

# PITT Nurse

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF NURSING MAGAZINE

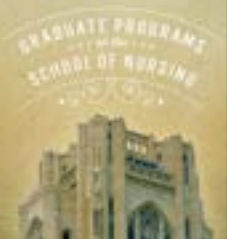
FALL 2014

## RISING to LEADERSHIP

GRADUATE PROGRAMS  
... at the ...  
SCHOOL OF NURSING







About the Cover: This issue explores two of the School of Nursing's graduate programs: the master's and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs. Readers will have a chance to meet school administrators and expert faculty members as well as to learn more about the areas of concentration within each degree program.



Throughout 2014, the school has been celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1939. As part of the festivities, the school presented the faculty, staff, and students with a commemorative T-shirt. These members of the school from the Pittsburgh (left) and Johnstown (above) campuses are happy to gather together and show off their pride in being part of the Pitt nursing community!



## *Inside* **PITT NURSE**

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In the last issue of *Pitt Nurse*, we documented the evolution of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing in the context of society's changing expectations of nurses. For 75 years, the school has expanded its academic offerings to ensure that graduates have the appropriate level of skills and knowledge to function effectively in the ever-changing health care environment.

Program evaluation and revision have not ended—indeed, there are current national mandates to increase the academic preparedness of nurses and nurse leaders, driving even further change. The Institute of Medicine's *The Future of Nursing* report calls for doubling the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020 as well as for universities to “prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health.” The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) issued a 2005 charge to move the current level of preparation for advanced nursing practice to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) level.

In response, our Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and DNP programs have been transformed to produce sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified nursing professionals. We have added BSN-to-PhD and BSN-to-DNP options to facilitate early admission to graduate nursing programs. Many of our advanced practice specializations have been transitioned to the DNP level. Course work covering health care policy, ethics, leadership, and research has been expanded to provide graduates with the systemwide perspective that is essential to guiding health care entities and implementing comprehensive change.

The school's faculty members possess the expertise and the clinical, research, or administrative experience that is much sought after by students and their employers. Some have had extensive careers in nursing administration as chief nursing officers (CNOs) of major hospitals or as nurse practitioner leaders of community clinics. Many bring their federally funded research and results into the classroom, exposing students to leading edge topics and research. Many faculty members have risen to positions of leadership in national nursing associations, giving them a robust knowledge of the issues facing the profession. Today, 98 percent of our full-time faculty members are prepared at the doctoral (PhD or DNP) level.

Graduates of the MSN and DNP programs have earned positions that enable them to impact care on the national and global stages by serving as leaders of major community-based health care systems, collegiate nursing schools, health plans, National Institutes of Health-hosted study sections, and national nursing



associations. Pitt nursing alumni hold senior positions with multinational corporations, major research universities, government agencies, foundations, the military, and research institutions.

The health care industry needs nurses with greater research, leadership, management, and technological capabilities. Here at Pitt, we prepare students to assume leadership roles and to take advantage of the many expanded opportunities now available in nursing. I invite you to learn more by reading this issue of *Pitt Nurse* and by visiting our Web site at [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu).

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob".

Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN  
Dean and Distinguished Service Professor  
of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh  
School of Nursing



# PITT NURSING

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## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

### STEPS *to* SUCCESS

Modern medicine and health care have undergone great transformation with the introduction of new technologies, drugs, devices, procedures, and tests that have revolutionized the way people live, the treatment of diseases, and the methods of health care delivery. Health care has been evolving at a breakneck pace since the 1940s. Antibiotics, vaccines, the identification of DNA, and organ transplantation became realities. Medical care, which had taken place in the home, shifted to hospitals and specialty care settings. Today, people have unprecedented access to health care in this country as well as to more effective surgeries, therapies, and artificial limbs and organs. Not surprisingly, nursing education and practice have advanced as well.

Since the School of Nursing was founded in 1939, the responsibilities of nurses have grown exponentially. Today, nurses are leaders in patient care, research, policy making, and system management. The school has spearheaded the preparation of nurses for these enhanced roles by offering academically and clinically rigorous programs at the graduate level: master's (1940s), PhD (1950s), and DNP (2006). Pitt nursing faculty members bring to the classroom their own significant clinical experiences and knowledge based on state-of-the-art research. Students can take advantage of diverse practical learning opportunities at facilities ranging from a Level I trauma center to nonprofit community clinics in underserved neighborhoods. Alumni have taken the extensive skills and knowledge they acquired at Pitt into hospitals, clinics, health care systems, and government agencies around the world. The school was seventh in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011 ranking of the country's best graduate nursing programs.

# THE MASTER'S PROGRAM

Master's education is critical to producing nurses who can engage in higher-level practice and leadership, seamlessly move into further graduate study, and meet the growing expectations of patients and facilities. It builds on the baccalaureate degree, preparing students to contribute to advanced nursing practice in a specialized role. Students gain mastery-level knowledge from nursing and other disciplines as well as the ability to evaluate and use evidence-based research in care settings. Course work addresses interprofessionalism, leadership, ethics, informatics, communication, and management so that graduates can work within and direct health care systems and institutions.

Master's-level education in nursing is designed to build competencies in either direct or indirect patient care roles. It features increasing levels of supervised practical experiences to allow students to put to use what they have learned in the classroom. Graduates have mastery of higher-level thinking and a comprehensive understanding of systems-level care and management. At Pitt, the School of Nursing offers the majors described in the following sections (please note that some of these concentrations are offered in the online environment in addition to on the Pittsburgh campus).



## A PERFECT TRANSLATION

Linda Dudjak, PhD (above), doesn't hesitate when asked to talk about what attracted her to nursing. "Probably at the heart of it was the opportunity to blend my intrigue with medicine and science with my passion for making a difference in people's lives," she says. One of the ways that Dudjak is clearly making a difference is by sharing her acknowledged expertise in health care leadership. She has been in her current position as an associate professor in the School of Nursing's Department of Acute/Tertiary Care responsible for the MSN administration and leadership concentration since 2008 and the DNP administration concentration since May 2014. To that role, she brings a breadth of experience gleaned from opportunities as a clinical nurse specialist in radiation oncology; director of inpatient services at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; program administrator at UPMC Presbyterian; and chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care services for UPMC Horizon, a 12-hospital rural health system in Mercer County, Pa.

The opportunity to care for oncology patients has been a shaping force, personally as well as professionally. Her early experiences were in medical-surgical units in the days when oncology units were not prevalent in community hospitals. Even then, she recognized the chronic nature of a cancer diagnosis and saw that there was a huge opportunity for nurses to influence patients and families through teaching and compassionate care as well as through helping them to coordinate services and navigate the health care system. "I felt most rewarded when I cared for patients with that diagnosis," she says. "Those patient experiences have taught me so much about life. They are the things that keep me grounded."

One of the highlights of Dudjak's career was in the late 1980s, when she was a member of the team that developed the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, which brought together health care professionals from many different hospitals and organizations under a

*continued*

## A PERFECT TRANSLATION *continued*

common umbrella and vision. “It was such a positive experience, because everyone who was part of that initiative was someone whose professional heart was invested in the care of patients with cancer and their families,” she says. “That was their identity.” The institute obtained National Cancer Institute designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center in less than five years—something of a record.

When she began to work in formal nursing leadership roles, friends would ask Dudjak if she missed patient care. “I felt as though I still touched patient care through the people that I prepared and mentored as nurses and leaders themselves,” she says. “It allowed me to not just influence the care of the patients that I was assigned [to] on that shift but to potentially influence the care of patients in a whole department or organization.” Her positions in executive nursing and operational roles in both academic and community settings have allowed her to see the unique challenges and opportunities of working in a complex tertiary setting as well as the unique challenges that exist to influence practice and patient care in a small community setting.

For Dudjak, the opportunity to teach courses and advise students in administration is a perfect translation of her professional career. “In an academic environment, you are able to devote time to delving into the evidence; exploring the best, most innovative practices; sometimes discovering new knowledge; and being able to instill a curiosity for that cutting-edge knowledge in students in a classroom or clinical setting,” she says. “It has been an absolute joy to be able to make that connection between what I learned through day-to-day experience with what I now know as formal evidence and put those together to prepare future leaders. It’s the perfect job. I love it.”

## WHERE DO OUR MSN STUDENTS COME FROM?

MSN Students, 2009-14

600+

More than 600 students have been admitted to the program over a five-year period.

19 percent of MSN students are male.

19%

29

Students are from 29 different home states.

30

The average age at admission is 30.

### MSN students have earned previous degrees from schools including:

Arizona State University  
 Baylor University  
 Boston College  
 Duke University  
 Florida State University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Loyola University Chicago  
 Ohio State University  
 Oregon Health & Science University  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Virginia

### Selected employers of MSN students at the time of admission:

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital  
 Emory University Hospital  
 Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
 New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
 Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
 Pennsylvania-based institutions, including Allegheny General Hospital, Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital, Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)



# Nurse Specialty Roles

## Nursing Administration

This curriculum prepares nurses to serve as managers at the department or director level through foundational courses on evidence-based practice, nursing outcomes, health promotion, technology, and organizational theory. Students then explore finance/economics, health policy, or leadership development. Graduates benefit from clinical residencies at a wide range of sites, including a world-class research and teaching institution.

“Our program is unique in that our faculty have all practiced at an executive nurse level. We really are experts in the field of health care leadership and are able to bring that to the classroom at the graduate level. I think that’s unique to Pitt’s program, and it’s a huge value because you really are able to relate to the problems and the questions that students bring and you’re able to offer them real-world solutions,” explains Linda Dudjak, PhD, associate professor and

“Our program is unique in that our faculty have all practiced at an executive nurse level.”

Linda Dudjak

coordinator of the nursing administration area of concentration. Before teaching at Pitt, Dudjak was the vice president of patient care services for a health system in northwestern Pennsylvania. Another faculty member, Judith Zedreck, was the interim chief executive officer/chief operating officer as well as vice president and chief nursing officer for a multicampus 700-bed hospital who had both site and system responsibilities.

## FULL CIRCLE

Five years ago, Judith Zedreck, DNP (right), was walking through a Nordstrom when a woman called her name. Though Zedreck hadn’t seen her in many years, she recognized her as Patty, the mother of a premature infant she had cared for back in her early days as a staff nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. And now here she was, telling her that her baby, who had been so tiny and fragile, was all grown up. “Elizabeth got married,” Patty told Zedreck, with the sound of a miracle in her voice.

And here’s the second-best part of that encounter: Patty opened up her wallet—not to show Zedreck a picture but to pull out one of the “Dear Mommy” notes that Zedreck had been in the practice of writing after an overnight shift to let the parents know how things in that touch-and-go world had gone. “She said that when Elizabeth got married, they talked about those notes and how much they meant to her,” Zedreck, now a professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care remembers. “And you know, they were just nothing. I mean, it took me 30 seconds to write those notes. But that was a lifetime for that mother.”

Zedreck’s commitment to education is such that she actually completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2013 while she was the interim chief executive officer/chief operating officer at Allegheny General Hospital. “I went back to school not because I didn’t have enough to do but because I really thought it was the best thing to do,” she says. “I wanted to be sure that I was in a structured learning environment so that I knew what the trends were and what were best practices—not only evidence-based practice in clinical settings but also in administrative settings.”

One of Zedreck’s earliest roles was as a clinical educator. After a career that took her to the highest levels of administration, she is thrilled to be back in the classroom. “The respect and the pride for nursing, for me, are just phenomenal. I love to be in that environment,” she says. “There’s no time you’re in the Victoria Building that you’re not proud to be a part of that. And it’s not just about teaching and training. It truly is about the profession and how we’re advancing it.”



## Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

This relatively new role for nurses is dedicated to improving the quality of patient care, at both the individual and the aggregate levels, in the clinical setting. A CNL evaluates patient outcomes, assesses risk across groups of patients, develops or revises care plans, coordinates care across the continuum of health care services, and tests innovative care methods. Course work covers research for evidence-based practice, health promotion in diverse populations, diagnostic exams across the life span, education and mentoring in the clinical setting, and pathophysiology across the life span.

CNL program faculty members include Associate Professor and Coordinator Rosemary L. Hoffmann, PhD, a certified nurse leader. Hoffmann currently serves on the Commission on Nurse Certification Board of Commissioners and has won awards for her teaching and clinical scholarly work. Her recent research addresses teaching strategies in asynchronous learning and high-fidelity human simulation in addition to the barriers to outpatient care in community settings.

The role of the CNL was first introduced in 2003 in reaction to Institute of Medicine reports on quality and safety. As of August 2014, there are more than 3,000 individuals who have earned CNL certification.

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ROSEMARY L. HOFFMANN, PhD

**Position:** Associate professor, Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, and coordinator, clinical nurse leader program; and online programs

**Class Act:** The CNL role is a relatively new one. “With the health system rapidly changing and hospitalized patients being more complex,” Hoffmann says, “there needs to be a nurse who can be a liaison and deliver best practices among the bedside provider, the nursing administration, and the health care team.”

**Investigations:** Hoffmann, who is certified by the Commission on Nurse Certification as a clinical nurse leader, conducts research into teaching strategies. “I identify different types of teaching strategies to use in the classroom and online,” she says. “I try to incorporate what is working best with the students.”

**Of Note:** Hoffmann believes that the CNL program does a good job of teaching students to identify problems at the microsystem level (e.g., a hospital unit, rehab facility, long-term care facility, or community-based setting) and then implement strategies to improve outcomes based on the latest evidence. “[The clinical nurse leader] should be the nurse who the staff goes to for consultation,” Hoffmann says. “The staff nurse realistically does not have sufficient time to look at data and implement projects. The clinical nurse leader serves as their leader to get the interdisciplinary team together to discuss a complex patient. CNL students are educated in quality, safety, organization, and outcomes.”

**Standouts:** Hoffmann was a recipient of the provost’s Innovation in Teaching Award for helping to incorporate high-fidelity human-simulated technology into the undergraduate program. In 2007, she received the Distinguished Clinical Scholar Award to incorporate inter-professional health care education within the School of Nursing.



## Nursing Informatics

This area of concentration combines principles of nursing science with those from cognitive, computer, and information sciences. It focuses on the development, analysis, and evaluation of information systems to enhance and manage patient care. Discipline-specific courses investigate informatics theories and issues, database management, information technology project management, clinical information systems, and technology evaluation and usability.

Faculty members for this area of concentration include Elizabeth LaRue, PhD, (below), who holds graduate degrees in library and information science. She has served as an information systems specialist at the Medical College of Georgia, as the assistant director for education and technology at Rush University, and as the head of reference and educational services at Columbia University's Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library. Also

teaching in this areas is Christine Curran, PhD, who served as the chief nursing informatics officer at UMass Memorial Medical Center. She also held leadership positions in nursing informatics at the Ohio State University Medical Center and Columbia University. Her work explores informatics competencies and she is a codesigner of the information management framework developed by Staggers, Gassert & Curran in 2001.



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### ELIZABETH LARUE, PhD, MLS

**Position:** Assistant professor, Department of Health and Community Systems, and coordinator, nursing informatics concentration

**Back Story:** LaRue has a master's in library science and a doctorate in library and information science from Pitt. She came to nursing informatics as a medical librarian after being asked to liaise with a nursing school that was transitioning to evidence-based practice. "Evidence-based practice has a whole lot of library science in it," says LaRue. "I fell into informatics through that realm."

**Class Act:** Nursing informatics is a relatively new field—an area that blends cognitive psychology, information science, and computer science with nursing. "It provides nurses with another way to offer care through analyzing systems and the data within the systems to deliver better care," LaRue says.

**Standouts:** LaRue is not trained as a nurse but says that she believes that "students benefit from working with somebody who is not one of them."

Multidisciplinary faculty teach the nursing informatics courses, thereby exposing students to different thought processes and different knowledge bases."

**Of Note:** LaRue was awarded a highly competitive and prestigious Fulbright award for the 2014–15 academic year. She will be in Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi, where she will be helping the Kamuzu College of Nursing at the University of Malawi to establish a master's program in nursing informatics. LaRue was in Malawi for a few weeks last year to look at the way a software company was developing electronic health records and how the software was being used in the hospitals and clinics there. "It was being developed, but it really wasn't being used," she recalls. "I just saw computers sitting in corners that were all dusty." She ended up going to the Kamuzu College of Nursing, speaking with some faculty members, and giving a couple of lectures to introduce them to the field of nursing informatics. On being awarded a Fulbright, LaRue says, "I'm still overwhelmed when I think about it."

## Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

This type of advanced practice nurse manages the care of high-risk infants and children (up to 2 years of age) as part of a team of neonatologists and other pediatric specialists. Working in NICUs and other high-risk settings, neonatal nurse practitioner (NNP)s coordinate care for those with chronic health problems going from hospital to home. They select and perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the intensive care setting; therefore, students take courses in physical assessment and differential diagnosis as well as neonatal specialty courses focusing on development and diagnostic differences within this special population. Classes in evidence-based practice, research, and management of the sick neonate are included. Students have a diverse set of facilities in which to gain clinical experience. “The clinical experiences the students get at the NICU sites in Pittsburgh are unbelievable. They can go anywhere from here having had the exposure to any kind of scenario in a NICU,” explains Kathleen Godfrey, DNP, faculty member and certified neonatal nurse practitioner.

The faculty members for this area of concentration include Donna Nativio, PhD, considered to be one of the founders of the American nurse practitioner movement. Nativio has almost 30 years of clinical experience as a pediatric nurse practitioner and has served in leadership positions with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Courses also are offered by Godfrey, who has a distinguished record of clinical experience as both a neonatal and pediatric nurse practitioner at leading regional hospitals, including Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

## KATHLEEN GODFREY, DNP, NNP-BC, CPNP

**Position:** Assistant professor, Department of Health Promotion and Development, and lead faculty member, neonatal nurse practitioner program

**Back Story:** As a new nurse, Godfrey had hoped to work in pediatrics, but there were no jobs open. So she took a position doing what seemed to be the next closest thing, which was working at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC in the newborn nursery. When she agreed to transfer to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), she says, “I didn’t know a lot about it. Initially I was thinking, ‘Well, at least it’s taking care of sick babies. That’s some pediatrics.’” In spite of the early misconception of what was involved, Godfrey has flourished in the NICU.

**Class Act:** Godfrey brings 30 years of neonatal nursing experience to her teaching role. “I am a clinician; I feel that’s my calling,” she says. “But I enjoy sharing my knowledge and expertise with the students. All sick newborns aren’t alike. Having seen so much over the years, I can bring my students the atypical scenarios

in addition to the typical.” Not only that, but because she is so well integrated into premie and sick baby care in Pittsburgh, Godfrey also is able to bring in top physicians, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, and developmental specialists to teach. “The expertise we have in this city is amazing,” Godfrey says.

**Best Practice:** For her own DNP capstone project in 2011, Godfrey tested an occlusive wrap in which to place the tiniest premature babies the second they are delivered—even before drying them off. “The tiniest babies get cold very quickly,” she says. “Hypothermia can have terrible effects on babies, especially preemies.” Procedures, including resuscitation, can be done through this occlusive wrap, which is a little like being saran-wrapped from the neck down. Godfrey determined through her project that by the time the babies were admitted to the NICU from the delivery room, they had improved temperatures. “This led to a change in standard practice at Magee such that now all babies born at less than 29 weeks are placed in this wrap,” she says.

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## ELIZABETH A. SCHLENK, PHD

**Position:** Associate professor, Department of Health and Community Systems, and coordinator, certificate program in nursing research

**Back Story:** When Schlenk finished her PhD at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, she came to Pitt originally as a postdoc. Academic research had always been her goal. “Sometimes doors open and you have to decide if you are going to walk through them or not,” she says. “And I did—and it’s been really wonderful.”

**Class Act:** Schlenk teaches a core course called Research for Evidence-based Practice 2 to help graduate students to become consumers of research, be able to critically appraise it, and then be able to apply it appropriately to their practice. “Evidence-based practice is a thread throughout the whole curriculum, so from early on, students are learning about practice that’s based on evidence, not on opinion or intuition.” An online 17-credit certificate program in nursing research was approved last fall, and Schlenk teaches one of the courses in that program on coordinating clinical trials. (One of her students takes the course from faraway Palermo, Italy.)

**Investigations:** Issues of adherence to chronic disorder regimens have always interested Schlenk. “When I came to Pitt, I started to make connections with rheumatologists,” she says. “I’ve focused my attention lately on rheumatologic conditions, specifically osteoarthritis.” And because, she says, chronic disorders never travel alone, one study is examining adherence to physical activity regimens in patients with osteoarthritis and high blood pressure.

**Of Note:** As a mentor, Schlenk has a full slate, counseling students in research practicums and independent studies as well as chairing DNP capstone project and PhD dissertation committees. “It’s very rewarding,” she says, “to be preparing the next generation of advanced practice nurses and young investigators.”

**Standouts:** Schlenk is on the executive committee of the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals, an interdisciplinary organization that advances knowledge and skills of health professionals in rheumatology through education, practice, research, and advocacy.

## MEET OUR LEADING ALUMNI

### Deans of Schools of Nursing:

Yale University  
Margaret Grey, DrPH, FAAN

University of Illinois at Chicago  
Terri Weaver, PhD, FAAN

Ohio State University  
Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, FAAN

Oregon Health & Science University  
Susan Bakewell-Sachs, PhD, FAAN

Case Western Reserve University  
Mary Kerr, PhD, FAAN

Kent State University  
Barbara Broome, PhD, FAAN

Robert Morris University  
Valerie Howard, EdD

SUNY Delhi  
Mary Pat Lewis, PhD

### Military:

U.S. Army Surgeon General and  
Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command  
Patricia Horoho, MSN

### Hospital/Health Administration:

President and CEO, Allegheny General  
Hospital  
Michael Harlovic, MSN

President and CEO, Nicholas H. Noyes  
Memorial Hospital  
Amy Pollard, MSN

President and Founder (retired 2014),  
Angeles Home Health Care  
Rita Doll, MA

CEO, Advanced Surgical Hospital  
Anne Hast, DNP

### Health System Administration:

Senior Vice President and Chief  
Nursing Officer, Excelsa Health  
Helen Burns, PhD, FAAN

Vice President and Chief Nursing  
Officer, Bon Secours Health System  
Andrea Mazzocchi, PhD

Director, Learning and Innovation, Health First  
Melanie Shatzer, DNP

### Federal Government:

Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for  
Organizational Integration, Veterans  
Health Administration, U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
Catherine Dischner, MSN

*continued*

## MEET OUR LEADING ALUMNI

*continued*

### Federal Government:

Principle Investigator, Biobehavioral  
Branch, Division of Intramural Research,  
National Institute of Nursing Research,  
National Institutes of Health  
Wendy Henderson, PhD

Program Analyst, Office of Evaluations  
and Inspections, Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
Holly Williams, PhD

### Industry:

Chief Nurse, Cerner Corporation  
Darinda Sutton, MSN

Director of Clinical Programs, UPMC  
Health Plan  
Laura Fennimore, DNP

Senior Clinical Research Associate,  
Merck & Co., Inc.  
Cynthia Brown, MSN

U.S. Operations Owner, iOpener Institute  
for People and Performance  
Diane Scott, BSN

### Professional/Academic Organizations:

Chief Executive Officer, American  
Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)  
Deborah Trautman, MSN

Board Chair, Commission on Nurse  
Certification, AACN  
Rosemary Hoffmann, PhD

Chair, State Steering Committee,  
Pennsylvania Action Coalition  
Victoria Rich, PhD

President and CEO, West Virginia  
University Foundation  
Cynthia Roth, MPM

### International:

Adjunct Research Fellow, National  
Health Research Institutes, Taiwan  
Yu-Mei Yu Chao, PhD

Coordinator, Gender, Equity and Human  
Rights, World Health Organization  
Prakin Suchaxaya, PhD

Assistant Dean, Boromarajonani  
College of Nursing, Thailand,  
Phensiri Dumrongpakapakorn, PhD

# THE NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are the providers of more than 34 million anesthetics each year in this country. These advanced practice nurses have successfully completed specialized graduate-level education and can administer anesthesia for all types of cases and in various settings. From preoperative assessment to discharge, the CRNA is a patient advocate and collaborator with other health care practitioners in providing cost-effective anesthesia.

Since the 1980s, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing has offered this well-regarded and very popular graduate program, which is accredited by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' Council on Accreditation and ranked third in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011 ranking of the top graduate nursing programs in the country. The curriculum incorporates principles of anesthesia, developing an anesthesia management plan, administration of anesthetic agents and associated medications, and team training in patient safety.

In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) endorsed moving the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice (for those in specialty nursing) from the master's degree to the DNP or other

doctoral-level degree by 2015; as of this printing, the school is in the process of this transition and offers the MSN-to-DNP option.

The nurse anesthesia program features several unique components, including an anesthesia crisis resource management course (the first offered in the country); a partnership with the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research, the largest civilian simulation center in the country; a robust CRNA student mentoring partnership between the School of Nursing and the University of Pittsburgh Physicians (UPP); and a clinical rotation in Pitt's School of Dental Medicine. Michael Neft, DNP, CRNA, assistant director of and assistant professor in this specialization, notes that nurse anesthesia students get "their clinical practice in world-renowned hospitals. We have a wealth of experience with our affiliated hospital partners, so we can bring in subject matter experts to teach."

Michael Neft, DNP, CRNA (left), and Richard Henker, PhD, CRNA, FAAN (right), are among the extremely qualified faculty in this program. Neft brings to the classroom more than 20 years of experience with the U.S. Army as a staff nurse anesthetist, nurse, and instructor. Henker, in addition to his teaching and clinical responsibilities, serves as the school's international education coordinator and provides anesthesia care at hospitals in Cambodia and Thailand.





## HE'S THE (SIM)MAN

In the early 2000s, when medical equipment manufacturer Laerdal Medical had cutting-edge medical training products in the pipeline, John O'Donnell, DrPH, CRNA, professor and chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia and director of the nurse anesthesia program, struck a deal. He had a faculty development grant in simulation, and he wanted to use it to acquire a SimMan for training his students. SimMan is a computer-controlled mannequin. It is very life-like—it breathes, has a heart rhythm, bleeds, and talks, for starters. It was so early in production that Laerdal hadn't even determined the final cost of SimMan. O'Donnell approached the company, saying, "Here's the deal. I have this money, and if it costs less than this, then you've made a profit. And if it costs more ... " Laerdal agreed. "We received the very first simulator to come off the assembly line in the United States," O'Donnell says. As to who got the better end of the deal, O'Donnell is keeping mum.

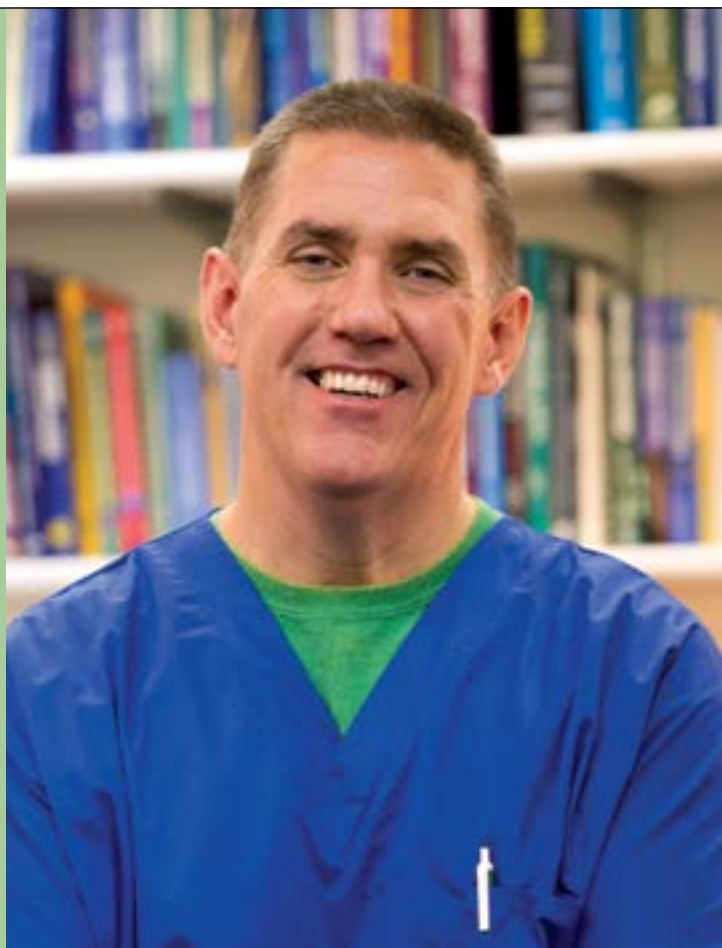
O'Donnell got involved with simulation on the ground floor back in 1994 in the early days of Pitt's Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research (WISER). Now WISER's director of research and associate director for nursing programs, O'Donnell is known internationally for his expertise in simulation educational methods and more specifically for his work in debriefing after simulation events.

For students in the nurse anesthesia program, this means that they get to train in one of the world's preeminent simulation facilities. Before a beginning student walks into the simulation lab, he or she has already been prepped with 30 hours of classroom explanation. Then he or she spends about

40 hours in the simulation lab learning and practicing skills from how to intubate to how to check the anesthesia gas machine, read the miniature printout, and position a patient on the operating room table. All of these individual skills are mastered before a student is brought in for a simulated operating room experience.

"I've always been interested in safety. I've always been interested in education. And I've always been intrigued by the idea that if we could train somebody to do a dangerous task on a mannequin, it would be better than having them do that for the first time on a person. There wouldn't be a risk of hurting them," O'Donnell says. "So just from an ethical standpoint, I would say there's a very strong argument for using this kind of training if we can get people to be better at their actual clinical jobs."

O'Donnell has a pair of degrees from Pitt—his MSN in nurse anesthesia and his doctorate in public health in epidemiology. In fact, his is a Pitt family. His wife, Melinda, who manages the surgical clinics at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, has her bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Nursing. Daughter Maeve is working on her BSN, and one son, Conor, is taking premed courses. His other son, Liam, starts at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg this fall.



O'Donnell's teaching has received attention both locally and nationally. He is especially proud of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award he received in 2011. Also special to him are the 2006 national Program Director of the Year award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists and a 2010 University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Cameos of Caring award. He's also quick to point out that the school's nurse anesthesia program is ranked third in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. "I think we're one of the top anesthesia programs in the country," he says. "We produce nurse anesthetists who can work in any setting directly out of school with almost no orientation."

And that's something that can't be simulated.

Congratulations to the nurse anesthesia program on being awarded departmental status in August 2014!

# THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program offers the complex clinical skills and critical knowledge of evidence-based practice to empower nurses to positively impact health care delivery systems. This alternative to the research-focused PhD was recommended in the 2005 report *Advancing the Nation's Health Needs*, in which the National Research Council of the National Academies called for nursing to develop a “non-research clinical doctorate to prepare expert practitioners who can also serve as clinical faculty.” DNP-prepared advanced practice nurses are amply qualified for leadership roles in direct patient care, systems-focused care and administration, and clinical education. Thus, it is no wonder that Pitt DNP graduates have achieved the highest clinical and administrative positions.

The PhD program in nursing was founded in 1954. This rigorous doctoral program has gained an international reputation for its preparation of graduates and pioneering research. To meet the National Research Council's call for a nonresearch clinical doctorate, the school began offering the DNP program in 2006. The program enables graduates to evaluate research results and to use that evidence in clinical decision making, implementation of clinical innovations, and improvement of patient care on both the micro and macro levels. Course work examines advanced evidence-based practice, organizational and systems management, clinical research and analytical methods, informatics and patient care technology, and health care policy and

finance. Students are admitted to areas of concentration including various nurse practitioner specialties, clinical nurse specialists, administration, or nurse anesthesia. All DNP students must successfully complete a capstone project, which showcases the synthesis and application of knowledge gained throughout the program.

The school has crafted both BSN- and MSN-to-DNP programs to benefit those with differing educational backgrounds. Post-master's DNP courses are offered via Pitt Online, the University of Pittsburgh's accessible platform for distance learning, which has been honored by the Blackboard Catalyst Awards program for four years in a row.

Pictured here are faculty members who teach core courses in the DNP program: Heidi Donovan, PhD; Janice Dorman, PhD; and Sheila Alexander, PhD. Their courses cover health promotion in diverse populations, genetics and molecular therapeutics, and pathophysiology.





## TRAILBLAZER

Donna G. Nativio, PhD, FAAN, FAANP, was sitting in the library at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, where she was a masters student in the 1960s, when she read a small article in a journal. It was about a program in Denver, Colo., that was training nurses as practitioners who could provide services in rural Colorado to populations that didn't have access to health care. Nativio already had her nursing degree. "I thought, 'I think that's for me. That's what I want to do,'" she recalls. "I guess if I had an 'aha' moment, that was it." Nativio finished her master's, completed a residency in public health, and then went off to Denver to find out how that program was preparing what would come to be called nurse practitioners.

Back in Pittsburgh, she took a position with the Allegheny County Health Department overseeing the pediatrics portion of a federally funded maternal infant care program. There, she developed a demonstration project that included a curriculum to prepare experienced public health nurses at well-baby clinics to carry out physical exams and make decisions about immunizations.

Nativio, now associate professor and vice chair for administration in the Department of Health Promotion and Development at the Pitt School of Nursing, went on to become a driving force for the introduction of nurse practitioners in the state in the 1970s. In fact, when she looks at the law in Pennsylvania today that addresses the credentialing of nurse practitioners, she can still see some of the words that she contributed. "I was able to be involved in how Pennsylvania decided to credential," she remembers. "I submitted terminology that I thought

would serve us best in that law. The law has changed several times since, but I can still see some of what I wrote back then."

She was a powerhouse then and is still one today—a huge presence at the School of Nursing as director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program as well as director of family, adult-gerontology primary care, pediatric, and neonatal nurse practitioner areas of concentration. "We were one of the universities that introduced the DNP program early, thanks to our current dean," Nativio says. "I lived through no credentialing being required and the master's not being required for [becoming a] nurse practitioner. If history repeats itself in terms of regulation and legislation, I think the DNP will become a required degree," she says.

This is a wonderful time to be a nurse practitioner, Nativio believes. "In all the years I've been doing this, this may be one of the very best times because of the federal health care law that has said that nurse practitioners are included as primary care providers. There's lots of data that show it can be done," she says. "There are lots of jobs as more and more people who weren't insured become insured. Almost anything you pick up that talks about workforce talks about an increase in demand for nurse practitioners. And often they will couch it in terms of taking care of the physician shortage. But I don't think that's the only reason. Nurse practitioners are good at what they do, and I think some people prefer the nurse practitioner."

Nativio, who has many awards and distinctions to her name, was selected as a 2014 fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.



"There are lots of jobs as more and more people who weren't insured become insured. Almost anything you pick up that talks about workforce talks about an increase in demand for nurse practitioners."

Donna G. Nativio

## DNP AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

(AS OF PUBLICATION):

**Clinical Nurse Specialist**  
(Adult Gerontology)

**Nurse Administration**

**Nurse Practitioner** [Adult Gerontology Acute Care, Adult Gerontology Primary Care, Family (Individual Across the Life Span), Neonatal, Pediatric Primary Care, Psychiatric Mental Health]

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## Adult Gerontology

This concentration—offered as part of both the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and nurse practitioner options—equips graduates to develop and manage care programs for patient populations, to foster change in nursing practice, to lead multidisciplinary groups in implementing innovative projects, and to initiate research projects to test new practices. Students may choose to focus their clinical experiences on cardio-pulmonary care, critical care, primary care, oncology, or trauma and emergency preparedness.

Rosenzweig is pictured here with faculty colleagues Marilyn Hravnak, PhD, CRNP, FCCM, FAAN, and Kathy Magdic, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP. Hravnak is continuing her more than 30 years of clinical practice, teaching, and research in critical care. Magdic is renowned as an author, presenter, and national and international consultant on the role, scope of practice, and education of the adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner.



## MARGARET ROSENZWEIG, PhD, CRNP-C, AOCNP

**Position:** Associate professor, Department of Acute/Tertiary Care

**Specialty:** Oncology

**Back Story:** As a student, Rosenzweig thought she would be a staff nurse, perhaps specializing in psychiatric nursing, when she finished her undergraduate nursing program. That all changed in her senior year, when she cared for a patient with cancer at the end of life. “It was instant that I knew these were the patients I wanted to work with,” she remembers. “I was interested in cancer, chemotherapy, the whole process of living with cancer, what it did to the family—all of that was very intriguing to me.”

**Class Act:** Rosenzweig developed the curriculum for the oncology focus in the acute care nurse practitioner program. Because she also is in clinical practice as a nurse practitioner for women with breast cancer,

Rosenzweig can bring case studies in to supplement textbook teaching. “In order for students to learn the material, it needs to be presented in a very clear algorithm,” she says. “But it adds a great deal of validity to what you’re saying when you can talk about what you see in practice.”

**Investigations:** While racial disparities in cancer screening and prevention have attracted earlier attention, Rosenzweig focuses her NIH-funded research efforts on racial disparity in cancer treatment. “It’s about what happens when Black patients come to the cancer care world and what the difference is between the experience of a Black patient and a White patient,” she says. “I do a lot of general cancer lectures in the school across the master’s and undergraduate [programs]. I always feel that I want to be an advocate for being sensitive to cultural needs.”

**Of Note:** Rosenzweig has been selected as a 2014 fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Nursing, where she joins thought leaders in nursing and health care.



## Administration

Nurses are taking on more responsibilities and more challenging roles in the administration of health care facilities and systems. As members of an executive team, nursing leaders (such as chief nursing officers) are involved at the highest levels of management and governance, helping to identify and implement strategic directions for patient care as well as nursing staff members and their role within the facility and/or system.

At Pitt, this concentration involves extensive course work on evidence-based practice and research, nursing outcomes, organizational theory and health policy, leadership, and clinical systems analysis and design. Students participate in a unique clinical residency with a senior-level mentor and complete a capstone project.

In this specialization, students have an amazing opportunity to study with faculty members who have real-world experience in managing and leading health care entities and organizations. As she does in the MSN program, Linda Dudjak brings her executive nursing and operational expertise to the classroom, sharing her experience as her career path went from a clinical nurse specialist to the chief nursing officer and vice president of a rural health care system. Judith Zedreck bases her teaching on her distinguished career as a lead administrator (including interim CEO and COO) for the West Penn Allegheny Health System, where she was responsible for budgets exceeding \$90 million and multiple facilities. Other faculty members have risen to leadership positions in hospitals and health care systems across the country.

## Psychiatric Mental Health

Graduates of this concentration (offered within the CNS and nurse practitioner foci) function as principal care providers for psychiatric clients in a variety of settings, treating them both episodically and chronically. The curriculum enables graduates to effectively manage common and complex medical and psychobiological problems for psychiatric clients across the life span. Emphasis is placed on psychobiological diagnosis and treatment, including therapies for clients and their families that promote mental health and prevent mental disorders. Students gain the skills to design programs of care delivery that are

effective and that will significantly impact health care outcomes.

Students in this concentration are directed by with Heeyoung Lee, PhD, assistant professor and coordinator of the psychiatric primary care nurse practitioner program. Lee, who is a certified adult psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and a certified registered nurse practitioner in adult psychiatric mental health, is a prolific researcher looking into mental health outcomes including psychiatric symptoms, psychosocial functioning, and the functioning of families with adolescents diagnosed with schizophrenia.

### HEEYOUNG LEE, PhD, APRN-BC



**Position:** Assistant professor, Department of Health and Community Systems, and coordinator, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program area of concentration

**Back Story:** Lee earned her BSN and MS in psychiatric nursing at Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea. She received her PhD in psychiatric nursing from the University of Washington.

**Class Act:** The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing stands out in the way it prepares psychiatric nursing students to identify medical conditions that may masquerade as a psychiatric condition, Lee believes. "Before we think about a diagnosis, we have to think first if there's

a medical condition there," she says. "There are conditions that may actually mimic psychiatric symptoms." Colleagues from other programs often comment, Lee says, on how good the students in her program are at using the evidence.

**Of Note:** In 2012, Lee was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty scholar semifinalist.

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## SANDRA FOUNDS, PhD, CNM, FNP

**Position:** Associate professor, Department of Health Promotion and Development

**Specialty:** Women's health and pregnancy

**Back Story:** In the mid-1980s, after earning her BSN, Founds went on to become certified as a nurse-midwife and a family nurse practitioner. "I wanted to take care of the pregnant woman in the context of her family," Founds says, "although most advanced practice nursing positions tend to be one or the other."

**Class Act:** Founds teaches women's health as well as the adult, acute and chronic clinical and role practicum courses in the Doctor of Nursing

Practice program. She also is in clinical practice at a student health service and at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC OB-GYN outpatient clinics. "Students appreciate when I discuss cases from my clinical practice to give concrete

scenarios that illustrate or exemplify the theoretical content," Founds says.

**Investigations:** Founds' research focus is on genetics and the pregnancy disorder preeclampsia, particularly basic molecular genetic research in the placenta. "Preeclampsia has implications for lifelong cardiovascular health risk factors for women," Founds says. Recently, she was awarded a highly competitive NIH R03 grant for a pilot project to localize preeclampsia candidate genes in first-trimester placentas.

**Of Note:** Founds says that clinical sites appreciate the quality of Pitt students due to their preparation: "They're getting the theory, and then they're in practice situations where they're getting to apply it. I think we're doing that really well. I personally like the way the clinical experience is constructed in the series of three clinical practice levels."

**Standouts:** Founds' honors include the 2012 International Society of Nurses in Genetics Founders Award in research.

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## Family Nurse

### (INDIVIDUAL ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN)

This program prepares a nurse practitioner to be the principal provider of primary health care for patients of all ages. Graduates have the skills to identify health risks, promote wellness, diagnose and manage acute and chronic illnesses, and harness community resources to benefit the patient and family.

Course work within this concentration delves into adolescent health theory, family theory for nurse practitioners, diagnosis and management of psychiatric conditions in primary care, genetics

and molecular therapeutics, and clinical diagnostics.

Students can truly learn from Catherine Grant, DNP (right), who is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development and a nurse practitioner at/owner of the first nurse-owned and -managed health center in Western Pennsylvania. At her clinic, Grant treats patients from infants to the elderly, providing everything from wellness visits to physical exams to treatment of episodic and chronic health problems.





## Pediatric and Neonatal

There are opportunities to specialize in the neonatal (high-risk infants from birth to 2 years of age) and pediatric (birth through adolescence) areas in the School of Nursing DNP Program. Neonatal nurse practitioners manage the care of high-risk infants in clinical settings, including intensive care and newborn nurseries as well as high-risk follow-up clinics. The pediatric primary care nurse practitioner provides primary, health promotion, maintenance, and prevention services to children as well as diagnoses and manages care for acutely or chronically ill children and adolescents in primary care or subspecialty settings. Course work covers the theoretical underpinnings

and clinical aspects of well-child care, pediatric health problems, adolescent health, sick neonatal care, and neonatal disease process.

The school's faculty members bring to the classroom the benefits of their expertise and amazing experience in these two critical areas. Brenda Cassidy, DNP, CPNP-PC, assistant professor and lead instructor for the pediatric nurse practitioner program, is a pediatric CRNP for a large urban pediatric practice, where she specializes in comprehensive adolescent health care and gynecological care of teens, as well as at a regional children's facility. Kathleen Godfrey, DNP, NNP-BC,

CPNP, assistant professor and lead faculty member for the neonatal nurse practitioner program, has served as a nurse practitioner for the past 30 years, primarily as a neonatal nurse practitioner in a NICU at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. Cynthia Danford, PhD, PNP-BC, CPNP-PC, teaches in the pediatric nurse practitioner program while maintaining an active research program that seeks to promote children's health in vulnerable populations through family-focused interventions that address eating and activity behaviors. She was recently honored with the American Nurses Foundation's Virginia S. Cleland Scholar Grant for her research with preschool children.

"The clinical experiences that students get in the NICU sites in Pittsburgh are amazing. Our DNP graduates are some of the best-prepared neonatal nurse practitioners in the country having had this exposure."

Kathleen Godfrey

Pitt nursing faculty members Cassidy, Danford, and Godfrey are pictured in the school's skills laboratory with a Sim baby.



# The Hearst Foundations: A History of Giving

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing has always been a leader in the evolution of nursing education, research, and practice. To accomplish this, it is essential to forge partnerships with like-minded community organizations and individuals. The School of Nursing is honored to have been given the opportunity to create this type of relationship with one of the most well-respected foundations in the nation, the Hearst Foundations.

For nearly seven decades, the Hearst Foundations have supported numerous organizations within the fields of education, health, culture, and social services. Entrepreneur and businessman William Randolph Hearst founded the Hearst Foundation, Inc., in 1945 and in 1948 established the California Charities Foundations, later renamed the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Today, these two philanthropic entities are collectively known as the Hearst Foundations and have made more than 19,000 grants nationwide totaling more than \$925 million.

Higher education is an important component of the Hearst Foundations' mission and a primary beneficiary of their support. The educational institutions funded by Hearst demonstrate extraordinary success in preparing students from all backgrounds to thrive in a global society.

## Connecting to Pitt: The William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund for Undergraduate Students

The Hearst Foundations were introduced to Pitt's School of Nursing by University of Pittsburgh trustee and School of Nursing honorary alumnus John Conomikes. A Hearst Foundations board member, Conomikes is a strong advocate for nursing and played a key role in identifying common interests between the two organizations. In 2004, the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund for Undergraduate Students was established at the School of Nursing through a \$150,000 gift from the Hearst Foundations. In 2013, an additional \$100,000 was added to expand the endowment's reach and include support for graduate students.

## Impacting Pitt Nursing Students

Since the scholarship's creation, nine University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing students have received a total of \$70,000 from this fund (one student per academic year). One of those students is 19-year-old sophomore nursing student Sarah Klimek. Klimek (shown at right with Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob) hails from a family of nurses—her grandmother, mother, sister, and three aunts and uncles all work in the profession. In high school, she tutored elementary school

students in reading and math and truly enjoyed making a difference in someone's day. Even then, Klimek knew that she wanted to pursue a career in which she could have a direct impact on people every day and, better yet, be part of a community of individuals dedicated to doing the same. Nursing was the perfect fit.

Although she was born in Pittsburgh, Klimek calls West Chester, Ohio, home. She chose to attend the University of Pittsburgh because of the nursing program's strong reputation and early opportunities for clinical experience. For now, Klimek is interested in the specialty of geriatrics but plans to keep her options open. She hopes to be a nurse practitioner by the age of 30.

According to Klimek, the Hearst scholarship has lifted a huge financial weight off her shoulders and has enabled her to focus more on her education. Receiving the award has made her realize and appreciate that there are people and organizations willing to support the education of nursing students.

"Sometimes when I'm studying late in the library, I pause and reflect on how [the foundations] believe in my abilities enough to contribute toward my goal of becoming a Pitt nurse," she says. "This scholarship gives me confidence to continue to keep up my grades and achieve academic success."

Thanks to the Hearst Foundations, students like Klimek can achieve their academic goals without undue financial burdens. By giving these young students at the School of Nursing the opportunity to focus on their studies, the Hearst Foundations are truly helping to advance the field of nursing, both today and for generations to come.





## Pitt Nursing Community Celebrates

Alumni Day, May 16, marked the kickoff of the School of Nursing's 75th anniversary festivities. The day's events offered the perfect opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the school and its alumni, to recall treasured memories, and to reconnect with fellow graduates and faculty.

The 50+ Alumni Luncheon recognized those who graduated from the school from 1943 to 1964 and included several alumni from some of the earliest graduating classes (1945, 1946, and 1947). After lunch, Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob hosted a "repinning" ceremony and recognized each graduating class represented.

The school hosted an evening reception for alumni at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, where all enjoyed sampling hors d'oeuvres, exploring the center's exhibits, and catching up with friends old and new. Smiles and chuckles abounded as the dean invited guests to remember the highlights of their time at the school, from watching Tony Dorsett win the Heisman Trophy to sliding down Lothrop Street in the winter to laughing in Ellen Chaffee's anatomy and physiology class.

Alumni and faculty were thrilled to welcome back a former dean of the School of Nursing, Marguerite Schaefer. During her deanship, the school received funding for the construction of the Victoria Building and the nation's first oncology nursing specialist program was introduced.

This isn't the end of the anniversary festivities. There will be more events held on October 24 during homecoming weekend. Visit the school's Web site at [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu) for more details.



The school thanks former dean Marguerite Schaefer (shown at left with Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob) for her gracious underwriting of the commemorative lamps for the 75th anniversary celebration.

## Helene Fuld Health Trust Grant to Underwrite BSN Scholarships

The Helene Fuld Health Trust has committed to a three-year grant of \$650,000 to create the Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund for students enrolled in the Pitt School of Nursing's accelerated second degree BSN program. This degree program enables current students or recent graduates of nonnursing degree programs to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in three consecutive terms. The trust is dedicated to supporting and promoting the health, welfare, and education of student nurses, with the top priority being financial aid. Therefore, the trust establishes endowed scholarships for students at leading nursing schools and other organizations to help prepare the nursing workforce to address the increasingly complex health care environment.

## Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare Grant to Fund Nursing Doctoral Students

A 2014 grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare will fund scholarships for three students in the School of Nursing's doctoral programs. The \$30,000 grant, which will be matched in part by school funds, will be used to support one PhD Jonas Nurse Leader scholar, one PhD Jonas Veterans Healthcare scholar, and one DNP Jonas Veterans Healthcare scholar over a two-year period. The Jonas scholar grants are part of a national effort to stem the nursing faculty shortage, and the Pitt School of Nursing is proud to be among the 110 schools supported by Jonas Center programs.

"We are so gratified to receive this award from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, as it offers our doctoral students financial support as well as opportunities for networking and collaboration on a national level," notes Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob. "With this grant award, the Jonas Center is increasing our capability to recruit and retain outstanding doctoral students. Upon graduating, these Jonas scholars will have a tremendous impact on the education of future nursing students and on the advancement of nursing research."

## Nursing Alumnus Featured at 2014 Graduation and Pinning Ceremony

On April 25, the School of Nursing hosted its 2014 Graduation and Pinning Ceremony welcoming more than 380 graduates to the school's alumni community. Parents, children, friends, and family joined in the celebratory event that featured alumnus Andrea Mazzoccoli (PhD '06), FAAN, as the keynote speaker. Mazzoccoli currently serves as vice president and chief nursing officer for Bon Secours Health System.



## B.K. Simon Family Charitable Foundation Underwrites BSN Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of the B.K. Simon Family Charitable Foundation, the School of Nursing has a significant pool of scholarship resources for undergraduate nursing students from Southwestern Pennsylvania with demonstrated financial need. The foundation was created in memory of the late B. Kenneth Simon, a Braddock Heights native who went on to build up All-Pak, a very successful distributor, designer, and contract manufacturer of packaging containers. In the most recent year, the foundation grant supported more than 30 students enrolled in the BSN program.

## School Secures Scholarship Funds from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that it has received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. One of 52 institutions selected for this competitive funding opportunity, the school will use the \$50,000 grant to underwrite scholarships for students enrolled in the accelerated second degree BSN program during the 2014-15 academic year. The New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program is designed to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals. The foundation advocates that accelerated baccalaureate and master's nursing programs are particularly efficient and effective in addressing this shortage, as they put more nurses into practice quickly and into clinical teaching positions more expeditiously.



## New Graduates Honored with School Awards

For the first time, the School of Nursing presented several awards to its graduating students, recognizing their accomplishments and endeavors in the areas of global health, community service, clinical practice, and research. Nominated and selected by faculty members, these honorees demonstrated their commitment and skills in efforts that went beyond course work requirements.

### 2014 Student Award Recipients:

**Undergraduate Global Health Initiative Award:** Ellyn Hefflefinger (BSN '14)

Hefflefinger treated patients during an international service learning medical trip to Costa Rica and Nicaragua and authored a paper and presentation on her experiences to broaden the global health awareness of her fellow students.

**Outstanding Community Service Award:** Linden Wu (BSN '14)

Wu designed and taught an exercise and nutrition course for women in an underserved community in Pittsburgh.

**Outstanding Practice Initiative Award:** Mariah Streck (BSN '14)

Streck created the nation's first virtual support group for children of early onset Alzheimer's disease patients (Growing Up Purple) as part of her clinical experience with Pitt's Alzheimer Disease Research Center.

**Outstanding Research Award for Students:** Kelly Billet (BSN '14) and Andrea Pennett (BSN '14)

Billet initiated and completed a research project and thesis on Tobacco Use among Nursing Students: Prevalence, Attitudes, and Education.

Over a period of three years, Pennett conducted a research project titled Risk Factors for Respiratory Depression in Postoperative Orthopaedic Trauma Patients.

**Graduate Global Health Initiative Award:** Sarah Zangle (BSN '06, MSN '14)

Zangle volunteered at the Siaya District Hospital in Kenya, working on a pediatric ward where she cared for patients with HIV/AIDS and malaria. She also has been working with faculty members on a quality improvement plan for the Department of Anesthesia at Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

**Graduate Outstanding Community Service Award:** Mary Rodgers Schubert (DNP '14)

Schubert was recognized for her years of effort, service, and commitment to the American Liver Foundation, including

helping to establish a Pittsburgh chapter and developing an annual fundraising event for the group.

**Graduate Outstanding Research Award:** Jessica A. Devido (BSN '04, MSN '08, PhD '14)

Devido's research explored the experiences and examined the knowledge and confidence of parish nurses in providing diabetes education and preconception counseling to women (especially African American women) with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Congratulations to the following students in the nurse anesthesia program, who were presented with awards as part of their graduation celebrations:

**"Above and Beyond" Service Award:** Jennifer Fisher (MSN '14), Sarah Zangle (BSN '06, MSN '14), Erica Wiesen (MSN '14), and Jeffrey Rompala (BSN '07, MSN '14)

**Helen Lamb CRNA Educator Award in Recognition of Dedication and Valuable Contributions to Instructional Excellence as a Nurse Anesthesia Student:** Jeffrey Rompala

**Agatha Hodgins Award for Academic and Clinical Excellence:** Erica Wiesen

**Academic Achievement Award:** Sarah Zangle, Erica Wiesen, Laurie Ratica (BSN '10, MSN '14), and Ashleigh Griechen (MSN '14)

The School of Nursing's administrators, faculty, and staff members congratulate these 2014 graduates and wish them the best of luck in future endeavors.

## Upcoming Events

### Homecoming

Featuring a continuing education event and alumni reception

Friday, October 24, 2014  
1:30 p.m.  
Victoria Building  
3500 Victoria Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

### Cameos of Caring® Awards Gala

Saturday, November 8, 2014  
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom  
David L. Lawrence  
Convention Center  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

### Winter Graduation Ceremony

Friday, December 12, 2014  
6 p.m.  
The University Club  
123 University Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

For additional information about School of Nursing events, contact Jennifer Fellows at 412-624-5328 or [jmw100@pitt.edu](mailto:jmw100@pitt.edu).

## Blue Skies and Challenging Course Make for Fun, Charitable Outing

Monday, July 21, was the perfect day for the Nancy Glunt Hoffman Memorial Golf Outing. The skies were vivid blue, the Shannopin Country Club course was challenging, and everyone was out to have fun while supporting a great cause. The day included the tournament, a skills competition, dinner, and a highly competitive silent auction. Host J. Roger Glunt (BBA '60), Pitt emeritus trustee, welcomed everyone and noted how their support will help to underwrite the work of the Nancy Glunt Hoffman Endowed Chair in Oncology Nursing at the School of Nursing. Thanks to all who attended and to our sponsors.

### Sponsors

AlpernSchubert P.C.: *Favor Sponsor*

FHLBank of Pittsburgh: *Closest to the Pin Sponsor*

Kenny Ross Chevrolet Buick GMC: *Hole in One Sponsor*

Glunt Development Co., Inc.: *Longest Putt Sponsor*

### Tee and Hole Sponsors

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Cura Hospitality

Fazio Mechanical Services, Inc.

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Debra Thompson

White Heating

### Division Winners

Men's Foursome: Jerry Pecora, Gerry Pecora, Ken Buettner, and Ray Secoli

Women's Mixed: Chris Rickens, Lynn Wehrli, and Kathy Puskar

### Skills Winners

Longest Drive: Mary Ann Dunkin and Jason Richards

Closest to the Pin: Elaine Hatfield and Alek Oleszkowicz

Longest Putt: Carla Gedman and Rich Schubert



## School of Nursing Is Ranked Best Nursing School by GraduatePrograms.com

The School of Nursing has been ranked first among 25 nursing schools in a ranking by GraduatePrograms.com. The Web site produces its ranked lists of graduate programs by calculating the average scores given by student reviewers across 15 categories, such as academic competitiveness, career support, student diversity, and financial aid. This differentiates the GraduatePrograms.com rankings from others in that the reviews are provided by students rather than academic leaders or educators in the same field.

## Pitt Nursing Alumnus to Speak at Homecoming Continuing Education Event



The University of Pittsburgh will celebrate homecoming October 24–26, 2014. Make sure to come back to Pittsburgh, particularly to attend the school's special events, a continuing education event and an alumni reception on Friday, October 24. Also, don't forget to

rub the panther's nose for luck as the Panthers face Georgia Institute of Technology on the 25th!

Alumnus Nancy L. Rothman (BSN '63), EdD, will be the keynote speaker for the nursing continuing education event. Rothman is the Independence Foundation Professor of Urban Community Nursing and the director of community-based practices in Temple University's Department of Nursing. We're so happy that Rothman can join us to offer her invaluable insights into independent nursing practices. Her presentation, scheduled for 1:30 p.m., will be followed by a special alumni reception for the School of Nursing and then by the University-wide Welcome Back Reception. Visit the school's events Web page for more details.



## Pitt Nursing Continuing Education Addresses Safe and Effective Drug Administration

During the 2014–15 academic year, the School of Nursing continuing education (CE) program will present its monthly series, the Pharmacology and Clinical Practice Update, offering the latest information on evidence-based clinical practice. The programs, running through June 2015, are presented on Saturday mornings at the school, and each program provides three pharmacotherapeutic contact hours. You also can participate asynchronously via an easy-to-use Web conferencing tool.

On October 4, the school will be hosting Linda Gordon (DNP '11), CRNP, an acute care nurse practitioner at Donohue Cardiology at UPMC Shadyside. Gordon will provide an update on hyperlipidemia treatment, a critically important topic as we consider the number of people trying to control their cholesterol and triglycerides.

The School of Nursing CE Program provides you with access to a full slate of learning opportunities, both face to face and online. You can explore topics ranging from special treatments for specific populations to clinical ethics to advanced informatics for nurses. Please consult our Web site, [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu), for a complete listing of topics and dates. Multisession discounts are available.

## NEED CONTINUING EDUCATION BUT HAVE NO TIME TO ATTEND CLASSES?

Between working shifts, teaching students, and trying to have a home life, it's hard to find the time to earn the required continuing education contact hours. Through Pitt's nursing continuing education enduring/online activities, you can explore topics such as addiction, ethics, technology, arthritis, chronic diseases such as diabetes, and best practices—all from the comfort of your home and whenever you have the time.

### School of Nursing Continuing Education

[conted@pitt.edu](mailto:conted@pitt.edu)

412-624-3156

[www.nursing.pitt.edu/academics/ce/index.jsp](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/academics/ce/index.jsp)



# ALUMNI NEWS + NOTES

## 1960s

**Sandra Sulsberger Bowles** (BSN '61, MEd '64) retired as dean of the Bert Bradford Division of Health Sciences at the University of Charleston in 2008 after 22 years. She then agreed to assist the university's new School of Pharmacy for one year as it worked toward ACPE accreditation. Bowles is still at Charleston's School of Pharmacy and has agreed to be its dean for academic affairs. She continues to serve as a peer reviewer and team chair for the Higher Learning Commission.

## 1970s

**Mary Lou Bond** (MN '73) has been honored with a 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing by the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing and was named a 2013 honorary alumnus by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing. She is an adjunct professor of nursing at the University of Texas at Arlington.

**Mary Ann Newell Gapinski** (BSN '76) was recently appointed to the position of director of school health services for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**Cydney Afriat Menihan** (BSN '73) published *Point-of-Care Assessment in Pregnancy and Women's Health: Electronic Fetal Monitoring and Sonography*. This is a new book in a series, published in place of a third edition of *Electronic Fetal Monitoring: Concepts and Applications*. Menihan added a special acknowledgment on the dedication page: "To the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing (1969-73) for getting me off on the right foot."

Based on three years of research, **Paulette Belle Snoby** (BSN '75) published her first book, the nonfiction *April's Revolution: A Modern Perspective of American Medical Care of Civil War Soldiers and African Slaves*, in March 2014.

## 1980s

**Joyce E. Alisesky Ott** (MSN '84), assistant professor of nursing and director of the RN-MSN and MSN programs at Robert Morris University, was appointed to the board of the Central Valley Education Foundation in Center Township, Pa. Ott also was commissioned as a faith community nurse after completing a program presented by the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program.

**Diane Scott** (BSN '87) owns the U.S. operations for the iOpener Institute for People and Performance, an international consultancy that helps organizations to achieve their strategic and commercial goals by maximizing the performance, productivity, and happiness of business-critical employees. Scott has numerous clients worldwide, including McDonald's and the United Nations. She recently traveled to Ethiopia, where she met and coached leaders of several African nations.

## 2000s

**Kimberly Anderson** (BSN '07, MSN '12) published "Calcific Uremic Arteriopathy: Overview for the Nurse" in *AACN Advanced Critical Care*. Anderson is currently a CRNP at UPMC Presbyterian.

**Michele Klein-Fedyshin** (BSN '09) was published in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*. Her article, "Evaluating the MEDLINE Core Clinical

Journals Filter: Data-driven Evidence Assessing Clinical Utility" explores the effectiveness of the core clinical journals filter to limit to clinically useful journals.

**Scott M. Newton** (BSN '02) recently graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, earning his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The title of Newton's capstone project was Rapid Access to Tertiary Care: Mitigating Barriers Impacting Clinical, Financial, and Operational

Outcomes. Newton presented part of his doctoral work in July 2014 at the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Congress in Hong Kong, China.

## 2010s

**Chelsea Seely** (BSN '13) was honored as Rookie of the Year by UPMC Presbyterian. Seely is a staff nurse in the cardiology care unit.

## New RMU Nursing Dean Is Pitt Alumnus

**Valerie M. Howard** (MSN '95) has been named dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Robert Morris University. Joining RMU in 2004, Howard has served as interim dean, assistant dean for external affairs, director of development, and director of the school's simulation center. Howard, who also earned her doctorate in education at Pitt, is a master trainer for TeamSTEPPS, the evidence-based teamwork training system developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the U.S. Department of Defense. Her areas of expertise and research interests cover the use of simulation in learning, faculty mentoring, and nursing education.



## Alumnus Named CEO of AACN

**Deborah E. Trautman** (MSN '87), PhD, has been appointed chief executive officer of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Trautman previously held the position of executive director of the Center for Health Policy and Healthcare Transformation at the



Johns Hopkins Hospital. She also served as vice president of patient care services for Howard County General Hospital and as director of nursing for emergency medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

This 2007-08 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy fellow contributed to the shape and promotion of the Affordable Care Act legislation. She also worked with Nancy Pelosi, then Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, as the national health care debate took place. Best wishes to Trautman as she takes on this exciting new position!



## Alumnus Honored as ACC Women's Basketball Legend

**Jennifer Bruce Scott** (BSN '86) represented Pitt at the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Women's Basketball Legends' Luncheon, the first Pitt athlete/alumnus to do so. The legends program recognizes both players and coaches from the 15 ACC member schools who have contributed to the league's rich tradition. Bruce Scott is still the second all-time leading scorer in Pitt basketball (men's

or women's) history and continues to hold the record for the most field goals. This outstanding graduate is a three-time All-Big East honoree and a University of Pittsburgh Varsity Letter Club Awardee of Distinction and was selected for the Big East Silver Anniversary Squad.



## Three Alumni Selected as AANP Fellows

Three Pitt School of Nursing alumni have been named fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP): **Victoria Soltis-Jarrett** (MSN '88), **Susan Van Cleve** (BSN '77), and **Donna Nativio** (BSN '63). The AANP fellows program recognizes those nurse practitioner leaders who have made outstanding contributions to health care through clinical practice, research, education, or policy. Soltis-Jarrett is a clinical professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing. Van Cleve is the immediate past president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, and an associate professor at the Robert Morris University School of Nursing and Health Sciences in Pittsburgh. Nativio is an associate professor here at the School of Nursing and director of the school's DNP program. She also is the coordinator of four of the nurse practitioner areas of concentration.

## In Memoriam

**Nora Cunningham Bartley**  
(BSN '48)

**Margaret F. Breuer**  
(BSN '49)

**Margaret O. Brophy**  
(BSN '49)

**Eleanor Louise Moors Carter**  
(BSNEd '60)

**Audrey J. Cervik**  
(BSNEd '62)

**Margery J. Conlin**  
(BSNEd '48)

**Mary S. Freliga**  
(BSN '59)

**Dorothy Hornick Glasson**  
(BSN '44)

**Beverley D. Graham**  
(BSN '85)

**Lois J. Grillette**  
(BSN '71)

**Edythe P. Haney**  
(BSNEd '48)

**Jelerna V. Hill**  
(BSNEd '51)

**Bernadette Halloran Kaelin**  
(BSNEd '60)

**Eunice J. Kennedy**  
(BSN '57)

**Fannie O. Kensic**  
(BSNEd '54)

**Helen Kish**  
(BAS '77)

**Vivian L. Krall**  
(BSN '67)

**Mary Jo Labuda**  
(MSN '86)

**Devera Bloom Lucker**  
(BSNEd '60)

**Margaret C. Marburger**  
(BSNEd '56, MNEd '69)

**Ruth D. Massenburg**  
(BSN '52, MNEd '68)

**Kathryn E. McGeary**  
(BSN '52)

**Marian A. Murray**  
(BSNEd '52)

**Anne G. Norman**  
(BSN '51, MSN '54)

**Carolyn D. Perry**  
(BSN '58)

**Dorothy Jean Barton Reid**  
(BSN '55)

**Irene K. Renaldi**  
(BSNEd '60)

**Janet H. Rittenour**  
(BSN '70)

**Mary T. Vins Roll**  
(BSN '54)

**Jean Rutledge Sherman**  
(BSN '46)

**Patricia S. Strayer**  
(BSN '45)

**Irene M. Surovec**  
(BSNEd '58)

**Carol A. Urban**  
(BSN '89)

**Anna E. Wagner**  
(BSNEd '60)

**Correction:** in the Spring 2014 *Pitt Nurse* magazine, we incorrectly identified the journal *Maternal-Child Nursing Journal*, when referring to the publication initiated by Pitt nursing faculty members Florence Erikson and Reva Rubin (page 11). Our apologies.





Susan A. Albrecht



JiYeon Choi



Elizabeth LaRue



Jennifer Lingler



John O'Donnell

## Faculty Grants (February–July 2014)

**Susan A. Albrecht** (BSN '75, MN '78), PhD, FAAN, associate dean for external relations, was awarded a grant from the University of Pittsburgh Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence (ACIE) for the project Evidence-based Teaching and Learning in the Health Sciences: Principles of Interprofessional Learning in a Clinical Environment. Her co-investigators include Zsuzsa Horvath, faculty in the School of Dental Medicine and Susan M. Meyer, faculty in the School of Pharmacy.

**Salah Al-Zaiti**, PhD, ANP-BC, assistant professor, was awarded a grant by the University of Pittsburgh Central Research Development Fund for his study, Myocardial Ischemia Detection for the Early Identification of Patients with Ischemic Chest Pain.

**JiYeon Choi** (PhD '08), assistant professor, received a grant from the University of Pittsburgh Central Research Development Fund for her project, Providing Tele-rehabilitation at Home for Adult Intensive Care Unit Survivors and Their Family Caregivers.

**Elizabeth A. Crago** (PhD '12) research assistant professor, received a grant from the Pitt Competitive Medical Research Fund for her project, The Relationship of Hormone Levels to Outcomes after Acute Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage.

**Christopher Imes**, PhD, assistant professor, was honored with a grant from Sigma Theta Tau International for his study, American Heart Association's My Life Check to Improve Dietary and Physical Activity Habits among Young Adults.

**Elizabeth LaRue**, PhD, assistant professor, will be traveling to Malawi in September 2014 thanks to her selection for a Fulbright award. LaRue will be creating and teaching introductory nursing informatics courses and seminars as well as developing new teleconferencing informatics curricula at the University of Malawi Kamuzu College of Nursing.

**Jennifer Lingler** (MSN '98, PhD '04), assistant professor, received a three-year grant in excess of \$1 million from the National Institute on Aging for her study, Return of Amyloid Imaging Research Results in MCI.

**John O'Donnell** (MSN '91), DrPH, professor and director of the nurse anesthesia program, received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration for nurse anesthetist traineeships for 2014–15.

**Valerie Swigart**, PhD, CRNP, professor, was the recipient of the school's 2014 Nursing Excellence in Teaching and Technology Award. With this award, the school acknowledges the exceptional efforts of faculty to enhance the educational experiences of students, patients, or the community through the use of technology. Swigart, along with Michael Gold, professor emeritus in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, produced two technologically rich learning tools: a clinical terminology course offered as a MOOC and a multilanguage online dictionary of clinical terms and abbreviations for beginning students in the health sciences.

## Faculty Distinctions

**Sheila Alexander**, PhD, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

**Sandra Founds**, PhD, CNM, FNP, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

**Irene Kane**, PhD, CNAA, HFI, has been promoted to associate professor.

**Judith A. Mermigas**, MSN, CRNA, instructor, was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau Eta Chapter at its spring 2014 ceremony.

**Ann Mitchell**, PhD, AHN-BC, FAAN, has been promoted to full professor.

## Faculty Degrees

**Dawn Drahnak** (BSN '04, DNP '14), MSN, CCRN, earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree upon successfully completing her capstone project, Evidence-based Guidelines and Scripting to Support Acute Care Nurses in Sepsis Recognition, Reporting, and Treatment.

**Elizabeth Katrancha** (BSN '04, DNP '14), MSN, CSN, CNE, earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree upon successfully completing her capstone project, Utility of T'ai Chi Exercises in Improving Center of Balance and Falls Efficacy in Community-dwelling Older Adults.

**Lisa Kreashko**, MSN, earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree upon successfully completing her capstone project, the Development of an Education Program Designed to Increase Parental Knowledge of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.



Valerie Swigart



Sheila Alexander



Sandra Founds



Ann Mitchell

## New Faculty

**Judith Callan** (BSN '80, MSN '84, PhD '07), assistant professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, earned her PhD in nursing at the University of Pittsburgh and recently completed a K12 award at Pitt's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

**Christine Feeley**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Development, completed her doctoral studies in nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2012 and then served as a postdoctoral fellow in a NIH-funded T-32 training grant at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing.

**Christopher Imes**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, recently earned his PhD in nursing science, public health genetics, at the University of Washington, following more than a decade of service in the U.S. Army.

**Dan Li**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems, recently earned her PhD in nursing at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

**Marsha Weiner**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, recently earned her DNP at Florida State University.

## Student News

### Twenty-three Students Present at National Conference

The School of Nursing offers students at all levels opportunities to participate in research so that they will have a proper foundation for engaging in evidence-based practice. The school is pleased to note that 23 of its students—a record number—were invited to present their research at the 2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Research. The conference attracts undergraduate students from across the United States to present research posters and papers. Pitt nursing students attending

this year's conference were **Shreya Bhatnagar** (BSN '14), **Victoria Buck**, **Jefi Buenaventura**, **Jessica Choi**, **Ceara Conley**, **Rebecca Findle**, **Elise Gamertsfelder** (BSN '14), **Alexandra Jane Hudson**, **Caitlin Kilcullen** (BSN '14), **Rachel Marie Klinges** (BSN '14), **Jennifer Mai**, **Marianne McCoy**, **Eliza McGoldrick**, **Abbey Parrott**, **Leah Rosenblum** (BSN '14), **Alyssa Marie Sartore**, **Elizabeth Skrovanek** (BSN '14), **Amanda Stone** (BSN '14), **Teika Takedai**, **Leah Winner**, **Erica Wolf**, **Linden Wu** (BSN '14), and **Jenna Zaldonis**.



Conference participants with Julius Kitutu, assistant dean for student services.

## Congratulations to the Spring 2014 STTI Eta Chapter Inductees

### Graduate Students

Janet Ann Arida  
Jaymie J. Cullens (BSN '12)  
Aleda E. Elkin (BSN '12)  
Linda Govere  
Hideru Inoue (MSN '14)  
Kirsten T. Walther

### Undergraduate Students

Justin M. Bailey (BSN '14)  
Nicole M. DiPietro (BSN '14)  
Rachel C. Flowers (BSN '14)  
Connor R. McClellan (BSN '13)

## Student Distinctions

**Jessica A. Devido** (BSN '04, MSN '08, PhD '14) successfully defended her dissertation, "Exploring the Role of the Parish Nurse in Providing Diabetes Education and Preconception Counseling to African American Women Using a Community-engaged Mixed-methods Approach."

**Kathleen G. Hopkins** (PhD '14) successfully defended her dissertation, "Symptom Experience following Lung Cancer Surgery."

**Caitlin Kilcullen** (BSN '14), was selected to present a poster at the national ACC Meeting of the Minds 2014 conference. Her poster was titled "Optimism, Self-efficacy, and Discrepancies in Medication Reconciliation in a Sample of Caregivers of Community-dwelling Individuals with Memory Loss."

BSN student **Lisa Nagy** founded the Pitt Trauma and Emergency League, a multidisciplinary organization designed to help students from many health care fields to learn about the local and global impact of trauma, to practice the type of interdisciplinary research and teamwork seen in the field, and to explore careers in trauma and emergencies. Nagy worked with a trauma league in Cuenca, Ecuador, during a global health rotation and realized the potential success of this concept at the University of Pittsburgh.

PhD student **Jennifer Seaman** was featured in an article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "Hospice Care in Allegheny County Bucks National Norm." Seaman is part of the Pitt research team exploring the issue;

*continued*



she analyzed the data from a survey of county residents, part of which addressed hospice care.

BSN student **Mary Sligh** was selected as a 2014 Browne Leadership fellow. The interdisciplinary fellowship offered by the Pitt School of Social Work is aimed at preparing students to become engaged civic leaders working for economic and social justice.

**Salina Smialik** and her mentor, Lorraine Novosel, were honored with the inaugural Sigma Theta Tau Eta Chapter Undergraduate Research Award for their study, Student Nurses' Initial Clinical Experience, Confidence, and Attitudes towards Older Adults.

During their last term, graduating BSN students **Cassandra Tavares** (BSN '14) and **Linden Wu** (BSN '14) were chosen to represent Pitt at the annual statewide event Undergraduate Research at the Capitol Pennsylvania. Tavares' poster explored "Evaluation of a Wellness Conference for African American Breast Cancer Survivors" and Wu's was "Reducing Risk and Improving Protective Factors in Teen Dating Violence."

PhD student **Susan Thrane** was awarded first place for her doctoral podium presentation at the 2014 Eastern Nursing Research Society conference.

PhD student **Jennifer Thurheimer** won first place in the PhD student poster category at the 2014 Eastern Nursing Research Society conference.

## Student Grants

Doctoral student **Theresa Koleck** (BSN '11) was selected as a recipient of the 2014 Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania Scholarship.

One of the school's postdoctoral scholars, **Marci Nilsen** (BSN '05, MSN '08, PhD '13), won a grant from the Gerontological Society of America as the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence 2014-15 Claire M. Fagin fellow.

PhD student **Nicole Osier** successfully sought a grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research for her study on Mechanism of Melatonin-induced Neuroprotection in Traumatic Brain Injury.

**Marsena Ruth Pelton**, who is working toward her MSN, has been chosen to receive a scholarship from the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania.

PhD student **Bethany Thelen** received a grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research for her project Cognitive Function and Work Productivity in Survivors of Adolescent Cancer.

Congratulations to three of the school's PhD students for being selected for American Cancer Society doctoral scholarships: **Teresa Hagan**, **Bethany Thelen**, and **Theresa Koleck**.

## What's Happening?

Please share information about your career achievements, advanced education, publications, presentations, honors received, and appointments. We may include your news in the Alumni News & Notes section or other media. Indicate names, dates, and locations. Photos are welcome! Please print clearly.

Name *(include name at graduation as well as current name)*

Degree(s) and Year(s) of Graduation

Home Address

Home Telephone

Professional Position

Name of Employer

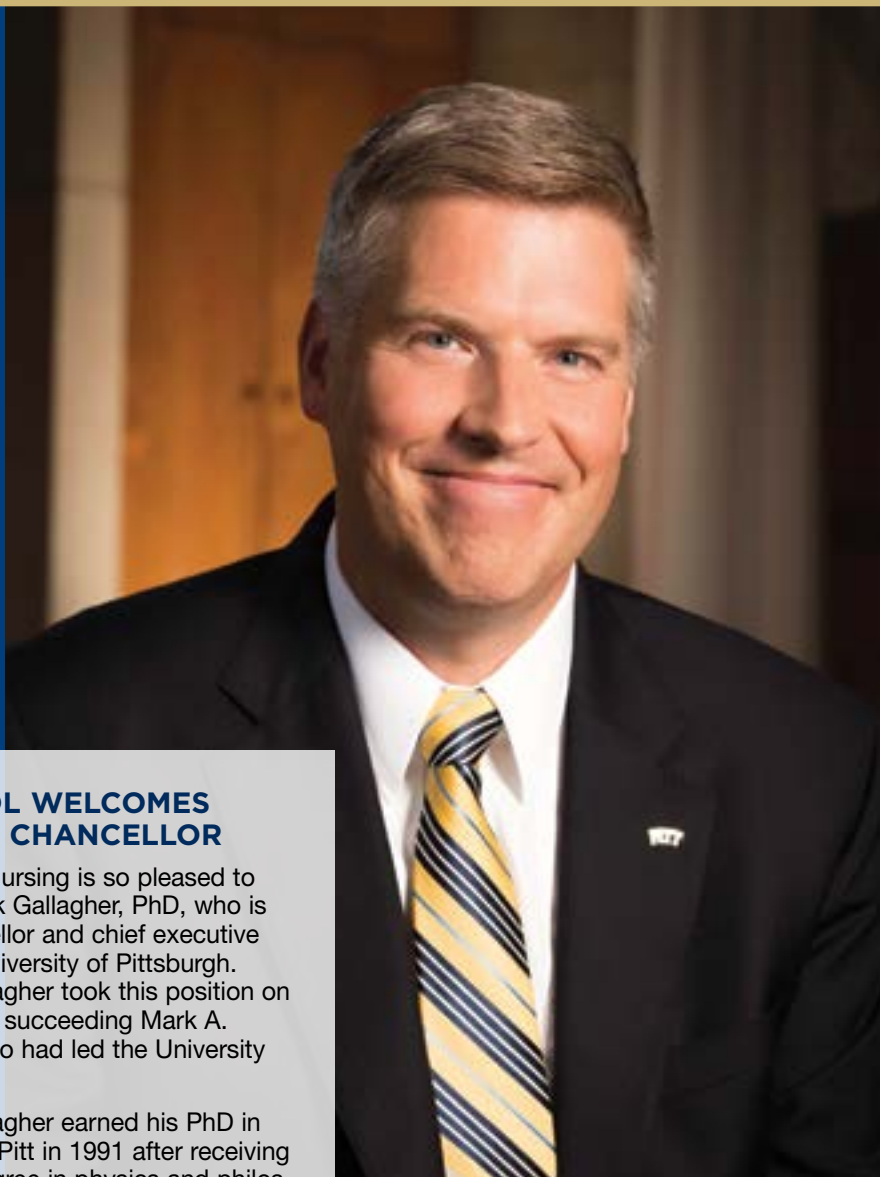
Employer's Address

E-mail Address (please note home or work)

News

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## THE SCHOOL WELCOMES PITT'S NEW CHANCELLOR

The School of Nursing is so pleased to welcome Patrick Gallagher, PhD, who is the 18th chancellor and chief executive officer of the University of Pittsburgh. Chancellor Gallagher took this position on August 1, 2014, succeeding Mark A. Nordenberg, who had led the University for 19 years.

Chancellor Gallagher earned his PhD in physics here at Pitt in 1991 after receiving a bachelor's degree in physics and philosophy from Benedictine College. Most recently, Gallagher served as director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and as undersecretary of commerce for standards and technology. He was responsible for high-level direction for NIST, an agency at which the areas of highest priority include promoting U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness. In addition, Chancellor Gallagher was appointed acting deputy secretary of commerce by President Barack Obama in 2013. In this role, he served as the chief operating officer for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The School of Nursing looks forward to working closely with Chancellor Gallagher to promote nursing, the health sciences, and the University of Pittsburgh.



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