Penn State Nursing

TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES
Educating Nurses Beyond Classroom Walls
Penn State College of Nursing

Highest incoming-class GPA among all Penn State colleges*

92.4% NCLEX Pass Rate
General and Second Degree B.S.N. programs (2015–16)

Top 20 U.S. nursing master’s degree programs
(U.S. News & World Report, 2017)

M.S.N. and certificate options:
NURSE ADMINISTRATOR
NURSE EDUCATOR

Totally online

10% Undergraduate students who are part of an underrepresented ethnic group

2,000+ undergraduate and graduate students enrolled annually

Most Popular online program: RN to B.S.N.
(World Campus)

Top Ten

1. Online Programs: Penn State World Campus
(U.S. News & World Report, 2017)
2. Veteran-Friendly Nursing Schools
(Military Times, 2015)
3. RN to B.S.N. Programs
(TheBestSchools.org, 2017)

Mentoring Program for junior and senior B.S.N. students

14,000+ Active Alumni

All full-time Ph.D. students receive funding

B.S.N. in Nursing
Students entering as first-year admits have the highest graduation rate of all Penn State colleges

D.N.P.
Penn State’s first online doctoral program

Excellence in Nursing Science and Education

www.nursing.psu.edu
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As many of you know, Penn State is embarking on a comprehensive capital campaign, A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence. The campaign has three core imperatives that define the characteristics of a great public university. The first imperative, Open Doors, seeks private support to bring students from all backgrounds to Penn State and help them finish their degree in four years. President Barron has often said the most costly tuition increase is a fifth year of tuition. The second imperative is Create Transformative Experiences, which focuses on developing the support to provide students with experiences that enhance classroom learning. For some this might be an education abroad opportunity; for others it might be an internship in inner-city Philadelphia. Exposing students to the world beyond Penn State will make them more engaged learners and more productive graduates. The final imperative is Impact the World. In typical Penn State fashion, we want nothing less than to tackle and solve the world’s most pressing problems. Through the power of discovery, the University is dedicated to serving society’s needs. You are sure to hear more about the capital campaign in the coming months.

This issue of Penn State Nursing includes examples of how we are contributing to all of these imperatives. Our Healthy People Penn State initiative, a collaboration with the College of Health and Human Development, is building the pipeline for graduate students from underrepresented groups to attend the College of Nursing. We are opening the doors to nursing and Penn State through this program. The opportunity to participate in THON is a dream of every Penn Stater. When the College of Nursing took over responsibility for medication delivery for THON participants, we put our students in the thick of the THON experience. Each year students engage in this experience, they see the impact of health care on a community (in this case, THON participants) and identify best practices to improve the care they give. This is truly a transformative educational experience. Finally, our faculty impact the world with each new project, educational innovation, or academic service partnership. The FaceAge project—a collaboration among the Colleges of Arts and Architecture, Health and Human Development, and Nursing—is designed to portray aging in a real-life context and help consumers understand the associated issues.

We continue to be an integral part of this great public university with programs that not only advance the college’s work but also enhance the University’s impact. We are living our mission of improving the health of all people in Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world.

This marks my last letter to you, the alumni and friends of the College of Nursing. In August, I will assume the position of president at the MGH Institute of Health Professions (see page 6). I came to Penn State in 2003 when we were a school in the College of Health and Human Development. During the last 14 years, we have made many changes, developed many new initiatives, and forever changed Penn State’s landscape with the addition of a productive and exciting new college. I am so proud of all we have accomplished. Yet, with all those successes, what I will miss most about Penn State is the people: the alumni, the donors and friends who quickly became my friends, the faculty, the staff, and the students. You all have made this journey one on which I will always look back fondly.

The college has never been stronger than it is today. Our academic programs are thriving and meeting the needs for nurses and nurse scientists around the world. We have transitioned all of our A.S. programs at the Commonwealth Campuses to B.S.N. programs. Our master’s degree programs were recently ranked 20th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Our outreach programs continue to meet the needs of practicing nurses and the Pennsylvania communities we serve.

Faculty contribute to the science and practice of improving care through their research. And I am pleased that Dr. Janice Penrod, professor of nursing and humanities, has agreed to lead the college as interim dean until a successor is found. Janice has been both a formal and informal leader in our college for many years, and we all thank her for taking on this important role. If you don’t know Dr. Penrod, we introduce her to you on page 6.

I want to thank you all for allowing me the incredible opportunity to lead this amazing college at such a wonderful University. It has been my privilege to serve the college and each of you. The future is bright and I look forward to seeing the College of Nursing thrive.

Sincerely,

Paula Milone-Nuzzo RN, PhD, FHHC, FAAN
Dean and Professor
Penn State College of Nursing

CONNECT WITH US

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Check out our growing number of online graduate nursing programs, and come back to Penn State today!

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Create Transformative Experiences

*Enhancing Learning Opportunities through Collaboration*

The College of Nursing provides transformative educational experiences that go beyond classroom walls.

Impact the World

*FaceAge Addresses Ageism, Intergenerational Understanding*

The Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence embraces transdisciplinary collaboration and the power of visual arts to promote understanding.

Open Doors

*Healthy People Penn State Opens Doors to Graduate Study*

The annual conference expo introduces potential graduate students from underrepresented groups to programs in health-related fields.

Leadership

*Future of Nursing Scholars Program Prepares Nurse Leaders*

Two doctoral students commit to advancing nursing science and transformational change.

Accessibility

*New Certificate Program Provides Foundation in Primary Palliative Care*

Launched in fall 2016, the postbaccalaureate certificate prepares practitioners to provide end-of-life care and support.
Dean Milone-Nuzzo has been named the new president of the MGH Institute of Health Professions, an independent graduate school in Boston founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the only degree-granting affiliate of Partners HealthCare. She will begin her new appointment in August 2017.

“Dean Milone-Nuzzo has been a champion for nursing and nursing education,” said Nick Jones, Penn State provost and executive vice president. “We are grateful for her outstanding leadership in guiding the College of Nursing as it has grown and flourished.”

Among her many accomplishments in the past 14 years, Milone-Nuzzo:

- Spearheaded Nursing’s transition from a school to an academic college
- Established the Center for Nursing Research, a centralized resource for faculty research and scholarly activities, supporting substantial growth in the college’s research portfolio
- Transformed the curriculum at the campuses to replace the associate degree program with a four-year baccalaureate degree program
- Added graduate program options, including Penn State’s first online professional doctoral program, the doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.)
- Expanded the college’s alumni outreach
- Helped develop the vision for the Penn State Employee Health and Wellness Center, an on-campus health and wellness facility providing episodic care by nurse practitioners

“These 14 years have allowed me to work with amazing faculty, exceptional students, committed staff, and engaged alumni,” said Milone-Nuzzo. “Together we have helped shape the future of health care, something I am confident the College of Nursing will continue to do in future years.”

Professor Janice Penrod will serve as interim dean of the College of Nursing while a national search to replace Dean Milone-Nuzzo takes place.

“Janice is an innovative and respected member of the University community, working to advance health and nursing education at Penn State,” said Provost Jones. “We are confident she will lead the College of Nursing as it continues to establish itself as a premier academic and research unit.”

Penrod joined the faculty in 1995 as a clinical instructor. Her achievements include starting the Center for Nursing Research in 2011 and serving as director until 2015. Since 2014, she has worked to develop a community-based research network involving faculty at Penn State campuses throughout Pennsylvania and their community partners. She was co-director of the KL2 program for Penn State’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), for which she has contributed to the development of community engagement strategies and the training of junior faculty for translational research careers. In addition to her research endeavors, Penrod has taught both graduate and undergraduate nursing courses and served as coordinator for the Ph.D. program.

“Under Dean Milone-Nuzzo’s leadership, the college has emerged as a strong academic unit, and I hope to continue this dynamic work by fostering new approaches and ways of thinking,” Penrod said. “The University has afforded me countless opportunities, and my goal as interim dean is to continue to support students and faculty in our quest for excellence.”
The strength of a Penn State Nursing degree is found in the unique experiences and curricular approaches we offer students—particularly those that cross disciplines. One such opportunity leverages the power of the arts to provide a creative learning experience for students in both Nursing and Theatre. Another gives students knowledge to solve health problems by focusing on the needs of a specific population in a meaningful and thoughtful way.

**Bringing Simulation to Life through Art**

The world is full of interesting characters. And all of them, at some point, will need nursing care.

Faculty members Darlene Clark and Sarah McVeigh, who instruct the simulation capstone course (NURS 450B), wanted to give their students experience with real-life situations—including patients who may be less than cooperative or present special considerations such as cultural or language barriers.

“We have an up-to-date simulation lab with functioning equipment,” said Clark, a senior lecturer. “But there are skills that students just can’t learn from working with mannequins.” She and McVeigh decided to approach the School of Theatre in Penn State’s College of Arts and Architecture to see if they would help student nurses gain realistic experience by enlisting acting students to play the roles of patients. These students, in turn, would earn credit for a theatre production practicum.

“The practicum is especially popular with Theatre minors, who love to perform but may not plan on doing it professionally,” said Stacie Chandler, the adviser to students minoring in Theatre. “Theatre minors come from every major, from Broadcast Journalism to Finance to Agricultural Sciences. Many students take theatre courses to improve their oral communication skills for professional reasons. For some, it provides a creative outlet as well.”

Each Theatre student is assigned the role of a patient or family member. With support from the Nursing faculty, they research their roles and prepare for the simulation experience. In addition to a specific diagnosis and care situation—such as a rapid decline in health status on a medical–surgical unit—the Theatre students may have to present a distinct persona as part of their characterization.

“We may ask them to portray any number of situations that nurses will have to deal with,” Clark said. “Someone who doesn’t speak English as a first language will present a language barrier. Nurses have to strategically communicate with confused or cognitively impaired patients. They may have to contend with issues pertaining to the rights of same-sex partners. We try to make it as realistic as possible with a range of ages, genders, gender expressions, cultural identities, and family dynamics.”
STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE SIMULATION SKILLS AT PRESIDENT’S TAILGATE

At each home football game, the President’s Tailgate highlights an academic discipline while honoring and showcasing student achievements. Prior to the Kent State game on September 3, 2016, members of the Penn State chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania demonstrated nursing assessments using mannequins and other equipment from the Nursing Simulation Lab. “This was a great opportunity for students to present the nursing profession and themselves to University leaders and high-profile alumni,” said Chris Garrison, PhD, RN, CNE, instructor in nursing and simulation lab coordinator.

At the end of the class period, the student nurses reflect on what they learned. Most were enthusiastic about the opportunity to use clinical judgment and independent thinking in dealing with unpredictable situations. Since they were unaware going in that live actors would be present, many appreciated the element of surprise. “It caught me off guard a bit but taught me that I need to be prepared for the unexpected,” said one.

Similarly, the student actors evaluated the care they received in their patient roles. Most felt they gained far more than the chance to hone their acting skills, such as learning about different medical conditions and the human body and gaining a newfound appreciation for the nurse’s role in delivering health care.

“The minors who choose to take the nursing simulation class are particularly jazzed to see other majors in action. And they often bring their own skills and insights to the project,” Chandler said. “For example, Film-Video majors love watching the scenario unfold in an improvisational manner. It helps them appreciate the contributions of actors and production people.”

Such performing is as much fun for the Theatre students as it is beneficial for the Nursing students, said Chandler. “In real life, they may be engineering students or IST students. Here, they have the chance to develop a character. They can be a surfer or a truck driver. It’s a way of escaping their everyday lives for a while.”

As patients, the actors allow the nurses to practice real-life skills. They wear gowns and ID bracelets. The nurses may run an EKG, monitor a blood product through an IV, or provide diabetic teaching to a patient being discharged.

“The goal is to accurately reflect the challenges a new nurse might face,” McVeigh said. “We create scenarios that focus not only on a variety of skills, but also on difficult patient–nurse interactions. Patients might be in pain, impatient, or upset with the care they’re receiving. An unexpected situation may occur—the patient may fall, or his condition may deteriorate dramatically.”

Within a 90-minute class session, Nursing students assess patients, dispense medications, respond to call bells, and phone the patient’s health care provider (often a medical student from Penn State’s College of Medicine). They complete the necessary steps for admission and discharge.

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THON: Focusing on the health needs of a population

Health care is increasingly defined by our capacity to gather, analyze, and visualize data that is highly personalized and focused on specific populations. By addressing the unique health needs of student dancers in the IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, the College of Nursing helps students prepare to manage population health.

Every February, hundreds of Penn State students take to the floor of the Bryce Jordan Center for 46 hours of dancing to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund, which supports those affected by pediatric cancer. But the dancers' health is important too, and that's where the College of Nursing makes a difference. Supervised by nursing faculty, students in NURS 306 (Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents) administer medications for the dancers as part of their required clinical hours.

“This is a special opportunity for nursing students,” said instructor Mary Anne Ventura, who co-leads the medication administration committee along with instructor Maria Yoder. “In addition to providing a needed service for THON, we give students a chance to exercise clinical judgment and gain real experience.”

Nursing students use a computer system to keep track of when dancers are due for a medication dose. This year, the team was tasked with creating and implementing a new system of recording medications that complied with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). As a captain of the Dancer Relations Committee, senior Christina Quaglia took on this responsibility.

“The previous system used technology that did not allow for the encryption of data,” Quaglia said. “We worked with University Health Services (UHS) to build our own system utilizing an Excel spreadsheet that not only met the standards of HIPAA, but also was easy to use.”

“These students got a full picture of how logistical planning, team organization, and cooperation are a must,” Ventura said. “We had several meetings with UHS and THON personnel regarding the HIPAA compliances that had to be incorporated into the administrative standards and protocol. They saw firsthand how everyone in the Penn State medical community must work together toward a common goal. Cohesiveness and common ground were needed from the very beginning. Everyone had to trust and rely on one another’s combined expertise while managing thoughts, ideas, and personal preferences as a group.”

Senior Holly Weinschenk thought the experience was valuable for prioritizing and communicating on a large scale. “In the hospital we may take care of three or four patients at a time, but at THON it was almost like 708 patients,” she said. “We needed to stay organized and constantly communicate in order to make everything run smoothly.”

Ventura concurred, noting the students had to think on their feet, keep track of multiple diagnoses, and make sure medications were delivered within time constraints—all while maintaining a sensitive and non-judgmental demeanor. “The THON experience helps students prepare for their life ahead as they learn how to perform as part of a health care delivery team,” she concluded.

“For the students, it’s primarily about service,” Yoder said. “THON is an amazing event, and this is a way for them to participate and use their nursing knowledge to contribute to its overall success and mission.”
In an era of reform, the role of nurses is more important than ever. Today's workforce seems poised to respond to the changes, with more and better-educated nurses, employment growth, and higher earnings. But with greater opportunity come greater challenges, and the profession must adapt to keep pace with an evolving health delivery system.

Professor Peter Buerhaus, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies at Montana State University, was the speaker at this year's Jean Vallance Lecture in Nursing Innovation on March 31. Buerhaus presented his research on the current strengths and vulnerabilities of the nursing workforce in the context of uncertainties surrounding health reform.

The past five years have seen an increase in nurses pursuing advanced degrees, and a corresponding increase in earnings shows that “the marketplace recognizes the value of additional education,” Buerhaus said.

More people are entering the nursing profession—enough to replace the approximately 1 million registered nurses who will likely retire by the year 2030. However, “it’s not clear whether total national supply will match demand” for nursing services, since aging baby boomers will require more nursing care services.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has generated much enthusiasm for potential contributions of nurse practitioners as primary care providers, especially in rural areas. Physicians are less likely to practice in these areas, which tend to have the highest rates of uninsured patients.

“Primary care nurse practitioners (PCNPs) are more likely to practice in areas where the need is greatest,” he said. “Lifting the scope of practice restrictions (i.e., allowing NPs to work without physician supervision) is likely to expand access to care—not overnight, but over time.”

PCNPs are more likely to care for vulnerable populations and use fewer and less expensive resources, which “could mean substantial savings for Medicare and Medicaid,” Buerhaus said.

Nursing also enjoys a strong positive public perception, having been ranked as the most trusted profession for the 15th consecutive year by Gallup, Inc. (December 2016). “Americans admire, trust, and respect nurses above all other professions” and rely on them for quality assurance, safety, and advice on personal health issues, Buerhaus said.

Even so, the profession is vulnerable to a number of unprecedented challenges, he noted.

“Most nurses are not prepared for a system of value-based payment” where value translates to health outcomes relative to the costs of achieving those outcomes, he said. “We are moving away from a fee-for-service model to one of outcomes versus costs.”

The workforce is also seeing uneven growth across the country. “One-third of the registered nurse workforce is retiring—that’s 2 million years of nursing experience leaving the workforce each year,” he said. The large baby boom generation is getting older, increasing the overall demand for nurses as well as the intensity of care required.

Health reform presents additional challenges, with more emphasis on consumerism, elimination of mandates, and changes in insurance coverage.

“The next 10 years will be the most important period the U.S. nursing profession has ever faced,” Buerhaus said. “Nurses will face more challenges than at any time in our history, but also have unprecedented opportunities to shape the system and increase their influence.

“Taking advantage of these opportunities will require leadership from all sectors of the nursing profession,” he concluded. “Nurse educators will need to focus their students to see themselves as leaders who anticipate challenges, see the big picture, motivate others to focus on opportunities, and create conditions that help achieve common goals.”
**FaceAge Addresses Ageism, Intergenerational Understanding**

Researchers in the Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (CGNE) are taking part in a groundbreaking project that attempts to change negative perceptions of aging. The FaceAge multimedia installation is an immersive display showing continuous video of cross-generational encounters that offers an unfiltered, unbiased look at attitudes regarding aging.

“The installation uses different types of media to communicate emotions about aging,” said Dr. Donna Fick, Elouise Ross Eberly Professor of Nursing and director of the CGNE. “Young and old alike can see generations interacting and better understand one another in ways that are honest and real.”

FaceAge was conceived by Andrew Belser, professor of theatre and director of the Arts and Design Research Incubator in Penn State’s College of Arts and Architecture. Belser enlisted the College of Nursing and the Center for Healthy Aging in the College of Health and Human Development to assist with the research and outreach components he envisioned.

FaceAge serves as a model for transdisciplinary arts research, said Belser, by showing how third-space collaborations can extend into the sphere of public engagement with measurable outcomes and impacts. “Penn State is gaining national attention as an innovative model for how the arts can be a leading partner in a large research institution,” he said.

As the lead research partner, the College of Nursing visualized FaceAge as a template for advancing research on health concerns, particularly perceptions of aging across generations. “We are interested in issues of ageism and in changing attitudes related to aging,” Fick said. “FaceAge has the potential to reframe attitudes about getting older from an intergenerational perspective. Our involvement brings added value to the project and to research in the gerontology field.”

For more information, visit faceage.org.

Amy Milgrub Marshall of Penn State’s College of Arts and Architecture contributed to this story.

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**IMPROVING CARE FOR THE AGING**

Penn State researchers continue their work of improving care for the aging, initiating new studies that further their work to address the needs of two specific populations.

Associate Professor Kimberly Van Haitsma is working with researchers at Miami University’s Scripps Gerontology Center in Oxford, Ohio, on a project funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid to improve quality of life for residents of 960 Ohio nursing homes. Van Haitsma developed the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI), a tool used to collect data on residents’ strongly held preferences. Information collected using PELI will assist nursing home providers with training on how to deliver person-centered care by honoring residents’ preferences for everyday living.

Professor Janice Penrod and Associate Professor Susan J. Loeb are collaborating with Valerie Myers of Klein Buendel, Inc., to continue their research aimed at enhancing care of the aged and dying in prisons. Funded by a Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant through the National Institute on Aging, the project’s second phase focuses on developing a system to educate prison staff and lead practice change initiatives for end-of-life and geriatric care within prison walls.
Healthy People Penn State Opens Doors to Graduate Study

Michael Brathwaite was an undergraduate nursing student at Dillard University when he learned about Healthy People Penn State, a research conference and graduate expo for traditionally underrepresented students in health-related fields.

“The nursing dean at Dillard heard about it and thought it would be a good opportunity for me,” Brathwaite said.

Brathwaite, who graduated in spring 2017 from the Family Nurse Practitioner option in Penn State’s M.S.N. program, credits the three-day, all-expenses-paid fall institute with helping him make decisions that would refine his educational and career directions.

“Healthy People Penn State exposed me to a more academic side of nursing—the research, the economics,” he said. “And I got the feeling that Penn State was a place where I could be comfortable.”

In 2010, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) launched Healthy People 2020, an ambitious ten-year agenda for improving the nation’s health. Part of the initiative’s mandate was to provide access to graduate study opportunities in colleges whose mission is to improve the health of individuals and communities. Healthy People Penn State, now in its seventh year, was established in response to this mandate.

“The concept for Healthy People Penn State was endorsed as the best opportunity to recruit and retain a more diverse graduate student body,” said Joyce Hopson-King, director of diversity enhancement programs for the College of Health and Human Development. “We convened a task force to develop the pilot program, which launched in fall 2011 with an inaugural cohort of students and visiting administrators.”

Under the leadership of Hopson-King and Linda Wray, associate professor of biobehavioral health, Healthy People Penn State has recruited outstanding participants from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The event focuses on recruiting juniors and seniors with solid records of academic achievement and a commitment to research and education.

“The goal is to select students who will be successful in graduate school,” said Lisa Kitko, the Nursing representative for Healthy People Penn State, adding that effort is made to recruit students in geographic areas where no graduate program in nursing currently exists.

Each fall, Healthy People Penn State introduces emerging scholars to more than 100 faculty, staff, and graduate students, who present opportunities for cutting-edge research and graduate education in both colleges. They hear faculty presentations, visit research labs, and take part in professional development roundtables. Other activities are designed to help students decide whether Penn State would be a good fit for their graduate studies.

Richard Saint Louis, a 2016 graduate of the M.S.N. Family Nurse Practitioner option, did undergraduate research as a McNair Scholar at the University of Florida. He learned about Healthy People Penn State through his mentor, an alumna of the Biobehavioral Health program, and came to “see what Penn State is all about.”

“I took a tour and talked to Dr. Kitko and a student in the M.S.N. program,” he recalled. “I learned a lot about the research opportunities available. At the time I thought I wanted to go into clinical work, but wanted to keep the door open to a research path.” Saint Louis recently embarked on a career as a U.S. Army nurse.

Students also attend sessions to learn about graduate student life and the process of applying to the Graduate School at Penn State. Free time is built into the schedule to allow a chance to explore the campus or spend time with new friends.

The annual event has enjoyed great success over the past seven years. Twenty-five to 35 students attend each year, and more than 40 attendees have applied to graduate programs in the two colleges.

“More than 175 participants have attended since the program was initiated,” said Hopson-King. “This has increased both the pool and yield of underrepresented students seeking a world-class graduate experience at Penn State.”

For Brathwaite, who is currently weighing job offers on opposite coasts, the event’s impact on his professional development and career prospects is unequivocal.

“If you want to grow as an individual, go to Healthy People Penn State,” he said. “If you want to grow as a scholar, apply to Penn State.”

In 2017, Healthy People Penn State takes place October 4–7. The event is supported with funds from the Equal Opportunity Planning Committee (EOPC) in Penn State’s Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity, with additional support from the College of Nursing and the College of Health and Human Development. To learn about opportunities to strengthen this life-changing program with philanthropic support, contact Susan Kukic, director of development and alumni relations, at 814-863-8180 or sik2@psu.edu.
At first, Caroline McDermott and Abigail McGinnis seem to have very different scholarly and career interests. With an acute care background, McGinnis worked as a family nurse practitioner after receiving her M.S.N. from Penn State. McDermott decided to pursue doctoral studies after earning her bachelor’s degree and working in an intensive care unit for a year.

What they have in common: a commitment to advancing nursing science through research and furthering transformational change in their profession—a commitment each has manifested by becoming a Future of Nursing Scholar.

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the Future of Nursing Scholars (FNS) program was created in response to the Institute of Medicine’s recommendation to double the number of U.S. nurses with doctoral degrees by the year 2020. Doing so will put in place leaders who can promote health through nurse-led science and discovery, as well as educators to prepare the next generation of front-line nurses.

“At RWJF, we strive to grow the number of nurses with Ph.D.’s who will be prepared to assume leadership positions across all levels,” said Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, co-director of the program and RWJF’s senior adviser for nursing.

“The Future of Nursing Scholars represent a group of students who are already making considerable contributions to the field,” added program co-director Julie Fairman, PhD, RN, FAAN. “They are publishing research and meeting with national leaders while working at an advanced pace in order to complete their Ph.D. education in just three years.”

The program provides incentive for nurses to start Ph.D. programs earlier, so they can have long leadership careers—something McDermott found appealing when weighing her options.

“I always knew I wanted to do research,” she said. “Every time I went to work, I had tons of questions: Why do we do the things we do? How do we deliver the best care possible? That’s what intrigued me.”

After deciding a Ph.D. was key to the direction she wanted to take, she explored her options and chose Penn State’s B.S.N. to Ph.D. program. The scholarship allows her to study full-time, with occasional part-time work in her areas of research interest. “I’m adjusting to a new balance between my roles of student and professional,” she said.

This financial support was just one benefit that enabled Penn State to attract highly qualified and motivated Ph.D. students, said faculty member and FNS project director Dr. Susan Loeb. “We wanted outstanding applicants who were committed to focusing their attention on school rather than employment,” Loeb said.

McGinnis, who wants to keep her options open for clinical work, also appreciates the full funding. “In the master’s program, I had a graduate assistant position to help pay expenses,” she said. “Now I can work part-time in my field while pursuing full-time Ph.D. studies.”

Mentoring and leadership development provide additional incentives. Each scholar is matched with a primary mentor in the College of Nursing and a secondary mentor from outside the nursing field. “Engagement in a research team helps promote development as a scientist as well as interdisciplinary teamwork skills,” she said. McGinnis believes her primary mentor, Dr. Judy Hupcey, strengthens her potential as a researcher by providing opportunities for experience with data collection and analysis and research dissemination.

Mentors also link scholars with centers and institutes across Penn State as well as resources in the College of Nursing. “This allows students to build an individualized plan for dissertation work through a laser-focused core of research and support courses,” Loeb said.

McDermott’s primary mentor, Dr. Donna Fick, encourages her involvement with the college’s Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence and Program of Person-Centered Living Systems of Care. “Dr. Fick’s guidance is essential as I engage with people who help further my thinking, practice, and research.”

Activities such as leadership institutes and a webinar series provide not only essential leadership development, but also insight into how nurses contribute to the dialogue surrounding health care policy. “It’s impressive that they put so many nurses in prominent positions and exciting to see how much they value nurses’ perspective,” McGinnis said.

Giving nurses a voice is a primary focus, said Hassmiller and Fairman. “Nurses comprise the nation’s largest health profession and play a significant role in improving its health care system. They have unique insights into patient care and enjoy the trust of the public and the nation’s opinion leaders, who want them to have more influence.”

McGinnis believes that influence will be critical in enabling nurse scientists like McDermott and herself to transform their profession. “Penn State and the FNS program are giving me the resources to develop a stronger voice as I embark on my journey, so that one day I can be an instrumental participant in both the nursing world and the larger interdisciplinary world of health.”
When Dr. Lisa Kitko began her research into the end-of-life needs of heart failure patients and their family caregivers, she was surprised at the extent to which palliative care is underutilized for people with life-limiting illnesses.

“Many patients don’t get the support they need to address what they want at the end of life,” she said. “In many cases they don’t talk about it at all until they actually need those services, which is the worst possible time to start having the conversation.”

Part of the problem, she realized, is that most health care practitioners have no formal training in the basic skills needed to provide palliative care. “There is a real need for increased expertise in this area, especially as baby boomers are aging and dying with chronic conditions,” she said.

Kitko, an assistant professor, set out to develop an interdisciplinary postbaccalaureate certificate program in primary palliative care. Her vision was to expand the pool of health care providers with a foundation in palliative care principles, ultimately leading to improved care coordination and communication among providers, patients, and families.

“It really comes down to better communication skills,” she noted. “Everyone involved in end-of-life care—patients, caregivers, and family members—has decisions to make. The whole idea is to start the conversation early so that the patient’s wishes are known, and practitioners are more aware and better prepared to support patients.”

To create the program, Kitko received support from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, which supports projects that broaden and improve professional education in the health care disciplines. In 2015, she was selected for the Macy Faculty Scholars program, designed to identify and nurture the careers of educational innovators in nursing and medicine. Each year, the foundation selects five university faculty leaders nationwide to support as they pursue projects that improve an aspect of health care education.

“Macy Faculty Scholars represent the future of education,” said George Thibault, president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. “Dr. Kitko’s palliative care initiative is an example of the educational reform we need to meet our society’s changing health care needs.”

Kitko devised a curriculum that included course work in managing advanced serious illness and the interdisciplinary practice of the palliative care role. The program culminates in a practicum where students apply the knowledge gained in their course work to practical experiences that meet their learning objectives. All course work is offered fully online through Penn State’s World Campus.

The program launched in fall 2016 with the introductory course, Primary Palliative Care: An Interdisciplinary Approach. In this course, students examine the delivery of primary palliative care in diverse populations and explore the roles of different health care professionals using a holistic, person-centered approach. Topics include advance directives and “goals of care” discussions.

“All disciplines—nursing, medicine, pharmacy, even chaplaincy—need to work together to understand one another and appreciate the roles of others,” Kitko said. The graduate-level course has no prerequisite and is open to anyone who works with patients who have a chronic life-limiting illness.

The second course, Interdisciplinary Management of Advanced Serious Illness, was introduced in spring 2017. Its focus is on evidence-based approaches for managing all aspects—physical, psychosocial, cultural, and spiritual—of primary palliative care across the life span.

Students who complete the first two courses can enroll in the practicum starting in fall 2017. In this course, precepted experiences, observations, and simulated experiences will demonstrate multiple aspects of care delivery.

Kitko believes the availability of distance technology to deliver online course content is the most satisfactory feature of the palliative care certificate.

“In rural areas, most patients die at home or in a facility that does not have a specialized palliative care service,” she said. “Practitioners in these areas now have an accessible means to get the knowledge and experience they need to support these patients.”

For more information on the Primary Palliative Care certificate program, email nursgrad@psu.edu or visit: www.nursing.psu.edu/graduate/certificates
CBRN Making a Difference in Pennsylvania

In 2016, the College of Nursing received $250,000 from the Eugene Washington Engagement Award Program of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to develop networks for community-based clinical research conducted by trained faculty members. Now in its second year, “Establishing a Community-Based Research Network,” led by Drs. Janice Penrod and Nikki Hill, is producing exciting results. Faculty are developing community-based coalitions across the state. Group and individual mentoring supports the CBRN nurses as they navigate new waters. These achievements showcase the developments initiated by Penn State research nurses to improve the health of Pennsylvania’s citizens.

Making Connections
In October 2016, Dr. Michael Evans (Worthington Scranton) launched a coalition focused on end-of-life care. Evans integrated the CBRN project into his presentation, “Don’t Let Me Suffer, Doc! Ethics of Palliative Care,” at a conference sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Association of Lackawanna County and held at Marywood University. As a result of this effort, a physician and chaplain joined his team.

Addressing Priority Needs
In November 2016, seven members of the CBRN team attended PCORI’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C., where Dede McCreary and Jill Kargo (Altoona) were inspired to establish a coalition around unmet community health needs of individuals with chronic health conditions. Their interdisciplinary team includes key stakeholders who regularly interact in community settings with individuals who have chronic conditions.

Reaching the Underserved
In April 2017, Drs. Stephanie Unger (Mont Alto) and Brenda Holtzer (Abington) presented at a conference focused on delivering community-based services to address the health care needs of vulnerable and underserved populations. Their presentation, “Health Care Access for Underserved Populations: The Penn State College of Nursing Coalition for Community-Based Research Network,” illustrated strategies used in forming coalitions to address the needs of this vulnerable group.

Stimulating Community Action
Dr. Donna Volpe and Justina Malinak spearheaded a large conference and panel discussion at the Worthington Scranton campus to address the opioid crisis in northeastern Pennsylvania. The conference included multiple prominent stakeholders, as well as nurses and other providers from local rehabilitation facilities.

Translating Educational Expertise to Meet Community Needs
In collaboration with hospital educators, emergency medical technicians, and drug and alcohol abuse educators, Janet Ritenour (Fayette) is applying her simulation expertise to develop a simulation exercise on the recognition and treatment of overdose. This training will be offered during Red Ribbon Day activities in October and the scenario will be disseminated for use in other areas.

Joining Forces with Other Researchers
CBRN members who specialize in aging assisted with data collection for the Center for Healthy Aging’s lifestyle interventions research project through the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) funded by a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. Sarah McVeigh collected data in Lock Haven and the Village at Penn State; Darlene Clark at Green Hills Village; and Ashley Clark and Mary Ellen Yonushonis at Westminster Heights and Windy Hill Village in Philipsburg.
Penn State Employee Health and Wellness Center Opens

In 2011, administrators in the Colleges of Nursing and Medicine discussed the possibility of joining forces to offer accessible and affordable health care services for Penn State employees. That vision became a reality on February 13 when the Penn State Employee Health and Wellness Center opened its doors to the University community.

Located on the first floor of the Nursing Sciences Building at University Park, the center is part of the University’s overall strategy to encourage a culture of health among employees. The College of Nursing is partnering with Penn State Health and Penn State Human Resources to deliver and promote services.

“The concept developed as the result of discussions regarding how Penn State Health could partner with the College of Nursing to promote high-quality wellness programs and provide easily accessible acute care for Penn State employees,” said Dr. Kevin P. Black, vice dean, University Park Regional Campus and professor and C. McCollister Evarts Chair, Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation in the College of Medicine. “The idea was embraced by University leadership and progressed rapidly from there.”

Operated by Penn State Medical Group, part of Penn State Health, the center provides episodic care five days a week to full- and part-time employees who become ill at work and cannot make an immediate trip to their primary care physician. Services are provided by nurse practitioners, with a Penn State Health physician on site two days a week.

Treatment is provided for common conditions such as allergies, bronchitis, colds/flu, respiratory infections, upset stomach, minor skin conditions, and sinusitis. All employees are eligible, regardless of whether they are covered by Penn State’s medical insurance plan.

The innovative collaboration not only benefits Penn State faculty and staff, it also fulfills the College of Nursing’s mission to improve the health of all people by providing nursing care to individuals, families, and communities.

“The University is invested in ways to help employees not only learn more about health and well-being, but manage it in a better way,” said Dean Paula Milone-Nuzzo. “The goal of the Penn State Employee Health and Wellness Center is to help employees avoid major illnesses by getting timely and convenient assistance for minor illnesses. In this way, we can improve the health of our community.”

Partnering to Translate Knowledge into Practice

Academic–service partnerships have a long history in the nursing profession. A tradition of collaboration between nursing schools and practice settings has served to improve public health by translating scientific knowledge into bedside care.

In 2015, the Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (CGNE) established such a partnership with the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life, a long-term care organization in North Wales, Pennsylvania. In a recent collaborative effort, the CGNE and Abramson Center presented a symposium for health care professionals to highlight the important relationship between researchers and care providers.

“Knowledge Into Action: How Interprofessional Partnerships Improve Person-Centered Outcomes for Older Adults,” held at the Abramson Center in September, was attended by more than 120 local providers and recipients of long-term care. Faculty presented their findings on topics such as non-drug approaches to mental health, technology use, and preference-based care. In turn, Abramson Center staff talked about the ways they use this knowledge to identify behaviors and symptoms that may require intervention—for example, appropriate communication techniques to prevent distress in people living with dementia.

“This partnership is a great illustration of what can happen when scholars and practitioners come together,” said Kimberly Van Haitarna, associate professor of nursing and director of the Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care, a joint initiative of the CGNE and the Abramson Center’s Polisher Research Institute. “We are bridging the translational divide between research and practice in exciting and innovative ways.”

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. “This was an innovative approach and the diversity of participants was a huge strength,” one participant said. “I can use all aspects of (the material presented) in my position as an educator in long-term care and services,” said another.

Academic–service partnerships (or academic–practice partnerships) have important benefits besides helping prepare nurses in both practice and research to advance in their careers. They also help to improve the health of the public by advancing evidence-based nursing practice in the communities in which they are based.

“Our research partnerships, such as the one we share with Penn State, have always been invaluable in enabling us to innovate and lead in the long-term care industry,” said Carol A. Irvine, president and CEO of the Abramson Center. “These innovations allow us to enhance the lives of older adults by providing them with the best possible care.”
Student Marshal: Holly Weinschenk

Holly Marie Weinschenk had the honor of representing her classmates as student marshal for the spring 2017 College of Nursing undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 6. The daughter of Thomas and Teresa Weinschenk of Eldersburg, Md., she graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average. A 2013 graduate of Liberty High School in Eldersburg, Weinschenk was an honors scholar in Penn State’s Schreyer Honors College and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International. Weinschenk’s honors thesis was titled “Identifying Differences in Experiences Related to Caregiver Burden and Health Status among Caregivers of Persons with Heart Failure.” In 2016 and 2017, she received Penn State’s Evan Pugh Scholar Award for juniors and seniors who are in the upper 0.5 percent of their class. For two consecutive years, she received the President’s Award for students who have earned a cumulative 4.0 grade-point average. Weinschenk participated in the Women’s Leadership Initiative and was a member of the Nursing team for the mHealth Challenge during Global Entrepreneurship Week. She was active on several committees for THON, served on the executive board for the Penn State Best Buddies chapter, and worked as a day care teacher at Calvary Kid Care in Boalsburg, Pa. Weinschenk has accepted a position as a staff nurse on the pediatric intensive care unit at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Weinschenk was escorted by the College of Nursing faculty marshal, Lisa Kitko, assistant professor of nursing.

Third Annual Scholarship and Awards Celebration

The college held its third annual Scholarship and Awards Celebration Saturday, April 8, at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, where four very deserving student award winners were recognized.

Undergraduate Student Service Award: Christina Quaglia

Christina Quaglia received the College of Nursing Alumni Society Undergraduate Student Service Award for graduating seniors who support the ideals of the college and the nursing profession by engaging in service activities that support individuals, families, or communities and foster the student nurse’s personal and professional development. Quaglia was actively involved with THON throughout her time at Penn State, serving on the Dancer Relations Committee, for which she was named captain this year. In this role, she organized the registration of all dancers and helped create a new medication administration system to meet HIPAA compliance while documenting care received by dancers. She was also involved in the college’s JumpStart program and volunteered at blood drives and flu shot clinics offered by the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania Penn State chapter.

Graduate Student Service Award: Michelle Fanning-Hursh

Michelle Fanning-Hursh, a 2017 graduate of the M.S.N. program, received the Alumni Society’s inaugural Graduate Student Service Award. Fanning-Hursh completed the Family Nurse Practitioner option with a cumulative 3.89 grade-point average. She volunteered as a student representative for the startup of LionCare Tyrone, a student-run clinic offering free medical services to individuals without health insurance. Fanning-Hursh also mentored student nurses by introducing them to rural health care in her home community of Snow Shoe, Pa. During an international medical trip to Ghana, Fanning-Hursh assisted in providing care to communities in dire need. She also volunteers with the Salvation Army, helping to collect funds for those in need.

Beta Sigma Student Achievement Award

Olivia Runk received the Beta Sigma Student Achievement Award, presented to a newly inducted member of Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International who has maintained a grade-point average in the top 1 percent of his/her class. A Schreyer Honors Scholar, Runk completed an undergraduate thesis titled “Exploring the Relationship Between Personality and Subjective Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults Without Dementia.” Her poster on this topic won the John Sr. and Kimlyn Patishnock Information Literacy Award at the Penn State Undergraduate Research Exhibition. Runk’s instructors describe her as a conscientious and dedicated student and team player who demonstrates strong psychosocial skills. Following graduation, Runk will begin a position as a graduate nurse resident in pediatric hematology/oncology at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Kim Gedney-Guzik Award

Jennifer Knezovich received the Kim Gedney-Guzik Award, presented annually in memory of a former faculty member who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2002. The award goes to a student who excels clinically, exhibits strong academic qualifications, and shows emerging leadership attributes. Knezovich has held roles as the undergraduate representative for the Academic Integrity Committee, a teaching assistant for two undergraduate nursing courses, and the manager for the Penn State women’s volleyball team. She serves her community as an emergency medical technician for a local ambulance company and a volunteer for Special Olympics. Faculty describe her as kindhearted, a team player, and a leader with strong communication skills. Her plans include working on an intensive care unit and earning her master’s and doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) degrees.
Congratulations to Our New Graduates!

“Commencement marks a major life transition—the start of a new phase of life. You are no longer students under the watchful eyes of your instructors; you are joining the ranks of an honorable profession. You have the capacity to shape the experiences of scores of people whose lives you will touch. You have absorbed so much knowledge over the course of your studies. You have learned how to perform complex technical skills with confidence, mastered the technology that is embedded in today’s health care, represented nursing in collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues. But we expect much more of you.

We expect that you will honor the privilege of caring for people in times of need.

We expect that you will always remember that the patient or family before you may be scared or uncertain and is looking to you for much-needed support.

We expect that you will always focus on the person, not the technology.

We expect that you will form human relationships that ease life’s difficult transitions.

You are Penn State nurses. You have worked hard to earn the right to join our profession. Do it with honor. Never forget that your words and actions have rippling effects on the lives of others.”

—Professor Janice Penrod ‘96g, ‘01g
Spring 2017 commencement speaker,
Penn State University Park
I am proud to say that I am a graduate of this fine university, and I can say with certainty that you will never be sorry you have a Penn State education. Penn State taught you to think critically, communicate effectively, embrace diversity, and appreciate the unique contributions of the sciences and arts. Our goal as faculty was to help you become knowledgeable, informed, and literate. Now it’s your turn to use these competencies as a springboard for success.”

—Associate Professor Kathleen Mastrian ’73
Spring 2017 commencement speaker, Penn State Shenango
UNDERGRADUATE

• The Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) teamed with Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity to sponsor a bone marrow donor registry drive October 24–27 at University Park. A total of 395 campus and community members registered for the Be The Match® national marrow donor registry over the four days of the drive. Similar events were held at Behrend, Hershey, Mont Alto, and Worthington Scranton campuses during fall and spring semesters, with a combined total exceeding 280. “We wanted to educate the public about what it means to be a marrow donor, as well as encourage people to join the registry,” said SNAP member Betsy Slagel, who helped spearhead the drive.

• Nursing student teams once again took top honors at the mHealth Challenge during Global Entrepreneurship Week in November. More than 50 students participated in the annual challenge, where they are tasked to identify a social health need for a target audience, then develop a low-fidelity prototype for a mobile application to address that need. Chelsea Midtvedt and Mallory Polakovic teamed with Neil Vohra and Mark Hancharik from the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) to create Nursing Navigator, an app for breastfeeding mothers, which won first place. The second-place team, consisting of Nursing students Holly Weinschenk and Maura Bacik and IST students Maria Diamanti and Jordan Brown, created MyBuddy, an app to help pediatric asthma patients manage their treatments. Each winning team received monetary awards and a chance to hone their app for commercial use at Happy Valley Launchbox, a business accelerator program in State College. They also received special recognition during the University’s inaugural Startup Week in April.

GRADUATE

• Kerri Nelson ’09g, a 2017 graduate of the D.N.P. program, won the Grassroots Student Ambassador Prize at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Student Policy Summit in March. The award is granted to exceptional students who inspire others to become engaged in grassroots advocacy. Nelson has focused her doctoral work on effecting systemic change in the area of rare diseases and disorders. In February, she joined forces with the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) on Rare Disease Day to advocate for understanding and awareness of rare diseases. In early March, Nelson received the Vera Brancato Nursing Education Award from the Pennsylvania League for Nursing (Area II), an annual scholarship for a student in a graduate-level nursing program.

• Julie Murphy, a second-year Ph.D. student, has been named a 2017 Scholar in the Penn State Center for Health Organization Transformation (CHOT). CHOT aims to advance transformation in health systems through applied interdisciplinary research. Scholars are graduate and postgraduate students with an interest in health care delivery who are selected by a faculty panel after being nominated by advisers in their disciplines. They work with faculty advisers on research themes and projects that focus on improving health care delivery and present their projects at an annual workshop.

This spring, Murphy was named Penn State’s liaison to the AACN Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA). In this role she serves as the point of contact for students and provides feedback and programming suggestions.

• Nineteen students and faculty members attended the 29th Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Scientific Sessions April 5–7 in Philadelphia. David Everly Jr. won the M.S. student poster category with his poster “Perceptions of Heart Failure Terminality and End-of-Life Treatment Choices.” Julie Murphy won the early Ph.D. student category for her poster “Dyadic Experience of Symptom Burden and Health Perception Pre- and Post-LVAD Implantation.” Everly and Murphy are both part of the Palliative Care Algorithms for Heart Failure Dyads (PATHS) research team.

• Marcia Satryan, a 2017 graduate of the D.N.P. program, placed third in the Health and Life Sciences category in the 2017 Penn State Graduate Exhibition. Her poster was titled “Impact of a Self-Learning End-of-Life Module on Nurses’ Knowledge and Attitude.” Satryan is a faculty member at Penn State Altoona.
Abington

Penn State Abington is partnering with Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) and Penn State Brandywine to expand the availability of its RN to B.S.N. program throughout the Philadelphia region. The MCCC initiative gives Montgomery County students and nurses a convenient way to earn a bachelor’s degree from Penn State. Beginning in fall 2017, Abington faculty will teach courses on MCCC’s central campus in Blue Bell, about 30 minutes from Abington. The program is open to any diploma or associate degree graduates with an RN license and a minimum 2.0 grade-point average from their nursing education.

“Penn State Abington and MCCC share a commitment to offering affordable, accessible, and high-impact education,” said Damian J. Fernandez, chancellor of Penn State Abington. “This partnership is vital to advancing educational and employment opportunities to residents of the region.”

Elissa Pizza, a single mom to two young boys, always wanted to attend a four-year university. “This is making my dreams come true. I can go to school in Montgomery County and say I have degrees from MCCC and Penn State,” she said. “I wouldn’t otherwise have this opportunity.”

Brenda Holtzer, coordinator of Abington’s RN to B.S.N. program, said MCCC students with associate degrees can complete the bachelor’s degree in three semesters. “It’s a seamless transition to the B.S.N.,” she said.

Abington is offering scholarships to eligible nurses at MCCC based on scholastic performance. Abington also announced a partnership with Penn State Brandywine in Media. Abington faculty teach courses and advise the nurses who will earn B.S.N. degrees from Penn State while taking courses at Brandywine. This initiative expands the RN to B.S.N. program into Delaware County, making it more convenient for residents of nearby Chester and Philadelphia Counties as well.

Altoona

Students in Community and Family Health Nursing (NURS 415) are gaining experience to prepare them for community-based care. Senior instructor Dede McCreary collaborates with 11 community-based providers and programs to provide clinical assignments. Students are introduced to programs such as the WIC supplemental nutrition program, women’s health and wellness, sleep clinics, home health care, and hospice. Cody Barry, a student in the Second Degree program, said, “The community clinical experience showed me the disparities in health care and challenged me by opening my mind to a different type of patient. It made me a strong nursing student by making me step into something I was not familiar with.”

Erie, The Behrend College

Junior nursing students planned and took part in a children’s health promotion fair on April 25. Planning started in February with a community assessment to identify health promotion needs specific to the pediatric population. Students collaborated with the Boys & Girls Club of Erie, Shriners Hospital for Children, Community Health Net, Lund Martial Arts Academy, and the Pennsylvania State Police.

A variety of educational information was presented on topics including water safety, bicycle/pedestrian safety, “stranger danger,” healthy eating, hygiene, burn awareness, gun safety, and substance abuse. Students demonstrated the information through activities, games, brochures, and posters.

Junior Lauren Myers did a presentation on water safety. “I was surprised by how many kids had never been swimming before,” she said. “Teaching them how to properly put on a life jacket made me feel that we were really benefiting them.”
More than 70 boys and girls between ages 6 and 18 attended the after-school event held at the Boys & Girls Club, taking home snacks and gifts afterward.

“The health fair offers an opportunity for students to engage with children of all ages,” said faculty member Kiki Borst. “They get to apply what they have learned in class. It is a great experience for everyone.” The Nursing program plans to continue their involvement in future years.

**Fayette**

The Nursing program at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus is expanding their collaboration with the Fayette County Community Health Improvement Partnership, Inc. (CHIP). CHIP is a nonprofit organization whose mission is “to achieve a healthier Fayette County through advocacy, collaboration, education, and the coordination of services.” Members represent the health care, education, legislative/government, social and human services, and private sectors. This partnership has expanded clinical experiences into community settings such as Cornerstone Care and Rendu Services Inc. We have incorporated more service-related opportunities at local food banks and community-sponsored events. Activities address issues as childhood obesity and cardiovascular disease risk factors by focusing on increased physical activity, nutrition education, and hypertension screening. Nursing students also took part in Penn State Fayette’s spring Undergraduate Learning Fair on April 25.

**Harrisburg**

The Nursing programs at Harrisburg were busy expanding external networks this year. A new contract with the Middletown Area School District resulted in clinical opportunities for students with interests in pediatrics as well as a chance to participate in the district’s career shadowing day. At another clinical site near campus, The Middletown Home, students conducted a health education day with a blood pressure screening and poster presentations. New relationships with Nurse–Family Partnerships have brought students into the rural areas served by the campus. Others serve to familiarize them with urgent care settings, the role of camp nurses, and child care facilities. A strong relationship with PinnacleHealth has helped incorporate psychiatric clinical experiences. Students in the Second Degree program now spend an afternoon and evening in the emergency department’s dedicated psychiatry pod, a day seeing med–surg referrals with the psychiatric consultation NP, and another day observing electro-convulsive therapy and practicing PACU skills. At Hershey Medical Center, interprofessional education has expanded to include opportunities in ob/gyn as well as neurosurgery. Simulation is well incorporated into all clinical courses, with sims for high-risk/low-exposure clinical events and a variety of learning games. Faculty and students are enthusiastic about all of these changes.

**Hershey**

On November 17, students in Leslie Womeldorf’s Community and Family Health Nursing class held a health fair for students and faculty at Palmyra Area High School. The students presented information on healthy eating, stress management, and preventing infectious diseases and drug/alcohol abuse. They conducted blood pressure screenings and even demonstrated hula hooping as an example of healthy physical activity.

**Mont Alto**

In September, the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) established a chapter at Penn State Mont Alto. The chapter was officially recognized in October with 23 founding members. Kaitlin Ganoe is the founding president and Hannah Kauffman is vice president, with faculty member Stephanie Unger serving as adviser. In January, SNAP Mont Alto sponsored a bone marrow registry drive through the Be The Match® National Marrow Donor Program and registered 33 people from the Penn State Mont Alto community.
New Kensington

During the fall 2016 semester, students in Integrated Concepts in Nursing Practice (NURS 475) undertook projects to make a difference in various health care settings. For his capstone project, “Emergency to Inpatient: Improving the Process,” Kristopher Kravetsky developed a computerized workflow system to manage bed assignments at a local community hospital. His user-friendly solution, which served to enhance patient tracking and increase patient satisfaction by decreasing wait times, will be implemented across all facilities within the health system. Megan Myers, noting a lack of patient education related to the importance of iron and zinc for wound healing, researched the trace elements and developed educational materials for wound patients in home care settings. Her capstone project, “Iron and Zinc for Healing,” centered on how they affect the body, what foods are good sources of these minerals, and how to add them to a diet. She anticipates that incorporating the education into home care for wound patients will improve healing times.

Schuylkill

Students in Family and Community Health Concepts (NURS 417) created and presented health promotion projects on topics such as adult immunizations, diabetes education for children, hypertension education, and summer safety. The students approached health care providers and community groups to determine learning needs, created population-specific activities, and solicited feedback from the groups. The assignment provides an excellent opportunity for students to impact a community’s health. In collaboration with the Beta Sigma chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Schuylkill collaborated with Nursing programs at other campuses on a service project to show appreciation and support for local veterans. Students prepared bags containing personal hygiene products, puzzle books, and other personal items, which were delivered to the VA facility at Schuylkill Medical Center.

Shenango

According to PennDOT data, 345 people died as a result of alcohol-related car accidents in Pennsylvania last year. Instructor Maureen Dunn and her community health class partnered with PennDOT, the Pennsylvania DUI Association, Northwest Highway Safety Network, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office to host the DUI Moving Memorial at Penn State Shenango. The traveling memorial pays homage to the victims of DUI accidents, provides an opportunity for reflection, and serves as a reminder of the serious consequences of driving impaired.

Worthington Scranton

On April 24, the Nursing program at Worthington Scranton sponsored a community conference on opioid awareness in northeastern Pennsylvania. Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania Physician General, gave a presentation on the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania, followed by a panel discussion and question-and-answer session. More than 80 attendees included community stakeholders such as Shane Scanlon, district attorney of Lackawanna County; Scranton police chief Carl Graziano; Dr. Robert Friedman, associate medical director, Geisinger Marworth Alcohol & Chemical Dependency Treatment Center; and Dr. Frank Kolucki and Jason Crambo, RN, of Moses Taylor Hospital.

With sadness, we note the passing of Linda McAndrew, instructor at Worthington Scranton, on June 10, 2017.
Mary Anne Ventura Receives Williamson Award

Each year, the College of Nursing recognizes an outstanding faculty member at University Park or Hershey with the Janet A. Williamson Excellence in Teaching Award. Mary Anne Ventura, an instructor in nursing at University Park, received the 2017 award on March 31.

Ventura produces an environment that inspires growth within the clinical setting by customizing clinical assignments for each student. She chooses challenging patients that allow for opportunities to apply current course content, stresses the importance of empathy and quality care, and inspires students to become extraordinary nurses. In the simulation lab, she actively engages with her students through real-life examples that capture their attention and elicit thoughtful questions and conversations. Ventura has devoted countless hours to helping with THON each year and serves as the undergraduate faculty representative to the College of Nursing Alumni Society.

Dean Milone-Nuzzo Honored by Student Nurses’ Associations

Dean Paula Milone-Nuzzo received the 2016 Honorary Member Award from the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) at their annual state convention in November. Honorary membership, the highest recognition awarded by SNAP, is conferred to individuals who have impacted the organization through their dedication and support. As chair of the advisory board for the Pennsylvania Action Coalition, Milone-Nuzzo engaged with SNAP members to learn their thoughts on how to address the future of nursing and health care across Pennsylvania.

In April, the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) presented Milone-Nuzzo with the 2017 Leader of Leaders Award during their annual convention. The award is presented to an outstanding dean, faculty adviser, or state consultant who demonstrates distinguished support and service to nursing students.

Retirements

Kathleen Mastrian, associate professor and coordinator of the RN to B.S.N. program at Penn State Shenango, retired at the end of June after 37 years with the College of Nursing. Mastrian pioneered the use of Credit by Portfolio Assessment to award advanced standing nursing credit for registered nurses. She has also been active in the development of technology-enhanced courses for registered nurses to facilitate active and collaborative learning. One of the founding proposers to place the RN to B.S.N. program online, she developed six courses for that curriculum and teaches at least one section per semester for Penn State World Campus. Mastrian’s role in transforming the Nursing curriculum to meet the needs of registered nurses led to her receiving Penn State’s 2016 Undergraduate Program Leadership Award, presented to a faculty member who provides exemplary leadership that has revitalized an undergraduate degree program.

Mastrian has published more than 30 journal articles and several books, including four editions of Nursing Informatics and the Foundation of Knowledge (Jones & Bartlett), recently recognized as a Book of the Year by the American Journal of Nursing (AJN). She co-authored another AJN Book of the Year, Integrating Technology in Nursing Education: Tools for the Knowledge Age (Jones & Bartlett, 2010), as well as Informatics for Health Professionals (Jones & Bartlett, 2016). She is senior managing editor of the Online Journal of Nursing Informatics and has presented at numerous national conferences. In 2015, she was named one of “15 Leading Professors of Nursing Informatics” by MedicalTechnologySchools.com. Mastrian received the 2012 Shirley Novosel Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award.

Faculty Notes

A textbook edited by Associate Professor Marie Boltz received a 2016 Book of the Year Award from the American Journal of Nursing. Boltz served as executive editor for the fifth edition of Evidence-Based Geriatric Nursing Protocols for Best Practice (Springer, 2016), which was awarded first place in the Gerontology Nursing category. The panel of judges said the “extraordinarily practical book is both an excellent textbook for undergraduate and graduate nursing students and a reference for practicing nurses,” with evidence-based information and practical protocols.

Julie Decker, instructor at Penn State Altoona, was named a Collaborative Academic Research Member of the Veterans Action League, a multistate project created to empower veterans to have an active voice in guiding their health care delivery. Decker was also appointed to the national advisory council for the American Academy of Nursing’s “Have You Ever Served” initiative, which seeks to increase health care services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces by increasing provider awareness of health care issues related to military service.
Mike Evans, instructor at Penn State Worthington Scranton, has been named to a two-year term as coordinator of the Research Team for the Academy of Medical–Surgical Nurses. In this role, he coordinates the review of proposals for research/EBP grants, addresses issues related to medical–surgical nursing research, consults with members regarding projects, and collaborates with corporate sponsors to offer research grants.

Donna Fick, Elouise Ross Eberly Professor of Nursing, was named to the National Academy of Medicine’s Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence. The forum was established to foster dialogue and address issues of mutual interest and concern related to aging and disability.

Alison Walsh, instructor at Penn State Behrend, received the Excellence in Service to Students award from the Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success. The award is presented to individuals who exemplify leadership, mentorship, and commitment to bettering the lives of students.

Nicklas Gallo, IT consultant in the Information Technology department at University Park, received the 2017 College of Nursing Staff Appreciation Award, established to recognize a staff member who goes above and beyond normal responsibilities to help achieve the college’s mission. Gallo strives to meet faculty and staff IT needs by working quickly, patiently, proactively, and with a positive attitude to provide IT support and train new faculty and staff.

Thomas Rodgers, IT director in the Information Technology department, received the 2017 Resource Responsibility Award from Penn State Information Technology. The award acknowledges an individual or group that has significantly reduced or consolidated resources to deliver an IT service. Through his role on the Information Technology Leadership Committee, Rodgers initiated a pilot project to acquire desktop videoconferencing software and led the way in negotiating a University-wide license at a significant cost savings.

NEW FACULTY
Evelyn Bellinger, BS, MSN, CRNP, Instructor
Marie Boltz, PhD, RN, GNP-BC, FGSA, FAAN, Associate Professor
Glenna Cernuska, MSN, BSN, RN, Instructor (Fayette)
Margery Fox, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, Instructor
Monica Klunk, BSN, MSN, RN, CCRN, Instructor (Hershey)
Joan Krug, PhD, Instructor (Altoona)
Lauren Massimo, PhD, CRNP, Research Associate
Carolyn Masters, PhD, RN, Instructor (Behrend)
Karen Peachey, MSN, BSN, AD, RN, Instructor
Valerie Vanderhoff, BSN, MS, DNP, Instructor (Fayette)
Kelly Wol gast, DNP, RN, FACHE, FAAN, Assistant Clinical Professor/Assistant Dean for Online Education and Outreach
Maria Yoder, MSN, RN, Instructor

PROMOTIONS
Lisa A. Kitko – Associate Professor
Christopher Engeland – Associate Professor
Beth Cutezo – Senior Lecturer
Milton Evans – Senior Instructor (Worthington Scranton)

NEW STAFF
Kodie Brumbach, Administrative Support Assistant, Graduate Programs (Hershey)
Julianne Conner, Development and Stewardship Coordinator, Development and Alumni Relations
Barbara Deffenbaugh, Administrative Support Assistant, Graduate Programs and Research
Joseph Evanick, Instructional Designer, Learning Design
William Hartsock, Multimedia Specialist, Information Technology
Jenifer Hoffman, Director, Center for Nursing Research, Graduate Programs and Research
Maggie Miller, Records Specialist, Undergraduate Programs
Jeffrey Puhala, Instructional Designer, Learning Design
Christina Wyrwas, Simulation Lab Operations Specialist (Altoona)
Dear Fellow Alumni,

As I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed by all that we have accomplished. Almost exactly a year ago to the day, the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA) voted on and approved the College of Nursing Alumni Society. It has been a true honor to represent my fellow Nursing alumni on Alumni Council, the governing body of the PSAA.

Our board of directors has been busy working with the College of Nursing to build our Mentoring Program. We were fortunate to match 56 pairs of students and alumni. We held a successful alumni tailgate in September and look forward to our 2017 tailgate on September 16 immediately before the Georgia State game. We are planning some exciting things for this year, so mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Our awards committee has developed a new Student Service Award to honor a graduate student. Both the graduate and undergraduate awards were presented at the third annual Scholarship and Awards Celebration on April 8. As we revamp our awards program, we have decided to move the Shirley Novosel Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award to spring 2018. The award is presented annually by the Nursing Alumni Society to recognize an alumnus/alumna who exemplifies the spirit of nursing and the college’s ideals and philosophy. If you know of any deserving alumni, please consider nominating them for the award. Information about the nominating process can be found at: nursing.psu.edu/alumni/awards/novosel

As most of you know, our dean, Dr. Paula Milone-Nuzzo, will leave Penn State in August. I would like to extend my sincere thanks for all she has done for the College of Nursing during her 14 years at Penn State and my best wishes as she embarks on her new position. She leaves behind a great legacy!

I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to see you in the fall!

For The Glory,

Wendy Forrest Edgar ’92

Join the College of Nursing Alumni Society Board!

Are you interested in being an active member of the Alumni Society Board? If you are a current member of the Penn State Alumni Association, you are automatically a member of the Nursing Alumni Society.

Nominations will be sought as board positions become available. Please consider applying! In the meantime, share our information, attend events, participate in the Mentoring Program, or sign up to be part of Alumni in the Classroom. There are many ways to be involved!

For more information on the Nursing Alumni Society, visit: nursing.psu.edu/alumni

For membership information, visit: alumni.psu.edu/membership

Let’s Stay Connected!

Our goal is to keep you updated on alumni activities, events, and news. However, we do not have current contact information for many of you. To stay “in the know” about Penn State Nursing, please:

EMAIL

your updated information to conalumni@psu.edu

OR

MAIL

your updated information to
Kim Woodward
College of Nursing
The Pennsylvania State University
201 Nursing Sciences Building
University Park, PA 16802-6501

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE:

• your graduation year and degree earned
• your name while a student at Penn State, if different from your current name
• any other information you would like us to have or include in future publications (including high-resolution photos)

THANK YOU!
Mentors supporting their graduating protégés. Educational sessions on death and dying. Networking dinners. Yoga. These were among the activities at the fourth annual Alumni and Friends Weekend March 30–April 2 at the University Park Campus.

For the second year, the College of Nursing Alumni Society recognized the outgoing seniors from the Mentoring Program during a short reception on Thursday. Some of the mentors were on hand to show their support. Following the reception, alumni representing different areas of nursing gave students a realistic look at their first year on the job.

On Friday, the Alumni Society held their biannual board meeting. With a full year as a chartered alumni society under their collective belt, they have accomplished much and continue to work on their goals. Many attended the Meet the Researcher event and the Vallance Lecture. Later in the evening, a large group met at Olde New York restaurant for dinner and wonderful conversation. With graduates representing class years from 1977 through 2014, it was an entertaining evening.

How do nurses cope with death and dying? This was one of the topics presented in a “Death and Dying” workshop on Saturday morning. Cultural differences, legal aspects, and working in hospice and pediatrics were also discussed. Due to inclement weather, the picnic became an indoor luncheon on the ground floor of the Nursing Sciences Building. Musical entertainment by the Savoir Faire student a cappella group, amazing food by Brown Dog Catering, and recognition of five special reunion years (2007, 1997, 1992, 1987, and 1977) rounded out the afternoon.

For the first time, the Alumni Society hosted a fundraiser. Alumni and students were invited to “connect mind, body, and spirit” through an hour of yoga, with help from the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) chapter. The money raised will support the awards program and student initiatives.

To conclude the weekend, the Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence held their annual brunch at The Nittany Lion Inn on Sunday. The center’s founder, Ann Kolanowski, gave a stimulating presentation on brain health. Alumni and friends reconnected, students received invaluable advice, and all celebrated the center and its achievements.

Join us next spring for our fifth annual event!
Garver Receives 2016 Novosel Award

Carolyn Castor Garver ’86 of Pittsburgh, Pa., received the 2016 Shirley Novosel Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Nursing Alumni Society.

Garver, a senior nurse practitioner in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) St. Margaret since 2009, has twice received the hospital’s annual Patient Safety Award. In 2012, she developed a protocol to identify perioperative patients who were candidates for regional anesthesia by placing labels on their charts and arm bracelets. In 2015, she created a patient education booklet to teach postsurgical patients how to properly use a nerve block catheter and pump.

Colleagues describe Garver as “reliable, dedicated, (and) responsible” and “a tireless advocate for quality and safety.” As the primary nurse administrator for UPMC St. Margaret’s regional anesthesia and perioperative pain service, she is “a primary axis around which the service revolves.”

A native of Uniontown, Pa., Garver began her studies at Penn State Fayette. After completing her degree, she worked on a medical–surgical unit and an ICU, earned certification as a school nurse and a massage therapist, and completed her master’s degree in nursing at La Roche College.

“My nursing philosophy is ‘Treat every patient as you would want someone to treat your family,’” Garver said.

The Novosel Award presentation will be part of the Scholarship and Awards Celebration in April 2018. Nomination forms will be available soon.

Ardabell ’76 Named Penn State Alumni Fellow

On October 26, Toni Ardabell ’76 received the lifelong title of Alumni Fellow from the Penn State Alumni Association. The highest award given by the PSAA, Alumni Fellow status is bestowed upon alumni nominated by a college or campus as leaders in their professional fields.

Ardabell is chief executive officer of Bon Secours Virginia Health System. A native of Smithfield, Pa., she began her studies at Penn State McKeensport (now Greater Allegheny) and graduated from University Park.

Before beginning her career with Bon Secours in 2009, Ardabell was chief operating officer at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia. Throughout her tenure at Bon Secours, she has contributed to the achievement of Magnet status, increased patient satisfaction scores, new program development, capital improvements, and the receipt of many awards.

“Toni is an exemplary leader with a strong sense of what it means to lead a health care ministry and an innate ability to navigate through our changing health care environment,” said Richard Statuto, president and chief executive officer of Bon Secours Health System.

Ardabell is also a community activist, serving on the boards of the American Heart Association’s Greater Richmond and Mid-Atlantic affiliates and the American Hospital Association’s Regional Policy Board. She holds a master’s degree in cardiovascular nursing from Catholic University of America and a master of business administration degree from Marymount University.

ALUMNI NOTES

1980s

Mark Crider ’88 was elected to a two-year term as president of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association in December 2016. Crider is assistant dean for administration and special projects in the School of Nursing at Duquesne University. He is also board president of the Allegheny County Peer Support and Advocacy Network. Crider holds a master’s degree in nursing education from Villanova University and a doctorate in nursing with a health policy focus from the University of California, San Francisco.

1990s

Joan Gleba Carpenter ’96, PhD, CRNP, NP-C, GNP-C, ACHPN, received the 2016 Hospice and Palliative Nurse of the Year Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. Carpenter is a nurse practitioner at Coastal Hospice and Palliative Care in Maryland. She holds a Ph.D. from The University of Utah College of Nursing.

Capt. Denise Songer Smith ’96, ’02g retired in June 2016 following a 30-year career in the U.S. Navy. Smith was commissioned in the Navy Reserve in 1986 and called to active duty in 1990 to support Operation Desert Shield/Storm. In 2012, she became the first deputy commander of the Navy Medicine Training Support Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where she assumed the role of commanding officer from June 2014 until her retirement.

Have news to share? Contact Kim Woodward at kms40@psu.edu.
Around the world, Penn State nursing students are reaching high.

Whether it’s pioneering research or a caring exchange with a patient, what nurses do on a daily basis makes our world better.

Penn State nursing students have the ambition to make a difference through their profession. And supported by gifts to the College of Nursing, they begin to do this even before they cross the stage on graduation day. Philanthropy empowers our students—across campuses—to test their skills in real settings, travel internationally to stretch their worldviews, and gain the experience needed to become alumni who care deeply about the health and wellbeing of people around the world.

When you make a gift to the Penn State College of Nursing, you show your support for the future of this profession. The more we can do for our students now, the more they’ll be able to do for our communities later.

For more information contact Susan Kukic, director of development and alumni relations for the College of Nursing, at 814-865-1063 or sik2@psu.edu.
This spring I had the privilege to attend the national Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program (NRP) conference. Seeing what these first-year nurses have accomplished was truly an amazing experience.

Three Hershey Medical Center nurse residents from the Acute Care unit were selected to present their evidence-based project on central line dressings—specifically, the problem of catheters becoming dislodged when the insertion site is difficult to detect. Their solution—the creation of a more practical process for changing central line dressings—was instituted hospital-wide and has saved the Medical Center $100,000 annually.

Because I remember how unsettling it was to experience a patient’s death as a young nurse, I was particularly moved by a presentation titled ‘Sanctifying Life’ about how to respond when a patient dies. I was struck by the level of compassion demonstrated by the young nurse who presented this topic. Another project examined how ER nurses identify victims of human trafficking—a growing problem that is difficult to assess.

I give to the Penn State College of Nursing because I want to support exceptional nurses who excel in the clinical setting. I also want to help ignite the passion that inspires new nurses to grow professionally and share what they learn with others.

—Judy Himes, MSN, RN, NE-BC
Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
What’s Going On?

2017

July 13-16   Arts Fest
August 12   Summer Commencement
September 16   Nursing Alumni Tailgate
(Penn State vs. Georgia State)
October 7   Mentoring Program Luncheon
November 6   College of Nursing Fall Career Fair
November 28   Giving Tuesday
December 16   Fall Commencement

2018

April 5-8 (tentative)   Spring Alumni Weekend
April 21   Blue–White Game

For complete and up-to-date information, visit: www.nursing.psu.edu/alumni/events

NOTE: For news about the Penn State College of Health and Human Development, please visit www.hhdev.psu.edu/news.

Archived issues of Penn State Nursing magazine are available at www.nursing.psu.edu/magazine/archives.

Penn State Nursing is published annually by the Penn State College of Nursing. Articles may be reprinted with permission. For more information, contact Beverly Molnar at 814-863-0878 or bgs3@psu.edu.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information, or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University’s educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III, Vice Provost for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: kfl2@psu.edu; Tel 814-863-0471.
Join fellow Nursing alumni for a tailgate before the Penn State vs. Georgia State game.
Date: Saturday, September 16       Time: 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Location: Suites Lounge, Medlar Field at Lubrano Park
No charge to attend! Open to all Nursing alumni, family, and friends.
RSVP by September 8 to conalumni@psu.edu or 814-863-4039.
Please provide the following: name, graduation year, guest names and ages.