

From the Director

Dr. Diane Hunker, PhD, MBA, RN, *director of nursing programs, DNP program coordinator, and associate professor*

“The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.” — *Oliver Wendell Holmes*



► As always, there are great changes occurring at Chatham University! Over the past year, Chatham has thrived under the new structure, and the nursing programs are now part of the School of Health

Sciences. Last year, Chatham’s undergraduate college announced for the first time in Chatham’s history they would admit males as well as females to the undergraduate programs beginning in fall 2015. Chatham now offers varsity sports for men, including baseball, basketball, cross country, swimming and diving, track and field, and volleyball. Most recently, you may have heard that our president, Dr. Esther Barazzone, will step down as president in June of 2016. A search for a new president will commence this fall. Our Eden Hall Campus in Richland Township, PA is continuing with planned construction for a “green” campus devoted to sustainability. *The Princeton Review* has ranked Chatham University as a Top 50 Green College and one of the country’s most environmentally responsible schools in its annual *Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition*. This is the fifth year in a row for Chatham’s inclusion in the guide.

Chatham nursing has enjoyed forward progress as well. Chatham University’s graduate and

undergraduate (RN-BSN) nursing programs earned a “Best Online Program” ranking by *U.S. News & World Reports* in their 2015 Best Online Programs edition. Chatham’s graduate nursing program, consisting of the MSN and DNP online programs, was ranked in the top 100 of all programs.

This past year we offered our first international track in the MSN program and had 21 Chinese nurses living and learning at Chatham. We plan to continue this program in the next academic year with the arrival of more students from Shanghai in late August 2015. Our online MSN program was redesigned in 2013, modeled after our DNP program, and offers three tracks – education, informatics, and leadership. The first cohort under the new curriculum will graduate in December 2015.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program continues to enjoy steady enrollment. Seventy-five students graduated from the DNP program last year, and currently we have over 60 students deposited for fall. Last year, we had 70 students attend the DNP On-Campus Residencies offered in September and April. Enrollment remains steady in the RN-BSN program as well. Our newly remodeled RN-BSN curriculum was successfully implemented in fall of 2015. Our Pathways to Nursing program, a partnership with UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing offering a four-year undergraduate degree in nursing, is also seeing continued growth. The first three students have recently successfully passed the NCLEX and are getting ready to start the BSN component of the program.

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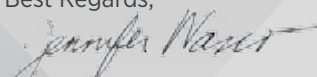
Message from the Editor

► The Chatham University nursing programs are pleased to share this issue of InTouch, a 2014-2015 Year in Review. We received positive feedback from our inaugural issue of the publication. The nursing community appreciated the digital format to be environmentally friendly.

This issue includes a variety of information – a summary of activities and accomplishments for the last academic

year, an overview of our first International MSN cohort, faculty spotlights, alumni achievements, and how current students and alumni can get involved with Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, Chi Zeta Chapter. Please enjoy this edition of the publication.

Best Regards,


Jennifer Wasco

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

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



► Dr. Emily Hopkins has been in the nursing profession for 18 years. Her educational training consists of a BSN from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and an MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner, a Post-Master's Certificate in Women's Health, and a Ph.D. in Nursing with a Health Care Genetics minor from the University of Pittsburgh.

A year after the completion of her Ph.D., she was selected by the University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing to be a Postdoctoral Scholar on a funded T32 training grant which focused on genomic research and training for nurses. While in training, Dr. Hopkins' work focused on behavioral genetics among the cleft lip and palate population.

In June 2010, she was chosen to participate in the Summer Genetics Institute at the National Institute of Health as part of her postdoctoral preparation. This one-month intensive program assisted in building a foundation in molecular genetics for use in research and clinical practice.

Shortly after completion of her postdoctoral training, Dr. Hopkins joined Chatham University as an assistant professor of nursing. She is full-time faculty

for the DNP and MSN programs, and her scholarship encompasses genomic, behavioral, and environmental threats from prematurity and congenital malformations.

In addition to her educational accomplishments, Dr. Hopkins has been practicing in OB/GYN primary care as a board certified family nurse practitioner at Magee Women's Hospital of UPMC for 12 years.



Chatham University nursing programs would like to acknowledge Dr. Emily Hopkins for being nominated for the 2015 Camoes of Caring® Nurse Educator Award. The future of nursing relies on the quality of instruction nursing students receive from today's expert nurse educators. Dr. Hopkins will be honored at the yearly Camoes of Caring Gala at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh on November 7, 2015. It is anticipated more than 1,000 hospital CEOs, CFOs, administrators and nursing professionals will attend the esteemed event. Dr. Hopkins has set a high standard for the nursing profession, and we are privileged to be her colleagues.

Dr. Shelley Watters, DNP '08, RN, NE-BC, Adjunct Professor



Dr. Shelley Watters has been working in the nursing profession since 1987. Currently, her responsibilities are director of organizational development, nursing education and research and program director of Magnet at UPMC Shadyside. Fostering professional development, nursing research and promoting evidence-based practice in nursing is a passion. Shelley has had success of implementing a shared leadership model to further impact nursing leadership

at the bedside. In 2006, she began her journey of working with the nurses at UPMC Shadyside to obtain Magnet designation. Employee engagement, and in particular nurse engagement, has been an area of interest and she has written

successful small grants to support her work in this area to sustain and widen the perception of nurses at the bedside in delivering safe and quality care. Recently she has been invited to share her leadership philosophy on healthcare reform; how it impacts the bedside nurse and how nurses must not only be informed but have access to organizational resources that impact their delivery of care.

Dr. Watters obtained a graduate degree in nursing with a focus on nursing leadership and organizational development (2004) and completed a Doctorate in Nursing Practice in August of 2008. She has presented her work nationally and internationally and continues to publish, serve as adjunct faculty teaching leadership courses, as well as serving on the editorial boards of Nursing Journals and the PA State Nurses Editorial Advisory Board.

RECENT FACULTY AND STAFF SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Doas, M. (2015). Are We Losing the Art of Actively Listening to Our Patients? Connecting the Art of Active Listening with Emotionally Competent Behaviors. *Open Journal of Nursing, 5*, 566-570.

Doas, M. (2015). Emotionally Competent Behaviors and Nurse Bullying: Is There a Direct Link? *Open Journal of Psychiatry, 5*, 56-59.

Hopkins, E. E., Wolf, D. M., Slade, J. D., Spadaro, K. C., Hunker, D. F., & Doas, M. (January 9, 2015). Creating a virtual nursing honor society: Key technology design considerations. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice (JNEP), 5*(2), 131-135. doi: 10.5430/jnep.v5n2p131. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v5n2p131>

Hunker, D.F., Gazza, E.A., Shellenbarger, T. (2014). Evidence-based knowledge, skills and attitudes for scholarly writing development across all levels of nursing education. *Journal of Professional Nursing, 30*(4), 341-346.

Rittle, C. (2014). Can Increasing Adult Vaccination Rates Reduce Lost Time and Increase Productivity? *Workplace Health & Safety, 62*(11), 468-474.

Rittle, C., Lang, Y., & Wenskovitch, J. (2014). Tdap: The Need to Educate and Immunize. *Workplace Health & Safety, 62*(12), 508-516.

Robb, M., & Shellenbarger, T. (2014). Influential factors and perceptions of ehealth literacy among undergraduate college students. *Online Journal of Nursing Informatics, 18*(3).

Robb, M., & Shellenbarger, T. (2014). Strategies for searching and managing evidence-based practice resources. *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing, 45*(10), 461-466.

Shellenbarger, T., & **Robb, M.** (2015). Collaborative writing: Strategies to promote successful shared authorship. *Nurse Author & Editor, 25*(2).

Shellenbarger, T., & **Robb, M.** (2015). Technology-based strategies for promoting clinical reasoning skills in nursing education. *Nurse Educator, 40*(2), 79-82.

Koharchik, L., Caputi, L., **Robb, M.,** & Culleiton, A. (2015). Fostering clinical reasoning in the clinical setting. *American Journal of Nursing, 115*(1), 58-61.

Conroy, M. B., Sward, K. L., **Spadaro, K. C.,** Tudorascu, D., Karpov, I., Jones, B. L., ... Kapoor, W. N. (2014). Effectiveness of a physical activity and weight loss intervention for middle-aged women: Healthy bodies, healthy hearts

randomized trial. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 30*(2), 207-213. doi: 10.1007/s11606-014-3077-5. Available at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11606-014-3077-5>

Haines, J., **Spadaro, K. C.,** Choi, J., Hoffman, L. A., & Blazek, A. M. (2014). Reducing stress and anxiety in caregivers of lung transplant patients: Benefits of mindfulness meditation. *International Journal of Organ Transplant Medicine, 5*(2), 50-56.

Schreiber J, Goreczny A, Bednarek M, Hawkins S, Hertweck M, and **Sterrett S.** (2014). The effects of a single event Interprofessional Education (IPE) experience on occupational therapy students' attitudes toward IPE. *Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice, 12*(1).

Sterrett, S. (2015). Developing communities of interprofessional practice: Using a communities of practice framework for pre-licensure interprofessional education. *Nurse Educator, 40*(1), E1-E4.

Wasco, J. (2015). A nurse consultant's prescription for increasing patient satisfaction. *Nurse Leader, 13*(2), 69-73. doi:10.1016/j.mnl.2014.07.012

Wolf, D., & Morouse, K., (2015). Using blogs to support informatics nurses' curriculum needs. *OJNI, 19*(2). Available at <http://www.himss.org/ojni>

Olszewski, K. & **Wolf, D.,** (2015). Follow Me, Like Me, Tweet Me! Implementing Social Media into Occupational Health. *Workplace Health & Safety, 63*(6), 240-244.

Faculty Podium, Poster Presentations, Webinars

Doas, M. (2015). *The Power of Actively Listening to the Spoken Word: Creating a Culture of Respect Inclusion, and Empowerment.* Podium Presenter at the UT Health Science Center's 2nd Annual Cultural Inclusion Institute: Valuing the Culture of Women, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Fisher, M.D. (2014). *Professional Value Development in Pre-licensure (ADN, Diploma, and BSN) Nursing Students.* Poster Presentation at St. Margaret Annual Research Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Rittle, C. (2015). *Assessing the knowledge and acceptance of Tdap booster vaccine by University Faculty and the need for medical staff to administer the Tdap vaccine.* Podium presentation at Chatham University Faculty Lecture Series, Pittsburgh, PA.

RECENT FACULTY AND STAFF SCHOLARSHIP

Rittle, C. (2015). *The Effects of the Environment on Overall Worker Health*. Podium presentation at the AAOHN National Conference, Boston, MA.

Robb, M. (2014). *Engagement in Learning: Factors that Influence the Student's Approach*. Poster presentation at the National League for Nursing Summit, Phoenix, AZ.

Robb, M. (2015). *Clinical Reasoning: Understanding the Past and Re-Envisioning the Present*. Invited podium presentation at Duquesne University Annual Clinical Adjunct Faculty Luncheon, Pittsburgh, PA.

Shellenbarger, T., & **Robb, M.** (2014). *Shhh Pass it on: Secrets to Successful Mentoring of Future Educators*. Podium presentation at the National League for Nursing Summit, Phoenix, AZ.

Slade, J. (2015). *Understanding the culture of "The Curse": Providing holistic care*. Poster presentation at the second annual Cultural Inclusion Institute Conference: Valuing the Culture of Women, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Spadaro, K. (2014). *Mindfulness in Psychiatric Nursing*. Podium presentation at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association-Pennsylvania Chapter's annual conference: The State of the State: Current Issues in Psych/Mental Health Nursing, Philadelphia, PA.

Spadaro, K. & Hunker, D.F. (2015). *Exploring the Effects of an Online Asynchronous Mindfulness Meditation Intervention on Nursing Students on Stress, Mood, and Cognition*. Podium presentation at American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2015 Master's Education Conference, St. Petersburg, FL.

Sterrett, S. (2014). *Interprofessional learning communities: Supporting the development of competencies and identity*. Poster presentation at the All Together Better Health VII, Pittsburgh PA.

Sterrett, S. (2014). *Interprofessional learning community students' perceptions of a case study experience: A qualitative study*. Podium presentation at the All Together Better Health VII, Pittsburgh PA.

Wolf, D., & Olszewski, K. (2014). *Implementing Social Media into Occupational Health Nursing*. Podium presentation at the Northeastern Association of Occupational Health Nurses (NEAOHN) 2014 Annual Conference, Verona, NY.

Wolf, D., & K. Olszewski, K. (2014). *Occupational Health & Social Media: Guiding employees safely*. Podium presentation at the National Safety Council Congress & Expo, San Diego, CA.

Wolf, D., & Olszewski, K. (2015). *Occupational Health and Social Media: Guiding Employees Safely*. Podium presentation at SEAK National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Medicine Conference, Chicago, IL

Wolf, D., & Olszewski, K. (2015). *Entering the virtual world: Steps to reimagining the role of the OHN*. Podium presentation at the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses 2015 National Conference, Boston, MA

Wolf, D., & Olszewski, K. (2015). *Entering the virtual world: Utilizing social media and mobile applications in occupational health*. Webinar presentation for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Wolf, D., & Olszewski, K. (2015). *Using a smart phone and/or computer to reach workers with health information: 1, 2, 3 steps*. Webinar presentation for the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Educational Series.

Wu, H., & LaRue, E. (2015). *Barriers and Facilitators of Health Information Exchange (HIE) Adoption in the United States*. Podium presentation at the 48 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, Kauai, HI.

Wu, H., Tuite, P., Ren, D., Zinsmeister, G., & Zewe, G. (2015). *Implementation of an Early Nurse-led Family Meeting in a Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit (NSICU)*. Podium presentation at the 2015 National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference, Coronado, CA.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Dr. Chad Rittle was selected in 2014 as the American Nurses Association (ANA) representative to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) – a group of medical public health experts that develop recommendations on how to use vaccines to control vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States; presented a flu shot news segment on WTAE-TV, Pittsburgh, December 4, 2014.

Dr. Brad Sherrod is now a council member of the North Carolina Nurses Association DNP Council (July 2015 – Present)

Jennifer J. Wasco, MSN, RN in 2014 was appointed as a board member and the web-master for the Annual Greater Pittsburgh Nursing Research Conference.

Dr. Debra Wolf is a grant reviewer for the Office of Research and Development for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Huixin Wu achieved an Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (CCNS) Certificate (2015).

Ensuring the Quality of Courses, Because it Matters!

Meigan Robb, PhD, RN, *assistant professor and MSN program coordinator*

► Conveying high standards and upholding rigor are qualities that online nursing programs strive for. One method for assessing the quality and effectiveness of online courses is to seek out external measures. Quality Matters (QM), an international organization representing broad inter-institutional collaboration and shared understanding of online course quality, offers eight general standards that can be used to evaluate the structure, consistency, and ease of use for students in an online course (MarylandOnline, 2014). These standards include a course overview and introduction, learning objectives, assessment

and measurement, instructional materials, course activities and learner interaction, course technology, learner support, and accessibility and usability. In November 2014, the nursing department decided to embark on an innovative initiative to assess and maintain a high level of quality throughout Chatham University's RN-BSN, MSN, and DNP programs. The Nursing Quality Matters Committee (NQMC) was formed to serve as a pilot for exploring the processes involved in developing and implementing strategies to address the standards set forth by QM. To date the nursing program is proud to report,

the NQMC has developed and assisted faculty in implementing strategies to address the first of the eight standards; course overview and introduction. This is quite an accomplishment in a short amount of time. The work of the NQMC and nursing faculty reflect the dedication the nursing program has for supporting excellence in the academic preparation of healthcare professionals.

MarylandOnline. (2014). Quality Matters About Us. Retrieved from www.qualitymatters.org/about



From the Director, continued from page 1

If you visited us on Chatham campus, you know the nursing programs now reside at Chatham Eastside near Bakery Square. We have been here about a year now, and things are going well. There have been a few changes in department leadership. Dr. Meigan Robb is now the MSN program coordinator. Dr. Debra Wolf was named the international program coordinator. Lora Walter, MSN, RNC was named the pathways to nursing coordinator.

With the aging of the population, more insured Americans needing healthcare, an increase in chronic healthcare conditions resulting in increased morbidity and mortality, the aging of the nursing workforce, the increasing complexity of systems and technology, and the focus on healthcare safety and quality, a need presents more than ever for nurses to continue with their education. Chatham is positioned well to provide quality online education for all nurses wanting to move in the right direction. The change is here, and we are ready!

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Hunker

Philanthropic Gifts

Dr. Richard J. Schilling and Barbara Whiteside Schilling Pathways to Nursing Scholarship

Barbara Whiteside Schilling '50 and Dr. Richard Schilling have established the Dr. Richard Schilling and Barbara Whiteside Schilling Pathways to Nursing Scholarship at Chatham University. This fund will award \$10,000 per year to one eligible student during their final year of study when they enter the BSN component of Pathways to Nursing. The first scholarship will be awarded to Ms. Megan Blausler this fall for the 2015-16 academic year.

The Schillings established this scholarship to honor and support Pathways to Nursing students who passed the NCLEX licensing exam and are licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN). They hope this assistance will enable the recipient to concentrate on his or her studies rather than finances during their final year as they complete their BSN degree.

The Schillings also fund the Barbara Whiteside Schilling '50 Scholarship Fund, the Dr. Richard J. Schilling and Barbara Whiteside Schilling Physician Assistant Fellowship, and the Dr. Richard Schilling and Barbara Whiteside Schilling Doctor of Physical Therapy Fellowship at Chatham University.

NEW PROGRAMS

Inaugural MSN International Graduation

Debra M. Wolf, Ph.D., RN, *assistant director of nursing programs, associate professor of nursing & international nursing coordinator*

► In August of 2014, the first international cohort of BSN-prepared nursing students arrived at Chatham University from Shanghai, China to pursue a master's degree in nursing education. The students represented various organizations from the Shanghai Institute of Health Sciences, a leading pioneer among health care universities in Asia.

The twenty-one students left behind spouses, children, and friends to pursue the yearlong educational journey. The goals were to learn about United States healthcare structure and the relevant challenges facing the nursing community and health care consumers. The students plan to apply American nursing education standards and processes to current practices in China upon returning.

The scholars were required to take four courses per term, with two of the courses consisting of a total of 250 hours of shadowing experience at local healthcare organizations and nursing schools. Each student worked with an assigned preceptor on an educational improvement project currently underway at the organization. The goal of the capstone project was to understand how to identify issues, determine the best intervention to make improvements, how to deploy a project and to measure success. They students leveraged a variety methods to deliver the educational projects such as PowerPoint presentations, videos, and group lectures. The project topics ranged from compassion fatigue, patient and family centered care, interprofessional collaboration and improving patient education for procedures.

In addition to gaining a wealth of information about nursing in the United States, the students also became fluent in reading, writing and speaking the English language. They acquired knowledge about American culture and pursued travel to other cities outside of Pittsburgh. Friendships and a professional network of colleagues were developed.

A year later on August 6, 2015 an inaugural ceremony with over 100 guests in attendance took place to honor the graduates. The ceremony guests included family, friends, preceptors, and faculty, administration, and staff from Chatham University. The students were inducted into the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau, Chi Zeta Chapter and the presentation of diplomas followed. The program concluded with a message from graduate Ms. Jin Yan, MSN, RN to the graduates:

“To my fellow colleagues, based on our experiences over the last year, we must set our path on a new destination, for we are the future leaders

for China healthcare. Please note, as we transition back to our positions in China, don't be surprised if you are faced with obstacles, questions, and differences. Remember you are not alone, there are 21 of us you can reach out to for support. However, more importantly, remember you now have the skills, tools, and knowledge to lead your organizations. Because every one of us is brave, because we are smart, because we can, and we will make it. Look at us, we made it this far, and as we look into the future, our dreams will continue to come true. Congratulations to all of us, from administration to faculty to students.”

The faculty and staff of the nursing programs at Chatham University wish the new alumni a successful future, leading China to a new form of healthcare, allowing nurses to be empowered to lead change using evidence-based practice and sound clinical decision-making.



HONOR SOCIETY

Chi Zeta Chatter

MaryDee Fisher, DNP, RN, CPN, *assistant professor of nursing, Chi Zeta Chapter secretary*

► Chi Zeta completed its inaugural year as an officially chartered chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). The goal of the society is to make a difference in global health by supporting the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses. Membership opportunity is by invitation and is extended to students, graduate students, faculty, and professional nurses who have demonstrated superior scholastic, leadership, and nursing achievements.

In the spring of 2015, a second membership induction was held bringing the active participation total to over 100 nurses. There were 34 new members welcomed to the chapter on the May 20 induction ceremony. The chapter is pleased to report close to half of the new members were graduate students from the first MSN International

Cohort from Shanghai, China demonstrating our commitment to health internationally.

Later this year, the STTI Biennial Convention will occur in Las Vegas, Nevada. We are proud to have a board member attending the conference to represent Chatham University and the Chi Zeta chapter. The representative will have the opportunity to network with other scholars from around the globe who support the STTI mission of celebrating nursing excellence. The ideas, strategies and excitement to advance the world's health will be brought back and incorporated into Chi Zeta Chapter.

We are excited as we look to grow our chapter. STTI has a lot to offer by being a member with many options available for leadership, scholarship and community service. We can be found on the web at

chizeta.nursingsociety.org. The site was named the Circle Website of the Month for January 2015 by STTI. You can also review what STTI offers to you at www.nursingsociety.org/aboutus/pages/aboutus.aspx.

If you are a member of STTI but not part of Chatham University's Chi Zeta chapter, please consider joining our current membership by contacting STTI Membership Services at 888-634-8174 or memserv@stti.iupui.edu. We welcome you to send your ideas to us for programming, collaboration, and scholarship. We will be leveraging technology to reach our global membership. Perhaps you have an interest in our Leadership Corner activities, online journal club, or virtual poster sessions. Think about how you can make a difference, and email Dr. MaryDee Fisher at mfisher@chatham.edu with your ideas.



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

Save the Date: Mental Health Symposium


The next Chi Zeta chapter event will be a Mental Health Symposium held on October 14, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Eddy Theatre on the Chatham University campus. Please plan to join your colleagues for an evening of speakers, educational materials, and professional networking. Light refreshments will be served. Stay tuned for additional information and registration.

Save the Date

► **Mental Health Awareness Symposium**
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Chatham University, Eddy Theater

6:00 p.m. Registration/Refreshments
6:30-8:30 p.m. - Ian Cummins, RN, *Awareness across America: The Strength of a Story*
- Documentary of three people living with schizophrenia
- Closing: Michelle Doas, Ed.D., MSN, RN, Chatham faculty, *Bridges of Hope*

Event is open to all students and community members



Sponsored by Chi Zeta Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

RN-BSN Student Makes Impact on Community

► Dawn Frankeny, RN-BSN '15 created a clinical project that would impact an entire community. Following a tragic murder-suicide involving a woman with dementia and her care-giving husband, Dawn saw a need for caregiver education and support in the community. She was an integral part of the planning, and implementation of the Caregiver Community Resource Event held in October 2014 at Valley Care in Moon Township, PA. Dawn's mission was to bring all local resources for caregivers together under one roof to provide the community with information, connections, and support in light of a tragedy that devastated the community.

More than a dozen vendors took part in the event that was a great success. Banks, chiropractors,

attorneys who specialize in elder law, Project Safe Home, FamilyLinks, and the Moon Township Police were amongst the vendors who provided a wide variety of information. Dawn was happy with the collaboration that occurred with the vendors to support the community caregivers across the entire spectrum of needs.

With Dawn and her clinical project at the heart of the community event, Sue Scott, Dawn's preceptor felt the resources provided to the community during the event were invaluable to support caregiving. A community turned a tragedy into a way to better educate and support the caregivers and their unique needs. Dawn, like many of the RN-BSN students, has made a difference in communities across America.

Nurse Entrepreneur creates the Accessible Healthcare Institute™



► The Accessible Healthcare Institute (AHI) empowers healthcare professionals with dynamic education with the use of digital technology. The creative mind behind AHI is Chatham University DNP alumna (2014), Dr. Rachel Silva. She believes nurses

should be empowered to provide evidence-based health care and improve patient health outcomes. Dr. Silva offers a variety of platforms to disseminate health information. Through the AHI website (www.yourahi.org), free educational webinars on topics ranging from health promotion, disease prevention, and the management of chronic illness are readily available. Tweepsters can also follow Dr. Silva on twitter (@YourAHI_org) or at her blog site (www.yourahi.org/blog/). Dr. Silva also offers mobile applications to deliver topics utilizing transformational research to improve healthcare delivery. Her app known as The Nurse Practitioner Show™ is available on the App Store and Google play.

With the world's unlimited access to technology through various avenues, Dr. Silva has taken education online to a unique format. Her ability to bring evidence-based concepts to healthcare professionals may ultimately result in improved patient outcomes. She believes that if it can work in a healthcare setting, then it will work for consumers. It is with this belief that she continues to move Internet-based healthcare learning forward.

Expos and organizations address needs of seniors and caregivers

Several senior citizens, offering health, wellness and safety information for the elderly and their caregivers were held in Moon Township during the month of October.

The most recent was an annual event hosted by state Rep. Mark Hovde and state Sen. Vito Storch (D-27) at the Moon Township Senior Center in Moon Township, Pa. It was the first time an event was held with Moon Township, Pa. It was the first time an event was held with Moon Township, Pa. It was the first time an event was held with Moon Township, Pa.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Promoting Effective Patient Communication in Vulnerable Adult Women



► Dr. Ginny Moore, DNP '12 was awarded funding to replicate her DNP project. The Vanderbilt School of Nursing launched a Scholarly Practice program and Dr. Moore has been chosen to conduct her

project, *Promoting Effective Patient Communication in Vulnerable Adult Women* in Nashville, TN on the behalf of the program. Her project supports enabling women to obtain pertinent and valuable information from their healthcare providers. These women are encouraged to be more involved

in the dialogue with their physician by asking questions about their health issues and developing a relationship with the provider. Empowerment to have a good patient-provider relationship is key. Dr. Moore uses one-on-one coaching and role playing techniques to develop the women's confidence. She also provides the women with a notebook to chronicle what she teaches, their questions and concerns, and their interactions at their healthcare appointments. These tactics have helped women understand their health on a higher level than they might have otherwise.

Dr. Moore is the women's health nurse practitioner program director and assistant

professor of nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. In 2012, she graduated with her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Chatham University. She states "the DNP program at Chatham served as a stepping stone to a level of nursing care that had in many ways been inconceivable to me". As she is seeing patients at The Clinic at Mercury Courts to expand services to the formally homeless, she is fulfilling her advocacy role as a DNP prepared, advanced-practice nurse. We thank her for her dedication to improving the nation's health. To learn more about her project, please visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltnurse/2014/11/scholarly-works-soar/>

DNP On-Campus Residency Recap

► Chatham University's School of Health Sciences Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares nurses to practice as experts in the promotion and the use of evidence-based practice in health care delivery systems. The DNP graduate is seen as a leader within the interprofessional team and the larger healthcare community as evidenced by enhanced clinical skills, dissemination of scholarly work, healthcare policymaking, advanced use of technology and the demonstration of professional behaviors that encompass strong ethical, holistic, and organizational values.



Twice per year – in the spring and the fall – DNP students from around the country gather on the Chatham University's Shadyside Campus for a two-day retreat to share their evidence-based practice change project in the format of a poster presentation. During this time, the faculty and staff, peers, colleagues, and the healthcare community have the ability to learn more about the student's clinical and educational endeavors through an interactive dialogue.

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 jwasco@chatham.edu.

Do you have professional news? Are you interested in accessing the online directory? In order to get the most up to date information from your alma mater, please be sure to keep your contact information updated with the Office of Alumni Relations.

Keep in touch with Chatham and your classmates by visiting chatham.edu/alumni. There you can become a member of the alumni directory, view and share classnotes, as well as register and pay for events online! Contact alumni@chatham.edu for your unique ID needed to login!

PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT

Gloria Gotaskie, UPMC CancerCenter

Lora Walter, MSN, RN, RNC, RN-BSN clinical coordinator and pathways to nursing coordinator



► Preceptors for the Chatham University RN-BSN program find the role of being a preceptor satisfying. They are an extension of the nursing faculty and the backbone of the clinical experience. There are preceptors who collaborate

with students several times a year because they find introducing students to new nursing specialties and leadership roles rewarding. Preceptors are compassionate about passing on their knowledge and expertise to the future generation of nurses.

Ms. Gloria Gotaskie, MSN, RN from the UPMC CancerCenter an active preceptor every term. She is dedicated to providing the students a robust clinical experience in oncology. When Gloria was asked to provide an overview of her precepting endeavors, she responded:

“I work at the Hillman Cancer Center. My title is Advanced Clinical Education Specialist, but I say to patients and staff that I am the educator for Hillman. This has been the best job that I have ever had because I am involved in patient and staff education - the two things that I love the most. I am involved with new staff orientation and competencies for established staff. This may include nurses, medical assistants, and front office personnel. However, that is just the tip of the iceberg. I also organize all the students that come through the Hillman. My favorites are the nursing students, whether undergrad or the RN-BSN students. Over the last few years, I have been working to assign and assist in the precepting of the Chatham RN-BSN nursing

students. I cannot take all the credit at all. I take the time to talk with the incoming student and see what interests they have about their clinical experience at Hillman. Of course, the majority of the patients have some type of cancer, either a solid tumor or a blood cancer. However, we also see benign hematology, patients. They may be on one of three floors. I try to pair them up with an interest of theirs, or a particular physician they would like to follow. The main thing is to pair them with a “clinic team” that appreciates students. For a student to have a productive experience, the nurse and “clinic team” needs to be interested in being a preceptor and “teaching.” After I make the connection, I assist with the paperwork and tour and introduce the student to the clinic where they will be. I make sure that I check in with them each time that they are here, and I check in with their instructor. I say that I am the “coordinator” of this project, and my staff nurses do the “real” work, the “hard” work! They deserve credit too. Choosing a topic for a worthwhile project for the student to complete during their time here is sometimes a challenge but we have been lucky enough to benefit from each project from our Chatham students. It is really a two-way street. They learn from us and we learn from them! I have several other duties in my job description, but none is more fun than the “student” portion of my job!”

Students always have an excellent experience at the UPMC CancerCenter and with Gloria. RN-BSN student Hannah Staley states, “During my clinical at Hillman, Gloria ensured that I had the best learning experience possible. Gloria was always willing to assist me with any questions or concerns. She was very knowledgeable about oncology and the clinic’s

operations. I was impressed by her enthusiasm and dedication towards students, staff, and patients.”

The Chatham University nursing programs are grateful for outstanding preceptors like Gloria, who afford students an impressive clinical experience. They devote their time and energy to help nurses achieve a higher level of education, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Many students are so inspired by their preceptors when they graduate they become preceptors as well.

Precepting: A Rewarding Experience

Precepting is a formal arrangement between a novice and an experienced person for a defined period. Preceptors serve as role models working in a collaborative fashion with the student towards meeting established program goals.

Precepting is an immensely 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 clinical sites increase and doctorally prepared nurses are not yet vast in number. Take a moment to reflect on your clinical preceptor and the valuable experience they provided. Please consider donating your time and knowledge to advance the field of nursing through precepting for Chatham University Nursing Programs.

As a preceptor, you are required to sign a student-preceptor agreement, provide a copy of your CV and your professional license number for verification and approval.

If you are interested in precepting, please contact Jennifer J. Wasco, MSN, RN, clinical coordinator, at jwasco@chatham.edu or 412-365-1378.

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 2014

BSN

Rebecca Richards
Sarah Koehler
Kayla Bailey
Kristy Giglione
Casey Lemley
Leann McDonald
Nichole Schwartz
Paula Sever
Sarah Wilson
Kelli Zarnick
Joan Zerjav

DNP

Christiana Acho
Jana Antonelli
Marie Barry
Cynthia Basile
Pamela Bastiano
Larry Beville
Starr Cartrett
Mary Cockerham
Scott Credit
Larlene Dunsmuir
Kathi Elliott
Karen Grunewald
Marialice Gullede
David Hart
Susan Jackson
Shikira Jones
Dionne Joseph
Donna Lester
Seon Lewis-Holman

Kristin Martin
Dulce Messersmith
Wanda Murray Allen
Susan Perez
Norma Poindexter
Joni Pyle
Cynthia Robbins
Gail Sachs
Rachel Silva
Diane Springman
Linda Trinh
Jennifer Varney
Alice Veitz
Brian Webster

DECEMBER 2014

BSN

James Byers
Kay Cavanaugh
Caitlin Cawley
Amanda Cieszynski
Elyse Cousins
Michael Gallant
Courtney Greene
Kayla Hooks
Clayton Johnson
William Kegg
Jennifer Martos
Tori Mowry
Debra Russell
Rebecca Snyder
Tyler Traister
Stacey Trbovich
Tracy Williams

MSN

Deanna Bellville
Kamala DeVivo
Matthew Carr
Kadesha Clark
Rebekah Lehman
Madea Neumont
Tracey Roland
Carolyn Walker
Holly Kutscher

DNP

Rita Armstrong
Cathleen Baudy
Marnie Burkett
Kiniya Church
Anesha Cowan
Beverly Curtis
Jasmine Demos
Julia Edge-Knauff
Ashley Foreman
Sheron Keyes
Holly Kimbrell
Erica Lemberger
Gregory Lonscak
Tiffany Lunsford
Catherine Olubummo
Bridget Pekah
Mary Puchalski
Jessica Rushing
Winfred Snell
Sharon Spina-Phillips
Dawn Straiton

MAY 2015

BSN

Denise Clapper
James Drenning
Dawn Frankeny
Danielle Juricich
Jennifer Kelly
Stacy Kennedy
Bridget King
Vanessa Leonard
Valerie Lewis
Nicole May
Ai Morii
Lauren O'Connor
Stacy Price
Sindu Ramesh-Keefer
Laura Rosman
Josephine Stashko
Chelsea Strom
Abigail Taylor
Jamila Thomas

DNP

Gail Bagwell
Rebecca Benson
Adherbal De Souza Neto
Jasmine Garces-King
Rebecca Godwin
Janelle Guentter
Eudora Jones
Thomas Kelly
Elizabeth Levine
Vicki Martin
Louise Murray

Tiruayer Negatu
Rachel Oldham
Evelyne Pedreira
Frank Ricci
Megan Shifrin
Wendi Strauss-Pulse
Terrence Taylor
Tobie Watkins
Valeria Williams

AUGUST 2015

International MSN

Wenju Chen (Ivy)
Yiwen Chen (Even)
Jingjing Dai (Maggie)
Renjing Fan (Lily)
Chuan Gao (Livia)
Cuiqin Huang (Tracy)
Linfei Jin (Sophie)
Yan Jin (Jenny)
Dan Li (Sylvia)
Qian Li (Pinky)
Yuting Mao (Ellie)
Chengting Qin (Monica)
Feng Tang (Flora)
Baoxin Tang (Candy)
Shuangling Tang (Shirley)
Ying Wang (Jessica)
Lu Xia (Lucy)
Jiehui Xu (Tracy)
Xiuqun Yuan (Vickie)
Yuping Zhang (Vera)
Ting Zhu (Kyle)