

Quinnipiac
School of Nursing

Transforming Healthcare

Viewbook 2024



Letter from the Dean



Welcome to the fourth edition of the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing (QU SON) Viewbook. It has been a wonderful year of transition as I moved into the role of dean and professor in June 2023, a year that has made me feel even more honored and privileged to serve our outstanding students, faculty, staff and administration. It has been a year of learning and growing, building relationships with all SON's stakeholders, internal and external, and working with them to develop a broad plan for the future of the school.

I was honored to kick off my tenure with a weeklong handover from SON's second dean, Dr. Lisa O'Connor, prior to her departure for a well-deserved sabbatical after her dedicated service to SON since 1999. After that, it was off and running to work with the SON family to plot a course for the school's journey over the next five years. I had several priorities for the first year, including presenting a comprehensive State of the School report to SON's stakeholders, developing a Dean's Advisory Council, launching an SON Alumni Network, developing a three year strategic plan, and beginning work with faculty to redesign its curricula (for all undergraduate and graduate programs) to meet the new competency-based standards put forth by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The first State of the School report occurred on Dec. 1, 2023, with attendees from across SON, QU, alumni and our clinical partners. It was a great time of reflection on the tremendous work we've all done together to impact the health of our communities, and it will continue to be a critical annual report/discussion with our stakeholders each fall. The inaugural Dean's Advisory Council met on Feb. 16, bringing together 11 thought leaders on nursing, education and healthy communities to provide critical, high-level advice on curriculum, scholarship, philanthropy and

communications. SON is in its final stages of strategic planning, and I eagerly await the launch of our new three year strategic plan this fall. Finally, throughout the academic year, SON faculty members have immersed themselves in the concepts of competency-based teaching and learning as the school continues its march toward curriculum redesign to meet new standards and accreditation requirements.

In addition to my personal goals for the school, SON faculty, staff and administration had already planned and were ready to implement several innovative firsts for SON. The school launched a comprehensive pre-immersion program for its traditional and accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students in August 2023, culminating in the school's first White Coat Ceremony for pre-licensure students, recognizing their transition beyond the classroom into clinical education. Also in August 2023, SON admitted its first students to its psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program, launched to meet the critical mental health needs of our communities. The graduate faculty at SON continue the transition to online education for all our graduate programs. This led to the first weeklong, in-person immersion for all nurse practitioner students in April 2024 that ended with the first White Coat Ceremony for nurse practitioner students at SON.

Over the next year, we will launch our new strategic plan, continue with curricular redesign and transformation, build our research/scholarship enterprise, launch our SON Alumni Network, grow our grant and endowment funding, and continue to attract outstanding students, faculty and staff. I am excited for the journey ahead, working with my outstanding colleagues within SON, as well as our tremendous clinical and community partners, to grow QU SON into a nationally prominent, premier school of nursing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Slater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and last name "Slater" clearly legible.

Larry Slater
Dean, School of Nursing

Acknowledgments:

Lisa Rebesch, Senior Associate Dean and Professor

Heather Pastir, Director, Marketing & Communications

School of Nursing Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni

Office of Marketing & Communications

Office of Alumni and Development Affairs

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Quick Facts

Career Outcomes

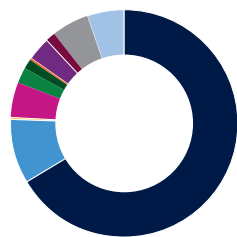
100%

Percentage of 2023 Quinnipiac nursing graduates who were either employed or furthering their education within 6 months of graduation



- Employed: 97%
 - Enrolled or Planning to Enroll in Graduate School: 3%
- Data collected in 2023 with a 60% knowledge rate.

Fall 2023 Enrollment



- BSN: 731
- Accelerated BSN: 102
- Online RN to BSN: 3
- MSN Family Nurse Practitioner: 56
- MSN Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP: 23
- MSN Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP: 16
- MSN Psychiatric Mental Health NP: 4
- MSN Operational Leadership: 36
- DNP Nurse Anesthesia: 15
- DNP Nurse Leadership: 58
- DNP Care of Populations: 57

Pass Rates

100%

Percentage of 2023 and 2024 Nurse Anesthesia graduates who passed the National Certification Examination (NCE) on their first attempt

93%

Percentage of 2023 Traditional BSN graduates who passed the NCLEX Licensure examination on their first attempt

89%

Percentage of 2023 Accelerated BSN graduates who passed the NCLEX Licensure examination on their first attempt

100%

Percentage of 2023 Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner graduates who passed the Certification Exam on their first attempt

96%

Percentage of 2023 Family Nurse Practitioner graduates who passed the Certification Exam on their first attempt

Rankings and Distinctions



Best Colleges Nursing (BSN) Programs '24

Best Undergraduate BSN Programs U.S. News & World Report



Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs '24

Best online graduate programs



Top Ranked Nursing Programs for Veterans

Quinnipiac University was the top ranked school providing veterans with an excellent educational experience.



Top Ranked Nursing Program



Holistic Endorsed

Quinnipiac is one of only 17 nursing schools in the nation with Bachelor of Nursing (traditional and accelerated) programs endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation. Endorsement recognizes a school's commitment to the practice and teaching of holistic core values and standards of practice.



2023 and 2024 Pinning Ceremonies

On May 8, 2023, 152 Traditional BSN students received their pins. The keynote speaker was Laura Bailey, MSN, RN, RNC-OB, vice president, patient care services, Hartford HealthCare.

In August 2023, 79 Accelerated BSN students received their pins. The keynote speaker for the pinning was Rebecca McCray, MS, BSN, RN, CNML, executive director, nursing operations, Yale New Haven Health System.

In January 2024, another 45 Accelerated BSN students received their pins. The keynote speaker was MaryEllen Kosturko, DNP, MAHSM, RN, CENP, executive vice president and chief nursing officer at Hartford HealthCare.

On May 10, 2024, 150 Traditional BSN students received their pins. The keynote speaker was Marcia Proto, M.Ed., CAS, executive director, Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce.





School of Nursing hosts inaugural White Coat Ceremony

A new tradition for the School of Nursing unfolded last fall, when Quinnipiac's inaugural White Coat Ceremony for Nursing celebrated 243 nursing students as they began their transition to clinical rotations and caregiving roles.

With the help of their advisers, members of the Class of 2025 Traditional BSN program and the August Class of 2024 Accelerated BSN program slipped into their new white coats for the first time during a morning ceremony on the North Haven Campus.

School of Nursing Dean Larry Slater welcomed the nursing students to the program's very first ceremony, which will become a tradition for the School of Nursing.

"You are the trailblazers, the first to have a White Coat Ceremony," said Slater. "What we are celebrating today is your transition into your clinical sequence in nursing ... You are going to get this white coat to signify that you are starting your journey to entering the nursing profession, which we hope will be a truly wonderful career for you."

Slater said the exciting day for the School of Nursing and the nursing students was one that should also be tempered by the gravity and significance of the bestowing of the white coat.

"It's not all about the grades and exams, but about the responsibility that is being taken on with it to join nursing's profession of leaders to help change and transform healthcare," said Slater.

Senior Associate Dean Lisa Rebeschis introduced the ceremony's keynote speaker, Ena Williams, PhD, MBA, RN, CENP, FAAN, Yale New Haven Hospital's senior vice president and chief nursing officer.

Williams told the nursing students that this day and many days to come will be about experiencing transitions. As they continue their journey and the rigorous process to becoming nurses, Williams encouraged them to raise their hands to ask for deeper clarification or understanding.

"The rigorous process is necessary because people's lives depend upon the knowledge, the skills, and your ability to critically think and balance multiple priorities, and to be able to discern when something is just not right. And that's when you raise your hand and ask questions," said Williams.

"This transition is a foundation to something that will last for years and years. It will change your life in ways that you never imagined. It will impact lives in ways that you cannot even imagine."

Williams emboldened the students to lean on those who are there to support them on their journey.

"There will be days when you feel anxiety, fear. I still get that, honestly," said Williams. "Fear not. You will figure it out. Remember that you did not get here alone, so look for those individuals who can give you support. They're your classmates, your faculty, individuals you'll meet in a clinical setting, your family. All the people that you know will continue to support you."

Undergraduate Nursing Program Chair Teresa Twomey explained the origins of the White Coat Ceremony. It was established by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993 at the Columbia University Medical School to highlight the importance of humanism in the care of patients.

"In 2014, recognizing the vital role nurses play in the healthcare team, the Gold Foundation partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to bring the White Coat Ceremony to nursing. Since then, over 360 schools of nursing now participate, including the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing, which is holding its inaugural ceremony today," said Twomey.

Twomey said the white coat symbolizes the importance of compassionate, collaborative, scientifically excellent care from the student's very first day of training.

"The receipt and placement of the white coat symbolizes the science of nursing, humanity and caring, the nursing students' transition into professional nursing or advanced nursing practice, and a noble call to serve and to commit to making a difference in the lives of many, the betterment of healthcare and promoting health for all," said Twomey.

After donning their white coats, the 243 student nurses raised their right hands and collectively voiced the White Coat Ceremony Oath as members of the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing.

"We are excited about your future and what you are going to bring to the profession," Slater said. "We expect great things from you, and we are going to give you the tools to accomplish that upon graduation."

Students selected for a competitive summer oncology nursing program

School of Nursing Flynn Fellows Isabella Ulrich '24 and Claire Clifford '24 spent the summer of 2023 undertaking an in-depth exploration of the specialty of oncology nursing in a well-known healthcare organization.

The highly competitive, eight-week paid fellowship position is awarded to leading nursing students from prestigious universities by the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program. The fellowship is designed to support the best and brightest among the next generation of skilled and compassionate oncology nurses.

In June 2023, Ulrich and Clifford joined the oncology team at Greenwich Hospital, part of Smilow Cancer Center. They completed their fellowships in July 2023 by sharing evidence-based presentations developed during their experiential journey.

Flynn Fellows are given the rare opportunity to be placed in an oncology environment as nursing students, said Larry Slater, dean of Quinnipiac's School of Nursing.

"For somebody who is interested in oncology care, much like Isabella and Claire, this Flynn Fellowship is an excellent opportunity for them to gain that experience, knowledge and networking outside of the confines of our strict academic program, where they might not have had the opportunity," said Slater. "The networking that they're able to do before they graduate and then pursue their careers as registered nurses gives them a distinct advantage."

Ulrich said shadowing the palliative care team as well as surgical oncology services stand out among many memorable experiences afforded to her as a Flynn Fellow at Greenwich Hospital this summer.

"Both of those experiences were exceptional," said Ulrich. "I loved working with the palliative care team, having those tough conversations with patients and families which are so difficult to have and to be on the receiving end of and to see the transition to hospice care. I was also with the surgical oncology team during a bilateral mastectomy. That's something you don't really see at nursing school because it is a specialty."

Ulrich completed an evidence-based presentation, "The Benefits of Genetic Testing in the Predisposition for, and Early Detection of, Breast Cancer," as part of her fellowship.

Through her fellowship experience, Clifford developed an evidence-based presentation that followed how integrative medicine helps with the side effects of chemotherapy for cancer patients.

Clifford was selected to present her project, "Integrative Approach to Managing Side Effects of Chemotherapy," at the 49th Annual Oncology Nursing Society's Congress in Washington, D.C., in April 2024.



"When I applied, I knew it was a great internship. I just didn't know it was going to be this good," said Clifford. "I didn't think I was really going to be as close to oncology patients and actually getting my hands in the field. This is honestly one of the greatest internships that I could have possibly received. I'm getting to see what my future career is going to be like."

Clifford and Ulrich represent a growing number of Quinnipiac applicants selected each year since 2018 for the exceptional internship opportunity provided to Flynn Fellows, said Lisa Rebesch, senior associate dean of Quinnipiac's School of Nursing.

"Many of our students try to take advantage of summer internships between junior and senior year to have that preceptor-led experience," said Rebesch. "But I think the fellowship is a bit different because it really allows them to delve into the specialty of oncology in a holistic way. They're really able to look at oncology across the continuum of care, from different research and treatments to palliative care."

Clifford said the wealth of experience she gained as a Flynn Fellow at Greenwich Hospital fits in with the holistically endorsed program of the School of Nursing.

"That's what I love about the nursing program at Quinnipiac, and it's done very well at Greenwich Hospital," said Clifford.

Both students expressed continuous gratitude for the opportunity to discover more about their chosen field.

"It's really been a wonderful experience," said Ulrich. "I especially thank Mr. Fred Flynn, the founder of the program, for this incredible opportunity and his commitment toward fostering these special opportunities for aspiring oncology nurses."



Northwell Golden Tickets

Northwell Golden Ticket awardees for the 2023–24 academic year were:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Amanda D'Ambrosio | Kelly Conk | Isabella Chambers |
| Alyssa Albanese | Alessia Volpe | Trisha Caro |
| Ashante Jackson Pusey | Isabella Ulrich | Anna Biscari |
| Christine Grandon | Anita Farid | Catriona Hughes |
| Casey Remache | Nicole Baer | Julianna Lester |
| Noelle Estrada | Caitriona Smith | Annabella DeVincenzo |
| Emily Haeusgen | Luca Trotta | Natalia Coco |

After a competitive application process, the 2024 Flynn Fellows are:

- Tessa Foley – Hospice & Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship program at HopeHealth
 - Lauren Manning – Flynn Fellowship at Saint Vincent’s Medical Center
 - Lucy Carter – Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program at Greenwich Hospital
 - Toni Rose Bombales – Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program at Stamford Hospital
- They spent their summer in this program dedicated to improving the quality of care for future cancer patients and their families by inspiring and educating the oncology nurses of tomorrow.

Graduation

Class of 2024 Commencement Awards

- Rachael Rocco:** Academic Excellence Award – Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Charlene Maldonado:** Academic Excellence Award – Master of Science in Nursing
- Gabriela Feijoo:** Benjamin T. and Juliette Adelle Trewin Award for Academic Excellence in Nursing
- Cheree Wright:** Benjamin T. and Juliette Adelle Trewin Award for Professional Leadership in Nursing
- Tremanda Pollard:** Graduate Holistic Nursing Practice Award
- Emersyn Conklin:** Undergraduate Holistic Nursing Practice Award



Incoming first-year student selected to receive second Hartford HealthCare Nursing and Health Sciences Equity Scholarship

Erika Escalante, an incoming first-year nursing student from Stamford, has been selected to receive the second Hartford HealthCare Nursing and Health Sciences Equity Scholarship.

Escalante joins Aurelia Ochoa, a current nursing student at Quinnipiac, who received the inaugural Hartford HealthCare Nursing and Health Sciences Equity Scholarship last year.

The scholarship was established with a \$500,000 gift over five years from Hartford HealthCare to support underrepresented first-year students from Connecticut entering nursing or health sciences undergraduate degree programs at Quinnipiac.

The scholarship — and the moment — was not lost on Ochoa.

“I am incredibly grateful to Quinnipiac University and Hartford HealthCare for providing me with this opportunity to follow my dream of becoming a nurse,” Ochoa said. “I am truly honored to be the first recipient of this scholarship. As a first-generation student going to college, I’m filled with joy about making my family proud and can’t wait to see where this amazing opportunity takes me.”

Ochoa said she was inspired to become a nurse after her father was seriously injured when the truck he was driving flipped over on a snow-covered road.

“I was 8 or 9 at the time, and I remember spending days at the hospital scared about my dad and later finding peace because of how secure it felt in that environment with all the amazing nurses and doctors,” Ochoa said. “Watching the hardworking nurses who helped take care of him and showed him so much compassion made me realize I wanted to become a nurse.”

The scholarship is renewable for four years provided the recipient continues to meet the requirements. Additionally, recipients will be eligible to participate in a mentorship program with HHC professionals.

“In 2022 we announced our commitment to make financial investments in identifying, recruiting and attracting students to Quinnipiac from minority and underrepresented populations through Hartford HealthCare-backed scholarships,” said Hartford HealthCare President and CEO Jeffrey A. Flaks. “We are delivering on that promise. I could not be more proud to offer the first Hartford HealthCare Nursing and Health Sciences Equity Scholarship. This would not be possible without the extraordinary leadership of President Judy Olian. Together, with a shared vision, we are aligned to growing and retaining healthcare professionals in Connecticut while aiming to diversify the workforce.”

Quinnipiac President Judy D. Olian said, “I’m grateful to Jeff Flaks and HHC for establishing the Hartford HealthCare Nursing and Health Sciences Equity Scholarship. It’s a terrific illustration of the power of our partnership — educating the workforce of tomorrow that will serve the insatiable demand for healthcare professionals and the talent needs of the state of Connecticut.”

Strategic Partnerships



QU Yale Scholars help fill a critical need

In 2022, with a critical shortage of RNs, the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing was one of just four nursing schools selected by Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) for a partnership to address this need.

As a result of this partnership, Quinnipiac University School of Nursing has expanded enrollment in the second-degree accelerated BSN program. Through this partnership, 24 accelerated students in the August cohort are selected as QU Yale Scholars.

These students intend to begin their professional nursing careers within Yale's health system. As such, all of their clinical placements are based within one of the YNHHS properties.

Throughout the students' time at QU, members of the YNHHS visit campus for mentoring and professional development. The QU Yale Scholars are also provided with financial stipends to help support the costs of the program.

The 2023-24 cohort of QU Yale Scholars includes Emily Caoili, Stephanie Barberan, Amanda Norman, Emma Turcotte, Navjot Kaur, Anna Civitelli, Lily Venditto, Mylena Cruz, Veronica Brundage, Mia Sandillo, Kayla McKosky, Rhoda Osei, Michaela Flore, Karina Barrientos Rivera, Kevin Grant, Haylee Kuprianchik, Emanuel Silva, Joan Hurlle, and Hannah Gleason.

CT Health Horizons supports the state's future healthcare workforce

Faced with a shrinking healthcare workforce in 2022, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont launched the CT Health Horizons grant program to allow Quinnipiac and other state institutions to offer \$10,000 scholarships each year for qualifying Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSBN) students.

The statewide program is a three-year, \$35 million initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. The overarching goal of CT Health Horizons is to grow and diversify the next generation of healthcare professionals, particularly nurses and social workers.

Since receiving the grant funding in 2023, Quinnipiac University has awarded 23 ABSBN students with CT Health Horizons scholarships. In addition, funding from the grant also supports the salary of two members of the Quinnipiac School of Nursing's faculty.



New nursing dean highlights current successes and future opportunities

Quinnipiac's first State of the School of Nursing address provided a comprehensive review of robust programs and accomplishments, and exciting plans for continued growth and development.

Dean of the School of Nursing Larry Slater shared his insights with faculty, administrators, students, alumni, community and clinical partners during the inaugural address on Dec. 1. Slater began his appointment as the school's new dean in June 2023.

“Visibility and transparency are critical, and that is one of the reasons for a State of the School report. For all of our stakeholders that were invited today, it is important to have that visibility and transparency if we are going to move forward with what we do,” said Slater.

Slater's review recognized current successful strategies and improvements, and identified areas where the school can move forward with new initiatives and programming to continue to best prepare undergraduate and graduate students for rewarding careers in healthcare.

Quinnipiac's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, Master of Science in Nursing program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Many of the nursing programs also are endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation.

Slater said the school's mission to provide leadership in nursing and healthcare through innovative undergraduate and graduate education that embraces holism, interprofessionalism and inclusivity creates an impressive foundation for future growth.

“We are starting from a great place, and now, collectively, we're excited about what we can do moving forward,” said Slater.

The report reviewed areas including student statistics and numbers, faculty and staff, programs and curricula, diversity, budget and finance, gifts, grants and endowments.

Slater also provided an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and obstacles to success as well as listing priorities for the 2024 academic and fiscal year.

Some impressive current statistics at the School of Nursing include a 98% graduate rate professional component, a 97.5% graduate employment rate six months after graduation (based on 2022 figures) and 87% of traditional and accelerated BSN graduates passing the NCLEX licensure examination on their first attempt. In addition, more than 300 clinical affiliation sites offer School of Nursing students practical experience.

The impact of COVID-19 creating declines in graduate enrollment was felt across all educational nursing institutions, including Quinnipiac, Slater said. However, because of the foresight and proactive efforts of the School of Nursing team, lead by former Dean Lisa O'Connor, the school rebounded quickly and is seeing continued improvement, he said. Despite COVID impacts, the school has maintained an average of 1,100 students over the last three years.

Slater also applauded O'Connor and her team for “skyrocketing” total gifts and grants received over the past five years to support the school's faculty, staff, students and programs. Noting the total endowment value has more than doubled over the last five years, Slater said the school will work to continue to accelerate its exponential growth.

Slater also discussed major curricula revisions in process. This includes the phasing out of some programs and the exciting addition of others, such as the new acute care nurse practitioner program and the new mental health care nurse practitioner program. Additionally, the School of Nursing has revised its “essentials” programming to incorporate Level 1 (BSN and Accelerated BSN) and Level 2 (Master's and Doctoral).

Existing online learning opportunities have recently grown with the addition of online nurse practitioner programs. These programs allow Quinnipiac to compete with the growth of online nurse practitioner programs throughout the country and will help the school to increase enrollment, Slater said.

Slater also discussed immediate strategies for the 2024 academic and fiscal year that will prioritize growth opportunities in admissions, programs and curricula, and gifts and grants.

The coming months will also involve developing a new strategic planning process. Slater said the strategic planning will move the School of Nursing forward with continued new program development, building the school's brand, identifying growth opportunities, and furthering areas of excellence to support student success and professionalism.

To help develop philanthropic directives and resources to foster continued growth, Slater is currently building a dean's advisory council.

“This is going to be a critical visionary team going forward. It will be alumni, leaders in healthcare and leaders in industry coming together with me to think about how we can grow the School of Nursing,” said Slater.



Quinnipiac launches Pre-Immersion Program to improve student success

With a dramatic shortage of registered nurses, student retention and success to enable swift entry into the workforce is more critical than ever. As such, the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing designed a programmatic innovation grounded in theoretically supported and evidence-based actions.

This inaugural Pre-Immersion Program (PIP) with multidimensional strategies, including study skills, time management, relationship building and professional socialization, was implemented during the first week of classes in the Fall 2023 semester.

The objectives of the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing Pre-Immersion Program (PIP) are to: (1) provide structured learning opportunities as students begin their nursing courses; (2) introduce students to supports and resources available at the university and within the professional nursing community; (3) introduce students to concepts of professionalism, nursing ethics, diversity and inclusion, and expected behaviors of nursing students; (4) foster collaboration and a sense of community between students and School of Nursing faculty and staff; and (5) celebrate the students' transition into a caregiving role. The goal of the program is to transform the student's nursing education experience.

Based upon a literature search and published data regarding the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's New Careers in Nursing initiatives, faculty identified specific evidence-based activities for inclusion.

To develop the weeklong program, faculty worked in small groups to identify the most impactful activities. A planning group reviewed the suggested activities to identify the program's structure. The PIP planning committee members were Senior Associate Dean Lisa Rebesch, Undergraduate Chairperson Teresa Twomey, Assistant Dean Claire Puzarne, Assistant Dean Bridget Rich, Assistant Professor Gladys Vallespir Ellert and Director of Business Operations Patricia Gettings.

The first week of the semester was redesigned to include a program based upon data suggesting a PIP completed before beginning the program may assist in acclimating to the rigor and realities of a nursing program and may positively impact student success.

In order to magnify the importance of workforce diversity and enhance retention of underrepresented groups, nursing leaders from professional organizations focused on underrepresented groups were deliberately included. Including nursing leaders from professional organizations within the community provides all students with essential networking and potential mentorship opportunities.

The weeklong PIP culminated in the School of Nursing's inaugural White Coat Ceremony. As designed by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, the White Coat Ceremony marks the significant milestone of when students begin their clinical education.

During the ceremony, each student took an oath to provide compassionate and humanistic care and received a commemorative symbolic pin of compassionate care from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Ena Williams, PhD, MBA, RN, CENP, FAAN, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Yale New Haven Hospital, served as the keynote speaker during the ceremony.

In the post-program evaluation, one student commented, "I feel as though the implementation of the White Coat Ceremony really drove home 'my why' for being here as a nursing student and started the excitement of becoming a nurse."



Inaugural DAISY Awards recognize exceptional School of Nursing student and educator

For demonstrating exceptional qualities in their roles, Keira Hines '25 and Erica Rizzo, clinical assistant professor of nursing, made history as Quinnipiac's inaugural recipients of prestigious DAISY Awards presented by the School of Nursing.

The presentations to Hines and Rizzo created an exciting highlight as the School of Nursing celebrated graduates at the School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony on May 10. Hines received the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Students and Rizzo was honored with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educators.

School of Nursing Dean Larry Slater said that each DAISY Award reflects many of the important values of the School of Nursing.

"The DAISY Award recognizes not only excellence, but also compassion and kindness. The School of Nursing is excited to launch its DAISY Awards that are a true reflection of our holistic values in nursing education," Slater said.

Recognized internationally as a hallmark of excellence in nursing, the DAISY Awards are provided by the nonprofit DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Foundation. The foundation's academic recognition awards are distributed in partnership with universities to honor recipients based on nominations from students, alumni or other colleagues.

The DAISY Nurse Educator Award honors nurse educators for their inspirational influence across the education continuum in academic and practice settings. The DAISY Student Nursing Award celebrates nursing students for providing exceptional care and compassion to patients and their families.

Hines was recognized for her commitment to compassionate care for all of her patients during the clinical Fall 2023 semester. Hines said the DAISY Award underscores the type of exceptional educational experience nursing students receive at Quinnipiac.

"I didn't expect to be recognized with this prestigious award at the senior pinning ceremony. But as I was receiving the award and looking out at the students in the grade above me, it made me realize that the award is not just for me," Hines said. "It's for the nursing program as a whole, and recognizes all of our dedication toward compassion and patient care in a clinical setting."

As a nurse educator, Rizzo is a role model for holistic, compassionate teaching.

"Dr. Rizzo is able to help students see their unique talents and strengths and then build on them to ensure their success in the classroom and in their clinical placements," Slater said. "She helps them foster their own holistic, compassionate caring principles that will make them truly exceptional nurses."

Rizzo said she was humbled to receive the inaugural DAISY Nurse Educator Award.

"It was a huge surprise. They had me in tears. It was just overwhelming, and the fact that they all gave me a standing ovation was really touching. It was a very big highlight of my career," Rizzo said. "It's an honor to be selected for this award, especially from this group of students. They were my first traditional BSN class I was with, from the fall of 2022, to really see through to the end."

Rizzo's passion for nursing education comes across in her teaching. "I try to keep things light," she explained, "because I feel like students don't learn well when they're stressed and when they're scared."

Rizzo also said introducing the DAISY Award program to Quinnipiac further enhances the School of Nursing's exceptional experience for faculty and students.

"It gives the students a voice to nominate faculty and their peers, and to really recognize what is meaningful for them, and highlight for other students and other faculty what they're looking for," Rizzo said. "I think that's another way it can grow our perspective from their eyes."



Quinnipiac well represented at the National Student Nurses' Association Convention

The 72nd Annual Convention of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) was held April 3-7, 2024, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Six students from the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing attended the convention, along with Dr. Gladys Vallespir Ellett and Patricia Gettings. While at the convention, students attended sessions led by national experts such as Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, vice president of health promotion and chief wellness officer at The Ohio State University, and Dr. Sheldon Fields, president of the National Black Nurses Association and associate dean for equity and inclusion at Penn State University.

Students attended other informative sessions, including an NCLEX-RN mini review, seizure first aid, patient safety and mental health first aid. For the first time, Quinnipiac students participated in the House of Delegates to vote on resolutions and elect the 2024-25 NSNA Board of Directors and Nominating and Elections Committee.

The School of Nursing supports student attendance at conventions and similar events to support the professional socialization of the next generation of nurses. Pictured above, left to right, are Nicholas Heisler, BSN '26, Caroline Ettlenger, BSN '24, Catriona Hughes, BSN '25, Anna Civitelli, BSN '24, Bria Whitehair, BSN '26 and Jeremy Luizzi, BSN '24.

Undergraduate and graduate students attend AACN Policy Summit

Every spring, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) hosts a two-day Student Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. Students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs in AACN member institutions are invited to attend.

In March 2024, the School of Nursing sponsored three students to attend: senior BSN students Emersyn Conklin and Bianca DeGennaro, and Tremanda Pollard, an adult-gerontology nurse practitioner MSN student.

Students participated in didactic program sessions focused on the federal policy process and the professional role of nursing in advocacy. In addition to attending didactic sessions, students heard from experts during a visit to Capitol Hill along with Dean Larry Slater. The students said they learned a great deal about advocacy and using their voices to advocate for patients.



Community Engagement Program helps build stronger communities

Entering its third year, the QU School of Nursing's Community Engagement Program, generously funded by the Keiser Foundation, has strived to build healthy communities through partnerships, coalition development, collaboration and capacity building with some of our most vulnerable populations.

The Community Engagement Program benefits these communities by providing injury prevention resources, health promotion screening and education, training in responding to life-threatening conditions and medical emergencies, and the use of evidence-based interventions such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automatic external defibrillator (AED) training, STOP THE BLEED® training, lifesaving emergency medicines such as epinephrine and Narcan, and safety equipment such as bike helmets and gun safes.

In its first two years, more than 3,000 community members have been directly trained through these program initiatives, resulting in several documented lifesaving and limb-saving events.

The program director is Dr. Pina Violano, an associate professor in the School of Nursing. Students across programs within the School of Nursing participate in the Community Engagement Program through both curricular and extracurricular experiences.

The School of Nursing's ability to engage students in the community aligns with the national call for expanded nursing roles within the community in promoting health and addressing systemic inequities that contribute to troubling health disparities.

Immersive Ecuador trip highlights global healthcare challenges for nursing students

In January 2023, Quinnipiac University partnered with Child Family Health International (CFHI), a United Nations-recognized nonprofit organization, to send a cohort of 13 students from the School of Nursing to Quito, Ecuador, for a Spanish immersion class. Eight of the 13 students also participated in a faculty-led health promotion and wellness course while on site.

It's an example of the unique experiential learning opportunities that form the bedrock of a Quinnipiac education. Through ethical engagement with patients and populations, the students learned to articulate the relationship between health and the social determinants of health while demonstrating an understanding of cultural and ethical issues in working with and learning within the context of underserved populations.

Additionally, the trip fostered an appreciation for inequities and barriers to health and healthcare delivery in low-resource settings. The nursing students conducted themselves professionally while working collaboratively on diverse healthcare teams. Cultural differences and divergent practices were celebrated, fostering empathy and respect among the students.

Inaugural nurse practitioner White Coat Ceremony urges students to be impactful caregivers and leaders

As a symbol of their commitment to compassionate, humanistic and patient-centered care, Quinnipiac's nurse practitioner Class of 2025 donned their white coats for the first time on May 3 during the School of Nursing's inaugural nurse practitioner White Coat Ceremony.

Beyond the responsibility symbolized by their white coats, the students were urged to transform their passion into purpose as the profession's next generation of leaders and agents of change.

School of Nursing Dean Larry Slater welcomed the cohort and their families to the special occasion on the North Haven Campus. Slater noted that it was a day that will be forever commemorated.

"We have a great group of 47 nurse practitioner students who are here to get their white coats today and be the first ever at Quinnipiac to do so," said Slater, days before the start of National Nurses Week. "I'm so excited that we also have support systems that are here with you to enjoy this White Coat Ceremony. I see a tremendous group of friends and family that are here to cheer you on as you get your white coat."

School of Nursing Senior Associate Dean Lisa Rebesch introduced keynote speaker Vanessa Pomarico-Denino, a nationally recognized nursing leader, author and educator. Pomarico-Denino serves as co-chair of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Specialty Interest Group.

Pomarico-Denino is a past president of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society and health policy co-chair. Additionally, she is a leading expert and author on the care of the gender-diverse population. At the School of Nursing, Pomarico-Denino serves as a courtesy assistant professor in the nurse practitioner program.

"It's really quite an honor to be here at the inaugural White Coat Ceremony," said Pomarico-Denino. "I commend each of you for taking the courageous step in becoming a nurse practitioner. Your journey starts today and it starts with the white coat."

Beyond its symbolism, Pomarico-Denino said the white coat carries the weight of responsibility to heal, comfort and advocate for those in need and to provide high-quality compassionate care.

"Today is the gateway to your clinical experiences. This is the start of a journey that reflects your dedication to patient care," said Pomarico-Denino. "Clinical experiences, to me, are the best part of your education. I want you to get excited about putting into practice everything that you've learned in the classroom over the last few years."

Pomarico-Denino also welcomed students as they prepared to take their place among more than 385,000 nurse practitioners in the United States, including more than 7,000 in Connecticut.



"We know that nurse practitioners are responsible for more than one billion patient care visits every year," said Pomarico-Denino. "We're gaining more volume in numbers and respect due to our knowledge, our expertise and the care that has helped to expand our scope of practice."

Pomarico-Denino also discussed her journey in nursing, including the path that led her to becoming a leading expert in caring for the gender-diverse population.

"If anybody ever told me in 1998 that I would have been standing before you, I would have disagreed," she said. "Because all I wanted to do was pass my boards and start practicing. But along the way, I had the chance encounter with a transgender patient and it completely changed the trajectory of my career."

Pomarico-Denino said she realized "how to take care of their body. I just didn't know how to speak their language." So she sought guidance and information.

"I could not find anyone in the Connecticut and tri-state area that could guide me, so I decided to learn everything I could to help give my patient the best care possible," Pomarico-Denino said. "It didn't take long before word got out and more people started to see me who identified as gender-diverse."

Recognizing the gap in available knowledge and literature led Pomarico-Denino back to school to earn her doctoral degree. She went on to make her mark as an expert in the field of gender-diverse care and has made it her mission to educate others.

Pomarico-Denino encouraged the cohort to embrace the privilege and responsibility of their charge and to care for their patients as they would their own families. She also challenged them to get out of their comfort zone by finding and following the passion that will lead to their purpose and help promote change for the better. "Never forget the 'nurse' in nurse practitioner," said Pomarico-Denino. "Believe in yourself and your ability to make an impact that will effect change and find fulfillment in that profound impact that you're about to make in the lives of others."

Quinnipiac Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program Director Erica Colavolpe presented the history of the presentation of the White Coat, established by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993 at the Columbia University Medical School to highlight the importance of humanism in the care of patients. In 2014, recognizing the vital role nurses play in the healthcare team, the Gold Foundation partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to bring the White Coat Ceremony to nursing.

The members of Quinnipiac's nurse practitioner Class of 2025 received a ceremonial pin from the Gold Foundation as they slipped into their white coats with the help of faculty. Led by Graduate Nursing Programs Chair Laima Karosas, they rose with all nursing professionals in attendance to close the program by reciting the School of Nursing's White Coat Ceremony Oath.

New Faculty and Staff



Ingrid Bell

Dr. Ingrid Bell, DNP, AGACNP-BC, FNP-C, clinical associate professor, joined the School of Nursing in January 2024 as director of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. Dr. Bell is a board-certified adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner. Her area of clinical expertise is in critical care medicine. She currently works in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at New York University Langone Health and has been heavily involved in interdisciplinary clinical education. Her areas of

research interest include management of mechanical ventilation, venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and pulmonary embolism. Dr. Bell previously served as a clinical associate professor and director of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program at Pace University. Dr. Bell obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from Duke University. Her doctoral project implemented a multidisciplinary mechanical ventilation weaning protocol that decreased ventilator days and the length of stay in the intensive care unit.



Gina Robertiello

Dr. Gina Robertiello, EdD, RN, CHSE, CEN, joined the School of Nursing in January 2024. Prior to QU, she was the assistant director of simulation at New York University for seven years. She is a certified healthcare simulation educator who has presented nationally and internationally on simulations surrounding interprofessional collaboration, mindfulness in nursing education, disability and gaming. Dr. Robertiello earned her EdD in Leadership and Innovation from New York University, her MSN in nursing education from St.

Joseph's University and her BS in nursing from Binghamton University. Her doctoral research focused on exploring simulation's influence on transition to practice for new graduate RNs. She has more than 15 years of clinical experience in medical-surgical nursing, emergency nursing and rapid response team. She is currently part of the professional development team at her local hospital. Dr. Robertiello teaches in the BSN programs, with part of her time dedicated to building the School of Nursing's simulation research infrastructure.



Kate Pfeiffer

Dr. Kate Pfeiffer will join the School of Nursing on July 29, 2024, as a clinical associate professor and director of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Program. Dr. Pfeiffer is a board-certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner. Before her arrival at QU, she served as an associate at Emory University in Atlanta and led the development team for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program serving as the program director. Dr. Pfeiffer earned her MSN from Georgia State

and her DNP from Emory. Her scholarship interests include well-being in nurses and nursing students, and best practices in competency-based psychiatric nursing education. Her most recent work, funded by HRSA, explored the implementation of a professional and personal development program into BSN and BBA curricula. She has been accepted to the 2024 cohort of the National League for Nursing's LEAD Leadership program. Dr. Pfeiffer was the 2023 recipient of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association's Award for Excellence in Education and received the 2023 Emory Williams Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from Emory University.



Jennifer Wethje

Dr. Jennifer Wethje will join the School of Nursing as a clinical assistant professor on July 29, 2024. Dr. Wethje comes to Quinnipiac with more than 20 years of clinical experience paired with a health occupations teaching certification and classroom teaching experience. She earned both her Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees from Quinnipiac. Prior to her nursing career, Dr. Wethje received her Master of Science in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, with research centered on

customer service in healthcare. Her doctoral research focused on improved access to antenatal screenings and care as well as the correlation between state laws and healthcare outcomes. Dr. Wethje's clinical background includes emergency nursing and high-risk labor and delivery nursing. As an APRN, Dr. Wethje has experience in family medicine and women's health, primarily gynecology and obstetrics. She continues to work in women's health as a nurse practitioner, which allows her to stay current on clinical guidelines.

New Faculty and Staff *(continued)*



Leonile Scott

Dr. Leonile Scott will join the School of Nursing as a clinical assistant professor on July 29, 2024. Dr. Scott has been a registered nurse for more than 21 years. She began her career in the emergency room and ICU in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing. Later, she moved to the United States and served in several nursing positions, including med/surg/tele, orthopedics, long-term care, rehab, correctional nursing, school nursing, informatics nursing and nursing administration. She pursued her graduate

studies at Quinnipiac University, earning her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in forensic nursing in 2006, and most recently, her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in leadership in 2021, while working in nursing administration. She is a certified informatics nurse and has pursued this career for 16 years. Dr. Scott's dedication to nursing education and mentorship is evident in her more than 10 years of experience as a clinical instructor. She has guided and shaped the careers of numerous nursing students, including LPN, ADN and BSN students.



Linda Merritt

Dr. Linda Merritt is an associate professor of nursing in Quinnipiac University's School of Nursing. She completed her doctoral education at Texas Woman's University and her doctoral work focused on the needs of fathers in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She has been published and presented at national conferences. Dr. Merritt also earned an MSN in Nursing Administration & Management from Baylor University. In 2023, she was inducted into the inaugural class of fellows for the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and

Neonatal Nurses for her contributions to neonatal nursing. Dr. Merritt is certified in neonatal intensive care nursing and nursing education. She primarily teaches in the BSN programs.



Nicole Casbarro

Dr. Nicole Casbarro joined the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing in the Fall 2023 semester. She is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northeastern University, a Master of Science in Nursing from Quinnipiac University and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Connecticut. Prior to joining the School of Nursing, she held adjunct clinical teaching positions at the University of Saint Joseph and Goodwin University. She also has served as a

preceptor for APRN students at Fairfield University, Southern Connecticut State University and Yale University. Dr. Casbarro brings a wealth of experience in healthcare, particularly in pediatric nursing. Her previous experience as a registered nurse includes pediatric oncology, pediatric intensive care and emergency nursing. As an APRN, her practice experience includes pediatric primary care and school-based health. Her passion for health and wellness led her to develop garden-based food literacy classes at the elementary school level. Her scholarship focuses on food literacy, food insecurity, food justice and pediatric obesity.



Patricia Gallagher

Patricia Gallagher joined the School of Nursing in May 2023 as a Nursing Academic Success and Retention Specialist. In her role, she supports undergraduate nursing students in both the traditional and accelerated programs. Prior to joining the School of Nursing, Gallagher practiced as a registered nurse at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut, caring for medical and surgical patients and families. Her experience at Griffin Hospital also included work as a nursing professional development specialist/clinical educator. Additionally, she

has served as an adjunct clinical faculty member at Goodwin University. Gallagher earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Tampa and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Sacred Heart University.



Tricia Siefker

Tricia Siefker joined the School of Nursing as a nursing success and retention specialist in summer 2023. In her role, she supports prelicensure students in both the traditional and accelerated nursing programs. Prior to joining Quinnipiac University, she worked as a lecturer in the simulation lab and was a member of the academic support team at the Yale University School of Nursing. She also taught as a member of the clinical adjunct faculty at Quinnipiac. Her practice experience includes registered nurse positions at MidState

Medical Center, St. Mary's Hospital and the Hospital of Central Connecticut. Siefker also has experience as a certified sexual assault forensic examiner for the state of Connecticut. Siefker received her Bachelor of Human Kinetics and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Windsor in Canada and a Master of Science in Nursing from Quinnipiac University. She is currently a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Nursing Leadership program at Quinnipiac.



Allissa Parker

Allissa Parker joined the School of Nursing as a clinical coordinator associate in June 2023. In her role, she oversees the clinical placements for students enrolled in the graduate programs. Prior to joining Quinnipiac, Parker practiced as a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital and Bristol Health. In addition to her full-time role, Parker is an adjunct faculty member teaching in the Holistic Integration Labs with junior nursing students. Parker received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Quinnipiac University and a Master of Science

in Nursing from Sacred Heart University specializing in nursing education. She is currently enrolled in the Nursing Leadership Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Quinnipiac and is board certified in holistic nursing.



Angela Falcon

Angela Falcon joined the School of Nursing as a student support liaison during the Spring 2024 semester. Her work is dedicated to the Innovations Grant received by the CT Health Horizons program. In partnership with Hartford HealthCare, Falcon fosters the professional development of students at Quinnipiac who are interested in Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) training and state certification. Falcon earned her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Hartford and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Sacred Heart University. Just

prior to joining Quinnipiac University, she worked as a Certified Nurse Aide and medical careers teacher at Orville Platt High School. Her current clinical practice experience includes work as a nurse navigator in digestive health. Her previous nursing experience also includes work as a nurse case manager for Alexion AstraZeneca Rare Disease Pharmaceutical.



Lauren Perrelli

Lauren Perrelli joined the School of Nursing as a nursing laboratory assistant during the Fall 2023 semester. Prior to beginning her position at Quinnipiac University, Perrelli worked as an emergency department technician at Hartford Hospital. As a Certified Nursing Assistant, her practice experience also includes positions at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare and Elim Park. Perrelli is a student at Connecticut State Community College in the Associate of Science program.



Competency-based education: New solutions and strategies in nursing

As nursing roles evolve in response to health equity and caring for a more diverse and aging population, nursing programs all across the country are shifting toward competency-based education (CBE) to educate the next generation of professional nurses.

This dynamic collaboration between academia and practice will ensure that future nurses have the skills and the training required to care for patients in the decades to come.

Lisa M. Rebesch, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE, senior associate dean and professor, recently published a thought leadership piece on CBE in the peer-reviewed journal *SAGE Open Nursing*.

The piece was co-authored by Lisa S. Lewis, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, associate clinical professor of nursing at Duke University, and Ellie Hunt, DNP, RN-BC, CPHIMS, CNE, associate director of nursing education at Wake Area Health Education Center and a renowned expert in healthcare informatics.

So what exactly is competency-based education?

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the voice of academic nursing, defines it this way: “Competency-based education refers to a system of instruction, assessment, feedback, self-reflection, and academic reporting that is based on students demonstrating that they have learned the knowledge, attitudes, motivations, self-perceptions, and skills expected of them as they progress through their education.” AACN has developed new nursing standards published within *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*.

Rebesch and her peers emphasize the need for developing clinical judgment and the call by professional organizations for radical transformation in nursing education. In fact, beginning Jan. 1, 2025, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) will require that baccalaureate, master’s and DNP curricula incorporate 45 competencies outlined by AACN in *The Essentials* document

mentioned above. The QU School of Nursing is well underway with revising curricula to meet these new accreditation standards.

Consider: A 2017 study found that only 23% of new nursing graduates were competent with basic clinical judgment skills even though they passed the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

The need for more clinical judgment is profound, especially considering the increasing complexity of patient care and emphasis on quality, safety and team-based healthcare.

This expanded clinical judgment will help nursing school graduates enter the profession better prepared to treat the patients of tomorrow in collaboration with members of the interprofessional healthcare team. It will also help prepare nurses to succeed on the Next Generation NCLEX-RN exam, which debuted last year.

Rebesch and her colleagues note, “CBE offers an effective strategy for preparing nursing school graduates to successfully complete the licensure exam.” By emphasizing “repeated opportunities to demonstrate competencies across populations and patient care settings ... learners (amass) the ability to develop clinical judgment.”

One way nursing school graduates can get these additional opportunities is through simulation, the authors explain. But while undergraduate programs may “substitute as many as 50% of clinical hours with simulation,” a recent national survey showed that nursing schools typically average only 9-17% simulation hours.

According to AACN, “one of the reasons that qualified students are refused admission to nursing programs each year is the lack of clinical sites.”



With a likely increase in the use of simulation through CBE, a career in nursing can become more accessible to qualified students as well as those nursing school graduates who require additional opportunities to develop clinical judgment skills.

“Simulation not only can mitigate the problem of insufficient clinical sites,” the authors said, “it can also create multiple opportunities for nursing students to demonstrate competencies across varied populations and patient care settings.”

CBE widens the lane for nursing programs to help meet the projected shortage of nurses in the coming years.

“The U.S. is projected to experience a shortage of registered nurses (RNs) that is expected to intensify as Baby Boomers age and the need for healthcare grows,” according to AACN. “Compounding the problem is the fact that nursing schools across the country are struggling to expand capacity to meet the rising demand for care.”

Quinnipiac is proactively addressing this urgent need for capacity, care and expanded clinical judgment in nursing.

In January 2022, the university signed a strategic partnership with Hartford HealthCare to grow student pipelines across industries, including nursing, to address the long-term talent needs for Connecticut and beyond.

“We are thrilled to partner with a leading institution like Quinnipiac University to educate and prepare the next generation of healthcare workers, which will address the future needs of our state,” Jeffrey A. Flaks, president and CEO of Hartford HealthCare, said at the announcement’s press conference.

Quinnipiac President Judy Olian agreed: “Our far-reaching collaboration will significantly enhance healthcare education both inside and outside the classroom as well as the training and job opportunities available to Quinnipiac students all across the university.”

In March 2022, the School of Nursing entered a groundbreaking partnership with Yale New Haven Health. Later that year, the School of Nursing increased its accelerated second-degree nursing program enrollment by 25%.

CBE is a clear catalyst for growing nursing programs and educating the nurses of tomorrow.

As Rebesch and her co-authors note, “CBE offers the opportunity to enhance interprofessional education, increase the use of simulation, and improve clinical judgment in new graduate and advanced practice nurses.”

However, despite the benefits and opportunities presented by CBE, “the curricular change is labor-intensive and slow, and faculty may initially struggle to operationalize CBE principles,” the co-authors observed.

The good news is, AACN offers a toolkit at its website to help nursing programs navigate this transition with sample templates for curriculum mapping as well as resources for activities and assessments. (Visit <https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials/tool-kit/competency-based-education> to learn more.)

“Both nursing and nursing education are scientific fields, ever evolving and changing as evidence is discovered and disseminated,” the co-authors said. “CBE offers an innovative approach for nursing education that can address the need to enhance clinical judgment and can integrate with IPE.”

Celebrating Alumni



School of Nursing alumna saves stabbing victim at gymnastics meet

Less than a year after her graduation from Quinnipiac's School of Nursing, Ashley Zimmermann '23 found herself in a situation that would test all her resolve and life-saving skills as a registered nurse.

Or, rather, the situation found her.

Coaching at a youth gymnastics meet in Glastonbury on Feb. 25, Zimmermann was summoned to the sidewalk where Kevin Anderson — who was cheering on his daughter when he became the victim of domestic violence — was suffering from stab wounds to his head and vital organs.

"I am a nurse. I work at Hartford Hospital. I need you to listen to me," Zimmermann calmly told Anderson. She tended to his wounds and kept him conscious until an ambulance arrived. Based on the severity of his injuries, there wasn't much time to spare.

"I was shocked that he was still alive," Zimmermann said in a video produced by Hartford HealthCare.

In an interview with WTNH-TV (News 8), Glastonbury Police Chief Marshall Porter confirmed that Zimmermann's swift and precise actions prevented a tragic outcome. Onlookers took note of her uncommon poise in the face of daunting circumstances.

"Right place, right time, she sprung into action and really saved someone's life," Porter said. "It was a very challenging scene, and the gentleman in that case was very, very fortunate to have her there."

It was during her time as a student in the School of Nursing that Zimmermann began to differentiate herself as a leader, someone who made a profound impact on the North Haven Campus and beyond.

Teresa Twomey, director of the global nursing experiences program, associate professor of nursing and past chair of undergraduate nursing, praised Zimmermann for her mentorship and commitment to helping the next generation find their footing as nurses.

"A very engaged nursing student, both in the classroom and out," as Twomey put it, Zimmermann volunteered for nursing preview days and presented about Quinnipiac's nursing program as a guest of Hamden High School's after-school health science club.

Jody Benton, a part-time faculty member in the School of Nursing, has fond memories of guiding Zimmermann through her first clinical experience.

"She was always willing to help her peers, staff and even patients who were not assigned to her," Benton said. "She had excellent communication skills and brought many smiles to the faces of her patients."

Her commitment to her patients is evident in the bond Zimmermann forged with Anderson. She continued to visit with him as he recovered at Hartford Hospital, where she works in the emergency department.

"He gave me the biggest hug and he was in tears," Zimmermann recalled in her interview with WTNH. "He just kept saying, 'Thank you.'"

The Town of Glastonbury held a ceremony in May to celebrate the bravery of civilians and police officers. Awards were presented to Zimmermann and the team of responding officers who arrested Kevin's attacker.



Accelerated nursing alumna recognized for excelling in the ICU

Danielle Petrovich '22 only spent a year at Quinnipiac, but her time as a Bobcat was extremely formative for her career.

As a former student-athlete, Petrovich is used to the hustle, she said. She always had to balance schoolwork with practice, but once at Quinnipiac, she no longer played a sport and could truly focus on her studies.

"I had the opportunity to devote much of my energy to nursing school, which I am very grateful for," said Petrovich. "The people I met thanks to this program taught me how to be a nurse and also how to best communicate with others and be the best version of myself so that I can provide the best care for my patients."

While the accelerated bachelor's in nursing program operates at a fast pace, she kept up with the demanding workload, which led her to become a current surgical trauma ICU nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital. When Petrovich began nursing school, she expressed the idea of possibly working in the ICU but was unsure she could handle it emotionally.

"My first clinical instructor, Taylor Hartman, told me she could see me doing really well in an ICU, and Professor (Peter) Longley, who became an incredible mentor for me, guided me to discover for myself that the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) was exactly where I wanted to be," said Petrovich.

"In a summer clinical rotation, I was able to shadow in the SICU on York Street thanks to my instructor, Cecrystal Umeugo. I loved it," Petrovich added. "It was even more exciting than I imagined it, and everyone there was so welcoming. I was lucky enough to be interviewed and offered a job. I am incredibly grateful that my managers gave me the opportunity to start exactly where I had hoped to."

Despite her previous achievements and successful career path thus far, Petrovich was surprised to recently be named employee of the month at the hospital. Even as a newly hired nurse, she stood out among the rest. Fellow employees cheered for Petrovich and expressed their support for her dedication to her role.

"Another unexpected, but much appreciated, twist that came to be was a family member writing me a note on our 'SICU Star' board," said Petrovich. "This is where we can give shout-outs to members of our team for things like going above and beyond for patients, for each other or for great teamwork during tough shifts.

"We had a patient who had been there for a good while and was very sick and unstable. Her mother wrote me a note on the board saying that my employee of the month picture gave her comfort each time she came to or left our unit during that incredibly difficult time," Petrovich said. "I was shocked when my coworker told me about it and was so touched reading her note. Thankfully, her daughter got better and is no longer under ICU care."

Petrovich shared that she had an incredible, insightful experience in the Quinnipiac nursing program and owes much of her opportunities to the faculty and her fellow students who helped her grow. Longley, a clinical assistant professor of nursing, spoke very highly of Petrovich as her mentor.

"She was proactive in her learning and seeking coaching and mentorship," said Longley. "She is an excellent active listener that worked in integrating the advice given to her and as you can see, she is making the most of it."

Now as she is completely immersed in the world of nursing, Petrovich acknowledges the significance of her short 12 months as a Bobcat in shaping her career.

Generations



Second-generation nurse practitioner graduate students follow in alumni parents' footsteps

A Quinnipiac School of Nursing education has become a family tradition for a second generation of nurse practitioner graduate students. Veronica Perpetua '21, MSN '25, Coralyn Rentas '21, MS '25 and Liz Baldino, MS '25 are all following in the footsteps of their alumni parents.

Perpetua's parents, Vicky Amon-Perpetua '05 and Ron Perpetua '15, are both School of Nursing nurse practitioner alumni.

Angel Rentas '03, father of Coralyn Rentas, earned his degree in the early days of the program, as did Mary Ellen Baldino '04, who undertook her graduate studies when her daughter, Liz, was a teen.

Adding to this full-circle story, Laima Karosas, director of the primary care nurse practitioner programs and chair of graduate nursing, has been an educational constant. Karosas has been with the school as a clinical professor of nursing since 2002. Quinnipiac launched its first MSN nurse practitioner program tracks in 1998.

Karosas shared the exciting news of the School of Nursing's three Bobcat second-generation connections during the online cohort's Class of 2025 White Coat Ceremony. She said the alumni family members and their children do much to represent the School of Nursing's throughline of excellence and involvement.

"All of the parents were really great students who were very driven and very involved, and their children are, too," said Karosas.

One of the strengths of the program is its alumni involvement, Karosas said.

"Our alumni stay connected. Angel, who was in my first class, was our keynote speaker at our conference this year," Karosas said. "Liz's mother has been precepting for us for years, and Vicky has been one of our site visitors for students in clinical practice."

In addition to providing clinical site visits, Amon-Perpetua taught at Quinnipiac as an undergraduate clinical adjunct instructor with the School of Nursing. She is currently an APRN in cardiovascular disease at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Ron Perpetua earned his Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Quinnipiac and specializes in gerontology. He said he's glad to know that his daughter has the same opportunity to experience the quality of education he and his wife received from the School of Nursing.

"It creates a profound sense of pride and nostalgia," he said.

Veronica Perpetua said her family's association with Quinnipiac goes back to her early childhood.

"My mom first became a nurse in the Philippines, which is where both my parents are from. She became a nurse in the '90s, and then she decided to come here to the States, where my dad eventually followed her over. I was five years old in 2005 when my mother graduated from nurse practitioner school at Quinnipiac," Perpetua said. "I have a few visions of being in a gymnasium where they used to have the poster presentations, and there's a picture of us at her graduation in front of the library."

Amon-Perpetua said her nurse practitioner cohort was small, but the support provided by Quinnipiac faculty, including Karosas, was memorable and life changing.

"I was in the program from 2002 to 2005 and there were only 10 or 11 of us during that time," Amon-Perpetua said. "When I started teaching at Quinnipiac, we moved from the main campus in Hamden to the North Haven Campus, which is where my husband got his degree. So I know the history of the program and its very good reputation."

The family was thrilled when Veronica decided to attend Quinnipiac for her nursing education.

"I was delighted that Veronica picked Quinnipiac, knowing how Quinnipiac provided us a good quality education," said Amon-Perpetua. "I felt assured that my daughter is going to be a successful person and also that she's going to get the skills that she's going to need to prepare her to be an outstanding clinical provider."

Now in the nursing profession for three years, Veronica Perpetua said the School of Nursing has prepared her, her mother and her father for their work.

"Coming out of nursing school at Quinnipiac and seeing how both my parents are with their patients, we're very prepared," she said. "We were all very confident in taking our exams for the boards. There's just a lot of preparation that the school put us through. All those exams, although they were very difficult, definitely prepared us for later on in life when we're taking care of our patients."

Even as the program has grown, Karosas said its focus on preparing graduates to enter the profession practice-ready, with the highest standards of care, has remained the same.

"I think our program has stayed very clinically focused," said Karosas. "I think our programs have always been competency based. We really do want to know that the person that graduated from Quinnipiac really can take care of me and my family, that I would have no problem sending my family to you. That's the standard of care that we want to see."

Mary Ellen Baldino believes in helping the program to uphold its strong educational foundation, which is why she precepts students every semester and also provides some site visits for nurse practitioners.

“I’ve been doing it for years and I really enjoy it because I really want the program to stay strong and be recognized as a good program,” said Baldino, a family nurse practitioner.

She’s also delighted that her daughter, Liz, has joined Quinnipiac’s nurse practitioner program.

“I wanted her to go to a good program, a high-quality program, so I was really excited when Liz told me she decided to go to Quinnipiac,” Baldino said. “I knew she would be getting personalization. She wasn’t going to be a number at Quinnipiac because I wasn’t a number there. People knew me, and they knew what I was uniquely interested in.”

As a nurse of 17 years, Liz Baldino is an emergency department team member in Boston. Last year, while completing her Master of Public Health, she had the opportunity to work with a substance abuse disorder program. From that experience, she realized she wanted to become a nurse practitioner. While she was offered opportunities to enter nurse practitioner programs in the Boston area, Baldino wanted to gain the same outstanding education her mother had received at Quinnipiac.

“I wanted to go to Quinnipiac because it’s a school with a prestigious nursing program. It’s a school that I can be really proud to say I’ve graduated from,” said Baldino. “I also want my doctorate, and I’m going to probably stay at Quinnipiac for that.”

Coralyn Rentas said the qualities the School of Nursing instilled in her dad inspired her to study at Quinnipiac to earn her BSN and to continue her education at the university to become a nurse practitioner.

“After deciding to pursue a degree in nursing when I was 16, my dad shared with me his positive experiences at Quinnipiac. At the time, I was seeking an undergraduate degree, which was different, but after hearing about the smaller classroom sizes and attentive faculty that my father valued, I realized that was also important to me and decided to move forward with Quinnipiac,” said Rentas.

“When it came time to apply to graduate programs, it was an easy and quick decision to seek out a program at Quinnipiac once more, after now having my own positive experiences to reflect on as a Bobcat alumnae,” she said.

Rentas said the ability to take her graduate classes online offers an exceptional advantage.

“Many of my classmates and I are balancing work, families and school, so the ability to work on our degree online and maintain our prior obligations is unique and appreciated,” said Rentas.

Her father said his advice to his daughter during her challenging journey to achieve her nurse practitioner degree has been simple and reassuring: “You’re exactly where you need to be.”

As a cardiology nurse practitioner, Angel Rentas will return to Quinnipiac to provide EKG immersion content for students in his daughter’s class this August.

Karasos said students benefit greatly not only from alumni returning to share their knowledge, but from a faculty which remains embedded in the profession.

“All of our faculty who teach in our programs still do practice, and we have people with different types of practices, and I think that helps to give our students a well-rounded background and prepare them for practice,” said Karasos. “It’s a very cohesive team, and that’s what makes our program good. We are talking about theory, and what we’ve seen in practice. What we hear from our graduates is that we really prepared them well for their first job.”



Students from Career High School visit the campus

In April, students and faculty from Hill Regional Career High School from New Haven spent the morning with faculty and staff in the School of Nursing.

Senior Associate Dean Lisa Rebeschii welcomed the students to Quinnipiac and provided students with the planned agenda for their visit. Students learned more about the baccalaureate nursing program at QU from chairperson Teresa Twomey and received an overview of the admissions process from Jeanne Liu from undergraduate admissions.

It was exciting to learn that some of the senior students from Career High School had already been accepted into the program. As many of the students were either sophomore or junior students, they also learned about the summer program opportunity of the Healthcare Career Exploration Academy, presented by Jerilyn Nolan from the School of Health Sciences and Jacqueline Simpson Gilson from QU’s Precollege Programming.

Visiting students also participated in a high-fidelity simulation led by Liana Kappus, director of simulation. As an experiential learning activity, students received training in the use of Narcan and Stop-the-Bleed® techniques by SON’s Director of Community Engagement Pina Violano. Each of the students also received certificates for their training.

Following a campus tour led by Darlene Rogers, director of laboratory operations, and Diane Sullivan, students enjoyed lunch on campus before returning to New Haven.

The School of Nursing plans to continue this partnership with Hill Regional Career High School in promoting nursing as a future career.

Inaugural Dean's Advisory Council

Christopher Boissard, MS
Senior Research/Clinical Scientist (Ret.)
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Stephanie R. Paulmeno, DNP, MS, RN, CPH, CCM, CDP – QU DNP '19
Chairman, The Patient is U Foundation Inc.
Co-Lead, Health Sector (International) Charter for Compassion

Kathleen Gallo, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN
Retired founding dean of Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Studies and Northwell Chief Learning Officer

Marcia B. Proto, M.Ed., CAS
Marcia Proto Consulting LLC

Jeffrey Weil
R & D Consulting and Support
Vice President, Dassault Systems

Lisa R. Weil
Digital Transformation
Executive, Founder, Board Advisor

Donna Montesi, DNP, APRN, FAANP – QU MSN '02, DNP '13
Executive Director, PACT Primary Care

William A. Petit Jr., MD
President, Petit Family Foundation

Kristen Marie Guida, DNP, ANP-C, ACNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, FNP-C, CV-BC, CNE – QU MSN '09, DNP '14
Hartford HealthCare, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Hospital for Special Care, Nurse Practitioner
CT State Capital, Professor of Nursing

Tina Loarte-Rodriguez, DNP, RN, CPPS, CPHRM – QU MSN '20, DNP '23
Author and CEO - Latinas In Nursing
Executive Director, CT Center for Nursing Workforce

Paula Milone-Nuzzo, PhD, RN, FHHHC, FAA
President, MGH Institute of Health Professions



Missing from group photo: Tina Loarte-Rodriguez, Paula Milone-Nuzzo and Kristen Marie Guida

Inaugural Dean's Advisory Council convened

In February 2024, the School of Nursing (SON), under the direction of Dean Larry Z. Slater, convened its inaugural Dean's Advisory Council.

The purpose of the council is to play a vital role in providing guidance, expertise and support to ensure the success and continued growth of SON's educational programs and its impact on the health of the communities it serves, not only through its graduates, but with its direct engagement and participation with clinical and community partners.

These initial outstanding 11 council members are key partners in shaping the future of nursing education, scholarship and practice through advisement on the school's strategic direction and priorities to ensure the school stays relevant and future focused.

They not only share their time and treasure, but serve as ambassadors, advocates and advisers, helping the school foster collaboration among the academic enterprise, the broader nursing and healthcare industry and the community. The esteemed inaugural council members are listed at left.

The Dean's Advisory Council is supported by Alexis Salsedo-Surovov, senior director of development, health affairs at Quinnipiac, and

Patricia Gettings, director of administration and business operations for SON.

At the inaugural Dean's Advisory Council meeting in February, the common theme that was evident during the full-day session was innovation.

In its discussions, the council envisioned a school of nursing that is a national leader in competency-based teaching and learning, with its graduates not only leaders in building healthy communities through practice, policy and advocacy, but also alumni who remain highly engaged with QU and SON, building a cycle of excellence and innovation through shared experience and expertise.

Since February, the council participated in a focus group as SON builds its new three-year strategic plan to launch in August. The final plan, including key performance indicators and a roadmap for success, will be presented to the council at its fall meeting, at which time the council will envision how its leadership can be used to be most impactful as SON moves toward national prominence.

Faculty & Staff Scholarship and Achievements

Cynthia Barrere

Presentations: Twomey, T., Barrere, C., Traister, T. *A Holistic Approach to Inclusion in a School of Nursing*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 2023.

Barrere, C., and Bradley, C. *Students' Reflective Signature Work: A Transformative Instrument of Renewal*. American Holistic Nurses Association Conference, Rochester, Minnesota, Transform Conference, June 2024.

Award: Selected as the recipient of the American Holistic Nurses Association 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award, May 2024.

Carolyn Bradley

Presentations: Barrere, C., and Bradley, C. *Students' Reflective Signature Work: A Transformative Instrument of Renewal*. American Holistic Nurses Association Conference, Rochester, Minnesota, Transform Conference, June 2024.

Willmott, I., & Bradley, C. Leadership Strategies to Improve Hand Hygiene Performance at 16th Annual Janet Parkosewich YSN/YNHHS Nursing Research and EBP Conference. Orange, CT. May 2024.

Bradley, C. *Integrating Holistic Patient- and Family-Centered Care into Senior BSN Student Emergency Management Education* at AACN's Transform 2023 Conference: Reimagining the Future of Academic Nursing, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. November 30 - December 2, 2023.

Bradley, C. and Rizzo, E.: *Improving NCLEX Success through Innovative Remediation and Review Strategies, A Pilot Project*, at AACN's Transform 2023 Conference: Reimagining the Future of Academic Nursing, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. November 30 - December 2, 2023.

Bradley, C. and Traister, T. *Trauma-Informed Leadership Strategies to Improve Undergraduate Nursing Student Engagement and Wellbeing*, presented at Innovate to Elevate Conference, Orlando, FL. February 2024.

Nicole Casbarro

Presentation: Casbarro, N. *Sustaining a SBHC Therapeutic Garden: Fostering a School-Wide Culture of Health*, at the National School Health Alliance Conference in D.C., June 2024.

Susan D'Agostino

Grant: D'Agostino, S. awarded the CVS Health Foundation Grant 2024 of \$1,000 to support family nurse practitioner students.

Angela Falcon

Certification: Falcon, A. obtained certification as a *Professional Patient Navigator* through the American Cancer Society, Leadership in Oncology and Navigation (ACS LION).

Laima Karosas

Publications: Juškauskienė, E., Karosas, L., Harvey, C., & Riklikienė, O. (2023). Spiritual lives of children with cancer: A qualitative descriptive study in Lithuania *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*.

Riklikienė, O., Spirgiene, L., Rapoliene, J., & Karosas, L. (2024). Spiritual needs and life satisfaction of Lithuanian palliative care patients. *Journal of Religion & Health*.

Award: Karosas, L. received a *Fulbright Scholar Award* to teach in Lithuania and explore the role of national healthcare statutes and how they are implemented in practice.

Peter Longley

Presentation: Longley, P. Workshop: *Creating a relationship-centered interprofessional leadership development program using design thinking*, Jefferson Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (JCIPE), Philadelphia, Penn., November 2023.

Grants: Longley, P. *Leaders Who Care: A Podcast About Leadership, Teaming, and Redesigning Healthcare*. Faculty Scholarship and Creative Works Impact Fund, Quinnipiac University.

Linda Merritt

Publication: Merritt, L. & Verklan, M. (2024). A feasibility study to test the NICU paternal needs inventory care. *Advances in Neonatal Care*.

Presentations: Merritt, L. & Verklan, M. Protocol to Pilot Test the NICU Paternal Needs Inventory, 2024 *New England Association of Neonatal Nurses (NEANN) Conference*. Newport, Rhode Island, March 2024.

Merritt, L. & Verklan, M. Preliminary Results of the Pilot Study to Determine the Validity and Reliability of the NICU Paternal Needs Inventory. Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2024.

Nicholas Nicholson

Publications: Manzo, L. L., Sarkar, S., Nicholson, N. R., Sanft, T., & Poghosyan, H. (2023). Prevalence and correlates of cannabis use among U.S. veterans during the second wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Military medicine*, usad360. Advance online publication.

You, G. and Nicholson, N. *Social Participation in Retirement: Understanding the Relationship between Gender, Relational Status, and Social Isolation* at the Nursing 27th Connecticut Research Alliance Annual Evidence-Based Practice Conference, October 2023.

You, E. and Nicholson, N. *Social Participation in Retirement*. The Connecticut Nurses Association, CNA 117th Annual Convention, Uncasville, CT. November 2023.

Award: Students Rubin, S., Dade, I. and Professors Majeski, K., Vallespir Ellett, G. and Nicholson, N. received the *Quinnipiac Public Service Award*, to develop community programming for the Hamden Senior Center, 2024.

Faculty & Staff Scholarship and Achievements *(continued)*

Lisa Rebesch

Presentations: Beauvais, A., Maruca, A., Ouellet, E., Rebesch, L., Ritchie, Jo. *Strategies to Promote and Empower the Bedside Nurse*. Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce Statewide Workforce Summit, April 2024.

Grants/Funding: Violano, P., Slater, L., Rebesch, L., Salsedo-Surovov, A., Wormley, N. *SON Community Engagement Program*. Keiser Foundation for \$500,000. Awarded July 2024.

Dzurec, L., Rebesch, L., Williamson, A. *Increasing Access to SANE Care: A Strengthened Statewide Community of SANE Practice*. HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (ANE-SANE) Program, \$439,265 (pending review).

Appointed Statewide Position: Rebesch, L. was appointed to a second term as *Vice Chair for the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce Board* for 2024-2025.

Bridget Rich

Certification: Bridget Rich earned her certification as a *Certified Academic Clinical Nurse Educator (CNEcl)* specializing in the clinical learning environment, April 2024.

Erica Rizzo

Presentations: Rizzo, E. *Nearpod: An Effective Engagement Tool in Nursing Education*. Nuts and Bolts for Nurse Educators Conference, Next Gen Learning: From Critical Thinking to Clinical Judgment to NCLEX and Beyond, August 2023.

Leary, C., Palozie, J., Elwell, J. & Rizzo, E. *Effect of a Clinical Competency Bootcamp on New Graduate Registered Nurses' Transition to Practice and Work Readiness*. 27th Annual Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference CT Research Alliance, October 2023.

Bradley, C. and Rizzo, E. *Improving NCLEX Success through Innovative Remediation and Review Strategies, A Pilot Project*, at AACN's Transform 2023 Conference: Reimagining the Future of Academic Nursing, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. November 30 - December 2, 2023.

Award: Rizzo, E. received the School of Nursing Daisy Award. This recognition was the inaugural presentation of the Daisy Award for faculty excellence in teaching.

Gina Robertiello

Publications: Chen, L. & Robertiello, G. (2024). Prone positioning for patients with ARDS. *Nursing2024*.

Presentations: Marx, K., Ozkara San, E., Latimer, B., Robertiello, G., Pasklinsky, N., & Nahum, J. *Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Nursing Education: An evaluation of the learners' perspective on the effectiveness of a pediatric tabletop simulation*. Howard-Meyers Bernadine Lacey Health Equity Conference, New York, NY. 2024 April.

Robertiello, G. *Evaluating baccalaureate nursing simulation to prepare practice ready nurses*. International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare, San Diego, CA. 2024 January.

Larry Slater

Appointed National Position: Slater, L. was appointed *Chair of the Development Committee* for the American Academy of Nursing for 2024.

Grants/Funding: Violano, P., Slater, L., Rebesch, L., Salsedo-Surovov, A., Wormley, N. *SON Community Engagement Program*. Keiser Foundation for \$500,000. Awarded July 2024.

Tyler Traister

Publication: Traister, T. (2024). Interleaving foundational nursing concepts for accelerated nursing students through gamification. *Nursing Education Perspectives*.

Presentations: Traister, T. accepted to present: *LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Nursing Education: A Roadmap to Creating a Culture of Belonging* at the 2024 National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, August 2024.

Bradley, C. and Traister, T. *Trauma-Informed Leadership Strategies to Improve Undergraduate Nursing Student Engagement and Wellbeing*, presented at Innovate to Elevate Conference, February 2024.

Twomey, T., Barrere, C., Traister, T. *A Holistic Approach to Inclusion in a School of Nursing*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 2023.

Grants: Traister, T. *Closing the Gap: A University-Community Partnership for Equitable LGBTQ+ Healthcare*. Faculty Scholarship and Creative Works Impact Fund, Quinnipiac University.

Award: Traister, T. received the 2024 Quinnipiac University School of Nursing *Faculty Scholars Award*, May 2024.

Institute Acceptance: Tyler Traister was accepted as a participant in the 2024 AACN *Diversity Leadership Institute*. This five-month-long program focuses participants' attention on learning the current state of diversity, equity, and inclusion in academic nursing.

Teresa Twomey

Presentation: Twomey, T., Barrere, C., Traister, T. *A Holistic Approach to Inclusion in a School of Nursing*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 2023.

Gladys Vallespir Ellett

Presentations: Vallespir Ellett, G. *Connecting with Next Gen Students Through Living Learning Communities*. The Annual Conference for Nurse Educators: Re-establishing Connectedness in Nursing Education. North Falmouth, MA, Saint Anslem College, June 2023.

Vallespir Ellett, G. *The Lived Experience of Expectant First-time Fathers During Their Partner's Pregnancy*, to the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance, 27th Annual Evidence-Based Practice Conference, August 2023.

Award: Students Rubin, S., Dade, I. and Professors Majeski, K., Vallespir Ellett, G. and Nicholson, N. received the *Quinnipiac Public Service Award*, to develop community programming for the Hamden Senior Center, 2024.

Elected Position: Vallespir Ellett, G. elected to the role of President of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Nurses' Foundation (CNF) May 2024.

Pina Violano

Presentations: Violano, P. *Women's Role in Crime: Evaluating the 5 K Motion Short Film as an Educational Resource*. National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harm, Chicago, Illinois, November 2023.

Farris, P., Violano, P. and Fogarasi, M. *Assessment of Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) Return Rates in the Underserved Population*, St. Francis Research Day, Hartford, CT, November 2023.

Violano, P. *Swords to Plowshares Northeast: A Community Gun Violence Prevention Program*, Community Works, North Haven Community TV (Live TV Show), February 2024.

Book Chapters: Violano, P. & Miller, B. (2023). Conducting Research in Community-based Injury Prevention. In: Adams, C., & Tinkoff, G. (Eds.), *Hospital-based Injury and Violence Prevention Programs: The Trauma Center Guide for all Healthcare Professionals*. Springer, Cham.

Violano, P., Prentiss, S., Rubin, J., Tinkoff, G., Adams, C. (2023). Understanding the Role of Advocacy. In: Adams, C., & Tinkoff, G. (Eds.), *Hospital-based Injury and Violence Prevention Programs: The Trauma Center Guide for all Healthcare Professionals*. Springer, Cham.

Board/Commission Appointments: Violano, P. American Trauma Society, Washington, D.C. (National) Board of Directors (Re-Elected) March 2024.

Violano, P. Police Activities League, New Haven Police Department (Local) Board of Directors (Elected) August 2023.

Violano, P. accepted an invitation from the Rockefeller Institute of Government to join the *Scholars Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium*, January 2024.

Grants/Funding: Violano, P., Slater, L., Rebesch, L., Salsedo-Surovov, A., Wormley, N. *SON Community Engagement Program*. Keiser Foundation for \$500,000. Awarded July 2024.

Violano, P. STOP THE BLEED® Response Point Cabinet. (\$15,000) from the Stop the Bleed® Coalition. Sept. 2023.

National Course: Violano, P. Co-Instructor for the *Injury Prevention Professionals Course* for American Trauma Society. April 25–26, 2024.

Eunhea Grace You

Presentations: You, E. *Enhancing DEI Care among Nursing Students Utilizing Story based Podcasts and Simulation* at AACN's Transform 2023 Conference: Reimagining the Future of Academic Nursing, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. November 30 - December 2, 2023.

You, E. *Poem Writing Gaming in Nursing Education* at AACN's Transform 2023 Conference: Reimagining the Future of Academic Nursing, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. November 30 - December 2, 2023.

You, E. and Nicholson, N. *Social Participation in Retirement: Understanding the Relationship between Gender, Relational Status, and Social Isolation* at the Nursing 27th Connecticut Research Alliance Annual Evidence-Based Practice Conference, October 2023.

You, E. *Developing a Hand-off Tool from Ambulatory Post-Anesthesia Care to Ambulatory Surgical Center* at the Nursing 27th Connecticut Research Alliance Annual Evidence-Based Practice Conference, October 2023.

You, E. *Developing and Validation of a Hand Off Tool* at the Connecticut Nurses Association during the CNA 117th Annual Convention, at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT. November 2023.

You, E. and Nicholson, N. *Social Participation in Retirement*. The Connecticut Nurses Association, CNA 117th Annual Convention, Uncasville, CT. November 2023.

You, E. *Story Based DEI Education* at the Connecticut Nurses Association during the CNA 117th Annual Convention, at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT. November 2023.

You, E. *Piloting a Hand Off Tool from Ambulatory Post-Anesthesia Care to Ambulatory Surgical*, at the NTI Conference, Denver, May 2024.

Grants: You, E. received a Quinnipiac University Inclusive Excellence Transformation Grant of \$1,000 to support pedagogical innovation in the classroom. *This grant is supported by the Department of Cultural and Global Engagement (now the Office of Inclusive Excellence), the Inclusive Excellence Teaching Lab, and the Davis Educational Foundation.*

You, E. *Auricular Acupuncture for Neuropathic Pain and Syndrome in Cancer Patients*. Faculty Scholarship and Creative Works Impact Fund, Quinnipiac University.

Celebrating Retirees

Nursing professors retire after distinguished careers



Dr. Susan Lynch

Dr. Susan Lynch joined the School of Nursing at Quinnipiac University in July 2013 as an assistant professor of nursing. After 11 years of dedicated teaching and service, Dr. Lynch retired from Quinnipiac in December 2023.

From February 2015 to June 2016, she assumed the role of chair, undergraduate nursing programs. In July 2019, Dr. Lynch transitioned to the position of clinical associate professor of nursing.

Dr. Lynch taught several didactic and lab courses in the undergraduate BSN programs through 2016. She also taught and/or coordinated didactic, lab and clinical courses in the graduate programs (FNP and AGNP) and taught and/or coordinated didactic and fieldwork courses in the doctoral program (DNP).

Dr. Lynch is an ANP-BC Adult Nurse Practitioner Board Certified, American Nurses Certification Center. She was also a Fellow, Leadership for Academic Nursing Program, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2015.

“Faculty awareness of university matters pertaining to the faculty role such as policies, procedures, finances, teaching and curriculum is important. Faculty from each school needs a voice in faculty senate matters.”

Dr. Lynch provided the voice for SON faculty as a senate representative on a variety of senate committees and other university-wide committees. Her reports back to the SON faculty were eloquent, thorough and complete.

External to Quinnipiac University, Dr. Lynch contributed to the nursing profession on many local, state and national committees in organizations including CT APRNs, Sigma Theta Tau, Tau Rho Chapter, AACN and NONPE.

Her positive impact on student learning and ongoing commitment to representing nursing on many levels will be missed. We wish her well in her retirement.



Dr. Rhea Sanford

Dr. Rhea Sanford joined the School of Nursing at Quinnipiac University as a full-time clinical associate professor in 2011. After 13 years of dedicated teaching and service, Dr. Sanford retired in May 2024.

From August 2014 to July 2016, Dr. Sanford assumed the role of BSN track coordinator.

From 2016-17, she advanced to the administrative role of co-chair of the Undergraduate Nursing Program. In 2017, she became director of the Pre-Professional Nursing Program, remaining in this position until her retirement.

Also in 2017, she was promoted to clinical professor and was recognized by the Connecticut Nursing League of Nursing (CNLN) as leaving a Nursing Legacy in Connecticut – 65 over 65 for her ongoing work and leadership over the years.

Dr. Sanford is a stellar educator. She taught a wide variety of didactic courses in the undergraduate BSN, ABSN and graduate programs, attesting to her versatility in classroom and online teaching. She created fun and meaningful assignments that engaged students in the learning process and demonstrated her commitment to teaching.

Of particular note was Dr. Sanford's welcoming communication style during advisement sessions that helped ease first-year and second-year students' anxiety when feeling overwhelmed with their studies. Her passion for teaching and student engagement was evident as she taught across the various curricula in the School of Nursing.

Dr. Sanford's wonderful ability to captivate all levels of students in rich discussions and critical thinking will be missed. We wish her well in her retirement.



Quinnipiac's School of Nursing has its eyes on the future

The School of Nursing held its first State of the School address in December as Dean Larry Z. Slater and his leadership team foster a strong sense of community among alumni, parents and friends.

The school's stakeholders remain genuinely committed to the success of fundraising and alumni relations efforts, which help secure the future of the university and drive an ambitious strategic plan. This important work will identify new and innovative philanthropic opportunities to support nursing at QU.

The School of Nursing remains committed to preparing students who will tackle major challenges inherent in 21st-century patient care in hospitals, clinics and other healthcare settings.

Our donors value the importance of higher education and leverage their philanthropic investments by directing their generosity toward programs and people including our faculty, staff and students.

Our nursing graduates will be invaluable leaders in their chosen fields thanks to your investment. You are among our highly skilled, compassionate alumni who bring professional and forward thinking to our profession. Together, we will continue to build on the School of Nursing's brand through our collective efforts, patient care and a dynamic education.

Last year, I wrote that Quinnipiac is poised to become the University of the Future as we prepare our students for 21st-century careers and global citizenship. After this academic year, I am convinced that we are already the University of the Future as demonstrated by the interdisciplinary nature of our pedagogy and the spirit of the campus community.

This is our DNA, and our ongoing success is directly linked to the generosity of our alumni, parents and friends. Thank you!

Whether providing a deserving student access through scholarship funding or supporting our cutting-edge clinical experiences, our philanthropic partners are reimagining the future of a Quinnipiac nursing education.

For more information on how you can make a lasting difference, please contact Alexis Salsedo-Surovov, PhD, CFRE, senior director of development for health affairs, at alexis.salsedo-surovov@qu.edu or 203-582-4515.

Quinnipiac

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Our Commitment

Quinnipiac University has a strong commitment to the principles and practices of diversity throughout the Quinnipiac community. Members of minority groups and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to consider and apply for admission. Quinnipiac University does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin or disability status in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs or other university-administered programs.