

The Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies

“The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live.” *Flora Whittemore*



From the Dean's Desk ~ Janet Mahoney

On behalf of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, I wish a heartfelt congratulations to the graduates. At the closing of each academic year, I always reflect on the accomplishments of our students as they complete program requirements and embark in new directions. You may have heard the quote, “The only thing constant in life is change.” This quote, credited to Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, 500 BC, truly stands the test of time. Graduation is a new beginning, it is also a time of change. In the past year we have seen both growth and change in the School of Nursing and Health Studies. We are preparing to welcome our first class of students this fall in two new programs, pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Physician Assistant program. These students are entering a field where change is anticipated and

desired. It is my wish to provide them with a sound education and a thirst for knowledge which they will need for success in the healthcare environment.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. James Konopack has been appointed Associate Dean to the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Dr Konopack brings a record of successful leadership to the University having served as Department Chair of Health and Physical Education. At this time I would also like to thank Dr. Sharon Stark, who has chosen to return to faculty rank, for her contribution to the School as Associate Dean. We wish her well as she returns to teaching.

The Department of Nursing has a scheduled onsite evaluation visit, October 8-10th, from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for the re-accreditation of our Baccalaureate Degree Program in Nursing, Master's Degree Program in Nursing and Post Graduate APRN Certificate programs. Contact information for the CCNE can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.



Faculty Milestones

Dr. Tresa Dusaj, PhD, MS, RN-BC, CNE, CHSE - Congratulations to Dr. Dusaj, it has been a bountiful year. She earned her Ph.D. in Nursing this Spring and gave birth to her daughter, Saachi on March 27. Dr. Dusaj will be column editor for the Five Fast Facts for the Journal, Clinical Simulation in Nursing.

Kathryn Fleming, PhD, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC - has been elected as Vice President of the New Jersey State Nurses Association. Her goal is to “bring nurses together to engage in a conversation and knowledge exchange that will help us identify workable strategies to meet the needs of both nurses and health consumers, as well as to promote NJSNA throughout the state and federal government.”



Chris Hirschler, PhD, MCHES - presented at the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors Conference (May 2014) with K Espiritu and S.Troy, “*Best Practices for Developing and Supporting Faculty-Directed Programs*”.

Andrea Hope, EdD, CHES, Christopher Hirschler, Ph.D, MCHES & James F. Konopack, PhD - published an article “Perceptions of Childhood Obesity in Parents of Preschool Aged Children” in April 2014 in *ICAN: Infant, Child and Adolescent Nutrition*.

Laura Kelly, PhD, RN, APN-C - is the recipient of the Monmouth University Unsung Hero Award. The award is given to someone who truly embodies Dr. Martin Luther King’s spirit, life, teachings and commitment to service. Kelly is a passionate mental health advocate committed to addressing mental health issues in the community. The other recipient pictured is a Health Studies Major, Thomas Beaufort.



Dr. Rose Knapp, DNP, RN, APN-C - is serving as President of the NJSNA Forum of Nurses in Advanced Practice for the 2014-2016 term. She participated in two Podium Presentations, the first presentation was for the City of New York Geriatric Consortium titled “*Medication in the Older Adult: A Team Approach*”, April, 2014 and the second was at the NJSNA FNAP Quarterly Meeting, “*The Emerging role of the Acute Nurse Practitioner and the Consensus Model: Impact on Practice*” January, 2014.

Julie Schaaff, MS - attended the SCW Philadelphia Mania Fitness Convention in February 2014. There she took a fitness class run by Louis VanAmstel, made famous by Dancing with the Stars. The class is called LaBlast and it is a partner-free dance exercise class that VanAmstel created. It combines dances like the tango, cha-cha, and salsa. To the right a photo snapped just after class.



Dr. Patricia Sciscione, PhD, MSN, RN, CEN, CSN - Congratulations Dr. Sciscione! She earned her PhD in Nursing Research and Theory Application from Seton Hall University and attended her “hooding” ceremony, May 20th at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ.

Sharon W. Stark, Ph.D., RN, APN-C & MaryAnn Troiano, DNP, RN, APN-C - presented “*Myths, Misconceptions and Barriers to Ensuring Sexual Health in the Elderly*”, at the 22nd Nordic Conference of Gerontology in Gotenburg Sweden in May 2014.

Sharon W. Stark, Ph.D., RN, APN-C & Rosario Sanchez, MSN (MU Alumni 2013) - Co-authored *The Hard Truth about Human Trafficking. Nursing Management* in January 2014.

Faculty Focus—Cira Fraser, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC

Submitted by Kate Boskey

Dr. Fraser began teaching in the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing in 1998 and was recently promoted to the rank of Professor. A member of the graduate faculty, Dr. Fraser teaches graduate courses in nursing research, data management, and the education of patients and families. From the age of five, she knew that she wanted to be a nurse and by the age of 19 graduated with a nursing diploma from St. Vincent's Medical Center School of Nursing, Staten Island. She went on to obtain her BSN at the College of Staten Island, her MSN at Rutgers University and her Ph.D. at Adelphi University. Dr. Fraser describes nurses as "caring, smart, and honest," exactly what she aspires to be.

An extensive nursing career includes work in pediatrics, community health, medical surgical nursing, nursing education, and as a clinical research coordinator for the Maimonides Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center in Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Fraser is an Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist-Board Certified (ACNS-BC). Her areas of interest and publications have focused on multiple sclerosis, stroke, and normal pressure hydrocephalus in older adults. She has served on the Monmouth University IRB, the research committee of the International Organization of MS Nurse, and as an ad hoc re-



viewer for several journals, including the Western Journal of Nursing Research and the International Journal of MS Care.

Dr. Fraser is the principal research investigator for nursing research studies exploring predictors of adherence to glatiramer acetate therapy in individuals with multiple sclerosis, as well as psychosocial issues, gender differences, and disability in MS. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Research Award from the International Organization of MS Nurses. She also received the prestigious Writing Excellence Award from the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses in 2004.

Dr. Fraser has studied traditional Japanese style martial arts since 1987 and is a seventh degree black belt in karate. She feels that karate has helped her to become a healthier, more confident and outgoing person. In her free time she enjoys visiting her three year old granddaughter Sofia, son John (a Navy Officer and Physical Therapist) and daughter-in-law Rika (who is also a nurse!) in Fredericksburg, VA. Her daughter Anne completed the FNP track at Monmouth several years ago and was recently married to Sal Ocello. Anne is an Advanced Practice Nurse working with neurology patients at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY.

The Center for Professional Development - submitted by Barbara Paskewich

The Center has had another very busy year, hosting a variety of programs to meet the diverse professional development needs of our community of interest. It was an honor to have Amelie Hollier, of Advanced Practice Education Associates, provide their NP review program on our University Campus this June. She is a dynamic speaker, and the feedback from the participants was excellent.

In June, we also offered the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program hosting the largest group of participants to date. Our Center has been designated as one of 10 Clinical Instruction Sites by the International Association of Forensic Nurses. Plans are in progress for the 1st collaborative program.

We will be updating our list of program offerings in August. Please log on to our website to see what will be offered in the fall.

http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/schools/nursing/continuing_programs.asp
If you see something that you are interested in taking, register early as many of our classes fill up quickly!

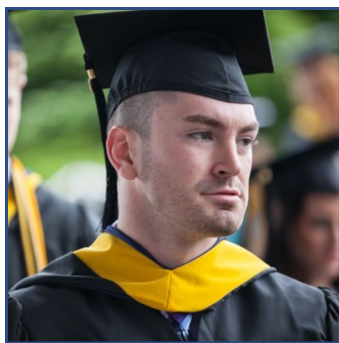
Just added: **Writing Research Papers/APA Style**

Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Time: 3:00 - 5:15 pm

Place: MH room 226

Fee: \$45/\$35 for MU Students



Congratulations to the Graduates!! Department of Health & Physical Education Bachelor of Science in Health Studies and Health and Physical Education May 2014

Kinza Awan
Nicole Batista
Jillian Bender
Nicole Bilica
Joseph Buettel
Allison Clark
Samantha Conoscenti
Kelly Curci
Nicholas Daddario
Gregory DePugh
Jessica DeVirgilio
Alexandria DiBenedetto
Christina Dock
Danielle Doremus
Evelyn Echeverry
Jaimee Egbert
Kelsi Eehalt
Rebecca English

Jesse Erckert
James Falcone
Caroline Farella
Lisangi Fernandez
Ashleigh Ferrell
Hope Fischer
Patricia Fontaine
Natali Formanek
Stephen Frey
Brittany Fuentes
Kaleigh Gibbons
Jennifer Goldberg
Nicholas Gonzalez
Nicole Gravish
Mackenzie Hogan
John Indrikovic
Daniel Kazanjian
Cara Lalley

Nicole Laudati
Sapire Levi
Molly Maher
Sofia Mandia
Alissa Martins
Matthew Massucci
Nicolas Mazzo
Michelle Melzl
Peter Nagy
Ashley Nardone
Brian Nicholas
Emily Oechslin
Naomi Ovadia
Maria Pahountis
Melanie Pardun
Ava Pignatello
Jennifer Quirk
Stephanie Rodriguez

Danielle Romano
Marisa Rosell
Aaron Robinson
Kaitlyn Schumacher
Madeline Serraes
Iuliia Shpilman
Stephanie Silva
Brianna Smudin
Alyssa Stevenson
Lisa Sypniewski
Tara Tamburro
Courtney Thomaier
Gabriella Tornatore
Lachelle Wallace
Brianna Wesley
Jonathan Wilks

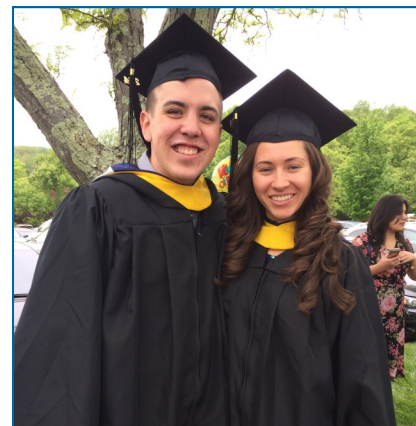
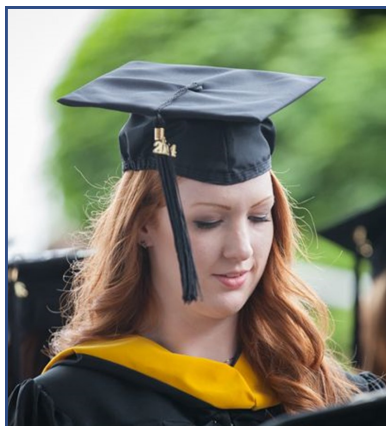
Congratulations to Recipients of the 2014 Student Awards!

Nicole Gravish - received the Health Studies Academic Excellence Award

Daniel Kazanjian - received the Health and Physical Education Academic Excellence Award

Stephen Frey - received the Health and Physical Education (K-12 Teaching Track) Academic Excellence Award

Brianna Wesley - received the Department of Health and Physical Education Leadership Award



Interdisciplinary Gerontology Certificates were awarded to the following students. This 15 - credit course of study is designed to enhance knowledge about the aging process and resources for older people and their caregivers.

Nicole Batista
Rebecca English
Hope Fischer
Colleen Healy

Cara Lalley
Nicole Laudati
Allissa Martins

Melanie Pardun
Catherine Perrotta
Lisa Sypniewski



**ETA SIGMA
GAMMA**

Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG), Monmouth University's Health and Physical Education Honor Society, promotes health across the campus by providing many activities. Over the last year ESG designed monthly health education bulletin boards that reflect activities or national health promotion themes, such as breast cancer, smoking, and CPR/AED basics.

On February 15th, they coordinated and implemented a CPR/AED class which certified twenty-two Monmouth University students. They also collaborated and assisted the School of Science with the recruitment of donors for Central Jersey Blood Center's Annual Blood Drive. The blood drive exceeded the goal of one hundred donors by successfully recruiting

one hundred and twelve donors.

The officers of ESG put together a Relay for Life team that included the Department of Health and Physical Education students, faculty, and staff. The event was held on April 25th and 26th in the MAC. Donations raised went to support cancer research.

Fifteen new members were inducted on April 30th. Congratulations to the inductees!

Nicole Bilica
Nicholas Daddario
Jessica Deak
Jaclyn Dilts
Ashleigh Ferrell
Victoria LaVigne
Alissa Martins
Lauren O'Neill

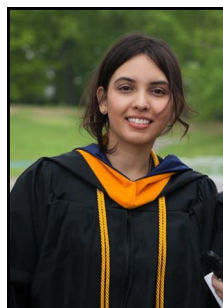
Melanie Pardun
Danielle Romano
Stacey Schoenewald
Kaitlyn Schumacher
Gabriella Sorrentino
Joshua Stein
Dana-Lynn Waggner



January and May 2014 Graduates—Department of Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Nursing:

Catalina Lopez
Tina Magid
Mary O'Neill
Michael Volpe



Master of Science in Nursing:

Chidiadi Agoh
Charyl Asuncion
Nirmala Baskar
Robin Baumann
Samuel Berger
Violet Bernknopf
Marisa Borelli
Sandra Boshko
Anne Brennan
Ricci Cahili
Rubylene Cahili
Cristeta Castaneda
Raffaella Cervone
Huifang Cheng
Joyce Cline-Blasi

Kathleen Cowles
Lisa Marie DeGorostiza
Cathleen Dell'Anno
Sukhvir Kaur Dhinsa
Jessica Doto
Jeffrey Downing
Sulmeet Ezekiel
Cheryl Goodlow
Laure Haggenmiller
Michelle Hansen
Sophiamma Jacob
Barbara Kasten
Elizabeth Kelly
Christine La Cava
Tiscy Lukose

Laura Lux
Mark Matson
Melissa Maxted
Shirley Messina
Joseph Moto
Helen Olairaz
Joan Palermo
Kathleen Palmer
Mira Patel
Lina Perumpail
Rosily Philip
Gavriel Pliver
Lauren Russo
Lisa Ryan
Julie Sakaria

Debra Saunders
Kaitlyn Schneider
Deborah Serra
Marianne Solari
Neelam Sood
Dana Strattel
Kathryn Stevenson
Tresy Thomas
Thelma Veloso-Lee
Lourdes Vergara
Jaclyn Wizmerski
Courtney Wood
Lauren Zenobi

Post Master's Certificate - Nurse Practitioner:

Renie Ebreo

Erin Furda

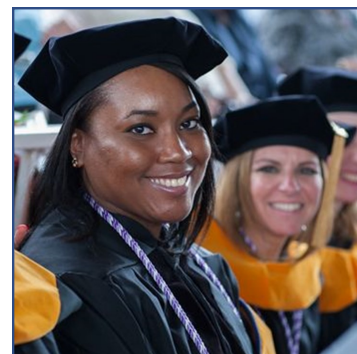
Mickel Kathleen



Doctor of Nursing Practice:

Jennifer Aviado-Langer
Louise Bosmans
Selena Gilles
Nicole Keegan

Lynne Koller
Ina Paternostro
Rosa Ramos
Barbara Wyczesany



Graduate School Nurse Certificates - NJ Department of Education (Standard and Non-Instructional Certificates)

James Warner

Jennifer Decker

Carolyn Delp

Irene Freeman

Nicki Nesbihal

Congratulations to Recipients of the 2014 Student Awards!

Lynne Koller (DNP 14) - was the Highest Ranking DNP Recipient

Jennifer Aviado-Langer (DNP 14) - received the DNP Academic Excellence Award.

Barbara Wyczesany (DNP 14) - received the DNP Leadership Award

Joyce Cline-Blasi (MSN 14) - received the MSN Academic Excellence Award

Gavriel Pliver (MSN 14) - received the MSN Academic Excellence Award

Lourdes Vergara (MSN 14) - received the MSN Academic Excellence Award

Jeffrey Downing (MSN 14) - received the MSN Leadership Award

Mary O'Neill (BSN 14) - received the BSN Academic Excellence Award



Graduating Student and Preceptor Reception

On May 19, the Department of Nursing gathered in the beautiful Versailles room in Wilson Hall to honor our preceptors and graduating students. This annual event is a celebration of appreciation for the time, support and expertise that the preceptors provide to our nursing students.

The Department of Nursing presented both Lois Donovan and Carmen Phaneuf, APN-C, awards for their outstanding service to the University. The officers of the Monmouth University Professional Nurses Association (MUPNA) took this opportunity to present Deb Ewtushek, the Director of Clinical Placement, (pictured above) with the first annual MUPNA Award. The officers, all graduating seniors, wanted to acknowledge Deb's unwavering dedication to the students of Monmouth University and to thank her for the work that she has done on their behalf.



Sigma Theta Tau International ~ Lambda Delta Chapter

STTI kicked off the New Year with the induction of board members and new members at their January 2014 meeting, held at Jumping Brook Country Club. We would like to extend congratulations to our 2014 inductees!

Rubylene Cahili, Katherine Grasso, Ellynn Kahle, Lisa Ryan & Asha Sathyanarayana

On April 24th, the Jersey Shore Beach Sweep, Clean the Beach Initiative, in collaboration with Ocean Beach Action, was held. Working with other Monmouth County organizations, Ina Paternostro represented the Delta Chapter as Beach Captain for this event. STTI continued their community outreach with a Toiletries Drive by collecting 11 boxes of toiletries and other items which were donated to The Center in Asbury Park on May 7th. Working collaboratively with other Chapters, Lambda Delta collected over 200 books for the Nursing Book Drive for Tanzania.

Our best wishes to board members, Ina Paternostro and Barbara Wyczesany, who earned their DNP's from Monmouth University this spring. To learn more about the STTI-Lambda Delta organization, you are welcome to attend the Chapter's monthly meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th, and will be held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, thereafter. In July and August of 2014 the Executive Board calls for nominations for President and President-Elect, two year terms 1/1/15–12/31/16 and call for Nurse Leader STTI Nominees. Information regarding these items will be sent to members via email mid-July.





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Please feel free to connect with
the School of Nursing and Health
Studies.

Alumni—we would like to hear
your news and
accomplishments !

Reach out to:
Barbara Paskewich
bpaskewi@monmouth.edu

Or find us on the web.



www.facebook.com/
Monmouth University -
School of Nursing and
Health Studies

The Department of Health and Physical Education is pleased to announce that two new faculty members, will join the Department of Health and Physical Education this fall: Jaime Myers, PhD, MPH, as Assistant Professor and Staci Andrews, PhD©, MS, as Lecturer.

The Department held its first “Alumni Networking Social” in the Club Dining Room on Tuesday, May 6th. In addition to providing current students with a chance to socialize on Reading Day, this event brought back to campus several successful alumni who were happy to talk with current students about their work in schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and more. Many of these returning alumni were able to share their wisdom regarding graduate school admissions, giving current students tips for successful applications to PA, MPH, DPT, OT, Accelerated BSN, and other programs. It was a small but successful event that will surely get bigger in the coming years, and a wonderful chance to reunite and celebrate with our former students.

Submitted by Dr. Jim Konopack, Chair Department of Health and Physical Education.

The Department of Nursing has received final Board of Nursing approval to begin our Pre-Licensure BSN program in the fall of 2014. Thirty high school graduates have been accepted from a very competitive pool of 250 applicants. During their first year, the students will complete their liberal arts and science prerequisites. The University is constructing a skills and high fidelity simulation lab that will be located in Birch Hall. Clinical nursing courses will begin in the fall of 2015. We welcome Dr. Christina McSherry, PhD, RN, CNE, who will serve as the Academic Coordinator. We will continue to keep our nursing community updated on the progress of this very exciting endeavor.

Submitted by Dr. Rose Knapp.

The Physician Assistant Program will welcome its first cohort of 20 students in September. The program is based in the Monmouth University Health Sciences Center, located approximately 2 miles from campus at the Monmouth Park Corporate Center. The first year of the program consists of didactic instruction as well as clinical skills training. Students will go to Monmouth Medical Center for cadaver lab to supplement their Human Anatomy lectures. The program is also welcoming two new faculty members this fall: Gina LaMandre, PA-C, MS/Specialist Professor and Stephanie Lynch, PA-C, MS/Specialist Professor. After the extensive planning and preparation for accreditation, we are all excited to finally have students beginning the program!

Submitted by Dr. Carol Monoco-Biscardi, Director, Physician’s Assistant Program.

Please note... On October 8th-10th, 2014, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) will conduct an on-site accreditation review of our Baccalaureate Degree Program in Nursing, Master’s Degree program in nursing and Post Graduate APRN Certificate programs. As students, faculty, alumni and employees of the Monmouth University Community of Nurses, we welcome any written thoughts or comments related to the program’s compliance with the accreditations standards. During the review process, CCNE will only share these comments with members of the evaluation team. Comments will be accepted by CCNE until September 8, 2014.

Please forward all comments to: Catherine Sneed, Accreditation Coordinator
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036.