



Spring, 2023

Nursing Connections

A MESSAGE FROM DENISE VANACORE, PHD, ASSOCIATE DEAN

Dear Eagle Nursing Faculty Staff and Alumni,

I am proud to present the 2023 Nursing Connections newsletter. These stories represent just a handful of the amazing accomplishments of our dedicated faculty, staff, students and alumni and partners of the Eastern University School of Nursing. Our faculty and staff are deeply committed to our students success.

I am excited to be writing this message because this is my first message as the Associate Dean of the School of Nursing.

We welcomed 2 new full time faculty this fall Natalie Blanden, MSN, MBA, RN and Maria Marziano, MSN, RN.

I am pleased to announce that the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) has awarded Eastern University School of Nursing Baccalaureate in Nursing Program the full ten years until December 31, 2032.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has developed the New Essentials for Nursing Education. They are used to define quality in nursing education programs. With the New Essentials, nursing education will be moving to a model of competency-based education. Our faculty are working diligently to incorporate the New Essentials into our BSN, MSN and School Health programs and have been engaged in the development of significant curricular revisions.

The vision for our graduate program is to change the MSN by adding a clinical practice track and incorporating the nurse educator content. We are also looking at adding to our MSN programs with other tracks in the future. For both the MSN and SH programs we are innovating the educational delivery methods and strengthening the curriculum.

There is much to be accomplished over the next year and I look forward to working with each of you to bring the very best to our School of Nursing

I am thankful for the passion, dedication and hard work of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Vanacore

Mission and Vision

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

BSN STUDENT NEWS!

December 15, 2022, the BSN2 Cohort 17 held their pinning ceremony in McInnis Auditorium. Denise Vanacore, PhD, opened with a welcome and faculty Nancy Blackburn offered a prayer.

Brittany Crawford was the student speaker representing her classmates. Sally Stern provided the Keynote address. Elaine Fuguet read the names of the graduating seniors as parents, spouses and loved ones placed the nursing pin on the graduate. Molly Phillips closed the ceremony with the Nurses' Pledge and prayer.

Award Winners Include:

Student Leadership Award – Andrew Rivera

Professional Nurse Award – Adam Hemry

Clinical Excellence Award – Brittany Crawford

Compassionate Christian Nurse Award – Laura Lester



Oluwasegun Ajay, Sabree Anderson, Fudia Bangura, Brittany Crawford, Jordan Evans, Veronica Gillespie, Adam Hemry, Laura Lester, Andrew Rivera, Jasmine Rodriguez, Grace Tyson, Stephanie Valdez, Faith Millender, Julia Stackhouse



SIGMA

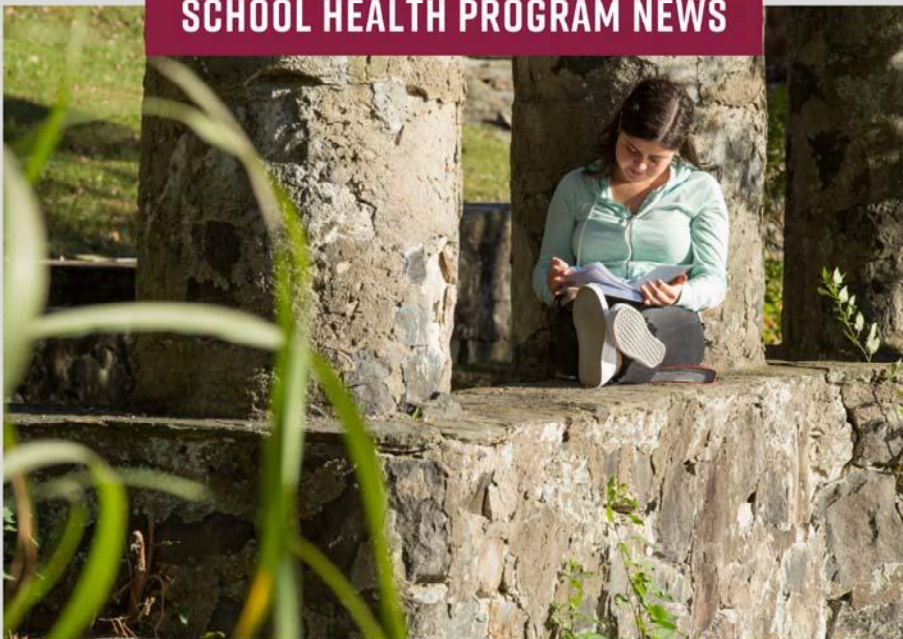
INTERNATIONAL NURSING HONOR SOCIETY

The Delta Tau Chapter at Large of Sigma, International Nursing Honor Society ceremony will be held at Immaculata University's Alumni Center on April 16th, 2023. Induction into Sigma recognizes student academic achievement, leadership, service, and dedication to the nursing profession.

The following students will be inducted from Undergraduate

Jessica Burg
Sarah Deardorff
Hailey Eppehimer
Zackline Mendy
Madelyn Mullen
Natalie Onderko
Mackenzie Price
Kellie Reith
Amador Rolon II
Stephen Sabol
Ashley Seiger
Amber Spurlock

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM NEWS



Introducing.....Lisa Trask, Program Director

Lisa earned her diploma in nursing from Pottsville Hospital School of Nursing, BSN from Bloomsburg University, CSN from Cedar Crest University, MSN in Healthcare Management from Loyola University in New Orleans, and is working on her DNP in Leadership through Purdue University.

Lisa has 37 years of nursing experience, 22 of which are in school nursing focusing on the lower socioeconomic classes and most needy students. She began her career at Lehigh Valley Hospital Center working in vascular surgery, ICU/CCU, and then to school nursing. She also worked in infection control and employee health. According to Lisa, "School nursing is where my heart belongs." Lisa is a member of National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners (PASNAP) and active in her church, St. Joseph the Worker in Frackville, PA.

MSN STUDENT NEWS

MSN Nurse Educator Cohort 4 is preparing to graduate in May:

Jessica Hill
Jennifer Leachko
Deloris Kramer
Megan Wagner
Kelly McNeil
Carol Naugle



MSN graduate Jennifer Leachko will begin her doctoral studies at Wilkes University in August 2023

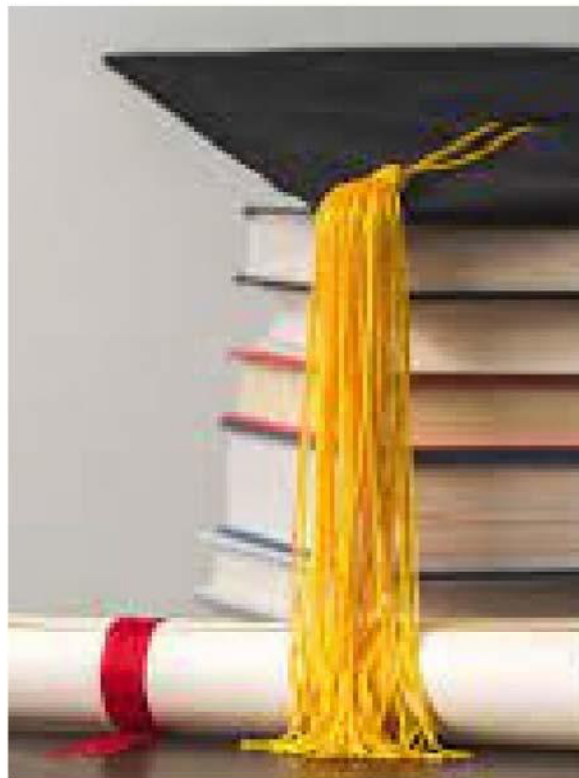
SNAP NEWS

The Eastern University chapter of the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania led by Ms. Kim McManamin continue to lead students toward their professional goals. For more information please reach out to Kim at: Kimberly.mcmaniman@eastern.edu.



NEW GENERATION NCLEX TESTING

The National Council of State Boards in Nursing has revised the NCLEX RN testing process. The new testing focuses on clinical judgment, which is fundamental to professional nursing care. The new model called new generation NCLEX project, consists of 125 questions through Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT). Candidates may take up to five hours to complete the test. CAT is considered the most precise method of measurement for critical and clinical thinking. The computer adapts the questions based on the candidates' previous answers. The new model of testing measures nursing judgment and decision-making by asking better questions. Graduate nurses demonstrate the ability to think critically through each question asked. The goal of new generation NCLEX is to protect the public and promote safety. The test questions require an application of knowledge, skills, and abilities. The types of questions include the standard multiple-choice format and alternate item format as depicted below. The alternative item format that has been created is designed to better measure clinical judgment.



ALUMNI NEWS



Sisters!!
Professor Molly Phillips,
Lecturer in Nursing
stands with sister Kerry
Phillips BSN graduate
Class of 2022.



Karissa Brady holding
one of her young
Guatemala patients.

Karissa Brady (TBSN 20) and
Caitlin McDonald (TBSN 19)
are pictured. Both alumni are
dedicated missionaries in
Guatemala.



FACULTY NEWS

Professor Molly Phillips, Lecturer in Nursing is enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Messiah University with expected completion of May 2024.

Professor Maria Marziano, Instructor in Nursing, is enrolled at West Chester University in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Maria is BSN and MSN graduate of Eastern University and has passed her certification in Nursing Education (CNE).

Alyssa Rosenbluth, Director of the Nursing Resource and Simulation Lab delivered a beautiful baby girl on January 4th, 2023. Congratulations Alyssa and welcome Payton Frances Rosenbluth (7 pounds, 6 ounces)!!

Professor Nancy Blackburns is preparing to complete her dissertation in August. Her dissertation title is: The use of music in Christian informed counseling: A survey of the current state. "Christian informed Counselor" is the phrase utilized in her introduction



"Eastern's nursing program is one of a kind. Having professors that knew your name and showed compassion and care created a great learning environment for me."

Frantzia Jean '20, Registered Nurse on the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit, Penn Medicine

NURSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Sally Stern, Lecturer in Nursing reports "Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) is hosting Bible study and group meetings. NCF is responsible for the Blessings of the Hands Ceremony, which is conducted every September. The Blessing of the Hands Ceremony is a symbolic representation of the hands that deliver care and compassion. In addition, students shared their summer experiences during externships and their impact on their nursing careers.

WELCOME!

Welcome..... Natalie Blanden, MSN, MBS, RN, Lecturer in Nursing



Natalie received her BSN from Villanova University, her MSN/MBA from Wilmington University, and has been a nurse for almost 20 years. She has clinical experience in the following areas; home care, community health, acute care (step down ICU telemetry, ED, cardiac triage). She has been caring for the chronically ill, critically ill and post-acute care patients. Natalie has been teaching for five years in various settings and has experience in clinical instruction, online teaching simulation education, and didactic lecture.

She has been married for 19 years, has three children and two dogs.

According to Natalie, “My husband has been extremely supportive throughout my career and continues to support all of her career opportunities.”

She has been at Eastern for six months and teaches in the following courses: mental health, community, and synthesis. She is the clinical coordinator and instructor for mental health. She is still working her way through perfecting her courses and always asks for student feedback on activities they would find beneficial to help them retain the information.

Natalie’s favorite quote is from Maya Angelou: “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

PLEDGE



I pledge myself here, before 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.