine's Day 1996, Linda and Ray Pitek lost their baby daughter, Ashley Rose, to complications caused by spina bifida. The Piteks, of Massapequa, N.Y., were devastated by their loss, and yet on the following day, Linda told Ray, "We have to do something on her behalf."

The Piteks were not particularly familiar with spina bifida at the time, but it is the most common neural tube defect in the United States, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). A fact sheet of this NIH institute describes spina bifida as "the incomplete development of the brain, spinal cord, and/or meninges (the protective covering around the brain and spinal cord)." Each year, about 2,000 infants are born with spina bifida; there are approximately 166,000 people with this condition.

In the days and weeks following their loss of Ashley Rose, the Piteks met with a number of people and were bothered by the "low level of information and support" for the children and families dealing with this debilitating condition. Encouraged by family and friends, they established, in memory of their daughter, the Ashley Rose Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Their vision was to raise public awareness, including emphasizing the importance of taking folic acid during pregnancy to prevent spina bifida, supporting children and families with the condition, and funding research in the field.

The financial support for this vision has been an annual fundraiser on Long Island that has generated several million dollars over the years. Described as an extremely popular event, the fundraiser—in particular its substantial silent auction—has been a "friends and family labor of love." Supporters include "the Pitek girls": Rachel, a junior Accounting and International Business major in the Villanova School of Business, and her two younger sisters, Morgan and Heather, who are in high school. Linda and Ray Pitek believe the Ashley Rose experience has helped them to become "better, caring people."



Linda and Ray Pitek, assisted by their daughters (from left) Rachel, Heather and Morgan, have worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Ashley Rose Foundation. Their gift to the College is motivated by a desire to ensure that the nursing community keeps pace with the needs of patients affected by spina bifida.

**"This little 'friends and family' organization has raised millions of dollars over the years...we hope that we can continue to make a difference."**

— Linda and Ray Pitek



The foundation has received numerous awards and commendations over the years and recently completed a successful eight-year program of research with young scientists. The Piteks were ready to shift to a collaborative model involving a leading children's

hospital and "Villanova's highly regarded Nursing program." Their dual goal was to broaden interest among nursing clinicians in both acute care and academic settings regarding providing care to children and families.

Knowing of the College of Nursing's reputation, the Piteks were further impressed after meeting with Dean Fitzpatrick and her colleagues. The respect and confidence in the University that the Piteks developed during Rachel's time on campus translated easily to Nursing, given the enthusiasm and interest demonstrated by the dean and her team. As a result, and consistent with the inspiration provided by Ashley Rose Pitek nearly two decades ago, there will be enhanced knowledge and skill in the nursing care of these patients and families.

In 2014, the Piteks, through the foundation, established The Ashley Rose Pitek Schol-

arship in memory of their daughter. The gift provides tuition and research support to a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. The first recipient is Lori Howell, MS, RN (see at right). The Piteks, who are delighted with Howell's credentials, enthusiasm and commitment, have agreed to a long-term collaboration among the Ashley Rose Foundation, the College and the children's hospital community. They are grateful to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for its support of Howell but are also interested in opening the program to outstanding clinicians across the United States to create a "multiplier effect." The Piteks are very appreciative of the University's commitment in helping them achieve their goal of having a positive impact on the lives of those affected by spina bifida.

The work of the Pitek family continues, driven by the passion for their daughter and other families in the spina bifida community. Ray Pitek notes, "As Linda has said many times, 'If the Ashley Rose Foundation can spare one family the pain and suffering we have endured, then our efforts are worthwhile.'" •

## College Receives Grant from Fuld Trust

In April, the College of Nursing was awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Helene Fuld Health Trust. This competitive grant is to be used for financial assistance for students in the second-degree accelerated baccalaureate program (BSN*Express*), a current priority of the Fuld Trust. Funds will be used to support students over three years; half of the funds will be held in an endowment fund, the interest from which will be used for the same purpose. The New York City-based Fuld Trust was established in 1935 and focuses on health, welfare and education of nursing students. •

## First Recipient Dedicated to Spina Bifida Research and Treatment

The Ashley Rose Pitek Scholarship has provided significant resources to Lori Howell, MS, RN, a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program as she conducts research on spina bifida, in conjunction with The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). At CHOP, Howell is executive director of the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment and director of the Surgery Advanced Practice Nurse Program. "Having two outstanding organizations [CHOP and the College of Nursing] take an interest meant a lot to us," noted Ray and Linda Pitek, parents of Ashley Rose, their daughter who died of complications of spina bifida. Ashley Rose was the inspiration for the charitable organization, founded by the Piteks, that donated funds for the scholarship.

Howell was a perfect fit for their mission. "My entire career has focused on children with birth defects from gestation to graduation regardless of the setting: prenatal diagnosis and treatment, neonatal and

pediatric critical care, surgery and care in the home," Howell explains.

In the DNP program, each student completes a scholarly project. Howell, moved by the story of Ashley Rose, has selected the following topic: "Does an Educational DVD About Spina Bifida Care in the NICU Provided to Expectant Parents Improve Their Understanding?" She is gathering an inter-professional group, including CHOP experts in neurosurgery, neonatology, urology and orthopedics who will participate in the project, as well as members of the clinical care team from the hospital's Neonatal ICU and Spina Bifida clinic. Howell also has discussed her project with the executive and education directors for the Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA) and received "an enthusiastic response." They hope to incorporate the DVD on SBAA's new website. Howell sees the opportunity for a national and international reach. She plans to translate the DVD into Spanish since there is a higher incidence of spina bifida in the Hispanic population.

With the educational DVD, Howell aims to increase parental understanding of the care their child will receive while in the NICU and immediately after discharge. She also wants to decrease parental anxiety and stress, decrease the length of stay in the NICU, and encourage pre-selecting a health-care facility for cesarean delivery and neonatal spina bifida repair. Pre-selection avoids transport separation for mother and baby and speeds surgical repair to minimize the likelihood of infection. Given the complexity of spina bifida, Howell notes that parental preparation in the prenatal period may result in better planning for the child's ongoing care.

"We are delighted with the work Lori is doing," the Piteks observed. Howell notes the impact of the couple's gift in memory of Ashley Rose, saying, "It takes the courage and support of families like the Piteks to create a force that can change the lives of these children. There is much work to be done, and their support provides a pathway to do so." •



Lori Howell, MS, RN advances care of children with spina bifida at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her scholarly work as a DNP student, supported by a scholarship from the Ashley Rose Foundation, further extends the quality of care for these families across the country.



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## The Worldwide Power of the Nursing PhD

A dean in Guam continues her advocacy for health care for migrant populations.

In the western Pacific, the breath-taking Truk lagoon of Chuuk attracts wreck divers as well as scientists and undersea photographers. But for many Chuuk islanders who leave their traditional way of life and relocate 631 miles away in the U.S. territory of Guam, life can be difficult in an unfamiliar culture.

Helping these Chuukese migrants surmount health disparities has become a passion for Margaret Hattori-Uchima '13 PhD, RN. She focused her doctoral dissertation at the College of Nursing on this population as well. Ten months after graduating from the PhD in Nursing Program, Dr. Hattori-Uchima was named dean of the University of Guam School of Nursing and Health Sciences in Mangilau. Since 2001, she has been on the faculty of this university enrolling almost 4,000 students. A recognized leader in addressing disparities and improving cultural competence, she is one of many Nursing alumni who have gone on to become deans around the world.

After a decade of supervisory and management experience in home care agencies in San Diego, Calif., Dr. Hattori-Uchima moved to Guam in 2000. She served as vice chairperson of the Guam Board of Nurse Examiners for eight years. As chair of the Guam Homeless Coalition, in April 2014 she presented an update to federal officials from the departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Veterans Affairs, as well as representatives of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Guam, part of the Mariana Islands, is the largest island in Micronesia. More than three centuries of colonization ended in 1898 when Spain surrendered control to the United States.

Beginning in 1985, with the enactment of the Compact of Free Association with the United States, citizens of Guam's four neighboring Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), including Chuuk, were permitted

to emigrate freely to the U.S. and its territories. This created new opportunities for Micronesians. Since 1985, about 56,000 from the FSM have relocated, one-third of them to Guam, notes the East-West Center.

“Many of the Micronesians in the room approached me afterwards, thanking me for giving them a voice.”

— Margaret Hattori-Uchima '13 PhD, RN



“This migration is anticipated to continue, with more migrants needing health care, education and social services,” notes Dr. Hattori-Uchima. “Yet little is known about their perceptions of barriers to health-care services or the factors that influence their health-seeking behaviors.” She designed a descriptive qualitative study to examine these issues among Chuukese migrant women in Guam.

Dr. Hattori-Uchima's focus groups and key informant interviews provided rich data, which she then analyzed. Major barriers identified to health care included financial issues, long wait times, transportation problems, and struggles with language and cultural nuances of communication. The women relayed a mistrust of health and social services resulting from communication barriers. Social and cultural factors included the use of traditional Chuukese



Shown reading to migrant children from Chuuk and other Micronesians, Margaret Hattori-Uchima '13 PhD, RN, dean of the University of Guam School of Nursing and Health Sciences, is passionate about addressing the health disparities of migrant families.

medicines, lack of preventive care services, Chuukese gender norms, the role of women and confidentiality concerns. Nurses, social workers and community leaders reported immense educational barriers that influenced the migrants' health-seeking and health-maintaining behaviors. Participants offered recommendations to improve care for these women as well as a call to action.

As part of her work with migrants, Dr. Hattori-Uchima was invited to be a key presenter at the January 2014 Forum to Address Language Disparities on Guam and to join a newly formed coalition—Culture and Language Access Service Part-

ners—to address disparities and improve cultural competence among service partners in Guam's education, health and justice systems. "This coalition will really help mobilize resources and move towards improvements in accessibility," she notes.

At the forum, Dr. Hattori-Uchima presented her research to a group much broader than nursing and health care. She recalls the emotion of the day: "Many of the Micronesian islanders in the room approached me afterwards, thanking me for giving them a voice. One of the women almost had me in tears—and the whole room—she spoke of how my message was telling her that her language

and culture mattered and that for the first time she felt empowered by the message our forum was sending."

For Dr. Hattori-Uchima, putting her scientific knowledge into practice to change systems is a critical outcome of her PhD program. She notes, "It was so striking to hear the depth of emotion many islanders feel regarding the lack of language and cultural competence...I truly understand the power of research and the importance of disseminating the findings." She observes, "I am so proud to be a Villanova graduate. The doctoral program has opened so many doors, more than I could have imagined." •

## Stitched with Love, Sent with Gratitude

A special quilt commemorates a Navy nurse's devotion to those wounded in Afghanistan.

"Happy Days," the pattern of the Quilt of Valor sent to warm and comfort Lt. Angela Laurance Cummiskey, USN, NC, '09 BSN after returning home from a seven-month tour in Afghanistan, also describes her new life. Based in California, in plastic surgery in the Operating Room of Naval Medical Center San Diego, she has adjusted to being back home following her travels and wedding.

In Kandahar, Afghanistan, not only was she deployed in the operating room of the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit but she was the public affairs officer for the command. She served with Nursing classmate Lt. Justine Cisterino, USN, NC, '09 BSN and fellow OR nurse Lt. David Cummiskey, USN, NC, whom she met during her college days and married in California in August 2014.

Lt. Cummiskey appreciates the support she received from family and friends (many of them Villanovans) while she was deployed. In Afghanistan, she treated severely injured trauma patients from among U.S. and coalition forces, as well as Afghan soldiers, police and detainees.

Shortly after her homecoming, she received what she calls a "beautiful" Quilt of Valor. The Quilt of Valor (QOV)



After returning to the U.S. from Afghanistan, Lt. Angela Laurance Cummiskey, USN, NC, '09 BSN (center) and her then-fiancé Lt. David Cummiskey, USN, NC, visited with Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor of Nursing. Dr. Mariani was among several Nursing colleagues who kept in touch with the Navy nurse during her deployment.

Foundation ([www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org)) was started by a retired nurse midwife whose son was deployed. QOV's stated mission "is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." As of Christmas 2014, QOV had donated 111,930 quilts.

The story of Lt. Cummiskey's quilt threads

its way through the hands of several Villanova nurses. One of her former teachers, Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor of Nursing, sent along updates about the service of this Navy nurse to adjunct faculty member Susan C. Slaninka '69 BSN, EdD, RN, who volunteers with the foundation. She has sewn more than 65 Quilts of Valor

## GREETINGS FROM THE NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

*Dear Fellow Alumni,*

The Nursing Alumni Association (NAA) board has loved seeing so many of you at recent events. Our presence at the February 15 Villanova women's basketball game was a fun way to enjoy each other's company, reunite with old friends and cheer on the Wildcats! We thank Jeanne J. Venella '82 BSN, DNP, RN, CEN, CPEN, who chaired our outreach opportunity. At the game, we promoted the NAA and our partner, the College of Nursing, and worked with our terrific students who took blood pressures as part of Heart Month awareness.

We were delighted to be part of the College's 26th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony, held April 11. The three alumnae honored (see inside front

cover) define in unique ways what it means to be a Villanova nurse. We honor their professional achievements.

As we move through spring, we have been collecting job leads from you, our alumni, to help the next generation of Villanova Nursing graduates launch their careers. They are most appreciative.

We are refining the concept of a networking group for students to help mentor them, thanks to alumna and Board of Consultants member Christina Larson Kelly '74 BSN, MSN, CPF® and a dedicated group of alumni volunteers from various decades. They have been working in conjunction with College liaisons Rose Woytowich O'Driscoll '64 BSN, MSN, RN and Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 BSN, '91 MSN, RN. We look forward to even more positive momentum with this project.

As always, contact us with your feedback through the College's website ([villanova.edu/nursing](http://villanova.edu/nursing)) or e-mail [villanova.nursing.alumni@villanova.edu](mailto:villanova.nursing.alumni@villanova.edu). We'd love to hear from you!



**Mary Ellen Boyle Lorenz '83 BSN**  
Interim President, Nursing Alumni Association

**“I was so touched by the gift and the thoughts, and for the support from the Villanova community, even in my homecoming.”**

**— Lt. Angela Laurance Cummiskey, USN, NC, '09 BSN**



and sent them to military members around the country. Dr. Slaninka was connected to QOV by her neighbor, Karen Zimmerman, and Zimmerman's sister, Sandi Hawthorne. The two sisters were the quilters who pieced together “Happy Days” for Lt. Cummiskey and sent it to her with a note. A third woman, Cathy Kacarka, quilted it.

The note read: “Dear Angela, WELCOME HOME!! It is with great joy and gratitude that we send this quilt to you...This quilt was made with a lot of love. Hopefully you will feel that love and gratitude as you wrap it around yourself and hug it, especially if you have some bad days... Thank you so much for supporting our wounded military personnel. We are proud and grateful for your service.... this quilt pattern is called Happy Days. Many you have many of them in your future.”

Notes Lt. Cummiskey, “I was so touched by the gift and the thoughts, and for the support from the Villanova community, even in my homecoming. The Quilts of Valor are well-known in Kandahar and given to our wounded warriors as they transit back, so they represent a great deal to our community and I am honored to have been given my own.”

In June, she and her husband will relocate to Northern Virginia for their assignment to Fort Belvoir Community Hospital's OR for the next several years. ●



The “Happy Days” Quilt of Valor honors Lt. Cummiskey's service in a NATO multinational medical unit in Afghanistan.

Read more about Lt. Cummiskey's service overseas in “Trauma and Courage—the Life of Navy Nurses in Afghanistan” at [www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/newsevents/archives/2013\\_1009.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/newsevents/archives/2013_1009.html).



## NURSING ALUMNI NOTES

### 1970s

**Dorrie K. Fontaine '72 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN** in January received the University of Virginia Health System's Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for 2015. Dr. Fontaine is dean and the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Professor of Nursing at UVa's School of Nursing and associate chief nursing officer for the health system. The MLK Award is presented annually to a School

of Medicine, School of Nursing or Medical Center faculty or staff member who best embodies the values of the late Dr. King. A UVa news release noted that Dean Fontaine is "a tireless champion of healthy work environments, resilience and interprofessional education" who "publishes and presents widely on nurturing resilience, teaching compassion and augmenting wisdom among health-care providers and leaders."

**AnnMarie Young Papa '77 BSN, '95 MSN, DNP, RN, CEN, NE-BC, FAEN, FAAN** last July became vice president and chief nursing officer at Einstein Medical Center Montgomery in East Norriton, Pa. She has responsibility for directing the personnel, operations and financial activities for nursing services and the interventional platform there. Last October she gave the address "What's Your Motive? Strategies to Mitigate Incivility and Lateral Violence" at the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association's Annual 5-County Dinner in Plymouth Meeting. Dr. Papa is an adjunct faculty member of the College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

### 1980s

**Donna Zimmaro Bliss '81 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA** chairs the Nursing Committee of the International Continence Society. At the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Dr. Bliss is the Horace T. Morse/Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher and School of Nursing Foundation Research Professor.

**Donna S. Havens '83 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN** in July 2014 became interim dean of the School of Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A tenured professor for more than a decade, for three years she chaired the school's Health Care Division.

**Helen J. Streubert '83 MSN, EdD, RN, ANEF** in April 2014 was inaugurated as the seventh president of the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, N.J. In July 2013 she became the first lay president in the 114-year history of this Catholic college founded for women by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. The college has many programs for working adults, both women and men. Before becoming president, Dr. Streubert served as vice president of Academic Affairs at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

**Eleanor Julia Puczolowska Hillegas '83 MSN, MEd, RN** was honored in May 2014 with a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) in celebration of her World War II service

in the Cadet Nurse Corps from 1944-47. In Philadelphia, Hillegas attended what was then the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing (the photo is from the 1947 yearbook). She was honored as part of the USPHS Nurse Recognition Day at its annual conference, held at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.



### 1990s

**Kimberly Starace German '92 BSN, RNC, HNB-BC** is a staff nurse in endoscopy, cross-trained to Employee Health Services, at The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, N.J., where she has worked since 1991. During Nurses Week in May 2014, she was named Nurse of Year 2014 by the hospital. Colleagues and managerial staff also nominated her for *EndoNurse* magazine's Most Valuable Professional, which recognizes dedicated professionals associated with endoscopy suites across the United States, Canada and the world.

**Amanda Klockars-McMullen '97 BSN, '14 PhD, RN** last September successfully defended her dissertation, "Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the Somatic Awareness Scale of Women with Spontaneous Preterm Labor." Dr. Klockars-McMullen, director of Quality

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NIGHTINGALE HONOREES

Several members of the Villanova Nursing family were recognized at the 25th anniversary gala of the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania, which took place in October 2014 in Camp Hill. PhD student **Susan Lynch, MSN, RN, CNR, CNOR, RNFA**, surgical services clinical educator at Riddle Hospital in Media, won in the category of Nurse Educator-Staff. The College of Nursing also had four finalists:

- **Jean Hershey '00 MSN, DEd, RN**, chair, RN-BSN Program, Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences: Nurse Educator-Academia category;
- **Michelle Ferrant, MSN, RN**, staff nurse, Pennsylvania Hospital and an adjunct faculty member of the College of Nursing: Clinical Practice RN category;
- **Nancy Shields '83 BSN, '03 MSN, RNC-OB**, clinical nurse educator, Bryn Mawr Hospital: Nurse Educator-Staff category; and
- **Alice Yoder '92 MSN**, director of Community Health, Lancaster General Health: Community Nursing category.



In November 2014, Dean Fitzpatrick met with more than 50 alumni, parents and friends of the College of Nursing at Boston's Ritz-Carlton Hotel to discuss some of the key developments in nursing education and health care. The reception drew participants from various decades of the College, as well as other Villanova alumni from New England.

Improvement and Risk Management at Union Hospital in Elkton, Md., is the College of Nursing's 39th PhD graduate.

**Jennifer A. Specht '98 BSN, '11 PhD, RN** in January 2014 served as a research grant proposal reviewer for The Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Mentoring Programs that Promote Humanistic Care. Last November, she presented a poster, "Cultivating Mentoring Relationships Among Nursing Faculty," at the Hawaii Nursing and Nursing Education Conference in Honolulu. She is an assistant professor of nursing at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa.

**Nada Hussain Al Moosa '99 BSN, '03 MSN, '14 PhD** published "The Ministry of Health's Experience in Implementing Quality of Health Professions' Education in the Sultanate of Oman" in the *Journal of Health Specialties*, 2 (4) 156-60. In Oman, she is head of the Quality Assurance Section, Directorate General of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Health.

## 2000s

**Katherine Robbins '02 BSN, MSN, RN-BC, OCN** earned her MSN with a concentration in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix in March 2014. In Boston, she is a staff nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and an adjunct faculty member at Simmons College's School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

**Lt. Elyse Braxton, USN, NC, '06 BSN, MA, RN-BC** in May 2014 graduated with distinction from Liberty University with an MA in Human Services (Health & Wellness). In 2013, while in Washington state, she passed her Ambulatory Care Nursing certification exam and was selected as Naval Hospital Oak Harbor's Junior Officer of the Year.

**Devin Alfano Waters '08 BSN, MSN, CPNP-AC/PC** in May 2014 graduated with her MSN from The Catholic University of America as a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) and has passed her PNP acute and primary care certification exams. A former neuroscience and PICU staff nurse at Children's National Medical Center, she is a PNP in the Children's National Health System's Neurosurgery Department in Fairfax, Va. She published "Human Papillomavirus Laryngeal Tracheal Papillomatosis" in the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* (28), 451-455. She and Chris Waters married in December 2014.

**Eileen Condon '08 BSN, APRN, FNP-BC** last August left her position as a family nurse practitioner at a federally qualified health center in Connecticut to begin the PhD in Nursing program full-time at Yale School of Nursing. She plans to study maternal stress in vulnerable populations. Her long-term goal is a career in academia.

**Cynthia Dickerson Rubenstein '10 PhD, RN, CPNP-PC** last summer became the associate dean for Undergraduate Programs at Mercer University's Georgia Baptist College of



**Michele "Micki" Ballister '08 MSN, '13 DNP, CRNA** in July 2014 became an assistant professor at the Medical University of South Carolina's College of Health Professions, Division of Nurse Anesthesia, in Charleston. She received a \$1,000 award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation to present her completed Villanova Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice project research findings, "Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists: The Impact of Structured High Fidelity Simulation on Anesthesia Ready Time," as an oral poster at AANA's 2014 Annual Congress, held in Orlando, Fla., in September 2014.

Nursing in Macon, Ga. She was formerly undergraduate program director and assistant professor at James Madison University's Department of Nursing in Harrisonburg, Va.

**Anne Fink '11 PhD, RN** last July became assistant dean for Curricular Affairs at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

**Suzanne F. Foley '11 PhD, RN, WHNP-BC** in October 2014 was awarded the Women's Health Research Award by the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health. The assistant professor at Widener University's School of Nursing in Philadelphia was honored at the association's 17th Annual Women's Healthcare Conference, held in Savannah, Ga., for her work "Postpartum Services Redesigned."

**Kelly Kuhns '11 PhD, RN** in May 2014 was named chair of the Department of Nursing at Millersville University in Millersville, Pa.

**Pennie Sessler-Branden '12 PhD, CNM, RN** in August 2014 was accepted as a Leadership Scholar in Sigma Theta Tau International's 12-month Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy. She is a clinical assistant professor in the College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University in Trumbull, Conn.

## Don't Miss Out on News and Updates from the College

The College of Nursing is moving more and more to electronic communications. Without your e-mail address, we cannot provide you with important information about your alma mater. The College uses the Villanova University alumni database, so your update will go to that office.

It's quick and easy by any of these methods:

1

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3

### ONLINE

Update your Nova Network profile information online at  
[www.villanova.edu/advance/alumni/vuonline.htm](http://www.villanova.edu/advance/alumni/vuonline.htm)

*We look forward to staying in touch with you!*

**Carol Simpson '12 MSN, RN, CPON** in November 2014 became director of Emergency Services at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del.

**Terri Ares '13 PhD, RN** published "Professional Socialization of Students in Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs" in the *Journal of Nursing Education*, 53 (11), 631-640.

**Janet Dunn '13 DNP, RN, CRNP, ACNP-BC** gave a podium presentation, "Key Ingredients for a Successful Palliative Care Program: Is Palliative Care in Your Strategic Plan?" in April 2014 at the Pennsylvania Homecare Association's Annual Conference and Exposition, held in Seven Springs, Pa.

**Ann E. Fronczek '13 PhD, RN**, assistant professor at the Decker School of Nursing at Binghamton University (SUNY), in 2014 helped develop a grant proposal with the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (Systems Science Department) to create the Southern Tier Telemedicine and Mobile Health Research, Development, and Training Center at Binghamton. Approximately \$1.6 million in funding has been approved to create and launch the center.

**Margaret Hattori-Uchima '13 PhD, RN** gave a podium presentation, "Chuukese Migrant Women in Guam: Perceptions of Barriers to Health Care," based on her Villanova Nursing dissertation research, at the Transcultural Nursing Society's 40th Annual Conference, held in Charleston, S.C., in October 2014. Dr. Hattori-Uchima is dean of the University of Guam School of Nursing and Health Sciences (see page 35).

**Karen A. May '13 PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor in the Division of Nursing and Health Sciences at Neumann University in Aston, Pa., published her first article, "Nursing Faculty Knowledge of the Americans With Disabilities Act," in *Nurse Educator*, 39 (5), 241-245.

**Amy Weaver '13 PhD, RN, CNE** published her dissertation research, "The Effect of a Model Demonstration During Debriefing on Students' Clinical Judgment, Self-confidence, and Satisfaction During a Simulated Learning Experience," in *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, (11, 1), 20-26. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at Youngstown State University in Ohio.

**Julie Kurkowski '14 BSN, RN** published "Credit Bearing Independent Studies: Translating Leadership into Scholarship" in *Imprint* (National Student Nurses' Association) April/May 2014, 30-35. The article is based on her independent study in fall 2013.

**Chelsea McEvoy '14 DNP, FNP-BC** gave both a podium and a poster presentation, "Probiotics for the Common Cold: An Evaluation of Knowledge and Practice Patterns of Health Care Providers," at the 22nd National Evidence-Based Practice Conference, "Nursing Workload Balance—Quality Care and Staff Wellness," in April in Iowa City, Iowa. In Philadelphia, she is a nurse practitioner in the Department of Occupational Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Her former classmate, **Jean Ridgeway '14 DNP, APN, NP-C, AOCN**, presented a poster, "An Interdisciplinary Checklist for Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant Patients," at the same conference. At University of Chicago Medicine, Dr. Ridgeway is director of Advance Practice Providers and an advance practice nurse in the Department of Medicine, Hematology/Oncology.

## In Memoriam: Alumni

**Doris Clark Schley '57 BSN**, of San Diego, Calif., died on January 17 at age 85. She enjoyed a career in both civilian and military nursing.

**Geraldine G. Dustman '58 BSN**, of Carlsbad, Calif., died on June 25, 2014.

**Eileen McAlinney '59 BSN**, of West Goshen, Pa., died on August 30, 2014. Certified in college health nursing, she retired in 2005 after 26 years of service at Haverford College's Morris Health Services in Haverford, Pa.

**Diane Bizub Dougherty '64 BSN, RN**, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., died on February 8.

**Margaret "Peggy" Bradley Sclafani '75 BSN**, of Norristown, Pa., died on July 25, 2014. She spent many years as a school nurse at Roosevelt Alternative School in Norristown and had a great passion for volunteering.

**Rebecca W. Blouch '88 BSN**, of Lebanon, Pa., died on October 28, 2014. She was a nurse practitioner for Matrix Medical Network.

**Jane Elizabeth Kerzan '92 MSN**, died on July 25, 2014, in Buckeye, Ariz. As a nurse executive, during her 38 years at Raritan Bay Medical Center in New Jersey she held various nursing positions, including chief nursing officer. She was later CNO at West Valley Hospital in Goodyear, Ariz.

**Pamela A. Woolfrey Rock '03 MSN, RN**, of West Chester, Pa., died on January 1 at age 46. She was a pediatric nurse at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del.

**Andrew C. Stowell '11 BSN**, of Mt. Laurel, N.J., died on August 17, 2014, at age 26. He was an EMT for the Cherry Hill Fire Department and worked as an RN in the emergency room at Lourdes Hospital in Willingboro.

## Friends and Faculty

**Elaine Beletz, EdD, RN, FAAN** died in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., on November 17, 2014, after a long illness. At the College of Nursing, Dr. Beletz was a tenured associate professor who retired after 21 years. She taught in the Health Care Administration Program and also undergraduates. Her areas of expertise included administration of nursing services, economic and general welfare of nurses, and health policy.

**The Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, OSA, '58 CLAS**, of Villanova, Pa., died on March 8 at age 79. A respected teacher of theology and enthusiastic basketball fan, he was Villanova University's 31st president (1988 to 2006). During his tenure, the College established its PhD in Nursing program.

**Barbara Judkins, EdD, RN** died at her home in Goldenrod, Fla., on November 21, 2014. She taught public health in the College of Nursing's online RN-BSN Program.

**Benedict Paparella, PhD**, of Villanova, Pa., died on April 16, 2014. Professor emeritus of philosophy at Villanova University, he taught courses in health care ethics taken by many Nursing students. Dr. Paparella was the husband of Professor Emerita of Nursing Julia Paparella. Memorial donations may be made to the Julia B. Paparella Endowment Fund, Attn: College of Nursing, Villanova University, 800 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova, Pa. 19085.

**The Rev. T. Shawn Tracy, OSA**, a longtime friend of the College of Nursing, died on July 20, 2014. A singer and songwriter, he was a former director of Villanova University's Campus Ministry and was well-known for his work with people with disabilities. ●



**Do You Have News to Share?**  
Stay in touch—tell us about your latest job, award and other news.

Contact Ann Barrow McKenzie,  
Phone: (610) 519-6814  
E-mail: [ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu](mailto:ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu).



## Multiple Reasons to Smile and Inspire

After graduating from the College of Nursing, Stephanie Butler '09 BSN, RN, CCRN, MSCN thought she had her life all planned out. She began her career as a neurosurgical ICU nurse in Washington, D.C., then was a travel nurse before starting the nurse anesthesia program at Rutgers University's School of Nursing in spring 2012. However, though active and quite fit, she kept ignoring some extremity numbness. Then on January 8, 2013, she collapsed in the OR as she prepped to administer anesthesia. She was soon diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), in which the body's immune system attacks the central nervous system's nerve fibers and myelin (a fatty sheath around those

fibers) and causes a scar (sclerosis) that interrupts normal nerve impulses.

The diagnosis hasn't stopped Butler from having a clinical impact. Now 27, she has switched gears to work toward a family nurse practitioner degree. Only six months after her diagnosis, she became an MS certified nurse. She enjoys her practice at St. Barnabas Multiple Sclerosis Comprehensive Care Center in Livingston, N.J., where she is also a patient. She finds satisfaction in knowing that she can immediately help patients.

As part of her advocacy for MS awareness, in March Butler delivered an inspirational TED talk at TEDxHerndon about turning personal hardships into opportunities. In one post in her MS

blog, cleverly titled **just keepsmyelin.com**, she listed her favorite "life hacks"—tips for MS patients. "Every little bit of energy saved is a little win for us, and every task we complete independently can be a big win!" she wrote. Butler publishes articles for **www.MultipleSclerosis.net**, which describes her as "nurse, fitness enthusiast, science nerd, and eternal optimist." She has also taken her educational efforts to Capitol Hill, including to her congressman, to discuss MS and the need for equipment coverage from Medicare.

As an advocate for MS research, Butler serves on a committee for the Accelerated Cure Project for

Turning a diagnosis into a calling, Stephanie Butler '09 BSN, RN, CCRN, MSCN practices at the center where she herself is a patient.

"Every little bit of energy saved is a little win for us, and every task we complete independently can be a big win!"

—Stephanie Butler '09  
BSN, RN, CCRN, MSCN

Multiple Sclerosis, a national nonprofit whose goals include providing researchers with access to biosamples to use in place of clinical trials. She is excited about the launch of an MS Patient-Powered Research Network. "This gives people with MS the opportunity to dictate what research projects are most important to them through the iConquerMS online portal," she notes. "They can also share their health information and biosamples with the researchers via the portal."

Butler knows that the going will be hard at times; her mother, Cathy, also has MS. But she is living her life to the fullest and wants to help others do the same. In her blog, she reflected on lessons she learned from the pediatric clinical practica in her graduate program. She shared these motivating thoughts: "So let's all take a few notes from these inspiring children. Get some cool shoes. Laugh often. Find magic in everyday life. Let a plate of chicken fingers brighten your day. Accept that MS is here to stay, but know that you can still live the life of your choosing. If they can do it, so can I."

Read more about Stephanie Butler at [www.villanova.edu/nursing](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing). •





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