

EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Fall 2011

NURSING CONNECTIONS





NURSING CONNECTIONS

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NURSING CONNECTIONS

*The Magazine of the
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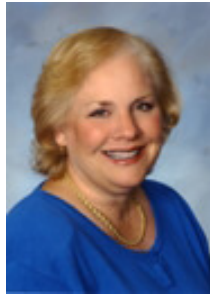
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the CHAIR'S CORNER



"I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love."

2 John 5-6 (NIV)

Mary Anne Peters, PhD, RN, CNE
Chair and Professor of Nursing

Walking in obedience to God's commands is not always the easiest thing to do but it is always the best thing to do. This past year has been challenging for the Department of Nursing (DON), but God has been faithful and carried us through. As we begin this new academic year, I want to take a moment to count all of the wonderful blessings we have experienced.

- Dr. Christina Jackson received the Holistic Nurse of the Year Award from the American Holistic Nurses' Association.
- Corinne Latini, Nursing Clinical Resource Laboratory Coordinator worked with the Grants/Development office to secure a \$38,000 grant from the McLean Contributionship to purchase Noelle a birthing simulator for the nursing lab.
- College of Arts and Sciences students entered junior level pre-licensure nursing courses.
- NCLEX-RN first-time test takers pass rate increased to 84.65%.
- New Department of Nursing magazine, Nursing Connections.

Faculty and staff within the DON are working hard to provide students in all of our programs with the best possible learning experience. We are very excited about the progress and growth that has occurred over this last year. In 2012, we will be hosting an onsite evaluation team from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. As we prepare for this visit, we look forward to the opportunity to share the DON accomplishments with our national accreditors.

As I take a moment to reflect on all the busyness of this past year, I am grateful for God's steadfast support. My prayer for myself and for all reading this new magazine is that we continue to be obedient to God's commands, because when we are, the outcomes are priceless.

May and August 2011 Graduates

BSN TWO PATHWAY

Michelle Benbow,
Magna Cum Laude

Courtney Brennan,
Magna Cum Laude

Andrea Caldwell

Andrea Edwards

Adam Fielder,
Summa Cum Laude

Eva Lisa

Lori Reddy-Martin

Kara McClelland,
Summa Cum Laude

Sarah Moczydlowski

Tran Nguyen,
Cum Laude

Maureen O'Brien,
Cum Laude

Nicole O'Donnell,
Cum Laude

Catherine Pierce,
Magna Cum Laude

Diana Valles

Leslie Wade

Kimberly Wallace,
Summa Cum Laude

Felicite Kounga Yankam

KOREAN NURSE TRACK

Jin Hee Choi*

Mijung Han*

Jungah Jang*

Sunkyo Kang*

Hyun Joo Kim*

Jee Young Kim*

Sung Hee Kim

Kyung Sun Oh*

Sunim Oh*

Yin Sung Park*

Youngeun Seo*

Haejung Um

Yuna Yi

Si One You

RN TO BSN PROGRAM

JoAnn Adkins*

Jacelyn Annett*

Emily Anderson*

Lovette Brewah

Erica Carnazzo

Altair Da Silva*

Kara Lego

Elizabeth Rowan*

Stacey Stright*

Margaret Wagner

Elizabeth Welch*

*graduated with distinction

Department of Nursing Graduate Award Winners

Kara McClelland - *Department of Nursing Chair's Award*

Lori Reddy Martin - *Marie Joseph Servant Leader Award*

Michelle Benbow - *Malinda Murray Compassionate Care Award*

Catherine Pierce - *Professional Practice Award*

Kimberly Wallace - *Joyce D. Wallace Nurse's Christian Fellowship Service Award*

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW IN A COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET

Mary T. Boylston, RN, MSN, Ed.D, AHN-BC
Professor of Nursing

Over the past few years with the downturn of the economy, something startling has happened to our beloved profession. Qualified nurses, equipped with their BSNs, are unable to find a job with the ease that was associated with nursing in the past. Employment opportunities have always been cyclical; one year there is an overabundance of jobs with the job market tightening the next. One current theory is that experienced nurses are staying employed longer to support their families since spouses have lost their jobs; therefore turnover is at an all-time low.



Consequently, students and graduates are pursuing gainful employment in a competitive job market. With the number of nurses equally qualified to work in health care, one may ponder, “How can I stand out in a sea of applicants?” Eastern University community members and nurse leaders, Monika Bontempo, RN (DBSN Cohort 47) and Pat Burns, RN (DBSN Cohort 55) offer advice to applicants about traits and characteristics that they seek when interviewing and hiring a new or experienced nurse.

As new nurses apply in a tight market, Monika says, “When hiring a new grad, we look for students who have had experience with MAK, computerized charting, experience with IV therapy, general assessments, peg tubes, foleys, trach’s, wound care, and isolation technique.” Her response implies that a nursing student would benefit from an externship or nurse’s assistant position to further develop these skills and build their resumes. Monika also suggested, “The most important questions that we ask are why do you want to work at our facility and why did you choose to become a nurse?”

The response to these questions should indicate a desire to work in a service-based profession in a mission-driven organization such as Catholic Health East. Answering a question as to the reasons for becoming a nurse are often personal, yet can add depth to the interview as the applicant discloses something personal about himself or herself that may intrigue or relate with the interviewer.

On the other hand, Pat said, “We ask the applicant why do you want to be a part of the Main Line Health system? I am always impressed when the new grad has taken the time to research our goals and policies and our current practices.” Therefore, preparing for an interview by reviewing the mission and goals of the setting will distinguish the applicant as an individual who is prepared and focused on achieving personal and organizational goals.

Furthermore, during an interview Pat assesses a variety of verbal and nonverbal exchanges from the ability to answer questions with specific responses to direct eye contact, and of course a professional appearance. “Believe it or not, I am always immediately impressed with a strong handshake and a genuine smile.”

Professor Shelley Hickey concurs with Monika and Pat’s suggestions and says she is impressed with applicants who demonstrate critical thinking skills and are able to articulate good examples of how they have used evidence-based practice during their clinical practica. However, as the interview comes to a conclusion, she says: “My favorite question to ask at the very end of the interview is ‘what is the one thought you want to leave us with?’”

“I LOVE the candidates who say ‘hire me’ but have been really surprised by some of the answers I’ve received.” In other words, Shelley suggests that the applicant shows enthusiasm and a passion for nursing practice and a desire to make a difference in her setting.

As the search for the perfect nursing position begins or concludes, the wisdom shared by three experienced nurse leaders offer students a paradigm to embrace. That is to come early and prepared for the interview in professional attire and with good interpersonal skills. Be ready to answer questions related to critical thinking, evidence-based practice, and psychomotor skills, while demonstrating a passion and desire to provide holistic nursing care.

When seeking a position in this competitive job market, stay true to nursing standards, lessons, and skills learned from your BSN experience with the knowledge that you can be a change agent in an era of constant change. The perfect nursing job is waiting for you....good luck with your search. ■



Alycia Moses, BSN Two Cohort 6 recipient of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Nursing Externship Program Certificate



COMPLY *with* ME

Compliance Opens Clinical Doors

Nancy Kielar, BSW
Clinical Site/Compliance Coordinator

At the start of every academic year, our students are required to submit their compliance documents. This task, which can be viewed as a time-consuming (and costly) endeavor, is mandatory for the EU Department of Nursing to honor our agreements with our clinical partners. These clearances allow our students to participate in a wide variety of clinical experiences which they might not otherwise have.

EU's Department of Nursing has the privilege to partner with some of the most respected hospitals in our region. Our partnership with Main Line Health Systems (MLHS): Bryn Mawr Hospital, Bryn Mawr Rehab, Lankenau Hospital, Riddle Memorial Hospital, and Jefferson Home Care have provided a variety of experiences for our students, which includes clinical rotations on medical/ surgical units,

maternal/child units, ICU units, rehabilitation, as well as home care. In addition to MLHS, our students also participate in their medical/surgical and maternal/child rotations at Chester County Hospital, Mercy Health Systems and Doylestown Hospital.

Pediatrics continues to be a favorite among our nursing students, due in large part to our partnerships with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the A.I DuPont Hospital for Children.

We are also excited to add The Children's Seashore House to our list of clinical partners. The Seashore House is a 45-bed pediatric rehabilitation facility that provides inpatient/outpatient care for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses. The Seashore House, coupled with Bryn Mawr Rehab, gives our students a

full spectrum of rehabilitation experiences. Nursing Care in Mental Health & Illness, another classroom/clinical component in our curriculum, exposes our students to a variety of settings and experiences. We have been fortunate to partner with Friends Hospital, Elwyn, as well as several community organizations.

In addition, we now have clinical contracts with The VA Medical Center of Coatesville and Brandywine Hospital to further enhance the mental health clinical rotation for our students.

Compliance and contracts allow for these varied clinical experiences for our nursing students. So, while the task of obtaining and maintaining compliance documents can be daunting, there should be no doubt that it is well worth the effort. ■

NURSING HONORS

Gilda Jean-Louis, M. Div.(c), MS, BA
Administrative Assistant and RN Refresher Program Recruiter

On April 10, 2011, Eastern University Nursing students were honored at the 31st Annual Sigma Theta Tau, Delta Tau, Chapter at Large Induction Ceremony. Among the Eastern University Baccalaureate Members were:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Emily Anderson | Nancy Parker |
| Latasha Nelson | Andrea Edwards |
| Michelle Benbow | Catherine Pierce |
| Maureen O'Brien | Cynthia Holmes |
| Susan Bode | Kathleen Sobocinski |
| Nicole O'Donnell | Kara McClelland |
| Jaclyn Bottinger | Donna Soult |
| Annette Pappas | Debbie McMahan |
| Erica Carnazzo | Kimberly Wallace |
| Joseph Parker | Sharon Miller |
| Altair DaSilva | Elizabeth Welch |



a Chapter Key Award. The recipient of this award honors chapters who are active in chapter-related and community activities such as:

- membership recruitment and retention
- publicity and programming
- professional and leadership development
- local, national and international collaboration

All members of the Eastern University nursing community will be integral components of this initiative. As nursing students work in the community, continue professional development, and work with a variety of activities, please take photos and submit them to Mary Boylston (mboylsto@eastern.edu) with information about the activity. Eastern University is considered part of Delta Tau, Chapter at Large along with Immaculata University, Neumann College, and Holy Family University.

The event was held on Eastern University's beautiful campus and well attended by 400 guests. Denise Yonkoske, RN, MSN, CEN, President, Delta Tau Chapter At Large welcomed the inductees and recognized their superior achievement, development of leadership skills, high professional standards, creative work and their commitment to the ideals and purposes of the Nursing profession. Several members of Eastern's Nursing faculty and staff were present and applauded the students' accomplishments. Congratulations! ■



SIGMA THETA TAU, DELTA TAU, CHAPTER AT LARGE SETS GOAL FOR UPCOMING YEAR

Sigma Theta Tau, Delta Tau, Chapter at Large has set some lofty goals at the Board meeting in September, 2011. With Corinne Latini and Dr. Mary Boylston representing Eastern University, the chapter President, Dr. Kathy Hayes, announced the chapter will seek

Eastern University's Department of Nursing invites applications for adjunct didactic and clinical positions in a variety of specialties. Applicants must be MSN prepared. Tell a friend!



NURSING MISSIONS: GUATEMALA CITY

Susan Elshahed, RN
RN-BSN, Cohort 45

Guatemala City is the home of the largest dump in Latin America. Over 10,000 people live and work here. Living conditions are less than desirable. Some of the communities have no electricity, sewage systems or running water. The poverty and filth that surrounds them is so evident that other Guatemalans treat them like the garbage that surrounds them. This, in turn, leads them to believe that their existence is without meaning and they have nothing to offer this world. It also brands them with the name Scavenger.

This past June, I was privileged to spend a week at the garbage dump in Guatemala City volunteering with an organization called Potter's House, a Christian nonprofit organization that exists to change the living conditions for the people living and working at the garbage dump. Because they are human beings, beloved children of the one true God, worthy of respect and dignity, Potter's House has replaced the name Scavenger with Treasures. This conveys to these impoverished people that they are of immeasurable worth, both to our Lord Jesus Christ and to Potter's House.

The mission statement at Potter's House is "to provide holistic opportunities for scavenger families by equipping them to be able to develop and transform their lives, families, and community." (www.pottershouse.org) Potter's House has identified eight forms of poverty which plague the Treasures: spiritual, intellectual, affection, will, physical, support network, civic involvement and economic.



THE MISSION STATEMENT AT POTTER'S HOUSE IS "TO PROVIDE HOLISTIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCAVENGER FAMILIES BY EQUIPPING THEM TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP AND TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY."



During my week in Guatemala, I worked in the clinic at the garbage dump, helped build cinder-block stoves in homes, and went on prayer walks when we visited homes throughout the community, delivered food bags, spoke (through an interpreter) with the families to recognize their needs and concerns, then prayed with them. While on one of the prayer walks, I was able to incorporate a little nursing care.

Nursing in Guatemala is very different from the U.S.. Most healthcare personnel at the clinic have no formal training and there is no notion of "scope of practice." To my surprise, I was the acting "doctor" in the morning. My responsibilities included physical assessments, ordering tests and prescribing medications. In the afternoon, Dr. Lucrecia de Hernandez joined me at the clinic where I was exposed to a different type of healthcare.



Dr. Lucci took her time with the patients as they shared their stories, some of which had nothing to do with ill health, spending 20-30 minutes with each patient. She not only gave them medical attention, but also incorporated spiritual advice and prayer.

One memory that will always live with me was one afternoon, as Dr.Lucci and I were closing the clinic, a little girl knocked on the door. She showed us her wrist covered with a bloody rag. She explained while she was sleeping, a rat came into her bed and bit her.



Susan Elshahed, RN-BSN, Cohort 45



Dr. Lucci explained that this was not uncommon for the people living close to the entrance to the garbage dump. As I was cleaning her bitten wrist, I knew God had brought this little girl, Zulma, into my life for a reason and decided to sponsor her so she could stay in school at the Potter's House.

Incorporating nursing with missions has become a life goal of mine. This past June, I was able to experience the beginning of my future. ■



The mission of Nurses Christian Fellowship is...
 ... engaging students and nurses with the good news of Jesus Christ to bring God's love and healing to nursing and healthcare
www.ncf-jcn.org

Nursing Christian Fellowship

Nurses Christian Fellowship meets on Tuesdays from 4:10-4:40 in ELC Room 108. The timeframe may seem short, but it gives students the chance to gather for a short devotional, a praise song, a sharing of thoughts and a time for prayer joys and concerns. Michelle Boudier and Ashley Place are faithful to the Tuesday meetings and for the past few weeks, Michelle has been sending out the devotional, the song link, and the prayer list to the students.

Our students have so many demands on their time that even a half hour meeting is hard to fit into the schedule. The "electronic connection" has met with positive feedback and the weekly meetings will continue on Tuesdays throughout the fall semester.

On October 18 NCF sponsored a pretzel and candy fundraiser for Light the Night, the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society's premier fundraising endeavor. Diane Baylor from BSN cohort 7 and her team walked in memory of her husband, Damon, on Saturday, October 22 in the Philadelphia Light the Night Walk at Eakins Oval.



We appreciate the support of the Eagle Learning Center "residents" as well as our students, faculty, and staff. All BSN students are welcome to be part of NCF. Please contact Corinne Latini at clatini@eastern.edu or 610.225.5259 for more information.



Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing

*Committed to
 Scholarship, Leadership
 and Excellence in the
 Nursing Profession.*

*Eastern University
 Delta Tau Chapter 2011-2012
 Calendar of Events*

Images from Tri-State Consortium brunch - October 16, 2011



**Jenni Clemens, BSN Two Cohort 7 and
 Catherine Pierce, BSN Two graduate of Cohort 5**



Michelle Boudier and Jenni Clemens

March 2012: Research day at Immaculata University

Date to be announced

April 15, 2012: Induction ceremony at Holy Family University

Sigma Theta Tau Scholarships are available at <http://www.nursingsociety.org/Awards>. There is an Undergraduate Scholarship for those who have completed junior level courses, a graduate scholarship, and a Research Grant application for members. Contact Dr. Mary Boylston at mboylsto@eastern.edu for more information and an application.



SNAP

EASTERN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER



Fall 2011 Activities

Fall Harvest Bake Sale - *October 24 & 25*



Stephanie Knowles and Elizabeth Dufrense



Amanda Budow and Kristina Lesiuk



Michelle Boudier, Jenni Clemens, Cara Winton, Amy Tormey, Carla Tapper

A JOURNEY FROM CHINA TO THE U.S.

Quanlin Ji, RN
KNT, Cohort 17

When I decided to quit my job in China, my colleagues and friends said that I was crazy. In their opinion, I had a very good position in the hospital where I worked. I did not need to work night shifts (in our hospital, younger nurses must be on the night shifts).

My chief provided me many opportunities to learn skills that other nurses could not learn like ultrasound of the eyes. Every year, I had many chances to attend all kinds of academic conferences with the doctors. Many doctors persuaded me to take a part-time course in China which helped me keep my position.

However, I had a dream to further my studies in the U.S., because I believe that the quality of American education is better than Chinese, and if I have a BSN degree, I will have a better position in the future.

To be honest, I regretted when I first came here. I felt lonely and I really missed my family. However, after I started studying, I felt better. I have learned much at Eastern University, such as nursing economics, research, leadership and nursing informatics.

I never knew that nurses needed to learn these courses, because in China, nursing colleges did not teach them. From these courses, I learned much new knowledge and many useful skills. For example, in the nursing informatics classes, I learned how to use informatics and computers to support nursing administration.

In China, nurses' working schedules are arranged by their supervisors and cannot be changed by the nurses. The supervisors always write down the schedule on paper, and if they discover nurses' mistakes, they also record them in their notebooks. I think in China, nurse supervisors are not using technology as much as in America. Therefore, I decided that after I graduate, I will go back to China and teach Chinese nurses how to use technology in their daily jobs.

In the opinion of most Chinese, the U.S. has the highest quality of education around the world; thus, to have a degree in the U.S. means that I will have more opportunities to find a good job when I go back to China. In fact, I have already obtained a job offer from a Chinese hospital to be a supervisor. I believe after I graduate, I will have more choices in my homeland. ■

RN Refresher Program:

HELP A NURSE RETURN TO THE NURSING WORKFORCE

Gilda Jean-Louis, M. Div.(c), MS, BA
Administrative Assistant and RN Refresher Program Recruiter



The sluggish economy has affected just about everyone, including those in the nursing profession. There are a number of licensed registered nurses who have been out of the workforce for two or more years, and who are unaware that in order to return they need a RN Refresher. How can you help?

As an Eastern nursing student or graduate, you can help these nurses by telling them about the RN Refresher Program at Eastern University. In as little as 6 weeks, a Pennsylvania RN Licensed nurse can receive a certificate of completion that will validate their preparation for returning to the nursing workforce.

The program includes relearning forgotten theory and the latest nursing skills needed to comfortably make the transition back to the field, while rebuilding self-confidence. Additionally, our Nursing faculty are making a huge impact in the lives of our RN Refresher participants.

Here are comments from students who completed the RN Refresher Program:

“Rose (clinical instructor), I can't express how grateful I am that I was able to have my experience at Eastern and that YOU were our clinical supervisor. It really made such a difference in my confidence and also in my job-worthiness. The RN Supervisor who interviewed me said that she was willing to take a chance on me despite my long absence from nursing because I was committed enough to invest in Eastern's Refresher course, and because I did have that experience—especially the Clinical part. So THANK YOU, THANK YOU!”

“Just wanted to let you know my interview at Phoenixville went very well, and I got the job! I'll be starting in Labor and Delivery, three 12-hour shifts per week. I couldn't be happier! Thanks Geri (course instructor and director) and Rose for your guidance, sharing of information, and support.”

“I'm well into my orientation at Camilla and I think it will be a good fit. The orientation has been many 3-11:30 shifts but once I get done, I will probably be working 6-7 days per month, which is what I wanted. Please tell the administration at Eastern how grateful I am to have taken the course over the summer. It really helped me to make the transition into going back to work. I am passing the word that Eastern is a really good place for adult ed— thanks to you and Elaine and Corrine for all your encouragement and help. I'm not sure I would have taken the step without the RN refresher.” Mary Ann

The RN Refresher program is affordable and registration is easy. Enrollment is limited. For more information, go to www.eastern.edu/nursing or contact Gilda Jean-Louis, RN Refresher Program Recruiter, at 610.341.5896 or rntobsn@eastern.edu. ■



HOLISTIC NURSE *of the* YEAR

By Mary Anne Peters, Ph.D, MSN, CNE
Chair, Professor of Nursing

Christina Jackson PhD, RN, PNP, AHN-BC
(pictured above)

KUDOS to Dr. Christina Jackson! The American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA) honored Eastern University Department of Nursing's own Christina Jackson PhD, RN, PNP, AHN-BC at their 31st annual national conference with the 2011 Holistic Nurse of the Year Award. She was recognized for her contributions in furthering the practice of holistic nursing and bringing caring and healing to the forefront of nursing practice.

Dr. Jackson is a professor of nursing and shares her passion for holistic nursing and students in the classroom and clinical setting. The AHNA describes her as a visionary for holistic health who models its mission to foster a vital community that advances holistic health and nursing.

In presenting the award, the AHNA said that Dr. Jackson "Appreciates the power of relationship as an important aspect of healing, and the need to practice self-care." Within the Department of Nursing we know this to be true. Dr. Jackson employs her understanding of holistic nursing care to teach students to care for their patients and also for themselves.

Dr. Jackson is certified as an Advanced Practice Holistic Nurse, (through the American Holistic Nurses Certification Corporation [AHNCC]) since 2004, and is a Certified Holistic Nurse (through AHNCC) since 2001.

"Helping patients with holistic approaches to healing is extremely rewarding, as is teaching and modeling holistic philosophy to energize nurses who have begun to feel weary, isolated or cynical," she explains.

Over the years, Dr. Jackson has developed holistic nursing curricula and taught courses such as Theoretical Foundations in Professional Holistic Nursing; Psychosocial/ Spiritual Care; Fitness Through Yoga and Pilates; and Holistic Healthcare for Culturally Diverse Populations: Issues in Women's Health.

A major contributor to the field of holistic nursing, Dr. Jackson has helped to advance the specialty nursing practice through her numerous activities, teaching, research and publications. Many of her articles, reports, and publications have made an impact in the holistic nursing field. Her most recent article,

"Back Pain in Children: A Holistic Approach to Diagnosis and Management," appears in the September/October 2011 issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Healthcare*.

Since 2009, Dr. Jackson has been the Associate Editor for the professional journal *Holistic Nursing Practice: The Science of Health and Healing*.

In addition, she serves as an editorial review panel member for the *Journal of Holistic Nursing*. In her personal life, Jackson models holistic living, saying that "Teaching nutrition, yoga, Pilates and practicing aromatherapy and healing touch have opened me up to a whole realm of possibilities as far as holistic lifestyle and healing practice."

Please join the faculty and staff of the Department of Nursing in the celebration of Dr. Jackson's accomplishments. ■

"Helping patients with holistic approaches to healing is extremely rewarding, as is teaching and modeling holistic philosophy to energize nurses who have begun to feel weary, isolated or cynical."



THE NURSING PIN: ITS IMPORTANCE AND VALUE

Mary T. Boylston, RN, MSN, Ed.D, AHN-BC
Professor of Nursing

Last week I met with three dynamic undergraduate nursing students who are destined to be leaders in their profession. As we talked, they shared with me that some of their classmates were not going to purchase their nursing pin at the end of the senior year. Frankly, I was surprised and a bit puzzled. I shook my head in disbelief and began to ponder why my reaction was so emotional. This led me down a path of self-reflection.

The nursing pin has a great deal of significance for me. When I look at it, I am reminded of my undergraduate days at Villanova. These times were wonderful and horrific at the same time. Nursing education was more rigorous than I could believe at the age of 18. On weekends, I would sit in the library and work while my friends would be at parties and games having a blast.

Was I jealous? You bet! I wanted to be anywhere but the library. I wanted to have fun, meet people, go out and enjoy

my college years. However, choosing nursing as my major prevented me from having a spectacular four years. Instead, my college years were filled with reading, patient care, early mornings, late nights, and constant worry. Fortunately, there were times when I could have fun and go out with the gang.

Why do I share this about myself? As I look at my pin, I think about the hard work, ulcers, and headaches, but I also remember the friends, the learning, the teachers, and patients who had a big part in the way that I looked at my chosen profession.

The pin signifies dedication to the care of the whole person. It is more than a piece of jewelry. It represents the years that I spent working on my craft, honing my skills, and learning lessons that the classroom and clinical would teach me. The years at Villanova were special and I have yet to replace the special feeling that I had walking to class or chatting with other students.

It was a time of freedom and excitement. I would dare to dream of the day when I would pass my boards and help to heal and care for the sick. I was called to work as a nurse and the pin attests that I made it.

My colleagues at Eastern University have similar thoughts about their nursing pins. We all attended different undergraduate programs, yet look at our pins as more than jewelry. According to Shelley Hickey, "As a very young nurse who had just moved to the big city, seeing my diploma school nursing pin on another nurse's lapel was like being the only Eagles fan in Giants territory and spotting someone else in Times Square wearing an Eagles jersey - oh tidings of comfort and joy." In other words, the pin connected strangers who were bonded by their profession.

Similarly, Corrine Latini said, "My nursing pin is 37 years old. To me it is symbolic of my days in nursing school at Albert Einstein Medical Center School of Nursing and the journey that I have been on during my nursing career. It is a statement to others that I am a nurse and with that statement is the unspoken understanding that I am committed to my profession.

It is also a pledge of sorts indicating that I will act responsibly and ethically as I care for my patients and educate my students." She remains true to her oath as she mentors students in the Skills lab with a passion and her pin affixed over her heart.

NURSING PINS

BSN students can order nursing pins prior to graduation. Contact:

Chris Urban
215.245.1142
or crusales@msn.com

Dr. Chris Jackson shared her feelings about earning her pin from the University of Pennsylvania, "I remember feeling very proud of my pin- and since I was still so young I was impressed that it had my initials engraved on the back!" The pin connects nurses and program graduates, a commitment to caring and the profession, and attests to a life that has been called to serve.

For undergraduate nursing students, the emotions that one feels when the pin is first attached to the lapel will forever change who you are. It is one of the last steps in the educational process and signifies more than hard work and determination; it signifies the whole person... a BSN graduate and nurse prepared to holistically care for the sick and infirm.

Do not deny yourself a piece of your own personal academic history. Purchase the pin and when you reflect on your journey, the pin will signify your courage and desire to make a difference in a broken world. ■



Elaine Fuguet, Nursing Clinical Faculty and
Michele Benbow, BSN Two graduate, cohort 5
Photo taken after pinning ceremony

RN TO BSN PROGRAM UPDATE

Ellie Butsick, M.Ed., BSN, RN
RN to BSN Program Coordinator

Welcome BSN 55 to the RN to BSN program! Yes, it is hard to imagine that the program is in its 29th year at Eastern University. We have been blessed with new additions to our adjunct faculty resources. Welcome to Anne Donnelly, Roseann Flyte, Kimberly Fenstermacher, Maureen Oliver, Danielle Palmer, Donna Thompson, Margery Samsel, and Marcia Niles. Each brings a wealth of experience to our program. As of October 2011, we have initiated the revised grading scale:



| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A 93 - 100 | B 83 - 86 |
| A- 90 - 92 | B- 80 - 82 |
| B+ 87 - 89 | C 75 - 79 |
| | F Below 75 |

BSN 44, 45, and 46 are actively preparing for their N405 clinical experience. This can be an exciting time to explore new aspects of the nursing discipline. It sometimes opens the door for new job opportunities, and certainly will fuel your professional development. We look forward to learning about your plans. Please send your compliance information to Debbie Dougherty, our special project manager.

Congratulations to our BSN students in cohort 42 and 43! They completed their program of study this month. Both groups have shared how much they will miss the close camaraderie they experienced within their co-hort. We look forward to seeing them in cap and gown in the December graduation ceremony. Several members from the

graduating group plan to attend graduate school within the next year.

This is always exciting to learn students are continuing on to the graduate level. We also have a number of students who are planning to take a breather, relax, and renew themselves. This is a great opportunity to rejuvenate core value 5 from the Holistic Nursing Standards which is self-care!

This is also a wonderful time for graduates to think about the Holistic Nursing Certification Exam. Our pro-gram incorporates the core holistic philosophy and concepts of the holistic specialty (per ANA and AHNA) in all of the foundational courses and throughout the program. Eastern University's RN to BSN and second degree program is

endorsed by American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC).

As a result of this, the application process is streamlined and abbreviated. Graduates who want to apply for the HNB-BC examination can go onto the Holistic website, www.ahncc.org and download the application. If you have questions regarding the process please contact Margaret Erikson at AHNCC.

As you move on in your career, take the opportunity to seek out the CCGPS Career Services. This is a great resource for assistance with interviewing, networking and preparing for new job opportunities. http://www.eastern.edu/academic/ccgps/career_serv/index.html

Stay connected with your fellow students and Eastern events by joining the online alumni community. It is important to keep your contact information updated so that you can be reached by your friends and colleagues. <http://www.alumni.eastern.edu/> ■

END OF LIFE NURSING EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (ELNEC) UPDATE

Mary T. Boylston, RN, MSN, Ed.D, AHN-BC
Professor of Nursing,
Student-Faculty Development Committee Chair

The End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Project has revised its palliative care in nursing curriculum this year and enhanced the end of life modules. Eastern's Department of Nursing has been granted permission to incorporate the content of the eight modules into its nursing curriculum. The RN to BSN program is the primary recipient of the content and RNs who have completed all of the courses will also earn their ELNEC-trained certificate after graduation.

THE EIGHT MODULES COVERED IN THE PROGRAM ARE:

- Nursing Care at the End of Life
- Pain Management
- Symptom Management
- Ethical Issues in Palliative Nursing
- Communication
- Cultural Considerations in End-of-Life Care
- Loss, Grief, Bereavement
- Preparation for and Care at the Time of Death

Within the body of eight nursing courses, faculty will also review the ELNEC content. Students who have not taken all of the required courses and desire to complete the certificate may contact Mary Boylston (mboylsto@eastern.edu, ELNEC Coordinator) for assistance in completing the program. ■



Eastern University Alumni at the National Association of School Nurses' Conference (NASN) 43rd Annual Conference, June 2011. Corinne Latini, CSN, 2005, M.Ed School Health Services, 2007 (Poster Presentation award winner). Eleanor Butsick, M.Ed Multicultural Education 2010 delivered the poster presentation, Integrating Multicultural Content in a Graduate Level School Nurse Certification Course. Susan Seltzer MSN, NCSN, Director of School Health Services Eastern University.

SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAM UPDATE

SCHOOL NURSE CERTIFICATION

School nurses are lifelong learners and Eastern University provides an avenue for RN/BSN nurses to enter this exciting, demanding and enjoyable career. RN/BSN students may enter the School Nurse Certification program during their last two semesters at Eastern University.

BSN GRADUATES

If you have a BSN and would like to pursue school nurse certification, now may be the time to consider this new career path. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has recently changed the requirements for School Nurse Certification. The two undergraduate English and Math courses are no longer required in a post-baccalaureate certification.

MASTER'S OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL HEALTH

Certified School Nurses who are Education Specialists 1 may choose to continue their career path in the Master's of Education in School Health. Many of the courses are offered in a blended format or completely online. Please contact me and I will assist you in reaching your career goals.

Susan Seltzer MSN, NCSN
seltzer@eastern.edu | 610.341.1717



Corinne Latini, M. Ed., BSN, CSN
"Improving the Health of the School Community: Health Promotion Using the Multicausation Disease Model" The National Association of School Nurses 43rd Annual Conference, Washington, DC, July 2011. (Electronic Poster Presentation awarded First place in the Health Promotion division).

SAVING SATURDAYS

serving those in need

Deb Dougherty, BA
Special Projects Manager

About two years ago, my friend Karissa Mooney was asked to lead a group during Compassion Weekend with our home church, Calvary Chapel of Delaware County. Little did she know how that phone call would change her life. Along with a small group of volunteers, she helped prepare 40 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, drinks and snacks and went to Logan Circle without a clue. She encountered people who moved her so much that she has made this her year-round ministry called "Saving Saturdays."



Saving Saturdays now serves 70 to 100 people one to two times a month. Nancy Kielar, Compliance Officer, and I both serve in this ministry. It has been a blessing to see this ministry grow and serve more and more people. The sad part is there are more and more people to serve, as this group continues to grow.

Not all those we serve are homeless, but many do not have enough money to clothe and feed themselves. We have been told that some of the Philadelphia shelters have closed due to lack of funding, and thus the reason for the increase in need.

In addition to food, the ministry provides clothing, toiletries, blankets, and towels. Karissa is blessed with great leadership skills and creativity. She comes up with

"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and clothe the naked), you did it to Me."

great menu ideas and most recently, we have taken large tubs of ice cream and dished out Cookies and Cream and Rocky Road ice cream sundaes, including chocolate sauce and a cherry on top.

Nancy and I have been privileged and honored to serve in this ministry. It is our hope to not only provide for physical needs, but to show the love of Christ, as we are called to do (John 13:34) and that ultimately in serving, we honor Christ.

"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and clothe the naked), you did it to me." If you would like to serve or donate to the ministry, please email me at ddougher@eastern.edu. ■

Faculty News and Accomplishments

Mary T. Boylston, RN, MSN, Ed.D, AHN-BC

Reviewer. (2011). For Hogan, M. A. *Reviews and Rationales: Leadership and Management*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Health Science.

In collaboration with Rose O'Rourke presented "What are Second Degree Students Preconceived Attitudes toward Homeless, Indigent, Immigrant, and Marginalized Populations and the Impact on Health Care Access: A Pilot Study." The Second Annual Rita M. McGinley Symposium "Exploring Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Immigrant." Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. September 2011. R. O'Rourke & **M. Boylston** (Research Podium Presentation).

Test Item File Developer to accompany *Handbook of Informatics for Nurses and Healthcare Professionals (5th ed)*. T. Hebda & P. Czar. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Kimberly Guevin, MSN, RN

Working toward Adult and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Post Master's Certification at University of Massachusetts in Boston, Massachusetts. Expected completion date: August 2012.

"Evolving Case Study Simulations: A Strategy to Promote Integrated Learning in Beginning Nursing Students." The 38th Annual National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development, Baltimore, MD. October 2011. **K. Guevin** and MA. Peters. (Poster Presentation).

Shelley Hickey, MSN, RN

"Access Hollywood: Live at 5 Celebrity Case Studies." The Trends in Critical Care Nursing. King of Prussia, PA. October 2011. (Podium Presentation).

"Access Hollywood: Live at 5 Celebrity Case Studies." The 38th Annual National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development, Baltimore, MD. October 2011 (Podium Presentation).

"Conquering Bloodstream Infections." 2011 Annual Leadership Symposium of the Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders. Harrisburg, PA. October 2011. (Poster Presentation)

"Heartfelt Truth About Stress." Macy's and Main Line Health sponsored *Holiday Reprieve*. Ardmore, PA. December 2011. (Podium Presentation).

Christina Jackson, PhD, APRN, BC, AHN-C

The Department of Nursing faculty and staff congratulate **Dr. Chris Jackson**, recipient of the **Holistic Nurse of the Year Award**.

Jackson, C., McLaughlin, K., & Teti, B. (2011). Back pain in children: A holistic approach to diagnosis and management. *Journal of Pediatric Healthcare, 25(5)*, 284-293. *A NAPNAP President's Choice selected article.

Jackson, C. (2011). Magnet Status: Does it promote holistic health care? *Holistic Nursing Practice, 25(4)*, 4-10

Jackson, C. (2011). Tales from the operating room: Opportunities for holistic nursing practice. *Holistic Nursing Practice, 25(3)*, 5-10.

Jackson, C. (2011). The new Institute of Medicine report: A call to courage. *Holistic Nursing Practice, 25(2)*, 7-12.

Jackson, C. (2011). Addressing spirituality: A natural aspect of holistic care. *Holistic Nursing Practice, 25(1)*, 3-7

Faculty News and Accomplishments

Mary Anne Peters, Ph.D., RN, CNE.

"Evolving Case Study Simulations: A Strategy to Promote Integrated Learning in Beginning Nursing Students." The 38th Annual National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development, Baltimore, MD. October 2011. K. Guevin and **MA. Peters**. (Poster Presentation).

Awarded tenure status in June 2011.

"RN to BSN Education: Discovering the Possibilities." Pediatric Update Day, A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children Wilmington, DE. May 2010.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING STAFF NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ellie Butsick, M.Ed., BSN, RN

In collaboration with Susan Seltzer, MSN, NCSN, presented "Integrating Multicultural Content in a Graduate Level School Nurse Certification Course." National Association of School Nurses' (NASN) 43rd Annual Conference. Washington D.C. July 2011. (Poster Presentation)

Corinne Latini, M. Ed., BSN, CSN

"Improving the Health of the School Community: Health Promotion Using the Multicausation Disease Model" The National Association of School Nurses 43rd Annual Conference, Washington, DC. July 2011. (Electronic Poster Presentation awarded First place in the Health Promotion division).

Rose O'Rourke, RN, MSN

In collaboration with Dr. Mary Boylston presented "What are Second Degree Students Preconceived Attitudes toward Homeless, Indigent, Immigrant, and Marginalized Populations and the Impact on Health Care Access: A Pilot Study." The Second Annual Rita M. McGinley Symposium "Exploring Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Immigrant." Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. September 2011. **R. O'Rourke** & M. Boylston. (Research Podium Presentation).

NURSES' NOTE

We are seeking students to participate in Nursing Department Committee Meetings.
Interested?
E-mail us at rntobsn@eastern.edu

