



October greetings from Nancy Morris, UMass Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing PhD Program Director. UMass Medical School has changed its name to UMass Chan Medical School after a significant donation from the Morningside Foundation. The Graduate School of Nursing is now the **UMass Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing**, named after the Chan family's matriarch Tan Chingfen, a nurse.

This Newsletter highlights and recognizes the accomplishments of current PhD students and recent graduates. The goal is to share their interests and applaud their outcomes. We want to connect and inspire each other with efforts to conduct science, answer questions, teach the next generation of nurses, impact policies related to health and well-being, and steward the discipline.

This Fall we welcomed 28 PhD students back on campus to engage in courses and begin and continue dissertation work. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has required some adjustments in course delivery and research recruitment everyone is moving forward towards their goals. Classes are back on campus and research is continuing in the field.

Five students successfully defended their dissertations and graduated this past year. All five are faculty in nursing programs working to educate nurses of the future. Wishing everyone a successful year as you journey forward to meet your education and scholarship goals.

2021 Nursing PhD Graduates



Jennifer Berube, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *“New graduate nurses’ perception of the impact of dedicated education units on transition to practice: A descriptive study.”*
March 2021

Patricia Meza, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *“Life transitions of children with idiopathic childhood apraxia of speech.”*
June 2021



Melissa Dunn, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *“Childhood asthma: Contextual influences affecting family management.”*
June 2021

Rita Amoah, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *“Ubiety in nursing practice: Making each patient the star of the minute”*
August 2021



Amanda Cornine, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *“Facilitators and inhibitors of LPN to RN student transition: A cross-sectional national survey”*
August 2021

Life after graduation

All five graduates are teaching in nursing programs; four right here in Massachusetts. We look forward to hearing about the next phase of their nursing careers.

Dr. Rita Amoah accepted a position at the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing as an Assistant Professor with responsibilities with prelicensure nursing students entering their graduate nursing education through the Graduate Entry Pathway.

Dr. Jenn Berube accepted a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor at Trine University in Indiana where she will teach online in an RN-BS Nursing Program and engage in the development of an online master’s program.

Dr. Amanda Cornine is an instructor in the Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Nursing Department at Worcester State University. She has just assumed the role of coordinating the MSN Nurse Educator Program.

Dr. Melissa Dunn is an Assistant Professor in the Nursing Department at Fitchburg State University.

Dr. Patty Meza is a Professor of Nursing at Wachusett Community College in Gardner Massachusetts.

Student Scholarship - Expanding Horizons

Amoah, R. (2021). "Concept analysis-Ubiety: Caring for one patient at a time amidst distractions." A podium presentation at the Virtual 2021 Nursology Theory Annual Conference. March 18, 2021.

Barry, Z. (2021). "Bridging in education: A concept analysis." A Poster Presentation at the 2021 Virtual Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions, March 25-26, 2021.

Berube, J. (2021). "New graduate nurses' perception of the impact of dedicated education units on transition to practice: A descriptive study." A Poster Presentation at the 2021 Virtual Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions, March 25-26, 2021.

Cadge, W., Lewis, M., Bandini, J....Tehan, T., & Robinson, E. Intensive care unit nurses living through COVID-19: A qualitative study. *J Nurs Manag* (7), 1965– 1973. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jonm.13353>

Cintron, S., Kennedy, H. M., Toohey, L., Mar, W., Latter, A., L'Esperance, S., & Perry, D. (2021). Linking Nature Contact and Health Benefits through Artistic Expression of Nature. Oral presentation at the Sigma Theta Tau, Sigma Region 15 Annual Symposium: Nursing Between the Lines: October 1, 2021.

Costa, J. (2021). "What it means to hold nursing knowledge: An exploratory study." Poster presented at the Virtual 2021 Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference, Your Dissertation, From Idea to Reality and Beyond. 5/31-6/2/21. University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Jean-Baptiste, D. (2021) . "Patient perspectives using SBAR as a patient communication tool: Secondary data analysis." Poster presented at the Virtual 2021 Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference, Your Dissertation, From Idea to Reality and Beyond. 5/31-6/2/21. University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

L'Esperance, S., Kennedy, H. M., Mar, W., Cintron, S., Toohey, L. & Sullivan-Bolyai, S. (2021). "Revisiting the art of family observation." A Poster Presentation at the Virtual International Family Nursing Association, June 28-July2, 2021.

Lester, E. G., Mace, R. A., Bannon, S. M.,....Tehan, T....& Vranceanu, A. M. (2021). Can a dyadic resiliency program improve quality of life incognitively intact dyads of Neuro-ICU survivors and informal caregivers? Results from a pilot RCT. *Neurocrit Care*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12028-021-01222-3>

Naef, R., Brysiewica, P., McAndrew, N. A.Tehan, T., ...& Eggenberger (2021). Intensive care nurse-family engagement from a global perspective: A qualitative multi-site exploration. *Intensive Crit Care Nurs*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iccn.2021.103081>

Patrick, J. (2021). "Sleep disturbance experienced by adults hospitalized on medical and surgical units: An integrative review." A Poster Presentation at the 2021 Virtual Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions, March 25-26, 2021.

Student Scholarship - Expanding Horizons

Romain, S. (2021). "Leaders at the bedside– What it takes to be an Ethics Champion in the U.S." A podium presentation at the Virtual Open Forum Day, European Clinical Ethics Network, September 8, 2021.

Sullivan-Bolyai, S., Pellegrini, L., Boucher, J., Gravlin, G., O'Neil, W., Coco, A. & Vitello, J. (2020). Using a nursing salon to identify and develop an initiative for family caregivers of older adults. *The Journal of Nursing Administration*, 50, 1, 40-44. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NNA.0000000000000837>.

Valcourt, A., Lovelace, H., Boucher, J., & Pugnaire, M. (2021). "Innovative strategies for nurse practitioner education: Virtual interprofessional global health initiative during a worldwide pandemic." Poster Presentation at the 2021 NONPF 47th Annual Conference-New Frontiers for NP Education, April 21-24, 2021.

Highlights of a Graduate: An interview with Dr. Patricia (Trish) Cioe

by PhD student S. Cintron

Dr. Patricia Cioe is a 2012 graduate of our program. After graduation she completed postdoctoral training at Brown University in the Center for Alcohol & Addiction Studies and now is an Associate Professor in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Brown University School of Public Health.

She has been a PI and a Co-I on several research studies funded through the NIH, specifically the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Institute of Nursing Research. Her most recent work focuses on developing interventions to mitigate cardiovascular risk factors in those diagnosed with HIV.

Dr. Cioe says that her curiosity to ask "nursing questions" led to her pursuing a PhD in nursing. She recalls that having a cohort of classmates throughout her studies made the experience even more memorable. Dr. Cioe advises that cohorts should lean on each other for strength and support throughout the program. Reflecting, Dr. Cioe recalls the Philosophy of Science course as particularly challenging as she came into the program with a strong clinical focus having been a nurse practitioner for 12 years. At some point that semester she realized her thinking was evolving and this ignited her passion for the development of new knowledge and her passion for research which continues to this day.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her current role is "Developing new knowledge that helps people with HIV." All students, Dr. Cioe advises, should conduct research on something they are passionate about, and something that excites them. That passion, she says, will be the motivation that sustains you as you encounter challenges of being a scientist. You will experience rejections of grant proposals and publications throughout your career as a nurse researcher and perseverance for something you are passionate about will keep you going.

Dr. Cioe joyfully described her dissertation defense on cardiovascular risk factor knowledge of those diagnosed with HIV. She still can recall that moment surrounded by the faculty, family, colleagues, and friends at her dissertation defense that made all the hard work worth it. Dr. Cioe welcomes any contact from students.

Below is her contact information and a link with highlights of her professional career including publications and presentations.

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HONORS and AWARDS

Rita Amoah and **Danielle Urella** were inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Iota Ph-at-Large Chapter.

Saisha Cintron is the first recipient of the Tan Chingfen Predoctoral Traineeship

William Mar is the May 2021 recipient of the GSN Carol Bova Scholarship

Bill O'Neil was recently nominated and appointed as an at-large community member of the Elder Services of Worcester Area Board of Directors.

Julia Patrick won 3rd place for her poster, "Sleep disturbance experienced by adults hospitalized on medical and surgical units: An integrative review" at the virtual ENRS 33rd Annual Scientific Sessions, March 25-26, 2021.

Tara Tehan is the 2021 recipient of the MGH Munn Dissertation Scholarship.

Lauri Toohey is the May 2021 recipient of the GSN Paulette Seymour Route Scholarship

Student Suggestions for Success

S. Cintron offers, *"Stay focus and determined. Be passionate about your studies and that will make the journey worth it."*

and *"Although there are challenges faced during a pandemic, it will be all worth it. Passion is such a powerful force. Thank you to all those who continue clinical work during this difficult time!"*



B. O'Neil offers, "... It is well-known that the pandemic has dried up many external caregiver options, for in-home help and respite. But there are still many well-respected agencies who can help, and an umbrella/referral agency like Elder Services of Worcester area can do a case manager/home visit to assess care needs. Retaining services usually requires a small, income-based monthly co-payment.

Even 4 hours a week of respite can help make a student feel better with uninterrupted studies. For family or friend clients in advanced stages of decline, Hospice at Home is also an option. Even if it is help only with AM care, every nurse knows that that can be a huge help for the day. There are also qualified individuals who may be looking for extra work, outside of their normal healthcare jobs, who will help, often at a reasonable private-pay rate.

Ask around to as many healthcare people as you can; you will eventually find someone always knows somebody qualified who may be looking for extra work. Even with all that, you may only end up with 10 hours of help per week, and you may still find it all tiring, but AM and PM care help is critical. If those 10 hours/week of help is all you can get, it may be just enough to help write those extra 5 sentences per day for your paper(s). So, be sure to look for, know, and take advantage of - even though pandemic-limited - your external caregiver resources!

Favorite quotes that students wanted to share

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, be cause we are curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."
Walt Disney - shared by A. Valcourt

"Life is a journey to be experienced, not a problem to be solved."
Winnie the Pooh -shared by A. Valcourt

"Just keep swimming." - shared by Sarah Romain

"If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose." T.D. Jakes—shared by S. Cintron



Personal Milestones



Saisha Cintron moved to Millbury, MA. And, she shared that she is expecting her first niece this November!

Deborah Jean-Baptiste got married!

Sarah Romaine moved into a new home Fall 2021!

Alaina Valcourt is getting married November 2021!

New Experiences

Heather Briere has accepted a per diem position as a nurse practitioner hospitalist at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Saisha Cintron is working as a Registered Nurse at UMass Memorial Health, West 2.

Jen Costa has accepted a position as a Clinical Inquiry Specialist at Dana Farber's Cantor Center for Research and Patient Care Services.

Deborah Jean-Baptiste is an Assistant Professor and ACPCNP Program Director in the Richard and Sheila Young School of Nursing at Regis College

Bill O'Neil is a participant on the UMMH workgroup, *Are You a Caregiver?* an initiative to help family/friend caregivers self-identify and get community support. They have developed an infographic for the clinical setting and submitted a paper to a journal.

Julia Patrick accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Nursing Program in the School of Health Sciences at the American International College in Springfield, MA.

Alaina Valcourt assumed the role of Assistant Director of Nursing at Dorchester Community Health Center.

