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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Happy Spring to all our students, staff, faculty and alumni! We have been busy planning for the rest of the academic year.

We have new space for our School of Nursing on the first and second floors of 2347 North Racine. The operations staff are currently in the space and there is space for adjunct faculty or for meetings. We will be starting a Holistic Programming Series in May with the help of Monica Wojnicki and the Wellness Center Staff.

The BSN program is thriving and we are developing a transfer option for students outside of DePaul. We will announce the options soon. The MENP program has had good response to the new Balanced Stride program that provides a path for three years to complete the program, with the first cohort having started this quarter. We will be admitting Balanced Stride students once a year for the Spring quarter. The DNP program is flourishing with the direction of Dr. Lisa Biancalana-Marsh at DePaul School of Nursing and Julia Fezcko at Endeavor Health Care/Northshore. The School of Anesthesia just had their 10 year accreditation review and the initial report was very positive.

We have had great faculty reviews and I feel blessed to be surrounded by exceptional faculty who take their teaching very seriously and are beloved by our students. Such strong role modeling will enhance the profession for many years. We are now fully staffed with all positions filled.

I am so lucky to be working with all those who bring their wisdom and creativity to work each day. We have had multiple unexpected challenges with compliance, last minute changes to adjunct faculty and many more last minute changes. I appreciate how willing everyone is to go the extra mile to ensure that the students are getting the best education possible. I have been humbled to be a leader among such hard-working and talented staff, faculty and students. We are heading in a positive direction, and I look forward to the future working with you.

Dr. Kim Siarkowski Amer, PhD, RN



WELCOMING NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

The School of Nursing would like to offer a sincere welcome to all new faculty and staff members that have joined our community. Without the dedication and commitment our faculty and staff has to serving our students, our School would not be where it is today.

Thank you for joining DePaul University's School of Nursing! Here's to an amazing rest of Spring Quarter!

Adjunct Faculty:	Graduate Assistant:
Samantha Schafer	Bryanna Roa
Rania Al-Najjar	
Tanya Levit	
Alyssa Kondratiuk	
Erica Levine	
Tatiana Valdez	
Michelle Harris	

WELCOMING FULL-TIME FACULTY AND STAFF



The School of Nursing welcomes:

Dr. JulieAnn Collins, *DNP, APRN-FPA, FNP-BC*
Professor of Nursing – DNP Program

I began my nursing career in 2007 and have been a nurse practitioner for the past 10 years. My clinical background includes emergency medicine, medical-surgical nursing, and acute care. I currently practice part-time as a Family Nurse Practitioner in immediate care at a community health center.

For the past seven years, I've also been dedicated to nursing education, teaching in various RN-BSN programs. At DePaul, I serve as a professor in the DNP program, where I

teach NSG 464 (Advanced Health Assessment), NSG 474 (Primary Care of the Adult and Older Adult), NSG 478 (Clinical Management of Acute and Chronic Illness), NSG 483 (Practicum III), and NSG 490 (Practicum III).

I'm excited to join DePaul as a full-time faculty member and look forward to sharing my clinical experience and knowledge with students. As a practicing NP, I bring current insights on the evolving landscape of community health care—particularly valuable for students in practicum courses preparing to enter the workforce.





NEWS, EVENTS, AND DAYS TO BE AWARE OF

For a comprehensive list of academic timelines and deadlines, please view the [Academic Calendar](#).

- April 30: [Spring MENP Town Hall Meeting via Zoom](#), 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- May 21: Nursing White Coat Ceremony & Blessing of the Hands- LPC Student Center Room 120AB, 6:30 PM
- May 28: Sigma Theta Tau will hold induction of new members, 7:00 PM
- June 11-13: ATI Live Review *Mandatory for Q8 MENP Students*- LPC Student Center, Room 220
- June 13: End of Spring Quarter
- June 14: Honors & Pinning Ceremony- LPC Student Center, Room 120AB, 10:30 AM
- June 16: Begin Summer 2025 Term

Important: Please be on the lookout during the Summer Term on information regarding clinicals! Remember to check that there are no holds on your account in advance of registration opening. Clinical Placements are on a first-come, first-served basis, and you will be given 1 week to swap sections with your classmates.

GRACE PETERSON
RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

The Power of Supporting Marginalized Populations

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
DR. MONIQUE REED, PHD, MS, RN, FAAN

Centering Marginalized Populations in Times of Uncertainty

RSVP

MAY 28, 2025
09:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LINCOLN PARK STUDENT CENTER
2250 N SHEFFIELD AVE
ROOM 120AB

GRACE PETERSON RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

The annual Grace Peterson Research Colloquium will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in the Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120AB, from 09:00am-12:00pm.

The theme this year is "The Power of Supporting Marginalized Populations." The colloquium will have a few wonderful guest speakers, including Dr. Monique Reed from Rush University, who will give a presentation entitled "Centering Marginalized Populations in Times of Uncertainty."

All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend the event.





HEALTH ASSESSMENT LAB REMODEL

Over the Winter and Spring Breaks, the School of Nursing completed a remodel of our Health Assessment Lab including new flooring, lighting, cabinetry and upgrades to the instructor podium, computer and projector and replaced our otoscopes and ophthalmoscopes with the latest models.



NEW MID-FIDELITY MANIKIN AT THE SIMULATION LAB



Say hello to our new customizable mid-fidelity geriatric manikin! Our new manikin is life-like, with wrinkled and sagging skin on her face, stomach, hands, and feet. She even has sun spots! Her eyes are interchangeable to show our students what patients look like with or without conditions like cataracts. Her hair and skin can also be swapped for non-sagging skin found in younger patients. This manikin is already being used for Simulations and has been a great teaching tool for our students to view conditions experienced by elderly patients.

VOLUNTEER AT CAMP ONE STEP

Camp One Step by Children's Oncology Services is a leader in providing kids with cancer and their families free year-round camp experiences that foster joy, belonging, confidence, and lifelong friendships. They are currently seeking medical volunteers and counselors to participate in their Sibling Camp, Summer Camp, and Adventure Camp.



All volunteers must be 21 years of age or older. Medical volunteers must be a licensed health care professional (RN, NP/PA, MD) with at least 1 year of clinical experience post graduation. For more information, please visit their website.

Robin Hood Camp ▶ **Maine**
A LITTLEFIELD SUMMER CAMP SINCE 1928

VOLUNTEER AT ROBIN HOOD CAMP

Robin Hood Camp, located in Brooksville, Maine, is searching for nursing students to act as Nursing Assistants at their children's Summer Camp. Room and board is included, compensation starts at \$1k/week, and the camp dates are from June 11 - August 14th. To apply, please visit Robin Hood Camp's website and complete the Online Staff Application under the Staff tab.





Lily Amer, MSN

FATIMA PATEL AWARD RECIPIENT, LILY AMER

I was very surprised when Dr. Barron announced my name as the recipient of the Fatima Patel award. It meant a lot to me that the faculty felt that I was deserving of this award. During the MENP program, I had an amazing time through CBSL to volunteer at Care for Real in the Rogers Park and Edgewater neighborhoods. During my time at Care for Real, I was able to see their impact by helping low-income neighbors who struggle with food insecurity. Volunteers can help by sorting food, packing boxes, refilling the shelves, or directly assisting a client during the food pantry distribution. They also help clients

with additional resources such as access to personal care items, clothing, and additional referrals if needed. It's been amazing to see the direct impact the organization makes on the community. After graduating, my plan is to study for the NCLEX and begin my job search as a registered nurse.

One of my interests in nursing is becoming a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse. I was born premature and spent 4 months in the NICU where the nurses were my primary caregivers, which inspired me to do the same for other NICU babies. The primary nurse that cared for me kept in touch with my family and me, but I always wondered who cared for me in the NICU. A few years ago, I received a Facebook message from a woman named Christina who introduced herself as a nurse who took care of me when I was in the unit. We reconnected right before I graduated from nursing school, so she was able to celebrate with my friends and family at my graduation party. It's been amazing to reconnect with her, 26 years later, and hear her stories of my time in the NICU and share our life stories to each other.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the faculty and staff at the School of Nursing. Their support throughout the program have been instrumental in my success. I am truly grateful for their dedication to fostering a nurturing and enriching learning environment.



Christina Falco, RN, BSN and Lily Amer, MSN

"I was one of the nurses who signed up to take consistent care of Lily when I worked in the ISCU (Infant Special Care Unit). Lily was a dolly! I knew that if I had kids, I wanted to name my daughter after her. When I left the ISCU, Lily always remained in my mind and my heart as I would ever so often look fondly at my album of the letters and pictures of the babies I had taken care of.

I found Lily on Facebook and we met for the nicest 3 hour brunch. As soon as I saw Lily for the first time in 27 years, tears filled my eyes. We hugged and embraced forever, it was as if we knew each other our whole lives. It was as if the circle was complete.

When a baby like Lily defeats the odds that are stacked against her and lives a beautiful full life with the most wonderful family, I see the hand of God in it all."

-Christina Falco, RN, BSN





CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ANNE SIMMONS FOR MNRS ABSTRACT



Congratulations to Dr. Anne M. Simmons, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, AMB-BC, CNE, for presenting her abstract, "Barriers to Provider Comfort in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention-Deficit-Hyperactivity-Disorder by Advanced Practice Nurses in the Pediatric Primary Care Setting" at the 2025 Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Annual Research Conference held in Indianapolis, IN.

DR. BOWMAN'S STRIDES IN NURSING RESEARCH

Congratulations to Dr. Mary K. Bowman, DNP, WHNP-BC, APN, for their upcoming presentation on "80 Years of Collective Nurse Power: How the California Nurses Association Shaped U.S. Nursing History through Labor Organizing" at the 42nd Annual Nursing & Healthcare History Conference in Wilmington, North Carolina in October 2025.

You may find Dr. Bowman's recent research on "[An Intersectional Critique of Nursing's Efforts at Organizing](#)" in Nursing Philosophy's online journal.



DR. SPURLARK'S STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE DEI

Dr. Roxanne Spurlark, DNP, APRN-FPA, FNP-C, recently published "Advanced Practice Nursing Education: Strategies to Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging." The publication highlights the essential role of nurse educators in shaping curricula that prepare future clinicians to address systemic health inequities and provide culturally responsive care. It also offers strategies for institutional viability, faculty development, holistic admissions, and curriculum redesign to address health disparities and systemic barriers in education.

DR. CANLI'S PUBLICATION ON FACILITATORS OF LEADERSHIP

Dr. Ursula Canli's publication, "Facilitators of Leadership Among Latina Nurse Leaders" was published in Hispanic Health Care International. Canli's publication explores the results of seventeen Latina nurse leaders "to learn about the facilitating factors that have supported Latina nurse leaders in their ascension into leadership roles."





DR. BARRON ON INTERVIEWING SKILLS



Congratulations to Dr. Becky Barron, DNP, RN for recently publishing "Teaching Motivational Interviewing Skills to Pre-Licensure Nursing Students: A Comparison of Simulated Telehealth, Simulation Gaming Technology and Traditional Clinical Learning Environments." You can find more information on this publication within Nursing Education Perspectives.

DR. WEBBER-RITCHEY RECEIVES A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Kashica J. Webber-Ritchey, PhD, MHA, RN, FAHA for receiving the 2025 Mid-Career Excellence in Research Award! This prestigious award honors an Associate Professor's outstanding contributions to their field. Dr. Webber-Ritchey has published groundbreaking studies in obesity-related health disparities in Black youth as well as the impact of COVID-19 on nursing practice.



DR. NETTER'S ON HIV PRESCRIBING PRACTICES

Congratulations to Dr. Molly Netter PhD, MSN, APRN-FNP, BSN, BSC for publishing her research on "Nurse Practitioners' HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Prescribing Practices for Women." You may find more information on Dr. Netter's research in the Journal for Nurse Practitioners.

PROFESSORS PRESENT RESEARCH AT MIDWEST NURSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Professors Dr. Mary Claire Houlihan, Dr. Kashica Webber-Ritchey, and Dr. Sheila Flynn Towson presented their research at the Midwest Nursing Research Conference in Indianapolis. Dr. Kim Amer also accompanied the group. It was an exciting conference, with a lot of excellent theoretical and applied nursing research development.



From left to right: Dr. Houlihan, Dr. Towson, Dr. Webber-Ritchey, and Dr. Kim Amer

Dr. Towson presented her research concerning the nutrition health literacy of parents of school-age children, with the theory that if parents could model positive eating behaviors and prepare healthy foods, it could benefit the long-term health outcomes in children and help curb chronic diseases such as early onset diabetes mellitus 2 and obesity. This hypothesis was measured with in-person health nutrition education sessions and before and after surveys. The result was that children urged their parents to buy healthy food to have a positive outcome as during recess.





Dr. Mindy Ruan, DNP, CRNA

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DR. MINDY RUAN

Mindy Ruan, DNP, CRNA, has been taking great strides since graduating in 2013 from DePaul's MENP Program. Since graduating, Dr. Ruan has started and completed Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist (CRNA) school, now working in Central Illinois as a CRNA. Dr. Ruan is teaching Pharmacology as an Adjunct Professor for Endeavor's Nurse Anesthesiology program and also serves as Regional Director for the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthesiology. As Region IV Director, Dr. Ruan is also the Federal Political Director, advocating for CRNA's and removal of practice barriers to increase access to healthcare.

Endeavor School of Nurse Anesthesia partners with One World Surgery in Honduras, allowing Dr. Ruan to take a group of CRNA students at least once a year to Honduras for medical mission trips. They station at a small surgicenter in the middle of one of Honduras's National Orphanages. While there, they perform a variety of medical treatments including orthopedic surgery, spine surgery, cataract surgery, and general surgery.



Dr. Ruan with patients in Honduras

Dr. Ruan will be going to Springfield with other CRNAs in March and D.C. in April with hundreds of other CRNAs to help advocate for a profession she loves so dearly. Dr. Ruan's aspires to continue working clinically as a CRNA while doing advocacy work for her profession and educating the next class of excellent CRNAs.

TUTORING AVAILABLE

Need some extra assistance? Our simulation lab graduate assistants are here to assist you with nursing skills you have learned throughout the program. They offer skills tutoring on the second floor at 990 W Fullerton, helping you review skills like wound care, starting IVs, tracheostomy care, head to toe assessments, and any other skills you have learned throughout your program. If you are interested in receiving tutoring, please set up an appointment with nursingtutoring@depaul.edu in Outlook.

