

The George Washington University / School of Nursing

GWNURSING

SPRING 2017

FROM **PRACTICE**
TO **POLICY**



FROM PRACTICE TO POLICY



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Health Care Policy and Nursing: A Rightful Place at the Table

At GW Nursing, health policy is a pillar of the school's mission and vision as students and faculty are encouraged to engage in critical thinking, analysis and reflection, and to apply nursing knowledge to crafting salient, sanguine health policy.



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New Faculty and Staff

The School of Nursing has welcomed 11 faculty and 12 staff members since mid-summer 2016. Each adds his or her expertise, knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to GW Nursing as the school expands its footprint in the world of nursing education, practice and policy.

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From the Dean

We've come a long way, Nursing!



“Nurses should have a voice in health policy decision making and be engaged in implementation efforts related to health care reform.”

—INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE. “THE FUTURE OF NURSING: LEADING CHANGE, ADVANCING HEALTH.” 2011

Less than six years ago—just before the George Washington University School of Nursing was established—the Institute of Medicine published the groundbreaking report that challenged the nursing profession and issued a call to action for nursing education.

“The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health” urged us to “prepare the nursing workforce to assume leadership positions across all levels...” and to ensure our graduates acquire the skills and expertise needed to develop and formulate policies with public, private and governmental health care decision-makers.

The report followed and in part responded to a 2010 Gallup survey of 1,509 health care opinion leaders. Conducted for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *Nursing Leadership from Bedside to Boardroom: Opinion Leaders' Perceptions* revealed that although thought leaders in higher education, insurance, corporations, health services, government and industry found that nurses were perceived as the most trusted of health care professionals and greatly influenced the quality of health care systems, they had little to no influence on policies and reform. And those leaders wanted to see that role change.

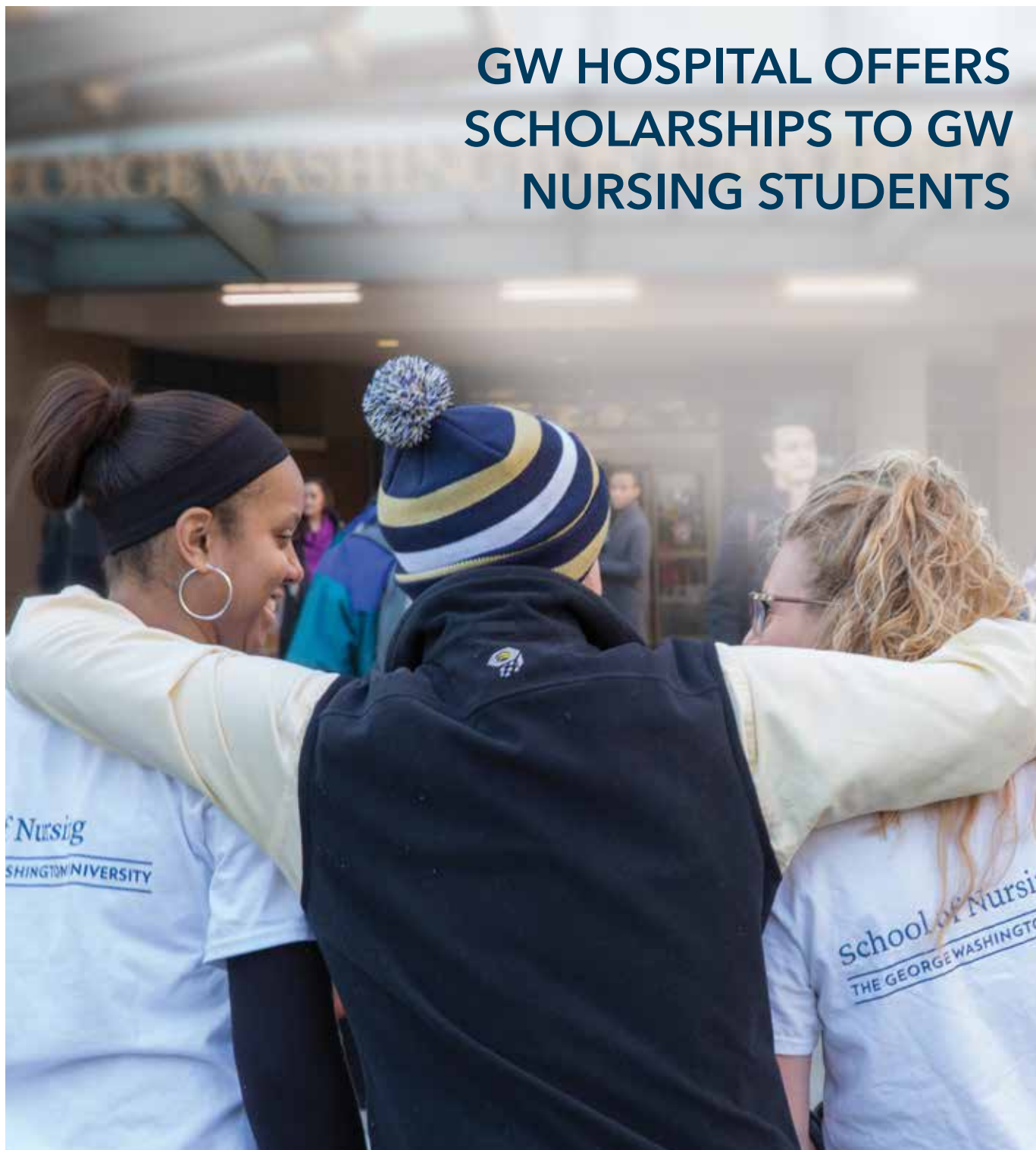
Nursing has come a long way in meeting the professional and educational challenges laid out in the report and the survey. More nurse leaders now have a seat at the table and are at the heart of formulating and influencing health care policy and reform. Nursing education, particularly at GW through our programs and new policy center, is making the curricular changes necessary to prepare these leaders.

At GW Nursing, we have taken the urgings of the report and survey to heart by making policy development central to our mission and curricula. In this issue, *From Practice to Policy*, we explore how our faculty, alumni and students are working to ensure that our research and best practices are reflected in the federal, state and local policies that guide the future of health care. We, too, have come a long way.

Pamela R. Jeffries, PHD, RN, FAAN, ANEF
Dean and Professor

GW Nursing News

GW HOSPITAL OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO GW NURSING STUDENTS



More scholarship support is now available to help students pursue a GW nursing degree. The new Nursing Scholars Program, offered by the George Washington University Hospital, covers 100 percent of tuition for registered nurses seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and 50 percent tuition to students who enter the Accelerated BSN program. Those who are awarded these scholarships will be required to work at the hospital for three years.

The GW Hospital is a for-profit, academic medical center jointly owned and operated through a partnership with Universal Health Services (UHS) and George Washington University. The hospital has a strong affiliation with GW Nursing and with the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Recently, UHS was ranked by its employees as one of 30 *Business Insider* “Most Meaningful Companies to Work for in America.” The hospital serves a diverse group of patients, from area residents to visiting dignitaries and heads of state in D.C. and the region.

On learning the news of the Nursing Scholars Program, Dean Pamela Jeffries told GW Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Johnny Veal, “You have made my day!” Dr. Jeffries says, “The hospital’s interest in offering these scholarships is evidence of how it values our students and how willing it is to provide such an incredible boost to those pursuing a BSN degree.”

To learn more about the Nursing Scholars Program and other scholarships, contact the GW Nursing Office of Admissions at 571-553-0138 or nursing@gwu.edu

MSN GRADUATES FIND EMPLOYMENT READILY AVAILABLE, DNPs EXPERIENCE SALARY INCREASES

“Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventive care; growing rates of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand.”

—U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

A recent survey conducted by GW Nursing of 2016 GW Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) graduates finds most are benefiting from the growth described by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For MSN graduates, job offer and placement rates at graduation exceed the national average rate of 67 percent determined through the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) 2013 survey. Of the 53 GW MSN respondents, 34 were already employed or had found employment prior to graduation, seven were postponing the job search and 12 were continuing to seek employment at graduation. Within three months, nine of the 12 (75 percent) had found employment.

Many DNP graduates, whether they remain with their current employers or seek new positions, experienced salary increases. Among the 20 graduates who responded to the survey, 10 (50 percent) reported a significant jump in salary post-graduation.

THE NURSING SHORTAGE BY THE NUMBERS



100,000

New nursing jobs available each year



500,000

RNs anticipated to retire between 2012 and 2022



1.05 million

Total job openings for nurses between 2012 and 2022

SOURCE Bureau of Labor Statistics

MENTAL HEALTH



NEW PROGRAM ADDRESSES MENTAL HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Mental illness is a significant public health concern on a global scale. Given the extreme shortage of mental health professionals, the need for programs preparing psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) has never been greater. According to the Health Careers Network, PMHNPs are among the most in-demand nurse practitioner specialties.

In response to this demand, the new GW Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner post-graduate certificate program launches in fall 2017. The first cohort of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) will seek to expand their

scope of practice to include the care of individuals, families and populations with complex mental health needs. Students will be able to complete the program in as little as one calendar year.

The online-based curriculum is derived from nursing science, neuroscience, behavioral change theories and other psychotherapeutic frameworks. Students will learn to assess, diagnose, treat and manage mental illnesses across the lifespan. The program of study will also include opportunities for students to gain expertise in disease prevention, crisis intervention, family systems, trauma-informed care, group therapy, health policy and many other topics and issues germane to the care of individuals, families and populations. Upon completion, they will be prepared to deliver high-quality, client-centered and recovery-oriented care.

“The innovative, contemporary PMHNP curriculum that we are offering was designed by expert educators and seasoned clinicians,” says MSN Program

Assistant Dean Pamela Slaven-Lee.

“Collaborative interprofessional clinical sites, which the school is forming through partnerships with the GW Clinical Psychology program and the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Psychiatry, will be a feature of the program. Students will also have the opportunity to complete clinical hours with approved preceptors in their local area.”

The PMHNP program director, Assistant Professor Rhonda Schwandt, says, “This is an exciting time at the GW School of Nursing. We have the unique opportunity to design a cutting-edge program that will prepare PMHNPs to deliver expert, holistic and compassionate care to an often under-resourced and vulnerable client population. Our graduates will be well-positioned, along with other members of the interprofessional team, to improve the quality of mental health care on a national scale.” [GW](#)

FACULTY COMMUNITIES FORMED ON EXPERTISE, RESEARCH

Faculty development has taken a central role at the GW School of Nursing with the creation of two faculty communities.

The Acute and Chronic Care Community, chaired by Professor Joyce Pulcini, is composed of faculty who focus on physiologic, psychosocial and behavioral health concepts. Through research evidence and guidelines, they enhance and bring best practices to patient care, symptom management and end-of-life support. Their investigations and teaching span the care continuum from outpatient settings to specialized critical care units.

The work of those in the Policy, Populations and Systems Community and their chair, Associate Professor Kate Malliarakis, provides important insights and avenues to drive positive change in the areas of health disparities, vulnerable populations and global health. Their endeavors emphasize health systems leadership, analysis and innovation as well as policy inquiry and development.

The two communities were organized through Dean Pamela Jeffries' formation last year of a faculty steering committee charged with determining the scope and function of a structure to meet "the demand for faculty development across a continuum of needs." At the time, Dr. Jeffries said such development "is so critical and individualized that it needs to be tailored to the faculty rather than standardized into one centralized schoolwide function."

In her charge to the committee, she emphasized the leadership roles of the

future community chairs as supporting individualized faculty development by a chair who works closely with faculty members—within their communities—to set their individual and collective goals, provide feedback on career advancement opportunities and conduct formal reviews and evaluations each year.

As chairs of their respective communities, Drs. Pulcini and Malliarakis have outlined goals that include bringing faculty members with like research and scholarly interests together in teams to provide mutual support; creating systems of internal and external mentorship to guide faculty in focusing and advancing their research and scholarly and teaching endeavors; and improving and promoting recognition of faculty work. Emphasis will be on encouraging faculty to provide service to the school, university and community in a meaningful way congruent with their own career goals.

Through one-to-one connections, the chairs will provide faculty with a mechanism for support, voice and empowerment, and will promote leadership in each faculty member. They also will meet with each faculty member—identifying concerns, issues and solutions to problems—to create culture change and cohesiveness within the school.

"The School of Nursing has grown significantly in the past few years, and we now have an opportunity to

support the faculty in a unique way," says Dr. Malliarakis, an adult nurse practitioner who served for five years in the policymaking White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Helping our faculty develop their own leadership and research skills is an honor." In addition to her new role as a community chair, Dr. Malliarakis also leads the Nursing Leadership and Management MSN and DNP programs.

Dr. Pulcini, an internationally known pediatric nurse practitioner, is the director of GW Nursing's Community and Global Initiatives. She is an expert on the evolving roles of nurse practitioners worldwide and focuses on nurse practitioner education, reimbursement and political advocacy and on removal of barriers to practice.

Dr. Jeffries applauds their leadership and their community goals. "Our professional development needs are growing exponentially given the number of new faculty and the multifaceted and changing roles of current faculty. As senior faculty retire over the next decade, those in mid-career will experience a need for continued professional development opportunities as they take on increasing responsibilities for providing leadership within the profession and our nation's health care system." [GW](#)



Kate Malliarakis (left) and Joyce Pulcini (right) have been tapped to lead the new GW Nursing Faculty Communities.

FACULTY-LED GROUP HELPS STUDENTS DEAL WITH STRESS

With the stress of balancing classes, clinical rotations and studying for both, students can get overwhelmed by it all and overlook taking time to take care of themselves.

In an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, that stress can build up quickly.

To help students practice self-care and ease some of that stress, Clinical Assistant Professor JoAnn Conroy started Stitch 'n' Stitch a few years ago. The program, named for when students would ask Dr. Conroy to teach them to knit to reduce stress, attracts students from different cohorts. Dr. Conroy said it is common for students in older cohorts to offer advice and recommendations to students in newer cohorts.

“The idea of a mindfulness group really appealed to me as I knew I was starting a



JoAnn Conroy engages with students at Stitch 'n' Stitch gathering.

very stressful program,” says Georgiann Heinly, a student in Cohort 10, who graduated in December.

“The initial intent of this group was to provide a quiet and peaceful respite from the demands of the program and a place to slow down and be mindful,” Dr. Conroy says. “I find that slow stitching helps me slow down and focus. I also notice that it helps me listen more closely and retain more.”

Research into the benefits of mindfulness-based stress reduction and self-care supports the goals of Stitch 'n' Stitch. A study of Korean nursing

students found that mindfulness activities were effective “in reducing measures of depression, anxiety and stress.” With students who balance class, studying, clinical rotations and all the demands of day-to-day life, a group dedicated to decompressing and reducing stress can be a big help.

“I know it sounds dramatic to say a group like Stitch 'n' Stitch helped me graduate from nursing school, but it was more about the support and how the group allowed me to take a step back and refocus every week,” Ms. Heinly said. “It got me through the program.” [GW](#)

Trending Now



GW School of Nursing
@gwNURSING
31 Oct 2016

This cute little Snow White came trick or treating today with her daddy, one of our #BSN students #GWU #nursing #Halloween



GW School of Nursing
The Mall (Washington DC)

The fall issue of our magazine is coming your way! #GWU #GWnursing #nursing #nurses #WashingtonDC #autumn #leaves

IN BRIEF

Due to revisions in the GW School of Nursing bylaws and changes in the school's organizational structure:

- + Associate Professor **Kate Malliarakis** is now the interim assistant dean, DNP Program, and chair of the Policy, Populations and Systems Community.
- + Professor **Joyce Pulcini** is chair of the Acute and Chronic Care Community.
- + Assistant Professor **Pamela Slaven-Lee** is assistant dean for the MSN Program.
- + Assistant Professor **Billinda Tebbenhoff** is assistant dean for the ABSN Program and associate dean, Virginia Science and Technology Campus.
- + **Karen Dawn** and **Gretchen Wiersma** are now assistant professors, and Dr. Wiersma has been appointed director of the Veterans BSN Program.

- + The results are in, and GW Nursing boasts a **92 percent National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rate**.
- + George Washington University is now an official member institution of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), an agreement among member states to establish and uphold comparable national standards for online education. While an important milestone for the university, it is especially critical for GW Nursing's online programs that attract students from across the country.



GW NURSING MOVES UP—AGAIN

The recently released *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools listings show the GW Nursing master's and DNP programs to be rising steadily among the ranks of top schools. Among the 292 schools surveyed, the school's master's programs overall are now placed at 31st in the country—up from 34th the previous year—and the DNP program is 26th, up from 30th in the second annual ranking of DNP programs.

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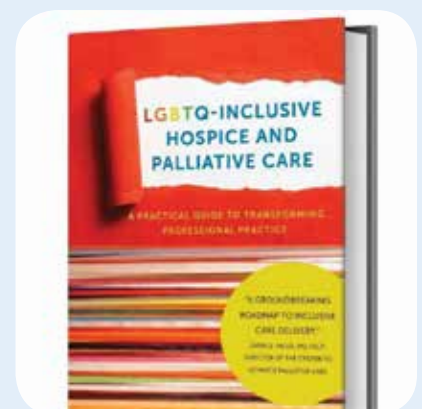
GW School of Nursing

During exams, be like George and always look on the bright side. You're almost done!
#GWnursing #GWU #nursingschool



Kimberly Acquaviva
@kimacquaviva

Very excited that my book launch party will be at @busboypoets! @HarringtonPP @ColumbiaUP #hpm #palliative #hospice #GWU



HEALTH CARE POLICY AND NURSING: A RIGHTFUL PLACE AT THE TABLE

NURSING

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“Anyone who tries to solve the issues of the health care delivery system without nurses at the table is being worse than irresponsible. They are incompetent.”

—*Nursing workforce researcher
Jack Needleman, Chair,
Department of Health Policy and
Management, UCLA School of
Public Health*

Health policy—formed and informed by the actions of policymakers and influencers—is the bedrock on which the nation’s health care system is structured, delivered and funded. As with all policy, it is not immutable; it is changeable, responding to the vicissitudes of politics and values, to new discoveries, data and analytics and to popular opinion and public activism.

History is rife with examples. Hospitals, established initially to safeguard the public from people with mental illnesses or communicable diseases, became places of healing. Public health programs, which arose at the dawn of the industrial era to promote sanitation and reduce acute illnesses and epidemics in crowded cities, today emphasize health promotion and chronic disease reduction.

While nurses have consistently exerted significant influence over policies on behalf of their patients and the public, history illustrates that nurses not invited to the table often resorted to indirect or circuitous routes to achieve that influence.

WAXING AND WANING OF THE NURSE’S ROLE

From the Civil War era through the early 20th century, individual nurses stepped up as founders, architects and framers of health care practice and policy. Professor Diana Mason, nurse and co-director of the new George Washington School of Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement, calls them “visionaries who recognized the health needs of vulnerable populations and pressured policymakers to respond to those needs.”

Florence Nightingale influenced the public through her horrific accounts of medical care during the

From left to right, GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement Executive Director Mary Jean Schumann discusses the new center's launch with co-directors Diana Mason and Barbara Glickstein.



Crimean War, driving policymakers to make changes in military health care that continue today. Her demands for data upon which decisions were made about care are reflected in current measurements of quality and use of evidence. Civil War nurse Dorothea Dix documented conditions in prisons and mental asylums, galvanizing a movement for reform. Nurse midwife Mary Breckinridge created the Frontier Nursing Service for low-income patients, introducing rural family health care. New York's Henry Street Settlement founder and community health nurse Lillian Wald started the Visiting Nurse Service for underserved immigrant populations and advocated for public health interventions for children and communities.

Each recognized the power of words and actions to change policy. Their work

improved the quality of care by nurses and physicians, focused on the need for better-educated nurses, and underlined the importance of prevention and early intervention.

As times changed, so did health policy and practice. New 20th-century technologies, medications and procedures, coupled with intensive patient care needs, shifted the focus of health care from the community to the hospital, and from prevention and early intervention to acute care.

The complexity of acute care grew alongside the growth of technology-rich care environments; the role of physicians expanded and the professional hospital administrator emerged. Despite the increasing importance of nurses as the 24-hour safety net for patients when other decision-makers went home,

nurses required new strategies in their administrative and decision-making roles to remain influential.

Nursing education—increasingly specialized, sophisticated and clinically demanding—focused on nurses' roles at the hospital bedside. Lifespan-expanding medical advances demanded more nurses who could function at higher and higher levels. The priority in nursing education became increasing the pipeline of nurses, with more of a focus on specialized clinical skills and less time devoted to professional issues and preventive measures. "Historically, nursing education simply didn't emphasize the competencies and skills to inform, shape and disseminate policy," says GW Nursing Dean Pamela Jeffries.

TEACHING POLICY

GW Nursing's mission as a premier school of nursing for education in health policy provides both students and nurses with a growing array of resources and learning opportunities, many of which will be provided through the new GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement.

One such opportunity, a yearlong graduate certificate program in health policy and media engagement, will launch in August 2017 under the leadership of **Professor Mary Jean Schumann**. She describes the five-course (15-credit) online program as "a focused, high-powered journey through the underpinnings of the political, executive and judicial processes and strategies essential to effective regulatory and legislative implementation."

Dr. Schumann says the program will include frequent experiential learning activities as students engage in the process of shaping policy with local, state and federal decision-makers. The courses will allow students to use a variety of tools and tactics as they explore and apply the health care financing and reimbursement principles and strategies to health care policy solutions. Students will also identify and analyze health problems, using these analyses to both create and shepherd policy solutions through actual or virtual policymaking processes in legislatures, regulatory environments or within the justice system.

"Over the next decade, this and other academic offerings will increase the capacity and confidence of GW-educated nurses to take increasingly visible and critical roles in shaping and leading critical policy changes," Dr. Schumann says.



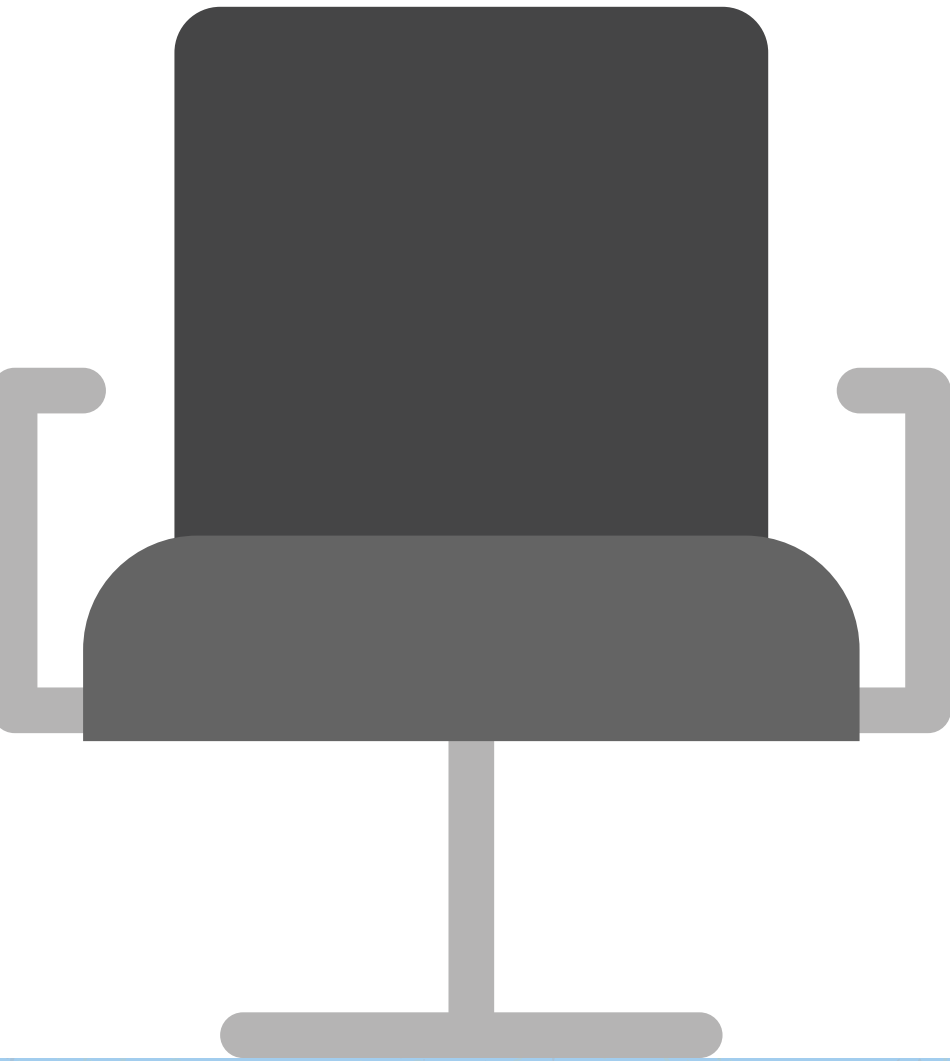
"Historically, nursing education simply didn't emphasize the competencies and skills to inform, shape and disseminate policy."
— *GW Nursing Dean Pamela Jeffries*

THE PENDULUM SWINGS

Nurse leaders continued to step out and speak up about health care deficiencies, for example, the negative impact of poor working conditions and reduced staffing on patients' quality of care and safety. By 1994, more nurses joined in their efforts and created a groundswell sufficient to invoke the American Nurse Association Resolution on Safe Patient Staffing, suggesting strategies such as staffing principles and nurse-to-patient ratios. By 2000, two Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports gave credence to a downward spiral of patient safety and quality, the loss of patient life due to medical errors and the recognition that health care delivery was everyone's problem. Nurses then came to the table, actively engaging, shaping and supporting policies for reforming health care.

The scope of health care continues to evolve, from an ongoing focus on even higher acuity levels and greater need for intensive care beds to a new emphasis on home- and community-based care, particularly primary care, prevention and early intervention. Nurses, long known for focusing on the health of the whole person within his or her environment—while promoting a team approach to care integration—are viewed by workforce experts as being best positioned to drive policy changes in today's health care delivery.

The seminal 2011 IOM report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," also gave nurses the impetus to step up as policy advocates. Calling for nurse leaders and educators to prepare the workforce to step up and gain that "seat at the policy table," the report urged nurses to overcome the hierarchy of clinical health services and delivery that had undervalued and underestimated them.



THE SEAT AT THE TABLE

Nurses constitute up to 80 percent of the health care workforce, with 3.6 million working in the U.S. Numerous annual Gallup polls show they are the most respected of all health care providers. That gives nurses clout as advocates, and it makes the time ripe for nurses to move beyond the bedside to make and shape the future of health policy.

“Because nurses provide a perspective

TALKING POLICY

Engaging in health policy demands a willingness to speak, step up, advocate and lead. GW Nursing faculty are doing just that on a regular basis.

- ✦ Faculty member **Nancy Rudner**, head of the Florida League of Women Voters Closing the Gap health initiative, took to the radio on WRPK in Winter Park, Fla. She spoke on crafting health policy and discussed the future of health care around the country and in Florida, a state with the second-highest uninsured rate in the U.S.
- ✦ The American Academy of Nursing’s 2016 policy summit, Transforming Health, Driving Policy, explored how nurses can shape health policy as leaders in boardrooms as well as classrooms. In her opening address, Dean **Pamela Jeffries** reminded the audience that “leadership is intrinsic to our profession, regardless of your role, title or position.” She urged them to “embrace this not as a challenge, but as an opportunity.”
- ✦ Research Instructor **Edward Salsberg**, who is also a founding director of GW’s Health Workforce Studies Institute, spoke later in the AAN conference on the impact of a changing delivery system on the health care workforce. He recommended workforce agility and ongoing monitoring to meet demands of integrated care, a “whole-person” approach to services and value-based reimbursement.

NURSES CONSTITUTE UP TO 80 PERCENT OF THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE, WITH 3.6 MILLION WORKING IN THE U.S.

that sees the person, not just the illness, we can bring important values, data and knowledge to the policy table,” Dr. Jeffries says. “The time is now for nurse leaders to engage in critical thinking, analysis and reflection, and to apply our knowledge to crafting salient, sanguine health policy.”

Under Dr. Jeffries’ leadership, GW Nursing is bringing policy and communications expertise to nurses. Health policy is now a pillar of the school’s mission and vision, and Dr. Jeffries envisions the school

as a trusted source of health policy education that is impartial, fact-driven and consumer-centered. With the new center and an emphasis on policy content being woven into the school’s curricula, the GW-educated nurse will be vocal and articulate in crafting and building consensus for important responses. Dr. Jeffries says the faculty and the center will ensure GW graduates have the skills to engage in policy debates, discussions and actions with stakeholders ranging from the community to Congress. “The GW nurse will shape and promote policies in the best

interests of patients, most importantly, those that improve access, lead to better care and create healthier communities,” she says.

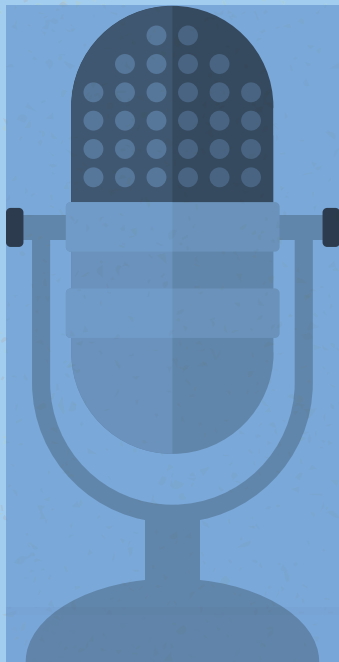
Professor Mary Jean Schumann, executive director of the new center and the faculty leader responsible for bringing the policy-centered graduate certificate to fruition, agrees that nurses need to speak up. “It’s about advocating for our patients at every level, even doing something at the grassroots level.”

Dr. Mason adds that, “nurses have a long history of being innovators, with

✦ Assistant Professor **Malinda Whitlow’s** presentation, “Bringing Technology to the Bedside: Using Smartphones to Improve Interprofessional Communication,” earned a best poster award at the Virginia Nurses Association’s annual legislative summit. Her study findings led the University of Virginia Medical Center to implement smartphone technology across its acute care units.

—Teddi Fine





ADVOCATING POLICY

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” urged nurses to become health program and policy spokespersons and to build strong relationships with the news media, from reporters and editors to podcasters and bloggers. That is precisely what GW Nursing’s Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement is all about.

The center, led by Executive Director **Mary Jean Schumann**, is poised to amplify the school’s voice and enable faculty and students to better share policy and health information with the public, the media and policy influencers.

Dr. Schumann is joined by two co-directors—**Dr. Diana Mason** and **Ms. Barbara Glickstein**, who bring years of policy experience to the center. For Dr. Mason, the relocation of the center from New York City to Washington, D.C., provides a “great opportunity to take the lead in health policy in the very town where national policy is made and state policy is influenced.” Ms. Glickstein adds that it will serve “to position nurses as media experts in their fields to impact health and health policy through multiple media platforms, hold media accountable to include nurses in reporting and deliver nursing’s message to the public and key policymakers.”

At the center, nursing faculty and students will learn to explain complex research or policy by putting a face on the issue or telling its story in ways that capture the interest of the public, media and policymakers. Visiting scholars will help participants hone social media and mass media communication skills. The school’s unique mix of distance- and on-site learning, fellowships and hands-on experience will take the work to a practical level, providing an incubator for nurturing new policy-savvy and articulate nurse communicators.

“The center is a place to learn new ways of messaging and how to take those messages to people with whom nurses don’t routinely interact,” says Dr. Schumann, adding that communication skills and media acumen will give nurses nationwide a growing, better-respected voice and presence at the policymaking table.

“

“Including nurses’ voices at all health-related policy- and decision-making tables is crucial if we’re to improve the health of the nation.”

— *Dr. Diana Mason*

a mandate and a legacy of which to be mindful and proud. It’s a history of advancing community-based, public health care that is coming full circle. Including nurses’ voices at all health-related policy- and decision-making tables is crucial if we’re to improve the health of the nation.”

Barbara Glickstein, a nurse, journalist and media expert, has also joined the center as a co-director. She advocates for nurses acquiring the skills necessary for effective public communication. “Media training can give nurses the confidence and tools they need to be proactive in shaping policy,” she says.

Dr. Jeffries, Dr. Schumann, Dr. Mason and Ms. Glickstein agree that nurses now must not only be even better educated but also supported through mechanisms such as the new center to influence high-level policy proactively, openly and frequently. They cite the words of former surgeon general and former nurse Richard Carmona: “Working together, learning the ropes of policy and politics, and mentoring others, ...[nurses] can change the future of the nation’s health.” [GW](#)

BUILDING POLICY

Just as clinical education and practice are informed by basic and applied research, at GW Nursing, meaningful health policy is being built on a bedrock of research and its application.

- + Assistant Professor **Asefeh Faraz** is examining factors influencing whether a novice nurse practitioner (NP) successfully transitions to primary care practice during the first post-graduate year. She will expand her work with this cohort to gain insight into their job satisfaction, distribution and retention. "With primary care physician shortages and new patients entering the health care system, NPs can help meet the demand for high-quality primary care," says Dr. Faraz.
- + Associate Professor **Ellen Kurtzman**'s recently published studies set in community health centers (CMHCs) show comparable quality-of-care outcomes and practice patterns among NPs, physicians and physician assistants

and demonstrate comparable NP quality of care in states with and without independent practice environments for NPs. "Given these findings, policymakers may want to consider easing NP restrictions, particularly when ensuring that the needs of low-income and underserved populations—who often rely on CMHCs for care—are met," says Dr. Kurtzman.

- + In two American Academy of Nursing briefs, Professor **Joyce Pulcini** and others consider the role of NPs and the effect of integrated care on primary care practice and focus on leadership roles for NPs in patient-centered, integrated care delivery. Another brief examines the impact of broadening

APRN's primary care scope of practice, and a recently published article considers the impact of scope-of-practice laws on both NP autonomy and patient access to care.

- + A recent *Health Affairs* blog by Research Instructor **Edward Salsberg** documents an apparent flattening in the number of new RN graduates entering practice each year, after 14 years of growth. The number of associate degree entrants is waning; BSN graduates now represent 46 percent of all first-time exam takers. He also advises nurse educators to "monitor trends to ensure against over expansion" by primary care nurse and physician providers.

—Teddi Fine



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Policy Update



Dr. Darcy-Mahoney modeling TWMB strategies with a parent and child.

Rx: LOTS OF WORDS, DAILY

BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY, PHD, NNP, FAAN,
FOR THE TALK WITH ME BABY COLLABORATIVE*

Literacy and Health: What is the link?

In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics released its first policy statement on early literacy education, a call to pediatric health care providers to inform parents about the benefits of reading aloud to their children, starting in infancy. Why did a health care providers' professional association decide to set policy on an issue with seemingly no direct connection to health? Steven H. Woolf, director of the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University, said it best: "Children with less education are destined to live sicker and die sooner."

A Daily Dose of Words

Children realize their greatest potential for brain development in their first three years of life. The University of Chicago's Dana Suskind, founder of the Thirty Million Words Initiative, says, "Think of your child's brain like a piggy bank—every

word you say is another penny you invest." The more words a child hears from infancy to age 3, the more neuronal connections are made. And it doesn't cost anything to make these connections. It is about telling a child a story or even just describing the act of folding laundry—in whatever style or language parents feel most comfortable.

Unfortunately, many infants and toddlers do not have these frequent verbal exchanges and therefore are negatively affected in academic achievement, health outcomes, economic opportunities and social mobility. Just as children's bodies require warmth, food and protection, their brains need "language nutrition" to support maximum developmental potential.

D.C., Get Talking

Research indicates that a child's vocabulary at the age of 3 is a key predictor of third-grade reading comprehension, which is a powerful indicator of later academic

success. Per the "Nation's Report Card" prepared by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 66 percent of U.S. students do not read proficiently by the end of third grade. In Washington, D.C., where that number grows to 73 percent, a diverse group of public health, health care and education organizations are taking bold steps to radically change child outcomes.

After successfully piloting the initiative in Atlanta, I am working with other health professionals in the D.C. area to launch Talk With Me Baby (TWMB), an innovative public action campaign designed to increase children's access to and acquisition of strong language skills. Pediatricians, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, nutritionists and psychologists from Children's National Health System—the hub of pediatric care in Washington, D.C., and one of the organizations most trusted by the area's families—will be trained to engage and coach parents on ways to deliver language to their children, beginning in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Initial funding for TWMB was provided by the United Way of Greater Atlanta. Now, through a new partnership with the Barbara Bush Foundation, TWMB is expanding its training and resources nationwide. A newly developed online toolkit and a training curriculum that equips health care providers to serve as Language Nutrition coaches in their own communities was launched in September 2016 and highlighted at the White House Summit on Behavioral Science Insights. By delivering this coaching to parents, TWMB is bringing the Academy's policy to practice in hopes of changing the devastating report card statistics in our nation's capital and throughout the country. [GW](#)

* The Talk With Me Baby Collaborative: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Marcus Autism Center, Georgia Department of Public Health and Department of Education, the Atlanta Speech School, Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, GW School of Nursing and Get Georgia Reading - Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Academic opportunities at the GW School of Nursing reflect the changing nature of the field and the increasing diversity of the nursing profession. The school offers opportunities for nurses in all stages of their careers through several Bachelor of Science in Nursing options, the Master of Science in Nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, multiple post-graduate certificates and extensive distance-based learning programs.

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- + Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- + Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- + RN Pathways
- + RN to BSN
- + RN to BSN/MSN
 - » Family Nurse Practitioner
 - » Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
 - » Nurse Midwifery
- + RN to MSN - Bridge (includes all MSN tracks)

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

- + Family Nurse Practitioner
- + Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- + Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- + Nurse Midwifery
- + Nursing Leadership & Management

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

- + Post-BSN DNP Family Nurse Practitioner
- + Post-BSN DNP Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- + Post-BSN DNP Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- + Post-MSN DNP (generic)
- + Post-MSN DNP Executive Leadership
- + Post-MSN DNP Health Care Quality

Post-Graduate Certificates

- + Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- + Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- + Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- + Nursing Education Certificate
- + Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- + Health Policy and Media Engagement Certificate
- + Advanced Practice Palliative Care Certificate

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—WILL SMITH, BSN '14, MSN FNP '16, Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner, Erie Family Health Center, Chicago, Ill.

"The simulation laboratory run by the faculty truly mimicked real-life situations that nurses encounter on a daily basis. Practicing on the mannequins helped me learn the necessary skills so as to ease my transition into the clinical setting... I credit my nursing success to GW SON."

—MELISSA BRODER, BSN '14, Registered Nurse, High Risk Perinatal Unit, Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, Md.

"GW SON encourages and supports dreams. The DNP program helped to open my mind to all kinds of possibilities and experiences both nationally and internationally...and the location at the very center of the free world incorporates and encourages a very diverse student population."

—KELLEY MILLER WILSON, DNP '15, Clinical Associate Professor, University of South Carolina College of Nursing, Columbia, S.C.

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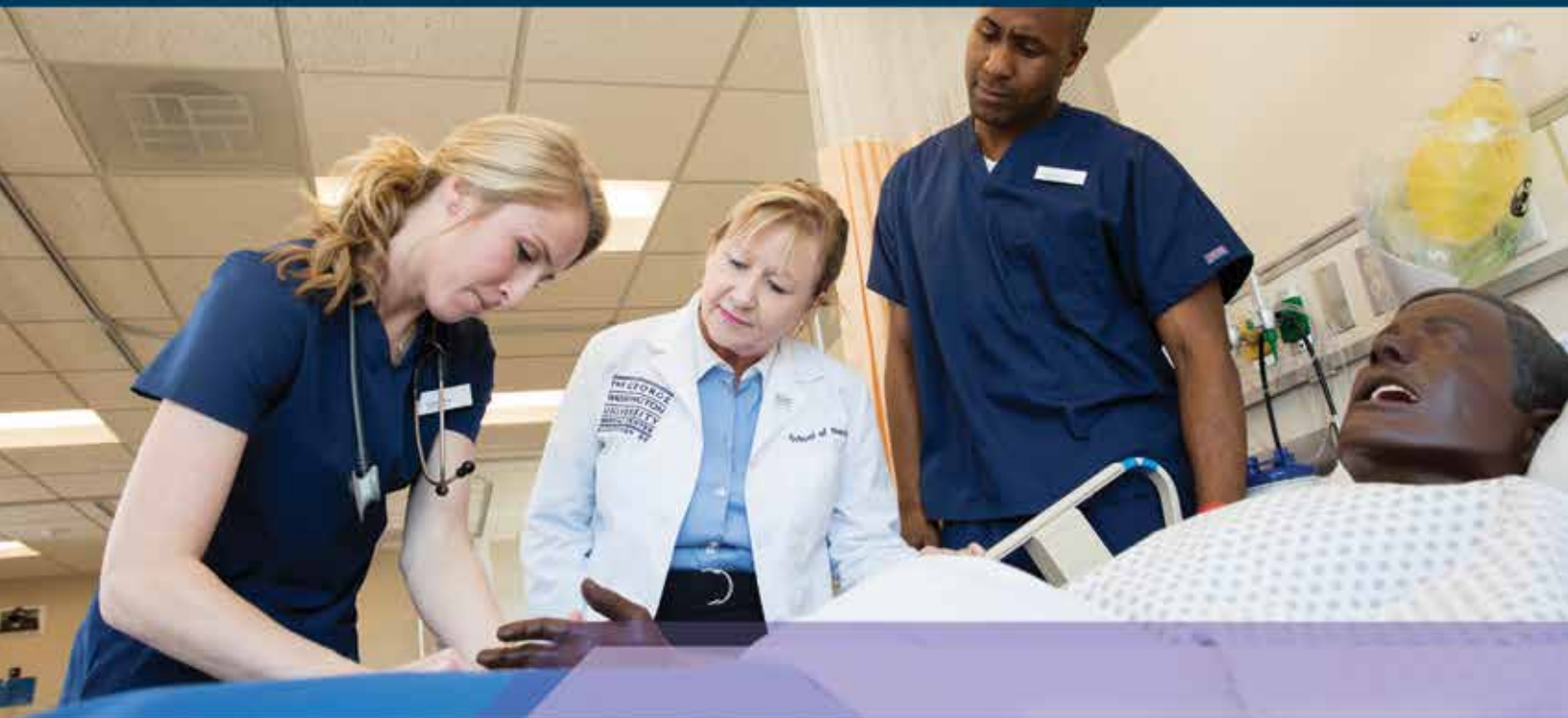
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New Faculty and Staff Join GW Nursing

GW Nursing has welcomed 11 faculty and 12 staff members since mid-summer 2016. Each adds his or her expertise, knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to GW Nursing as the school expands its footprint in the world of nursing education, practice and policy. Learn more about them on the following pages and see their photos (number following their names is the key).

Faculty

- + Jess Calohan, DNP, PMHNP-BC [9]
- + Catherine Wilson Cox, PhD, RN [16]
- + Karen Dawn, DNP, RN [13]
- + Maritza Dowling, PhD [2]
- + Asefeh Faraz, PhD, APRN [14]
- + Kathleen Griffith, PhD, MPH, FNP-BC [15]
- + Karen Kesten, DNP, APRN, CCRN-K [12]
- + Diana Mason, PhD, RN, FAAN [11]
- + Rhonda Schwindt, DNP, PMHNP-BC, RN [10]
- + Margaret Venzke, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN [4]

Staff

- + Kyla Arager, Program Associate, DNP [8]
- + David Biglari, Director, Marketing and Communications [1]
- + Shafiah Firoz, Instructional Designer [7]
- + Gina Gerard, Human Resources Manager [18]
- + Barbara Glickstein, Media Projects Director, Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement [17]
- + Sha'Lace Gregg, Program Manager, Division of Entrepreneurial Enterprises [3]
- + Jenny McCauley, Student Services Specialist [20]
- + David Mossinger, Instructional Technologist [19]
- + Tilly Parkin, Program Coordinator, Veterans BSN [5]
- + Justin Pohl, Special Assistant to the Dean [6]
- + Samantha Robaina, Records and Registration Manager [20]
- + Ayesha Waqas, Research Administrator



WELCOME, NEW FACULTY

- + Assistant Professor **Jess Calohan [9]**, a board-certified psychiatric mental nurse practitioner, recently retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of distinguished service. Having treated service members with combat-related PTSD in deployed and non-deployed settings for over 18 years, Dr. Calohan is a recognized expert in the field, presenting nationally and internationally and authoring multiple peer-reviewed publications. In 2013, he was awarded the prestigious “A” designator by the U.S. Army surgeon general, an honor given to less than 5 percent of Army medical officers, for his expertise and significant contributions to military medicine. He has also earned multiple military awards, most notably the Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He maintains a tele-psychiatry practice serving rural and underserved populations.
- + Associate Professor **Catherine Wilson Cox [16]** most recently served as the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) director of programs. She planned, implemented and evaluated conferences and meetings for faculty teaching at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels as well as for deans responsible for those programs. She also spearheaded initiatives on leadership development and assisted with diversity, inclusivity and sustainment programs. Dr. Cox began her career as an ICU nurse at the National Naval Medical Center and, in 2014, retired from the Navy Reserves as a captain. She previously was on faculty at Marymount and Georgetown universities and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.
- + **Karen Dawn [13]** is now on faculty as an assistant professor. She has taught at George Mason University and the University of Virginia and has extensive experience working with nursing students in community settings, including public health departments, community service boards, clinics, homeless shelters, summer camps with vulnerable populations, environment protection and prisons. She is a certified diabetes educator and public health clinical nurse specialist with over 30 years of experience in diabetes management, chronic disease prevention and health promotion. She has developed hundreds of creative health education tools to assist people with chronic disease. Her specialties include diabetes education and research, health promotion, disease prevention, public health and intensive diabetes management, including insulin pump therapy.
- + **Maritza Dowling [2]** joins GW Nursing as an assistant professor and biostatistician. Formerly an associate scientist and co-director of the Biostatistics and Data Management Unit at the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, Dr. Dowling is particularly interested in measurement issues in the longitudinal assessment of health constructs, patient-reported outcomes and cognitive function in older adults and the application of novel statistical approaches to model the relationships between Alzheimer’s disease biomarkers.
- + Assistant Professor **Asefeh Faraz [14]** is on the faculty of the Family Nurse Practitioner program option. Dr. Faraz is a health care workforce researcher interested in nurse practitioner issues, particularly the novice nurse practitioner transition into primary care and alternative workforce solutions to improve patient access to primary preventive care. Dr. Faraz maintains her clinical practice as a family nurse practitioner at the University of Virginia Health System as well as via Maven Digital Clinic, a telemedicine platform.
- + Associate Professor **Kathleen Griffith [15]** is a researcher and practicing clinician. Her research program focuses on symptom management related to cancer and its treatment, investigating new ways to alleviate persistent chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and to better understand weight gain during breast cancer chemotherapy, an independent risk factor for breast cancer-specific mortality. Her current National Institutes of Health funding focuses on aerobic and resistive exercise to improve painful chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy by examining changes in clinical examination and peripheral neuropathology resulting from the intervention. Dr. Griffith comes to GW Nursing from the University of Maryland School of Nursing.
- + Associate Professor **Karen Kesten [12]** is a national leader in nursing education, having served most recently as the director of faculty initiatives at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Prior to joining AACN, Dr. Kesten was an associate professor and program director for the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist programs at Georgetown University. She played a critical role in the design, development and launch of their graduate distance learning and DNP programs. Her research interests are innovative teaching strategies, simulation, competency-based education and advanced nursing practice. Dr. Kesten currently chairs the board of directors for the Certification Corporation of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

+ **Diana Mason [11]** joins the faculty as the senior policy service professor and co-director of the new Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement. Former Rudin Professor of Nursing and co-founder of the Center for Health, Media and Policy at Hunter College, she served for a decade as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Nursing*. For over 30 years, she has produced and moderated “HealthCetera,” a radio program in New York City. As lead co-editor of the award-winning book “Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care,” she writes and speaks about health policy and politics, serves on the board of the Primary Care Development Corporation and is the immediate past president of the American Academy of Nursing.

+ **Rhonda Schwindt [10]** joins GW Nursing as an assistant professor and director of the post-master’s Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program option. Dr. Schwindt’s research is focused on reducing the disproportionate impact of tobacco use among high-risk populations. She has received external funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to advance multidisciplinary education for screening, brief intervention

and referral to treatment and from Indiana University Health to reduce smoking rates among pregnant women. Most recently, Dr. Schwindt led the development of an online training module that prepares clinicians to engage in motivational interviewing, an interprofessional tobacco cessation program targeting smokers with mental illness and a web-based tool to assist clinicians with screening and brief intervention for substance use disorders.

+ Assistant Professor **Margaret Venzke [4]** brings over 20 years of teaching experience in graduate adult and family nurse practitioner programs to GW. Her academic interests are in creating innovative online curricula and simulation in graduate nursing

education and developing opportunities for interprofessional collaborative practice. Her clinical and research interests focus on adult immunizations, patient vaccine refusal and falls prevention for older adults in primary care settings.



WELCOME, NEW STAFF

- + **Kyla Arager [8]** is the DNP program associate. Ms. Arager will work closely with Kate Malliarakis, interim assistant dean for the DNP program, providing administrative support for the program and service to the students. While completing a master's degree in higher education at the University of Virginia (UVA), she served as student services and program coordinator with UVA's University Internship Programs.
- + Director of Marketing and Communications **David Biglari [1]** has over 10 years of marketing experience in higher education and health care industries. He previously was assistant dean at Towson University's College of Business and Economics, providing oversight for its accreditation, reporting and strategic initiatives. Prior to that, at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, he led digital strategy and managed multiple award-winning website redesigns.
- + As GW Nursing's newest instructional designer, **Shafiah Firoz [7]** focuses on ways to facilitate learning through effective and efficient uses of educational technology. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership and management at Drexel University. Ms. Firoz, who comes from Johns Hopkins University, currently holds master's degrees in information systems and biotechnology enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- + **Gina Gerard [18]** is GW Nursing's first dedicated human resources manager. Ms. Gerard has worked in the HR departments at Reston Hospital Center (RHC) and West Virginia University, where she earned a master's degree in labor relations and HR management. While at RHC, she discovered her admiration for the dedicated and compassionate nurses and other workers in the health care industry.
- + **Barbara Glickstein [17]** joins the new Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement as media projects director. Ms. Glickstein, a

master's-prepared nurse, comes from Hunter College, where she and Diana Mason co-founded the Center for Health, Media and Policy, an interdisciplinary initiative advancing public health and policies through media, research, education and public forums.

- + **Sha'Lace Gregg [3]** is the program manager for GW Nursing's Division of Entrepreneurial Enterprises (DEE). She previously served as program coordinator for one of the nation's leading orthopedic practices. Ms. Gregg's passion for continuing education programs has brought her to DEE, where she joins Ronna Halbgewachs, working to broaden the school's reach and visibility.
- + **Jenny McCauley [21]** has assumed the newly created role of student services specialist. Ms. McCauley, who worked as an RN for eight years, earned a master's degree in higher education to pursue a career focused on college students. She previously worked at Hagerstown Community College and Shepherd University.
- + **David Mossinger [19]** joins the Online Learning and Instructional Technology team as an instructional technologist. He has spent several years working as a multimedia specialist for training, including at the Raytheon Corporation where he developed virtual reality training simulations. He holds a master's degree in digital imaging and design and is pursuing a master's degree in educational technology.

- + **Tilly Parkin [5]** is the program coordinator for the Veterans BSN program. For the past six years, she has worked in higher education in the areas of admissions, recruiting and advising. Most recently, Ms. Parkin was an admissions officer with Baptist College of Health Sciences and worked directly with the Nursing, Health Care Management and Biomedical Sciences programs.
- + Special Assistant to the Dean **Justin Pohl [6]** has served in multiple roles across higher education, including operations manager, assistant dean of students and assistant director of student development for the College of Charleston School of Education, Health and Human Performance. His roles ranged from advising the dean to overseeing fraternity and sorority life and university leadership programs.
- + **Samantha Robaina [20]** joins the Student Services team as the records and registration manager. Ms. Robaina worked in the Office of the Registrar at the University of Maryland College Park for the last six years.
- + **Ayesha Waqas** is the school's research administrator and its first full-time staff member dedicated to supporting research infrastructure. She supports pre- and post-award activities and principal investigators. Ms. Waqas has worked in multiple roles at GW, including for four years in the Office of Research as a sponsored research administrator.



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GW Nursing at Home and Around the World

ECUADOR: A STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE *"Better Than Any Hospital..."*

BY STEVEN ROZECKI, BSN COHORT 10



Our trip last year to Ecuador with the George Washington University School of Nursing was an experience like no other. Working in the local community and collaborating directly with local health care professionals offered unique opportunities to see international health care firsthand.

One day we walked nine miles through the streets of Tumbaco, going door to door administering polio vaccines and speaking with families in Spanish about the importance of maintaining immunizations. The experience painted a picture of their access to care, what the community is like and how they live day to day. It epitomized the cultural immersion that we experienced throughout our week there.

Working in a clinic, daycare centers and schools allowed us to further develop the clinical skills we will use as nurses. We performed assessments, provided patient education and worked on our communication skills, with fewer and less technologically advanced resources than we have access to in the United States. This learning opportunity was better than any hospital could offer.

In the classroom, we are taught the importance of respecting cultural diversity while providing care in different communities. Traveling to Ecuador, we learned these lessons in real life. As we worked directly with local providers—respecting their cultural norms—we were challenged to adapt our skills to their needs. This experience has helped us grow more confident in ourselves, to be definitive in our clinical opinions, to be adaptable and to be professionals.

For more photos from Ecuador, visit go.gwu.edu/EcuadorWithRozecki



CHINA: PALLIATIVE CARE *"Finding Common Ground..."*

BY CHERYL ANN THAXTON, DNP CANDIDATE

As a second-year DNP student at the George Washington University School of Nursing, I've learned it helps to follow models of resilience in nursing leadership as I focus on ways to move toward the finish line.

One such opportunity was last year at the International Conference on Cancer Nursing in Hong Kong. I had the honor of serving as principal faculty on a course with Judith Paice, director of the

Northwestern University Cancer Pain Program, and Pam Malloy, director and co-investigator of the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Core Project and an American Association of Colleges of Nursing leader. Our goal was to provide education and resources about nursing leadership and palliative care to conference attendees.

For several years, Drs. Paice and Malloy have traveled across the world to

increase access to and education about palliative and end-of-life care for ELNEC-International. They and other ELNEC trainers and faculty from 88 countries have traveled to six continents to train more than 10,500 nurses and other health care providers.

Nurse leaders from across Asia attended the conference's Palliative Care Nurse Leadership course, which featured the eight modules of the ELNEC-Core: Nursing Care at the End of Life; Pain Management; Symptom Management; Ethical/Legal Issues; Cultural Considerations in End-of-Life Care; Communication; Loss, Grief, Bereavement; and Preparation for and Care at the Time of Death.

It was incredible to share common experiences in palliative care with nurse leaders from across the world who are caring for pediatric, adult and geriatric patients. Though our language and resources sometimes differ across the globe, our desire to provide compassionate care and prevent suffering is the same.

I will never forget this experience and opportunity, not to mention the dim sum and other tasty Chinese cuisine, touring Hong Kong and shopping at the markets.

For more information about:

–The GW Nursing Post-Graduate APRN Certificate: Advanced Practice Palliative Care Certificate for Nurse Practitioners, visit go.gwu.edu/PalliativeCare

–ELNEC-International education and resources, contact Pam Malloy, RN, MN, FPCN, at pmalloy@aacn.nche.edu

–American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2016). ELNEC Fact Sheet, visit <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/elne/about/fact-sheet>

FACULTY AND STUDENTS PRESENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AROUND THE WORLD

Summer 2016 through Winter 2017

During the past six months, GW Nursing faculty and students participated in hundreds of conferences and events. Here's a sampling of presentations across four countries, one commonwealth and 13 U.S. cities.

Anaheim, Calif. | At the November American Association of Colleges of Nursing Baccalaureate Education Conference, faculty participation included the panels, "Meeting the Triple Aim: Interprofessional Education Implementation within an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program," led by **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MALINDA WHITLOW** and featuring **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MAJEDA EL-BANNA** and **PROFESSOR ANGELA MCNELIS**; and "Veterans' Success in an Accelerated BSN Program Strategies that Work!" presented by **CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GRETCHEN WIERSMA**. In addition, **CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOANN CONROY** presented her "End-of-Life Simulation" research poster.

Atlanta | **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS CAROL LANG** and **MALINDA WHITLOW** gave the presentation, "Team Building and Strategic Partnership: Multicultural, Inter-professional Short-Term Medical Missions to Haiti," at the American Academy of Family Physicians in September.

In November at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Conference, **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DANA HINES** delivered the presentation, "HIV Testing and Linkage to Care among Transwomen in Indiana."

Baltimore | At the 26th annual Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics in July, **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KAREN WHITT** presented "Electronic Health Records and Patient Safety: Nurse Practitioners' Experiences in Clinical Practice."

Boston | Last summer at the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ELLEN KURTZMAN** presented "Do State Scope of Practice Restrictions Affect Nurse Practitioners' Patterns of Practice or Quality of Care in Health Centers?"

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CAROL LANG, **FACULTY MEMBER NANCY RUDNER**, **CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KAREN DAWN** and **PROFESSOR JOYCE PULCINI** presented a satellite discussion of their research developing international clinical practicum experiences at the Global Nursing Caucus, SEED Global Health conference, in October.

Coronado, Calif. | **CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KAREN DAWN** and **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CAROL LANG** presented the poster, "Nurse-led Health Promotion in Haiti," at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Faculty Practice conference in January.

Denver | **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY** and colleagues presented "Talk With Me Baby: Georgia's Language Nutrition Strategy" at the American Public Health Association conference in November.

Fairfax, Va. | **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ELLEN KURTZMAN** presented "Nurse Practitioners' Quality of Care" in October at George Mason University's Department of Health Administration and Policy and the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics Fall 2016 Health Policy Seminar Series.

Guangzhou, China | A thousand people attended **PROFESSOR JOYCE PULCINI'S** presentation, "Advanced Practice Nursing: Practice and Service Impact," at the Advanced Practice Nursing Conference in September.

Hong Kong | **PROFESSOR JOYCE PULCINI** and colleagues presented "Latin America and the Caribbean: Opportunities and Challenges for APNs" at the International Nurse Practitioner/Advance Practice Nursing Conference in September.

Keystone, Colo. | In July, **FACULTY MEMBER NANCY RUDNER** served as the moderator for an ethics forum, "Practitioners' Ethical Responses to Immunization Refusals," and presented "Putting Population Health into Your Practice: Strategies to Improve Outcomes" and "It's in My Truck: Patient Motivation and Adherence" at the National Nurse Practitioner Symposium.

Kingston, R.I. | **ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR ESTHER EMARD** was the keynote speaker for the University of Rhode Island's annual Pathways College event, "Our Career Paths to the IOM's Future of Nursing Goals," in December.

Mexico City | **PROFESSOR JOYCE PULCINI** delivered the panel presentation, "Development of Advanced Practice Nurse Education and Educators," at the 15th Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium in October.

Miami | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

SANDRA DAVIS delivered the presentation, "Teaching Social Determinants of Health and Disparity Reduction: A Simulation Innovation," at the Beyond Flexner conference in September.

Nottingham, United Kingdom |

At the Royal College of Nursing's 22nd International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research Conference in September, **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CAROL LANG** gave the presentation, "Assessing the Burden and Impact of Caring for Adolescents with Disruptive Behavior Disorders on Family Relationships."

Palm Springs, Calif. | In October,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY presented "Bilingualism and Executive Inhibitory Control in 4- and 5-Year-Old Preterm Born Children: A Pilot Study" at the National Association of Neonatal Nurses national conference.

Phoenix | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

BRENDA SHEINGOLD presented "Fostering Connectional Intelligence to Design an Evidence-based Tool to Assess Bruising as Forensic Biomarker of Abuse" at the Gerontological Advanced Nurse Practice Association conference in Phoenix.

San Jose, Costa Rica | During a

December interprofessional partnership exploration trip with the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences, **DEAN PAMELA JEFFRIES** presented "George Washington School of Nursing: Our School, Programs, and Global Opportunities" at the Universidad Hispanoamericana.

San Juan, Puerto Rico | At the Third

Congress in Clinical Simulations in November, **DEAN PAMELA JEFFRIES** presented "The State of the Science and Insight into the Future of Clinical Simulations on Patient Safety and Quality Care" and "National League for Nursing/ Jeffries Simulation Theory."

Washington, D.C. | ASSISTANT

PROFESSOR ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY participated in "Language Nutrition Competency Exam: A New Measure of Pediatric Providers' Knowledge of Early Language Acquisition & Development" at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science in September.

Also in September, **ASSISTANT**

PROFESSOR ARLENE PERICAK presented the poster, "Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence, A Course for a Haitian Medical School," at the State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research: Determinants of Health conference.

At the GW Teaching and Learning Day

in October, **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CAROL LANG, FACULTY MEMBER NANCY RUDNER** and **CLINICAL ASSISTANT**

PROFESSOR KAREN DAWN presented the poster, "Haiti as Classroom for Community Focused Global Health Nursing and Applied Research." **CLINICAL ASSISTANT**

PROFESSOR GRETCHEN WIERSMA addressed "Using Debriefing Techniques to Foster Critical Reflection During Clinical Post Conference" and **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MAJEDA EL-BANNA**

led "Flipping Around the Classroom: Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Students' Satisfaction and Achievement" with **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MALINDA**

WHITLOW and **PROFESSOR ANGELA MCNELIS**. The poster presentation, "What's Your Style? Enhanced Interprofessional

Communication and Practice Using the Communication Wheel," featured **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MAJEDA**

EL-BANNA and **CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOANN CONROY**, and the

poster, "The Students' Voice Regarding Faculty Site Visits in Nurse Practitioner Education," was presented by **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS ARLENE PERICAK** and **MARJORIE GRAZIANO** and **PROFESSOR ANGELA MCNELIS**.

In November, **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ELLEN KURTZMAN** made several presentations to delegations of government officials from Shanghai, China. The presentations at the GW Columbian College of Arts and Sciences included "U.S. Health Policy: Current Trends and Future Directions," "U.S. Health Policy: Caring for an Aging Population" and "Election 2016."

GW Nursing DNP graduates and students **ETSEGENET TAYE, LINDA CASSAR, AZRA KUKIC, DEBRA KRAHLING, HANNAH ALORGBEY, KATHLEEN HEWITT, MONICA HAMILTON, PEARLY BROWN, REBECCA MANCE** and **ZAHRA MOHSENI** presented podium and poster findings related to their DNP projects at the November Washington Regional Nursing Research Consortium's Doctoral Student Research Conference at Georgetown University. **PROFESSOR DIANA MASON**, the keynote speaker, discussed "Transforming Research into Policy."

In December, **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KAREN WHITT** presented a webinar, "Nursing Students' Evaluation of Electronic Health Records for Safety and Quality in Clinical Practice Utilizing the SAFER Guides," to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology Clinical Grand Rounds.

Faculty, Student and Staff News

Research Examines Ways to Help Patients Plan Advance Care

*Communication
Coach or no? Trial will show
The best way to go.
– Haiku for MY WAY Project*

Patients dealing with chronic kidney disease don't always have an opportunity to engage in discussions and decision-making about advance care planning. Despite clinical practice guidelines that urge nephrology care teams and patients to do so, implementation of the practice has not been widespread. Most patients report wanting to have such discussions, but less than 50 percent do. As Medicare implements a new payment explicitly for advance care planning, there is an opportunity to develop tools and processes to help patients and their nephrology care teams engage.

With a three-year grant from the Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue

Medical Research Foundation, Associate Research Professor Dale Lupu is taking on that challenge. Through her "MY WAY, Make Your Wishes About You" project, she developed a patient guide about advance care planning and an accompanying coach-training curriculum. Both are being distributed through the Coalition for Supportive Care of Kidney Patients (CSCCKP), a national coalition of all major organizations involved in care of patients with chronic kidney disease. The guide is free and currently available on the CSCCKP website.

Dr. Lupu is now studying the impact of using a coach who meets individually with patients in the nephrologist's office to guide them through the advance care planning process. The motivational interview approach helps patients articulate their preferences and values, select a health care decision-maker and work with the nephrology care team to make sure their choices are appropriately documented.

In related research, Dr. Lupu is co-principal investigator—with CSCCKP Chairperson Alvin Moss—of a Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation-funded project to develop supportive care pathways for patients with chronic kidney disease. Led by the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition, the "Pathways Project" also addresses development of supportive tools and management for patients with kidney or end-stage renal disease.

"This research and the new tools will allow for better supportive care for people with chronic kidney disease," says Dr. Lupu, who has spent nearly three decades in the field of hospice and palliative care.

"Nephrology care teams want to provide person-centered supportive care, but they often don't know where to start. We're developing the tools and best practices that will become the essential tools of quality renal disease management." [GW](#)



Virginia Nurses Foundation Honors GW Nursing Associate Professor

Joyce Hahn, president of the Virginia Board of Nursing and a founding faculty member of GW Nursing, has been named the 2016 Nancy Vance Award recipient by the Virginia Nurses Foundation (VNF). The award is bestowed upon a Virginia Nurses Association (VNA) member who has made significant contributions to the community through exceptional leadership, sustained dedication and inspiring achievements.

As a three-term gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Board of Nursing,

Dr. Hahn has served as the board's president and vice president. Throughout her career, she has been a leading advocate for nurses and the nursing profession, working with organizations such as the Nursing Alliance for Quality Care and the Nurse Administration Academy, which she developed in partnership with the American Organization of Nurse Executives. Dr. Hahn has been an active member of the VNA and is involved in the Virginia Action Coalition, a VNF initiative.

The Nancy Vance Award is the VNF's highest honor and is awarded annually in October at the Virginia Nurses Foundation Gala. It continues the legacy of Nancy Vance, whose most important contribution to nursing in Virginia was her implementation of a program for improving the health of the state's children. The focus of her program

was the Five-Point Standard of Health. Schoolchildren who met the standard in the five areas—weight, vision, hearing, throat and teeth—were awarded the Five-Point Certificate.

"I won't compare myself to that incredible nurse, Nancy, and her legacy, but I am honored to be ... standing here in her shadow," said Dr. Hahn at the award ceremony. [GW](#)



(From left to right) SSH Past President Dr. Chad Epps, President Dr. Christine Park and President-elect Dr. Joe Loprieto congratulate Dean Pamela Jeffries (second from right) on her induction.



GW NURSING DEAN NAMED INAUGURAL FELLOW IN NEW SIMULATION ACADEMY

Thirty-four internationally known health care simulation professionals, including Dean Pamela Jeffries, were inducted Jan. 30 as inaugural fellows of the newly formed Academy of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). The cohort of fellows, selected by the SSH board of directors, are known for their outstanding contributions to the development of health care simulation.

SSH—a simulation professionals' association—ensured the applicants for fellows underwent a rigorous selection process. Reviewers sought evidence of sustained contribution and impact to the field of health care simulation and to SSH, and a commitment to support the mission and vision of the academy. To give applicants an equal and thorough assessment, reviewers represented operations, research, EMS, education, nursing, medicine and industry perspectives in the academic and service settings.

Dr. Jeffries has served SSH in many capacities, including as its president. She is a leader in simulations, is the author of "NLN Jeffries Simulation Theory" and has edited three books on the topic.

"It is an honor to be among this diverse and expert group," she says. "We will use our skills and knowledge to ensure the academy is successful in its mission and vision to advance and grow our field." [GW](#)

NEWS IN BRIEF



IN THE MEDIA

- + An interview with Clinical Professor **Cathie Guzzetta** appeared on AllNurses.com in June and was updated in December. As the American Association of Critical Care Nurses 2016 Pioneering Spirit Award recipient, Dr. Guzzetta shared her viewpoint and experiences in having family present at a patient's bedside during resuscitation.
- + Assistant Professor **Mayri Sagady Leslie**'s *Journal for Women's Health* article of the year, "Perspectives on Implementing Delayed Cord Clamping," was repurposed in September as a consumer article—"Don't Clamp and Cut that Cord Just Yet"—at the HealthyMom&Baby website.
- + At the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care conference in November, Assistant Professor **Dana Hines** was interviewed by *The Body Pro* journalist Heather Boerner for a feature article, "We Have Work Before Us, People: HIV Nurses Meet, Mourn and Prepare to Fight in Wake of U.S. Election."
- + Assistant Professor **Ashley Darcy-Mahoney**'s blog, "Five Things Parents Should Know About Talking to Their Baby," launched in November on the Children's National Health System blog site.
- + Associate Professor **Kate Malliarakis** and Professor **Diana Mason** conducted a radio interview, "Substance Use Disorder among Nurses," that aired in December and is available at healthmediapolicy.com.
- + In January 2017, Assistant Professor **Brenda Sheingold** began 12 months of research leave, during which she will

produce an educational documentary in partnership with Public Broadcasting Service affiliate WETA-TV. The documentary will focus on the Bruise Assessment Rubric (BAR Tool) she developed with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



AWARDS, HONORS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- + Associate Professor **Kimberly Acquaviva** is the first GW Nursing faculty member to publish a single-author book with a major university press. Her book, "LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care: A Practical Guide to Transforming Professional Practice," will be published in April and is available for pre-order from Columbia University Press.
- + The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded Assistant Professor **Erin Athey** a three-year fellowship to support her work in addressing mental health issues while providing primary care services for underserved communities at the Care Center, an HIV clinic in Southeast Washington, D.C. In November, Dr. Athey was certified as an HIV specialist through the American Academy of HIV Medicine.
- + As a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and a member of the American College of Cardiology, Assistant Professor **Linda Briggs** represented the AANP on the multidisciplinary 2016 Anticoagulation Consortium Roundtable convened by the American College of Cardiology in October.
- + Adjunct Instructor **Esther Emard** was elected as the graduate counselor for GW Nursing's Phi Epsilon Sigma Theta Tau Chapter, served as the subject matter expert and team member for a National Quality Matters review and was selected as a mentor for a nursing leader candidate in the Florida Hospital's REACH Leadership Development program.
- + Faculty member **Nancy Rudner** was selected by the Maitland (Fla.) City Council to serve on the city's Parks and Recreation advisory board.
- + Associate Professor **Ellen Kurtzman** has been named to the GW Academic Integrity Council, a representative body of students and faculty from each academic college that facilitates hearings and addresses instances of academic dishonesty within the university community.
- + Assistant Professor **Carol Lang** was selected to co-chair the Faculty Consultative Committee in the GW presidential search.
- + Assistant Professor **Mayri Sagady Leslie** has been appointed to the board of directors of the international MotherBaby Childbirth Organization.

FAREWELL

Assistant Professor **Marjorie Graziano**, director of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program track, retired at the end of December. The FNP program, both at the master's and post-master's levels, grew significantly under her leadership, expanding to a twice-per-year admission cycle with an annual enrollment of over 100 students. As evidence of the hard work and dedication of Dr. Graziano and her team, the students' pass rate for the arduous program is consistently above 90 percent. Dr. Graziano leaves behind a strong legacy and foundation for the school to continue to build upon.

- + The University of New Mexico's College of Nursing has named Clinical Instructor **Rebecca Mance** a 2016 distinguished alumna. Ms. Mance has also been selected as a 2017 Paul Ambrose scholar by the Association of Prevention Teaching and Research and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
- + Professor **Angela McNelis** has been appointed to the editorial board of *Nursing Education Perspectives*, the journal of the National League for Nursing. She also has been named a distinguished alumna of the Indiana University School of Education, where she received a master's degree in education while pursuing graduate degrees in nursing.
- + Professor **Joyce Pulcini** received the 2016 Rodham Institute Academic Community Development Award for "Engaging Communities to Enhance Coordinated Asthma Care," a project in partnership with the District of Columbia Asthma Coalition.
- + Assistant Professor **Billinda Tebbenhoff** was selected as an advisory board member for the HOPE initiative in Loudoun County, Va. The HOPE initiative connects community resources to prevent youth suicide.
- + At the September 2016 Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science State of the Science Conference, Associate Professor **Karen Whitt** was awarded "Abstract of Distinction" for her presentation "Nurse Practitioners' Use of Pharmacogenetics in Clinical Practice."

RN Career Opportunities



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Faculty Publications— Spring 2016-Spring 2017

ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY and B. Minter, M. Higgins, Y. Guo, B. Williams, L. Head, K. Burch. “Probability of an autism diagnosis by gestational age.” *Newborn and Infant Nursing Reviews*, December 2016.
... and B. Minter, M. Higgins, Y. Guo, L. Head, J. Hirst. “Maternal and neonatal birth factors affecting the age of autism spectrum disorder diagnosis.” *Newborn and Infant Nursing Reviews*, December 2016.

ASEFEH FARAZ. “Novice nurse practitioner workforce transition and turnover intention in primary care.” *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, May 2016.
... “Novice nurse practitioner workforce transition into primary care: A literature review.” *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, May 2016.

CATHIE GUZZETTA and S. Hott. “Resuscitation and invasive procedures: AACN suggests new guidelines on family presence at the bedside.” *Advance for Nurses*, May 2016.

DANA HINES and D. J. Biederman. “Barriers to care for transgender people: A conversation with Dana Hines, PhD, MSN, RN.” *Creative Nursing*, May 2016.
... “Developing a research career in transgender health: A doctoral scholar describes potential barriers to professional support.” *American Journal of Nursing*, September 2016.

PAMELA JEFFRIES and J. Bauchat, R. M. Seropian. “Communication and empathy in the patient-centered care model—Why simulation-based training is not optional.” *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, August 2016.
... and H. Connors, D. Skiba, M. Rizzolo, D. Billing. “Health information technology scholars program from implementation to outcomes.” *Nursing Education Perspectives*, November-December 2016.

ELLEN KURTZMAN and B. Barnow, J. Johnson, S. Simmens, D. Infeld, F. Mullan. “Does the regulatory environment affect nurse practitioners’ patterns of practice or quality of care in health centers?” *Health Services Research*, February 2017.

DALE LUPU and J. S. C. Russell, S. Seliger, A. Moss. “Providing supportive care to patients with kidney disease.” *Nephrology News Issues*, April 2016.
... and K. Bickel, K. McNiff, M. Buss. “Defining high-quality palliative care in oncology practice: An American Society of Clinical Oncology/American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine guidance statement.” *Journal of Oncology Practice*, August 2016.

ANGELA MCNELIS and K. Becker, T. Crowe, B. Walton-Moss, A. Lin, A. Parsons Schram, L. Hanyok, J. Hayashi, N. Culhane, P. Teague. “Interprofessional debriefing: A novel synthesis of the 3D model and systems centered therapy.” *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice*, March 2016.



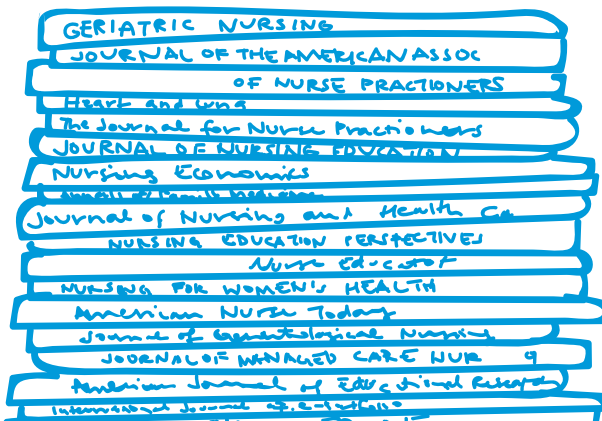
... and J. Agle, J. Carlson, **RHONDA SCHWINDT**, C. Clark, K. Lay, R. Gassman, D. Crabb. “If you teach it, they will screen: Advanced practice nursing students’ use of screening and brief intervention in the clinical setting.” *Journal of Nursing Education*, April 2016.

... and K. Dreifuerst, M. Weaver, M. Broome, C. Draucker, A. Fedko. “Exploring the pursuit of doctoral education by nurses seeking or intending to stay in faculty roles.” *Journal of Professional Nursing*, May-June 2016.

JOYCE PULCINI and K. Zug, S. Cassiani, A. Bassolabre-Garcia, F. Aguirre-Boza, **JEONGYOUNG PARK.** “Advanced practice nursing in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regulation, education and practice.” *Latin American Journal of Nursing*, August 2016.

... and K. Delaney, M. Naegle, M. Flinter, E. Hauenstein. “Critical issues for registered and advanced practice nurses in integrated care models.” *Nursing Outlook*, October 2016.

Laurie Posey and **Christine Pintz.** “Transitioning a bachelor of science in nursing program to blended learning: Successes, challenges & outcomes.” *Nursing Education in Practice*, October 2016.





NANCY RUDNER. “Medical management health coaching begins with respectful outreach.” *Journal of Managed Care Nursing*, October 2016.

... and M. Kung. “An assessment of physician supervision of nurse practitioners.” *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, January 2017

RHONDA SCHWINDT and **ANGELA MCNELIS**, K. Lay, M. Bentley. “Student perceptions of a tobacco education intervention.” *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, April 2016.

... and **ANGELA MCNELIS**, J. Agle. “Curricular innovations in tobacco cessation education for prelicensure baccalaureate nursing students.” *Journal of Nursing Education*, August 2016.

KAREN WHITT and L. Eden, K. Merrill, M. Hughes. “Nursing student experiences regarding safe use of electronic health records: A pilot study of the safety and assurance factors for EHR resilience guides.” *Computers, Informatics, Nursing*, January 2017.

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MEET THE ADVISERS TO GW NURSING

LUCAS HUANG,
B-LINE MEDICAL

MR. HUANG is the co-founder of B-Line Medical, LLC, a digital solutions company that has provided simulation and clinical skills center management solutions to more than 500 health care institutions in 31 countries. He earned two bachelor's degrees from North Carolina State University: one in electrical engineering and another in aerospace engineering. Prior to B-Line Medical, he was a systems engineer, test engineer and software developer, eventually leading the team that redesigned the control center for the Hubble Space Telescope, one of the first fully web-based satellite control centers.

HOME: Ellicott City, Md.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: After installing B-Line Medical Software in an underperforming NICU, a 70 percent improvement was reported in just two weeks. Most notable was knowing that B-Line Medical had a helping hand in saving the lives of children.



LAST BOOK READ: "Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Question for a Fantastic Future," by Ashlee Vance.

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT: I finished a half-Iron Man, but an 85-year-old grandmother finished four minutes faster.

GREATEST WISH FOR GW NURSING: To become one of the best nursing schools in the world, raising the bar and setting the standard for education, research and clinical practice.

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Philanthropy News

ANONYMOUS DONOR SEEDS GW NURSING RESEARCH

An anonymous gift of \$40,000 will support GW Nursing Dean Pamela Jeffries' goal of growing the school's research capacity. As seed money for the School of Nursing Research Fund, the gift will enable Dr. Jeffries and Associate Dean for Scholarship, Innovation and Clinical Sciences Angela McNelis to investigate innovations, policies and best

practices that influence the practice of nursing and affect public health. "This is an opportunity to start and grow a fund that will launch new investigators and support ongoing research projects," said Dr. Jeffries. "When other funding is not available or dries up, the fund can offer the boost that could make all the difference in the world."

SAE-A CONTINUES SUPPORT TO HAITI MEDICAL MISSIONS

Last November, GW Nursing again paired with a medical team from South Korea's Pusan National University Yangsan Hospital to conduct a medical mission trip to Haiti. This third medical mission, sponsored by global apparel manufacturer Sae-A Trading Co., Ltd., provided primary health care services, health screening and health education to more than 2,200 adults and children living in Caracol and neighboring areas.

The mission team—composed of Americans, Koreans and Haitians—brought to the community a wide variety of expertise across multiple

disciplines, including emergency/trauma, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN), urology, pain management, dermatology, surgery, family medicine, internal medicine, otolaryngology and ophthalmology.

With the support of the Sae-A gift, two senior family nurse practitioner students joined the GW Nursing team of BSN students, other graduate students and faculty, adding to a higher quality of care in the mission's adult, pediatric and OB/GYN clinics.



POWER & PROMISE UPDATES ...

- + In December, the trustees of the James M. Johnston Trust for Charitable and Educational Purposes granted \$25,000 to GW Nursing for support of a Power & Promise RN-to-BSN scholarship. Since it began grantmaking operations in 1969, the trust has supported scholarships, training programs and faculty salaries in higher and secondary educational institutions located in Washington, D.C., and North Carolina.
- + A \$75,000 GW Power & Promise award from the Caroline Fredricka Holdship Charitable Trust continues to benefit economically disadvantaged students seeking a second degree. To date, 26 students in the GW Nursing Accelerated BSN program have received the scholarship.

CORRECTION

In the fall 2016 issue of *GW Nursing*, the Johnson-Pawlson Scholarship was incorrectly identified as the Johnson-Paulson Scholarship.

Alumni News



Spotlight On...

Mary Jo Assi, DNP, RN, FAAN

Vice President, Nursing
Practice and Innovation,
American Nurses Association

Meet Mary Jo Assi, DNP '14, a vice president of the American Nurses Association (ANA) whose areas of responsibility include the Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation initiative, scope and standards of nursing practice, and healthy work environment with an emphasis on quality care and patient and nurse health, wellness and safety. With her more than 35 years of nursing experience, Dr. Assi has worked in many different roles, including clinical nurse, nurse educator, advanced practice nurse and nurse executive. She also served as an American Nurse Credentialing Center magnet commissioner for six years and as a magnet program director for the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System.

GWN: You joined the ANA leadership a little more than three years ago as the director of nursing practice and work environment. During that time, how have your role and responsibilities evolved into your current position of vice president for nursing practice and innovation?

Dr. Assi: I was finishing my DNP program at GW in 2014 when the ANA director of nursing practice and work environment position became available. The goal of the newly created position was to ensure relevance in the application of policy and legislative work to the practice setting. This was an incredible opportunity for a DNP-prepared professional nurse to practice at the national level.

Over the past three years, the department has doubled in size and expanded to include numerous new practice-focused issues such as infection prevention and control. The focus on innovation in ANA's new strategic plan created an opportunity for my role to be expanded as well. We will be exploring—through the lens of innovation—old and persistent issues that compromise the work environment of nurses.

GWN: What are the most intriguing future opportunities you see for nursing practice and innovation?

Dr. Assi: ANA is moving into new domains of connectedness and networking—particularly in virtual space—to ensure that members and nonmembers alike can participate in ANA's nursing community. This will allow for greater opportunities to capture—within a relatively abbreviated timeline—innovation and best practices related to issues of importance for nursing.

GWN: What are the greatest challenges facing nurses in today's world of ever-changing health care policies?

Dr. Assi: In today's highly turbulent and financially restricted health care environment, the nursing profession is again facing the challenge of communicating the value and critical importance of nursing to safe, quality care and exemplary outcomes. In an environment of increasing accountability for outcomes that meet or exceed predefined benchmarks, the ability of nurses at all levels to understand, articulate and demonstrate the very real connection of the quality of the work and practice environment to patient outcomes will continue to increase in importance.

To learn more about the ANA's Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation initiative, visit: www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/WorkplaceSafety/Healthy-Nurse

ALUMNI AMBASSADORS CONNECT, SPEAK AND VOLUNTEER

GW Nursing alumni of all programs are engaging with future and current nurses to spread the word about the nursing profession, the GW School of Nursing and the opportunities offered by both. Appearing on panels, staffing booths, speaking at career days and volunteering in the school's simulation centers and at community events throughout the Washington, D.C., area, these ambassadors report positive experiences and a feeling of giving back.



Last fall, **Isoke Baptiste**, BSN '12, MSN '15, participated in the Health Professionals Panel hosted by the George Washington University Center for Career Services. "Being able to speak to fellow

Colonials about my current profession in hopes of giving them pointers on their career choice was a great feeling," she said. "I felt proud to offer advice and believe the ambassador program is a great asset in helping individuals home in on their career interests."



Jenna Goffee, BSN '16, staffed the GW Nursing "Ask a Nurse" booth at the Foggy Bottom/West End Annual Neighborhood Block Party in October. "I

decided to become an alumni ambassador because I truly think it is important to keep current nursing students and nursing alumni connected," she said. "Through the ambassador program, I have been able to not only give back, but also to share with current nursing students my experiences as a new RN. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as an ambassador and am excited to continue!"

GW Nursing alumni who are interested in the program and want to become an alumni ambassador, email nursing@gwu.edu with "alumni ambassador" in the subject line.

WELCOME NEW GW ALUMNI!

At the traditional senior class toast in early December, the GW School of Nursing welcomed its 10th undergraduate cohort of students to the GW alumni community. The toast is held by each senior class in celebration of a successful Senior Class Gift Campaign. The event has been a GW tradition since the 1980s and provides an opportunity for each class to leave an imprint on the university. Senior Class Gift Campaign representatives Steven Rozecki, BSN '17, and Morgan Rollo, BSN '17, were instrumental in achieving an 85 percent class participation rate, with 37 percent of the class pledging sustaining gifts to the school. Alumna Elizabeth Demarest, BSN '14, led the toast and welcomed the graduating students to the GW alumni community.

Also in December, families, friends and faculty braved the winter weather to attend the Pinning Ceremony, the final milestone event for this class of undergraduate students. The ceremony marks the culmination of 15 months of study and hard work and recognizes and celebrates the achievements of these new alumni. Faculty members, students and Major General Dorothy A. Hogg, the deputy surgeon general and the event's keynote speaker, offered some pearls of wisdom to the more than 80 graduates and close to 500 people gathered at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

"Florence Nightingale said, 'Let us never consider ourselves finished nurses. We must be learning all of our lives.' The George Washington University School of Nursing has given you the foundations—not the ceiling—on which to practice," said Maj. Gen. Hogg.






Alumni Resources

Our more than 1,900 alumni are a vital part of the School of Nursing community, actively giving back by offering their time, talents and expertise. GW offers a variety of programs and services tailored especially for alumni. We invite you to explore these resources and opportunities and to stay involved with the community.

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Events & Programs–
 GW Alumni Calendar of Events
alumni.gwu.edu/events

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 GW Alumni News
gwalumni.org

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 Update Contact Information, Alumni Directory
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* Federal income tax charitable deduction

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