



Spring 2024

Nursing Connections

A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN, SALLY STERN

It is with great pleasure that I write this because of all the exciting happenings in the School of Nursing. Despite a change of leadership in the Fall of 2023, the amazing faculty and staff have worked tirelessly and joyfully to make a seamless transition for the students. This newsletter provides you with a snapshot of the many accomplishments within the school this past year.

In the Fall the BSN program extended open arms to transfer nursing students from neighboring Cabrini; three sophomores, ten juniors, and six seniors. Extensive evaluations of their course work were completed and adjustments made in order for them to smoothly integrate into our curricular program. The seniors are preparing for graduation and we are so pleased to be a part of their education.

The School of Nursing is exploring additional programs to offer at the Masters level in addition to the current Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator program. Offered on-line, it accommodates adult learning and scheduling. A discount is offered for alumni who enroll in the Fall of 2024. The program will also be seeking re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in Fall Of 2025 and is already starting work towards that end.

The school nurse program is thriving, and offers quality on-line education programs in the Certified School Nurse (CSN), M.Ed in School Health Services Degree, and School Health Supervisory certification tracks. We are pleased to announce that one of our alumni has been named School Nurse of the year. School Nurse of the Year . A vision we have is to transition the M.Ed degree to an MSN degree for students. As Spring is upon us, it reminds us of new growth and hope for things to come. The School of Nursing is looking forward to celebrating what the Lord has in store for us in the future.

With gratitude,
Sally Stern, MSN, RNC-OB, NPD-BC, CC

MENTAL HEALTH & ILLNESS

Professor Natalie Blanden was pleased to invite a guest speaker from the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI):

Lisa Parker from NAMI was a guest lecturer in NURS 380 on January 30, 2024 where she discussed her diagnosis of borderline personality disorder.

She spoke about her experiences with healthcare, multiple attempts of misdiagnosis, her life challenges, her family relationships and how she manages the disorder. The class was very engaged. She was open to them asking any type of question ... even personal ones and recommended a few books:

Mindfulness for Borderline Personality Disorder ISBN:
9781608825653

Blaise Aguirre and Gillian Galen

The Mindfulness Solution for Intense Emotions ISBN:
9781626253001

Cedar Koons

The Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Workbook ISBN:
9781974806911

Matthew McKay, Jeffrey Wood, Jeffrey Brantley



SPOTLIGHT

Introducing Professor Lisa Trask, DNP (c),
CSN, MSN, HC-SM

With over 35 years experience as a nurse, and 25 years as a Certified School Nurse, Lisa Trask is the School Health Programs Coordinator with over 140 on-line students at Eastern University. The scope of the program includes a certification for School Nurse (CSN), for School Health Supervisor, and a Masters in Education in School Health Services.

Professor Trask worked full time at North Schuylkill School District in Ashland, and now keeps current by substituting there as needed. She is finishing her terminal degree this year. Here are her reflections on her Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) quality improvement project: "My DNP Project title is De-Escalating Individual with Aggressive Behaviors in the School Setting Utilizing the Evidence-Based Measures to De-Escalate Emotional and Aggressive Responses Tool for School Nurses."

She will finish her DNP program degree on June 25, 2024, and officially graduates in October 2024.

Born and raised in Schuylkill County, she continues to live there with her two children and three grandchildren. Most of her free time is spent attending events with her grandchildren.

DECEMBER 2023 PINNING CEREMONY



The BSN2 Cohort 18 class celebrated their graduation with a beautiful Pinning Ceremony held on Friday, December 15, 2023. This time honored tradition is in memory of Florence Nightingale's reception of the Red Cross of Saint George recognizing her service during the Crimean War in the 1860s. It also celebrates the culmination of all of the hard work and dedication of our nursing students. In accordance with tradition, students are pinned by faculty and recite the Nightingale Pledge:

I pledge myself here, before my God and in the presence of this assembly, to practice my profession with integrity. I will endeavor to maintain and elevate the standard of nursing, both as a science and as an art. I wholeheartedly recognize the importance of high standards of care and of personal accountability. I devote myself to the healing, protection, and welfare of those committed to my care. I accept a duty to work for the improvement of health in the communities in which I live and work. I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping, and will respect the privacy of medical information. I will act with compassion in ethical matters. I will not knowingly administer or consume any harmful substance. I commit to interdisciplinary collaboration and lifelong learning. I fully acknowledge the seriousness of the responsibility that I accept in my calling, and the significance of this pledge that I take today



SIGMA INDUCTEES

Our regional chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, Delta Tau Chapter-at-Large is holding their 44th Annual Induction Ceremony on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Eastern University has the great honor of hosting this event.

Undergraduate Students

Hayley Hansell
Destiny A. Mosley
Hunter Rosetta
Ruth E. Amaechi
Cailyn R. Bennett
Mckayla Check
Rian Coleman
Solimar Frias
Grace Veronica Johnson
Julie Lyons
Balla Mansaray
Madeline M. Trautner
Anna J. Bond
Katie J. Christoffersen
William R. Fishter
Elaina R. Grando
Olivia Hutt
Nkechinyere N. Mbonu
Madison Moylan
Maeve Quinn
Kevin L. Williams
Autumn N. Wimbrough

Graduate Students

Theresa A. Leslie
Allison T. Michael

Congratulations to our inductees on their hard work and academic achievements!



INTRODUCING DR. CAROLE LORUP, PHD, RN



Eastern University is thrilled to have Dr. Lorup as a member of our staff! Joining us in the Fall of 2023, Dr. Lorup teaches Health Promotion and Assessment, Nursing Care of Chronic Illness, Maternal Newborn (her practice specialty), and Nursing Research.

When asked about her passions, Dr. Lorup explained, “My nursing passions are caring for new mothers and their newborns, which I did for 32 years as a staff nurse as well as nursing research (yes, it can be interesting!).”

Her personal passions include her involvement at her church, Folcroft Union, where she is an active member serving the church family and community there in Jesus' name. Passion would also be the word that she would use to describe her LOVE of chocolate, her 2 crazy Lab mixes, Roxy and Kiki, a cute little bunny, named Dolly and her favorite color, purple!

WELCOME EVA RAGWAN, PHD

In 2004, my husband Rodney, three adolescent kids and I arrived into the USA after Rodney received a scholarship to complete his Doctorate through Palmer Seminary of Eastern University.

I was a school teacher back in South Africa but decided to go into counseling, completing my MA and PhD through Eastern University's counseling department after being awarded the Presidential Scholarship.

As an international student, I worked in the Chaplain's office of Palmer Seminary for several years, before I was moved to the Advising office of Eastern University. It was there that I first made contact with the Nursing department, working closely with Christina Jackson, currently Professor Emeritus, to do advising of nursing students. Later I moved back to Palmer Seminary as the Executive Assistant to the Dean.

Last summer, after serving at Palmer Seminary for some 16 years, I decided to apply for the position of Clinical Coordinator for the nursing department and was successful. In addition to this, I am an Adjunct for the MA counseling program.

I love my work with the students and the various sites, often using my training in psychology, to calm anxious students and to work amicably with all site personnel. I also love serving alongside my husband who is currently the Pastor of North Wales Baptist Church.

In my spare time, I host/cook for my adult children and try to be the best Grammie I can to my four beautiful grandchildren. I am passionate about faith, reading, traveling and issues of justice.



NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) is thriving! A special thanks to the Senior leadership who have served for three years as they transition to the incoming sophomores: Reese Fronczak, Ashley Sieger, and Sage Jackson. Reese will mentor Maile Rodriguez in the President role, and Sage will mentor Aliani Cruz in the treasurer role. Kit Ferris will become Vice President, and Rebecca Nwakamma will assume the role of Secretary and Social Media under the guidance of Ashley Sieger.

The first event of this Spring 2024 was a Meet the Faculty fun event geared towards first and second year nursing students. Another event is planned for April 3rd at 5 pm when faculty member Professor Molly Scarlato will share a real-life story about how she was able to minister to a patient. The leadership is also tapping into their creative side and will plan to update the School of Nursing display case on the first floor of McInnis, please stay tuned to the NCF Instagram page for when this will happen so you can join them!

SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT INTEGRATION



Professor Marziano was pleased to welcome guest lecturer, Reverend Casey Adel Bien-Aime, Endowed Chair of Pastoral Care at Lankenau Medical Center, to speak to her Introduction to Professional Holistic Nursing classes regarding how to perform a spiritual assessment with their patients.

Topics included cultural competence, cultural humility, and cultural sensitivity.

Rev. Bien-Aime is a Doctor of Ministry student at Palmer Theological Seminary.

The Reverend also engaged the class in discussions on the different spiritual assessment models including:

- Faith/belief, Importance, Community, Address in Care (FICA)
- Hope, Organized religion, Personal spirituality and practices, and Effects on medical care and end-of-life issues (HOPE)
- Faith (beliefs), Active, Comfort, conflicts, and Treatment plan (FACT)
- Spiritual belief system, Personal spirituality, Integration with a spiritual community, Ritualized practices and restrictions, Implications for medical practice, and Terminal events planning (SPIRIT)