



RUTGERS

BIOMEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF NURSING

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
NEWARK

MAY 18, 2017
10 A.M.

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Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Endowed Chair in Community Pediatric Nursing

Mona Williams-Gregory, DNP, ACNP-BC
Assistant Professor, Division of Entry to Baccalaureate Nursing

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



It is my honor and delight to welcome you to the Rutgers School of Nursing Convocation. The graduates before us today have worked tirelessly to achieve the academic distinction that we proudly bestow today. Over the course of their academic journey, each graduate has grown and matured into a future Nursing influencer and leader.

As a "Distinguished Rutgers Nurse," please know there are countless individuals and communities that need your energy, intelligence, and commitment to quality patient-centered care.

Provide that care confidently knowing that your Rutgers School of Nursing education has prepared you to bring a new ray of hope and light to the industry. I speak on behalf of the faculty and staff from the School of Nursing when I say we are honored to have been a part of your journey towards the goal you have achieved today. Thank you again for entrusting the School of Nursing with the task of teaching, training, molding, and mentoring you in preparation for your future success.

We also salute the family members and friends who have supported our students throughout their academic and personal journeys. Your love, encouragement, and support will forever be appreciated.

Again, join me in congratulating the class of 2016!

William L. Holzemer, Ph.D. RN, FAAN

Dean and Distinguished Professor

CONVOCATION CEREMONY SPEAKER



RTA V. SMITH

DNP, RN, NEA-BC

Dr. Rita Smith, Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer has been a transformation leader at Jersey City Medical Center-RWJBH since 2004. In this position, Dr. Smith has developed a Department of Nursing that focuses on best current evidence based practice, collaborative relationships with all providers, patient centered, family focused care, and community involvement in planning and evaluating care. Implementation of the Nursing Differentiated Practice Program, incorporating all aspects of professional nursing development and commitment to community involvement by nurses has served as a foundation for continuous growth of the nursing staff. The success of these endeavors was recognized by Magnet Hospital designation in 2008 and re-designation in 2014. As Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services, Dr. Smith's leadership influence extends beyond the department of Nursing to include integration and development of all clinical support services.

Prior to joining Jersey City Medical Center, Dr. Smith held leadership positions in nursing and other clinical services at several hospitals in New Jersey and New York.

Dr. Smith has dedicated her career to professional development of nurses and improving outcomes for patients across the continuum of care. Dr. Smith's doctoral capstone project explored the need for community based care in Jersey City and proposed an advanced practice nurse model of care to meet the primary care needs of the population in the Greenville section of Jersey City.

Dr. Smith holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Rutgers University, a Master's degree in Public Administration from New York University, and a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Kean University.

Dr. Smith has published articles on pain management and lectured extensively on nursing leadership, nursing finance, Magnet and Evidence-Based Practice.

Dr. Smith serves as an advisory board member of NJCU School of Professional Studies and Nursing. She has served on curriculum development committees for Rutgers School of Nursing, St. Peter's College School of Nursing, and is an active member of the Organization of Nurse Leaders in New Jersey. As a member of this organization, she serves as co-chair of the Advocacy Committee, which is charged to influence and have a measurable impact on healthcare policy in New Jersey. Dr. Smith also serves as a board member of the organization.

Dr. Smith was a founding member and remains very active in the N.J. Council of Magnet Organizations (NJCOMO). She serves on the Board and currently serves as President of the organization.

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

The Majestic Brass Quintet

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Pamela E. Edwards
Director of Facilities, New Jersey Medical School

WELCOME

Brian L. Strom, M.D., M.P.H.
Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

INTRODUCTION OF CONVOCAATION SPEAKER

William L. Holzemer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean and Distinguished Professor, School of Nursing

CONVOCAATION ADDRESS

Rita V. Smith, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer
RWJ Barnabas Health

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NJHF Excellence in Teaching Award - Rula Btoush, Ph.D., RN
NJHF Excellence in Research Award - Felesia R. Bowen, Ph.D., DNP, APN-BC
Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, Medal of Excellence - Shaakira L. Abdul Razzaq

GRADUATING STUDENT REMARKS

Shaakira L. Abdul Razzaq, Graduate Speaker
Rebecca Aura Lintag, Student Senate President, 2016-2017

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William L. Holzemer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Dean

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President, Rutgers School of Nursing Alumni Association

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Debora Tracey, DNP, RN

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Madelyn M. Pearson ✱
Rose Polasky ✱
Reena Rajan ✱
Jeffrey Ramirez
Shanaya Recalde
Tiara K. Reid-Lloyd ✎
Margaret H. Richards ✎
Bianca K. Robinson

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Tuesday C. Rowan ✱	Melissa A. Sumallo ☞
Teri A. Rupprecht ✱	Anne Roche O. Sunga
Donna M. Russo ✱	Jing Tang
Sevim Ruzehaji ☞	Jancy R. Tejada ✱
Linh Salvagno ☞	Mitalben P. Thaliath ✱
Anamaria I. Sandru ✱	Hosana R. Tordecilla ✱
Rozanne J. Sarinas ✱	Rachelle M. Torres ☞
Sarah B. Schwartz	Geraldine Tyler
Andrew Semegram ✱	Priyamol M. Vattappallil
Catherine Serrano	Mary Verrinder
Jasmine S. Simpson	Nisha Vijay ✱
Nicole A. Smith	Edline V. Walters ☞
Carolyn R. St. Hilaire ✱, ☞	Michael P. Wendell ✱
Lara Stellwag ☞	Eman S. Zedan ✱

CANDIDATES FOR THE POST-MASTERS CERTIFICATE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Osman T. Jalloh ☞
Marcelo P. Marin ☞

- ☞ *October 2016 Graduate*
- ✱ *January 2017 Graduate*
- ☞ *Honors Nursing Program Graduate*
- ☞ *Honors Graduate*
- ☞ *Honors College Graduate*
- ☞ *Sigma Theta Tau*
- ☞ *Veteran Graduate*

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Shaakira L. Abdul Razzaq

Sex Education in the Mosque: An Abstinence Based Approach to Prevent HIV, STDs and Pregnancy
Adviser: Suzanne Willard

Adewale Adefowoju ✨

The Effectiveness of Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) Services on the Rate of Hospitalization in Patients with Severe, Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI): A Systematic Review
Adviser: Kathleen Patusky

Elizabeth O. Adelakun

Faith and Health Promotion: A DNP Project
Adviser: Molly Bradshaw

Evelyn O. Akanbi

Red Alert: What is the Prevalence of Pressure Ulcers in Elderly Patients in the Home Settings? A Retrospective Chart Review
Adviser: Gerti E. Heider

David O. Alabi

Students' Perceptions of a DNP Program
Adviser: Melanie Percy

Appolonia N. Anike

A Study Evaluating Depression Screening Compliance of Type II Diabetes Patients Among Care Providers in a Primary Care Setting
Adviser: Helen Miley

Rose Antony ✨

A Retrospective Chart Review to Examine the Consistency of Practitioner Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Forms and Treatments Given to Residents in a Skilled Nursing Facility
Adviser: Barbara Caldwell

Prudence Arthur

Sex Education in the Mosque: An Abstinence Based Approach to Prevent HIV, STDs and Pregnancy
Adviser: Suzanne Willard

Ann D. Bagchi ✨

Improving Primary Care Providers' Adherence to Guidelines on Routine HIV Screening
Adviser: William L. Holzemer

Lorna C. Beckford ✨

The Effectiveness of Education and Training in the Application of Cricoid Pressure: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Adviser: Cheryl Holly

Mary Ruth M. Bernardo

Depression Screening in Primary Care of Adults
Adviser: Kathleen L. Patusky

Cathy M. Blaskewicz

Access to Primary Care for Select Emergency Department Patients
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Denise Branchizio

Development of an Evidenced-Based Toolkit: Addressing Excessive Maternal Weight Gain in Overweight and Obese Patients
Adviser: Joyce Hyatt

Brenda L. Brathwaite

Implementing an Evidence-Based Diabetic Foot Care Education Program in a Harlem Primary Care Clinic
Adviser: Sabrina Chase and Joyce Hyatt

Lisa Brzezinski

Bridging the Breastfeeding Gap: Investigating the Barriers Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Face While Supporting Women and Infants in Breastfeeding
Adviser: Sallie Porter

Lauren E. Buechner

Implementing a Discharge Process on an Orthopedic Medical Surgical Unit
Adviser: Jill Cox

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Joann V. Caintic ☼

Implementing the Nurse Champion Model to Increase Utilization of the Sepsis-Screening Tool Among Medical-Surgical Nurses
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Kathleen P. Carney

Improving Adherence to COPD Guidelines
Adviser: Sallie Porter

Avaretta G. Davis ☼, ☼

A Quality Improvement Project to Promote Adoption and Use of Technology to Improve Patient Flow and Decrease Emergency Department Patient Boarding
Adviser: Rosario P. Estrada

Jahzeel H. DeLos Santos

Utilization of AIDET® (Acknowledge, Introduce, Duration, Explanation, Thank You): Will it Improve Patient Experience in the Perioperative Setting?
Adviser: Helen Miley

Karen M. DeStefano

Changing Practice to Bedside Shift Reporting: Can it Improve Patients' Satisfaction Scores
Adviser: Gerti E. Heider

Boryana R. Dorvil

Implementing Nurse Bedside Report to Improve Patient, Nurse and Financial Outcomes
Adviser: Edna Cadmus

Bola Fadipe ✨

Preparing Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Students for Abscess Incision and Drainage Skills Through Simulation Training
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Cristina Fajardo

Implementing the Nurse Champion Model to Increase Utilization of the Sepsis Screening Tool Among Medical-Surgical Nurses
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Jennifer Fischbach ☼

Optimizing Advanced Practice Nurse Obesity Documentation in the Primary Care Setting
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Indeya D. Fletcher ☼

Growing Healthy Kids in Healthy Gardens
Adviser: Melanie Percy

Susan J. Fulginiti ☼

The Impact on Clinical Learning Outcomes when Using a Dedicated Education Unit with Pre-Licensure Nursing Students in Comparison to Using a Traditional Clinical Model: A Mixed Method Systematic Review
Adviser: Rosario P. Estrada

Angela A. Fullerton

The Effectiveness of Telehealth in the Management of Exacerbations of Congestive Heart Failure: Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Adviser: Cheryl Holly

Avery R. Gardner

Implementing a Skin Cancer Screening Tool in Primary Care
Adviser: Suzanne Willard

Claudia M. Garzon-Rivera ☼

Barriers and Facilitators to Sustaining Quality Improvements in Nurse Sensitive Indicators in the Acute Care Setting: Qualitative Study
Adviser: Mary Jo Bugel

Mary Jane Genuino

Effects of Simulation-Based Educational Program on Nurses' Self-Efficacy in Caring for Patients' with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Heart Failure in Post-Acute Care Unit
Adviser: Rosario P. Estrada

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Karlyn S. Gieger ✉

Implementation of Spatz Ten Steps to Promote Breast Milk Feeding of Vulnerable NICU Infants
Adviser: Margaret Quinn

Ma. Cristina V. Gonzaga

Enhanced Patient-centered Educational Program for Heart Failure Self-Care Management in Sub-Acute Settings
Adviser: Helen Miley

Michele M. Hanifin ✉

The Impact on Clinical Learning Outcomes when Using a Dedicated Education Unit with Pre-Licensure Nursing Students in Comparison to Using a Traditional Clinical Model: A Mixed Method Systematic Review
Adviser: Rosario P. Estrada

Linda J. Hassler ✉

Implementing the STAR-VA Intervention for Managing Challenging Dementia-Related Behaviors
Adviser: Gerti E. Heider

Callista N. Iwuala

The Barriers Facilitators and Effectiveness of Lifestyle Modification Strategies in Pre-Diabetic Adults for Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes: A Mixed Method Systematic Review
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Sapna R. Kakwani ✉

Growing Healthy Kids in Healthy Gardens
Adviser: Melanie Percy

Mark B. Karasin

Operating Room - Crisis Response Improvement by Staging an Interdisciplinary Simulation (OR-CRISIS)
Adviser: Helen Miley

Casey Keegan

Implementing a Discharge Process on an Orthopedic Medical Surgical Unit
Adviser: Jill Cox

Avril A. Keldo

Clinical Education in a Dedicated Educational Nursing Unit Versus Traditional Clinical Setting: A Comparative Pilot Study
Adviser: Rosario P. Estrada

Denise Kosnar

Improving Adherence to COPD Guidelines
Adviser: Sallie Porter

Mabel P. LaForgia ✉

Barriers and Facilitators to Sustaining Quality Improvements in Nurse Sensitive Indicators in the Acute Care Setting: Qualitative Study
Adviser: Mary Jo Bugel

Kristin N. Langan

Implementing a Skin Cancer Screening Tool in Primary Care
Adviser: Suzanne Willard

Beena G. Mahtani ✉

Growing Healthy Kids in Healthy Gardens
Adviser: Melanie Percy

Melissa E. Maniscalco

Use of Amiodarone vs. Procainamide in Sustained Ventricular Tachycardia with a Pulse
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Michael McLaughlin

Teaching Intubation: Can Utilizing a Teaching Module Reduce Time During Laryngoscopy for The Non-Anesthesia Provider?
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Mihaela Michael

The Impact of Blood Pressure Self-Management on Clients with Hypertension in a Cardiac Rehab Setting

Adviser: Helen Miley

Daniela A. Moscarella

Implementation of Spatz Ten Steps to Promote Breast Milk Feeding of Vulnerable NICU Infants

Adviser: Margaret Quinn

Nancy A. Nolet-Mimm

Bridging the Breastfeeding Gap: Investigating the Barriers Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Face While Supporting Women and Infants in Breastfeeding

Adviser: Sallie Porter

Aleksandra S. Novik

The Use of Controlled Dangerous Substance Tools by Advanced Practice Nurses in New Jersey

Adviser: Cara Padovano

Monica J. O'Brien ✉

New York University Langone Medical Center Project Improvement Reducing Unplanned Readmissions: Coordinating Advanced Networks Navigated for Outpatients Needs (CANNON)

Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Joshua D. Oderanti

Improving Cervical Cancer Screening In HIV-Infected Women

Adviser: Suzanne Willard

Andrea-Marie Odwin-Clarke ✉

What are the Perceived Needs for Nurse Learners who Experienced Cardiac Mock Code with Computer Assisted Simulation (CAS) Team Training?

Adviser: Patrick Mattis

Fehintola Ogunsakin

Management of Uncontrolled Hypertension in Urgent Care Setting: A Self-Management Educational Program

Adviser: Gerti E. Heider

Lilian Okereke

The Power of Knowledge: Evaluation of Staff's Knowledge Towards Patients in a Pain Management Clinic

Adviser: Joyce Hyatt

Anuradha Pant ✉

Alliative Care Education Filling the Gaps

Adviser: Barbara Caldwell

Radhika Patel

Sex Education in the Mosque: An Abstinence Based Approach to Prevent HIV, STDs and Pregnancy

Adviser: Suzanne Willard

Angela Pullock

The Effectiveness of Telehealth to Reduce 30- Day Readmission Rates Among Patients with Congestive Heart Failure: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Adviser: Cheryl Holly

Theresa M. Reed ✉, 📧

The Use of Guided Imagery to Improve Pain and Anxiety in Same Day Surgical Patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange, New Jersey

Adviser: Molly Bradshaw

Theresa A. Reilly

Pivot Nurse: Improving Emergency Department Throughput

Adviser: Helen Miley

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Mamilda Robinson

The Barriers Facilitators and Effectiveness of Lifestyle Modification Strategies in Pre-Diabetic Adults for Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes: A Mixed Method Systematic Review
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Rosario T. Rondael ✳

Reducing 30-Day Readmissions of Patients with Heart Failure in an Urban Acute Care Facility
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Maryann Sadler

Access to Primary Care for Select Emergency Department Patients
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Nicole M. Sardinas ✳

Barriers and Facilitators to Sustaining Quality Improvements in Nurse Sensitive Indicators in the Acute Care Setting: Qualitative Study
Adviser: Mary Jo Bugel

Cindy L. Schiller ✳

Evaluating Barriers to Rapid Response Team Activation and Increasing Rates of Activation at a Long Term Acute Care Hospital (Ltach)
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Dorsa H. Seimaa ✳

The Occurrence of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia between Adult Trauma Patients Intubated Pre and Post Emergency Department Admission
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Paulina A. Siczowska ✳

Early Functional Mobility
Adviser: Rita Musanti

Timothy Ssewagaba

Students' Perceptions of a DNP Program
Adviser: Melanie Percy

Debra L. Swingle

Improving Medication Adherence in the Mentally Ill
Adviser: Mercedes Echevarria

Florida L. Tan ✳

Interdisciplinary Bedside Rounding - Its Impact on Quality of Patient Care
Adviser: Catherine Y. Morse

Angela M. Testa

eINTERACT: The Use of Health Information Technology to Identify Resident Change in Condition
Adviser: Gerti E. Heider

Patricia H. Thompson-Stewart

The Prevalence of Bronchopulmonary Complications and of Risk Factors Associated with the Blind Placement of Nasogastric Tubes Among Critically-ill Adult Patients: A Systematic Review
Adviser: Yuri Jadotte

Margaret M. Thornton ✳

The Effect of a Dedicated Observation Unit on Length of Stay and Patient Satisfaction
Adviser: Mary Kamienski

Debora L. Tracey ✳

Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Debriefing Training Program to Improve Quality and Consistency with the Debriefing Process in Simulation Based Education
Adviser: Amita Avadhani

Frank Wagner Jr. ✳, ✳

Beliefs Regarding Asthma Management Relating to Asthma Action Plans (Aaps) of Africa American Parents Residing in Newark, New Jersey Public Housing Projects
Adviser: William L. Holzemer

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Edline V. Walters

Implementing an Evidence-Based Diabetic Foot Care Education Program in a Harlem Primary Care Clinic

Adviser: Sabrina Chase and Joyce Hyatt

Pamela R. Wohlgemuth ☼

Ventricular Assist Device Dressing Kits - Do They Improve Driveline Exit Site Infection Rates

Adviser: Helen Miley

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Aramide A. Ayorinde

Exploring the Importance of Social Networks in Addressing Issues of HIV and AIDS in African Immigrant Communities

Adviser: Dula Pacquiao

Patricia A. O'Brien-Richardson

Cultural Hair Care Practices and In-School Physical Activity Among Urban Black Adolescent Girls

Adviser: Sabrina Chase

Debra J. Baldauff

Emergency Department Visits to a Southwestern Children's Hospital, 2011-2014

Adviser: Jeffrey R. Backstrand

Charles Reuter ☼

Evaluation of the Validity of Cholesterol as a Biomarker for Suicide in Veterans

Adviser: Barbara A. Caldwell

Noel W. Ferguson

An Investigation of the Impact of Social Capital on the Health-Related Quality of Life of Urban Populations Living with HIV/AIDS

Adviser: Peijia Zha

Ann L. Fournier ☼

The Relationships Among Spirituality, Self-Esteem and Participation in Physical Activity in Late Adolescent and Young Adult Female

Adviser: Karen D'Alonzo

☼ October 2016 Graduate

☼ January 2017 Graduate

☼ Honors Nursing Program Graduate

☼ Honors Graduate

☼ Honors College Graduate

☼ Sigma Theta Tau

☼ Veteran Graduate

Lists of graduates are correct as of April 15, 2017, and every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in compiling the lists.

NJHF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

Felesia R. Bowen, PhD, DNP, APN-BC

Dr. Bowen, an assistant professor, is the François-Xavier Bagnoud Endowed Chair in Community Pediatric Nursing at Rutgers School of Nursing, where she directs the Center for Urban Youth and Families, an interprofessional research center. Her research, informed by her clinical practice as a pediatric nurse practitioner in urban health settings, focuses on health inequities, particularly in childhood asthma, oral health disease, and trauma in urban communities. Dr. Bowen serves on the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Forum on Children's Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Health (CCAB). She is an invited member of the New Jersey Mayor's Children's Cabinet Health Sub-committee and the City of Newark's Youth Advisory Board. As a recognized mentor, Dr. Bowen is actively involved in the conduct, completion, and reporting of research, which has made a tremendous impact to the profession of nursing.

NJHF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Rula Btoush, PhD, RN

Dr. Btoush is an associate professor at Rutgers School of Nursing. Her research interests include intimate partner violence, health disparities, and access to health care services. Dr. Btoush is actively engaged in the education of doctoral students in two programs offered by the School of Nursing: the PhD in Urban Systems and the PhD in Nursing. In the classroom, she skillfully teaches complex concepts in quantitative research, measurement, and program evaluation. Outside the classroom, she works tirelessly in mentoring students through the dissertation process. In addition, she provides students with hands-on learning opportunities in research (e.g., recruitment, data collection and analysis, presenting at conferences, and publishing). Dr. Btoush is lauded by her students for her welcoming, patient, and caring demeanor. She is noted for modeling and inspiring a love of continuing learning and exploration among her student scholars.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ELLA V. STONSBY AWARD

This award is presented by the Alumni Association for highest academic achievement.

Alan T. Eaton
Jana L. Mazzo

FRANCES MARCUS STEINDLER MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given in recognition of excellence in clinical practice, including superior skills in critical thinking, in establishing therapeutic relationships, creating health promotion, and in collaborating with health team members.

Sakeena El Filali

OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

This award is presented by the Alumni Association for high academic achievement and service.

Anecia J. Quinlan

THE DEAN'S AWARD

This award is given for exemplary leadership and service to the college.

Samuel D. Nathanson

RUTGERS STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION AWARD

This award is given for professional commitment.

Victoria E. Clayton
Subbashini Neelam Satish

EVELYN HART MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given to registered nurse graduates with high academic achievement and professional promise.

Fatima Yasmeeen Al-Shehab, RN

HILDEGARD E. PEPLAU WRITING AWARD

This award is given for outstanding writing ability in the area of psychiatric mental health nursing.

Punam N. Patel

ACADEMIC AWARDS

STUDENT SERVICES AWARD

This award is given in recognition of outstanding service to student government and leadership within the School of Nursing student body.

Rebecca Aura Lintag
Samuel D. Nathanson
Joshua D. Oderanti
Anecia J. Quinlan
Brittany Mae Winkler

STANLEY S. BERGEN, JR., MD, MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

The Bergen Medal is awarded to a student who combines high levels of achievement in both academic and clinical studies and demonstrates the high ideals that are essential to the health professions. The recipient must demonstrate notable achievements in basic science and/or clinical research, leadership experience, academic excellence, and humanistic and professional behaviors.

Shaakira L. Abdul Razzaq

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND HIGHEST GPA

This award is presented by the School of Nursing Educational Opportunity Fund Program to the graduating senior who has the highest cumulative grade point average among the Educational Opportunity Fund students in the graduating class.

Geeti Hussaini

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented by the School of Nursing Educational Opportunity Fund Program to the students who have achieved and maintained exceptional academic standards throughout their college careers.

Stephanie Jazmin Logrono

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented by the School of Nursing Educational Opportunity Fund Program to the students who have accomplished and maintained notable academic standards throughout their college careers.

Jessica Cerrate

ACADEMIC AWARDS

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND PERSEVERANCE AWARD

This award is presented by the School of Nursing Educational Opportunity Fund Program to the student who has triumphed over personal and academic obstacles in order to successfully attain their graduation goal.

Shayla T. Jones

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Appolonia Anike
Linda Hassler
Cindy Schiller
Debra Swingle
Margaret Thornton

MASTER OF SCIENCE/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Barbara Ahern
Robert Akal
Terry Bustos
Joshua Daniel
Tiffany De Leon-Wurm
Jill Dessel
Elizabeth Hochhauser
Shine Kannampilly
Michelle Katz
Irene Mahoney
Michael Morale
Stacy Newman
Adebisi Osho-Okunnubi
Reena Rajan
Donna Russo
Sarah Schwartz
Melissa Sumallo
Anne Roche Sunga
Mitalben Thaliath
Rachelle Torres
Mary Verrinder

THE ACADEMIC COSTUME

The wearing of academic dress dates back to the early days of the oldest universities in the world. In the American Council on Education's book entitled *American Universities and Colleges*, it is suggested that "Gowns may have been counted necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings frequented by medieval scholars. Hoods seem to have served to cover the tonsured head..."

American universities established a code of regulations which today is followed by almost all American institutions. The establishment of this code has made it possible to distinguish the bachelors, masters and doctors, and at the same time, to recognize the university awarding the degree.

The colors of the lining of the hoods for the nine original colonial colleges are: scarlet, Rutgers; crimson, Harvard; green-gold-silver, William and Mary; blue, Yale; red and blue, Pennsylvania; orange and black, Princeton; light blue and white, Columbia; brown, Brown; and green and white, Dartmouth.

The bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The master's gown has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist. The rear part of its oblong shape is square-cut, and the front part has an arc cut away. It is worn open or closed.

The hoods vary in size: 48 inches for the doctor's degree, 42 inches for the master's, and 36 inches for the bachelor's. All hoods are lined in the academic color or colors of the institution conferring the degree. If the institution has more than one color, the colors are shown in divisions using chevrons. The binding or edge of the hood is usually made of velvet in the color designating the subject in which the degree was granted. Black mortarboards are worn for all degrees.

Some of the colors in the bindings of the hoods are: white, Arts and Letters; drab, Business Administration; violet, Criminal Justice; light blue, Education; purple, Law; apricot, Nursing; blue, Philosophy; peacock blue, Public Administration; gold, Science; and citron, Social Work.

SIGMA THETA TAU HONORS

Students and faculty wearing lavender and white honors cords represent the prestigious members of Sigma Theta Tau, Inc., the International Honor Society of Nursing. The Alpha Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was established at Rutgers University in 1968. Students who have attained high scholastic standing, demonstrated leadership qualities, and show promise of continuing professional achievement are elected to membership by Sigma Theta Tau chapter members. This spring, a number of Rutgers students received recognition for their academic achievements by being inducted into this prestigious honor society.

GRADUATION HONORS (HONORS GRADUATE)

The Rutgers University School of Nursing honors three levels of baccalaureate distinction for graduating undergraduate students:

Summa Cum Laude Cumulative grade-point average of 3.85 or higher

Magna Cum Laude Cumulative grade-point average of 3.70 – 3.84

Cum Laude Cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 – 3.69

Candidates who earn honors graduation distinction are presented with gold honor cords to adorn their academic regalia.

THE ACADEMIC COSTUME

VETERAN RECOGNITION

Students and faculty wearing red, white, and blue Veteran Cords represent the admirable and noble members of the Rutgers School of Nursing community who have served honorably in any branch of the United States Armed Forces or ROTC students commissioning upon graduation. The School of Nursing stands proud to thank you for your great service and sacrifice for our country.

HONORS PROGRAM GRADUATE

Undergraduate students with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.7 and higher or who are in the top 10 percent of their class are formally invited to participate in the School of Nursing Honors Program. The School of Nursing Honors Program is aimed at enhancing the exceptional student's opportunities in professional nursing, research, and the development of scholarship in nursing. The overall goal of the program is to enhance the development of the individual student's critical and analytical abilities in solving complex issues and use of scientific databases in the health-care field as it relates to nursing. Candidates graduating from the Honors Program are presented with a red stole to adorn their academic regalia.

THE MEDALS OF LEADERSHIP

Students wearing golden Medals of Leadership represent the elected officers of the Rutgers School of Nursing Student Senate. These students have worked tirelessly to serve as student leaders, liaisons, and representatives for the entire student body.

THE STOLE OF GRATITUDE

Students and platform guests wearing the white Stole of Gratitude represent community ambassadors and peer mentors who have provided extraordinary support to the Rutgers School of Nursing.

THE PINNING STOLE

The Second Degree Program nursing students graduating with a Bachelor of Science are presented with burgundy stoles during their pinning ceremony as a symbolic welcoming to the esteemed profession of a healthcare provider.

RUTGERS STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Students wearing blue and white cords represent membership in Rutgers Student Nurses' Association, a chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association. This organization mentors the professional development of future registered nurses and facilitates their entrance into the profession by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities, and career guidance. Students wearing blue stoles represent the elected officers of RSNA. These students proudly represent Rutgers School of Nursing undergraduate students at the school, state, and national levels.

THE RUTGERS SCHOOL OF NURSING

The School of Nursing is one of 31 schools and colleges of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, which is celebrating its 250th anniversary as one of the oldest universities in the United States. The School of Nursing was ranked among the nation's top 20 nursing schools in 2016 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The mission of the School of Nursing is to educate students, advance the discipline of nursing through research and practice, provide service that is responsive to the health care needs of diverse populations, and demonstrate local, national, and international leadership in informing health outcomes.

More than 1,650 students attend the School of Nursing's programs at four campus locations in Newark, New Brunswick, and Blackwood, as well as online, in pursuit of baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. The school established the state's first Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs and continues to implement innovative academic offerings to meet nursing workforce needs of today and tomorrow.

Faculty and students collaborate on funded research to advance nursing practice, shape health policy, eliminate health disparities, and improve health and well-being. The school operates Rutgers Community Health Center, a multi-site, federally qualified health center that unites faculty and students from across health professions in providing health care and related services in low-income, urban communities.

The School of Nursing is part of the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) division, which includes eight schools and their attendant faculty practices, centers, institutes, and clinics; New Jersey's largest behavioral health care network; and the state's leading comprehensive cancer care center.

For more information on Rutgers School of Nursing, please visit nursing.rutgers.edu

INTERNATIONAL PLEDGE FOR NURSES

In full knowledge of the obligations I am undertaking, I promise to care for the sick with all the skill and understanding I possess, without regard to race, creed, color, politics or social status, sparing no effort to conserve life, to alleviate suffering and to promote health.

I will respect at all times the dignity and religious beliefs of the patients under my care, holding in confidence all personal information entrusted to me, and refrain from any action which might endanger life or health.

I will endeavor to keep my professional knowledge and skill at the highest level and to give loyal support and cooperation to all members of the health team.

I will do my utmost to honor the international code of ethics applied to nursing and to uphold the integrity of the professional nurse.



*Congratulations,
Class of 2017!*

Welcome to the Rutgers University Alumni Association (RUAA), the universitywide alumni organization that all Rutgers graduates are members of—**for free, for life!** You are joining a powerful network of more than 490,000 alumni worldwide, a legion of scarlet enthusiasts who have shared many of the same experiences and traditions that have made your time at Rutgers memorable.

As you embark on this new chapter in your life, the RUAA website and social media channels will help you stay connected with your Rutgers family. Be sure to visit RALumni.com to explore networking opportunities, social outings, exclusive discounts, career resources, volunteer experiences, and many diverse alumni groups across the United States and abroad.

Congratulations on this momentous achievement and welcome to the RUAA!

Follow the RUAA social media channels today for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to RutgersAlumniShop.com.



Your Rutgers experience does not end today. You are Scarlet Forever™.

scarlet forever