



NURSING CONNECTIONS

Academic Year: 2021-2022

Term: Fall/Winter

A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE DEAN SNYDER

Greetings from the School of Nursing!



As the fall semester comes to a close and the sounds of Christmas carols can be heard, the busyness of this time of year is palpable all around us. There is much to do and it feels as though there is never enough time. We seek a reprieve and time away. As in nature, this year's harvest is coming to an end.

This edition of our newsletter provides you with a glimpse of the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff – all part of our harvest. Each program has much to celebrate including the successful CCNE accreditation of the MSN Nurse Educator program, a thriving School Health program, the graduation of Cohort 16 (pictured here) from the second degree baccalaureate program along with their December Pinning Ceremony, and so much more.

Very soon, the winter season will set in and provide all of nature with a peaceful respite. We need to take our cues from nature and embrace this new season. For some, winter is a wonderful time of the year while for others, it may be less pleasant. However, frost and snow are an indispensable part of life in this part of the world. Winter, whether literal or figurative, is unavoidable. But without winter, spring and summer would not be what they are. Beneath the quiet darkness of winter, life is active and stirring! Roots are filling with nourishment and buds are bracing themselves for the warm sun of springtime when they will break forth. God provides this winter season as a preparation for all that is to come.

The School of Nursing is filled with joy and gratitude for God's goodness over the past year. We look forward to a winter rest (though in the academic calendar this time is short) and anticipate all the spring semester has to offer. One day soon we will become aware of an irresistible pull in our spirit that tells us winter is past, and the time for singing is upon us again (Song of Songs 2:11-12).

Blessings,

Melissa



Mission and Vision

The School of Nursing at Eastern University prepares undergraduate nursing students for thoughtful and productive lives of Christian faith, leadership, and service as generalist nurses and members of the global nursing community.

BSN STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ADEDOYIN ("DOYIN") ONAFEDEJI

Adedoyin "Doyin" Onafadeji is graduating from BSN2 Cohort 16 this December. The School of Nursing recently asked Adedoyin to reflect on his time here .

What made you choose Eastern University?

Doyin: *Eastern University is one of the best in this region, with an excellent first time NCLEX pass rate. Eastern University's holistic Christian nursing program is unique and unrivaled. Who wouldn't choose the best?!*

Please share with us a highlight from your time in the nursing program.

Doyin: *The first contact I had with Eastern was with the enrollment counselor (Nick Snyder). He was very helpful with the admission process and was easily accessible. He was always checking up on me and how I was doing with my requirement. From then onward, I was sure that I wanted to be where I am celebrated, not tolerated. Knowing my name and how to pronounce it is important to me. Not only did the faculty learn how to pronounce it, they also did it effortlessly. The faculty are easy to approach and very helpful in finding lasting solutions to most challenges I have faced at Eastern.*

What are your future plans?

Doyin: *In the next 5 years, I hope to have at least become a nurse practitioner and, who knows, maybe a Doctor of Nursing Practice. And maybe sometime in the future, I will be back at Eastern School of Nursing for a faculty role (I am keeping my fingers crossed on this).*

How has Eastern University's nursing program prepared you for your future career?

Doyin: *It has not been a smooth ride but this nursing program has prepared me to be a leader wherever I find myself; to advocate for myself, patients I take care of, and also people that cannot advocate for themselves (even peers). It has also taught me to be flexible in finding solutions to any challenges that may arise holistically.*

Do you have any advice you'd like to provide for other nursing students?

Doyin: *I would advise my fellow colleagues to take care of themselves (holistically), and keep striving to get to the goal and beyond. The road may not be smooth but the journey will be worth it; we will get there eventually.*

Is there anything that you'd like to add?

Doyin: I appreciate all my professors, instructors, and environmental professionals for making this ride a jolly good ride. Thank you!



BSN PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

Eastern University School of Nursing is seeking re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for our Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. On April 11-13, 2022, Eastern University School of Nursing will host an accreditation visit for this program. Constituents of the Eastern University Bachelor of Science in Nursing program are invited to provide written third-party comments directly to CCNE at thirdpartycomments@ccneaccreditation.org. Written third party comments must be received by March 21, 2022 and must be written in English, consistent with CCNE's policy on Conduct of Business in English.

A Clinical Instructor Workshop is scheduled for January 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The topic is *Promoting Student Clinical Judgment and Success in Clinical Education*. Mary Anne Murtha from Widener University will be the guest speaker.

Student Nurses Association of PA (SNAP) will be holding fundraisers to support their association initiatives and attendance at the state convention. This November and December, SNAP collected items for St. Edmond's Home for Children. Keep an eye out for future fundraisers!

FROM THE DESK OF THE MSN PROGRAM DIRECTOR



The MSN Nurse Educator Program has had an exciting Fall semester beginning with full accreditation of the MSN program. This CCNE Accreditation designates Eastern University's MSN Nurse Educator program as a quality nurse educator curriculum and program.

The excitement will continue into the Spring 2022 semester as the second MSN group, Cohort 3, plans to graduate in May. Watch for their upcoming scholarly Capstone Project Presentations to be scheduled and delivered via Zoom in early April. Cohort 4, the largest group of students to begin the MSN program, are progressing through their coursework and are on track to graduate in May of 2023.

If you or someone you know are interested in earning a MSN Nurse Educator degree, we are actively accepting applications and enrolling MSN students for the next cohort start date of January 2023. Interested students should contact me for an individual consultation.

Warm holiday wishes,
Dr. Fitzgerald DNP,RN,CNE,CHSE
Patrizia.fitzgerald@eastern.edu

AWARDS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Independence Blue Cross Foundation's Nurses for Tomorrow's Scholarship Fund awarded the School of Nursing \$12,276 designated for students to complete their education. The following students were awarded scholarships:

Oluwasegun Anjayi
Tyikenya Anthony
Migdalia DeJesus
Beatrice Frempong

Damacia Gilbert
Alison Kelly
Allyson Montour
Jasmine Rodrigues

BSN2 Cohort 16 students **Beatrice Frempong** and **Christina Phillips** participated in this year's Independence Blue Cross Foundation Nursing Internship program. The program has a 17-year history of helping to prepare undergraduate students for providing culturally competent care in diverse communities. **Beatrice** completed her internship at Stephen Klein Wellness Center while **Christina** completed her internship at Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services.

TBSN Class of 2023 student **Allyson Montour** was one of three students awarded the 2021 Abington Dixon Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Scholarship through the Nursing Foundation of Pennsylvania's scholarship program. Allyson commented, "I am very grateful and blessed to have received the Abington Alumni Association Scholarship towards my nursing degree. In the future, I hope to work as an emergency room trauma nurse."



FACULTY NEWS

Nancy Blackburn earned her Certified Nurse Educator credential and completed data collection for her dissertation.

Mary Boylston has re-certified as Advanced Practice Holistic Nurse: Board Certified.

Jacquelyn Raco, Director of the School Health Program, has been chosen as the keynote speaker for the 2022 Pennsylvania Association of Nurses and Practitioners (PASNAP) conference on March 26, 2022. Jacquelyn's presentation, *I want to speak to the school nurse NOW! Teaching school nurses de-escalation techniques through simulation*, will provide school nurses with strategies to address conflict within the school health environment.

Melanie Rodriguez has been appointed Academic Success Coach for the School of Nursing.

Dr. Melissa Snyder represented Eastern University at the National League for Nursing Summit with **Dr. Patty Fitzgerald**. She also attended Pennsylvania Higher Education Nursing Schools Association (PHENSA) and American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Deans and Directors in Washington, DC.

Sally Stern served as a panelist for the discussion entitled "The Great Physician: Navigating Trust in Medical Science and Faith in Miracles" during the October Palmer Symposium on Religion and Science.

All School of Nursing faculty and staff attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing **Cultural Humility Workshop** on November 11, 2021.

MSN STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MARIA MARZIANO

MSN student Maria Marziano will complete her graduate education in May, 2022. Also a RN to BSN graduate, Maria shared her thoughts on her two journeys through Eastern University's School of Nursing.

What made you choose Eastern University?

Maria: I attended Eastern University as an undergrad and loved it.

Please share with us a highlight from your time in the nursing program.

Maria: The peers I have at Eastern are amazing Christian women. We have gone through all of our courses together and are always available to encourage each other when the workload gets heavy or the lessons are difficult to understand. Our professors are also amazing and are always available when we have questions. A little highlight: I was chosen to make a video in the simulation lab last year as the face of the MSN program. It was so much fun to do and it came out great! The videographer and interviewer were so easy to work with. I also got to meet some of the undergraduate nursing students who also participated in the video's creation.

What are your future goals?

Maria: My goals are to work part-time in the field and full-time as a nurse educator in an undergraduate program.

How do you feel that Eastern University's nursing program has prepared you for your future career?

I am learning the latest course competency requirements needed to become an effective nurse educator in the 21st Century.

Do you have any advice you'd like to provide for other nursing students?

Maria: Work hard, lean on your faith and your peers, and don't be afraid to ask questions. The time goes by quicker than you think it will.



Maria Marziano is pictured above facilitating an undergraduate student simulation activity as part of her MSN Nurse Educator practicum experience.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT - MELANIE RODRIGUEZ

Professor Melanie Rodriguez has taken on two important roles in the School of Nursing including that of ATI Champion (ATI is an online NCLEX RN preparation tool) and Academic Success Coach. As ATI Champion, she is responsible for student and faculty training related to the integration of the content and the analysis of outcomes. With Professor Rodriguez' leadership, the School of Nursing has made extensive advancements in the use of ATI and the data it provides. ATI is one of several innovative resources in place to support student success throughout the program and in testing for RN licensure.

The ATI Champion role aligns perfectly with Professor Rodriguez' other role as the Academic Success Coach. The Academic Success Coach is a new resource offered to all nursing students. Following an individualized needs assessment, the coach provides academic support and guidance on topics such as test taking strategies, study skills, stress management, self-care and accessing campus resources. Professor Rodriguez' clinical background in behavioral health is an additional asset to these roles. Professor Rodriguez received the College of Health and Science Faculty of the Month award for December as recognition for her work in these areas.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



With the start of the new 2021-2022 academic year, Eastern University School Health Programs provide quality education programs to all of our students in the Certified School Nurse (CSN), M.Ed in School Health Services degree, and School Health Supervisory certification tracks.

Over the last 20 months, professional school nurses have been on the front-lines driving education and disease prevention initiatives to help combat and control the spread of Covid-19 within their school communities. Though there have been many trials and tribulations along the road, focusing on the positive outcomes keeps the momentum moving forward! Students have learned to adapt, endure and thrive, pulling from their EU educational foundation. Our students have experienced many issues that at no other time in their academic or professional careers may have had the opportunity to practice. Utmost, they have learned to collaborate, communicate, and work together for the good of their school community population. As we look forward to the start of the 2022 semester, we enter into not so foreign territory. We will face challenges with flexibility, enthusiasm, innovation, and the awareness that our foundational education obtained from Eastern University School Health Programs will allow us and our school communities to succeed!

Jacqueline M. Buige Raco, MSN, M.Ed., RN, CSN, CSSHS

Dr. Cynthia Snyder's Nursing 403 Community Health in Nursing class sponsored an Immunization Fair in September, 2021. The purpose of the fair was to educate the public on immunizations used to prevent disease within the community. Students were self-assigned to either a domestic or international-travel vaccine and tasked with researching the vaccine, designing an infographic, and preparing a short patient-teaching video presentation. Students had the opportunity to present their vaccine information to faculty, staff, and peers.

Pictured (L to R) are Alyssa Mraz, Grace Schreckengast, Chienye Osuji, Destiny Iyare, Alison Kelly, and Alexis Schenberger.. Pictured in front: Kerry Phillips.



TELETHERAPY AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Cushing Center for Counseling and Academic Support (CCAS) has partnered with Uwill, a leading teletherapy provider, to offer counseling and therapy to currently enrolled Eastern University students. There is also a 24/7 crisis line.

This teletherapy partnership supplements the services currently offered through the Cushing Center for Counseling and Academic Support (CCAS).

Students received an email with information and instructions to sign up and the Uwill FAQ pamphlet has been posted to the BSN and MSN Student Resource Brightspace sites.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: DIRECTOR OF NURSING RESOURCE AND SIMULATION

The Director of Nursing Resource and Simulation Lab serves as the point person for planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating simulation-based learning as well as the simulation curriculum for the traditional BSN and the BSN second degree programs within the School of Nursing. Primary responsibilities include management of the Nursing Resource and Simulation Lab, coordination of simulation activities across the curriculum, faculty development, future planning, marketing and guiding the use of the lab. This position reports to the Associate Dean of Nursing, works with the Nursing Resource and Simulation Lab Coordinator and oversees the Nursing Resource and Simulation Lab Assistant(s). Status: Full-time administrative faculty, 9-month contract, non-tenure track. This position is primarily administrative with faculty teaching duties as assigned.

Applications are being accepted through Human Resources.