

Director's Welcome



In last year's newsletter, I shared a personal philosophy: The only thing constant in life is change. Reflecting on my first year as Nursing Programs Director and Department Chair, I have seen many changes

and anticipate more to come. There have been changes at the administrative level, four valued full-time nursing faculty members have moved to new opportunities, new faculty members are being welcomed in, and our nursing programs are in cycles of continuous improvement. Each change comes with challenges and trepidation; excitement and possibilities.

While a lot is changing, many things remain the same. I am honored to work with an amazing group of colleagues who provide quality education to students at all levels. I value our nursing students and admire their efforts towards education while also fulfilling family, work, and life obligations. I am humbled at the achievements of Chatham graduates,

whose accomplishments in improving healthcare are recognized and celebrated. I remain excited to meet the challenges of today's educational landscape; creating education students want to engage and learn in.

As the nursing department plans for a 2029 reaccreditation cycle, curriculum will be reviewed and mapped against the 2026 edition of the AACN Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education. The commitment to providing competency-based education will be reinforced, ensuring students gain knowledge and applicable skills at Chatham. New teaching and assessment strategies will meet the needs of today's students.

These are exciting times and I look forward to navigating them together!

Best regards,

Julie Slade, Ph.D., DNP, RN, CNE

*Nursing Programs Director and Department Chair,
Associate Professor of Nursing*

From the Dean



It is a privilege to write to you for the first time as Dean of the College of Health Sciences. As the former Program Director of Athletic Training and Exercise Sciences, I am honored to continue in this community and

with the tradition of preparing compassionate, skilled, and innovative healthcare professionals who make a difference in the lives of patients, families, and communities.

Throughout my career I have been passionate about developing programs that prepare graduates not only to meet the demands of today's healthcare but to transform healthcare. I've had the opportunity to work alongside talented faculty, students, clinicians, and community partners who share a commitment to excellence, service, and lifelong learning. Those experiences have reinforced my belief that strong academic preparation, meaningful clinical experiences, and collaborative partnerships are essential to improving health outcomes and advancing the profession.

As I begin my tenure, I have been inspired by the dedication of our nursing faculty, staff, students, alumni, and clinical partners. The strength of our nursing programs is evident in the accomplishments of our graduates, expertise of our faculty, and the global relationships we have built. These elements provide a solid foundation for continued growth.

We are excited to strengthen our nursing programs through curriculum enhancements, expanded clinical partnerships, and initiatives that support engagement and retention. We are exploring new opportunities that



Message from the Editor

Chatham University's nursing program is excited to share this edition of *InTouch*. This issue provides an overview of student and faculty accomplishments, alumni achievements, various happenings and changes that occurred over the 2025-2026 academic year. This newsletter was developed with nursing faculty serving as contributing authors. We hope you enjoy and keep *InTouch*!

Raquel R. Lemelle, MAT
Nursing Programs Assistant



Leadership Updates

Experienced leaders earned new roles this past year and they are prepared to advance Chatham University's mission. Their work will build upon Chatham's strong foundation to shape an exciting future for the University.



Dr. Lisa Lambert was appointed President in 2025 and will be officially inaugurated in October 2026. She joined Chatham in 1985 as a biology faculty member. She served as Chair of the Science Department, Program Director for

MS Biology, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Learning, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs. She has completed sabbaticals at the University of Pittsburgh, Duke University, and Harvard University while researching the genetics of iron metabolism. Dr. Lambert earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Furman University and a Ph.D. in genetics from Indiana University-Bloomington.



Dr. Matthew Redinger was named Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2025. Previously, he served six years as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Providence. During his academic

career he was a history professor specializing in Modern U.S History, Modern Latin America, and the twentieth-century Middle East.



Dr. Robert Lettan became the Vice-Provost in 2026. Dr. Lettan is an organic chemist who earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Northwestern University. He researched synthesis of small molecules as potential therapeutics disease. After

completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, he started at Chatham in 2009 and became the Chair of the Science Department in 2019.



Dr. Jason Edsall is the Dean of the College of Health Sciences as of 2026. He has been at Chatham for nine years, serving as an Associate Professor of Athletic Training, Chair of the Department of Health & Human Performance, and Program

Director of Master of Science in Athletic Training. Dr. Edsall's research includes studying the effects of nutrition and substances on human fitness, as well as injury-prevention protocols among college athletes.

Introducing New Nursing Faculty

The nursing department at Chatham University is excited to announce three new full-time faculty members starting in the department fall 2026. Welcome to our new faculty and we look forward to you being part of the team!

Anna Antuono, Ph.D., MSN, RN, CSN, has experience with neonatal intensive care nursing, nursing education, and school nursing. Anna looks forward to mentoring future nurses, fostering student success, and contributing to Chatham's collaborative learning community.

Gail Hoover, DNP, RN, CMSRN, NPD-BC has a nursing background that includes medical-surgical nursing, nursing education, academic leadership, and professional development. Gail is eager to mentor future nurses, collaborate with colleagues, and contribute to student success at Chatham.

Abbie Purney, DNP, RN, CCNS, CNE, comes to us with a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (CCNS) certification, experience in nursing education, and preparing undergraduate and graduate nursing students for clinical practice and NCLEX success. She can't wait to mentor students, collaborate with faculty, and contribute to the continued excellence of Chatham's nursing programs.



Fond Farewells



After 18 years of dedicated service, **Dr. Lora Walter** is retiring from Chatham. She has been an invaluable team member and played an instrumental role in the development and growth in the department, notably as the RN-BSN Program Coordinator and leader of Pathways to Nursing. Her contributions have a lasting impact on our faculty, students, and profession. Retirement is certainly well-earned, and we wish her many happy years ahead as she enjoys more time with her family and friends. Thank you, Dr. Walter, for your dedication, leadership, and service –you will be missed!

Congratulations to **Dr. Nicole Hoh**, who completed a Nurse Practitioner program in Psychiatric Mental Health. She will be going into full-time practice. We are grateful for the knowledge, mentorship, and enthusiasm she brought to our students and wish her every success as she begins this new chapter.

Dr. Tara Stamper is returning to full-time clinical practice, where she will continue to provide exceptional care while advancing the nursing profession. During her time at Chatham, she has been a dedicated educator, mentor, and colleague, particularly in the DNP program. We are grateful for her contributions and wish her continued success in this next phase of her professional journey.

Dr. Emily Hopkins has accepted a full-time practice role in York, PA. During her time at Chatham, she has served as MSN Program Coordinator and Chair of the Institutional Review Board. She has been an engaged faculty member, advocate for students, and left a lasting impact on the department. We are excited for her as she embarks on this new opportunity and continues to make an impact.

FACULTY PROFILE

Elizabeth Skrovanek, Ph.D., RN



Elizabeth Skrovanek, PhD, RN joined Chatham in August 2025. Dr. Skrovanek studied at the University of Pittsburgh where she also taught in the undergraduate nursing program, thus sparking her passion for education. As an Assistant Professor teaching in Chatham's DNP, MSN, and RN-BSN programs, she strives to create a welcoming space for student learning, growth, and success. She feels privileged to be part of her students' journeys and feels the faculty at Chatham are supportive, welcoming, and she is thrilled to collaborate with them.

Dr. Skrovanek's scholarship is in genetics and women's health. Her continued involvement in advocacy groups and professional organizations seek to raise awareness and improve outcomes. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and baking. She grew up in Germany which led to a love of travel. Starting in Fall 2026, she will replace Dr. Emily Hopkins as the new MSN Program Coordinator.

From the Dean, continued

will position our graduates for success in an ever-changing healthcare landscape.

Most importantly, I want to thank those who make this work possible. Our faculty and staff are deeply committed to student success, our clinical partners provide invaluable learning experiences, and our alumni continue to reflect the values and excellence of this institution in their professional practice.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead and learning more about your connection with our college. Together, we will build upon our proud history while creating new opportunities for the future of nursing education.

Jason Edsall, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Health Sciences



ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Heather Ambrose DNP '11, MSN '10, RN



We are excited to spotlight one of our many excellent adjunct faculty, Chatham alumna Heather Ambrose, DNP, MSN, RN. Dr. Ambrose brings her passion and leadership to every course she teaches.

What inspired you to be a nurse leader?

My love of science and wanting to help people. I was moved by the impact nurses have on patients and their families during vulnerable times. I recognized the critical need for strong leadership to advocate for both patients and nurses. Becoming a nurse leader was a natural evolution, allowing me to influence systemic improvements to foster a culture of excellence.

What brought you to teaching?

One of the most powerful ways to advance quality care was to invest in the next generation of nurses. I share real-world experiences and best practices to ensure that our future colleagues have clinical skills, strong ethics, dedication to nursing autonomy, and continuous professional development. There's satisfaction in students connecting theory with practice, understanding the 'why' behind interventions, and instilling a passion for lifelong learning.

What do you enjoy the most working with students?

Witnessing their growth and fresh perspectives. Students challenge us to constantly re-evaluate our approaches, keeping our teaching dynamic and relevant. I love seeing them develop critical thinking skills, advocate for their

patients, and understand the importance of their role to ensure safe and quality patient outcomes. Seeing their 'aha!' moments or confidently applying a complex concept in simulation or clinical is incredibly rewarding.

What has been your most rewarding experience as an educator?

The domino effect of nurses celebrating other nurses and engaging peers to continue their education. It's fulfilling to see students not just graduate, but flourish in their careers. When a former student shares how something we discussed in class directly impacted a patient's outcome positively, that's truly the pinnacle of job satisfaction.

What is something students might be surprised to learn about you?

I love to sew, garden, run, and am a two-time Girl Scout leader with huge troops. These interests often cultivate skills like resilience, meticulous attention to detail, strategic planning, or adaptability – all qualities that are valuable in nursing and leadership.

What inspires you in nursing and education?

The healthcare landscape is constantly evolving, presenting new challenges and opportunities to enhance quality and safe patient care. This continuous need for

innovation, coupled with the profound impact we have on individual lives, is incredibly motivating. In education, it's the potential within each student that fuels my passion. Seeing them grasp complex concepts, develop leadership skills, commit to nursing autonomy, and professional development reminds me of the strength and resilience of our profession. Knowing that I contribute to shaping future nurses and leaders who will champion these values is a powerful source of inspiration.

Can you share one piece of career advice?

Always advocate. Advocate fiercely for patients – their safety, dignity, and quality of care. Advocate for your colleagues – support their growth, well-being, and right to nursing autonomy. And crucially, advocate for yourself – for your professional development, work-life balance, and mental health. Never stop learning and never stop questioning how we can do better. Your voice matters and is essential for driving positive change.

Anything else to share?

Nursing is more than a job; it is a calling, science, and an art. It demands critical thinking, compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to constant improvement. Remember the incredible privilege and responsibility you have. The future of healthcare rests on the shoulders of dedicated professionals like you. I encourage all students to actively engage, ask questions, and be proactive in shaping their own professional journeys.



RECENT FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

Harlan, M. D., **Skrovanek, E.**, Torgerson, S., Perpetua, Z., O'Loughlin, V., Hudack, C., ... & Sherwood, P. (2025). Meaningful mentorship: Evaluation of a mentorship program to reduce burnout in nursing students and graduate nurses. *Nurse Educator*, 50(5), 231-235

Mack, A., **Singh, A.**, & Turner, K. (2025). Implementing the R2C2 feedback and coaching tool for preceptor support. *Advancing Medical Surgical Nursing*. doi.org/10.1016/j.amsn.2025.100030

Singh, A., Hunker, D. F., & Avidan, M. (2025). Nursing culture within higher education: A snapshot. *Nursing education perspectives*, 10.1097/01.NEP.0000000000001365. Advance online publication. doi.org/10.1097/01.NEP.0000000000001365

PODIUM AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Doas, M. (2025). Enhancing Emotionally Competent interactions in order to increase workplace morale. Speaker, UPMC Mercy.

Doas, M. (2026). Cultivating Self and Emotional Awareness in Order to Promote Mutually Respectful Interactions. Speaker, UPMC WPIC, luncheon leadership rounds.

Gullatte, M. M., Roesser, K., Steingass, S., **Vioral, A.** (2026, May 7). *Ready to lead? Explore service on the national ONS board of directors at the 2026 ONS congress*. Oncology Nursing Society Voice News. www.ons.org/publications-research/voice/news-view/04-2026/ready-lead-explore-service-national-ons-board

Harlan, M. D., Ren, D., Perpetua, Z., Hudack, C. E., Yen, A., **Skrovanek, E.**, ... & Sherwood, P. (2025, November 8-11). Feasibility, Acceptability and Burnout in a Mentorship Program for Students and Graduate Nurses. Podium Presentation. Sigma Biennial Convention 2025. Indianapolis, IN

Hopkins, E. (2025, September 3-6). *Maternal experiences breastfeeding an infant with a lip and tongue tie*. [Podium presentation] Academy of Neonatal Nursing National Neonatal Nursing Conference, Washington, DC, United States. www.academyonline.org

Hopkins, E. (2025, September 3-6). *Maternal experiences with lip and tongue tie laser frenotomy: A phenomenological study*. [Poster presentation] Academy of Neonatal Nursing National Neonatal Nursing Conference, Washington, DC, United States. www.academyonline.org

Hopkins, E. & Dieterich, R. (2025, September 3-6). *Scoping review of breastfeeding practices for infant with an upper lip tie*. [Poster presentation] Academy of Neonatal Nursing National Neonatal Nursing Conference, Washington, DC, United States. www.academyonline.org

Orgon Stamper, T. (2026, April 21). *Palliative Care in Heart Failure* [Conference Presentation]. Allegheny Health Network Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency Program, Pittsburgh, PA.

Piotrowski, M. & **Vioral, A.** (March, 2026). Artificial Intelligence workshop based on Teaching Professor's December 2025 conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education.

Skrovanek, E., Zoucha, R., Kronk, R. (2025, November 13-16). Ethical Considerations of Whole Genome Sequencing: Perspectives of Doctoral-Prepared Nurses and Students. Podium Presentation. International Society for Nurses in Genetics Congress 2025. Montreal, Canada

Skrovanek, E., Mewborn, E., Harris, C. (2025, November 13-16). Deal or No Deal? Navigating Your Path as an Early-Career Investigator. Round-table session. International Society for Nurses in Genetics Congress. Montreal, Canada

Vioral, A. (2026, May 13-17). *Leading through transition: Strategies for navigating organizational transitions and creating cohesive teams through transparency* [Invited workshop]. 51st Annual ONS Congress, San Antonio, TX, United States.

Vioral, A. (2026, March 28). *Interprofessional education: Spring case study* [Facilitator Instructor]. Chatham University College Health Sciences, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.

Vioral, A. (2025, October 11). *Launch your career day*. [Invited workshop]. Kamin Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA United States

Vonada, J., Wickline, E., **Piotrowski, M.**, & Krall, D. (2026). Tradition to Truth—Fact or Fiction. UPMC St. Margaret Annual Research Forum, Pittsburgh, PA.

International Student Perspective



Despite the 10,050 miles separating Tejeshkumar "TJ" Rajanbabu's, DNP '26, hometown of Wollert, Australia from Pittsburgh, he was drawn to Chatham. We asked TJ for his perspective as an international student.

What brought you to Chatham?

From the beginning of the application process the communication has always been warm, welcoming, and personal. I interviewed with Dr. Ashley Singh and that interaction cemented that Chatham was for me. Rather than being another applicant on a list, I felt I belonged.

What was the most impactful lesson you learned?

Improving healthcare takes a step-by-step approach. I developed skills to implement an evidence-based practice project. I learned to critically evaluate evidence, the basics of implementation science, how to measure results, and become a leader. Healthcare's challenges are now tackled by implementing science-based opportunities to measure and create outcomes. I've transformed the way I approach clinical challenges in my role as a nurse manager. I move past anecdotal experiences or doing 'what we've always done' and instead ask, "What does the evidence say? How can we effectively implement evidence within our local context? How will we know the change has made a difference?"

What would you say to an international student who wanted to complete the program?

Be open to the journey, confident in the power of your international experience, and understand that your global background is an asset. My experience as a nursing leader in Australia was not a difference to overcome, but a unique perspective to be valued and to inform class discussions and learning.

Current Student Perspectives

PATHWAY TO NURSING (PTN) PROGRAM

Kiara Marcus

What has been your greatest area of personal growth in the program?

Building confidence and overcoming self-doubt. Now I have the education and confidence to make clinical decisions and advocate for my patients.

RN-BSN PROGRAM

Ryan Kerrigan

What are your thoughts on the program?

I took a year off to transition into starting as a bedside nurse but wish I started the program sooner. I transitioned easily going back to school due to how courses are structured.

MSN PROGRAM

Christopher J. Vanek, MSN, RN, CPN

What was your greatest area of personal growth during the program?

Understanding the importance of taking an active role in healthcare leadership. It is our responsibility to be a voice of change for those who cannot speak for themselves. Our roles afford us the unique opportunity to not only help families & patients, but future generations of healthcare professionals as well.

DNP PROGRAM

Jennifer Luxbacher, MSN, RN, CCRN, CFRN, CNE, PHRN

What has been your greatest area of personal growth in the program?

When I was a child, my father's response to almost every question was, "Look it up." Now I am developing skills to critically appraise and translate evidence into meaningful change. It turns out 'looking it up' is just the first step; Chatham has given me the confidence to keep moving forward.

DNP ALUMNA

Kelita Raphael, DNP '26



Kelita Raphael is a family nurse practitioner and recent graduate of the DNP program. She began her career at New York Health and Hospitals, was a travel nurse, served as a professional development specialist, and is a current adjunct nursing professor at Pace University. We caught up with Kelita to discuss the program.

What attracted you to Chatham?

I heard wonderful things from colleagues. It is a high-quality online program with excellent faculty support with a structure that allows students to complete the program in a reasonable timeframe. I felt confident that I could succeed while working full time.

How has the program helped you meet your professional goals?

I wanted to create educational initiatives that would improve practice. Chatham taught me how to operationalize those ideas into evidence-based projects. I developed a stronger understanding of translating research into practice, collecting meaningful data, evaluating outcomes, and creating sustainable change. Those skills strengthened my ability to lead projects, mentor nurses, and have more opportunities.

How are you incorporating your education into your current role?

I ensure the ongoing sustainability of my DNP project in my organization. I approach educational initiatives with a focus on evidence-based practice and outcome measurement when I'm planning a skills fair, educational program, or quality improvement initiative. I collect qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate effectiveness and guide future improvements. I mentor colleagues and new learners as they develop their own evidence-based quality improvement projects.

What would you say to those considering the program?

Just do it. Chatham provides the structure, mentorship, and resources needed to help students succeed. You're never expected to figure it out alone. You'll be surprised by how much you grow academically, personally and professionally.

Where was your greatest area of growth?

Project planning and implementation. As educators/leaders, we have big ideas, but creating realistic, evidence-based projects is challenging. My professors and project chair taught me how to develop achievable goals, build projects grounded in research, and create plans that were sustainable yet impactful. It changed how I approach quality improvement and educational initiatives.

Where do you see yourself professionally in the future?

Continuing to grow in nursing professional development, particularly in nurse residency and transition-to-practice programs. I'm passionate about innovation, simulation, gamification, and evidence-based nursing education. I will expand that work with both nursing students and new graduate nurses. I may return to clinical practice in the future, where I can continue translating research into practice while improving patient outcomes.

Anything else you would like to share?

I gained confidence to truly see myself as a nurse leader. It showed me the impact that doctoral-prepared nurses have on improving patient care, nursing education, and healthcare systems. I'm confident in my abilities to design, implement, evaluate, and sustain evidence-based projects that create meaningful change. I submitted my DNP project at the ANPD Aspire Convention and received my organization's 2026 Clinical Excellence Award in the Advanced Practice Nursing role. Chatham was one of the best professional decisions I've made, and I've become the nurse leader I always hoped to be.

MSN ALUMNA

Jennifer Fitzgerald, MSN '26, RN, CPN



Jennifer Fitzgerald, MSN, RN, CPN, is a spring 2026 graduate of Chatham's MSN Nurse Educator program. She is a certified pediatric nurse with a passion for improving the health and well-being of children, families, and vulnerable populations. Nursing is her calling because it allows her to combine compassion, advocacy, and clinical expertise to make a difference. For over five years, Jenny has

worked in pediatric healthcare, caring for children with complex cardiac conditions. The resilience and strength of the children and families she has cared for continue to inspire her every day.

Since completing her MSN, Jenny has become a care manager. This new role allows her to work directly with at-risk populations to close gaps in care and improve health outcomes. Jenny collaborates with patients, providers, and interdisciplinary teams to identify barriers to care, promote preventive services, and ensure

individuals receive the resources and support they need to manage their health effectively. This role has expanded her perspective beyond bedside care and deepened her appreciation for population health, care coordination, and the impact that early intervention can have on long-term wellness.

When not working and caring for others, Jenny enjoys spending time with her fiancé. They play recreational volleyball often and take their 3-year-old dog, Moose, on hikes.

RN-TO-BSN ALUMNA

Sarah Werner-Aul, BSN '26

Sarah Werner-Aul has over 30 years of experience in MedSurg in several hospitals. Now she practices her passion of hospice and end-of-life care. Sarah completed her BSN degree in May 2026. We reconnected with Sarah to discuss how she balanced full-time work, online learning hurdles, and elevated her clinical practice.

Why were you interested in the RN-BSN program?

I wanted to strengthen my clinical knowledge, leadership skills, and understand evidence-based practice with an education that would help me provide better patient care.

What attracted you to Chatham?

The supportive faculty, flexibility of having online class, and the strong reputation for academic excellence. The program allowed me to continue working full-time and have family time.

How has the program prepared you to meet your professional goals?

I became more confident and knowledgeable. I gained communication and leadership skills, while understanding evidence-based practice and quality improvement.

How are you incorporating your education into your current work?

Working in a hospice in-patient unit, I apply evidenced-based practice to provide compassionate, high-quality end-of-life care. I use communication skills that I learned to speak more effectively with patients and families, as well as the interdisciplinary team.

What would you say to potential applicants who are considering the program?

I have encouraged nurses to apply. The program is well organized, faculty are very supportive, and the flexibility

makes it manageable for nurses who work full-time. The knowledge gained is applicable to every area of nursing.

Where was your greatest area of growth?

Understanding the importance of evidence-based practice. I also learned how important nurses are in influencing positive changes in healthcare.

Where do you see yourself professionally in the future?

Continuing to work at the hospice in-patient unit. I hope to mentor new nurses and assist with student nurses. Retirement is so very close!

What's New in...

...the RN-BSN Program

Dr. Anna Vioral, Ph.D., MEd, RN, OCN, TCTCN

The RN-BSN program had some exciting innovations! A comprehensive redesign of the curriculum added active, tech-friendly strategies to align with the latest national American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) nursing accreditation standards. The updated courses connect theory to daily clinical practice, streamline online learning through educational technologies, and infuse evidence-informed practice in assignments. The changes provide real-world direct practice experiences that apply the nursing process to global health and informatics along with indirect practice experiences that enhance scholarship, leadership, quality, safety, and health policy to provide access, connection, and engagement (ACE). The program also

launched a new online health science course, "The Art of Caring" bridging visual arts with clinical practice.

We are excited about expanding community affiliations with Allegheny Health Network (AHN) and celebrating the largest cohort of over 60 new RN-BSN students this spring 2026.

...the MSN Program

Dr. Emily Hopkins, Ph.D., RN, WHNP, FNP-BC

The MSN program has experienced significant growth for both the leadership and education track degree during the 2025-2026 academic year. Students who work for UPMC are utilizing Chatham's partnership for employee tuition benefits. The UPMC partnership is a great opportunity for students to grow their foundation of nursing leadership and educator knowledge and apply it to their current work setting, while creating an opportunity for career advancement. This has created an increase in

enrollment with the program admitting cohorts each fall and spring. We celebrated the first successful UPMC partnership cohort graduation of 12 students in spring 2026.

...the DNP Program

Dr. Ashley Singh, Ph.D., DNP, RN, EBP-C, CEC, BCC

As Program Coordinator of our 27-credit Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, I am proud to celebrate another year of growth and achievement. Our competency-based curriculum prepares doctoral nursing students to develop and demonstrate the leadership competencies needed to transform healthcare organizations, improve outcomes, and lead with confidence in today's complex healthcare environment. We also celebrated 40 graduates, who are now equipped with the tools and resources to be innovative leaders who are ready to mold the next generation of nurses.

Congratulations to our graduates!

Chi Zeta Chapter Update

Chi Zeta continues to focus the "BE BOLD" initiative aimed to raise our voices together as the largest constituency of healthcare providers around the globe to influence decisions and create a better world for all people. Being bold does not mean being brash, inflammatory, confrontational, nor for you to be the loudest voice in the room. It requires you to step outside your silo and engage with others for the sake of our populations, profession, and planet. You should be informed, caring, compassionate, loving, courageous, and act as an honorable leader. These attributes are especially important in the current healthcare environments.

Chi Zeta provides many opportunities for membership involvement in leadership, scholarship, and community service. 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 memserv@sigmanursing.org or 888-634-8174. If you are a current member and are 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

What is Competency-Based Education

Competency-based education (CBE) is a learner-centered system of instruction that focuses on measurable outcomes. In CBE, education is not limited to the transfer of knowledge. CBE centers around the mastery of skills, ensuring students gain knowledge, attitudes, and skills that can be incorporated into the workplace. CBE has multiple checkpoints and ample feedback at all stages of learning to ensure that progressive mastery is acquired.



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 2025

BSN

Harshall, Nicole
Ibrahim, Lindsay R.

DECEMBER 2025

BSN

Alicea, Michael
Eshelman, Christine
Logan, Andrew
Platten, Anita F.
Urffër, Amy J.
Wert, Stephen

DNP

Amore, Lauren E.
Anderson-Clarke, Bernadine C.
Ashraf, Kiran
Ateghang, Felicitas S.
Avery, Krystal N.
Barton, Biancha L.
Boutte, Diana
Ceaser, Courtney H.
Conroy, Anthony
Darly, Detty
Johnson, Nicole Y.
Jones, Valinda L.
Mandel, Tarra
Mathai, Neenu
Ng, Kit Y.
Polizzo, Kendra C.
Saden, Arianne
Smith, Faith O.
Steinberg, Alina

MAY 2026

BSN

Alford, Kaycie E.
Andrade, Briana A.
Brunner, Callie
Carrick, Aerin
Casile, Nickolas
Chowan, Lisa C.
Clifford, Allison M.
Creighton, Michael L.
David, Adrian
Davis, Madison J.
Delval, Lindsay R.
Eyles, Earl
Fechter, Liberty
Gonzalez, Tanikwa K.
Gutonski, Michelle R.
Hall, Lauren
Hartge, Amanda
Holt, Jordan
Hyatt, Paige
Kirkland, Sarah E.
Laskowski, Hanna
Leja, Renee J.
Lewis, Anna
Matzner, Macy E.
McConnell-Truskowski,
Deborah L.
McGlaughlin, Danielle N.
McKee, Ashley
Miller, Angela D.
Momchilovich, Emily
Morse, Chase
Muhammad, Ameerah

Myers, Laura
Okeefe, Ciera
Patchen, Ashley
Peace, Cassidy
Perez, Mia
Poster, Mitchell
Pressley, Isabella
Ramstad-Tesar, Dana
Rapp, Taylor
Robinson, Amari D.
Rovenolt, Madison
Seamon, Emily
Simmons, Ashley M.
Sipe, Lisa
Halutick, Jennifer
Vargo, Courtney
Vetere, Kalley
Waltenbaugh, Justin S.
Werkmeister, Joshua A.
Werner-aul, Sarah
Weyels, Morgan

MSN

Bickford, Kathleen M.
Delozier, Angela M.
Fitzgerald, Jennifer J.
Fox, Jennifer L.
Jarosz, Emily
Kelly, Claire
Lee, Kimberly E.
McDermott-Grubb, Jennifer J.
Murphy, Antonette
Sweeney, Lucy F.
Vanek, Christopher J.

DNP

Ally, Shrina
Berducido, Rene A.
Borkorm, Cherie
Dickerson, Dewarren
Gatobu, Juliet
Glennon, Peter
Hamdi, Denise O.
Hill, Shumeka
Laycak, Kay A.
Mena, Alicia S.
Mohandas, Jayamma C.
Patel, Priya
Rajanbabu, Tejeshkumar
Raphael, Kelita
Secor, Trudy A.
Shahady, Mary
St. Fort, Fabiola
Taylor, Brianna
Toor, Pushpinder
Udor, Sarah
Wichansky, Alyssa

Please keep the Chatham University nursing programs updated with your achievements. Chatham graduates from across the country and the world are accomplishing amazing things. We want to hear about your accomplishments to celebrate your achievements, awards, and recognitions. Please share your stories with Dr. Julie Slade (j.slade@chatham.edu) or Raquel Lemelle (r.lemelle@chatham.edu). Some stories may be shared with Chatham's digital magazine, Pulse, (pulse.chatham.edu) for wider University distribution.

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