



College of Nursing

VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY

# THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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The **Graduate Nurse Network** (GNN) is the graduate student organization in the College of Nursing with the goal of keeping the graduate nursing students informed while providing networking opportunities.

This format of the GNN Newsletter is to foster opportunities for networking by featuring a Sharing Forum. The **Sharing Forum** will highlight research, conferences, and rewarding experiences of which the master's and doctoral students wish to share. If you would like to learn more about the students' experiences, you may contact the students via e-mail.

**Jaqui Bak** (MSN Education) is the president of the Association of PeriOperative Nurses (AORN) SePA Chapter and will be attending the 56th AORN Congress this month in Chicago. She will be serving as a delegate which includes voting on perioperative practice issues, organizational statements, and the election of the organization's president. The Congress is held annually and attended by approximately 6,000 OR nurses from across the country and the world. She feels that it is wonderful learning and networking experience. She finds it very rejuvenating in regard to her personal practice.

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**Teresa Conte** (PhD program) coauthored the publication with Mary Ann Cantrell, "Between Being Cured and Being Healed: The Paradox of Childhood Cancer Survivorship," in *Qualitative Health Research*, 19(3), 312-322. In February, she successfully defended her dissertation proposal, "Pediatric Oncology Nurses' Lived Experiences of Loss and Grief."

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**Anne Fink** (PhD program) successfully defended her dissertation proposal, "Primiparous Puerto Rican Womens' Self-Reports of Postpartum Infant and Self-Care Knowledge Acquisition" in March. She is presenting a poster, "Toward a New Definition of Health Disparity: A Concept Analysis," at the April 4, 2009 Annual Jean Brown Excellence in Nursing Conference: Investigating Studies in Nursing at Immaculata University.

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**Janet Fogg** (PhD program) is co-author of the following article: Hupcey, J., Penrod, J., & Fogg, J. (in press). Heart failure and palliative care: Implications in practice. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*.

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**Kathleen Gilmartin** (MSN PNP) is truly enjoying graduate school here at Villanova and is looking forward to completing her goal to become a nurse practitioner. She recently transferred to the Division of Cardiology as a senior clinical research nurse at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She reports that this is a rewarding opportunity to see how children and young adults have progressed over the past two decades when diagnosed with congenital heart disease. The combination of enhanced surgical techniques and advanced nursing care has brought this specific therapeutic area to a new standard for many patients where earlier there was no hope for long term survival. Currently, she is working on several MRI studies that involve adolescents diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart (single ventricle). One of the studies will determine whether the anatomical and hemodynamic characteristics of patients with a three-staged surgical repair in part determine their ability to exercise and thus their ability to lead healthy, productive lives. At this time there are no published studies that measure this important outcome. Kathleen feels that this is an exciting time to be in Cardiology as the division is expanding the volume of studies in the area of clinical research with the anticipation of enhancing our current standard of practice.

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**Margaret Hattori-Uchima** (PhD program) will co-present at the Guam Nurses Association annual conference this May a presentation entitled, "Finding and Caring for the Homeless," describing her work in the recent Homeless Count, and the involvement of University of Guam student nurses in the community working with the homeless.

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**Catherine Heilferty** (PhD program) reports that her article, "Toward a Theory of Online Communication in Illness: Concept Analysis of Illness Blogs," has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Advanced Nursing.

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**Robin Herb** (MSN ANP) is working as the new Graduate Assistant in the Nursing Continuing Education Department. She is thankful that Dr. DeSilets, Peggy, Anne, Louisa, and the CE staff, have been patient as well as a great source of knowledge for her. She has found CE to be fun and very interesting. Robin encourages all of us to take a look at the website which has numerous opportunities for CEU's needed for re-licensure. There are new modules in the works and they are always looking for ideas to add programs or modules. She reports that the Continuing Education Department is open to any and all feedback on the programs. Even though Robin is busy with her husband, their five children, and the drive from Reading to VU, she is thrilled to be back in the academic environment. She hopes to stay connected with all of you through the GNN.

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**Stephanie Jeffers** (PhD program) presented a poster entitled, "Influence of End of Life Education on Attitudes of Nurses Caring for the Dying Patient and Family," at the Crozer-Keystone Health System Research Symposium at Widener University in November. This reported research in progress that she is conducting with Dr. Bette Mariani. They will also present this poster at the Alpha Nu - Center for Nursing Research Conference.

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**Tamara Kear** (PhD program) successfully defended her dissertation proposal, "An Investigation of Transformative Learning Experiences During Associate Degree Nursing Education Using Narrative Methods," in December '08. She also went to the Dominican Republic with 11 junior and senior nursing students from Gwynedd-Mercy College on spring break. The group provided direct care for the Haitian sugar cane workers and their families in the bateyes. They also offered teaching programs on dental care, installed water filtration systems, and provided dental and hand washing teaching in an orphanage in La Romana, DR.

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**Amy McKeever** (PhD program) defended her doctoral dissertation, "Female College Students' Self-Reported Behavioral Change After an Educational Intervention to Reduce Behaviors Associated with Cervical Cancer Risk," in December. Amy is an Assistant Professor at Drexel University. She will present the results of her research as a poster at the Eastern Nursing Research Society Scientific Sessions in Boston.

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**Heather Marozsan** (MSN ANP) is keeping busy managing school fulltime, working as the new Research Graduate Assistant for Dr. Smeltzer, working part-time at Paoli hospital in the ER, and taking care of her one-year-old son, Alexander. Her specialty interest is in Cardiology and she hopes to work as a Cardiac NP after graduation. She is looking forward to traveling to Paris this spring with her niece.

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**Catherine Morse** (PhD program) published an article, "Focusing on the Surgical Patient with Cardiac Problems, in Nursing 2009 in March.

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**Pennie Sessler-Branden** (PhD program) will present a poster entitled, "Advocacy: A Concept Analysis," at the Eastern Nursing Research Society's Scientific Sessions in Boston. She will also present this poster at the Alpha Nu - Center for Nursing Research Conference. This spring she is chairing the workshop, "Policy and Power: Hadassah Nurses as State Legislative Advocates," for the Hadassah Nurses Council in Hartford, CT.

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**Elizabeth Romeo** (PhD program) attended the Mosby's Faculty Development Institution Conference in Orlando Florida from January 4-6, 2009. The conference had a variety of break out sessions where she attended the sessions that were related to critical thinking. She is also presenting a poster at the Alpha Nu - Center for Nursing Research Conference. The poster's title is "Critical Thinking and Predicting Nursing Students' NCLEX-RN Performance." Betsey is busy preparing for the comprehensive exam that she and the rest of her cohorts will sit for during the summer session.

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**Jennifer Specht** (PhD program) will present a poster entitled, "Mentoring in Nursing Education: A Concept Analysis," at the Eastern Nursing Research Society's Scientific Sessions in Boston. She will also present this poster at the Alpha Nu - Center for Nursing Research Conference.

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**Jodie Szlachta** (PhD program) will present a poster entitled, "A Peer Learning Model in High- Fidelity Simulation," at the National League for Nursing's Education Summit in Philadelphia in September 2009.

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**Lisa Thiemann** (PhD program) reports that she was elected into the National Academies of Practice in Nursing. She is co-author of a chapter, "Specialty Practice of Nurse Anesthesia," in the 2009 book, Nagelhout and Plaus (Eds.), Nurse Anesthesia. She is first author of a chapter, "Evidence-based practice and the nurse anesthetist: making the connection," in A Resource for Anesthesia Educators (in press). She is co-author of a chapter, "Standards of care in Anesthesia Practice, in Professional Study and Resource Guide for the CRNA (in press), edited by Faut-Callahan and Foster. She has been invited to submit a guest editorial for the October issue of the AANA Journal on "Teaching Evidence Based Practice for Life Long Learning". Lisa will be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi this semester, and she will be attending the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Evidence Based Medicine in March to discuss collaborative innovations for evidence/best practices dissemination. On a personal note, we send Lisa best wishes on her recent engagement.

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**Sarah Weston** (MSN PNP) is busy working for Dr. Keen as her new Graduate Assistant. She enjoys the teaching/tutoring opportunities the position offers with the undergraduate students. Her plan is graduate in December 2010 and continue on to receive her Post Masters in Nursing Education. Sarah is also continuing to work per diem at CHOP on the Oncology/BMT unit.

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**Nancy Wise** (MSN Education) established Evidence-Based Practice Committees in a freestanding Obstetric Hospital during her maternal-child practicum. She subsequently wrote an article for AORN that contains practical information about beginning new committees. Currently, Nancy is developing a survey in which pregnant adolescents can share their current eating habits and suggest ideas for an interactive nutritional program for pregnant teens. With the information gathered from the survey, she hopes to participate in the implementation process. Nancy also serves as the Graduate Assistant for Dean Fitzpatrick. Although it promises to be a busy year, she's looking forward to the valuable learning experiences this position at the College of Nursing provides.  
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## **GNN Events**

Networking: Driscoll Hall Commons - April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:45-5:15pm

Welcome Tea for new Doctoral Students: Driscoll Hall - June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:30pm

## **Opportunities**

*Alpha Nu - Center for Nursing Research Conference*

March 26, 2009 @ 4pm

The Villanova Room in the Connelly Center

*Continuing Education*

Peripheral IV Insertion: The Basics

Tapping: Energy Psychology Technique

Nurse Manager Series: Motivation, Emotional Intelligence, Empowerment

*Visit [www.nursing.villanova.edu/nursing/ce](http://www.nursing.villanova.edu/nursing/ce) for more info*

## **GNN Officers**

For information regarding the Graduate Nurse Network, or general questions on graduate programs, feel free to contact the members of the GNN Executive Committee.

President:	Heather Marozsan - <a href="mailto:heather.marozsan@villanova.edu">heather.marozsan@villanova.edu</a>
Vice President:	Sarah Weston - <a href="mailto:sarah.weston@villanova.edu">sarah.weston@villanova.edu</a>
Secretary:	Nancy Wise - <a href="mailto:nancy.wise@villanova.edu">nancy.wise@villanova.edu</a>
Treasurer:	Robin Herb - <a href="mailto:robin.herb@villanova.edu">robin.herb@villanova.edu</a>
Sharing Forum Chairperson:	Sarah Weston - <a href="mailto:sarah.weston@villanova.edu">sarah.weston@villanova.edu</a>
Member-at-Large:	Stephanie Jeffers - <a href="mailto:stephanie.jeffers@villanova.edu">stephanie.jeffers@villanova.edu</a>
Faculty Advisor:	Dr. Patricia Haynor - <a href="mailto:patricia.haynor@villanova.edu">patricia.haynor@villanova.edu</a>