

2026  
**UConn**

**ELISABETH DELUCA  
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

COMMENCEMENT,  
GRADUATE RECOGNITION,  
AND AWARDS CEREMONY



# Order of Exercises

Bagpipe Introduction  
*Tabitha Heavner*

Prelude and Processional

National Anthem  
*Julia Pupriqi, Class of 2026*

Welcome Remarks  
*Victoria Vaughan Dickson,  
Dean, Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing*

Conferral of Honorary Degree  
*Radenka Maric, President*

Commencement Address  
*Elisabeth DeLuca, RN  
Honorary Degree Recipient*

Student Speakers  
*Allison Gonzalez, Class of 2026  
Hannah Scheibner, PhD Graduate*

Presentation of the Candidates  
*Elizabeth Mayerson, Director of Prelicensure Programs,  
Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing*

*Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Associate Dean,  
Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing*

Conferral of Degrees  
*Radenka Maric, President*

Alumni Greetings  
*Diana Filipek-Oberg,  
President of Nursing Alumni Board*

Closing Remarks  
*Victoria Vaughan Dickson,  
Dean, Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing*

Recessional

# Administration

Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN

*Dean and Professor*

Nancy Schmieder Redeker, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

*Senior Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship and Professor*

Susan DeSanto-Madeya, PhD, APRN, FPCN, FAAN

*Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs*

Annette Jakubisin Konicki, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

*Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Clinical Professor*

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

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Clinical Professor*

Constance Bedan

*Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration*

# Full-Time Faculty

Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN

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

Valarie Artigas, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

Sarah Ballough, MSN, RN

Cheryl Beck, DNSc, CNM, FAAN

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

Kristin Berghoff, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

Katherine Bernier Carney, PhD, RN

Vanessa Bolling, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Kristin Bott, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

Lauren Boule, MSN, RN, NP-BC

Denise Bourassa, DNP, RNC, CNL, CNE

Kristie Bowdy, MSN, RN

D'Ana Brooks, DNP, RN, CNL

Eileen Carter, PhD, RN, FAAN

Sharon Casavant, PhD, RN

Kendra Chmura, MSN, RN, CPEN, EMT-B

Deborah Chyun, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

Caitlin Clyburn, MSN, RN

Jean Sheerin Coffey, PhD, APRN,

CPNP, FAAN

Michelle Cole, DNP, MSN, RN, CPN

Eileen Condon, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Dolores Coyle-Feliciano, MSN, RN

Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Ph.D., APRN, FPCN, FAAN

Christine DiLeone, PhD, RN

Mallory Eaddy, PhD, RN, CCRN, FAAN

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

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

Sherene Fagon, MSN, RN

Kathleen Faherty, MSN, RN

Jessie Fisher, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Christine Glasz, MSN, RN

Jamie Gooch, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

Maurade Gormley, PhD, C-PNP

Erin Gryken, MSN, RN

Tiffany Gwartney, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

Sherri Hopkins, MSN, RN

Jessica Hutchinson, RN, MSN, CMSRN

Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, PhD, APRN,

ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Michelle Judge, PhD, RN, CD-N

Tiffany Kelley, PhD, MBA, RN-BC, FAAN

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

Candice Maningas, MSN, RN

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

Elizabeth Mayerson, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE

Margaret McCarthy, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, FAHA, FAAN

Christina McElroy, MSN, RN, CHPN

Brenda McNeil, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN

Haley Meier, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Amanda Moreau, MSN, RN

Denise Morris, MSN, CMSRN

Kelley Newlin Lew, DNSc, RN, CDE, FAAN

Jessica Palozie, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC Patricia Papacoda, MSN, RN

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

MaryAnn Perez-Brescia, PhD, RN

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

Nancy Redeker, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

Melissa Rembish, EdD, MSN, RN-BC

## Full-Time Faculty, cont.

Christina Ross, PhD, RN  
Dawn Sarage, MSN, RN, CNL, CMSRN,  
CHSE  
Yashika Sharma, PhD, RN  
Juliette Shellman, PhD, RN  
Natalie Shook, PhD  
Rebecca Sievers, MSN, RN  
Kayla Silva, MSN, RN  
Marianne Snyder, Ph.D., RN  
Rebecca Solsky, MSN, RN  
Kaila Toce, MSN, RN, CPN

Alexis Tomarelli, MSN, RN  
Hsinfen Tu, MSN, RN  
Thomas Van Hoof, MD, EdD, FACMQ  
Susan Virkler, EdD, RN, CNE  
Stephen Walsh, ScD, MTS, SCM  
Zequan Wang, PhD, RN  
Aimee Watts, MSN, RN  
Beth Weldon, MSN, RN  
Mary Whalen, DNP, NNP-BC, APRN  
Wanli Xu, PhD, RN  
Gee Su Yang, PhD, RN, FAAN

## Full-Time Staff

Jonathan Aguilar, BS  
Amber Albee, BS  
Coral Aponte, BA  
Constance Bedan, MS  
Serina Bowman, BS  
Pamela Cartledge, MA  
Lisa Caruso, BA  
Jaime Chase, BS  
Abby Clark, MS  
Catherine Coviello, MS  
Lindsay Darcy, MA  
Caitlin Dorrington, BS  
Catherine Grosso, MA  
Nichole Hauser, MA  
Kim Hearn, BS  
Ulysses Jones, BA

Shea Kapinos, BS  
Roston Kirk, BA  
Meredith Kuzel, M.Sc.  
Aime Liggett, MA  
Megan Mc Nerney, MFA  
Chelsea McTigue, MS  
David Neill, BA  
Ashley O'Connell, MS  
Anthony Polcaro  
Jill Reinhard, MBA  
Catherine Salai, BA  
Heather Spottiswoode, BA  
Karen Stevens, BS  
Sherry Van Lange, MBBS  
Sarah Virkler, BS



# Honorary Degree Recipient



**Elisabeth DeLuca '69 (NUR)**  
**President of the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and the**  
**Elisabeth C. DeLuca Foundation**

Elisabeth DeLuca is a proud graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Nursing whose work has impacted the education and long-term outcomes of thousands of nurses and allied health professionals. After graduating, Elisabeth gained her first employment experience as a surgical nurse at Bridgeport Hospital. She then went on to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital where she practiced in the Surgical and Medical ICUs and Geriatric Intermediate Care Unit.

After working for several years and starting a family, Elisabeth chose to join her husband in building his business from a single shop to a global network of restaurants. Despite that shift in professional focus, Elisabeth continued to apply many of the principles learned in her nursing experience to her new role in the business world.

Today Elisabeth serves as president of both the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and the Elisabeth C. DeLuca Foundation through which she has supported many charitable initiatives and impacted thousands of individuals through transformative and strategic giving. Inspired by her mother's sacrifices to provide formal educations for Elisabeth and her two siblings, Elisabeth's philanthropy is based on sustainable models, innovative partnerships, and programs that remove barriers to education and career advancement. She is among the nation's largest philanthropic supporters of nurses and allied health professionals resulting in education and upward mobility opportunities for thousands of people who otherwise would not have had such opportunities.

Among her most enduring contributions is her landmark gift to UConn to support a major expansion of the school of nursing, including a new facility to advance instruction, simulation-based learning, and innovation in the training of nurses. Through this support, the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing will double its enrollment in the next few years.

# Doctor of Philosophy

## **Tyler Driscoll**

An Exploration of the Key Features of the Behavioral Immune System and Their Relationship to Pathogen Avoidance Behaviors  
Major Advisor: Dr. Natalie Shook, PhD

## **Confidence Francis-Edoziuno**

Maternal Pain and Psychosocial Factors as Determinants of Breastfeeding Outcomes in a Longitudinal Secondary Data Study  
Major Advisor: Dr. Ruth Lucas, PhD, RNC, CLS, FAAN

## **Julia A McNeil**

School Engagement Among U.S. Adolescents With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Associations with Diagnostic Status, Symptom Severity, Treatment Modality, and Sociodemographic Factors  
Major Advisor: Dr. Deborah Chyun, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

## **Cristina Chandra Mills**

Experiences and Outcomes of Severe Maternal Morbidity: A Meta-Ethnography and Quantitative Analysis using a Statewide Dataset  
Major Advisor: Dr. Eileen Condon, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

## **Taylor Reilly**

Multilevel Influences on Human Milk Provision and Its Health Effects in Premature Infants  
Major Advisor: Dr. Michelle Judge, Ph.D., RD, CD-N

## **Hannah Rose Scheibner**

Examining the Effects of Neighborhood Characteristics on Sleep and Rest-Activity Rhythms in Young Children  
Major Advisor: Dr. Eileen Condon, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

# Doctor of Philosophy Student Awards

Carolyn Ladd Widmer Award for Outstanding Research, PhD  
**Confidence Francis-Edoziuno**

Sigma Theta Tau PhD  
**Cristina Chandra Mills**

# Doctor of Nursing Practice

## **Sunitha Abraham**

A Nurse Practitioner-led Quality Improvement Project to Deprescribe Empiric Antibiotics in Patients Discharged from the Emergency Department in the Setting of a Negative Urine Culture to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Jennifer Aldred**

Pre-Clinical Objective Structured Clinical Examinations for Family Nurse Practitioner Students: Impact on Clinical Confidence and Perceptions of Curricular Integration  
Major Advisor: Dr. Ivy Alexander, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

## **Majeda Basilio**

Enhancing Resiliency in Associate Degree Nursing Students Through Mindful-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Techniques  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Elise Bird**

Combining Psychomotor Medication Skills with Dosage Calculations to Improve Nursing Students Medication Administration Competency  
Major Advisor: Dr. Annette Jakubisin Konicki, PhD, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

## **Lois Caldrello**

Improving Airway Emergency Management Through Cognitive Aid Integration and Simulation  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Yolanda Carlton +**

Piloting the Master Preceptor Model: An Innovative Approach to Supporting New Graduate Nurses  
Major Advisor: Dr. Kristin Berghoff, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

## **Kendall Case**

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Provider Education on Best Practice Oxytocin Administration for Parturients Undergoing Elective Cesarean Section: An Evidence-Based Practice Project  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

# Doctor of Nursing Practice, cont.

## **Dolores Coyle-Feliciano**

Transforming nursing school curriculum to enhance education on palliative care for undergraduate students  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Candace De Vieira**

Be Anxious For Nothing: Religious Coping in an Immigrant Community  
Major Advisor: Dr. Vanessa Bolling, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

## **Jill Duboff-Jacomini**

Evaluating The Impact Of Animal Assisted Therapy On Depression In Geriatric In-Patients  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Amanda Filippelli**

Creation of a Provider Education Tool to Facilitate SMART in Pediatric Asthma  
Major Advisor: Dr. Brenda McNeil, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN

## **Grace Hong**

Pediatric Long Haul COVID-19 Clinic: A Program Evaluation  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Sherri Hopkins**

Implementation of a Pilot Mentorship Program for Novice Full-Time Clinical Instructors: An Evidence-Based Project  
Major Advisor: Dr. Michelle Cole, DNP, MSN, RN, CPN

## **Tara Huta**

Improving Airway Emergency Management Through Cognitive Aid Integration and Simulation  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Patrick Krecidlo**

Emerging Nurse Leader Development Program: A Leadership Development Program for Charge/Resource Nurses  
Major Advisor: Dr. Denise Bourassa, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

# Doctor of Nursing Practice, cont.

## **Brandon Kulak**

Emerging Nurse Leader Development Program: A Leadership Development Program for Charge /Resource Nurses  
Major Advisor: Dr. Denise Bourassa, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

## **Aimee Kurtzman**

Effective Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Prone Position: A Training Program for Operating Room Professionals.  
Major Advisor: Dr. Denise Bourassa, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

## **Lauren LeBlanc-Hughes**

Healing Hearts After a Myocardial Infarction: Focusing on Holistic Heart Health with the Implementation of a Depression Screening Protocol  
Major Advisor: Dr. Jamie Gooch, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

## **Desiree A Mahon**

The Healing Power of Movement- Integrating an Evidence - Based, Nurse Driven Mobility Assessment Tool as the Established Gold Standard on an Orthopedic Surgical Unit  
Major Advisor: Dr. Denise Bourassa, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

## **Virginia Anne Mara**

A Gratitude-Based Journaling Intervention to Combat Burnout for Nurse Practitioners in the Outpatient Setting  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Christina Matousek**

From Novice to Target: Reducing Ambulatory New Graduate Nurse Bullying, A Quality Improvement Project  
Major Advisor: Dr. D'Ana Brooks, DNP, RN, CNL

## **Christina McElroy**

Enhancing End of Life Education for New Nurses  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

## **Catherine McQuade**

Standardization of Oxytocin Administration During Elective Cesarean Sections: An Evidence-Based Practice  
Major Advisor: Dr. Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP

# Doctor of Nursing Practice, cont.

## **Yara Mendez**

Simulated Mock Codes in The Acute Care Setting

Major Advisor: Dr. Jessica Palozie, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CNE

## **Nonhlanhla Ngazimbi**

Pain Management in Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Patients: A Program Proposal

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

## **Jolene Oliver**

Implementation of a Protocol for Perioperative Management of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and SGLT2 Inhibitors

Major Advisor: Dr. Jamie Gooch, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

## **Margaret Polius**

The H.E.A.L Project: Implementing A Standardized Evidence-Informed Intervention to Enhance the Mental Health and Well-Being of Immigrants in a Faith Community in Brooklyn, NY

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

## **Kara Rabinowitz**

Implementation of a Protocol for Perioperative Management of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and SGLT2 Inhibitors

Major Advisor: Dr. Jamie Gooch, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

## **Darlene Rouleau**

A Mobility Program to Improve Patient Outcomes

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

## **Maya Salvio**

Psychiatric APP Fellowship Evaluation

Major Advisor: Dr. Annette Maruca, PhD, RN, PMH-BC, CNE, CCHP

## **Vernette Townsend**

Self-Monitored Blood Pressure Devices For Hypertension Management in Underserved Communities

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

# Doctor of Nursing Practice, cont.

## **Lori Tuccio**

Leveraging AI to Improve Clinical Appropriateness of  
Inpatient Designation in a Utilization Management Setting

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

# Master of Science

## Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Margaret Bahre  
Raymond Blair  
Kimberly Chicoski  
Gregory Denzel Clemons  
Hillary Eisenberg  
Kaitlin Gillespie  
Gregory Gustavson  
Kayla Hashem  
Kimray Haynes  
Riley Houle  
Sadie Jennings  
Catherine Lewis  
Austin Morris  
Donella Morrison  
Elizabeth Nitz  
Victoria Porter  
Pablo Santana  
Brittany Sendzik  
Melissa Smajevic  
Danielle B. Springer  
Peyton Maria Teske  
Brenda Trumbull +  
Arianna Turello  
Caroline Turner  
Katrina Villegas  
Ashley Williams  
Savannah Zell

## Post-Graduate Certificate AGACNP

Kristen Cannata  
Allison Ebrahimi Gold  
Talley Thompson  
Emma Watkins

## Family Nurse Practitioner

Brittany Jill Barra  
Nicole Blais  
Shauna Rochelle Blake  
Emily Carney  
Alison Dizon  
Andrew Doukas  
Kevan Fegely  
Amanda Guido

Jawal Hage  
Charisse Mary Hulse +  
Yoonjeong Jeong  
Sarah Lulani  
Bridget Anne Maher  
Brooke Medel  
Paulina Obojski  
Gillian O'Callaghan  
Rachel Paulin  
Gabrielle Ray  
Ashley Resnik Rivera  
Seulye Shin  
Sara Slaiby  
Nicholas Sturgis  
Bridget Michelle Whaley  
Alexa C. Zborowski

## Post-Graduate Certificate FNP

Stephanie Asberry  
Emma Ruth Corpus

## Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Jessica Angelo  
Brianna Arnold  
Robert Carr  
Naomi Hanoch  
Stephanie Harwell  
Nicole Hurler  
Leslie Princess Ishaq  
Brenna Izatt-Chatham  
Katherine Anne Kocsis  
Vanessa Mallilo  
Jamie Manalastas Bajracharya  
Giana McCarthy  
Chelsea Murphy-Prive  
Doug Ryan Mizic  
Pei Pei  
Claire Pinelli  
Melissa Mercedes Raquel  
JahShiRah Rossi  
Abigail Semmler  
Jenny Smith  
Amanda Steinberg  
Emma Sullivan  
Megan Wilmoth

# Master of Science, cont.

Post-Graduate Certificate NNP  
Kathleen Hartigan

Nursing Administration and  
Leadership  
Donice Brooks  
Courtney Conlan  
Elizabeth Culbert  
Jennifer Dowe  
Vicmarie Feliciano +  
Victoria Holmes  
Michelle Kelly  
Sierra Laferriere  
May Jennifer Rose Maceren-  
Mallari  
Tatiana Rodriguez  
Rachel Shapiro

Nurse Educator  
Maria Bilzerian +  
Casey Block  
Caitlyn Brandon  
Joanna Bucior  
Kelly M. DeJoseph  
Cameron Dora Forstmeier  
Julia Hinkle  
Kathryn Katz  
Meagan Kelley  
Emily Marie Kempka +  
Olivia Mertz  
Dawn Novack  
Lindsay Ray  
Jenna Richards  
Lisa Sanzari  
Meaghan Shea  
Carleen Joyce Tan  
Daisy Valladares

+ Veterans & Active Military

# Doctor of Nursing Practice Student Awards

Eleanor K. Gill Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice  
**Desiree Mahon**

Sigma Theta Tau DNP  
**Lori Tuccio**

Josephine Dolan Award for the Scholarship of Application  
**Sunitha Abraham**

## Master's Student Awards

Eleanor K. Gill Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice  
**Family Nurse Practitioner - Nicholas Sturgis**  
**Neonatal Nurse Practitioner - Robert Carr**  
**Nursing Administration & Leadership - Courtney Conlan**

Sigma Theta Tau Master's  
**Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner -  
Brittany Sendzik**  
**Family Nurse Practitioner - Gabrielle Ray**  
**Neonatal Nurse Practitioner - Brenna Izatt-Chatham**  
**Nurse Educator - Emily Kempka +**



# Student Award

## **Regina M. Cusson Healthcare Innovations Award**



**Desiree Mahon**

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 Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing.

# Bachelor of Science

Esmeralda Aguirre  
Leila Akhouzine  
John Bernard  
Amatrudo  
Isabella Badagliacca  
Josuet Bautista  
Marbelyn Benavides  
Tayla Benson  
**Brooke Berlin**  
**Maya Biblow**  
Kaitlin Biggin  
Emma Bourassa  
Kennedy Butler  
Zaimarie Cabrera  
Karla Campos Omblero  
Tiffany Campoy  
Lauren Canniff  
Isabelle Crawford  
Braydon Cretella  
Yudelkis Cueva  
Caleb Curtis  
Emily Damian  
Leah Damphousse  
Jennifer D'Elia  
Ibrahim Diaby  
Paige Dovhan  
Michaela Elam  
Tahmia Espinal  
Jenaya Evelyn  
Julia Farnoli  
Samantha Fernandez  
Vanessa Galindo  
Clarissa Garcia  
Giselle Garcia  
Kaylis Garcia  
Juliana Ghorra  
**Allison Gonzalez**  
Ruby Gonzalez  
David Gorski  
Caroline Gozaloff  
Samantha Greenhut  
Sophia Guevara  
Samantha Halloran  
Kathryn Hanrahan  
Harrison Heller  
Hannah Hidalgo

Elizabeth Hinkson  
**Matthew Holihan**  
Meijin Hsiao  
**Carolyn Rose Jandura**  
Eunseon Jeon  
Taylor Jones  
Tamara Arjanne Josef  
Yenevy M. Juarez  
Hernandez  
Zainab Kane  
Aliana Kennen  
Krystof Lee  
Elizabeth MacDonald  
Rosemary MacKinnon  
Mikael Mahoney  
Caitlin Mancuso  
Natalia McMeekin  
Isabela Mejias  
Amaly Mercedes  
Megan Minicucci  
Barbara Moody  
Molly Neale  
Andrea Ngo  
An Nguyen  
Isabel Nieves  
Samuel Palomba  
Jack Parr  
Lidia Maria Paulino  
Amber Peart  
Steven Pelle  
Allison Pereira  
Stephanie Perez  
**Karla Perez Fundora**  
Lila Pinho  
Audra Porowski  
Julia Pupriqi  
Gabrielle Raichle  
Kayla Rampassard  
Layla Celeste Richards  
Bianca Rigg  
Ashley Christina Rivera  
William Rodrigues  
Giselle Rodriguez  
Amanda Marie Romero  
Taylor Roy  
Andres Salas

Juliana Sassano  
Nadine Farah Schmitt  
Maria Clara Schuler  
Maryam Shabazz  
Amanda Smeriglio  
Matthew Smith  
Alejandro Soriano  
Maria Sotomayor  
Lisette Maritsa Tandazo  
Ryan Teixeira  
Olivia Theokas  
ZoÃ« Tongtong  
Nylania M. Torres  
Riley Towle  
Hannah Trocchi  
Adaeze Uzoegbu  
Rosemarie Valenzuela  
Maggie Vasington  
**Erin Vieira**  
Ana Villagra  
Ashley Villavicencio  
Cameran Weaver  
Madeleine Willett  
Tigist Willson  
Frances Wilson  
Samantha Youngs  
Azucena Zecua Herrera  
Paul Zgurzynski

**Bold** = Class Officers  
+ Veterans & Active Military

# Undergraduate Recognition and Awards

## Valedictorians



Lauren  
Canniff



Braydon  
Cretella



Caitlin  
Mancuso



Andrea  
Ngo



Juliana  
Sassano



Nadine  
Schmitt

## Senior Class Officers

President – Allison Gonzalez

Vice President – Carolyn Jandura

Secretary – Matthew Holihan

Treasurer – Brooke Berlin

Fundraising Chair – Maya Biblow

Community Service Chair – Karla Perez Fundora

Class Historian – Erin Vieira

## Honors Students

Lauren Canniff

Braydon Cretella

Michaela Elam

Meijin Hsiao

Zainab Kane

Elizabeth MacDonald

Isabela Mejias

Molly Neale

Julia Puprriqi

Maryam Shabazz

Rosemarie Valenzuela

Madeleine Willett

Carolyn Ladd Widmer Undergraduate  
Leadership Award

**Madeleine Willett**

Clara Williams Holistic Nurse Award

**Maryam Shabazz**

Sigma Theta Tau Undergraduate

**Braydon Cretella**

# 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**

Confidence Francis-Edoziuno  
Cristina Chandra Mills  
Hannah Rose Scheibner

## **DNP**

Sunitha Abraham  
Yolanda Carlton  
Dolores Coyle-Feliciano  
Tara Huta  
Margaret Polius

## **Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**

Raymond Blair  
Kaitlin Gillespie  
Kimray Haynes  
Brittany Sendzik  
Danielle B. Springer  
Katrina Villegas

## **Family Nurse Practitioner**

Brittany Jill Barra  
Jawal Hage  
Bridget Maher  
Paulina Obojski  
Gabrielle Ray

## **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner**

Brianna Arnold  
Naomi Hanoch  
Brenna Izatt  
Vanessa Mallilo  
Jamie Manalastas Bajracharya  
Pei Pei  
Melissa Mercedes Raquel  
Jenny Smith  
Amanda Steinberg  
Emma Sullivan  
Megan Wilmoth

## **Nurse Educator**

Kathryn Katz  
Emily Marie Kempka

# 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**

Leila Akhouzine  
Josuet Bautista  
Brooke Berlin  
Maya Biblow  
Kaitlin Biggin  
Emma Bourassa  
Lauren Canniff  
Isabelle Crawford  
Braydon Cretella  
Yudelkis Cueva  
Emily Damian  
Leah Damphousse  
Paige Dovhan  
Michaela Elam  
Tahmia Espinal  
Jenaya Evelyn  
Julia Farnoli  
Samantha Fernandez  
Allison Gonzalez  
David Gorski  
Caroline Gozaloff  
Samantha Greenhut  
Samantha Halloran  
Kathryn Hanrahan  
Elizabeth Hinkson  
Matthew Holihan  
Carolyn Rose Jandura  
Taylor Jones  
Zainab Kane  
Mikael Mahoney  
Caitlin Mancuso  
Isabela Mejias  
Amaly Mercedes  
Megan Minicucci  
Andrea Ngo  
Samuel Palomba

Jack Parr  
Steven Pelle  
Allison Pereira  
Stephanie Perez  
Karla Perez Fundora  
Lila Pinho  
Audra Porowski  
Julia Puprriqi  
Amanda Marie Romero  
Taylor Roy  
Juliana Sassano  
Maria Clara Schuler  
Maryam Shabazz  
Amanda Smeriglio  
Alejandro Soriano  
Lisette Maritsa Tandazo  
ZoÃ« Tongtong  
Riley Towle  
Hannah Trocchi  
Cameran Weaver  
Madeleine Willett  
Azucena Zecua Herrera



# Faculty Award

## **E. Carol Polifroni Scholarship of Praxis Award**



**Eileen Carter**

PhD, RN, FAAN

Associate Professor

The E. Carol Polifroni Scholarship of Praxis Award is given annually at graduation to a Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing faculty member who has shown exemplary integration of theory, philosophy, research, and practice. UConn Elisabeth DeLuca 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**

### **Sherene Fagon**

RN, MSN, C-EFM  
Fundamentals Instructor

### **Patricia Papacoda**

MSN, RN  
Population-Based

### **Victoria Startz**

MSN, RN, TNCC  
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**



**Sherene Fagon**  
RN, MSN, C-EFM  
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**



**Mallory Eddy**

PhD, RN, CCRN, FAAN  
Assistant Professor

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 Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing.

# 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