

Summer Quarter, 2024

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

DePaul University



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Message from the Director**

**Grace Peterson Research Colloquium**

**Sigma Theta Tau Induction**

**Faculty Recognition**

**Welcome New Staff**

**MNRS Conference**

# A Message from our Director

## Dr. Kim Siarkowski Amer, PhD, RN

### Happy Summer from the School of Nursing!

We have had a very productive academic year. Our Strategic Planning Meeting outlined goals for the next five years.  
Thank You Dr. Shannon Simonovich!

Our Grace Peterson Research Day was a great success with thanks to Committee Chair Dr. Sheila Towson, and Committee members Dr. Margaret Kipta, Dr. Young-Me Lee, Dr. Shannon Simonovich and Dr. Kashica Webber-Ritchey for creating a very dynamic and exciting day. Thanks also to Laura Devaney and Monica Wojnicki for their efforts to support logistics for this event.

Our Sigma Theta Tau, Zeta Sigma Chapter had a lovely induction ceremony thanks to Dr. Michelle Neuman and Dr. Amanda Dirnberger. I look forward to Sigma events coming up in the Fall. Please keep an eye out for emails and our newsletter for upcoming events.

### Good News

Dr. Gre Gonzalez received the prestigious Excellence in Teaching award from the College of Science and Health.

We are so proud of our 96% pass rate On NCLEX the past two quarters!

### Research Dissemination

I am so proud of the many faculty presented research nationally and internationally and to our faculty who attended a variety of research, teaching and simulation conferences. We were able to help fund everyone who requested travel funds. Those who traveled to conferences include; Dr. Becky Barron, Dr. Mary Bowman, Dr. Stephanie Byrd, Dr. Ursula Canli, Carol Lynch, Aima Matthew, Karen Nejd, Dr. Shannon Simonovich, Dr. Roxanne Spurlark and Dr. Kashica Webber-Ritchey, (and many more coming up in the future).

I attended the AACN doctoral conference and the Elsevier Student Success conference.

We are committed to lifelong learning. If you are planning on presenting at a conference in the 2024-25 Academic Year, please submit a request by *August 15th* so we can plan our budget accurately.

### Student Opportunities

Students interested in serving as representatives on behalf of your fellow students on SON committees should email me at [kamer@depaul.edu](mailto:kamer@depaul.edu)

### Summer Reading and Summer Safety is on my mind.

Teaching and learning is very intense and tiring. For both teachers and students, you need to be healthy and rested to be able to be attentive and creative. Find ways to decompress and relax with whatever works best for you. More importantly, please take time for yourself to relax and notice nature. Take a walk through the Montrose bird sanctuary, visit the Chicago Botanical Garden or go to Ravinia or free Grant Park Concerts on Monday evenings. View a mindfulness meditation on YouTube or the Calm app.

Most importantly stay safe!

All the best to you.  
Take Care, Kim Amer

**Dr. Amer's Office Hours (990 W. Fullerton, 4th Floor) are Monday and Wednesday  
1:00 PM - 2:30PM or email Dr. Amer to schedule a chat or give suggestions for improvements.  
[kamer@depaul.edu](mailto:kamer@depaul.edu)**



# Grace Peterson Research Colloquium

*Building Knowledge to  
Advance Nursing Practice*

*May 31st, 2024  
12:30 PM- 4:00 PM*

*Keynote Address*

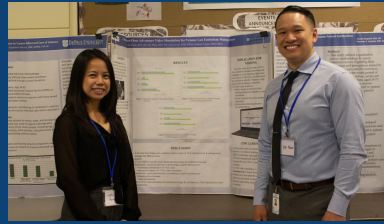
Research Ideas Becoming a Reality

Karyn Holm, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

Lincoln Park Campus  
McGowan South - Atrium  
1110 W. Belden Ave

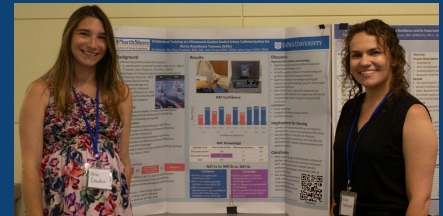


The annual Grace Peterson Research Colloquium was organized by the SON Research and Dissemination committee lead by Dr. Sheila Towson and committee members Drs. Margaret Kipta, Young Me Lee, Shannon Simonovich, and Kashica Webber-Ritchey. This annual event provides an opportunity for SON graduate students to share their nursing research with all who attend. We welcomed more than 60 attendees from across our Pre and Post-licensure programs. Professor Emeritus and Vincent DePaul Professor, Dr. Karyn Holm, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA, gave the Keynote Address: “**Research Ideas Becoming Reality**”. The colloquium also included featured presentations by Drs. Molly Kachale-Netter, PhD, MSN, APN, FNP-C, BSN, BSC; Jeff Matson, PhD, CRNA and Miriam Kanan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC.



# The Grace Peterson Research Colloquium 2024

*Building Knowledge to Advance Practice Nursing*



# News and Events

## **Mandatory ATI Live Review: Graduating Cohort**

August 21st & 22nd,

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

August 23rd, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314 AB

## **MENP Orientation:**

August 23rd, 10:00 AM - 1:00PM, McGowan South Room 108

*Students interested in meeting the new cohort for lunch, please contact*

*Laura Devaney at [ldevaney@depaul.edu](mailto:ldevaney@depaul.edu)*

## **Summer 24 Honors & Pinning Ceremony**

August 23rd, 5:30 PM - 7:30PM, Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120 AB

*Doors to Auditorium Open at 5:00 PM*

***Student must check in by 5:15 PM***



# Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

On June 3rd, 24 students were inducted into the Zeta Sigma chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.  
Congratulations to all new members!



# School of Nursing Faculty Honors

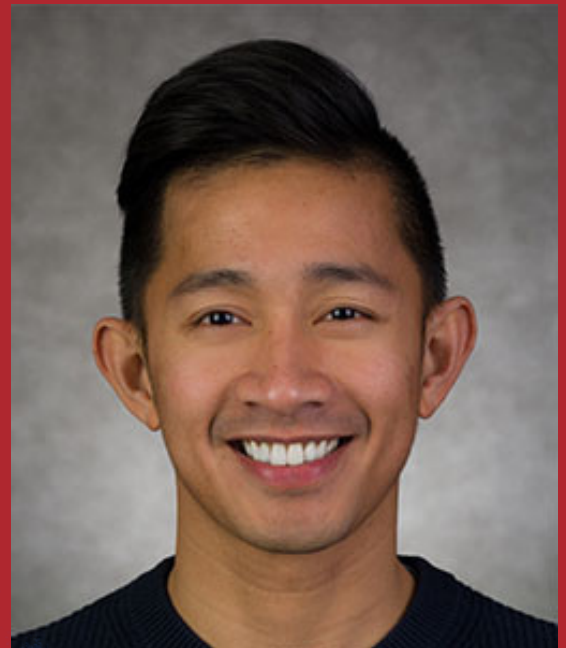


Dr. Kashica Webber-Ritchey, MHA, PhD, has been selected as a Fellow by The American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke nursing. This prestigious Fellowship recognizes and awards premium professional members for excellence, innovative and sustained contributions in the areas of scholarship, practice and/or education, and volunteer services within the AHA/ASA.

**Congratulations Dr. Webber-Ritchey**

Dr. Gre Gonzales is an honored recipient of the 2024 QIC Excellence in Teaching Award by the DePaul College of Science and Health and the Quality of Instruction Council.

Four distinguished educators are recognized each year for their remarkable contributions to DePaul University's academic mission. Please join us in commending Gre for this prestigious award and his outstanding contributions to the School of Nursing!



**Congratulations Dr. Gonzales!**

# **The School of Nursing Welcomes Amy Stitcha - Simulation Coordinator**

Amy is a simulation specialist and biologist, with a diverse background in healthcare, genetic research, mathematical modeling software, and special effects makeup design. She has conducted genetic research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Northeastern Illinois University, and has six years of bedside healthcare experience.

"I'm quite excited to join the nursing school's simulation lab at DePaul! Simulation is an important opportunity for students to learn to recognize changes in their patient's condition and practice good clinical judgment safely, without risk to themselves or their patients. As a mixture of classroom, theatre, team-building, and student-led hands-on experience, simulation is a fascinating and important part of a good nursing curriculum. I'm delighted to have the chance to bring my healthcare, software, and tech theatre skills to the simulation lab!"



# School of Nursing Welcomes

## Monica Wojnicki, DNP ( C ), MHA, BSN, CCA, RN Post-Licensure Student Success Coordinator

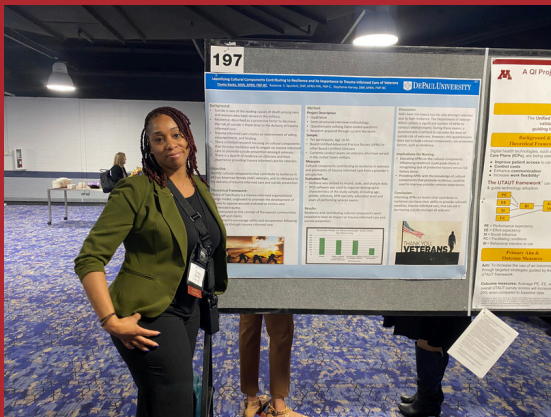


Monica Wojnicki is a Registered Nurse with over 25 years in healthcare. She has more than 12 years of experience in higher education and more than 20 years in the healthcare industry, with a diverse background as a registered nurse, EPIC systems analyst, program coordinator, professor, director, and project manager.

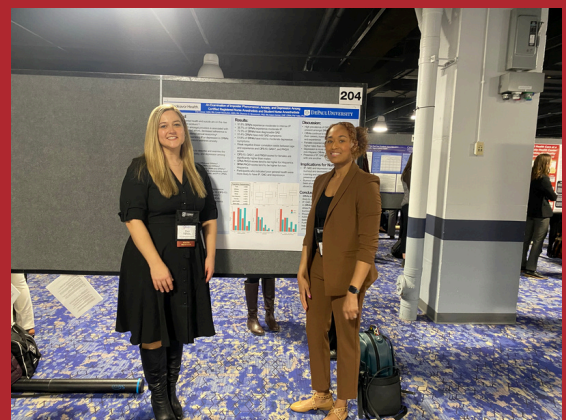
“I am passionate about transforming nursing practice and enhancing patient outcomes through evidence-based research and education. That is why I am pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Aspen University with an anticipated graduation date of December 2024. I also have a certificate as a Registered Healthcare Information Administrator from Weber State University and a Project Management Certificate from Loyola University Chicago. I have extensive knowledge and skills in healthcare IT, EHR systems, coding, and clinical systems analysis, which I hope to apply to improve the quality and efficiency of the healthcare career programs. I am also a certified nursing assistant instructor and evaluator, and a certified coding associate. I have led several initiatives to revamp the curriculum, implement technology, create apprenticeship programs, and foster interprofessional collaboration among the faculty and partner organizations. I am committed to advancing the field of healthcare education and preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals within my role here at DePaul University. I look forward to meeting and connecting with each one of you.”

# Students and Faculty Represent at the Midwest Nursing Research Society 48th Annual Research Conference

School of Nursing Faculty & Students travelled to Minneapolis from February 28th to March 3rd to present their research at the MNRS 48th Annual Research Conference



Dr. Tineka Banks, DNP, RN  
Spring '24 Graduate



Eva Vanoer & Cyniah McClurkin  
DNP Anesthesia Candidates



Louis Basaka, DNP Candidate



Dr. Kachica Webber-Ritchey, MHA, PhD, RN



# nursing

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Nursing integrates the art and science of caring and focuses on the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and human functioning; prevention of illness and injury; facilitation of healing; and alleviation of suffering through compassionate presence. Nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in recognition of the connection of all humanity.

*ANA (2021). Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice  
Fourth Edition, p. 1.*