
PhD Nursing Student Newsletter

Fall 2022 - Fall 2023

Greetings from **Nancy Morris**, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing PhD Program Director. This Newsletter highlights and recognizes the accomplishments of students in the PhD in Nursing program and recent graduates. We want to share their interests in asking and answering questions, conducting research, disseminating results, advancing nursing science, exploring nursing education, engaging in professional organizations, networking, promoting health and justice for all, and beginning to steward the discipline.

We've had 6 students earn their PhD degree this past year with 2 graduating in December 2023. One graduate is a Clinical Nursing Director at an academic medical center, two have academic positions and one is back in school pursuing a post-master's nurse practitioner certificate. Our two December graduates are looking forward to their next steps. Fall 2023 we had 25 PhD nursing students engaged in coursework and completing their dissertations.

The Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing welcomed **Teri Aronowitz**, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAAN this past summer into the role of Associate Dean for Innovation and Scholarship. **Susan Sullivan-Bolyai**, Professor Emeritus, is still involved in the school where she continues to mentor PhD nursing students. We are fortunate to have the wisdom and expertise of both nurse scientists who mentor and support students and faculty with their scholarly endeavors. In addition, we welcomed **Jessica Pagano-Therrien**, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC to the faculty role in the PhD in Nursing Program. She brings qualitative expertise along with knowledge of research ethics and regulations as she also serves as the Chair of the UMass Medical School Institutional Review Board (IRB).

This past year a group of PhD students, with student **Jen Costa** as a primary organizer, began a Peer Mentoring Program - an informal discussion of all things important to PhD nursing students. Conducted via Zoom the peer mentorship program aims to provide a dynamic and supportive forum for PhD nursing students in course work and the dissertation phase. The program promotes the sharing of knowledge and experience while providing opportunities to foster academic success and well-being.

Recent Graduates



Rose Marie Nyakako

Dissertation:

Mental illness knowledge and stigma of Jamaican Diaspora and First-Generation Jamaican Americans

December 2022



Heather Briere

Dissertation:

Diagnosis associated with intellectual and development disabilities in adult decedents: A secondary analysis of Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project National Inpatient Sample (HCUP/NIH) Data

March 2023



Alaina Filiau

Dissertation:

Hope for the Future: Key Informants' Perspectives on HIV Prevention in Dominican Republic Batey Communities

June 2023



Samantha Turner

Dissertation:

Ready for Action: A National Study of Pediatric Healthcare Professionals' Attitudes and Beliefs about Weight Stigma

August 2023

Recent Graduates



Kimberly Mantlow

Dissertation

Pre-licensure nursing education experience of students with physical disabilities: A qualitative descriptive study

August 2023



Jennifer Costa

Dissertation

In our world: Uncovering the meaning of parent-nurse relationships in childhood cancer care

December 2023



Danielle Urella

Dissertation

Burnout among young adults with Type 1 Diabetes

December 2023

PhD Nursing Students

Early Coursework



Chyla BinghamHendricks
CeCe Keefe
Melissa Anne Dubois
Ian Lane
Kate Quill
Autaquay PetersMosquera
Emily York

Later Coursework



Liz DelSignore
Amelia Toye
Caitlin Healy
Beth Terhune

PhD Nursing Students

Dissertation Seminar



Dissertation Phase



Expanding Horizons



Bingham-Hendricks, C., & Peters-Mosquera, A. (2023). *Paving the Way, Wampanoag Tribe-Past, Present and Future*. Presentation at the 1st Annual Tribal Summit at UMass Boston, Fall 2023.

Bingham-Hendricks, C., Peters-Mosquera, A., & Aronowitz, T. (2023). Poster Presentation, *Systematic Review of Substance Use Disorder Treatment After COVID-19 Pandemic Drug Policy Changes* at the American Public Health Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Chalupka, S.M., **Latter, A.**, Trombley, J. (2023). Climate and Environmental Change: A Generation at Risk. *MCN The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 48(4) 181-187

Kennedy, H. (2023). Co-presenter. *To Treat or Not to Treat: Suspected Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures (PNES)*. Association of Child Neurology Nurses 2023 Annual Conference October 4-7, 2023, Vancouver, Canada.

Lane, I. A., & Zempsky, W. T. (2023). Capturing the experiences of sexual and gender minorities with migraine headache. *Headache*, 1-4. <https://doi.org/10.1111/head.14595>

Mar, W. (2023). Poster presentation, *Decision-Making Process Among Nurses Using Interpreter Services in Hospitalized Patients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): A Qualitative Descriptive Study*, at the ENRS 35th Annual Scientific Sessions, Philadelphia, PA.

Mar, W. (2023). Poster presentation, *Decision-Making Process Among Nurses Using Interpreter Services in Hospitalized Patients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): A Qualitative Descriptive Study*, at Clinical Research Day, Newton Wellesley Hospital.



Expanding Horizons

Nagawa, C.S., **Lane, I. A.**, Davis, M., Wang, B., Pbert L., Lemon, S. C., Sadasivam, R. S. (2023). Experiences using family or peer support for smoking cessation and considerations for support interventions: A qualitative study in persons with mental health conditions. *Journal of Dual Diagnosis*, 19(1), 40-48. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15504263.2022.2159732>

Needell, L., **Terhune, B.**, Cappabianca, L., & Bugos, J. (2023). Improving Annual Wellness Visit Compliance in an ACO. ITQC poster session at UMMH.

Nyakako, R. M. (2023). *Knowledge and stigma of mental illness among Jamaican Diaspora and First-Generation Jamaican Americans: A cross-sectional study*. Poster presentation at the ENRS 35th Annual Scientific Sessions, Philadelphia, PA.

O'Neill, M.K., & **Kennedy, H. M.** (2023). Safety in oversight: New approach for children's ombudsmen in critical incident review. *Child Welfare*, 101 (1).<https://www.cwla.org/child-welfare-journal/journal-archives/>

Perry, D. J., **Cintron, S.**, Grace, P. J., Jones, D. A., Kane, A. T., **Kennedy, H. M.**, Malinski, V. M., **Mar, W.**, & **Toohy, L.** (2023). Policy education in a research-focused doctoral nursing program; Power as knowing participation in change. *Nursing Inquiry*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/nin.12615>

Peters-Mosquera, A., Bingham-Hendricks, C., Woods, C. & Aronowitz, T. (2023). The Role Nurses Can Play in Addressing and Preventing the Prevalence of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Poster session at ENRS 35th Annual Scientific Sessions, Philadelphia, PA.

Peters-Mosquera, A., Bingham-Hendricks, C., Woods, C. & Aronowitz, T. (2023). The role nurses can play in addressing and preventing the prevalence of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG). *J Transcult Nurs*, 34(6), 431-442. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10436596231198274>

Peters-Mosquera, A., Bingham-Hendricks, C., & Aronowitz, T. (2023) presented "Indigenous students speak: Experiences and Perspectives." Boston College School of Nursing, April 2023.

Sullivan-Bolyai, S., **O'Neil, W.**, Boucher, J. , Coco, A., Dowd-Foley, D., Dumas, V., Gravlin, G.& Pellegrini, L. (2023). Intraprofessional nursing students coming together through an academic interprofessional practice partnership experience: Are you a caregiver? *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*, 18(3) e98-3104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.teln.2023.03.001>





Heather Briere was the recipient of the 2023 Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing Dean's Award.

Saisha Cintron was highlighted in the UMass Chan Medical School Magazine Spring 2023 for her role as an advocate in helping emerging adults overcome adverse childhood experiences.

Jen Costa received the Rita Reis Wieczorek Scholarship Summer 2023. This scholarship is given through the Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. and was awarded to a graduate nursing student studying maternal-infant and pediatric nursing.

Elizabeth (Liz) DelSignore was the recipient of the 2023 Annie Vigeant Award.

Caitlin Healy was the recipient of the 2023 Carol Bova Scholarship/Award.

Heather Kennedy was awarded the Boston Children's Hospital Inquiry Investment Drives Evidence into Action (IDEA) Grant for her dissertation research: *Exploring Perceived Social Support in Family Caregivers of Children with Medical Complexity*.

Heather Kennedy is a co-recipient of the Pedals for Pediatrics Grant (March 2023-February 2024, Dana Farber) to fund a quality improvement initiative focused on piloting a program to decrease burnout and moral distress and enhance resilience in pediatric neuro-oncology and neuroscience nurses: *Resilience Enhancement Support Team*.

Sarah Romain: was the recipient of The Ann Hamric Scholarship to attend the March 23-24, 2023 9th National Nursing Ethics Conference : Its Complicated: Responding Ethically from the Beginning to the End of Life.

Kelly Sudnick was the recipient of the 2023 Lillian Goodman Scholarship/Award

Beth Terhune and colleagues (Needell, L., Cappabianca, L., & Bugos, J.) were awarded the 2023 1st place poster award for their poster on their ITQC project at UMMH: Improving Annual Wellness Visit Compliance in an ACO.

Beth Terhune was awarded the NE GAPNA (Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association) Education Scholarship Award for 2023-2024 . As a result, she is on the NE GAPNA board as the student liaison for the next year.

Amelia Toye is 1st nursing student elected as UMass Chan Medical School Student Trustee for the 2023-2024 Academic Year!

Alumni Highlights



Cassandra “Cassie” M. Godzik, PhD, APRN, PMHNP-BC, CNE is a 2020 graduate of our program and is currently the Director of Nursing Education Initiatives at The American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Dr. Godzik completed a Postdoctoral Research Fellow opportunity at Dartmouth Health System in New Hampshire. She worked on a T32 at Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Health Systems in the Department of Psychiatry from 2020 until 2023. She is currently submitting local and multi-site grants for federal foundations and private foundations to secure monies to continue her work in strengthening the health and resilience of healthcare workers to improve systems across the United States.

The focus of her current scholarship is twofold. She is interested in psychiatric interventions to improve sleep and reduce depressive symptoms and she is interested in the healthcare workforce. Specifically Dr. Godzik is focused on coming to a better understanding of moral injury and distress among the healthcare workforce, healthcare workforce violence, and the education of the healthcare workforce - nursing assistants, undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate and practicing nurses.

When asked about words of advice for current PhD students, Dr. Godzik offers this,

“Identify mentors that are doing interesting work that you want to participate in. It doesn’t necessarily need to end up being what you study for in your doctoral work or postdoctoral education; however, getting exposure to different research studies and ways of engaging interprofessional with nurse scientists and non-nurse scientists is critical for developing important skills that you will use in your own personal studies. You will also get experience with grant writing processes, understand what you do/don’t like in the world of research, and identify where your true interests lay so you can contribute to nursing science throughout your career.”

Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing

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