

The George Washington University / School of Nursing

# GWNURSING

FALL 2017



## Transforming Health Care Across the Life Span

Through Education, Practice,  
Research and Policy



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### Transforming Health Care Across the Life Span—Through Education, Practice, Research and Policy

Throughout one's life, from beginning to end, nurses are there at every step of the way. They help to celebrate the happy moments of birth, care for growing children and families, offer guidance for healthy adults and ease the sorrow at the end of life.



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### Introducing: A Cadre of Health Policy and Media Influencers

Senior fellows at the new GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement work to influence policy and engage the media, with the goal of integrating science and the arts to advance the health of populations.

## The George Washington University

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PRESIDENT

## School of Nursing

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# From the Dean

*Remain curious and keep learning.*



*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”*

—W.B. YEATS

Lifelong learning—whether in the form of continuing education, professional nursing certification or the pursuit of advanced and terminal nursing degrees—has become essential for all nurses. The practicing nurse, the researcher, the administrator and the academic must all remain curious and continue to seek knowledge.

Our learning will be driven by the complexity and instability of the health care environment, the changing academic demands of preparing new nurses, new research, determination of best practices and the need to serve diverse populations and cultures. We must learn to address the evolving needs of our patients and our students and understand what they experience as they and the world around them change.

And we must learn to advocate for ourselves and our profession. With health care laws and policies in flux, staying abreast of and involved in new developments will help translate nursing practice into health policy that shapes safe and high-quality care.

It is the role of the educators, administrators and other nursing leaders to light a fire for knowledge and then nourish that flame. From the day the nursing student enters a program, the novice nurse walks into a facility or the newly minted advanced degree nurse joins a faculty or research team, each must be guided, advised and mentored—with a mindfulness of their importance to the future of health care and the profession of nursing. No amount of burnout, budget cuts, professional obstacles or limited resources can be allowed to extinguish that flame or diminish the curiosity that leads to a lifetime of learning.

Now there are few barriers to stoking that fire and sparking curiosity. In today’s world of multiple educational opportunities and environments, the nurse can search out knowledge online, in a hospital, at a nursing school and at numerous professional conferences. Learning is all around today’s nurse, making the individual, the profession and, most importantly, patient care the better for it.

Lifelong learning is an obligation and a privilege for us all.

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

# GW Nursing News

## GW NURSING LAUNCHES DIVERSITY INITIATIVE, NAMES INAUGURAL LEADER



Changing U.S. demographics, diversity-focused health care systems and persistent health inequities—both domestic and international—are the forces that spurred an initiative accelerating and expanding GW Nursing’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

“We are embarking on an important and major priority for the school. Diversity, equity and inclusion are essential to providing excellence in nursing education and preparing the workforce of the future,” said Dean Pamela Jeffries in her charge to the initiative’s advisory group formed in the spring of 2017.

Co-chaired by Associate Professor Sandra Davis and MSN Program Associate Christine Yeh, the council was tasked by Dr. Jeffries with using the American Association of Colleges of Nursing

position statement on diversity, equity and inclusion as a guide for developing recommendations to promote those issues throughout the school.

The council centered its work on the themes of diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice and tailored a strategic plan for the school that focuses on four areas: leadership and accountability; recruitment and retention; social transformation; and education, research, scholarship and service. In addition to the strategic plan, council members created a diversity statement and an evaluation plan to measure the school’s progress in developing, implementing and sustaining key indicators of the strategic plan.

As a new school initiative and George Washington University priority, the creation of a leadership role in this

area was one of the council’s essential recommendations. Dr. Jeffries named Dr. Davis to serve as GW Nursing’s inaugural assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Davis will work to address issues, challenges and barriers to promote diversity, equity and inclusion throughout its programs, initiatives and personnel.

The council also recommended the establishment of a diversity, equity and inclusion speaker series to include professional development workshops and presentations and to conduct an annual diversity, equity and inclusion climate survey.

“At a time of so much unrest in our nation, the council’s work is important to the school, university and higher education,” said Dr. Jeffries. [GW](#)



“

It is important that students are educated in learning environments that are representative of the diverse population they will serve and where their assumptions are challenged and perspectives broadened.”

—*Sandra Davis, PHD, DPM, CRNP-BC*

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND ASSISTANT DEAN FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Dr. Davis began her career in podiatry, where she spent several years in private practice before transitioning to a career in nursing. She has been in academia for over 17 years, serving in both faculty and administrative roles, and she currently teaches in the GW Nursing MSN program. Her research focuses on health equity, social determinants of health and simulation in nursing. In 2016, Dr. Davis was selected as an American Association of Colleges of Nursing/Wharton Executive Leadership Fellow.

Before being appointed to the newly created assistant dean role, Dr. Davis was the director of the GW Nursing Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program. In her new role, she will continue to roll out further recommendations as they are developed by her advisory council. [gw](http://gw.edu)

## MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Dean Pamela Jeffries and the GW Nursing leadership thank the members of the council for their time and exemplary efforts.

### + Co-Chairs

- » Sandra Davis, *associate professor and assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion*
- » Christine Yeh, *MSN program associate*

### + Faculty

- » Kimberly Acquaviva, *professor*
- » Erin Athey, *assistant professor*
- » JoAnn Conroy, *clinical assistant professor*
- » Maritza Dowling, *assistant professor*
- » Dana Hines, *assistant professor*
- » Karen Kesten, *associate professor*
- » Mayri Leslie, *assistant professor*
- » Karen Wyche, *research professor*

### + Staff

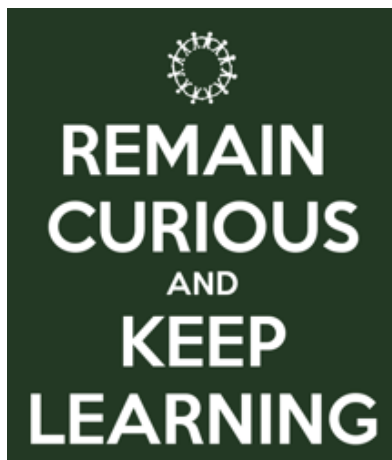
- » David Biglari, *director of marketing and communications*
- » Gina Gerard, *human resources manager*
- » Jenny McCauley, *student services specialist*

## GW NURSING WELCOMES NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dean Pamela Jeffries welcomes Thomas LeBlanc, who began his tenure on Aug. 1 as the 17th president of the George Washington University. Dr. LeBlanc previously served as executive vice president, provost and professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering at the University of Miami.



## ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS SUPPORT LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING



Educational and informational opportunities for senior health care leaders, high school students and simulation and palliative care specialists are among the recent programs offered by GW Nursing's Division of Entrepreneurial Enterprises (DEE), the school's business strategy concept.

Through collaborations and partnerships with corporations, professional societies, hospitals and health care systems and nonprofit organizations, the DEE offers state-of-the-art learning

and information-sharing experiences conducted in the nation's capital, in Virginia and online.

### Partnering for Leadership

UnitedHealth Group (UHG), a major U.S. diversified health and well-being company, continues to turn to GW Nursing to prepare clinicians for executive leadership roles. In partnership with the UHG Center for Clinician Advancement, the DEE's Clinician Leadership Executive Program engages senior clinician leaders across UHG's many business lines. Participants develop and hone their executive mindset and presence, leadership abilities, ability to drive system change and capacity to advocate on behalf of the UHG enterprise.

This year's program transitioned from a nursing-centric program to one with a rigorous and customized interprofessional perspective—and the size of the cohort increased by 20 percent. Associate Professor Kate Malliarakis was the lead faculty member, and numerous other faculty members and external experts participated. The curriculum is tailored each year to meet the evolving needs of

UHG and that year's cohort.

### Creating a High School Pipeline

More than 350 high school students who are interested in careers in health care came to GW Nursing this summer from across the country to participate in an elite pipeline program. Envision, a leading experiential education organization offering opportunities to explore career and life interests, partnered with the DEE to stage hands-on activities and simulations designed from an interprofessional perspective and relevant to health professions and topics in the media today. Students also learned about the nursing profession and educational pathways. Nearly 60 BSN students were brought in to help facilitate the program, and Simulation Learning and Innovation Center Director Patricia Davis served as the lead faculty member.

### Showcasing Simulation and the School to the World

Nurse educators from across the country and around the globe—including Canada, Iran, Puerto Rico, South Korea and





Through the Envision program, high school students are introduced to the use of simulation in nursing education.

Turkey—attended the 2017 International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) pre-conference at GW Nursing, the INACSL conference host school. Sponsored by Laerdal, the pre-conference brought attendees to the school's Simulation Learning and Innovation Center.

In her pre-conference keynote,

Dr. Jeffries addressed the state of nursing simulation science and presented her groundbreaking NLN Jeffries Simulation Theory. Immersion sessions based on the theory included environmental realism, pediatric learning through simulation, using a quality and safety framework, outcome evaluation and use of technology. Sessions were led by Assistant Professor

Patricia Davis, Clinical Instructors Elizabeth Choma and Julia Clark, and Instructor Christine Seaton.

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Contact [sondee@gwu.edu](mailto:sondee@gwu.edu) to collaborate with the DEE and to use GW Nursing as a venue for an academic event.

#### News in Brief

## VETERANS' PROGRAM RECEIVES RENEWED FEDERAL FUNDING

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has renewed a grant supporting the GW Nursing Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) program.

Graduates of the program, which was launched in 2014 with an initial grant of \$1 million from the HRSA, now number 34; 33 students are currently enrolled, and approximately 25 more are scheduled to start in the fall semester. The new grant of more than \$1 million will continue to help provide on-site support services for veteran

nursing students, including dedicated study space and academic advising, counseling and tutoring tailored to veterans' needs.

The VBSN program offers a curricular road map based on prior education, military service and experience. "We have had students who went to the armed forces academies, others who have a master's degree, and some who begin with an associate's degree or no degree at all," said Assistant Professor Gretchen Wiersma, director of the program. "We look at what the veterans did within their service and figure out how to build on those

skills." GW Nursing is ranked No. 10 in the *U.S. News & World Report Best Online Master's in Nursing Programs for Veterans*.

"While looking for schools, it got discouraging to see the lack of credit, both actual and implied, given to soldiers for their time and education in the military," said VBSN student Tricia Hanson, Cohort 12. During her search, she found the GW Nursing VBSN program to be veteran-centric, with a high NCLEX pass rate and unparalleled use of state-of-the-art equipment and simulation centers. [gw](http://www.gwu.edu)

## EXPANDED SPACE CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

George Washington Provost Forrest Maltzman visited the Virginia Science and Technology Campus last spring, touring the GW Nursing Simulation Learning and Innovation Center and hearing firsthand from students and faculty about the school's space needs. As a result, three capital improvement projects are now underway: a student success center, an OSCE (Observed Structured Clinical Examination) simulation lab, and an



Patty Davis, former director of the simulation labs, served as tour guide for Provost Maltzman's visit.

instructional design and media center. All three projects will be completed by the end of 2019, and each focuses on the school's

“students first” mantra by investing in infrastructure for quality and excellence in education that ensures student success. [GW](#)

## NEW FACULTY AND STAFF JOIN A GROWING SCHOOL

GW Nursing continues to add faculty and professional staff as its programs expand and faculty support is enhanced. Since early spring, seven new faculty have come on board and 14 additional staff positions have been filled.

### Acute and Chronic Care Community

**Cynthia Allen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC**, is an assistant professor teaching in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program. She has been a nurse practitioner for over 22 years and has practiced in settings such as family medicine, telehealth, pediatrics, school-based health clinics, occupational health, rural health and cardiothoracic surgery. She comes to GW from the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Jackie Bateman, DNP, RN**, clinical assistant professor, has worked in a variety of settings from med/surg to trauma critical care. Over the past 15 years, she has been a nurse educator in academic and teaching hospital settings as well as

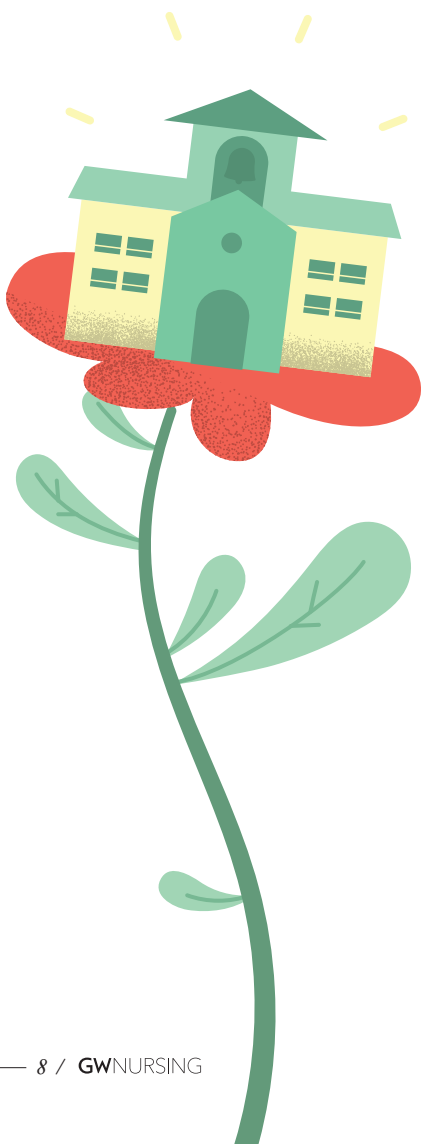
for NCLEX preparation courses. She is a certified hospice and palliative care nurse and is actively involved with the Hospital and Palliative Care Nurses Association.

**Crystel Farina, MSN, RN**, joins GW Nursing as the school's second simulation director. She received an RN degree from the Chesapeake College Macqueen Gibbs Willis School of Nursing, a BSN and an MSN from Wilmington University and is currently working on a PhD from Notre Dame of Maryland University. While at Chesapeake College, Ms. Farina championed an initiative to incorporate simulation into the nursing program.

**Janice J. Hoffman, PhD, RN, ANEF**. Dr. Hoffman is profiled on page 13.

### Policy, Populations and Systems Community

**Sainfer Aliyu, RN, MEd, PhD**, is a clinical assistant professor teaching in the GW Nursing and MedStar Washington Hospital Center Washington Squared program. She earned a PhD in nursing from Columbia University and was previously at Adelphi University. Dr. Aliyu is a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow and UnitedHealth Group scholar whose research includes assessment of risk factors and outcomes of bloodstream infection, specifically community- and



hospital-acquired infections and their effects on length of stay and mortality.

**Carol Braungart, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC**, joins GW Nursing as an assistant professor and director of the FNP program, one of the largest FNP programs in the nation. Dr. Braungart served previously as the graduate program director at the Sage Colleges in Troy, New York, and is a board-certified acute care nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner. She has been part-time faculty for GW Nursing since 2012; her practice is with Capital Care Medical Group.

**Mercedes Echevarria, DNP, APNC.** Dr. Echevarria is profiled on page 14.

## Staff

- + **Dianne Alston** joins the school as the coordinator of the Policy, Populations and Systems Community. She came to GW Nursing last summer as temporary staff and has extensive experience in administration in both academia and government agencies. Ms. Alston earned a bachelor's degree and paralegal certificate from Georgetown University.
- + **Katie Brakefield**, Office of the Dean administrative assistant at VSTC, graduated from Sewanee: The University of the South and moved to D.C. to serve as press assistant for the Senate Budget Committee and then deputy press secretary for U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions, now attorney general. She began her career in higher education as an admissions counselor for Washington and Lee University.
- + **Patsy Deyo**, formerly the clinical placement manager, is now the manager in the Office of Academic Affairs. A graduate of the GW Nurse Leadership Management program, she works closely with the program deans and the senior associate dean for academic affairs to maintain the integrity and quality of all programs.
- + **Jordan Jones**, program coordinator for the Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement, was previously an associate at the Center for American Progress and at the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. She holds a master's degree in gender, policy and inequalities from the London School of Economics and Political Science.
- + **Colleen Kennedy** is the clinical placement coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. She comes to GW Nursing from the Metropolitan School for the Arts in Alexandria, Va., where she was managing director. Ms. Kennedy is also a GW adjunct instructor, teaching courses in interpersonal communication.
- + **Sydney Law**, an Acute and Chronic Care Community manager, worked with Medical Faculty Associates, a GW affiliate organization. She is an American College of Healthcare Executives member and served on the GW Hospital Quality Improvement team. Ms. Law is completing her master's in health care administration at Seton Hall University.
- + **Eva Martinez** is also an Acute and Chronic Care Community coordinator. She has over 30 years of experience in administrative assistant roles, including a 27-year stint supporting the Math Department chair at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. While there, she was awarded two meritorious employee service awards for outstanding contributions.
- + **Natalia Mikheeva** has transitioned to the role of coordinator in the Acute and Chronic Care Community. Before assuming this position, she supported the Virginia Science and Technology Campus GW Nursing campus as an administrative assistant.
- + **Janice Ouellette** is the BSN program associate. She previously was a government grants program coordinator at the Northern Virginia Community College Geospatial Technology Department, managed higher education exchange programs with Russia and the United States and served as a U.S. Department of Commerce international program specialist.
- + **Cortni Romaine**, Office of Research program associate, is a certified institutional review board professional who has worked in the field at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and at Saint Louis University. She is currently pursuing a PhD in translational health sciences at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences.
- + **Srijana Silwal** is the school's senior financial analyst. She has over 10 years of experience and, prior to joining GW, was a senior financial analyst at the American Red Cross. She has an MBA from Strayer University and a degree in business management from Nepal's Tribhuvan University.
- + **Anthony Spatola** is the director of enrollment management. Previously, he was the associate director of recruitment and admissions at GW School of Engineering and Applied Science. In 2015, he received the GW Shenkman Award for Innovation in Faculty and Staff Development for his work in integrating career services and recruitment processes.
- + **Katie Whitman**, a multimedia producer in the Office of Online Learning and Instructional Design, brings to the school her expertise in graphic design, print and video production, web design and art direction. She was a graphics and video coordinator at Johns Hopkins University and has a bachelor's degree in visual communication design from Stevenson University.
- + **Christine Yeh** is the MSN program associate. She recently returned to the area from New York, where she had worked as an academic adviser at the New School, Parsons School of Design. Her interests range from higher education and social justice to counseling and architectural design. [GW](#)

# TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN: THROUGH EDUCATION, PRACTICE, RESEARCH AND POLICY

*By Andrew Fraught and Lynn Schultz-Writsel*





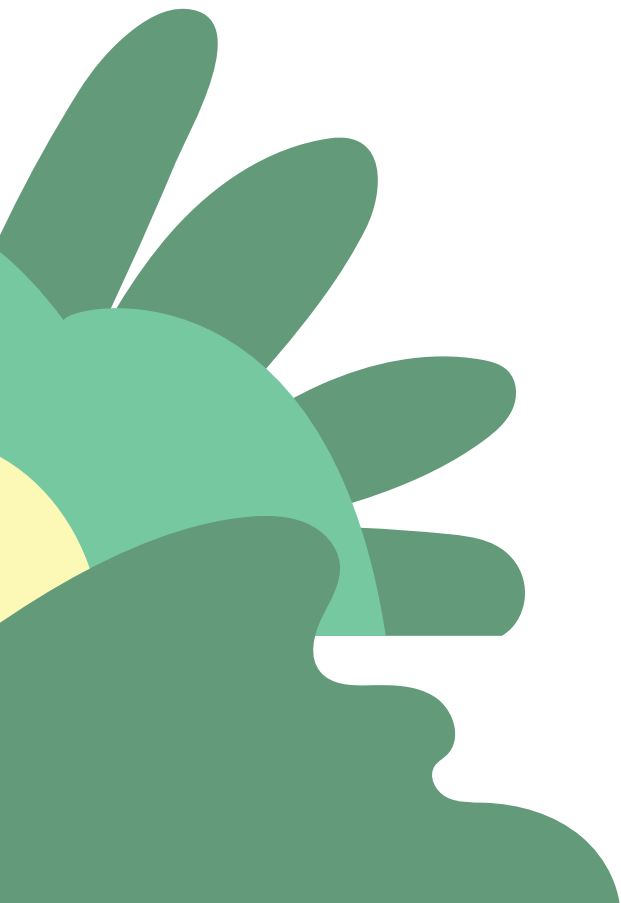
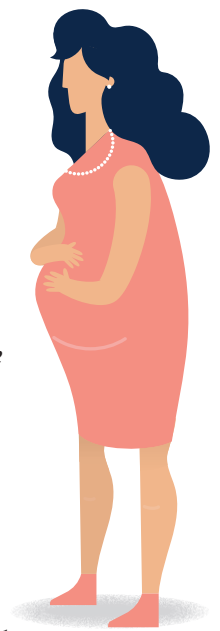
**N**ursing, the profession frequently cited as the heart, backbone and soul of health care, touches and improves more lives each day than any other health profession. Throughout one's life, from beginning to end, nurses are there at every step of the way. They help to celebrate the joyous moments of birth, care for growing children and families, offer guidance for healthy adults and ease the sorrow at the end of life. And we trust them with our care.

Known since the days of Florence Nightingale as the field of compassionate "caregivers," the nursing profession today has been ranked in Gallup polls for 15 consecutive years as the profession the American public believes has the highest honesty and ethical standards. That trust is carried from the bedside to the surgical suite, from the school nurse's office to the board room and from the researcher's environment to the halls of higher education. At every stage of life and around the world, nurses are there to care, heal, advise, research and teach—and GW Nursing faculty, students and alumni are among them.

## MIDWIFERY AND CHILDBIRTH

*In a developing country where 65 percent of children suffer from anemia, GW nursing and midwifery students talk to Haitian maternity care providers to explore an important practice that can help reduce infant anemia.*

After a baby is born, waiting to cut the umbilical cord can provide as much as 30 percent more blood volume to the newborn. This blood contains iron that is critical to newborn health and can help reduce the incidence of anemia. "It's become common to cut the umbilical cord as soon as the baby is born, but this is not in their best interests," Assistant Professor Mayri Leslie said. "We need to wait until it finishes its job, which is to transfer the rest of babies' blood supply from the placenta to them."



Dr. Leslie, who is director of the GW Nursing MSN concentration in nurse-midwifery, directed a team of faculty and student researchers who interviewed 60 Haitian doctors and midwives about how they took care of the infant's umbilical cord at birth. They were specifically asked about the timing of cord clamping and how they learned about it. Back in the U.S., Dr. Leslie brought in additional students to work on the qualitative analysis of the interviews.

The school's nurse-midwifery concentration, provided in collaboration with Shenandoah University, stresses the integration of research and nurse-midwifery practice with a strong emphasis on women's health throughout the life span, including pregnancy and birth, gynecology, family planning and primary care. GW Nursing graduates and other nurse-midwives have a major role in solving the critical shortage of maternity care providers in the U.S. The national Institute of Medicine has recommended that this role be expanded to continue improvement of primary care services for women in rural and inner-city areas.

## PEDIATRICS

*A family in a rural American state—where 18 percent live below the poverty line and 24.6 percent are children under the age of 13—receives care through a collaboration of nurses and other health care professionals.*

In the southern and most rural section of West Virginia, GW Nursing alumna Laure Marino, DNP '16, a clinical assistant professor at West Virginia University, launched an innovative and fully integrated primary care center within a behavioral health center. "The center was a nurse-led model, the first of its kind in the state," she said of the effort, which expanded access to care for the 7,000 clients of the center. Her interdisciplinary team included nurses, social workers, clinical psychologists, physicians and pharmacists who promoted wellness and managed acute and chronic medical issues.

## FAMILY HEALTH

*Student nurses at a seven-week residential camp in Madison, Va., tend to the health care needs of vulnerable campers from underserved areas of Washington, D.C.*

Working with the nonprofit AnBryce Foundation, GW Nursing created an opportunity for accelerated BSN students supervised by seven faculty members to provide health care for campers at Camp Dogwood, a residential summer academy in Madison, Va. The faculty serve as the camp nurses and educate students on their role, including physical assessment, medication administration, first aid, community assessment, patient education and how to come up with creative solutions to address health problems, such as making an asthma inhaler spacer out of a toilet paper roll. One supervisor, Assistant Professor Karen Dawn, described the experience as a "unique clinical opportunity that allows students to work independently with campers and really delve into the nursing role in the pediatric and community health settings; they even had an opportunity to feed a baby calf each night."

## THE HEALTHY ADULT

*At the GW School of Nursing, faculty ensure their programs and courses focus on health promotion, making sure that people are well and remain healthy, preventing hospital stays and chronic illness.*

"Nurses spend more time with patients than a physician. We bring that holistic approach," said GW Nursing Dean Pamela Jeffries, emphasizing that the GW undergraduate and nurse practitioner programs highlight that approach. "Besides health promotion—or stressing healthy lifestyles and primary care—our nurses are also being trained to recognize social

determinants, such as poverty and cultural differences, in patients of all ages. There are economic reasons why some patients don't receive the same treatment; maybe they can't afford the medications they need. Those are the kinds of variables that we need to look at in educating new nurses."

Assistant Professor Carol Braungart, who recently joined the GW Nursing faculty as the director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program, and her colleague Assistant Clinical Professor Ellen Farrell, director of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program, emphasize patient-centered care in their well-rounded programs that meet and exceed today's American Academy of Colleges of Nursing guidelines. The primary care specialty offers nurses the ability to specialize in caring for geriatric patients along with adult patients. "Patients 65 and older will soon account for 20 percent of the population. Health care providers will need to be well prepared to care for this increasing demographic. The specialized education we provide will be imperative in providing specialized care to meet the multiple complex needs of patients, families and caregivers," said Dr. Farrell.

Nursing education has come a long way in training students to work in adult health promotion and illness prevention. Many of the early hospital-based programs focused only on pediatrics. "Students had no experience with adults," said Patricia D'Antonio, an internationally recognized nursing historian and professor in mental

“  
Our nurses are also being trained to recognize social determinants, such as poverty and cultural differences, in patients of all ages.”

—Dean Pamela Jeffries

health nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. “It was not seen as a well-rounded professional nursing education. The quality varied from excellent training schools to training schools that provided a very limited experience. Training nurses to care for patients across the life span wasn’t even a consideration at the turn of the 20th century, when hospitals set their own care standards and groomed nurses—primarily in pediatrics—by those standards.”

“The school’s academic programs and related research must meet the educational needs of current and future nurses, who will be instrumental in transforming the health of the nation,” said Professor Janice Hoffman, the school’s new senior associate dean for academic affairs. “It is vital that we graduate nurses who have the skills to be lifelong learners, with critical reading and thinking skills as well as the ability to evaluate the quality of the evidence of the sources of data.”



## NEW SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN TO LEAD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Professor Janice J. Hoffman joined GW Nursing in July, having previously held the position of associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Missouri School of Nursing. With over 38 years of nursing experience, Dr. Hoffman has taught in undergraduate, graduate, associate and diploma nursing programs, and has served in staff development positions in acute care and military facilities. An experienced academic administrator, she also has held positions as assistant dean of the BSN program and vice chair of organizational systems and adult health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

“I am really excited about working with the exceptional faculty and staff at GW Nursing as we prepare registered nurses at all levels to address the many health care needs of our citizens,” said Dr. Hoffman. Her expertise in academic acute care nursing, new graduate transition, preceptor development and clinical decision-making will support those efforts. Her work in new graduate nurse transition included serving as the director for the design and implementation of the Johns Hopkins Hospital’s SPRING Program as well as the implementation of a residency program at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Dr. Hoffman was selected to serve on the panel that developed the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Practice Transition Accreditation Program and she also has served on the advisory boards for several acute care hospitals’ nurse residency programs. Dr. Hoffman was recently awarded the Sigma Theta Tau 2017 Capstone International Book Award for her book, *Medical-Surgical Nursing—Making Connections to Practice*.

She is a retired United States Navy Nurse Corps captain and holds a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, a master of science in nursing education from California State University, Fresno, and a PhD in nursing from the University of Maryland. [gw](http://www.gwu.edu)



Dr. Janice Hoffman

# ADULT/FAMILY/PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER IS NEW LEADER OF DNP PROGRAMS



Dr. Mercedes Echevarria

Associate Professor Mercedes Echevarria has been named the GW Nursing assistant dean for DNP Programs. She joins the faculty and leadership from Rutgers University, where she was associate dean of advanced practice nursing. "This is an exciting and transformational time to join a great faculty," said Dr. Echevarria. "I look forward to leading the school in its commitment to a high-quality DNP program that can sustain growth for GW Nursing and contribute to the school's continued success."

Her research and clinical interests include improvement of health outcomes with an emphasis on pediatric populations, childhood developmental surveillance and screening, childhood obesity, DNP program outcomes and advanced nursing practice. While maintaining full-time faculty

and administrative responsibilities at Rutgers, she sustained an active practice as a nurse practitioner and remains active in a clinical setting as an advanced practice nurse at a nurse-managed federally qualified health center in Newark, N.J.

Dr. Echevarria is a fellow of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)—Wharton Executive Leadership Program and AACN's Leadership for Academic Nursing Program.

She earned a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Rutgers University and both a master's degree in nursing and doctor of nursing practice from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She has earned post-master's certificates as a family nurse practitioner and as a pediatric nurse practitioner from Rutgers University. [GW](#)

## AGING AND END-OF-LIFE

*Older, isolated residents in our nation's capital join a group call with a nursing student and faculty. After each participant shares about their week, the student engages them on issues of the day, health problems, online learning courses and tips for housing, transportation or computer needs.*

Geriatrics was recognized as a medical specialty in the 1940s, but it has risen to greater importance in the past 20 years as Baby Boomers outnumber other generational cohorts. GW Nursing Assistant Professor Beverly Lunsford was part of an effort that in 2015 integrated

gerontology into the core graduate courses at GW Nursing. The move, which matched similar challenges at nursing programs around the country, was in large part fueled by the lack of primary care providers for older adults.

Dr. Lunsford, who also is the director of the university's Center for Aging, Health and Humanities, is participating in a World Health Organization effort to make communities more "age friendly." With funding from the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP), she and her students led group telephone calls with older adults to engage them and reduce isolation. The goal of the project, "Voices of Wisdom," was to reach untended elderly patients, including those with dementia, who face fall risks and nutritional issues caused by poor eating habits. "Loneliness and isolation in older adults is a major health risk for physical decline and death. An age-friendly community can help engage an older adult in safe and

meaningful ways," Dr. Lunsford said.

The university's Geriatrics and Palliative Care Curriculum, which Dr. Lunsford helped create, fosters an integrated geriatric palliative approach that puts older adults and their families at the center of care. Developed through the center, it provides six online modules to educate registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, occupational and physical therapists, physicians and physician assistants. The modules focus on compassionate end-of-life care, collaboration among health care professionals, better communication with patients and their families and taking a multidimensional approach to easing suffering by incorporating psychological, social and spiritual aspects of health.





## POLICY AND EDUCATION FOR ALL THE AGES

*Just blocks from the White House and close to Capitol Hill, nursing leaders focus on health care policies that improve the quality of life for all ages.*

“The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” the groundbreaking and policy-influencing Institute of Medicine/Robert Wood Johnson 2011 study, remains a critical road map for the profession. Calling for nurses to take on an increased leadership role, including the creation of health care policy and expanding educational opportunities for advanced practice nurses, the report is only the beginning. Sue Hasmyler, the study director and a senior adviser for nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is now focused on continuing to improve how nurses are educated and is developing a nationwide cross-generational culture of health. Dr. Hasmyler highlights organizations such as the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition and Healthy Wisconsin as examples of successful initiatives.

“I’m telling nurses, ‘these are our roots,’” she said. “If you go back to Florence Nightingale or Lillian Wald, who worked in New York’s Lower East Side with immigrants, that’s what nurses—public health nurses—did. I have called on all nurses to do this in a very big way now.”

Such efforts also align with GW Nursing’s call to action: From Practice to Policy. Dr. Jeffries and her colleagues use their proximity to decision-makers in Washington to advocate for their profession and for health care and to educate students and nurses on the value of advocacy. In her outreach to health care policymakers, Dr. Jeffries promotes the role of nursing and, in turn, encourages nurses to be “at the table” when that policy is being developed. She recently attended the Senate caucus on nursing education, an event that echoes the “Future of Nursing” report in calling for an increased emphasis on nurses’ roles, responsibilities and education in the policy arena.

Nurse advocates such as GW Nursing alumna Dr. Laure Marino are leading localized initiatives that expand the role of the nurse practitioner. In West Virginia, Dr. Marino pushed for legislation that would allow nurse practitioners—not just physicians—to treat opioid addiction with buprenorphine, a medication that helps suppress symptoms of opioid withdrawal while decreasing cravings for the drug. She also successfully advocated to remove West Virginia’s collaborative practice agreement, which required nurse practitioners to have a “paper agreement” with a doctor to prescribe medications. Today, nurse practitioners with more than three years of practice can prescribe drugs without such an agreement. “Physicians could just refuse to sign these collaborative agreements, and in some counties, there were simply no physicians available for collaboration. The legislation removes a significant practice barrier,” said Dr. Marino.

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These opportunities to learn, practice, conduct important clinical research and advocate for the profession are just a few examples of how GW Nursing students, faculty and alumni are transforming health care and health care education across the life span. They make significant contributions to the well-being and health of the nation—and the world—through practice, research, education and policy.

Chelsea Rohrer-Dann, a GW Nursing alumna, described the school, its programs and faculty best: “GW was the right choice for me because the professors were so overwhelmingly positive and supportive from day one. As someone who was changing careers, I was inspired by the work they’d done and continually reassured that I had made the right decision in joining the nursing profession. They are still a great source of support and advice as I advance in my new career as a nurse.”<sup>GW</sup>

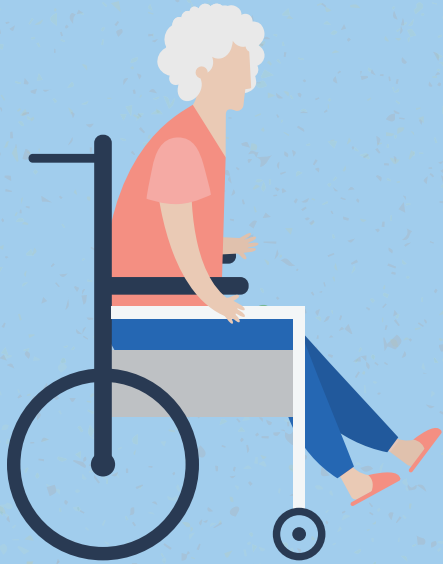
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To learn more, visit [nursing.gwu.edu/academics](https://nursing.gwu.edu/academics).

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**DEAN JEFFRIES PROMOTES THE ROLE OF NURSING AND, IN TURN, ENCOURAGES NURSES TO BE “AT THE TABLE”.**





## *AGING CENTER OFFERS EDUCATION, SUPPORT TO CAREGIVERS, FAMILIES AND PATIENTS*

Innovative continuing education is the hallmark of regional programs created by the faculty scholars of the GW Center for Aging, Health and Humanities. The interprofessional team representing the School of Nursing, School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Milken Institute School of Public Health at GW collaborates in engaging health care providers, families and other caregivers to learn about the care of older adults and to then provide leadership to teach others.

Through a well-known local program, the D.C. Area Geriatric Education Center Consortium, the center has developed curriculums and provided more than 715 hours of continuing education to more than 4,545 practicing health care professionals over the past five years. The aging center's director, Beverly Lunsford, said these programs teach a person-centered approach to care, using the mantra, "the older adult is a person with potential and not just a health care problem to solve."

The center's use of experiential and interactive education is particularly innovative in employing the creative arts and all types of media to reach audiences, advocate for elders and help others bring meaning to the experience of aging.

The interactive theater production "Tangles" is one such program. Using an ensemble of professional actors and musicians, the story is told through the eyes of Tyler, a 16-year-old girl, and follows a family as its members come to terms with their evolving roles as caregivers for an aging relative with cognitive impairment and as navigators of a complex health care system. The theater production is followed by discussions about finding creative solutions and new paths of empowerment for patients, providers and families.

"Tangles" has been presented at venues such as rehearsal halls, local assisted living facilities and health care conferences and forums, and it has been seen by more than 1,400 federal and state directors of aging programs.

The center also builds collaborations that improve home- and community-based care through research projects and clinical innovations. Last year's community needs assessment for the D.C. Office of Aging was awarded to the center. Faculty scholars developed the research protocol, disseminated survey information, analyzed data and prepared the report. "We are currently determining funding opportunities to address some of the key recommendations from this project and report," said Dr. Lunsford. In their most recent project, the scholars are conducting research designed to reduce social isolation in homebound older adults by engaging them in telephone groups every two weeks. [GW](#)

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For more information about the center, go to [nursing.gwu.edu/AgingCenter](https://nursing.gwu.edu/AgingCenter).

# 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.

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

- + Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- + Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- + RN to BSN
- + RN to BSN/MSN
  - » Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - » Family Nurse Practitioner
  - » Nurse Midwifery

## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

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

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

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

## Certificates

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

## GW SON VOICES

*"I chose the GW MSN-FNP program because I had such a wonderful experience in my ABSN program here... The GW name in the D.C. nursing/medical community is very well respected...making clinical rotations easier and really carrying a lot of weight when applying for jobs outside of the D.C. area."*

—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."*

—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.

## APPLY NOW

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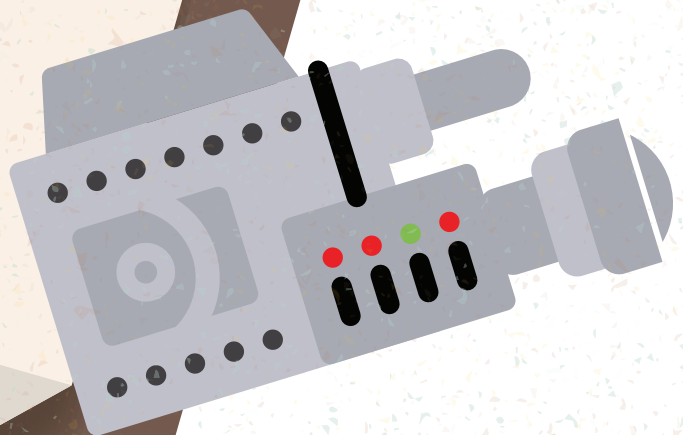
### Graduate Programs

1919 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 500, Washington, D.C., 20006, 202-994-7901

### Undergraduate Programs

Innovation Hall, 45085 University Dr., Ste. 201, Ashburn, VA, 20147, 571-553-4498

# INTRODUCING: A CADRE OF HEALTH POLICY AND MEDIA INFLUENCERS



**A dean, a scholar, a poet,  
an artist, a researcher,  
a reporter and an  
advocate have at least one  
achievement in common—  
all are senior fellows at the  
new GW Nursing Center  
for Health Policy and  
Media Engagement.**

Each fellow has interests and ambitious projects that are consistent with the center's mission to advance policy and public health through education, research, media and public forums. All bring significant expertise to the table and are pursuing important projects on a variety of health policy and media topics.

Through hands-on opportunities facilitated by the center, the fellows work to influence policy and engage the media, with the goal of integrating science and the arts to advance the health of populations. As fellows, they receive advice and mentoring from the members of the GW Nursing National Advisory Council. They continue meeting their full-time professional responsibilities during their fellowship, distribute their work and findings through new and traditional media, mentor one another and serve as advisers to the center on issues pertaining to communication, leadership and policy.

**+ Eve Adler, MA, RN, [1]** is an associate dean in the Health Sciences Department at Santa Monica College (SMC) and is a registered yoga teacher. She is committed to providing opportunities for education and personal expression to underserved populations interested in health and self-care. Ms. Adler works strategically and collaboratively with the SMC Communications and Media Studies Department, the Public Policy Institute, the Modern Languages Department and community-based Integrative Health Practitioners Program to broadcast the voices and issues of the underserved across multiple media platforms. Her work influences health policy by bringing the power of health care advocacy to the grassroots

movements of communities in West Los Angeles. [@eveadler](#)

**+ Kenya V. Beard, EdD, AGACNP-BC, NP-C, CNE, ANEF, [2]** is a 2012 Josiah Macy Faculty Scholar, an associate professor at City University of New York School of Professional Studies and a faculty scholar for the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Educators in Health Professions. She is the founding director of the Center for Multicultural Education and Health Disparities and a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Beard, a social justice advocate, recognizes the difficult yet critical dialogues needed to address health inequities. Her Multicultural Education Training workshops have built the capacity of hundreds of educators and health care providers and given them the requisite skills to combat health care disparities, create inclusive learning environments and facilitate race-related dialogues. She is currently exploring unconscious bias and the extent to which it affects the ability of health care providers to align discipline-specific values with actions and advance health equity policies.

**+ MK Czerwiec, MA, RN, [3]** is the artist-in-residence at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine, where she focuses on graphic medicine, end-of-life care and caregiving support. Ms. Czerwiec is exploring ways comics can contribute to public health policy and improve end-of-life care. Her work spearheads innovative communication methods for health messaging that amplify the narratives of those living with illness and the caregiving that positively impacts policy implementation. She co-manages [GraphicMedicine.org](#) and is currently on a speaking tour for her book, *Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371*. See her website, [comicnurse.com](#). [@comicnurse](#)

**+ Joy Jacobson, MFA, [4]** is the poet-in-residence at the GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement. Her poems have appeared in *Smartish Pace*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Examined Life* and other journals. She was a winner of *Health Affairs* 2015 Narrative Matters Poetry Contest, and her journalism has been recognized

by the Association of Health Care Journalists, the Association for Women in Communications and the American Society for Healthcare Publication Editors. In 2016, her essay on using poetry in nursing education appeared in the anthology *Keeping Reflection Fresh: A Practical Guide for Clinical Educators*. At Hunter College, where she co-founded a program in writing for health care professionals, she co-created an academic writing curriculum for undergraduate and graduate nursing students. She has led workshops in poetry and narrative writing for interprofessional clinicians, clinical and humanities faculty, nurse managers, and cancer survivors and their siblings. She has previously had residencies at Vermont Studio Center, the MacDowell Colony and Helene Wurlitzer Foundation. Ms. Jacobson was the managing editor of the *American Journal of Nursing* for 10 years. [@joyjaco](#)

**+ Carole R. Myers PhD, RN, [5]** is an associate professor in the University of Tennessee-Knoxville College of Nursing with a joint appointment in the university's Department of Public Health. She coordinates interdisciplinary graduate health policy courses and a graduate certificate in health policy. Dr. Myers' research centers on policymaking and health services with an emphasis on access to care, TennCare, public health programs and advanced practice registered nurses. She was a 2012 American Advocacy Institute Fellow and is a strong advocate for access to high-quality, cost-effective care. Dr. Myers has received the TN-PAC Advocacy Award, the Nurse Practitioner Advocate State Award for Excellence from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the Tennessee Nurses Association Louise Browning Political Nurse Award. She frequently writes and speaks to professional and community groups about the Affordable Care Act and other aspects of national health care reform. Dr. Myers served as co-chair of the Tennessee Scope of Practice legislative task force and has recently been leading discussions on the transformation of health care and the role of APRNs and grassroots advocacy. She brings her health policy expertise

to the airwaves twice a month on NPR's *Morning News* at 91.9 FM WUOT in Knoxville. [@TNpolyncurse](#)

**+ Liz Seegert, MA, [6]** is the director of the Media Fellows Program at the GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement. She has spent more than 30 years reporting and writing about health and other topics for print, digital and broadcast media. Her primary beats currently encompass aging, Baby Boomers, health policy and social determinants of health. She edits the aging topic area for the Association of Health Care Journalists website, writing and gathering resources on the many health issues affecting older adults. She also co-produces the GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement "HealthCetera" podcast, diving into health issues underreported in traditional media. As a senior fellow, she will continue

to report on vital public health issues, seeking out voices who offer unique perspectives on policy, health care and practice issues. As director of the Media Fellows Program at the center, she mentors early-career health journalists to build their understanding of these and other key issues within the health care delivery system. [@lseegert](#)

**+ Kristi Westphal, MSN, RN, PNP-PC, [7]** is a San Diego-based pediatric nurse practitioner with a passion for all things pediatric. She has been in the nursing profession for 15 years, with 11 years of PNP expertise in the areas of pediatric primary care, pediatric emergency health care, pediatric trauma and child abuse. Ms. Westphal will be producing for the Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement a series of elementary school-based health education podcasts

and will continue her work in radio with "HealthCetera." She currently serves as the legislative/health policy chair for the San Diego chapters of the National Association of Pediatric Nurses (NAPNAP) and the California Association of Nurse Practitioners, and she was recently honored as a 2017 National NAPNAP Advocacy Scholar. She anticipates completing her PhD in nursing from the University of San Diego in May 2018 and aspires to pursue post-doctoral education in the pediatric health policy research arena. Her research interests include child health promotion, social capital, health care access and use, home visitation and health disparities/social justice. [@k\\_westphal](#)

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For more about the Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement, visit [go.gwu.edu/PolicyFellows](http://go.gwu.edu/PolicyFellows).

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## NURSES: OUR VOICES HAVE VALUE

BY BARBARA GLICKSTEIN, MPH, MS, RN,  
GW NURSING CENTER FOR HEALTH  
POLICY AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

As nurses, we create innovative models of care and meet critical health care needs in communities across the United States. Our research findings contribute to the development of clinical guidelines and influence health policy. But we remain untapped "expert spokespersons" for the media, limiting the impact of nurses' contributions to advancing public health.

The media are the single most powerful tool at our disposal; they have the power to educate, effect social change and determine the policies and elections that shape our lives. Diversity of voices in the media landscape is critical to the health of our culture and democracy. Yet we tend not to position ourselves as experts, we don't take the initiative to pitch our work to media outlets and too often we underestimate the significance of our knowledge.

Nurses are rarely trained in the professional use of social media or how to manage interviews with journalists. These

skills are essential if nurses are to become more influential in the development of health policy and be a catalyst in the conversation about health care.

Compounding the issue, journalists rarely seek out nurses as expert sources, and nurses are historically underrepresented in the media. In 1997, "The Woodhull Study on Nursing and the Media: Health Care's Invisible Partner" documented that nurses were represented in health news stories in the leading print publications of the day less than 4 percent of the time and less than 1 percent of the time in trade publications such as *Modern Healthcare*.

Since it appears that few improvements have been made to those percentages since 1997, it's time to change the health care media conversations. Sharing our expertise begins with recognizing our voices have value. We have deep expertise based on our education and clinical and research experience. And we have powerful stories about health, illness and caregiving.

The GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement is committed to making this change and raising the visibility of nurses' expertise, perspectives and work. Developing informed and effective national health and social policies depends on it.

The center's Nurse Messenger

Media Training provides nurses with the knowledge, tools, skills and confidence necessary to participate in media coverage of health issues and to reach the public with our messages. The training is built around one key skill—strategic messaging. When nurses learn to identify the core information we want to convey and use basic techniques to ensure we get our points across, the possibilities for media exposure are endless.

The center is also embarking on a replication of the Woodhull study to see if nurses are better represented in today's health news coverage than they were 20 years ago when the original study was undertaken. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has provided a matching grant to assist the center in determining the extent to which there has been an improvement in nurses being used as sources in leading print media and to assess their representation in the changing media landscape. The study will also look at why journalists don't include nurses as sources in their stories more often.

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To learn more about Nurse Messenger Media Training, contact the GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement, [sonpolicy@gwu.edu](mailto:sonpolicy@gwu.edu).

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# WE'RE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED NURSES

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institution for 16  
years and still feel  
happy about being  
a nurse that says a lot  
about the institution.”*

**- Kathleen Firnbach, RN, ICU**

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# GW NURSING

AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

## NEW AND CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS, COALITIONS BRING GW NURSING PRACTICE TO DIVERSE AREA POPULATIONS

Community engagement and learning—GW Nursing values embodied by faculty, students and staff—are bringing much-needed health care to neighborhoods and patients in the Washington area. Through volunteerism, grant and fellowship projects and public service, faculty and their students are serving the young and old, the underserved and those suffering from chronic illness and disease.



### Reaching At-Risk Populations, Building Community Support

At the forefront of bringing health care and community support to transgender people and those living with HIV/AIDS are assistant professors **Erin Athey** and **Dana Hines**.

Dr. Athey, a nurse practitioner who has spent most of her career in Washington, D.C., is working to coordinate outreach initiatives that build community support and improve wellness for individuals experiencing chronic disease, including HIV/AIDS, in under-resourced areas of the city. She was recently awarded a three-year Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation Clinical Scholars fellowship, which she is

using to “move active, concerned clinicians out of the clinic and into the community.” Working jointly with another RWJ fellow, Nnemdi Elias at United Medical Center, Dr. Athey is focusing on improving population-level mental health for at-risk populations in Southeast D.C.

As a recently appointed member of the D.C. Department of Health Transgender Work Group, Dr. Hines is exploring how the department can work with community partners to build a system of care across the region for transgender persons of color and men who have sex with men. In Alexandria, Va., she serves on the city’s Commission on HIV/AIDS, advising the city council on the formulation and implementation of AIDS treatment and prevention policy, encouraging citizen participation in the formulation of such policy, providing the council and the public with current information about the disease and promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, treatment and prevention educational programs.



### Caring for the Young, Serving the Elderly

Professor **Joyce Pulcini** and Assistant Professors **Beverly Lunsford**, **Ashley Darcy-Mahoney** and **Karen Dawn** bring GW Nursing to area patients across the life span.

Through the support of grants from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the Rodham Institute and partnerships with the National Association of School Nurses and the D.C. Asthma Coalition, Dr. Pulcini and colleagues are increasing collaborative asthma care for children in the area. The projects facilitate better asthma outcomes and identify ways to increase communication and collaboration among families, children, school nurses, primary care providers

and asthma agencies. Dr. Pulcini works also to increase use by providers of a standardized Asthma Action Plan template that improves the consistency of evidence-based primary care in schools and other settings and data sharing. The template augments stakeholders’ ability to communicate information about risk factors such as medications and poor air quality and helps plan effective interventions for asthmatic children with their families.

Working with a multiagency initiative, Dr. Darcy-Mahoney is improving health and social outcomes for the youngest members of the community and their parents. Through “Talk With Me Baby,” she researches early-childhood outcomes for these infants, most recently through language interventions that enhance future literacy and cognitive development. As an RWJ Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar—and with her most recent grant from the foundation—she is expanding her work and comparing developmental trajectories of children raised in a bilingual environment to those raised in a monolingual environment.

Dr. Lunsford, director of the GW Nursing Center for Aging, Health and Humanities, has had a long association with those who serve the area’s aging and elderly. She provides education on geriatric and gerontology topics for health care professionals practicing in the community, including those at the D.C. Villages service organizations that help older adults stay in their homes. She also chairs the D.C. Falls Free Coalition, which conducts an annual Falls Awareness Day at wellness centers hosted by the D.C. Office on Aging and other sites that serve older adults. Her colleague, Dr. Dawn, helps undergraduate community health nursing students organize community health fairs



to provide education and checkups for older adults. Students also undertook a needs assessment on falls prevention by using population health interventions for reducing falls in community-dwelling older adults. They conducted a sidewalk tour and documented problem areas in the community environment that could be improved to reduce falls.

### **Educating Homeless Women, Continuing to Serve**

In Washington's Anacostia neighborhood, Dr. Dawn and accelerated BSN students in the Community Health course lead weekly health-oriented discussions with the residents of the Calvary Women's Services. Health topics addressed over the past three years include heart disease, diabetes, women's health, addiction and recovery, and stress. "The students find the program so beneficial to their community service work and to the women that many volunteer at the center after graduation," said Dr. Dawn.

### **Making House Calls, Bringing Care to the Underserved**

Clinical Assistant Professor **Lynn Farrell** brings back house calls through her practice, Gericalls LLC. In Maryland's Montgomery and Calvert counties, she provides primary care in the homes of patients who are homebound and therefore have difficulty accessing health care services. She also volunteers each month with Mission of Mercy, an organization that provides clinical services in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Dr. Farrell practices in their mobile van in Maryland, helping to bring free health care, free dental care and free prescription medications to the uninsured, underinsured and those she describes as patients who "fall through the cracks" of the health care system. [GW](#)

## *NURSES RAISE THEIR VOICES: 'DO NO HARM'*

Excerpts from a "HealthCetera" post written by Professor Joyce Pulcini with contributions from BSN students Kari Deakins and Jennifer Kanelos.

On Thursday, June 22, a group of health care professionals and students in white coats descended on Capitol Hill to protest the proposed American Health Care Act (AHCA).

The vehemence with which this group expressed their displeasure with the bill was refreshing. We heard physician after physician speak of the horrors and dangers of having no insurance, the consequences of which we all have seen in many patients who deserve better. Possible victims include: elderly patients in nursing homes, whose costs represent 42 percent of Medicaid spending (nursing home residents account for about 6 percent of Medicaid enrollees); women seeking gynecological care; pregnant women whose pregnancy may now be defined as a pre-existing condition; children on Medicaid, which accounts for 40 percent of children in the U.S.; and disabled individuals living in facilities covered by Medicaid. *All will be vulnerable.*

The group continued to voice the mantra, "Do no harm." GW Nursing students who attended the briefing share their reactions about attending:

#### **KARI DEAKINS:**

"As a student, it was very inspiring to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with providers of the interdisciplinary team to share our disagreement with the new AHCA... We must be vigilant and active as students to protect our patients and those that need our help, and as we move into our practice and nursing careers, we must remain proactive in the advocacy of our patients."

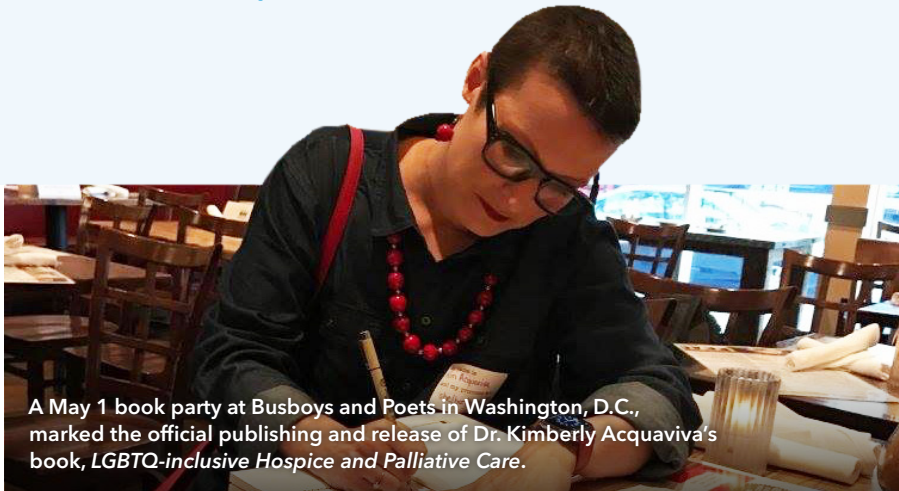
#### **JENNIFER KANELOS:**

"From day one at GW Nursing, we learn to provide patient-centered care focused on evidence-based research. The facts are unequivocal; denying millions of people health coverage, like the AHCA would do, will have devastating results on our ability to provide care for those that need it most... Energized by the passion and commitment of the speakers and elected officials, I became a health care advocate that day. I look forward to a lifetime of speaking out on behalf of my patients, working toward a more perfect union and maybe even one day asking for your vote." [GW](#)



From left to right: GW BSN students Kari Deakins and Jennifer Kanelos, and Professor Joyce Pulcini

# Faculty, Student and Staff News



A May 1 book party at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C., marked the official publishing and release of Dr. Kimberly Acquaviva's book, *LGBTQ-inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care*.

## GW Nursing Professor Authors 'Groundbreaking' Book

Professor Kimberly Acquaviva, a nationally known authority on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, queer and/or questioning (LGBTQ) aging and end-of-life issues, is the author of a new tool for hospice and palliative care.

*LGBTQ-inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care*, a first-of-its-kind handbook, provides strategies for health care, social work and counseling professionals who want to better serve LGBTQ patients and families.

In 2015, Harrington Park Press approached Dr. Acquaviva about the possibility of writing a book on the topic. Dr. Acquaviva recalled, "I knew that if I wanted to transform hospice and palliative care for the LGBTQ community, I would need to write an accessible book that would give physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, social workers, counselors and chaplains a common framework for providing inclusive care to all patients and families, not just those who are LGBTQ."

To work on the book, Dr. Acquaviva took a six-month sabbatical from GW Nursing, where she serves as the school's first non-nurse tenured faculty member. "The biggest surprise for me wasn't about the topic, but rather the writing process. I didn't realize how hard it would be to write using plain language. Writing clearly and

concisely was much more difficult than I had anticipated. Now I can't imagine writing any other way," she said.

Dr. Acquaviva's first published book has been lauded by caregivers and families alike. Diane Meier, director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care, described it as "a groundbreaking road map to inclusive care delivery."

To complement the framework laid out in her book, Dr. Acquaviva created "The Assessment Tool for LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care," which care programs can download for free and use to audit their current policies and practices. She also launched "em dash", a podcast that explores people's experiences related to diversity in the health care arena.

In recognition of these efforts and her ongoing scholarship and teaching, Dr. Acquaviva received the Health Professional Leadership Award in April at the fifth annual LGBT Health Workforce Conference.

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Download the assessment tool at [lgbtq-inclusive.com/resources-and-checklists](http://lgbtq-inclusive.com/resources-and-checklists). The podcast is available at [em-dash-podcast.com](http://em-dash-podcast.com).

## Students, Colleagues Honor Faculty and Staff

The inaugural GW Nursing Faculty and Staff Awards ceremony, held during the school's annual end-of-year luncheon on May 19, recognized the accomplishments of six faculty and four staff members. The honorees demonstrated excellence in areas critical to the school's mission and values and were nominated by students and peers.

### Faculty Awards

➤ Clinical Education Instructor **Jackie Wavelet** received the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. In her nomination, one student said, "Ms. Wavelet goes the extra mile in ensuring we master content and has high expectations for us. She frequently takes time outside of class to meet one-on-one with us and hosts weekly review sessions. I am always excited to attend her class and just soak in as much insight from her as possible. I hope to become the type of nurse she is—always advocating for patients and practicing safely and intelligently."

➤ The faculty nominations for Assistant Professor **Majeda El-Banna**, who received the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, said she "has excelled at teaching and providing guidance to both graduate and undergraduate students, exemplifies nursing leadership in both [the] didactic and clinical world and is an asset to nursing education and the school." A student nominator wrote, "She has not only provided me with education but also taught me lifelong skills that I can use as a Doctor of Nursing Practice. She has prepared me to become an advocate for my patients and a leader in my community."



Majeda El-Banna, Jackie Wavelet, Pearl Zhou and Malinda Whitlow received 2017 Faculty Teaching Awards. Not pictured, Mary Doyle and Cathie Guzzetta.

+ The Excellence in Graduate Teaching by a Part-Time Faculty Award recipient, Clinical Professor **Cathie Guzzetta**, “went above and beyond working with me to complete my DNP final project,” said one student nominator. “As a clinical nurse and nurse practitioner for 34 years, the research realm required a large learning curve for me. She showed exceptional patience and focused on details to make sure that I completed my study to the best of my ability. She was also very quick to encourage and praise when it was warranted.”

+ Assistant Professor **Malinda Whitlow** was the recipient of the Excellence in Undergraduate Student Mentoring and Advising Award. “Dr. Whitlow empowers students to be successful and goes out of her way to make you feel comfortable and settled into a difficult program. Her office doors are always open to all students for advising. She makes each student feel important and accepted, and always makes time for students despite her hectic schedule,” said a student nominator.

+ One student who nominated Assistant Professor **Quiping “Pearl” Zhou** for the Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring and Advising Award said she “did not just advise me in my final DNP project, she also took the time to review every material and draft document I sent her and schedule telephone conferences. She was never afraid to explain her disagreements and offered an alternative path forward. There was never a time when I felt like I was on my own.”

+ **Mary Doyle**, the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Part-Time Faculty Award recipient, was unable to attend the event and was honored later.

### Staff Awards

+ “He is the definition of a good citizen” was how a nominator described Citizenship Award recipient **Justin Pohl**. The nominator added that although Mr. Pohl, special assistant to the dean, “has only been here for eight months, he has quickly made his mark as an exemplary staff member who consistently delivers high-quality customer service without breaking a sweat. Always pleasant, helpful, resourceful and eager to step in and do what’s necessary to get the job done, he models the values we want to see in the people we work with day in and day out.

+ The Excellence in Service Award went to Policy, Populations and Systems Community Manager **Joke Ogundiran**. A colleague said, “When I think of GW and service, Joke is definitely at the top of the list. Joke is a dedicated team member who can get the job done. Big or small task, it’s no match for Joke. Joke is truly a role model in service, both internally and externally. When working with her, she makes you feel as though that’s the most important

thing she is doing all day—and this is not an easy feat. Joke has truly mastered customer service in a way that others are constantly striving to attain.”

+ Two staff members shared the Impact Award: **Patsy Deyo**, academic affairs manager; and **Christina Johnson**, clinical placement liaison. Nominators said that Ms. Deyo “has made incredible contributions to streamlining and improving the clinical contract submission process. Her innovations have improved processes such that they benefit the school, the faculty and the students. She also has been indispensable in planning the nurse practitioner student on-campus events. She always projects a ‘can-do’ attitude.”

+ Ms. Johnson’s nomination said that she is GW Nursing’s “interface with clinical agencies, partners and units where nursing students complete their clinical rotations and has created numerous strategies to improve efficiency, including creating a scheduling system for students to register for clinical placements independently. Our clinical partners frequently commend her responsiveness, communication and collaboration. Her efficiency and effectiveness are matched by her positivity and kindness.” [GW](#)

2017 Staff Recognition Awards were given to Justin Pohl, Joke Ogundiran and Patsy Deyo. Not pictured, Christina Johnson.





Dean Pamela Jeffries and Joe Jeffries enjoy the outing and the Nationals' win.

## GW NURSING NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

The tickets sold out fast when faculty, students and staff signed up to see the Washington Nationals play the Atlanta Braves June 13 in Nationals Park. One hundred members of the GW Nursing family attended, and the Nationals, the top-ranked team in the National League East, won 10-5.



### AWARDS, HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- + Several GW Nursing faculty members were recognized with gold, silver and bronze medals by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the president of the United States for their volunteer work, including Professors **Kimberly Acquaviva** and **Angela McNelis**, Professor Emerita **Stephanie Wright**, Associate Dean **Billinda Tebbenhoff**, Associate Professors **Joyce Hahn** and **Karen Kesten**, Assistant Professor **Jess Calohan**, Clinical Assistant Professor **Ellen Farrell** and Instructor **Esther Emard**.
- + **Dr. Acquaviva** received the LGBT Health Professional Leadership Award from Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians in recognition of her efforts to promote the development of a health workforce responsive to the needs of LGBTQ communities.
- + Assistant Professor **Linda Briggs** received the GW Morton A. Bender Teaching Excellence Award and was selected for a three-year term as a

## Trending Now



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22 May 2017

Congrats to our own, now DOCTOR Becky Mance!  
#GWU #nursing #nurses #nursingschool #congrats #graduation

Fulbright specialist by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the U.S. Department of State.

- + Assistant Professor **Jess Calohan** was appointed to be an editorial board member for the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*.
- + Assistant Professor **Ashley Darcy-Mahoney** has been named a 2017 Macy Faculty Scholar. Only five people were selected from a national applicant pool of 84 talented medical and nursing educators. She was chosen because of her accomplishments to date and her future promise as an educational leader and innovator.
- + The Eastern Nursing Society has elected Assistant Professor **Majeda El-Banna** to serve on the nominating committee. Dr. El-Banna was also appointed a National League for Nursing (NLN) Ambassador for GW Nursing.
- + Assistant Professor **Cameron Hogg** was voted president-elect of the Nurse Practitioner Association of D.C. (NPADC). Dr. Linda Briggs and Associate Professor Sandra Davis also serve on the NPADC board.
- + In honor of her consistent advancement of the university's mission through her dedicated volunteer efforts, Professor and former Dean **Jean Johnson, PhD '93**, received the Jane Lingo Alumni Outstanding Service Award at the

56th Annual GW Alumni Outstanding Service Awards ceremony.

- + Associate Professor **Karen Kesten** and **Kenya Beard**, a senior policy fellow at the GW Nursing Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement, are among the 2017 American Academy of Nursing inductees.
- + **Dr. Kesten** has been appointed for a two-year term as chair of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation board of directors.
- + Assistant Professor **Mayri Leslie** was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Nurse-Midwives.
- + In May, two of GW Nursing's own graduated from GW. Clinical Instructor **Rebecca Mance** received a Doctor of Nursing Practice, and Marketing and Communications Assistant Director **Erin Julius** received a master's degree in strategic public relations.
- + Associate Professor **Christine Pintz** has been identified as an "innovation scholar" and has received a fellowship from the GW Innovation Hub. Dr. Pintz is developing for DNP students a course titled "Design Thinking."
- + The NLN has asked Assistant Professor **Rhonda Schwindt** to serve on its Strategic Action Group DNP Scholarly Project. The NLN has become aware

from discussions with members and a careful review of the literature that, in the evolving DNP movement, challenges with the final scholarly project continue. The action group was convened to consider approaches to assist faculty throughout the U.S. and to better support DNP students through the development, implementation and evaluation of the DNP scholarly project.

- + Assistant Professor **Gretchen Wiersma** successfully passed the Certified Nurse Educator examination.



## GRANTS AND FUNDING

- + Assistant Professor **Linda Briggs** has received a Sigma Theta Tau Phi Epsilon Chapter grant to support her study, "The Effect of Requiring New Graduate Nurse Practitioner Collaboration in Full Practice Authority States."
- + Assistant Professor **Majeda El-Banna** and Associate Professors **Laurie Posey** and **Christine Pintz** received the \$25,000 NLN Dorothy Otto Research Award to conduct the study, "Mindset-enhanced E-learning to Improve Medication Calculation." A Sigma Theta Tau Phi Epsilon Chapter grant was also awarded to support



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3 Jul 2017

Some of our #BSN & #FNP students landed in #Haiti this weekend for a weeklong medical mission in partnership with @GWSMHS! #GWU #nursing



GW School of Nursing  
@gwNURSING  
10 Aug 2017

#tbt When our students went to #Haiti to help provide #healthcare earlier this summer! #throwback #nursing @GWSMHS

the study. Drs. El-Banna and Pintz, with Professor **Joyce Pulcini**, also received funding for the third year to conduct “University Seminars: Innovations in Interprofessional Health Care Education.”

- + Associate Professor **Ashley Darcy-Mahoney** and her team have won a grand prize of \$75,000 in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Research Service Administration’s Bridging the Word Gap Challenge for their “Háblame Bebé” project, the Spanish-language version of “Talk With Me Baby.”
- + Assistant Professor **Asefeh Faraz**, Research Instructor **Ed Salsberg** and Senior Research Associate **Leo Quigley** received the inaugural GW Nursing research funding grant to conduct the study, “Understanding and Tracking the Nurse Practitioner Job Market: Pilot Testing a Survey of New Nurse Practitioners.”
- + **Dr. Faraz** also is the recipient of the George Washington University Shenkman Career Services Fund Faculty and Staff Innovation Grant to develop a workshop for successful nurse practitioner transition to practice.
- + Associate Professor **Kathleen Griffith**,

Assistant Professor **Maritza Dowling** and team received a GW Cross Disciplinary Research Fund (CDRF) grant for their project, “Chemotherapy Induced Central and Peripheral Nervous System Toxicities.”

- + **Dr. Griffith** is also working with Assistant Professor **Dana Hines** on a \$50,000 D.C. Center for AIDS Research pilot grant award for their project, “Understanding Barriers to PrEP Uptake and Adherence among Black Transgender Women in D.C.”
- + **Dr. Hines** was also awarded a Nashman Center Faculty Grant for Community-Engaged Scholarship from the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service for her project, “Using Intervention Mapping to Develop a Transgender-Peer Navigation Program.”
- + Associate Professors **Laurie Posey**, **Christine Pintz** and their team received a second year of funding from the CDRF for their “Design and Evaluation of a Virtual Standardized Patient Portal” project.
- + Informatics Education.org has awarded \$2,500 to Associate Professor **Karen Whitt** for the study, “Promoting Informatics Education by Evaluating

Nursing Students’ Knowledge of Electronic Health Record (EHR) Features.” The study will identify EHR features for which students have a lack of knowledge, so that educational materials and training modules about specific EHR features can be developed.



## PROMOTIONS AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- + Assistant Professor **Carol Braungart** is the new Family Nurse Practitioner program director.
- + Clinical Assistant Professor **Ellen Farrell** is the new Adult Geriatric-Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program director. She is also leading the Palliative Care Graduate Certificate program.
- + **Kimberly Acquaviva** was promoted to professor, and **Sandra Davis** and **Arlene Pericak** are now associate professors. [GW](#)



**Washington, D.C.** | In June, Assistant Professor **Ashley Darcy-Mahoney** joined other infancy and childhood specialists at the Busboys and Poets bookstore and restaurant for Science Café 360. The café is a casual space for open dialogue among community members, medical researchers and social scientists. Researchers demystify what they do, how they do it and why they think it will help local residents.

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## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES HONOR GW NURSING FACULTY

In April, at the 43rd conference of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) in Washington, D.C., the organization recognized the accomplishments of GW Nursing faculty members.

Professor **Jean Johnson** received the Friend of the NONPF Award.

Assistant Professor **Erin Athey** took home the Outstanding Rising Star Award.

Other faculty and staff also represented the school with podium presentations, workshops and posters, including:

- + "You've Got Mail: A Web-based Structured Mentorship Program for Student-Alumni Pairs," a poster presented by Assistant Professor **Asefeh Faraz**.
- + "Interprofessional Care of Individuals with Multiple Chronic Conditions: An Open-Access Resource for NP Educators," a podium presentation by Associate Professors **Christine Pintz** and **Laurie Posey** and Research Professor **Patricia Farmer**.

- + The workshop, "Teaching Graduate Nursing Students Social Determinants of Health with Simulation Based Learning," was conducted by Associate Professor **Sandra Davis**, Associate Professor **Arlene Pericak**, Assistant Professor **Linda Briggs**, Clinical Assistant Professor **Ellen Farrell**, Academic Affairs Manager **Patsy Deyo** and Professor **Angela McNelis**. Clinical Assistant Professor **Pamela Slaven-Lee** was also an author of the workshop.

Faculty, leadership and programs are being honored at the 44th Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention Oct. 28 through Nov. 1 in Indianapolis, Ind.

- + Dean **Pamela Jeffries** will receive the 2017 Edith Moore Copeland Award for Excellence in Creativity (the Founder's Award).
- + The GW Interprofessional Education Collaborative, formed and led by Associate Professors **Christine Pintz** and **Laurie Posey**, will

receive this year's Best Practice in Technology Award.

- + Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Janice Hoffman** and her co-author Dr. Nancy Sullivan will share the Capstone International Nursing Book Award for *Medical-Surgical Nursing: Making Connections to Practice*.
- + Research Professor **Karen Wyche** will be inducted as an honorary member of Sigma Theta Tau International.
- + Faculty members who also will be presenting at the convention include Instructor **Esther Emard**, "A Nurse Practitioner's Innovative, Value Approach to Redesigning Access to End of Life Care"; Assistant Professor **Malinda Whitlow**, "Building a Leadership Backbone: A Scholar's Nurse Faculty Leadership Journey"; and Assistant Clinical Professor **Pamela Slaven-Lee**, "Transition to a Student-Driven, Competency-Based Clinical Placement Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Education." [gw](http://gw)

## NEWS OF STUDENTS & RECENT GRADUATES



The new GW Student Nurses' Association officers are (from left) **Tricia Hanson**, vice president; **Sabrina Livne-Kennedy**, president; **Jessica Litz**, secretary; **Jordan Ramsdall**, treasurer; and **Meghan Martin**, historian. The National Student Nurses' Association mentors professional development of future registered nurses and facilitates their entrance into the profession by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities and career guidance.



**Leilani Attilio**, MSN-FNP '19, a U.S. Army veteran, has been named a Pat Tillman Foundation Scholar. Ms. Attilio served as a critical care nurse in both Afghanistan and Iraq. For more information, visit [patillmanfoundation.org/scholar/leilani-attilio/](http://patillmanfoundation.org/scholar/leilani-attilio/).



At Camp Dogwood in Madison, Va., GW Nursing accelerated BSN students (from left) **Elizabeth Hayes**, **Alex Lapple** and **Margaret Rosati** "nursed" a calf and helped care for campers.



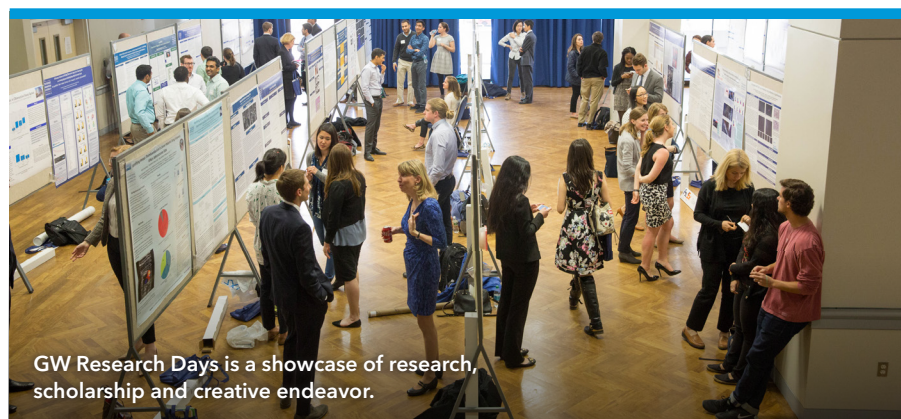


## STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FACULTY ADVISERS MAKE MARK AT GW RESEARCH DAYS

GW's annual Research Days, an annual two-day event held in April, highlights the best of student research through poster presentations and information sessions. This year's event featured over 200 undergraduate and graduate students in disciplines ranging from education, mathematics and engineering to health sciences and many more. The event filled both ballrooms of the Marvin Center and drew large crowds from the GW community. Teams of faculty judges evaluated each student's research and awarded cash prizes in different categories.

Three GW Nursing students—now graduates—received honors and showcased their research at the event.

+ **Jessica Blakely**, BSN '17, received the Outstanding Student Award in Research and presented "Integrating Social Determinants of Health in Health Care Education: Using Simulation Based Learning to Prepare Nurse Practitioner Students." Ms. Blakely has served as a research assistant for Associate Dean **Angela McNelis**, working on numerous research projects during the past year, including the National FNP Education Study, a simulation study that has included GW nurse practitioners. As



GW Research Days is a showcase of research, scholarship and creative endeavor.

a research assistant, she has used her skills in database administration to ensure integrity of survey collection and data storage.

+ **Azra Kukic**, DNP '17, received first prize for her DNP project poster titled "Effects of Bariatric Program Implementation on 30-day Readmission and 30-day ER/Infusion Clinic Visit Rates due to Dehydration," and **Kathleen Hewitt**, DNP '17, was selected to present during the concluding ceremony her DNP project, "Disparities in Cardiac Rehabilitation Referral for Patients with Myocardial Infarction in the United States." Clinical Professor **Cathie Guzzetta** was a co-author on both projects. Dr. Kukic's presentation can be viewed at [go.gwu.edu/GWResearchKukics](http://go.gwu.edu/GWResearchKukics).

Other presentations from GW Nursing DNP students and faculty advisers included:

+ "A Retrospective Analysis of Surgeon Estimated Time and Actual Operative Time to Develop an Efficient Operating Room Scheduling System"—**Pearly Brown**, DNP '17, **Dr. Guzzetta** and Assistant Professor **Quiping "Pearl" Zhou**.

+ "Because It Belongs to the Baby: Practice and Cultural Beliefs on Umbilical Cord Management in Haiti"—**Stacey Stavlund**, MSN '16, and Assistant Professors **Jeonyoung Park** and **Mayri Sagady Leslie**.

+ "Disparities in Cardiac Rehabilitation Referral for Patients with Myocardial Infarction in the United States"—**Dr. Hewitt** and **Dr. Guzzetta**.

+ "Implementation of a Falls Prevention Plan Among the Community-dwelling Seniors of Ward 8"—BSN '17 graduates **Laura Hink**, **Kimberly Demirhan**, **Zohra Wardak** and **Louise Williamson**.

+ "Integrating Social Determinants of Health in Health Care Education: Using Simulation Based Learning to Prepare Nurse Practitioner Students"—**Ms. Blakely**, **Dr. McNelis**, Assistant Deans **Sandra Davis** and **Pamela Slaven-Lee**, Associate Professor **Arlene Pericak** and Academic Affairs Manager **Patsy Deyo**.

+ "Variables Associated with Overweight/Obesity among African American Women with Hypertension and Diabetes"—**Monica Hamilton**, DNP '17, Assistant Professor **Linda Briggs** and **Dr. Zhou**. [GW](http://GW)

# PRESENTATIONS

**Boston** | In conjunction with her presentation at the American Academy for the Advancement of the Sciences in May, Assistant Professor **ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY** gave a talk, Bridges to Success from Birth: Novel Community Programs to End “Poverty of Words,” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

**Columbus, Ohio** | At the Ohio Nurse Educator Conference in April, Dean **PAMELA JEFFRIES** presented “Policy implications and Considerations Utilizing Nursing Simulations in the Curriculum.”

**Denver** | Research **PROFESSOR PATRICIA FARMER** presented “Academic Progression Outcomes, Strategies and Future Directions” in June to the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers.

**Dublin, Ireland** | At the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Congress in July, Assistant Professor **RHONDA SCHWINDT** and Professor **ANGELA MCNELIS** presented “Working Together to Treat Tobacco Dependence among Smokers with Serious Mental Illness.” DNP students presenting included **EMILY EMMA**, “Improved Outcomes Associated With An Early Mobilization Protocol Among Hip And Knee Replacement Patients;” **VICKI WAGNER**, “Low Acuity Emergency Department Visits Comparing Demographics and Patient Profiles For A Midwestern Accountable Care Organization;” **HAOFEI WANG**, “Using a Bundle Prophylactic Approach in Post-operative Total Knee and Total Hip Arthroplasty Patients;” and **MEGAN WOLFE**, “An Assessment of Errors and Near-Misses from Pre-Licensure Student Nurses.”

**Florence, Italy** | **DRS. SCHWINDT** and **MCNELIS** presented “Training Health Professional Students to Treat Tobacco Dependence among Persons with Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders: A Mixed-Methods Study” at the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Conference in February. Dr. Schwindt also presented “Development and Dissemination of a Shared Tobacco Curriculum for Current and Future Healthcare Providers.”

**Reno, Nev.** | **DR. FARMER** was the keynote speaker in May at the Nevada Nurses Association Annual Meeting. Her presentation was an update on implementation of the IOM Future of Nursing report.

**San Antonio, Texas** | Professor **KIMBERLY ACQUAVIVA** co-presented a workshop, “Working Smarter, Not Harder: Crafting Scholarly Projects that Count,” at the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting in February.

**San Diego** | Associate Professor **KAREN KESTEN** delivered a podium presentation, “Retirements and Succession of Nursing Faculty in the Next 10 Years, 2016-2025,” at the January American Academy of Colleges of Nursing Doctoral Education Conference.

**Scottsdale, Ariz.** | In February, **DR. ACQUAVIVA** presented “LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care” at the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network General Assembly.

**St. Paul, Minn.** | **DR. JEFFRIES** presented “State of the Science in Clinical Simulations and Teaching with Simulations” at the Minnesota Board of Nursing Education Conference in May.

**Tampa Bay, Fla.** | At the American Nurses Association’s annual conference in March, Assistant Professor **GRETCHEN WIERSMA** presented a poster titled “Accelerated Second-Degree BSN Graduates: Are They Ready for Practice?”

**Washington, D.C.** | In March, **DR. ACQUAVIVA** moderated a panel at GW’s 2017 Diversity Summit titled “Strategies for Creating Affirming Environments for Sexual and Gender Minorities: Embracing LGBTQ Students, Faculty, Staff, and Patients” and in April presented “Diversity and Inclusion: What Speech Pathologists and Audiologists Need to Know” as part of the GW Department of Speech and Hearing Science’s Guest Speaker Lecture Series. At the 32nd National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Management and Leadership Conference in May, Dr. Acquaviva presented a workshop, “Funding Your Mission Through Grants, Contracts, and Major Donors” and in June, she participated in the workshop “Cultural Diversity: LGBTQ-Inclusive Care” at the D.C. Board of Nursing’s Symposium.

In May, Associate Professor **CATHERINE COX** and **DR. ANGELA MCNELIS**, co-liaisons to the GW Hospital Nursing (GWH) Research Council, planned and delivered at the hospital the first GWH Annual Nursing Research Conference.

At the National League for Nursing Leadership Academy in June, **DR. JEFFRIES** delivered “Simple Strategies for Effective Leadership.”

At the Women’s Health Symposium sponsored in May by the D.C. affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Assistant Professor **MAYRI LESLIE** presented “An Idea Whose Time Has Come: Neonatal Resuscitation with an Intact Cord.”

**Worldwide** | Assistant Deans **SANDRA DAVIS** and **PAMELA SLAVEN-LEE** were panelists for a May webinar, “Beyond the Bedside: Social Determinants of Health Curriculum and Assessment in the Health Professions,” co-sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. [GW](#)



## Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff Gather at Happy Hour

The Aug. 10 alumni social hour at Circa in Foggy Bottom was hosted by Dean Pamela Jeffries and GW Nursing Development and Alumni Relations.

## Honor Society Inducts Spring Graduates

In May, GW Nursing's Phi Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society welcomed 112 outstanding new members representing the BSN, MSN and DNP programs.



## Blended Learning Faculty Development Workshops

Simulation Curriculum Integration  
 Foundations in Simulation  
 Debriefing

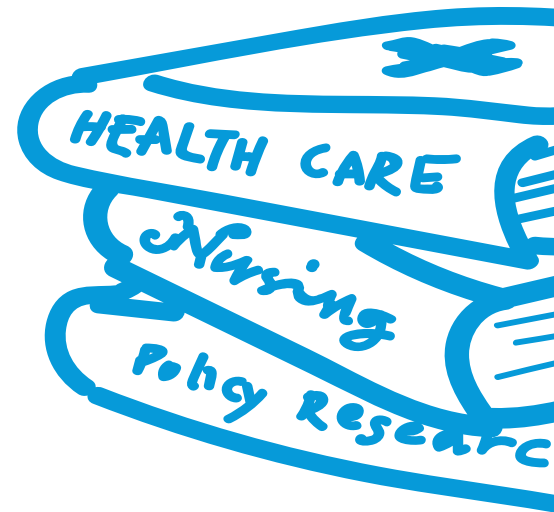
### *Faculty Development Simulation Resources that meet the NCSBN Guidelines*

Blended learning workshops from the National League for Nursing and Laerdal Medical strive to provide nurse educators with the knowledge and skills to best teach students in the classroom and at the bedside. Our array of workshops provide tools needed to improve simulation programs, enhance student learning, and impact the quality of patient care.

Faculty development is an integral part of the ongoing professional development of nurse educators.

*Learn more about how our new workshops can help at [laerdal.com/us/SESN](http://laerdal.com/us/SESN)*

# Faculty Publications— January-September 2017



**KIMBERLY ACQUAVIVA.** “The challenge of staying hopeful in the age of Trump.” *The Advocate*, April 28.

...“LGBTQ-Inclusion: A call to action for nurses.” *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, May.

...“Lucky.” *Neurosis Nonsense*, June.

...“LGBTQ aging and empathy-as-activism.” *American Society on Aging* blog, August.

**ASHLEY DARCY-MAHONEY** and L. Zauche, S. Hollowell, A. Weldon.

“Leveraging the skills of nurses and the power of language nutrition to ensure a better future for children.” *Advances in Neonatal Care*, February.

...and L. Zauche, M. Higgins. “Predictors of co-occurring neurodevelopmental disabilities in children with autism spectrum disorders.” *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, July-August.

**N. MARTIZA DOWLING** and C. Nicholas, S. Hoscheidt, L. Clark. “Positive affect predicts cerebral glucose metabolism in late middle-aged adults.” *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, April.

...and A. Willette, J. Webb, M. Lutz. “Family history and TOMM40 ʼ523 interactive associations with memory in middle-aged and AD cohorts.” *Alzheimer’s & Dementia*, May.

**MAJEDA EL-BANNA** and E. Kurnat-Thoma, M. Oakcrum, J. Tyroler. “Nurses’ health promoting lifestyle behaviors in a community hospital.” *Applied Nursing Research*, June.

...and **MALINDA WHITLOW, ANGELA MCNELIS.** “Flipping around the classroom: Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing students’ satisfaction and achievement.” *Nurse Education Today*, September.

**KATHLEEN GRIFFITH** and L. Buffart, J. Kalter, M. Sweegers, K. Courneya, R.

Newton, N. Aaronson, P. Jacobsen, A. May, D. Galvão, M. Chinapaw, K. Steindorf, M. Irwin, M. Stuiver, S. Hayes, A. Lucia, I. Mesters, E. van Weert, H. Knoop, M. Goedendorp, N. Mutrie, A. Daley, A. McConnachie, M. Bohus, L. Thorsen, K. Schulz, C. Short, R. James, G. Plotnikoff, M. Arbane, M. Schmidt, K. Potthoff, M. van Beurden, H. Oldenburg, G. Sonke, W. van Harten, R. Garrod, K. Schmitz, K. Winters-Stone, D. Velthuis, W. Taaffe, M. van Mechelen, M. Kersten, F. Nolle, J. Wenzel, J. Wiskemann, I. Verdonck-de Leeuw, J. Brug. “Effects and moderators of exercise on quality of life and physical function in patients with cancer: An individual patient data meta-analysis of 34 RCTs.” *Cancer Treatment Review*, January.

...and H. Kim, G. Yang, J. Greenspan, K. Downton, C. Renn, M. Johantgen, S. Dorsey. “Racial and ethnic differences in experimental pain sensitivity: systematic review and meta-analysis.” *Pain*, February.

...and S. Zhu, M. Johantgen, M. Kessler, C. Renn, A. Beutler, R. Kanwar, N. Ambulos, G. Cavaletti, J. Bruna, C. Briani, A. Argyriou, H. Kalofonos, L. Yerges-Armstrong, S. Dorsey. “Oxaliplatin-induced peripheral neuropathy and identification of unique severity groups in colorectal cancer.” *Journal of Pain Symptom Management*, July.

...and G. Yang, H. Kim, S. Zhu, S. Dorsey, C. Renn. “Interventions for the treatment of aromatase inhibitor-associated arthralgia in breast cancer survivors: A systematic review and meta-analysis.” *Cancer Nursing*, July-August.

**DANA HINES** and C. Draucker, B. Habermann. “HIV testing and entry to care among trans women in Indiana.” *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, May.

**PAMELA JEFFRIES** and H. Connors, D. Skiba, M. Rizzolo, D. Billings. “Health Information Technology Scholars Program: From implementation to outcomes.” *Journal of Nursing Education Perspectives*, January/February.

...and C. Huston, B. Phillips, C. Toderro, J. Rich, P. Knecht, S. Sommer, M. Lewis. “The academic practice gap: Strategies for an enduring problem.” *Nursing Forum*, August.

**ELLEN KURTZMAN, JEAN JOHNSON, B. Barnow, 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*, January.

...and B. Barnow. “A comparison of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and primary care physicians’ patterns of practice and quality of care in health centers.” *Medical Care*, February.

...and E. Hing, D.T. Lau, C. Taplin, A. Bindman. “Characteristics of primary care physicians in patient-centered medical home practices: United States, 2013.” *National Health Statistics Reports*, February.



**BEVERLY LUNSFORD** and **LAURIE POSEY**. “Geriatric education using a palliative care framework.” *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education Review*, January.

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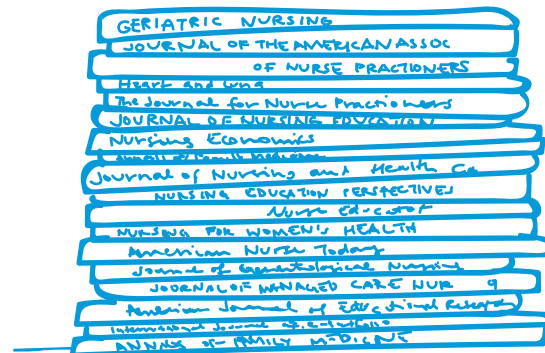
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## MEET THE ADVISERS TO GW NURSING

JANET SOUTHBY,  
PhD, RN

**DR. SOUTHBY** is a former U.S. Army Nurse Corps officer who retired with the rank of colonel in 1996. Her career included teaching in the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing and serving as director of nursing research and chief in the Department of Nursing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She was also the chief nurse of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, completed tours in Vietnam and Korea, and was named a White House military social aide for six years, serving as the first female senior aide during the last year of her appointment. Dr. Southby earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's in pediatric nursing from the University of Maryland and a PhD in nursing science from the Catholic University of America.



**HOME:** Washington, D.C.

**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

The pinnacle of my Army nursing career was serving as the chief nurse executive at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where, more than 30 years earlier, I was first assigned as a pediatric staff nurse.

**CURRENTLY READING:** The recently released 25th anniversary-edition of *Diana: Her True Story—In Her Own Words*.

**NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT:**

I volunteer as an Army Arlington Lady at Arlington National Cemetery. The Arlington Ladies are a group of volunteers whose purpose is to attend funeral services to ensure that no “Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Coast Guardsman is ever buried alone.”

**GREATEST WISH FOR GW NURSING:**

Continue the rapid trajectory toward achieving strategic goals and being recognized as a premier nursing school for teaching, learning, practice, research and health policy.

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# Philanthropy News

## *making* **HISTORY** THE CAMPAIGN FOR GW

### MAKING HISTORY CAMPAIGN A MONUMENTAL SUCCESS

*GW's first \$1 billion fundraising campaign breaks records and delivers support for students, researchers, faculty and programs.*

Nearly 67,000 donors contributed more than \$1.02 billion to the university in the recently concluded Making History: The Campaign for GW.

"Campaigns are really about people," said Nelson A. Carbonell, B.S. '85, chair of the GW Board of Trustees, who, with his wife Michele endowed the

Carbonell Family Professor in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. "They are about getting people engaged with the institution and connecting their passion with an area of the university they can support. And that philanthropic support can in turn transform another person's life."

Among the GW Nursing donors who shared a commitment to the university and to health and healing throughout their careers are Jean Johnson, PhD '93, and physician L. Gregory Pawlson, who endowed the Johnson-Pawlson Scholarship for Enhanced Quality and Safety. The scholarship provides one need-based scholarship each year for an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing student who demonstrates an interest in patient safety and quality improvement and includes those areas in his or her coursework while in the program. "Support of students through scholarship funds has such an immediate impact," said Dr. Johnson, founding dean and professor at GW Nursing. "We wanted to give deserving students a chance to have a career that we think is incredibly rewarding."

Recent graduate and Johnson-Pawlson Scholarship recipient Juan Torres, BSN '17, said that with a wife also in nursing school and a toddler, "This scholarship came at an opportune moment. It's not only helping me, but my whole family."

Another nursing student benefiting from scholarships generated by the campaign is Sandra (Sandie) Lindberg. After 25 years in a rewarding nursing career, she recognized the necessity of a bachelor's degree to advance in the field and enrolled in GW Nursing's online RN-BSN program. Thanks to the generosity of the James M. Johnston Trust for Charitable and Educational Purposes scholarship, she has been able to take time out from her career to focus on her studies. As a veteran of acute-care hospital nursing, Ms. Lindberg is interested in returning to direct patient care in more of a management or leadership role. "The jury is still out on the locale or type of institution, because there are a wide range of options to choose from," she said. "When I move closer to graduation, I'm positive the right opportunity will present itself."

"The Making History Campaign has brought to the school opportunities that will have widespread impact on our students and on their future patients," said Pamela Jeffries, GW Nursing dean and professor. "As a relatively young school, scholarships such as these can significantly expand our acceptance of worthy applicants."

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This article was adapted from the *GW Today* article, June 17, 2017, and from campaign impact stories. For more campaign outcomes and beneficiary information, visit [makinghistory.gwu.edu/nursing](http://makinghistory.gwu.edu/nursing).



Johnson-Pawlson Scholars from left to right, Kayla Magee, BSN '18, Juan Torres, BSN '17, and Morgan Rollo, BSN '17.

# Alumni News



## Where Are They Now?

### Brittany Key, RN

MedStar Washington  
Hospital Flight Nurse

*All nurses help people, but, as a flight nurse, GW Nursing alumna Brittany Key, BSN '11, is often among the first to help victims with traumatic injuries. Working with only a paramedic and a pilot, she is the lead caregiver on medevac flights that retrieve and care for critically injured persons and convey them to a trauma center for further medical treatment.*

A member of Cohort 2, Ms. Key was among GW Nursing's earliest graduates in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science Nursing program. She was profiled in the 2014 *GW Nursing* magazine ("A Strong Start") and at that time had just been promoted to team leader in the intensive care unit (ICU) at the George Washington University Hospital, where she went to work shortly after graduation. Today, she has realized her goal of becoming a flight nurse. Knowing her body won't be able to handle the stress of flight nursing forever, Ms. Key's next career step is to become a nurse practitioner.

**GWN:** After starting your career in the ICU, you became a flight nurse in 2015. What attracted you to that nursing specialty?

**BK:** The flight nurse serves as some people's last chance. I wanted to be that person, to save them and give them that chance. I come from a small Midwestern town where we don't have nearby tertiary care centers. Farm accidents and car crashes are common there and, without the medevac team, some people from my hometown would not be alive today.

**GWN:** What is the training for a flight nurse?

**BK:** To become a flight nurse you must first be an ICU nurse; more specifically, a surgical ICU nurse. At MedStar, flight nurses must have three years of experience as an ICU nurse. For the first three months, we were trained in the trauma bay at Washington Hospital Center, a rotation that distinguishes the MedStar training from other flight companies. There we honed our skills and knowledge by having



hands-on experiences with penetrating or blunt trauma and with surgical transfers. Following the trauma bay, we were trained by a paramedic for six weeks and then by a nurse preceptor for an additional six weeks. Following the training, we took an oral exam given by the training director, and, once we passed, we obtained our wings.

**GWN: Emergency flight nursing is tough and stressful work. What do you do to stay mentally and physically healthy?**

**BK:** I remember the first flight shift I had on my own. My paramedic, a former Navy Seal, told me to check and calm my own heart rate before I checked anyone else. Now before every call I think about what he told me. It will be with me forever: “Calm your own heartbeat, your own breathing.”

Stable and secure professional and personal relationships also help me deal with the stress of my job. I’m originally from a very small town in Illinois. I’m a farm girl where there are more cows in the town than people. Even though I haven’t lived there for 13 years, I try to keep the Midwestern values taught to me by my parents and older siblings. I also have an enormous amount of support from my family, friends and coworkers. My coworkers and I are a team, and our motto is that we work together and we don’t leave each other behind.

Physically, CrossFit training helps me stay in shape so I can

manage the 50-pound bag of gear required in the field and be able to save lives in some of the most extreme conditions. The helicopter can be as cold as 5 degrees or as hot as 120.

**GWN: What advice do you give to students just embarking on their nursing education and careers?**

**BK:** Trust in the process, and take it one day at a time, one week at a time, one test at a time. Everything you do in nursing school leads up to the NCLEX. My advice to new nurses is to know it’s OK to make mistakes, just learn from them. I’ve made mistakes before, but I learn from them and keep going. *GW*



“Trust in the process, and take it one day at a time, one week at a time, one test at a time.”

— *Brittany Key, BSN ’11*

## RN Career Opportunities



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# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

The spring 2017 GW Nursing graduating class of 252 students again broke records, showing a 500 percent increase over the first spring graduation in 2012. At this year's May commencement, degrees were conferred on 78 BSN students, 135 MSN students and 31 DNP students. Eight others received post-master's certificates.



2012  
**42**

2013  
**45**

2014  
**75**

2015  
**84**

2016  
**181**

2017  
**252**

SPRING GRADUATION NUMBERS FROM 2012 TO 2017



# 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.

## Update your information and share your news!


[alumni.gwu.edu/update-your-contact-information](http://alumni.gwu.edu/update-your-contact-information)

## Benefits & Services

Alumni Education Programs,  
Transcripts & Diplomas, Email  
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## Events & Programs

GW Alumni Calendar of Events  
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## News & Updates

GW Alumni News  
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## Connections

Update Contact Information, Alumni Directory  
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## School of Nursing

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# THANKS *A* BILLION



***Making History*, our largest fundraising campaign ever, wrapped up June 30, 2017.**

With your support, the GW community raised more than \$1 billion for students, faculty, research, and programs.

**Go to [makinghistory.gwu.edu/nursing](http://makinghistory.gwu.edu/nursing) to see how your gifts are making a difference.**

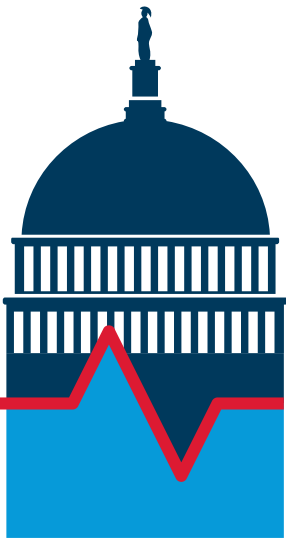
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Amid the uncertainty of the American health care landscape, the GW School of Nursing is steering the policy debate toward a focus on patient-centered care from the heart of Washington, D.C. We aim to advance policies that address workforce shortages, gaps in care and the needs of underserved populations.

**Learn more about our efforts to improve health care through education,  
practice and policy at [backtohealth.gwu.edu](https://backtohealth.gwu.edu).**

