

## From the Director



► Dear alumni, students, and adjunct faculty, it is with saddened heart that I write my last message to you. At this time I am beginning a new chapter in my professional career. I have been privileged and honored to have been the founding director of the healthcare informatics programs, guiding students and faculty through curriculum content. I could not have done this without the support and input from numerous departments at Chatham University and alumni/students. I have been honored to work with each of you. I believe I am leaving Chatham with a strong, well developed graduate program and three certificate programs in healthcare informatics. I look forward to watching the program continue to grow from a distance.

The next chapter in my life will be at Wake Forest University within their newly formed School of Professional Studies as the Academic Director. I look forward to continuing to use my knowledge and experience in creating new programs supporting health professionals to work collaboratively in using innovative technology and data to improve outcomes.

I welcome the opportunity to stay in touch. Until our paths cross again, be safe, be happy and continue to think out of the box, be contagious, inspire others, and be the leader you are meant to be. Take care and keep in touch.

Best,  
Dr. Wolf



► As we all wish Dr. Deb Wolf great success in her new role, Dr. Lorri Birkholz will serve as the interim program director for the health informatics program. Dr. Birkholz joined Chatham University as an assistant professor in the nursing program in 2020. In this position, Dr. Birkholz primarily teaches in Chatham's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

She received her nursing diploma from Presbyterian/St. Luke's School of Nursing located in Denver, CO and later completed her BSN at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Lorri pursued her MSN degree at the University of Texas-Arlington specializing in nursing leadership and administration, and completed her DNP degree at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Upon graduating, Dr. Birkholz began teaching in the MSN and DNP programs at ODU for three years before coming to Chatham.

When she's away from work, Lorri and her husband enjoy traveling and spending time with family both near and far.

## Welcome to New Dean



► As we sadly said our goodbyes to Dean Downey in December 2021, we enthusiastically welcome Dean Bondoc. Effective September 1, 2022, Dr. Salvador Bondoc joined Chatham University as the new Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Dr. Bondoc comes to Chatham after serving in academic leadership roles at Quinnipiac University including Program Director of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy and Master of Occupational Therapy programs and as Department Chair. Dr. Bondoc brings with him a depth of knowledge and experience in curriculum and program development, accreditation and assessment, and faculty and student mentorship. During his tenure as Department Chair, he oversaw the progressive growth and ongoing quality improvement of occupational therapy programs, raising their national ranking to 17th in the nation according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Dr. Bondoc has served on the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) for 15 years and served multiple volunteer roles at the American Occupational Therapy Association. He is a nationally recognized clinical expert and scholar in physical rehabilitation specializing in various upper extremity conditions and has authored numerous scholarly works through peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and practice publications.

Dr. Bondoc received his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of the Philippines and his post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy from Creighton University. He is originally from the Philippines and has lived and worked in the US since 1996. He is married to Gerrit Michael Devries, and they will reside in Pittsburgh.

## From the Alumni Chair



► Greetings to everyone, as I am happy to take over the role of the MHI program's Alumni Chair, following in the very big shoes of my friend and colleague, Sasa Miskovic. I look forward to working with all of you and hearing about your achievements, both in the classroom and as we all collectively grow in the field that is healthcare. We are all in a great position, being students and/or alumni of Chatham's growing MHI program, which has allowed many of us that have previously been a part of it to add to our skillsets and create a better future, not only for ourselves but also the industry that we work in.

Our students especially are well equipped for the healthcare world now more than ever, having lived in and battled the adversity of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of telehealth resources as well as a further

visible representation of EHR/EMR systems in today's world. We are very fortunate to have been provided a quality education from the MHI program at Chatham. Over the course of the past year, I am happy to say that due to the position that Chatham's program put me in, I have moved from an IT support role to the first Project Manager at the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Geriatrics and learning tools such as Tableau have allowed me to step into the role ready to contribute. I hope you all will find yourselves in similar scenarios where this program will help you to achieve your goals and excel in this ever-growing field of healthcare informatics.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of 2022, and if you have any thoughts or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,  
Jeremy Escovitz, MHI '21

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Laura Duncan Graham, MHI '19



► Laura C. Duncan, MHA, MSHI is the Executive Administrator for the Division of Endocrinology and the Chair's Office for the Department of Medicine within UPMC. She leads the Department of Medicine's efforts

to enhance access to care through telemedicine, clinical operations, physician compensation and incentives, and business analytics within the ten divisions of the department. She also supports COVID Vaccination Community clinics throughout

Allegheny County, ensuring under resourced groups have easy access to vaccines and boosters. With over 17 years of healthcare experience, she has earned two master's degrees in healthcare administration and healthcare informatics, linking hospital operations with analytic frameworks.

In her free time, Laura works to advance diversity and inclusion through healthcare innovation and mentorship. Laura is the Midwest Regent of the National Association of Health Services Executives (the premier minority healthcare executive professional organization) supporting a 14-state

## ADMISSION COUNSELOR SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Jacob Cribbs



► Jacob Cribbs recently joined the Graduate Admissions team at Chatham University in support of the healthcare informatics program and several other degrees within the School of Health Sciences. As the primary recruiter for Healthcare Informatics, Jacob will work to grow the program through networking with alumni and attending various regional and national conferences.

Formerly a Slippery Rock University undergrad, Jacob pursued his master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania while gaining experience with their graduate admissions office. This experience is what ultimately drew him to Chatham post-graduation. When away from work, Jacob's time is consumed by attending concerts and spending time with friends and family. Welcome Mr. Cribbs, we look forward to working with you.

footprint of early, mid, and late careerist healthcare executives. She is proud to link innovative and engaged healthcare leaders throughout the country to local colleagues to eliminate disparities of care that plague greater Pittsburgh.

Laura is an Elder of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, driving their mission activities and funding and, and serves as the Board Chair of Off the Floor Pittsburgh, which is the only furniture bank in southwestern Pennsylvania that delivers new and gently used furniture to families in need.

# ADJUNCT FACULTY PROFILES

## Dr. Cariann Johnson-Huber



► Dr. Johnson-Huber first joined our adjunct pool of faculty in the summer of 2020 leading a course in project management. She has taken on the role of subject matter expert in health informatics offering direction and input on curricular revisions while leading additional course content focused on Telehealth. Since then she has excelled in completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Carlow University in spring 2022.

Dr. Johnson-Huber has dedicated her career to helping others. In her 29 years of nursing, she has gained clinical experience in med-surg, critical care, and peri-anesthesia care. She has over ten years of experience as an informatics nursing manager

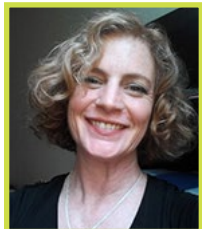
with responsibilities including professional staff development, project management, budgeting, and information technology support. Additionally, she has spent the past 16 years of her career as an educator in both staff education and as an adjunct faculty member. As a passionate systems leader, she provides mentorship to both graduate and undergraduate students in nursing, informatics, and business disciplines.

As a life-long learner, she holds a Masters in Nursing Education from Waynesburg University and most recently graduated from Carlow University with her Doctor of Nursing Practice, where she was awarded the Graduate Student Excellence and Anne DeNardo McGowan Awards for leadership, service, and academic excellence. Dr. Johnson-Huber's

personal mission aligns with the teachings of Florence Nightingale, "let us not consider us finished nurses, but always seek learning."

Dr. Johnson-Huber serves on various organizational committees, including medication safety, system informatics council, nursing research, quality & compliance, and student representation council. She is an active member of the American Nursing Informatics Association and Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honors Society at the local and national levels. Dr. Johnson-Huber has recently created a Surgical Nursing Specialty Informatics Council to support advancing technology and practices across the disciplines. Additionally, she is dedicated to her community by giving back to various school and outreach programs in her spare time.

## Ginger Ellis-Polozoff, MBA, PMP, CSM



► Although Ms. Ellis-Polozoff is new to the healthcare informatics program, she is not new to Chatham University. Ginger has worked as a project manager in academic, public health, and corporate settings. She currently works in the Strategic Initiatives Project Management Office (PMO) at GNC specializing in process improvement and communication management. Ginger earned her Bachelors in Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin and her Masters in Business Administration at Chatham University. Ginger is a firm believer in the value of involvement in professional associations, Ginger is active in the Pittsburgh chapter of Project Management Institute, where she attends meetings and events, volunteers, and encourages students to attend. When she's not working, Ginger enjoys singing, hiking, and hula hooping.

Ginger is the subject matter expert who has revised and is now leading our HCI 504 Project Management Course. Welcome Ginger!!

## Meet Our Administrative Support Staff



► The MHI program would not be as efficient or organized without the timeless efforts of Jeri Hale, MHI part-time program assistant. In 2020, Jeri willingly accepted to help support the MHI program as needed to support the program director in completing yearly tasks. Jeri first joined Chatham's family in 2011 and is currently the administrative assistant for the continuing education department. Many of you have corresponded or interacted with Jeri via e-mail communication or during commencement activities. We are so grateful and thankful for the time and support she offers each of us. You can always reach Jeri at [jeri.hale@chatham.edu](mailto:jeri.hale@chatham.edu).

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Maureen Murphy, MHI '23



► Maureen has been a surgical physician assistant for 38 years. Her career has spanned many specialties from trauma to neurosurgery. She genuinely enjoys her career and the privilege of taking care of patients, some of whom are at a very vulnerable time in their life.

Going back to school at 58 was a daunting task, she was not sure that she would be able to balance work and family life with starting a master's degree. With an online program, she has been able to complete her academic work as her schedule allows. Starting out with the Healthcare Informatics Certificate program was certainly a good way to test the waters if she wanted to continue with the master's program.

Maureen has made some wonderful connections with my classmates who have supported each other during the pursuit of their master's degree. She has found students have diverse backgrounds and work experiences that bring to the class and the discussion forums a variety of interesting discussions. She has learned a lot from her peers and believe they will continue to be friends when each completes their perspective programs.

Maureen has witnessed firsthand the transition from paper and pen charting and order entry to electronic medical records over the past 10 years. When she transitioned to electronic medical records it was an eye-opening experience of how the power of EMR can improve the quality of care that she and her coworkers provided to their patients.

When not working or doing schoolwork Maureen enjoys hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the Laurel Highlands. She would like to retire from being a surgical PA and live at the beach in Delaware. She plans on using her degree to work part-time for an electronic medical record company where she can blend her healthcare provider background with her new knowledge of informatics.

## The Debra Wolf Healthcare Informatics Student Award

As a gift to Dr. Debra Wolf and the healthcare informatics program, the Class of 2018 orchestrated a scholarship in which each graduate collectively agreed to donate funding up to an annual total of \$1,000 to support current students in the program with their education. As a gift to Dr. Wolf, we were embraced by how much time and knowledge she has put into the healthcare informatics program, to past and current students of the program, and overall, to the University.

### Dr. Wolf 2020 Student Award Recipient



#### Matthew Carroll

This year we are proud to announce Matthew Carroll is the recipients of the Debra Wolf Healthcare Informatics Student Award in 2022. Matthew grew up just outside of Pittsburgh in Bethel Park. His wife and he just recently welcomed the birth of their second child in June. Matthew has a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and recently transitioned into a new role as a Director of Rehabilitation. Amidst everything, he is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics at Chatham. He has witnessed the great impact that technology is playing in healthcare and see a bright future for health informatics professionals to play a pivotal role in improving the U.S. healthcare system. He is passionate about making a positive change in other people's lives and hope to continue to evolve in my career path. Congratulations to Dr. Carroll for receiving the Dr. Wolf Student Award.

### Support Our Future

As the profession of healthcare informatics continues to expand, so does the need for qualified professional who understand the world of healthcare informatics and the impact on patient outcomes. We need your support to continue offering students a financial **award to continue through the program**. The award was developed to support students in their professional growth and to influence health-related outcomes using information and technology. By donating, you are

supporting students interested in a healthcare informatics profession. Over time, with your support, we hope to increase the number of students and amount of funds raised to offer additional financial support to students excelling in the program. A gift of any amount benefits our students. You can make a gift possible through our secure online giving site by visiting **chatham.edu/give/mhistudentaward**. We thank you in advance for any support you can offer.



# NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## Students

- ▶ **Jean Wilner Augustin, MHI '22**  
Awarded the Certified Associate in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS) Minority Grant from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and is now certificate as CAHIMS.  
Accepted new position as Project Analyst within UPMC Mercy Department of Emergency Medicine.
- ▶ **Matthew Carroll**  
Welcomes new arrival Ava, born June 16, 2022
- ▶ **Jennifer Cookingham**  
Awarded HIMSS Foundation Scholarship
- ▶ **Bevin McVey, MHI '22**  
Accepted a new position effective 6/27/22 as the Director of the Clinically Integrated Network



▲ Matthew Carroll  
▲ Jennifer Cookingham

## Alumni

- ▶ **Annette Aho, MHI '19**  
Promoted to Client Project Manager at Highmark Health Systems
- ▶ **Rebecca Clark, MHI COCHI '19**  
New position as Provider Performance Analyst at Amerihealth Caritas
- ▶ **Jeremy Escovitz, MHI '21**  
New position as Project Manager, University of Pittsburgh
- ▶ **Samantha Fabyanic, MHI '19**  
QA Specialist for Quest Diagnostics; Awarded MVP for Q1 2022 North Region
- ▶ **Sasa Miskovic, MHI '18**  
New position, Master Scrum at ThoroughCare
- ▶ **Aysayeh Murray MHI '21**  
New position, Lead HIM Technician for Millcreek Community Hospita
- ▶ **Aaron Thomas, MHI '21**  
New position, Research Informatics Specialist at UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine

# Alumni Reception Welcomes 2022 MHI Graduates



Back row left to right: Aaron Thomas, MHI '21 and Jeremy Escovitz, MHI '21  
Front row left to right: Nina Deng, MHI '22, Elizabeth Laslo, MHI '21, Jean Wilner Augustin, MHI '22, Bevin McVey, MHI '22 and Nikki Nastasi, MHI '22

# Congratulating 2022 MHI Graduates



Christine Biernacki, MHI '20, Dr. Wolf, Nina Deng, MHI '22, Jean Wilner Augustin, MHI '22, William Quarles, MHI '22; Bevin McVey, MHI '22

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Chatham University



► Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kristin Nicole Dukes, who was appointed as the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Chatham University beginning May 23, 2022. Dr. Dukes will collaborate with stakeholders across the University to provide empathetic leadership and expert strategic direction to further advance an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and mutually respectful for all students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The CDO reports directly to the President, serves on the Executive Leadership Team, leads the Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and co-chairs the campus Diversity & Inclusion Council.

Prior to joining Chatham, Dr. Dukes served as the Dean for Institutional Diversity at Allegheny College, where she was charged with shaping and implementing policies, strategies, and initiatives in support of Allegheny's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Prior to assuming the senior diversity officer role at Allegheny, Dr. Dukes was an Associate Professor of Psychology at Simmons University. Dr. Dukes is a recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Paper Emerald Literati for her paper "Anti-Racist Actions and Accountability: Not More Empty Promises."

## Diversity and Inclusion Council



► In April 2019, Aaron Thomas, MHI '21 was selected to join the Diversity and Inclusion Council at Chatham University. During that time, he thoroughly enjoyed his time as a council member! One of the highlights of his tenure included access to a 7-day anti-racist training. This course was created in response to the murder of George Floyd and protests that followed. He experienced and learned about the history of injustices experienced by Black Americans and how we can use this knowledge to better our actions.

Another highlight he recalls was receiving tickets to the Steel City Step Show, where groups from around Pittsburgh competed in a night of stepping, a dance style rooted in Black history. This was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, so it was a great night for groups from other universities and community groups to come together at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland.

Since he graduated this spring, there is at least one opening on the council for a student from the MHI program. The council would like more graduate students to join, so feel free to reach out to Aaron if you have any questions at [aaron.thomas995@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.thomas995@gmail.com). If you are interested in representing the MHI program, please reach out to Dr. Birkholz at [l.birkholz@chatham.edu](mailto:l.birkholz@chatham.edu)

Thank you!

## WPA HIMSS: A Collaborative Partner

► The Chatham University MHI program is a gold sponsor of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of HIMSS (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society). HIMSS is a global organization that continues to embrace and educate today's healthcare leaders in the transformation of health through information. The WPA HIMSS Chapter provides local forums to discuss issues regarding technology and information systems within a healthcare system. Chatham partners with WPA HIMSS to offer networking educational programs. To learn more about WPA HIMSS or to become a member of the chapter, visit [www.westernpahimss.org/about](http://www.westernpahimss.org/about). To explore HIMSS opportunities at a national level, visit [www.himss.org](http://www.himss.org).



Since 2017, Chatham's healthcare informatics program has been acknowledged as an Approved Education Partner (AEP) of HIMSS. As a result of meeting HIMSS's rigorous standards for quality health IT and healthcare education. Chatham joined an exclusive group of organizations authorized to offer HIMSS approved healthcare and health information technology education and training programs that prepare candidates for advanced knowledge in health IT or healthcare. Being an approved AEP, students are provided a solid foundation to prepare in taking the **CAHIMS** or CPHIMS exam. In April 2020, Chatham submitted a renewal application outlining program changes, key initiatives to improve or extend the existing program. Chatham received an additional 3-year approval period as an Approved Education Partner extending to 2023.

In July of 2022, the Western PA chapter joined with the Central PA chapter to host an annual conference virtually offering a panel discussion on "*Telehealth Trends in Post COVID Landscape*". If you are interested in joining the Western PA Chapter or a local Chapter in your home state, you can find contact information **HERE**.

## MENTOR SPOTLIGHT



► W. Michael Widmann, DNP, RN-BC, CCRN-K is a Coordinator of Clinical Informatics at the Excelsa Health System in Southwestern Pennsylvania. In this role, Mike acts as the bridge between the bedside clinicians

and the Information Technology Department. He serves as a change agent to translate and integrate evidence-based practice and standard work through the use of technology and the electronic health record (EHR) documentation.

Mike received his Doctor of Nursing Practice – Informatics Leadership degree from American Sentinel College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Post University in April, 2021. He became a board certified Informatics Nurse through the American

Nurses Credentialing Center in April 2016. Mike's nursing background includes 13 years of critical care nursing as a bedside nurse, clinical nurse coordinator (frontline supervisor), and clinical education specialist. He has been a member of Excelsa's Clinical Informatics team since 2014.

Mike has presented to the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania about Excelsa's implementation of the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program. He also participated as a panel member at Cerner's Health Conference 2016 describing the implementation of evidence-based advisors for sepsis treatment and venothromboembolism prevention. Mike also presented at the 2019 American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA) conference describing how Excelsa Health weaved nursing workflow into the design of their new ICU. Mike lead the technology portion of

that project. Westmoreland Hospital received the 2019 ICU Design Award from the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) related to the ICU Modernization project. Mike gained leadership knowledge and experience as an Eagle Scout and through his membership in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force). In CAP, Mike served at the local, region, and state level. Mike is currently a member of ANIA and the AACN. He continues to demonstrate his leadership skills by serving as the Secretary for the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of ANIA. Mike has mentored students from Chamberlain, Walden, and Chatham Universities. Mike continues to instill informatics principles including turning data into information, information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom.

## Becoming a Mentor

► A mentor is one who offers advice or assists in training a less experienced person such as an intern and becomes a trusted adviser to the individual. Mentoring is a formal arrangement between the intern and the experienced person for a defined period. Mentors serve as role models, working with an academic institution to support the intern throughout their internship in meeting the program objectives. Internship is defined as “a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; and give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent” (National Association of Colleges & Employers, 2017; [www.nacweb.org/about-us/advocacy/position-statements/position-statement-us-internships](http://www.nacweb.org/about-us/advocacy/position-statements/position-statement-us-internships)).

This level of learning would not be possible without the skilled, expert professionals who act as mentors for our students. **If you are interested in becoming a mentor**, please contact Dr. Birkholz at [l.birkholz@chatham.edu](mailto:l.birkholz@chatham.edu).

**Please keep the MHI program updated with your achievements!** E-mail any updates, including e-mail address, address, news, publications, accomplishments, etc. to Jeremy Escovitz, alumni chair, at [jeremy.escovitz@chatham.edu](mailto:jeremy.escovitz@chatham.edu) or Dr. Birkholz at [l.birkholz@chatham.edu](mailto:l.birkholz@chatham.edu).

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 to [alumni@chatham.edu](mailto:alumni@chatham.edu) or visit us at [chatham.edu/alumni](http://chatham.edu/alumni). Stay connected with the Alumni Association via Facebook.