From the Director
by Dr. Diane Hunker, director, Chatham University nursing programs

This past year has been an exciting year for the Chatham University’s nursing programs. We began the academic year by saying farewell to Dr. Elizabeth Gazza, our previous nursing programs director, and we wish her well with her relocation to North Carolina. With her departure came the announcement of my new role as the director and Dr. Debra Wolf as the assistant director. I still remain the DNP program coordinator. Dr. Julie Slade is now the RN-BSN program coordinator and Dr. Kathleen Spadaro is the MSN program coordinator.

In the fall of 2014, we said good bye to our program assistant, Ms. Pat Markham. Although Pat is dearly missed, we are happy to have Mr. Stephen Harding now serving in this important role. There are two new clinical coordinators, Mrs. Lora Walter, MSN, RN for the RN-BSN program and Mrs. Jennifer Wasco, MSN, RN for the MSN and DNP programs. Dr. Meigan Robb, Dr. Mary Dee Fisher, and Dr. Huixin Hu are new assistant professors. We are looking forward to leveraging the team’s valuable leadership skills and expertise in leading the way in advancing nursing education.

Through the collaborative efforts of the faculty and staff, there were many program updates completed. After completing a successful American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) accreditation review in 2012, the DNP program continues to be a dynamic, quality educational offering sought after by students from around the country. Modeled after our successful online DNP program, we launched our online MSN program in the fall of 2013 and offer three tracks; education, leadership, and informatics. We will welcome our first cohort of students in August from Shanghai, China for the new International MSN Track. The RN-BSN curriculum has been updated to reflect the most current AACN Essentials for Baccalaureate Nursing Education and will be released in the fall of 2014. We continue to collaborate with the UPMC Schools of Nursing to offer a 4-year nursing program option and we continue to have discussions for additional compelling joint projects.

Beyond the programming updates, several new initiatives are in queue for this upcoming academic year. Matriculation agreements with other colleges for entry into our DNP program have been established; innovative technology advancements have been deployed, grant applications have been submitted, and a wide array of faculty and staff scholarship has been completed.

One of our most exciting happenings this year was the chartering of the Chi Zeta Chapter of the Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). With our ever changing healthcare environment and our nation’s health a top priority, it is a challenging yet important time for nurses. Aligning with professional organizations such as STTI, will enhance our ability to be change agents for our profession.

In this first edition of InTouch from the Chatham University nursing programs, I look back to our many accomplishments and successes over the years and thank all of you for your involvement and passion for the profession of nursing. The future is bright for Chatham University nursing and I invite you all to stay connected with us!
Meigan Robb, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor

Dr. Meigan Robb is an assistant professor of nursing at Chatham University. She has experience with teaching a variety of theory courses at the baccalaureate, master and doctoral levels. Her professional focus is directed towards exploring innovative methods for engaging students in the learning process. She has presented and published widely on a variety of topics focusing on nursing faculty, technology, mentoring, classroom management techniques, and educational strategies. Recognition for her contributions to nursing and nursing education are reflected in being awarded the Faculty Award for Teaching Associates at Indiana University of Pennsylvania as well as the recipient of two fellowships.

Heather Ambrose, DNP ’11, RN, CPON, CPN, adjunct professor

Dr. Heather Ambrose began her nursing career at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC over 14 years ago as a graduate nurse on the Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Within two years, she advanced to a clinical leader, then the unit’s nurse educator. She currently holds the Director, Organizational Development, Nursing Education and Nursing Research position within Children’s Hospital of UPMC of Pittsburgh. In addition to these nursing responsibilities, Heather is also the director over the Child Life, Family Life, Volunteer Services, and Library departments.

Heather graduated with a baccalaureate degree in nursing from Thiel College in 2000; and recently completed her master’s degree in nursing administration in 2010 and her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2011 from Chatham University.

Heather has presented both locally and nationally poster and podium presentations on topics related to Oncology/BMT, Nursing Development, Nursing Satisfaction, Nursing Leadership, and Professional Certification. As a member of APHON, the Greater Pittsburgh Three Rivers Chapter of APHON, Society of Pediatric Nurses, SPNK, and SWPONL, she values professional nursing organization involvement. Currently, Heather is the primary investigator on two IRB approved nursing studies and a study team participant in two additional IRB studies.

Campus News
Chatham University’s Academic Reorganization
Men to be Admitted at the Undergraduate Level Beginning Fall 2015

On May 1, 2014, Chatham University’s Board of Trustees voted the approval of a resolution that will set in motion a three-part transformation to open Chatham University’s high-quality undergraduate education to more students, enhance the University’s ability to meet the educational needs of its students and the region for the future, and honor the 145-year commitment to advancing the causes of women.

With the academic reorganization, a School of Health Sciences has been established. The Chatham University nursing programs are now housed under the School of Health Sciences and the leadership of Dr. Patricia Downey.

Dr. Downey, who has been part of Chatham’s faculty since 1994 and the director of Chatham’s physical therapy program since 2005, has been promoted to become the inaugural Dean of the School of Health Sciences. Dr. Downey has been a practicing physical therapist for over 30 years specializing in orthopedics and women’s health. She has an advanced master’s degree in orthopedic physical therapy from the University of Pittsburgh and was a certified orthopedic clinical specialist. She also has a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in physical anthropology with an emphasis in functional anatomy and morphology. She is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association and belongs to the Orthopedic, Education and Women’s Health Sections of the APTA. She was awarded the 2013 “Mary Lou Barnes Award for Distinguished Professional Service” Alumni Award presented to an alumnus of the West Virginia University physical therapy program for a distinguished career.

For detailed information regarding the resolution, the reorganization and the admission of men at the undergraduate level, please visit www.chatham.edu/coed.
Nursing Programs Graduates

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

DECEMBER 2013 BSN
- Jill Atkinson
- Emily Belfoure
- Carol Chartier
- Angela Cino
- Erin Deveaney
- Elisha Dubich
- Amber Herman
- Michael Kline
- Terri Majan
- Priti McGowan
- Leah Medwig
- Emily Mildren
- Amy Popies
- Shannon Salafranca
- Casey Smulick
- Karly Talik
- Kyle Walkiewicz
- Rachel Wein
- Dana Weiss

DECEMBER 2013 DNP
- Dina BenDavid
- Jenneth Doria
- Kelley Dotson
- Tamara Goda
- Sandra Goins
- Jennifer McManus
- Ttara McWilliams
- Calvert Moore
- Neh Okafor
- Richard Smith
- John Taylor
- Daniel Wright

MAY 2014 BSN
- Margaret Daley
- Ronald Deramo
- Lea Ferguson
- Alyssa Grossman
- Rebecca Hart
- Tiffany Jensen
- Christa Kaylor
- Louis Matz
- Gina Quinlan
- Dirra Smith
- Anna Spencer
- Todd Spencer
- Melanie Walkmeyer

MAY 2014 DNP
- Andrea Adimando
- Lew Bennett
- Susan Bryan
- Sharita Burns
- Julie Carpenter
- Marian Feil
- Nancy Ford
- Catherine Hasson
- Sheryl Heincka
- Mary Hoffman
- Carol Kendall
- Stephanie King
- Corey LaLonde

Attention Alumni: Nursing Preceptor and Mentor Opportunities

Are you interested in giving back to the Chatham University nursing programs? Would you like to help current nursing students achieve their goals? Then a preceptor or mentor role might be just the right fit!

Precepting | A Rewarding Experience
Precepting is a formal arrangement between a novice and an experienced person for a defined period of time. 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.

As a current student, 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 the Chatham University nursing program’s Preceptor Program.

Mentoring | Sharing the Wisdom
Mentoring is an informal arrangement between two people and it is one of the most comprehensive methods for encouraging growth and potential of an individual. It is a dynamic relationship that assists the mentee in advancing their careers and reaching new levels of personal achievement.

You could be a mentor to a potential student, a newly admitted student that has not yet started the program, a current student or a recent graduate. You will actively advise and guide them in their journey for an undefined period of time.

What Paperwork is Required?
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. As a mentor, there is no required paperwork as it is an informal relationship.

Sign Me Up!
If you are interested in participating or have any questions about the Chatham University Nursing Programs Preceptor Program or the Chatham University Nursing Programs Mentor Program, please contact Jennifer J. Wasco, MSN, RN, clinical coordinator, at jwasco@chatham.edu or 412-365-1378.
Preceptors and clinical sites are an essential component of Chatham’s nursing programs. Students complete a self-directed clinical placement process with guidance from a Chatham University clinical coordinator. All students need to complete their clinical experiences at an appropriate agency and have a qualified preceptor based on pre-established criteria. In each edition of *InTouch*, we would like to highlight one clinical site or preceptor.

The Anathan Club, located in Pittsburgh, PA, is a supportive daytime program for seniors who have mild to moderate memory, functional, or physical impairments. The adult day program provides stimulating activities in a safe and social environment. The structured activities provide cognitive stimulation, utilize large and fine motor skills and promote language skills while encouraging social interaction. Members can receive physical, occupational, and speech therapy on site. They can even schedule time for hair and beauty services.

Facilities like Anathan Club are extremely beneficial for the community. Anathan Club enhances the quality of life for its members and their families. The program helps older adults remain socially active while living at home. Adult day programs remain the most cost effective form of senior care. Attending adult day programs and remaining at home with caregiver support can ultimately defer institutionalization of individuals and reduce caregiver burnout.

The Anathan Club nurse is an integral part of the team. After completing a baseline assessment, she monitors members’ medical conditions by providing quarterly assessments, monthly vitals, weights, and medication management. The nurse also provides staff training on infection control, universal precautions, personal care, diabetic precautions, fall prevention, special dietary restrictions, feeding, and other topics as needed to provide specialized care members might require.

Chatham RN-BSN nursing students are a great asset to this facility. During their clinical experience, they assist Anathan Club staff in the daily care of members. They provide personal care as well as provide cognitive and physical stimulation. Chatham University nursing students provide a professional outlook that enhances the program by contributing new ideas and a fresh approach. The students are required to present a project during their clinical experience and many of these projects have become part of the activity programming that is routinely implemented. The members and staff respect the Chatham University nursing students’ professionalism as well as their desire to learn and willingness to help members remain in the community.
Chi Zeta Chatter
by Dr. Kathleen Spadaro, Past-President Chi Zeta Chapter, assistant professor
& Dr. Michelle Doas, President Chi Zeta Chapter, associate professor

On behalf of board of directors for the Chi Zeta Chapter of the Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau International, we are proud to acknowledge our new chapter status in STTI and welcome our newly inducted members. We had a successful chartering ceremony in March of 2014 with over 100 inductees who are current or past graduates of Chatham University nursing programs. Members will be able to connect with their peers in a robust online format where leadership skills and professional development will be explored through exciting and engaging programming.

Membership in STTI is extended to undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and professional nurses who have demonstrated superior scholastic, leadership and nursing achievements. Development of and acceptance as a STTI chapter is recognition of Chatham’s commitment to support nursing academic excellence and achievements within our communities.

This is a year of transition and growth for our chapter. There will be a lot of activity over the next year and we ask for your support. We just finished nominations and voting for new board positions and committee positions and we are in process of developing the chapter’s website, strategic goals and building an exciting programming schedule – be sure to mark October 16 on your calendars for the screening the documentary of The American Nurse.

We will be looking to you as the experts in the field to share your thoughts, creative ideas, and energy. Please remember to visit The Circle, the Chi Zeta Chapter website, chizeta.stti.org, for news, events, discussion boards and networking. The board looks forward to a successful first year as a Sigma Theta Tau International chapter!

DNP On-Campus Residency
by Jennifer Wasco, MSN, RN, clinical coordinator, MSN and DNP Programs

Chatham University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) prepares nurses to practice as experts in the promotion and use of evidence-based practice in healthcare delivery systems. The DNP graduate is seen as a leader within the interprofessional team and the larger healthcare community evidenced by enhanced clinical skills, dissemination of scholarly work, healthcare policymaking, advanced use of technology, and demonstration of professional behaviors that encompass strong ethical, holistic, and organizational values. Twice per year – in the spring and fall – DNP students from around the country gather on the Chatham University’s Shadyside Campus for a two-day retreat to share their evidenced-based clinical 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 learn more about the students’ clinical and educational endeavors through interactive dialogue.

To view images from the fall 2013 and the spring 2014 DNP on-campus residency photo gallery, visit www.chatham.edu/ccps/dnp/photogallery.cfm.
Chatham University Plans to Host First International MSN Cohort

In preparation for an international cohort of nursing graduate students from Shanghai, China, Dr. Diane Hunker and Dr. Debra Wolf traveled to China in May to meet with the sending university and the prospective students. Their week-long journey started in Shanghai where they presented to and interviewed 37 prospective students. The students were currently BSN-prepared nurses representing 15 sponsoring institutions in Shanghai. While Dr. Hunker and Dr. Wolf were in Shanghai, they also toured the Shanghai Institute of Health Sciences (SIHS) where they were impressed with the technological and physical resources of the two schools of nursing that were onsite. Their host for the visit in Shanghai was Mr. Wang Xin (Charles), SIHS Director of International Exchange. They also met with Dr. Tang Hongmei, President of SIHS.

Following the visit to the university, Dr. Hunker and Dr. Wolf visited Renji Hospital, a multi-site comprehensive health system in Shanghai. They were hosted by the Director of Nursing Department, Ms. Yang Yan, M.N., Ph.D.(C), and toured ambulatory and inpatient units. To cap off an informative and productive visit, Dr. Hunker and Dr. Wolf were able to squeeze in some site seeing in Beijing and visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and of course the Great Wall. Check back next year for exciting updates on the international cohort. The students are scheduled to arrive around August 18, 2014.

Global Awareness

by John Taylor, DNP ’13

In October 2013, I was approached by a healthcare consulting firm with a fantastic opportunity to travel to Saudi Arabia to deliver a four-day course on pediatric nursing. I have always been very interested in learning about how nursing care is delivered around the world. The only problem? I needed to be able to leave for Saudi Arabia in less than two weeks and I was in the middle of implementing my DNP capstone! Fortunately, I already had a passport and my visa was quickly processed as this course was the result of a Saudi government contract with a consulting firm in the U.S. I quickly studied the important information for traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) including cultural implications and how that impacts classroom learning. I learned before I even left home that the nursing workforce in the KSA was multi-national, nurses come from many countries including the USA, England, Canada, Australia, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Egypt, and the Philippines. The basic nursing education curriculum in these countries varies greatly, thus the nurses practicing in the KSA having varying knowledge levels in the specialty of pediatric nursing. This is what prompted the need for the pediatrics course which I would be teaching.

The course was held in the small city of Al Baha, located in the mountainous southwest province of the Kingdom. The course participants came from four different facilities in the region and worked in various departments including PICU, NICU, acute care pediatrics, ER, and ambulatory care. Though the course was held in a hotel, I was given the opportunity to tour the local hospital’s PICU and NICU. I was impressed with facility’s use of advanced technology in monitoring critically ill children and neonates. Various quality improvement initiatives were in place including a project to provide more parent education. In current practice, these units were only allowing family members to visit for one hour a day. By implementing open visitation, length of stay was reduced as families were more prepared to go home earlier. Overall, this was a fantastic opportunity that expanded my understanding of health care delivery across the world. I would highly encourage others to consider global nursing opportunities.
The Chi Zeta Chapter Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International
Presents
A Special Documentary Screening & Networking Event
The American Nurse – Healing America
By Carolyn Jones, Photographer and Filmmaker
Thursday, October 16, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. | Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Chatham University, Shadyside Campus, Eddy Theatre

Photojournalist and filmmaker Carolyn Jones has spent the past few years photographing and recording the unique experiences of nurses at work in an effort to shine a light on nurses’ critical role at the bedside and within our country’s healthcare system. She published the book The American Nurse: Photographs and Interviews by Carolyn Jones in 2012 and has just completed the production on the documentary film that explores the role of nursing in the most vulnerable moments of the human experience. This film gives a voice to nurses who are on the front lines of the biggest issues facing America – poverty, aging, war and justice.

The film follows five nurses from the book along with their patients: Tonia Faust with maximum-security prison inmates; Jason Short with home health patients in Appalachia; Brian McMillion with soldiers returning from war; Naomi Cross with mothers giving birth; and Sister Stephen with nursing home patients at the end of life.

The film received nationwide accolades from the White House to the American Journal of Nursing and raves in national media such as PBS News Hour, NY Times, and USA Today with a combined publicity reach of 103 million people to date. To view the trailer, visit americannurseproject.com/film-trailer.

We hope you join us for the only Pittsburgh screening of The American Nurse on the beautiful campus of Chatham University. The film and networking reception is hosted by Chatham University’s nursing programs’ Chi Zeta Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). There is no cost to participants.

The film is not rated. 81 minutes. In English

CE Credits
Any nurse that watches the film will be able to get 1.50 CE credits though nurse.com.

Registration
The event is free for participants. Registration is recommended but not necessary. Visit www.chatham.edu/events/ to register.

Contact Information
Please contact Jennifer J. Wasco, MSN, RN, web master, Chi Zeta Chapter of STTI @ jwasco@chatham.edu with any questions regarding the event.

For more information about the documentary, please visit www.americannurseproject.com.
Recent Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS


Fisher, M.D. (2014). A Comparison of Professional Value Development among Pre-Licensure Nursing Students in Associate Degree, Diploma, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs. *Nursing Education Perspectives, 35*(1), 37-42. doi: 10.5480/11-729.1


FACULTY PODIUM & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Doas, M. (2013, January). Integrating Emotionally Competent Behaviors into the Care of Psychiatric Patients. Podium Presenter, Mental Health Tomorrow: Advancing the Paradigm Shift, South Padre Island, TX.


Robb, M. & Shellenbarger, T. (2014, June). Tick Tock: Technology Tools, Tips, and Techniques for Improving Nursing Faculty Time Management. Podium presentation, Drexel University Nursing Education Institute, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Sherrod, B. (2013, October). Building Infection Control Reliability. Poster presentation at the NCNA State Convention, Raleigh, NC.


FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Chad Rittle is the president-elect for the state chapter of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN), a national fellow with AAOHN and a board member for the Northeast Chapter of AAOHN (2014 - Present).

Dr. Brad Sherrod is a member of the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) Scholarship Committee (2013 - Present)

Dr. Kathleen Spadaro is a committee member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (2014 - Present).

Dr. Debra Wolf received a Distinguished Alumni Award, La Roche College (2013).