

2024
UConn

SCHOOL OF NURSING

COMMENCEMENT,
GRADUATE RECOGNITION
AND AWARDS CEREMONY



Order of Exercises

Bagpipe Introduction
Tabitha Heavner

Prelude and Processional
Grand Marshall
Valarie Artigas, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

National Anthem

Welcoming Remarks
Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing

Presentation of Citation to Honorary Degree Recipient
Chief Lynn Malerba

Presentation of Alumni Awards

Beverly Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing
Desiree Diaz, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, CHSE-A, ANEF, FSSH, FAAN

Marlene Kramer Outstanding Alumni Award for Research in Nursing
Olga Jarrin Montaner, PhD, RN, FAAN

Carolyn Ladd Widmer Outstanding Alumni Award for Leadership in
Nursing
Evelyn Gonzalez, MSN, RN, NE-BC, HCRM, SPHR

Presentation of the Candidates
Conferral of Degrees
President Radenka Maric, PhD, MS, BS

Alumni Greetings
Ryan Massicotte, *President, Alumni Board*

Closing Remarks
Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing

Recessional

Administration

Victoria Vaughan Dickson, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN

Dean and Professor

Nancy Schmieder Redeker, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FAAN

Senior Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship

Annette Jakubisin Konicki, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Clinical Professor

Annette T. Maruca, Ph.D., PMH-BC, CNE, CCHP

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Clinical Professor

Full-Time Faculty

Ivy Alexander, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Valarie Artigas, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

Michele Beaulieu, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

Cheryl Beck, DNSc, CNM, FAAN

Sandra Bellini, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE

Kristin Berghoff, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

Katherine Bernier Carney, PhD, RN

Kristin Bott, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

Denise Bourassa, DNP, RNC, CNL, CNE

Anna Bourgault, DNP, RN, MSN, CCRC

Kristie Bowdy, MSN, RN

D'Ana Brooks, DNP, RN, CNL

Judy Brown, PhD, CG, MB (ASCP)

Angela Carrano, DNP, MSN, RN

Eileen Carter, PhD, RN

Sharon Casavant, PhD, RN

Deborah Chyun, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

Caitlin Clyburn, MSN, RN

Michelle Cole, DNP, MSN, RN, CPN

Eileen Condon, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Dolores Coyle-Feliciano, MSN, RN

Christine DiLeone, PhD, RN

Carrie Eaton, PhD, RNC-OB, C-EFM, CHSE

Laura Eiss, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, NPD-BC

Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

Sherene Fagon, MSN, RN

Jamie Gooch, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

Maurade Gormley, PhD, C-PNP

Tiffany Gwartney, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

Sherri Hopkins, MSN, RN

Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, PhD, APRN,

ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Michelle Judge, PhD, RN, CD-N

Tiffany Kelley, PhD, MBA, RN-BC

Steven Kinsey, PhD

Kimberly Kobelski, MSN, RN

Leslie Lapointe, MSN, APRN, CPNP, CHSE

Cathi Lippman, MSN, RN

Lori-Anne Lowry, MSN, RN-CVBC, CNL

Ruth Lucas, PhD, RNC, CLS

Valorie MacKenna, PhD, RN, CNE, CHSE

Millicent Malcolm, DNP, GNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC, APRN, FAANP

Annette T Maruca, PhD, PMH-BC, CNE, CCHP

Elizabeth Mayerson, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE

Christina McElroy, MSN, RN, CHPN

Brenda McNeil, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN

Amanda Moreau, MSN, RN

Denise Morris, MSN, CMSRN

Kelley Newlin Lew, DNSc, RN, CDE, FAAN

Barbara O'Neill, PhD, RN

Jessica Palozie, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

Patricia Papacoda, MSN, RN

Amisha Parekh de Campos, PhD, MPH, RN, CHPN

MaryAnn Perez-Brescia, PhD, RN

Mallory Perry-Eaddy, PhD, RN, CCRN

Louise Reagan, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP

Nancy Redeker, PhD, RN, FAHA,

FAAN

Melissa Rembish, MSN, RN-BC

Christina Ross, PhD, RN

Dawn Sarage, MSN, RN, CNL, CMSRN, CHSE

Jean Sheerin Coffey, PhD, APRN, CPNP, FAAN

Full-Time Faculty, cont.

Juliette Shellman, PhD, RN
Natalie Shook, PhD
Kayla Silva, MSN, RN
Marianne Snyder, Ph.D., RN
Rebecca Solsky, MSN, RN
Christine Tocchi, PhD, APRN, BC-
GNP
Hsinfen Tu, MSN, RN

Thomas Van Hoof, MD, EdD,
FACMQ
Susan Virkler, MSN, RN
Stephen Walsh, ScD, MTS, SCM
Beth Weldon, MSN, RN
Carol Ann Wetmore, MSN, RN
Mary Whalen, DNP, NNP-BC, APRN
Wanli Xu, PhD, RN
Gee Su Yang, PhD, RN

Full-Time Staff

Constance Bedan, MS
Serina Bowman, BS
Pamela Cartledge, MA
Lisa Caruso, BA
Jaime Chase, AS
Chelsea Cichocki, MS, BA
Abby Clark, MS, BS
Lindsay Darcy, MA
Catherine Grosso, MA, BA
Kim Hearn, BS
Kathryn Heinzman, BA
Shea Kapinos, BS
Roston Kirk, BA, CHSOS
Meredith Kuzel, M.Sc.

Aime Liggett, MA, BS
Megan McNERney, MFA, BA
David Neill, BA
Ashley O'Connell, MS
Jill Reinhard, MBA
Daniel Roggi, M. Photog. Cr.
Photog.
Catherine Salai, BA
Heather Spottiswoode, BA
Karen Stevens, BS
Sherry Van Lange, MBBS, MPH
Sarah Virkler, BS
Stephen Wetherell, BA, BS



Commencement Speaker



Chief Lynn Malerba
Honorary Degree Recipient
18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe

Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe on August 15, 2010, and is the first female Chief in the tribe’s modern history. The position is a lifetime appointment made by the Tribe’s Council of Elders. Lynn follows in footsteps of many strong female role models in the Mohegan Tribe, including her mother, Loretta Roberge, who was a member of the Tribal Council that achieved Federal Recognition for the Tribe and held the position of Tribal Nonner (elder female of respect) as well as her great-grandfather Chief Matagha (Burrill Fielding). Prior to becoming Chief, she served as Chairwoman of the Tribal Council, and served in Tribal Government as Executive Director of Health and Human Services. Preceding her work for the Mohegan Tribe, Lynn had a lengthy career as a registered nurse ultimately as the Director of Cardiology and Pulmonary Services at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Yale University, named a Jonas Scholar. She was awarded an honorary Doctoral Degree in law from the University of North Carolina Pembroke, an honorary Doctoral degree in Science from Eastern Connecticut State University and an honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, CT. She earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of St. Joseph and her diploma in nursing from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.

Lynn was appointed by President Biden and is currently serving as the Treasurer of the United States.



Chief Lynn Malerba
Honorary Degree Recipient
18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe

Prior to her current role, she served as the United South and Eastern Tribes Board of Directors Secretary. She formerly served as Chairwoman of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee of the Federal Indian Health Service (IHS), a member of the Justice Department's Tribal Nations Leadership Council, a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health, a member of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee and a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development Leadership Council.

Locally she served as a Trustee for Chelsea Groton Bank, Board Chair for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, and on the Provost's Advisory Committee Member for the Harvard University Native American Program.

She published "The Effects of Sequestration on Indian Health Funding" in the Hastings Center Report, Nov-Dec. 2013 and authored two chapters in "American Indian Health and Nursing" Ed.

Margaret P. Moss, Springer Publishing Company. She lives in Niantic with her husband Paul. They are the parents of two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Angela and grandparents of granddaughters Taylor and Charlotte and grandson Connor.

Doctor of Philosophy

Bright Eze

Identifying Factors that Influence Pain Self-management and the Transition from Acute to Chronic Pain in Black/African Americans

Major Advisor: Angela Starkweather, PhD, ACNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Teresa Graziano

An Exploration of Pain Differences in a Gender-Diverse Sample

Major Advisor: Natalie Shook, PhD

Sarah Todd

Predictors of Emergency Department Utilization in Persons with Chronic Pain: a Secondary Data Analysis

Major Advisor: Louise Reagan, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Yuxuan Yang *

The Use of Reminiscence Interventions to Improve Mental Health Outcomes in Older Adults

Major Advisor: Juliette Shellman, PhD, RN

Doctor of Philosophy Student Awards

Carolyn Ladd Widmer Award for Outstanding Research, PhD
Yuxuan Yang *

Sigma Theta Tau PhD
Yuxuan Yang *

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Kwame Acheampong

Evaluation of Length of Stay, Acuity of Admission, Comorbidities, and Emergency Department Visits (LACE) Within the Last Six Months, a Retrospective Chart Review.
Major Advisor: Elizabeth Mayerson, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE

Christine Bottone

Implementing and Evaluating an Evidence-Based Practice Deprescribing Protocol to Guide Provider 30-Day Visits: A Quality Improvement Project
Major Advisor: Ivy Alexander, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Casey Rae Carini *

Mindfulness in Nursing Education: A Quality Improvement Project to Enhance Student Nurse Well-being
Major Advisor: Ivy Alexander, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Lauren Drysdale

Using an APP-Targeted Educational Program to Drive Referrals into Lung Cancer Screening (LCS)
Major Advisor: Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

Marcie Gawel

Improving access to care upon discharge for individuals presenting to the emergency department after a sexual assault
Major Advisor: Dr. Christina Ross, Ph.D, RN

Laura Gillen

Healthcare Professionals' Attitude towards Ventilator Management Education Delivered Electronically in the Neonatal ICU
Major Advisor: Dr. Tiffany Kelley, PhD, MBA, RN-BC

Amy Kolaczenko

Lifestyle Modification for Migraine
Major Advisor: Natalie Shook, Ph.D

Jennifer Lynch

De-Scheduling PICC Dressing Changes in the Neonatal ICU
Major Advisor: Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

Doctor of Nursing Practice, cont.

Nadeja Maseto *

Multidisciplinary Approach to Care of Patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease through Utilization of a Limb Preservation Program. Education, Understanding and Support for Primary Care Providers Regarding the Evaluation and Referral process. A Practice Improvement Project.

Major Advisor: Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Ashlee Mattutini *

Developing an evidence-based practice protocol for incorporating antibiotic stewardship principles within telemedicine: a feasibility project

Major Advisor: Brenda McNeil, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN

Krystal Myers *

Advocating for Safe Staffing for RNs in CT

Major Advisor: Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

Jennifer Pupek

Recognizing Loneliness in Long Term Care Residents: An Educational Module

Major Advisor: Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Kathlen Shankar

A Needs Assessment Project for Preoperative Patients Undergoing Gynecologic/ Oncology Surgery to Identify Low Health Literacy and Inform Best Practices in Patient Education Materials

Major Advisor: Anna Bourgault, DNP, RN, MSN, CCRC

Patricia Simonowicz

Reducing Blood Loss from Phlebotomy in Adult Neurocritical Care Patients: An Evidence-Based Practice Project

Major Advisor: Kristin Bott, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

Amanda Swan

Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of an Educational Intervention for Nurse Practitioner Students about the Integrative Care of Women Transitioning to Postmenopause

Major Advisor: Ivy Alexander, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Reshna Thapa

Using a Standardized Assessment Tool to Identify Patients for Referral to Discuss and Understand their Goals of Care

Major Advisor: Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

Doctor of Nursing Practice Student Awards

Josephine Dolan Award for the Scholarship of Application
Patricia Simonowicz

Sigma Theta Tau
Krystal Myers *

Eleanor K. Gill Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice
Nadejda Maseto *

Adult/Gerontology Acute
Care Nurse Practitioner

Patrick Antonini
Kellie Buccetti *
Megan Canty
Cody Cleveland *
Sheeren Cruz
Loren DeBella
Jenelle Dunstan *
Stephanie Fernandes *
Joseph Ferraro
Bryan Frankovitch *
Anna Gill
James Gillespie
Jonida Gijka
Kaitlin Moran *
Celina Pizarro
Shannon Rattrey
Holly Sloss
Shronda Thomas

Adult/Gerontology Primary
Care Nurse Practitioner

Martha Darnall *
Danielle Rosenberg *
Jessica Shilke *

Family Nurse Practitioner

Naadu Adjoka-Nartey
Arianna Burkard *
Kara Collazo
Emily Coyne
Jennie Gore *
Melissa Parente *
Rebecca Sopelak *
Eniko Magdolna Stolfi
Susan Marie White +

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Tamsin Barker
Kaylee Bergen *
Britanny Bober
Amaris Burgos
Katie Butcher *
Briana Davis *
Bethany Dewkett *
Kelly Duink
Erica Hennigan *
Kirsten Huff *
Sabrina Klein
Maureen Kunz *
Hanna Lofgren
Kelsey McLaughlin *
Katherine Merendino *
Faiza Mian
Nathaniel Nease
Ryan O'Gara
Andrea Powell *
Joanna Rutland
Christina Simmons *
Carolina Singh *
Christopher Smith

Post-Graduate Certificate NNP

Michelle Roe
Nisha Varghese *

Nurse Leader

Adriana Jiron *
Desiree Mahon
Annabel Maldonado

Nurse Educator

Stephanie Annes
Colleen Bradley
Yolanda Carlton *
Kristin Henry
Aimee Kurtzman *
Ryan Massicotte *
Gabrielle Nocera
Mahmoud Omar
Katherine Semyanko

Master's Student Awards

Eleanor K. Gill Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice

Primary Care - Danielle Rosenberg *

FNP - Arianna Burkard *

NNP - Christopher Smith

Nurse Leader - Desiree Mahon

Nurse Educator - Colleen Bradley

Sigma Theta Tau Master's

Emily Coyne



Student Award

Regina M. Cusson Healthcare Innovations Award

Amy Setesak, BS

The Regina M. Cusson Healthcare Innovations Award is awarded annually at graduation to a University of Connecticut student and faculty member who have shown demonstrable commitment and interest in being an example for leading health care innovation through the School of Nursing.

Bachelor of Science

Alessandra Ysabel
Agawin
Rachel Victoria
Aschenbrand
Taylor Ashby
Morgan Ayoub
Gabrielle Badu
Lillian Baldieri
Sarah Barstow
Mariel Beebe +
Allison Belgiovine
Julia Berube
Neha Biju *
Jill Blocher +
Lena Bosco *
Baylee Braun
Julia Brunetti
Carlyn Burba *
Michaela Bureau *
Nancy Che
Olivier Cloiseau
Jennifer Cone
Kailey Croke *
Erin Cronin *
Allison Cruger *
Abigail DeKemper
Maya Deren
Prakriti Dhakal
Megan DiBennardo
Halle Dixon
Tran Long Doan
Victoria Doncell
Caroline Donelan
Henenda Dourdan
Raya Eisenberg
Pierson Elliott
Lee Engel +*
Alicia Erami
Elizabeth Farrenkopf*
Kaylee Fell
Nashelee Ferrer
Amber Forgacz *
Marissa Forleo
Jonathan Fu
Courtney Garland
Rachel Gawlak

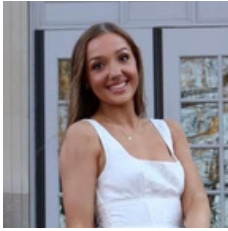
Mairead Gillespie
Abigail Glynn
Olivia Rose Guevara
Abby Elizabeth Gwizdz
Willia Haber
Saeyeon Han
Shivanie Harbaran
Jennifer Harden
Olivia Hendershot *
Abigail Herkert *
Mackenzie Howard *
Bonita Huang
Ehsan Ibet
Kristen Konz *
Caroline Kopfmann *
Renate Kuhn
Conor Lang
Seoyoung Lee
Sylvia Lemanski
Jessica Lewis *
Eliana Likorama *
Emily Longtin *
Ciana Lopes *
Yerenis Lopez
Melissa Lowry *
Alexandra Luhrs *
Maxine Lynch *
Mackenzie Lynch *
Lorenzo Macias
Lauren Mahler
Michaela Mahoney *
Thaiyeba Mahzabin
Kaitlin Malmquist *
Kathryn Martin
Chloe McGuire
Paige McNally *
Allison McSally *
Emma Hays Meehan *
Megan Michael
Caitlin Miranda
Isabella Mocadlo
Brianna Monte
Rebekha Mosquito
Anastasia Mozonski
Abigail Mullen *
Annmaria Murphy *

Lauren Madeline
Naclerio *
Olivia Napoli *
Catherine Noonan
Aleiya Noone
Kaitlyn O'Brien
Tiffany Agyemang
Okrah
Amber Olgac
Kaitlyn Oliveira
Emily Olsen *
Emily Diane Papp *
Gianna Patino *
Gabrielle Pawlak *
Grace Pena
Hannah Pierson *
Jere Mae Pintacasi
Madeline Plumb *
Samantha Price
Sydney Provencher
Kasi Shayla Ray
Kayla Rodriguez
Sophia Rogers
Kimberly Rosado
Bridget Rose
Andrew Sarnel *
Nadia Sauffian
Elena Schaumburger
Caitlyn Sroczenski
Khadijah Stanford
Jillian Sutton *
Madison Taddeo *
Mercy Takiwaa
Rosa Tomasto
Michael Tufano *
Carrie Turcott
Zaheer Turtem
Alexis Vanderpoel
Victoria Vidal
Matthew Voiland
Emma Marie Wilke *
Alexandria Young *
Lauren Young *

Bold = Class Officers
* = Sigma Theta Tau
+ Veterans & Active Military

Undergraduate Recognition and Awards

Valedictorians



Taylor Ashby



Melissa Lowry



Anmaria Murphy

Senior Class Officers

- Zaheer Turtem - President
- Olivia Hendershot - Vice President
- Abigail Mullen - Secretary
- Carlyn Burba - Treasurer
- Connor Lang - Community Service
- Samantha Price - Historian

Honors Students

- Lena Bosco
- Carlyn Burba
- Mairead Gillespie
- Shivanie Harbaran
- Eliana Likorama
- Emily Longtin
- Ciana Lopes
- Melissa Lowry
- Mackenzie Lynch
- Khadijah Stanford
- Zaheer Turtem
- Emma Wilke

Carolyn Ladd Widmer Undergraduate
Leadership Award

Zaheer Turtem

Clara Williams Holistic Nurse Award

Shivanie Harbaran

Sigma Theta Tau Undergraduate

Travis "Lee" Engle

Sigma Theta Tau Members

Sigma Theta Tau is the International Honor Society of Nursing. On the basis of their academic achievements and their potential for nursing leadership, Sigma Theta Tau has inducted these students into its Mu Chapter, the 11th of more than 400 chapters of this honor society. They join many of our faculty who are Mu members as well.

PhD

Yuxuan Yang

DNP

Casey Rae Carini

Nadejda Maseto

Ashlee T. Mattutini

Krystal Myers

Master's

Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Kellie Buccetti

Cody Cleveland

Jenelle Dunstan

Stephanie Fernandes

Bryan Frankovitch

Kaitlin Moran

Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Danielle Rosenberg

Jessica Schilke

Family Nurse Practitioner

Arianna Burkard

Jennie Gore

Melissa Parente

Rebecca Sopolak

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Kaylee Bergen

Katie Butcher

Briana Davis

Bethany Dewkett

Erica Hennigan

Kirsten Huff

Maureen Kunz

Kelsey McLaughlin

Katherine Merendino

Andrea Powell

Christina Simmons

Carolina Singh

Post-Graduate Certificate NNP

Nisha Varghese

Nurse Leader

Adriana Jiron

Nurse Educator

Yolanda Carlton

Aimee Kurtzman

Ryan Massicotte

Sigma Theta Tau Members

Sigma Theta Tau is the International Honor Society of Nursing. On the basis of their academic achievements and their potential for nursing leadership, Sigma Theta Tau has inducted these students into its Mu Chapter, the 11th of more than 400 chapters of this honor society. They join many of our faculty who are Mu members as well.

Bachelor's

Neha Biju
Lena Bosco
Carlyn Burba
Michaela Bureau
Kailey Croke
Erin Cronin
Allison Cruger
Lee Engel
Elizabeth Farrenkopf
Amber Forgacz
Olivia Hendershot
Abigail Herkert
Mackenzie Howard
Kristen Konz
Caroline Kopfmann
Jessica Lewis
Eliana Likorama
Emily Longtin
Ciana Lopes
Melissa Lowry
Alexandra Luhrs
Maxine Lynch
Mackenzie Lynch
Michaela Mahoney
Kaitlin Malmquist
Paige McNally
Allison McSally
Emma Hays Meehan
Abigail Mullen
Annmaria Murphy
Lauren Madeline Naclerio
Olivia Napoli
Emily Olsen
Emily Diane Papp

Gianna Patino
Gabrielle Pawlak
Hannah Pierson
Madeline Plumb
Andrew Sarnel
Jillian Sutton
Madison Taddeo
Michael Tufano
Emma Marie Wilke
Alexandria Young
Lauren Young



Alumni Award

The Beverly Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing



Dr. Desiree A. Diaz

**Professor, Director of Hispanic Serving Healthcare Professional Graduate Certificate and the Undergraduate Simulation Coordinator
University of Central Florida**

Dr. Desiree A. Díaz, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, CHSE-A, ANEF, FSSH, FAAN is a Professor, Director of Hispanic Serving Healthcare Professional Graduate Certificate and the Undergraduate Simulation Coordinator at the University of Central Florida. She completed a Post Doc from Johns Hopkins with Dr. Pamela Jeffries which focused on simulation pedagogy. Dr. Diaz creates tests and disseminates research on cutting-edge technologies such as holograms within the simulation community. Her strategies within simulation research pedagogy over the last decade have promoted health equity and brought awareness to healthcare disparities. She was a National Coalition Ethnic Minority Nurse Scholar and Health Leadership Fellow. She serves as President of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation.

Her current grant funding focuses on educating and exploring ways to eliminate healthcare disparities while educating the workforce. As co-PI to current government grant “ENFERMERIA” which looks to empower and enhance linguistic services and culturally congruent care within the Hispanic community while encouraging advancement to graduate degrees of diverse post-baccalaureate student populations. Dr. Diaz engages multiple means to reduce healthcare inequity and encourage healthcare equity advocates.



Alumni Award

Carolyn Ladd Widmer Outstanding Alumni Award for Leadership in Nursing



Evelyn N. Gonzalez, BSN, MSN Director of Clinical Workforce Development

Evelyn Gonzalez is the Director of Clinical Workforce Development at Memorial Healthcare System in South Florida. Her focus was primarily on clinical workforce development, but the pandemic expanded her role to workforce development for all areas of the system. She partners with school boards, institutions of higher education and workforce boards to develop innovative pipeline programs whose goal is to increase employability skills and improve workplace preparedness not just for the 17,000+ Memorial employees but for the citizens of Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade counties. Evelyn's diverse background includes nursing education, nursing administration, nursing recruitment, magnet, human resources management and workforce development.

Evelyn holds a BSN and MSN degrees from the University of Connecticut, a Human Resource Management Certificate from the University of Miami and two national board certifications: ANCC Nurse Executive and HRCI Senior Professional in Human Resources. She currently serves on UConn's School of Nursing DEI External Advisory Committee and various state and local workforce development boards, committees and councils.



Alumni Award

The Marlene Kramer Outstanding Alumni Award for Research in Nursing



**Dr. Olga F. Jarrin Montaner, PhD, RN, FAAN
Hunterdon Professor of Nursing Research
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Dr. Olga Jarrín is the Hunterdon Professor of Nursing Research at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. An internationally recognized scholar, educator and researcher, Dr. Jarrín's research focuses on improving health care delivery, equity, and outcomes for the U.S. Medicare beneficiary population living with chronic and advanced illness including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Dr. Jarrín has received over \$7 million dollars of research funding from federal and foundation grants to support her program of research, including large grants from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and small grants from the American Nurses Foundation, and the Alliance for Home Health Quality Innovation Foundation.

Dr. Jarrín has earned her B.S. (2002), M.S. (2007), and Ph.D. (2010) degrees in Nursing Science from the University of Connecticut. After completing her B.S. she worked as a visiting nurse/case manager and during graduate school also worked as a research assistant, teaching assistant, and instructor for UConn School of Nursing. After completing her Ph.D. she continued her research training at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) School of Nursing through postdoctoral fellowships in gerontological nursing and nursing outcomes research. While at UPenn she became an active member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and co-founded (with Dr. Paule Valery Joseph) the Latino Nurses Network non-profit organization to support the development and vision of current and future Latino nurse leaders, advocates, researchers, educators and clinicians who are working to improve the health of their communities at the local, national, and international level.



Faculty Award

E. Carol Polifroni Scholarship of Praxis Award



Juliette Shellman

Ph.D., RN

Associate Professor

Director, International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice
Director, Online Graduate Certificate in Life Story Practice and Research
Director, Long-Term Healthcare Management Certificate Program

The E. Carol Polifroni Scholarship of Praxis Award is given annually at graduation to a School of Nursing faculty member who has shown exemplary integration of theory, philosophy, research, and practice. UConn School of Nursing would not be the renowned institution it is today without the efforts and influence of E. Carol Polifroni. Over 47 years at UConn, Dr. Polifroni made a lasting impact on the School, the University, the state, and the international arena of nursing with her work on the philosophy of science and leadership. She served the School as interim dean three times and was its dean from 2016 to 2018. Most notably, she served in the School's first faculty practice plan, helped establish the Ph.D. program in 1994, created the accelerated, second-degree program in 2003, and served the University in a variety of roles. Dr. Polifroni served as major advisor to 17 Ph.D. graduates and associate advisor to more than 30 Ph.D. and DNP graduates. She received more than \$7.5 million in external grants in support of diversifying the nursing workforce and developing the next generation of nurse educators, but her most valuable contributions to the School were her enduring leadership and dedicated mentorship of future nurses.



Faculty Award

Pellegrina (Peggy) Lacovella Stolfi Clinical Teaching Award



Kate O'Brien
MSN, RN, NPD-
BC, CCRN
Health Assessment



Naomi Yates
MSN, BSN, RNC-
OB, efm-C
Clinical Instructor
Population-Based



Anna Riley
MSN, BSN, RN,
RNC-OB, RNC-IAP,
C-EFM, C-ONQS
Population-Based



Amanda Darcey
MSN, RN, CWCN
Clinical Nurse
Specialist
Capstone
Instructor

Peggy Stolfi has embodied clinical teaching excellence in both our traditional and accelerated CEIN/BS nursing programs for the last 21 years. Not only did she love what she was doing every day, but she built strong relationships with clinical partners, most significantly the Hartford Public School System and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Throughout her time at UConn, Peggy went above and beyond to create meaningful, memorable, and quality clinical learning experiences for our students.



Faculty Award

John McNulty Excellence in the Scholarship of Clinical Education Award



Hsinfen Tu
MSN, RN
Clinical Instructor

John McNulty ... a teacher extraordinaire

John was a nurse's nurse and a teacher's teacher. When he cared for patients, they were his whole focus. When he was teaching, the student was at the center of all his activities. As undergraduate program director for several years, he taught medical surgical nursing as he administered the program with more than 400 students. Proud to be Professor McNulty, John believed he needed to engage the students in order for them to learn; he could not just teach. He entertained them through his skits, drew them in through his stories from his work experience as a weekend supervisor, and always made them think through creating alliterations, plays, and sonnets. His NCLEX bootcamp and march toward passing on the first try is a UConn legend. John knew when to challenge the status quo and used student learning as his compass for decisions. Students were his life's work and yet he knew work-life balance. He assured the parents of our students that safety was the most important thing on a college campus, because his own daughters were the fulcrum of his world. Safety, study, and fun, in that order, was his mantra.



Faculty Award

Regina M. Cusson Healthcare Innovations Award



Valorie MacKenna

Ph.D., RN, CNE, CHSE

Assistant Clinical Professor

Director of Simulation-Based Education

The Regina M. Cusson Healthcare Innovations Award is given annually to a faculty member who has shown demonstrable commitment and interest in being an example for leading health care innovation through the School of Nursing.



In Memoriam

We would like to honor Dr. Henrietta Bernal, Professor Emerita, who has passed away. She made significant contributions to our school in the areas of public health nursing and cultural diversity. More specifically, she mentored many Hispanic and Latino students who went on to be successful nurse leaders. Evelyn Gonzalez is just one of many examples.

UConn School of Nursing was an important part of her life even after she retired.

Please hold her family, as well as School of Nursing family, in your thoughts and hearts.



P RAXIS

Professionalism in behavior,
presentation, and conduct

Respectful of the richness and
diversity of others and of self

Accountability for my actions
excellence in scholarship, practice,
teaching, and service

Integrity, inquisitiveness, and
innovation

Service to the profession and the
community