FALL & WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

A Publication of The Graduate Center, CUNY Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program
Greetings from Executive Officer Dr. Donna M Nickitas

Faculty Achievements

Alumni Achievements

Student Achievements

Jonas Center Nurse Leader Scholars

Keville Frederickson Scholarship Fund Announcement

Postdoctoral Researcher Miguel A. Villegas-Pantoja

In Focus: Retired Faculty

Upcoming Events
Greetings from the Desk of Executive Officer Dr. Donna M. Nickitas

Greetings on behalf of the Faculty and Staff of the Nursing Science Program. We are pleased to provide the second edition of our program’s E-Newsletter. We are grateful for the excellent work of our Editor, Stephen Jones, as he highlights the outstanding scholarship of our faculty, students, and alumni.

I will focus my comments on the 2014 External Review findings submitted by Dr. Catherine Bender and Dr. Lorraine Tulman. The key issues are identified below in bold, with their responses following.

**Issue 1. Providing a Viable Model for Current Students**

Both faculty and students agree that the program will remain a cohort, full-time program. The faculty, after considering eliminating core course requirements, have decided that no changes are warranted in the program at this time.

Based on the reviewers’ advisement, the possibility of extending the time to completion is under consideration. I am also exploring additional supports and interventions with student services.

**Issue 2. Best Practices regarding Practicum Placement**

The external reviewers recommended revisions to the dissertation process that will improve efficiency and effectiveness. Our dissertation practicums stress the quality of scholarship and the students’ ability to evaluate theory-based concepts, assist in implementing research, and interpreting roles as nurse scientists.

**Proposed Change:** The development of dissertation topics and pairing with faculty advisors will now begin at the end of the first year, prior to the First Examination. The following revisions are based on the external reviewers’ recommendations:

1. Greater effort will be made to establish a match between students’ research interests and faculty research expertise. This process will now begin during the application process. By identifying students’ research interests early on, their pairing with faculty mentors will be streamlined. This will allow students to use coursework from the beginning of the curriculum to more effectively and efficiently develop their knowledge of the science and methodologies relevant to their area of research. Coursework will be used to maximize & develop students’ dissertation research as well as scholarly publications.

2. At the end of their first year, students will work with a faculty advisor/sponsor to identify coursework (including electives) and research experiences (i.e. Dissertation Research Practicum) that will move their dissertation research forward more efficiently. This will improve the student’s scholarly outcomes including dissemination and establishment of appropriate and productive interdisciplinary activities.

3. Students and faculty will have time to form a relationship and solidify the mutual research interests, during the dissertation practicum experience.

**Issue 3. Content, timing and format of the first examination**

The first examination is given at the completion of 20 credits.

1. demonstrate a broad mastery of core content, theory, and research in a discipline;
2. select an appropriate phenomenon for an integrative literature review;
3. critically appraise empirical and conceptual literature of the selected phenomenon using articles, books, and/or dissertations; and
4. undertake independent scholarship.

Students select a phenomenon that is closely aligned with their proposed dissertation topic, conduct an integrative literature review and write the State of the Science paper over the summer between the end of their first year and beginning of the second year.

**Issue 4: Maximizing the Dissertation Experience *(#2 & # 4 combined response)*

**Placement Issue 4. Maximizing the Dissertation Experience**

Both program faculty and the external reviewers have decided not to develop a BS to PhD track at this time. The Executive Committee will focus on 3 key recommendations: advisement, research practicum, and the dissertation experience and evaluate the outcome of these recommendations before undertaking the task of developing an additional track to the PhD.

We welcome your insights and recommendations in ways to refine and enhance the quality of program.

Thank you,

Donna M. Nickitas, PhD, RN, FAAN


Marianne Jeffreys RN, EdD


Elizabeth Capezuti PhD, RN, FAAN


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Member</th>
<th>Grant Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barbara DiCicco-Bloom RN, MA, PhD</strong></td>
<td>“Understanding Information Sharing and Relationships between Hospice Staff and Hospital Staff at a Suburban Medical Center: Implications for End of Life Care.” School of Health and Human Services, CUNY Grant/Office of Dr. William Ebenstein. Sept. 2014-July 31, 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eileen Gigliotti RN, PhD</strong></td>
<td>“Revising the Norbeck Social Support Questionnaire.” Professional Staff Congress CUNY. 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Linda J. Scheetz EdD, RN, FAEN</strong></td>
<td>“Tracking Level of Consciousness in Injured Older Adults to Estimate Time to Development of Increased Intracranial Pressure.” CUNY Lehman College Shuster Award Intramural Support. Principal Investigator. 2014-2015.</td>
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FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Barbara DiCicco-Bloom RN, MA, PhD


Donna M. Nickitas, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNE, FNAP, FAAN


Brigitte S Cypress EdD, RN, CCRN

Cypress, B. (2014, October). The intensive care unit: Experiences of patients, their families, and nurses. Presented at International Institute for Qualitative Methodology (IIQM) 20th Annual Qualitative Health Research Conference. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS (Cont.)

**Linda Scheetz EdD, RN, FAEN**


**Marianne Jeffreys EdD, RN**

Jeffreys, M. (2014, December). Nursing student retention: Understanding the process and making a difference. Workshop facilitator at National University, La Jolla, CA.

Jeffreys, M. (2014, October) Nursing student retention: Understanding the process and making a difference. Workshop facilitator at Illinois Organization of Associate Degree Nursing, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL.

Jeffreys, M. (2014, September). Optimizing outcomes through a TEAM approach using PIE and TEA. Keynote speaker at Kaplan Nursing’s National Continuing Education Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

**Steven L Baumann RN, PhD, PMHNP, GNP**


Baumann, S. (2014, October). The meaning of fathering and being a sibling of a ‘child that is not the same’. Presented at Conference and Formation 2014, Centre de l’Esperance, Geneve, Switzerland.
FACULTY HONORS AND AWARDS

Barbara DiCicco-Bloom RN, MA, PhD

Researcher Award Sigma Theta Tau International, Mu Upsilon, 2014.
Mentor of Natasha Nurse, Doctoral Candidate Award, Mu Upsilon, 2014.

Donna M. Nickitas, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNE, FNAP, FAAN

Appointed Co-Lead, Raise the Voice Campaign, American Academy of Nursing, 2014-Present
Appointed Faculty, Sigma Theta Tau, Experience Nurse leadership Academy, 2014-Present

Elizabeth Capezuti RN, PhD, FAAN


Brigitte S Cypress EdD, RN, CCRN


ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Caroline M. Hewitt DNS, RN, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC


Heather A Gibson RN, PhD


Meriam Caboral-Stevens PhD, RN, NP-C


Mary Fridman DNS, NP, AOCNP

ALUMNI AWARDED GRANTS

**Caroline M Hewitt DNS, RN, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC**

“Provision of Family Planning Services by Nurse Practitioners in New York State.” The Central Office of Academic Affairs, Office of the University Dean for Health and Human Services. 2015.

“Impact of Dance for PD on Quality of Life, Depression and Fear of Falling.” CTSC award for Pilot Study. 2015

**Michele Crespo-Fierro RN, PhD(c), AACRN**

“Cultural care needs of Puerto Rican women receiving HIV care from Nurse Practitioners in NYC.” Upsilon Research Grant, Sigma Theta Tau International. 2014.

**Bernadetta Amicucci DNS, RN, CNE**

“Effects of Prolonged Staff Shortages on Nurses Morale.” Co-Investigator. Zeta Omega Research Grant, Sigma Theta Tau International. 2014.

ALUMNI PRESENTATIONS

**Bernadetta Amicucci DNS, RN, CNE**


**Paul G Quinn PhD, ACNM, MS, RN**


**Heather A Gibson PhD, RN**


STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Catherine Mbewe RN, MS


Thomas A Haggerty MS, BSN, MS


STUDENT AWARDED GRANTS

Elvy Barroso MD, MSc, MSN, RN


Margaret S Alexandre MSN, CNA, RN

The Office of Academic Affairs/Office of the University Dean of Health and Human Services. Visiting Professor at the Nursing School, Public Regional University in Gonaives, Haiti, January & June 2015. $10,100.00
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Presentation Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meredith King Jensen MSN, MA, RN</td>
<td>Tackling tough topics: Practical steps to successful conversations. Presented at VA Safe Patient Handling Coordinator Conference. Houston, TX. August 2014.</td>
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<td>Elvy Barroso MD, MSc, MSN, RN</td>
<td>Video directly observed therapy. Presented at 25th Annual Symposium on Health Care Service in New York: Research and Practice. City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, NY.</td>
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<td>Margarett S Alexandre MSN, CNA, RN</td>
<td>Incidence of Hypertension/High Blood Pressure amongst college students. Presented at York College Summer Research Program. New York, NY.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas A Haggerty MS, BSN, MS, AD</td>
<td>Report of research study findings about English and Spanish-speaking ICU family member satisfaction with care and decision-making. Presented at New York Presbyterian Hospital Neuroscience Lecture Series. New York, NY.</td>
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Natasha J Nurse RN, MS, CNS


Randy E Gross MS, RN, WHNP-BC, ACNS-BC, AOCNP


Pearline Okumakpeyi, RN, MA, Med, DNS(c)


From left: Professor Lorraine Byrnes with her students, Catherine Lorenza, Theresa I. Lundy, Patricia Macho, Deborah A Lawrence, Donna Tanzi, Corinne Settecase-Wu, Kimberly Ambruso, Sandra Russo, and Joanne Knoesel
### Student Honors and Awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha J Nurse RN, MS, CNS</td>
<td>Scholarship Award. Sigma theta Tau, Mu Upsilon Chapter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy E. Gross MS, RN, WHNP-BC, ACNS-BC, AOCNP</td>
<td>Student Member. New York Academy of Medicine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearline Okumakpeyi RN, MA, MEd, DNS(c)</td>
<td>Paula Major Lectureship Award. 32nd Annual Symposium of the Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists. Boston, MA, March 2015.</td>
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Fall 2014’s Cohort 9, from left: Linice Zambano, Scott Kaye, Mimi Lim, Elyy Barroso, Catherine Mbewe, Georgina Colalillo, Magdalena Ryniak, and Marcia Jones George.
Scott Kaye was born and raised in NYC but spent nearly eight years living in Europe, where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in International Nursing from the Helsinki College of Healthcare and Social Services in Finland. He received his Master’s degree in Nursing Administration from Long Island University in Brooklyn.

In his current position as the Manager of Nursing Education and Special Projects at New York Hospital Queens, Scott’s focus is on the planning, creation, and implementation of online learning programs and clinical simulation, plus clinical decision support. At NYHQ, he participates in several organizational initiatives such as the magnet committee, performance improvement committee, and clinical claims review committees. He has held numerous clinical, educational, and leadership positions in Emergency and Critical Care Nursing. He is currently certified in Emergency Nursing, Pediatric Emergency Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, Nursing Informatics, and as a Nurse Executive (Basic Level).

As a large part of the job is designing online interactive coursework for orientation and training programs, Scott has a great deal of technical and informatics experience. He hopes that both his dissertation and future work involve integrating technology and nursing to provide the best patient outcomes.

Catherine Mbewe

Catherine Mbewe is a Professor in the Bronx Community College (BCC) School of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Program in New York City. Within the program, she is involved in all levels of student education (didactic, hospital clinical rotations, practice labs, etc.) to prepare students for graduation. BCC specifically aims to educate students from underprivileged areas with cultural, financial, and personal constraints. In an effort to meet some of these diverse student needs, Prof. Mbewe incorporated multicultural pedagogy. As a registered nurse, she has an extensive background in critical care nursing and medical-surgical nursing with a focus on neurological nursing. Ms Mbewe is obtaining a Ph.D. in Nursing to garner the skills necessary to become a nurse scientist/educator. Overwhelmed by the health disparity divide in developing countries, her study will examine the factors that place Zambian women at risk for cervical cancer and their health promotion behavior patterns in relation to screening and treatment. One goal of the study would be to identify culturally appropriate nursing interventions to address cervical cancer management and treatment in Zambian women. As an educator, she plans to mentor and lead the next generation of nurses and to motivate policy changes that will impact disparities in health in the United States and abroad. Professor Mbewe received her MS from Lehman College and her BX from City College, both in New York City. She lives in New York City. She is a native of Zambia, Central Africa and has lived in the United States since 1985.
This Fall/Winter Semester marked the eighth anniversary of our Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Nursing Science in Program! We are so proud of our students and so excited for the many years ahead. Very few people outside of the academy understand what a tremendous achievement it is to pursue a doctorate and to mature into an academic career of helping others, or use a trained mind to achieve research or business goals in a distinguished non-academic career. And so we honor the dedication and drive of our students past, present, and future.

In order to sustain our current and future scholars, I would like to invite you to contribute to *The Keville Frederickson Nursing Doctoral Scholarship Fund*. **Ours is the first publicly funded PhD Nursing Program at the Graduate Center. Since we began in 2006, we have graduated 29 nurses with doctoral degrees.** Our graduates compose the vanguard of doctorally prepared nurses who will provide decisive solutions to the current healthcare issues.

Your contribution to *The Keville Frederickson Nursing Doctoral Scholarship Fund* will go a long way towards supporting our program and students. The fund has been set up to provide for professional development activities and dissertation research and writing support. While some of our students are awarded external grants for dissertation support, your backing will make it possible for even more students to complete their scholarship.

**To contribute to our Scholarship Fund, please see donation cards and instructions at the end of the newsletter.**

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**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE 2014 ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS:**

- Bernadette J Amicucci
- Emma Kontzamanis
- Theresa L Lundy
- Mary A Joseph
- Paul G Quinn
- Barbara M Cohen
- Unn Hidle
- Katherine Weilbaecher
- Alsacia Pacsi
- Mary G Tesoro
- Regina Cardaci
- Donna Nickitas
- Keville Frederickson
- Mercy College Dept. of Nursing
- Dr. Karen V Bourgeois
- Dr. Anne Marie Simmons
- The College of Staten Island, Dept. of Nursing
- Dr. Nancy M Manister
- Dr. Danna L Curcio
Since 2011 Dr. Villegas has been a Professor in the Bachelor of Nursing Program at the Nursing School of Nuevo Laredo, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, México. He teaches Research Statistics and Research Methodology. He has also served as statistical advisor in bachelor and master dissertations. Since 2009 he has been a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Tau Alpha Chapter.

In 2009 and 2011 he received scholarships to pursue graduate studies. He earned a BN from the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas and received his Master and Doctor degrees from the Nursing School of the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, the only nursing graduate program recognized by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) in Mexico. During this time he collaborated in workshops for the “Grupo de Estudiantes de Enfermería Contra las Adicciones” (GREECA; Group of Nursing Students against Addictions) and in an intervention for teachers of elementary, junior high, and high school of the metro area of Monterrey titled, “Prevención de Adicciones en los Adolescentes” (Prevention of Addictions in Adolescence).

In 2014 he worked as a part-time professor in the Master of Nursing Science Program at the School of Nursing of the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, México, where he was teaching Publications and Dissemination Seminar. In that program he spent some time working with Master nursing students in the southern state of Chiapas, México as an agreement with the Instituto Superior de Estudios de Enfermería del Estado de Chiapas.

His research career has been focused on the study of substance use in adolescents - a national problem that threatens the quality of life of the Mexican population, particularly the residents near the border with the US. Also, he has taken part of the goals of the Academic Board for Prevention of Drug Addictions from the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon. During 2013-2014 he published the following scientific journal articles and book chapters based on his addiction research.

**Scientific articles**


**Book Chapters**


By the end of 2015 he aims to become part of the Mexican National System of Researchers (SNI) to produce research in his hometown. Currently he resides in New York and works as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Nursing PhD Program, Graduate Center, where he is advising PhD students. His future plans for research include incivility in nursing students, a problem often ignored in Mexican nursing schools.
What a life changing experience my work at the Graduate Center of CUNY has been. I was part of two planning committees for the PhD in Nursing for CUNY, neither of which became a reality. So, when the third request came to join yet another planning committee, I was not enthusiastic. However, after meeting with Vice Chancellor Selma Botman, it was clear that there was support for a research doctorate in nursing. Through the dedication and hard work of the faculty from the consortium colleges, Hunter and Lehman Colleges and College of Staten Island, the Letter of Intent and the Proposal were developed and passed by the Graduate Center and the Board of Trustees. In July 2006 the first twelve students were admitted and the program was in full swing by September (Note: it is anticipated that by Fall 2015 all 12 students from the first class will have completed and defended their dissertations.)

It was my honor to be elected to the leadership position as Director and then as Executive Officer of the DNS program and then lead the transition to a PhD program. All of this was made possible by the talented faculty scholars from the three campuses who were also appointed to the Graduate Center faculty. Working with motivated and bright students who will become the next generation of nursing leaders has been my joy. The most memorable honor of my professional career was the creation of the Keville Frederickson Nursing Doctoral Scholarship Fund.

Developing international agreements with Mexico and accepting our first international student moved the PhD agenda forward. In the collaboration with the Public Health Doctoral Program through Executive Officer Nicholas Freudenberg, many connections were developed—specifically in London and South Africa. We led an interdisciplinary educational research trip which focused on childhood obesity and food policy. Under the leadership of the current Executive Officer Donna Nickitas and Deputy Executive Officer Martha Whetsell, the goal of international connections continues to progress.

My seven years as Director and Executive Officer of the Nursing Research Doctorate has changed my life and led to the fulfillment of a goal that I have long aspired to achieve: to provide the opportunity for a wide range of students, especially those from underrepresented minorities, to enroll in an affordable research doctoral program. I will miss the GC and PhD nursing faculty and students but will never forget them.
CAROL ROYE, EdD, CPNP, RN

I thoroughly enjoyed teaching in the Ph.D. in Nursing Program at the Graduate Center (GC). I had many years of experience as a nursing faculty member (at Columbia and Hunter), researcher, and clinician when I joined the GC faculty. Yet, the experience of working with doctoral students as a professor in the classroom and as dissertation sponsor and committee member presented a wonderful experience for me as I guided doctoral students. I learned from them as they explored research topics which tapped into their passions. Often, it was a shared passion for adolescent reproductive health which brought us together on the dissertation path. I spent many hours excitedly looking at publicly available data on sexually transmitted diseases in adolescents of different ethnic groups with one particular student; devouring the data and certain aspects of it which had not been noted by other researchers. Sadly, she was not able to complete her GC journey, but I plan to continue this important investigation.

While at Hunter and the GC I continued my own program of research in HIV/AIDS prevention in adolescent and young adult women. I formed ongoing research partnerships with GC faculty whose areas of expertise complement and enhance my work. In addition, I now have the enormous pleasure of working with some of our graduates, most recently in my work to improve nursing education in Haiti. With colleagues, we started the first Master’s Degree and the first nurse practitioner program in Haiti. One of our GC alumnae has joined in this work.

My GC experience remains very much a part of who I am and the work I am doing now.

Calendar of upcoming events

Eastern Nursing Research Society Conference
Save-the-Date Professional Development Event
Advising for Fall 2015 Registration
Registration for Fall 2015 Begins
Save-the-Date End of Year Luncheon
Graduation!

Washington, DC April 15th–17th
April 24th, 2:30-4:00pm location TBA
April 20th-30th
Begins April 30th
May 15th, 2:00-4:00pm in Skylight Conference Rm
May 27th, 5:00pm at Avery Fisher Hall
THE KEVILLE FREDERICKSON NURSING DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you wish to donate to The Keville Frederickson Nursing Doctoral Scholarship Fund, please cut and fill out the cards below.

Donation cards can be mailed to:
The Graduate Center Foundation, Inc.
365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 8204
New York, NY 10016

Or, donation cards can be filed online:
https://community.gc.cuny.edu/annual_fund

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- Select the Amount of your gift
- Select your program in the drop down Designation menu
- Complete the Billing and Payment information
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