

From the Director



••• Somehow it is 2023! The haunts of the pandemic linger but the significant lifestyle modifications are behind us. The faculty and students are participating again in both professional and personal endeavors that involve in-person planning, engagement, and coordination. However, the overall institutions of health care and academia must now figure out how to function in the new normal and continue to recover from the resource impact—both human and otherwise, while trying to secure a sustainable and effective path for the future. Here at Chatham nursing, we have spent the past year looking at the future of nursing education.

Things that keep me up at night include: What will competency-based education mean for faculty and students? How will faculty best teach and support our students to demonstrate what they can do versus what they know? As we move towards competency-based education and implement the new Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education (AACN, 2021), I am reminded that life changes constantly and things usually work out! I am excited about the changes coming in the 2023-2024 academic year. I am proud of the nursing faculty and cannot wait to showcase their innovation and advanced online teaching practices in our revised curriculums to our nursing students. And as usual, I am most proud of our students and alumni. They humble me every day with their clinical expertise, their commitment to nursing and healthcare, and their perseverance to complete their educational program while juggling a million different roles. Kudos to all nurses! Enjoy our latest newsletter!

Best regards,
Dr. Diane F. Hunker
Director of nursing programs, DNP program coordinator, professor



Message from the Editor

••• The Chatham University nursing programs are pleased to share this edition of InTouch, a 2022-2023 Year in Review. This issue highlights just a few examples of student and faculty accomplishments, alumni achievements, and various activities that occurred over the last academic year. Chatham nursing will experience some exciting new changes ahead as we work to incorporate the 2021 AACN Essentials for Nursing Education into our curriculum. In the meantime, I am happy to share this edition of the newsletter that was developed through collaborative writing with nursing program faculty serving as contributing authors.

Enjoy!
Dr. Rachel Dieterich

From the Dean



••• It has been almost a year since I took office as the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Chatham University. In this relatively brief period, I have come to learn and gained a deep appreciation for the exceptional quality of the nursing programs at Chatham.

Over the years, our nursing programs have produced outstanding graduates who have made a significant impact on the healthcare landscape regionally, nationally, and internationally. Whether at the forefront of healthcare delivery or at a ranking leadership position within their respective organizations, our graduates have demonstrated the kind of nursing excellence that our programs have only aspired for them to become. May our students and graduates continue to embody Chatham's vision of informed and engaged citizens in their communities, who welcome and respect diversity of all kinds, and who continually seek to advance their professional field.

As health care and the nursing profession evolve, so shall the programs at Chatham, incorporating the latest advancements and best practices to ensure our students receive a comprehensive education that prepares them to become change agents. We call upon our alumni to contribute and support the growth and ongoing success of our nursing programs and students.

I invite our alumni to stay connected with us, share news of important milestones in their career, share their knowledge and experiences towards our academic and service endeavors, and engage in various opportunities for giving back to the university. Conversely, let us know how we can be a resource or a strategic partner to you.

We wish you continued success and fulfillment.
Salvador Bondoc
Dean, School of Health Sciences



FACULTY NEWS & UPDATES



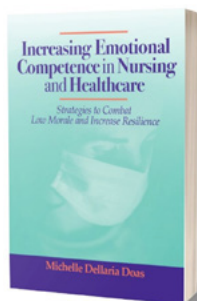
DR. MARILU PIOTROWSKI 2022 Recipient of Cameos of Caring Award

●●● Assistant Professor of Nursing Marilu Piotrowski, Ph.D., MSN, RN, was nominated for the most recent Cameos of Caring Nurse Educator Award by the Chatham University Nursing department. The award recognizes expert faculty members who provide quality instruction to nursing students, preparing them for the future of the nursing profession. She received the honor on November 12, 2022 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.

She has served almost forty years working in nursing education. Her roles in nursing academia have spanned from an instructor with pre-licensure RN students, an administrative director of a school of nursing, and as a full-time faculty

member at Chatham since 2017. Dr. Piotrowski enjoys facilitating online graduate coursework and projects with DNP students in various healthcare settings across the US. She also volunteers as an active member in a local hospital’s monthly evidence-based practice research council.

Sher earned her BSN and MSN degrees from Duquesne University and a Ph.D. in Instructional Management and Leadership from Robert Morris University. She has collaborated with colleagues internationally and proudly served as an external expert for the first Ph.D.-prepared nurse in Jamaica who now heads their university school of nursing. Her scholarly interest includes self-directed/autonomous learning, resilience, leadership development, and sustainability through lifelong learning.



Chatham’s own MICHELLE DELLARIA DOAS, EdD, MSN, RN, associate professor of nursing, published her book *Increasing Emotional Competence in Nursing and Healthcare: Strategies to Combat Low Morale and Increase Resilience* with DEStech Publications, Inc. in April 2023. We are so proud Dr. Doas!

NICOLE Z. HOH, PH.D., RN

Reflection on Crow Nation Immersive Experience

●●● As a Ph.D.-prepared nursing faculty, one might think that my formal education is over, but true to form, my career has been anything but linear. I am back in school earning my master’s degree as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. This summer, as part of my Health Promotion and Community Assessment course, I had the opportunity to participate in a cultural immersion trip in the Crow Nation Native American reservation in Montana.

The reservation is home to 10,000 people on 2.5 million acres of land. I had the opportunity to meet with community and tribal leaders to discover the greatest issues the Crow People are experiencing as well as visit the Indian Health Service facilities on the reservation. While we may have heard during our careers that alcoholism and diabetes are the top health problems among indigenous peoples- there is more to the story. In terms of social determinants of health, the reservation is a food desert, there is a severe housing shortage with multiple families living in substandard housing, lack of transportation, and the intergenerational trauma on top of it all leads to diseases of despair, such as alcoholism, drug addiction, and domestic violence.

Efforts are being made to build on the resilience of the tribe; finding value in getting back to traditional aspects of life. A common theme was wanting to get back to gardening with green houses because the growing season is short and there is lack of equipment to work the land. It is difficult to manage chronic diseases when nutritious food is not available, and the nearest Wal-Mart is over an hour away. It is a lesson learned – access to nutritious foods and the means to prepare them are key to population health, especially for vulnerable populations such as Crow Nation. Many of the initiatives on the reservation are small grass root efforts based out of Little Big Horn College. These efforts demonstrate the importance of tackling large problems with small, progressive steps with an eye toward sustainability and quality of life.



Selfie taken at The Yellowtail Dam, in Bighorn Canyon National Park with the Bighorn River below.



Dr. Rhonda Phillips Named 20th Chatham University President



••• The Board of Trustees of Chatham University voted unanimously to name Dr. Rhonda Phillips as Chatham’s 20th president. Phillips will be the 10th woman to hold the presidency in Chatham’s 154-year history when she begins her tenure this summer.

Dr. Phillips has more than 30 years’ experience as a progressive academic administrator, scholar, and author with significant private and public sector experience. She will join Chatham following completion of her decade-long role as the inaugural Dean of the John Martinson Honors College at Purdue University, an innovative 3,000 student residential honors college that under her leadership was named one of the Top 20 Honors Colleges in the U.S.

Prior to her role at Purdue, she was Associate Dean for Barrett, The Honors College, at Arizona State University, where she also served as professor and director of the School of Community Resources and Development, and Senior Sustainability Scientist at the Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability. She has held faculty and administrator roles at the University of Florida and the University of Southern Mississippi, and prior to joining academia, Phillips worked as an economic developer with the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and other nonprofit, private and public organizations.

Dr. Phillips has a Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning from Georgia Tech, holds an MS in Economics from Georgia Tech and an MS in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi where she also earned her bachelor’s degree. She is a three-time Fulbright recipient including serving as the 2006 Fulbright UK Ulster Policy Fellow in Northern Ireland. She is the author or editor of over 30 academic books, including the textbook, Introduction to Community Development, used by students and practitioners around the world. Dr. Phillips’ research focus is on community and sustainable well-being studies, economic and technology-based development, and on making the places we live better for all. She has a passion for the classroom and continued teaching at Purdue where she served as a Professor in the Agricultural Economics Department and faculty liaison with local food system development.

Chatham Nursing Alumni Recognized for Nursing Excellence

••• The Chatham nursing faculty and staff would like to congratulate two alumni on being recognized at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Cameos of Caring® Awards Gala on November 12, 2022. The Cameos of Caring® program honors exceptional nurses who work as a bedside nurse, as an advanced practice nurse, as nursing faculty, or as a case manager. At this year’s annual gala, Jennifer Heidkamp, BSN ’10, MSN ’11 was honored for her work at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Network. Leslie Konyk, BSN ’16 was honored for her advanced practice work at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Congratulations on the honor and thank you for being wonderful examples of a Chatham graduate!

DNP PROGRAM ALUMNI

Leadership and Scholarship in Action



••• In September 2022, **Brandy Hershberger, DNP ’13**, MSN, RN, CEN was named the Chief Nursing Officer/Vice President of

Academic Affairs for UPMC Centers for Nursing Excellence & Academic Affairs. Prior to this position, Dr. Hershberger was the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President, Patient Care Services of UPMC East and UPMC McKeesport. We are very excited to work closely with Brandy in her new role!



••• In November 2022, **Andrew Frados, DNP ’10**, Professor at Miami Dade College, published *Your Death, Your Choice: The Future of Palliative Care* with

Kendall Hunt Publishing. Well done, Dr. Frados!

••• **Andrew Osborne, DNP ’18**, CRNA, APRN, MAJ (USAR) has been selected by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) to be a 2023 Fellows Candidate. He will be attending the induction ceremony in August in Seattle, WA. Congratulations Dr. Osborne!



••• **Guillermo R. Valdes DNP ’08**, PGC-NEd, MSNCB-CMSRN, ANCC MEDSURG-BC has been named to the Florida

Nurses Foundation Board of Trustees. While Dr. Valdes’ accomplishments in nursing throughout Miami Dade County, FL have been extensive since he left Chatham, he remains a loyal colleague and supporter. He currently serves as the Department Chair, RN to BSN program at Miami Dade College, Benjamin Leon School of Nursing. Well done, Billy!



RECENT FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

Doas, M. *Increasing Emotional Competence in Nursing and Healthcare: Strategies to Combat Low Morale and Increase Resilience.* Lancaster, PA, DEStech Publications, Inc., 2023.

Hopkins, E. & Spadaro, K. (2023). A guide for honor society virtual induction. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 13(1), 17-20. <https://doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v13n2p17>

Hunker, D.F., Robb, M. (2022). Admission characteristics that influence DNP students' first-semester success: A retrospective study. *Nursing Forum*, 57(6),1007-1011. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nuf.12774>

O'Brien, C. T., & **Walter, L.** (2022, November). Implementing technology assignments developed from a faculty technology fellows program, <https://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/implementing-technology-assignments-developed-from-a-faculty-technology-fellows-program/>

Singh, A., & Spadaro, K. (2022). Leadership self and means efficacy among nursing faculty: A national study. *Journal of Nurse Education*, 61(11), 636-640. <https://doi.org/10.3928/01484834-20220912-05>

Singh, A. (2023). Psychological Capital among nursing faculty: Implications for practice. *Nurse Educator*, 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NNE.0000000000001430>

Stamper, T. O., Kerr, R., & Sporter, D. (2022). The evolution of palliative medicine in intensive care. *Critical Care Nursing Quarterly*, 45(4), 332-338. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CNQ.0000000000000425>

PODIUM AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Kundt, F. S., Kutschar, P., **Birkholz, L.,** & Beil-Hildebrand, M. (2022, July). Ethical decision-making confidence scale (EDMCS) for nurse leaders: Psychometric Evaluation. Virtual Poster Presentation at Paracelsus Medical University vSGT, Salzburg, Austria.

Dieterich, R., Shope, T., Glasser, M., Harpel, C., & Demirci, J. (2023, June). *Maternal and Childcare Provider Views of Lactation Support in Childcare Centers.* Poster presentation at Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Doas, M. (2023). Cultivating Self and Emotional Awareness in Order to Promote Mutually Respectful Interactions. Podium Presenter, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), PA Mental Health and Wellness Conference, Harrisburg, PA.

Doas, M. (2023). Enhancing Emotionally Competent interactions in order to maximize workplace morale. Speaker, UPMC, luncheon leadership series.

Slade, J. (2022, December). *Who Should Use Ludic Pedagogy and Which Faculty Are?* Poster presentation at the AACN 2022 Transform Conference, Chicago, IL.

Walter, L. & Slade, J. (2023, April). *Music Lyrics and Padlet - An Engaging Student-Centered Approach to Learning.* Podium presentation at the OLC Innovate 2023 virtual conference.

Walter, L. (2023, May). *Discharge Readiness: A Family-Centered Care Approach.* Poster Presentation at UPMC Nursing Impact 2023 EBP and Research Symposium.

Walter, L. (2023, April). *Virtual Test Success Workshop: Promoting Academic Success in Nursing.* Virtual Presentation at University of Maryland School of Nursing's Nursing Education Conference.

Walter, L. & Ryan, T. (2022, October). *Virtual Advising Techniques: Connecting to Promote Student Success.* Podium Presentation at The Teaching Professor Online Conference.



Carranda Barkdoll, DNP, RN, CRNP



••• The Chatham University nursing programs have been fortunate to have Carranda Barkdoll, DNP, CRNP, RN, serve as a preceptor for our nursing students. Dr. Barkdoll currently serves as the Director for Undergraduate Nursing Education

and Assistant Teaching Professor at Penn State Mont Alto campus. We asked Dr. Barkdoll to reflect on her experiences both as a nurse leader, educator, and as a recent preceptor within our DNP program. We are grateful for her commitment to advancing the nursing profession, and in sharing these valuable insights with us.

Describe briefly your current role at Penn State Mont Alto as Program Coordinator & Assistant Teaching Professor, Baccalaureate Nursing Program.

Recently, my role at Penn State Mont Alto has expanded to include serving as the Director of Nursing. This is a very exciting (yet challenging) role and as such, I am responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Mont Alto nursing program. This includes overseeing everything ranging from teaching, budgetary considerations and planning, program and faculty reviews, hiring of staff, etc. While I do love teaching, this new role has allowed me to expand my skillset into a position of leadership within the academic setting.

Briefly explain why you decided to pursue a career in nursing and/or nursing leadership.

Believe it or not, but my journey in nursing started when I was just five years old. Unfortunately, there was a lot of tragedy at that time of my life. One of my classmates in school dressed up as a nurse and was giving out pumpkin seeds to help people. This memory and experience helped to shape my desire to give back to my community and help others...and I knew that nursing would be the right fit for me to channel this desire to serve others.

What is your favorite aspect of being a preceptor?

One of the most rewarding aspects of precepting nursing students, regardless of their educational level or experience, is to watch them grow, progress, and have those “a-ha!” moments. I glean a lot of value and satisfaction from seeing the moment when students can put all the pieces together and make connections with their experiences in the clinical setting, didactic content learned in the classroom and their own personal value system.

What do you think is most important for preceptors to know about providing a healthy and productive mentorship/preceptorship experience? Do you have a unique precepting “style”?

For me, precepting is an important role and I take it seriously as we are helping to shape the next generation of nurse leaders and clinicians. When serving as a preceptor, I approach the experience with a deep respect for the knowledge and experience that each student comes with due to their prior expertise as a health care professional. This is especially true when precepting graduate level nursing students, who may already have many years of practice experience under their belt. In fact, I am constantly learning new things from my students.

Any advice you would like to share to our current nursing students (we have BSN, MSN and DNP students here at Chatham)

Remember to thank everyone along the way. Nurses, doctors, professors, housekeeping, administrative individuals, etc....they all impact your learning!

MSN Precepting: A Rewarding Experience

Precepting is a formal arrangement between a novice and an experienced nurse for a defined period. Preceptors serve as role models working collaboratively with the student towards meeting established program goals. Precepting is a rewarding experience for both the student and preceptor. It is also an essential component to nursing education. The identification of preceptors grows increasingly difficult as competition for practice experience sites increase. For the Chatham MSN program, we need MSN-prepared preceptors who are currently serving in the advanced practice roles of nurse educator (clinical or academic setting) or nurse leader (any setting).

As a preceptor, you are required to sign a student-preceptor agreement, provide a copy of your resume and your professional license number for verification and approval. If you meet the qualifications described above and are interested in precepting, please contact Rachel Dieterich, Ph.D., RN, practice experience coordinator, at r.dieterich@chatham.edu or 412-365-1378.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PTN STUDENTS

Greece Study Abroad Experience

••• Seven Pathways to Nursing seniors studied abroad in Greece in the summer of 2023. **Julia Boyd, Ashley Hall, Cheyanne Howe, Lily Slagle, Madison Shenigo, Darryn Sleeman, and Brynn Zajac** started the PTN Program together three years ago and are preparing to complete the RN-BSN program in the upcoming academic year, Dr. Rob Lettan and Dr. Andres Carrillo took 24 students to



Greece through the Discovery Program 2023. This was the third year students studied abroad through this program. Chatham University and the Discovery Foundation at the University of Thessaly in Trikala, Greece, organized this undergraduate-level professional development program. Students spent time in Crete and Athens and had a lot of cultural exposure, including the 7,000-year-old Knossos Labyrinth (Crete) and the Acropolis (Athens), trips to several cities/towns in Crete, and many delicious local delicacies.

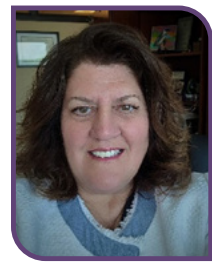
The major assignment of the trip was a group project centered on investigating and proposing a plan for the complete elimination of the generation of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases from the island of Crete by 2040. Lectures focused on climate change and its impact on society. Students found the project challenging but an excellent opportunity to collaborate on developing alternative energy conservation and production methods to eliminate CO2 emissions.

These students began as strangers three years ago, supported each other through the rigorous nursing program at UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, and traveled abroad to expand their cultural and professional development abilities. They look forward to working together this year as they earn their BSN and celebrate together at graduation in April 2024. This group has been excellent role models and mentors throughout the program, and they hope to inspire future PTN students to engage in this study abroad opportunity.

ALUMNI Q&A

PAULA EICHER, MSN '11

CNO and VP of Patient Care Services UPMC Children's Hospital



••• We recently connected with Paula Eicker, MSN '11, RN, NEA-BC CNO and Vice President of Patient Care Services at UPMC Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh,

PA. Ms. Eicker reflected on obtaining her MSN leadership degree at Chatham and offered advice to aspiring nurse leaders.

Q: What do you remember most about your MSN Leadership degree at Chatham?

A: Most memorable to me was the discussions we had in the classroom. Hearing the many different perspectives on one discussion point opened my thinking on how to approach issues and possible solutions. I remember remaining very structured in my approach to school and on the online weeks, I would go to the library at Chatham and do my postings, it provided me with protected school time from my work time.

Q: How do you think the MSN Leadership degree has further prepared you to meet your professional goals?

A: The MSN Leadership program prompted discussions whether online or in the classroom on pertinent topics to Nursing operations, leadership and future challenges. Those experiences, discussions and research helped shape my understanding of nursing leadership and the best approach to handling issues.

Q: What would you say to potential applicants and Chatham BSN alumni considering the MSN Leadership program?

A: Do it! The schoolwork partnered with your clinical experiences help to develop a strong foundation of being a leader whether in education, bedside expertise, or administration. I completed my MSN in 1 year and while it was a busy year, it gave me the push to explore administrative roles up to my current role as CNO of UPMC Children's.

Q: What was your area of greatest learning in the MSN Leadership program?

A: Getting back into the swing of writing papers was probably my largest hurdle. The online literature searches, reference page and online resources were a big change from my previous experiences in researching a topic. Overall, my greatest learning is that there are core principles in leadership and those core principles do not change leader to leader, the difference in leaders is how you enact them.

Q: Anything else you like to share?

A: Nursing has been a passion of mine since getting out of school. It affords an individual endless opportunities through clinical care, education and administration. Providing care to people in their most vulnerable state and seeing the impact you have is a humbling experience and is rewarding.

APRIL WOOFER, MSN '22

BSN to DNP Executive Leadership Program



••• April Woofter, MSN '22, has been a nurse since 2001. She started her career in the Coronary Care Unit in Houston, Texas. Since then, April has worked in several subspecialties, such as the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and served as the Assistant Manager of the Perioperative Department. She has expanded her role to the executive level at the Fertility Institute of Hawaii, where she is the Chief Compliance & Change Management Officer. April completed the MSN

Leadership portion of the BSN to DNP program at Chatham in 2022. The BSN to DNP track is an online, 53-credit offering that prepares nursing professionals for an executive leadership role. We caught up with April recently to get her viewpoints on the track.

Q: Why were you interested in the BSN to DNP program?

A: I have always desired to pursue a higher degree within the nursing profession. During my time in management, I recognized nursing leadership's importance and impactful role in caring for patients through work with staff and healthcare organizations. I am a proponent of education and chose to pursue formal training in leadership and management. Because I live in Hawaii, I specifically searched for an online program and found Chatham University. I was drawn to the university's robust curriculum and the program's focus on executive development to the terminal degree in nursing.

Q: How do you think the MSN Leadership portion of the BSN to DNP degree has further prepared you to meet your professional goals?

A: The MSN Leadership portion of the BSN to DNP degree was essential in developing my leadership abilities. Before my start at Chatham, I operated on instincts and emulated past leadership role models. Since then, the program has given me evidence-based tools and skills to develop my leadership capabilities, such as self-development, building staff motivation, and the power of communication.

Q: What would you say to potential applicants and Chatham BSN alumni who were considering the BSN to DNP program?

A: What are you waiting for? There is a need for individuals who possess the desire and drive to lead change initiatives at the executive level. As the largest healthcare profession, nurses have a wealth of knowledge and deserve a place where healthcare decision-making occurs. Take the next step and obtain the skills and education to perform confidently and competitively in today's ever-changing healthcare arena. The program prepares nurses to operate in various settings, from initiating department quality improvement (QI) projects to creating healthcare policies on the national stage.

Q: What was your area of greatest learning in the MSN leadership portion of the BSN to DNP program?

A: In addition to leadership development, the MSN portion of the program has been instrumental in developing the resiliency needed at the executive level. My most significant learning area was understanding how to operate effectively as a change agent. Change can be difficult, and executive-level nurses must overcome barriers to reach desired goals. This means remaining vigilant throughout the whole change process. Nurses should avoid being discouraged if initiatives fail and try again. Even at this level, nurses must remain steadfast as patient advocates – a core quality of the profession.

Q: Anything else you like to share?

A: It was through my MSN practice experience and the success of my project that I was offered an executive position at my current organization. I currently work with 70 direct reports and seven different departments. I actively work to implement change initiatives throughout the organization and review, create, and enforce operational policies to ensure compliance with several regulatory agencies. In addition, I participate in research studies and still make time to assist in the OR and PACU. This degree has given me the foundation for growth to transition from a transactional leader to a transformational leader.

Curriculum Updates and the 2021 AACN Essentials of Nursing Education

••• On April 6, 2021, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) approved the newest version of *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*. This newest version challenges educators to revamp nursing education so that nursing professionals at the same educational level can demonstrate similar skills. Additionally, *The Essentials* call for a revolution in teaching/learning practices, moving from knowledge-based education, where students are expected to recall and apply knowledge, to competency-based education, where students are expected to demonstrate competency.

The *Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* provides the curricular foundation for students in Chatham's RN-BSN, MSN, and DNP programs. Chatham faculty were challenged to review the current programs and revise the curricula to develop education focused on the competencies nurses need in today's complex healthcare systems. Revised educational offerings will roll out to new students beginning in the Fall 2023. While many of the great things about our online programs remain unchanged, some of the major changes planned are highlighted below:

DNP

- One 16-month enrollment option only (students can still start in fall or spring term)
- Students will be assigned one of the DNP faculty to serve as their DNP Project Chair, who will also serve as the student's preceptor.
- The required Residency has been moved to the end of the program to coincide with travel to Pittsburgh to attend Commencement (if desired).
- The 500 Practice Experience hours will be spread throughout all 27 credits instead of just three courses.

- Students will develop a professional poster, a manuscript, and a PowerPoint presentation to showcase their DNP projects instead of writing an 8-chapter capstone
- Evidence of 500 clinical hours from student's MSN program are no longer required for admission

MSN

- Now only 30 credits instead of 33
- Practice experiences will be threaded throughout the curriculum with a focus on specialty role preparation for either the nurse educator or the nurse leader
- RN-to-MSN Educator track now only 44 credits, down from 47
- BSN-to-DNP Executive Leadership track now only 48 credits, down from 53
- A new Professional Role Development course will end the program rather than separate Practicum and Capstone courses

RN-BSN

- Use of textbooks minimized
- New and improved Academic Resources and Strategies for Nurses (IND 175) course
- Two brand new courses are incorporated into the program: Nursing Informatics, Technology, and Communication and Contemporary Issues in Nursing
- The Women's Health Nursing (NUR 403) and Geriatric Nursing (NUR 411) courses will now be offered as electives only

Please visit the Chatham website at [chatham.edu/nursing](https://www.chatham.edu/nursing) or check in with one of the Chatham faculty to learn more.

RN-BSN Writing for Inclusion



••• Tyler Traister, BSN '14 received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Chatham University through the partnership with the UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing. He remembers being able

to use the cadaver lab at Chatham, and he said the University was where he learned about the importance of writing well—something he tries to pass on to his students at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, where he's an assistant professor of nursing.

To Tyler, being a nurse is all about helping people, whether in times of need or good health, regardless of how those patients identify. If those patients are part of the LGBTQ+ community, it's possible they may face discrimination from some people in the healthcare community. To help bridge the gap between this population and healthcare providers, Tyler wrote *Fast Facts about LGBTQ+ Care for Nurses: How to Deliver Culturally Competent and Inclusive Care*, a textbook aimed at educating professionals about LGBTQ+ patients and helping them confront their biases. The book was honored last year by the American Journal of Nursing with the third-place prize in their Professional Issues category. We are so proud of you, Tyler!



NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES

••• We are pleased to extend our congratulations to the following Chatham University nursing programs students that received a degree conferral in this past academic year.

AUGUST 2022

BSN

LeAnn Griffith
Ian Miller

MSN

Opeyemi E Blessing
Nadzeya Nekrashevich
Lorie Sasinoski
Gabriela E Van Veen
Paige Warren

DNP

Hannah C Acquah
Wakeelat A Adeoye
Emilola E Akeredolu
Donna D Anderson
Daniel K Apau
Lisa P Blevins
Aimee Branch
Reginald Casilang
Susan Clapp
Jennifer Clinton
Jacqueline S Constantino
Myriam Diatta
Kristina Donnay
Denyse Gallagher
Lawson Triesha S Gayle-Lawson
Maria Godwin
Danielle L Hammons
Deanna C Kaefer
Meshelle A Lynch

Elizabeth Mathew
Mary Ndungu
Tamara A Neely
Portia E Nunley
Vivian E Orock
Daphne Pratt
Uribe Camilo Rubio-Uribe
Erin Stansbury
Ayah Taniform

DECEMBER 2022

BSN

Isabella E Beighey
Nathaniel Fardo
Xin Li
Morgan McWilliams
Olivia N Namee
Rukaiah Pierce
Elena R Ramsey
Elizabeth A Stermel
Madison L Wasileski

MSN

Trasera L Halterman
Allison A Stathakis
April L Woofter

DNP

Alesha C Alford
Jessica Barbosa
Sella Borgum
Christiana L Bredeweg

Quiana L Cooper
Kristin Gates
Laurie E Greisch
Megan Hartz-Rodriguez
Ashley Hernandez
Maria N Mbeboh
Uhunoma L Osadolor
Alexandria Sara
Marilou N Sempio
Veronica Singfield
Dena Strano
Walter L Toller
Ashley Turner
Nelson Vanucci
Kevin Wong

MAY 2023

BSN

Bailey C Donofrio
Morgan M Heller
Sierra N McClain
Lena R Waltonbaugh
Michelle L Wassell

DNP

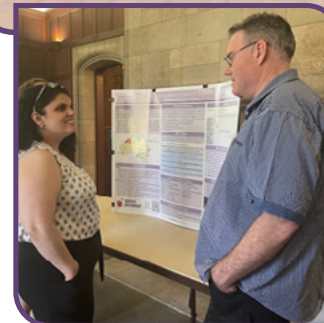
Haley Baxter
Zaida A Bruno
Neltada Charlemagne
Lauren Clark
Jamilah Davis Tindell
Cecilia Ekwunazu

Dawn Francisco
Mary Huntsinger
Jacquelin J Hyman
Julia K Kuzin
Katelyn Llewellyn
Olatokunbo Lucas

Ashley M Miller
Netsanet Mulugeta
Rhoda Ndamukong
Karen Radowich
Whitney Smith
Folashade Sobande-Amon

DNP Campus Residency

••• Chatham University held two on-campus residency experiences for our DNP students. These students are in the final stages of the DNP program and had the opportunity to present and obtain feedback on their projects, and participated in valuable networking and mentorship from faculty and staff. We welcomed 37 attendees on July 25 and 26, 2022 and 27 attendees on April 13 and 14, 2023.



Spring 2023 Residency

Chi Zeta: Chapter Update

••• Chatham University has successfully maintained its Chi Zeta chapter in the Sigma Honor Society of Nursing for nine years. Chi Zeta is the 508th chapter of Sigma; currently there are over 555 chapters. During the fall term of the 2023-2024 academic year, Chatham will host a Virtual Founder's Day event. The topic of the event will be "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, A Growing Problem in the General Population." Presenters are Frank J. Tornetta and Chatham alumna Cynthia Betron, DNP '10, CRNA CHSE, CNE. Dr. Betron serves as the Education Committee chair for Chi Zeta.

Dr. Michelle Doas, chapter president, will be the Chi Zeta delegate representative for the 2023-24 Sigma 47th Biennial Convention. The convention theme is "Be Bold."

***BE BOLD** just as our founders were during the turbulent times in which they founded this now global organization.*

***BE BOLD** and raise our voices together as the largest constituency of healthcare providers around the globe to influence decisions and create a better world for all, which we strive to serve.*

What does it mean to be bold? Being bold does not mean being brash. It does not have to be inflammatory. Being bold does not have to be confrontational. It does not require you to be the loudest voice in the room. It does require you to step outside your silo and engage with others for the sake of our populations, our profession, and our planet. What does it take to be bold? It takes being informed with facts. It takes knowledge. It takes leadership. It takes fluency in economics, technology, and conservation. It takes love, courage, and honor.

••• Chi Zeta provides many opportunities for membership involvement in leadership, scholarship, and community service. The chapter website can be found at chizeta.nursingsociety.org. If you are a member of Sigma but not part of Chatham University's Chi Zeta chapter, please consider joining our current membership by contacting Sigma Membership Services at 888-634-8174 or memserv@sigmanursing.org. If you are a current member and interested in joining the leadership succession committee or education committee, please contact the Chi Zeta Chapter President Dr. Michelle Doas at mdoas@chatham.edu.



Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®
Chi Zeta Chapter



Please keep the Chatham University nursing programs updated with your achievements. We would like to share your scholarly work and projects with the Chatham University community. Send your stories, news and publications to G.McClellan@chatham.edu.

Also, consider joining our *Chatham University Nursing Programs* group on Facebook. It's a great place for students, alumni, and faculty to share and connect.

Stay connected and get involved with the Office of Alumni Relations! We offer numerous volunteer and networking opportunities as well as alumni receptions at professional conferences and exclusive events at local Pittsburgh attractions. Interested? Please send us an e-mail at alumni@chatham.edu or visit us at chatham.edu/alumni. Stay connected with the Alumni Association via Facebook.