



YALE NURSING

MATTERS



NO, YOU'RE NOT SEEING DOUBLE.

Our current cover showing the Lanman Center at Payne Whitney Gymnasium on Yale's main campus harks back to the Spring 2020 issue of Yale Nursing Matters. One year ago, the Lanman Center space was transformed from a basketball arena into a field hospital. Then it changed again to the configuration you see on the current cover, as 100 YSN students administered COVID-19 vaccines there to members of the Yale community and the general public. To learn more about these student efforts, see page X. As of mid-June, the vaccination effort moved to the Rose Center on Ashmun Street and the basketball arena resumed its primary function.

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Cover Photo Credit: Dan Renzetti

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GEPN is the first of a three-year, full-time course of study designed for students whose academic experiences lies outside of nursing. YSN was the first in the nation to create such a dynamic program—and 50 years later we are still producing the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) leaders that the nation and the world need.

Students experience acute-care hospital units and community settings, among others, to achieve YSN's mission of better health for all people.

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Scores from the GRE General Exam are no longer required for GEPN and RN-MSN applicants with a cumulative GPA from their conferred bachelor's degree of 3.0 and higher. Weighted average will be used for those with more than one bachelor's degree.

Learn more at nursing.yale.edu/academics.

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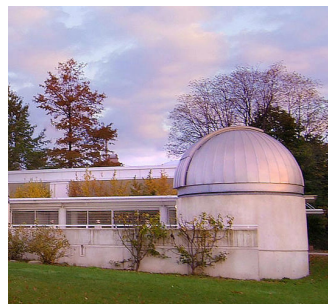
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Stay informed on all the news about the YSN community. To access QR content, use the camera on a smartphone and scan the image.



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ON CALL FOR THE WORLD



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Friends,

As we have witnessed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Yale nurses and midwives are invaluable members of our communities. Our faculty have held the hands of patients receiving end-of-life care, and then taught a class within 24 hours. Our students have provided expert advice to callers through the Campus COVID-19 Resource Line and administered vaccines at Yale's Lanman Center. Our staff laid the groundwork last summer for Building 410 at West Campus to become a mass-vaccination site for not just Yale but the general public. And so many of our alumni, faculty, students, and staff have advocated for social justice for structurally marginalized populations.

On April 20, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on all three charges in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, an event that prompted protests across the world and sparked a nationwide reckoning with racism in America. Police violence must be addressed as a public health threat, and the verdict demonstrated that accountability is possible. As dean of YSN, I recognize that our initial anti-racist action plan announced last year was only a first step, and that we have much work to do to create lasting positive change in our own community. We are fully committed to making changes and making progress. This summer we welcomed additional faculty and staff whose expertise will add to the work with which we are all already engaged.

This academic year has been an era of profound change, loss, and trauma across almost every measure of American life. The United States alone recorded more than 34 million COVID-19 cases and more than 600,000 deaths are attributed to the virus. We have witnessed a rise in vaccine hesitancy and a disbelief in science even as multiple efficacious vaccines have come online. Many of us have grieved the loss of patients, loved ones, in-person schooling for our children, and a sense of predictability in our lives. We look forward to the fall with its planned return to campus.

As a semester and school year unlike any other come to a close, we reflect on the profession we are a part of, the nation's most trusted profession. I encourage all of you to recharge your spirits, minds, and bodies as we work towards creating more holistic and equitable systems of health care for our patients and populations. Yale nurses and midwives are at the forefront of these changes everywhere, and I am humbled by our resilient and dedicated community of leaders, learners, practitioners, and scientists.

Be safe, well, and in touch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Kurth'.

Ann Kurth '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN

Dean and Linda Koch Lorimer Professor of Nursing

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:

Maurice Nelson MEd, CDE



After a nationwide search and series of interviews including input from faculty, students, and staff, Yale School of Nursing (YSN) welcomed new Director for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Maurice Nelson, MEd, CDE, in April, and his inbox has been full ever since. Nelson arrives from Georgia Southern University, where he has facilitated more than 200 DEI-related training workshops. He is a Certified Diversity Executive (CDE) with extensive higher education DEI experience.

Nelson identifies as Black and Mexican, and his ethnicities and other identities cultivate his passion for advocacy of underrepresented people. He lives by the concept of Sankofa, which reaches back to use the past as a guide to future progress. Nelson has worked through myriad academic, civic, and social justice organizations as an inclusion change agent, and he is committed to strengthening his competencies and ability to advocate for the success of others, now at YSN.

**YALE NURSING MATTERS
(YNM): WELCOME TO
CONNECTICUT! WHAT MOST
EXCITES YOU ABOUT JOINING
THE YSN COMMUNITY?**

MAURICE NELSON: I am genuinely encouraged and excited about the appetite for DEI leadership that I have assessed thus far. I get the sense that folx are eager to learn, develop, and grow for the purpose of making YSN and the larger Yale community a better place, especially for those who may be underrepresented, underserved, and under resourced.

The work of a DEI professional goes much further when engaging with a community of people who are ready and willing, and I get the sense that YSN is willing and ready. I am excited about the opportunity to drive strategy toward meaningful change that will truly help us achieve the school's mission of better health for all people.

Also, I have never lived north of Georgia – so while I am a proud Savannah, GA native, I am excited to experience living in a different area. Coat shopping will be fun!

**YNM: WHAT INSPIRES YOU
TO WORK WITH STUDENTS?
ARE THERE ELEMENTS THAT
YOU FIND PARTICULARLY
ENRICHING OR SATISFYING?**

MAURICE NELSON: I draw my inspiration from my experiences as a first-generation and non-traditional student at Savannah State University. I remember the support that I needed and the village that it took to help me overcome challenges, realize my abilities, and cultivate success for myself.

As an ambitious undergraduate activist, it became clear that activism would take a different form for me. As an undergraduate student at a Historically Black College/University (HBCU), I realized the true breadth of diversity that is compounded by intersectionality, and I understood that my passion and purpose are to advocate for holistically supportive higher education environments for all students.

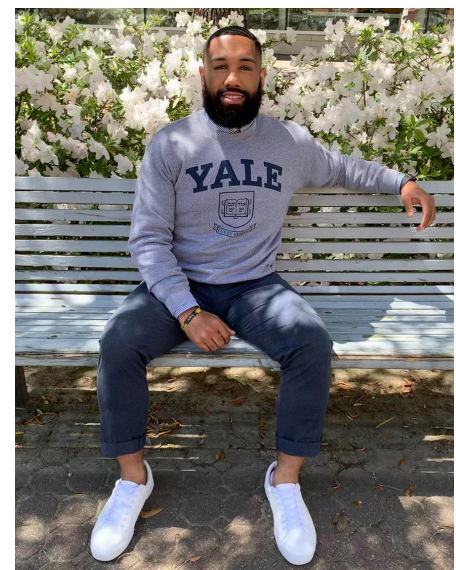
I am humbled and rejuvenated when students share stories about how DEI support enriches their experiences and significantly contributes to their sense-of-belonging, progression, graduation (with a plan), and overall success.

I am personally enriched when there is quantitative and qualitative support that indicates students, faculty, and staff feel supported by the work of the DEI team. To that end, I find it important to note that in order to adequately support students, I must also provide robust support to the faculty and staff who serve our students. The scope of the

YSN Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is without many limits.

**YNM: IN ADDITION TO YOUR
DEI WORK WITH YSN, YOU ARE
ALSO PURSUING A DOCTOR
OF EDUCATION AT GEORGIA
SOUTHERN. COULD YOU
DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH
INTERESTS?**

MAURICE NELSON: “Work full-time and pursue a doctoral degree,” they said. “It’s a great idea,” they said. In all seriousness, I consider myself a lifelong learner. One of my mentors, Shed Dawson, Jr., instilled in me the idea that “You’re never grown; you’re always growing.” My parents have always taught similar values. Therefore, expanding my knowledge through doctoral research seamlessly aligns with my *raison d’être*.



I am not in the dissertation phase just yet, but my research interest has been consistent for quite some time. I am interested in delving into the experiences of Black people who identify as men who attend Historically White Institutions (HWI). My research interest also notes a seemingly nuanced, but important difference between Predominantly White Institutions and HWIs. My belief is that by nature of their historical structures, HWIs require a different look to understand how systems are imbedded into every fabric of the institution. It is very possible that the scope of my interest may adjust as I get closer to dissertation, but supporting underrepresented people at HWIs is my overall research interest.

YNM: HOW HAVE YOU BEEN INSPIRED BY NURSES?

MAURICE NELSON: I've had the honor of being friends and family to several nurses and healthcare providers. I've always been inspired by the tenacity, altruism, and work ethic exhibited by healthcare providers. I believe that the aforementioned relationships profoundly impacted my decision to focus my DEI leadership in a healthcare setting.

Additionally, I have worked with some amazing public health professionals, and I believe that public health is rooted in social justice. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed healthcare disparities in many ways, and I believe it is my responsibility to help

a global leader in nursing research and education like YSN become a global model for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

YNM: DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESOURCES THAT STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY CAN USE TO ADVANCE THEIR OWN DEI KNOWLEDGE?

MAURICE NELSON: A part of my initial strategy is to do just that: share reliable DEI resources and recommendations. I am working to curate some items that I will send out to student, faculty, and staff. I plan for this to be an ongoing initiative, which allows for people to engage with information, pursue best practices, and also lean on me as a resource. DEI is very broad, so if there are requests for specific topics, I encourage folks to reach out to me so that I can make more specific recommendations.

YNM: IF THERE IS ONE MISCONCEPTION YOU COULD CLEAR UP ABOUT DEI, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

MAURICE NELSON: This is no magic potion to fix DEI-related issues. In my experiences, I've found that many people expect DEI leaders to have instant answers that will magically solve any DEI problem. As much as I would love for that to be true, it just simply is not the case. Notwithstanding, I believe that good DEI leaders understand that our roles are not simply to always put out fires. Instead, our roles are to drive strategy and help

shape a culture and expectation that mitigates the incendiary environment that causes those proverbial fires.

I'd like to offer another important misconception: growing in DEI does not mean we won't make mistakes. No one is perfect, not even DEI leaders. Therefore, we have to become comfortable with understanding that it will be uncomfortable at times, but it is in discomfort that we learn and grow. My hope is to build rapport and trust with YSN so that people are comfortable and willing to push through discomfort to develop robust diversity competencies.

YNM: ARE THERE ANY CLOSING THOUGHTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

MAURICE NELSON: One of my favorite quotes is the aphorism "people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." My sincerest desire is to foster an environment where every person feels they belong, and our students will move forward as healthcare providers who cultivate the same for the communities they serve.

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Explore one of eight clinical specialties while pursuing your Master of Science in Nursing from Yale School of Nursing.

The master's curriculum is designed to prepare students as advanced practitioners so that they may assume roles as clinicians, scholars, and leaders and ultimately improve health care for all people. Nurses in advanced practice are health care professionals committed to the delivery and study of high-quality clinical service.

YSN offers students the opportunity to explore one of four concentration areas that further develops a clinical or a conceptual interest: Diabetes Care, Oncology, Gender and Sexuality Health Justice, and Research. Upon completion of the concentration, students may be eligible for the certification exam in the area of the concentration.

nursing.yale.edu

New DLC Chair Focuses on Midwifery, Maternal and Neonatal Mortality

Jim Leitner '75 cordially invites you to join the current and future generations of midwives and nurses to do no less than change the world.

Actually, he enthusiastically invites you, which is how he does everything. Visitors to the Leitner Family Observatory and Planetarium at Yale College understand his inquisitive nature and passion for exploration and discovery, characteristics he applies energetically in his role as the new chair of the Dean's Leadership Council (DLC).

A voracious reader and lifelong learner, Leitner has already completed the 18-hour "Global Quality Maternal and Newborn Care" midwifery Coursera course Yale School of Nursing (YSN) released in December 2020.

"Midwifery is my favorite subject," Leitner said. "I love reading about it and thinking about it. But everything about Yale School of Nursing is special. We bookend life from birth to death with our programs.



Dean's Leadership Council Chair Jim Leitner '75 plays with his grandchildren.

Being on the DLC is being at the center of life and how to make it better for everyone."

He immerses himself in the data, citing the 2014 landmark Lancet journal midwifery series edited by YSN Helen Varney Professor of Midwifery Holly Kennedy PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN; the Varney's Midwifery textbook written by a former YSN faculty member; and the Sustainable Development Goals championed by the United Nations, specifically 3.1 and 3.2, which focus on maternal and neonatal mortality.

SUPPORTING MIDWIFERY STUDENTS

Leitner's nursing origin story began

about 20 years ago. Standing in line for an event at the MacMillan Center on the university's main campus, he started talking to another attendee about how nursing was on track to become a globalizing force.

"Nurses can work anywhere and help people everywhere," Leitner recalled. "Their expertise is valued everywhere."

A woman ahead of him in line heard his remarks and chimed in that she was a midwifery student at YSN. Their conversation progressed to discussing the challenges of achieving enough midwifery clinical hours in Connecticut, and Leitner, who grew up primarily in Istanbul, wondered if students could more easily secure their experience abroad.

"I reached out to some people at Yale to vet the idea," Leitner said. "In South Africa, when gold miners go home for Christmas, there is a baby boom around August. Could we send YSN midwifery students to South Africa to help them get practical hours?" All the pieces came together, and the trip was a great success.

"As I look back, I had three objectives," Leitner said. "First, I

wanted an experience which was very student-centered and for the students to really get something out of working in unfamiliar territory. Second, I always wanted faculty to be able to publish cutting-edge research. And third, I wanted to help build capacity wherever we were going. When those three things come together, it is like winning the lottery!”

That first trip to South Africa led to more sojourns abroad, and Leitner has more recently funded student trips to Makerere University in Uganda and the birthing center there.

“I’ve always felt I should support the schools where students, once they graduate, don’t make that much money,” Leitner said. “These nurses are doing fabulous jobs, but their remuneration makes it difficult to pay off their student loans and build and support a family. If we can expand what we do for our nurses, we will make the world a better place. One of the areas I want to focus on is financial aid.”

BUILDING ON SCHOOL STRENGTHS

Leitner sees the DLC as a tool to help advance the school’s mission through working groups, pooled rolodexes and a dedication to building on the school’s strengths.

“Over the next decade we are going to need many, many professors of nursing. I think one of YSN’s specialties is

that we can create that cohort of graduates who not only themselves go out into the world as clinicians, but who also teach others.”

Leitner also sees Yale’s convening ability as a great asset that could be utilized more often.

“There are many areas where the United States is behind in global health, and YSN can play a role to convene great thinkers, clinicians, funders, and other interested parties to help change that. For example, a conference at YSN focused on maternal mortality could establish paths to improving this problem which is a stain on our moral fabric and tightly intertwined with systemic racism. I think experts from around the world would be happy to meet at Yale and tackle problems of this nature in a collaborative way.”

THE NEXT YALE CAMPAIGN

A veteran of multiple Yale fundraising cycles, Leitner sees YSN as well positioned for the science-focused campaign that is scheduled to launch in the fall of 2021. He sees it as looking outward to a global audience, not only inward to Yale itself.

“The next campaign is poised to focus on Yale’s role in the wider world,” Leitner said. “One area I want to highlight is the Planetary Solutions Project, a collaborative approach to addressing global issues in health and climate change. Here

the Yale Nursing School’s slogan ‘The world is calling. We answer’ is a central expression of our mission-driven approach to nursing. As a preeminent school in the education of midwives I could see Yale addressing a systemic problem in neonatal and maternal mortality by working on long-distance education for a midwifery certificate.”

Leitner views partnerships across the university as a terrific asset for tackling big problems.

“Collaborating with the School of Public Health, the School of Medicine, and the Department of Economics for randomized controlled trials (RCTs); the School of Architecture for approaches to healthier cities; and the School of the Environment for input on environmental factors could in its totality lead to significant improvements in these deep-rooted health issues in the US and around the world.”

“If Yale could move the needle on the Sustainable Development Goals 3.1 and 3.2, the world would be a better place. It is this kind of global problem the Planetary Solutions Project needs to address to be relevant and appeal to donors who do not have a Yale connection presently. Everybody has seen the work nurses have done on the frontlines during COVID, and nurses everywhere have earned deep respect for that role. People and funders are starting to understand that today’s nurses must and can play a role in all deep-seated health issues that need a systemic approach for their solution.”

DNP Students Launch First Candidate School for Nurses and Midwives

When Sharon Pearce '21 DNP, MSN, CRNA conceded her race for the North Carolina House of Representatives in 2016, she and campaign manager Kimberly Gordon '21 DNP, MSN, CRNA saw the closing of that chapter as an opportunity to write an entirely new story. Unsatisfied with trying to elect one nurse to public office, Pearce and Gordon decided to go big and launch the first ever Candidate School for Nurses and Midwives.

“You have to see it to be it,” Pearce often says.

“If nurses notice other nurses seeking and winning elections, more of them will be inspired to see themselves as leaders qualified to hold public office. Nurses are disciplined and compassionate subject matter experts in clinical care and health care. Those skills will help shape better policy from the municipal level all the way up to the national stage.”

Pearce and Gordon started as Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students at YSN with faculty advisor Lisa Summers '83 MSN, DrPH, FACNM even before their first semester began.

“While I have a good deal of experience in policy and association advocacy, I have only ‘grassroots’ experience in electoral politics,” Summers said. “So, before Sharon and Kimberly even started the program, we began to reach out to political scientists to learn more about electoral politics. Faculty in Yale’s Department of Political Science were interested and offered their time and expertise at the outset. That interdisciplinary foundation was a terrific springboard for this project.”

A HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP

Pearce’s extensive leadership experience includes serving as the President of the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She has also served as a regional



Sharon Pearce '21 DNP, MSN, CRNA



Kimberly Gordon '21 DNP, MSN, CRNA

Director, Vice President, President Elect, and President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). As the lead lobbyist, she was instrumental in passing NC Senate Bill 911, “The Care for School Children with Diabetes Act.”

Gordon is a former accountant who is currently a faculty member at her alma mater, the Wake Forest School of Medicine Nurse Anesthesia Program. She first got involved with the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students, then the North Carolina Nurses Association, and most recently served as President of the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

PIVOT AFTER COVID

Pearce and Gordon planned an ambitious Candidate School pilot at YSN for three days in May 2020. Applications poured in from around the country, and nearly 50 nurses were welcomed from 26 states. COVID-19 scuttled the original vision, but due to COVID restrictions the pair had to nimbly pivot to the virtual world and a condensed format.

Taking care to book speakers after the November 2020 elections, Pearce and Gordon hosted a webinar in February 2021 that showcased a panel of nurses thriving in political life.

- **Bethany Hall-Long, RN, PhD, MSN, BSN**
Lieutenant Governor of Delaware
- **Gale Adcock, RN, MSN, FNP**
North Carolina House of Representatives
- **Erin Murphy, RN, BSN, MA**
Minnesota State Senator



Pearce and Gordon graduated with the Class of 2021, but they are determined to expand their DNP project beyond YSN.

“It is my mission to help every nurse understand the powerful impact they have on their colleagues, communities, and the healthcare systems,” Gordon said. “When we work together, nurses quite literally change the world, and we change it for the better.”



NURSES IN CONGRESS

YSN’s Commencement speaker this year was Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, MS, MPH, RN, FAAN of Illinois, one of only three nurses currently serving in the House or Senate. The other two are Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas and Congresswoman Cori Bush of Missouri.

NURSE CANDIDATES ON INSTAGRAM

#nursesshouldrun
#healingpolitics
#electnurses



FIVE DECADES PRECEPTING

Lynn Peckham, '87 MSN, APRN, PPCNP-BC, embarked on a well-earned retirement earlier this year after a whopping 50 years in nursing and precepting more than 50 Yale School of Nursing (YSN) students across five different decades. Peckham started precepting just after graduation in the 1980s and kept welcoming Yalies until COVID-19 discontinued work with her final student in the spring of 2020.

Peckham witnessed the power of longevity up close from her mother, a licensed practical nurse who worked into her 80s and celebrated 101 trips around the sun.

"All I've known is get up and go to work," Peckham said. "I'm still learning how to be retired."

Peckham spent the majority of her career working in School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs), which serve as clinical settings within schools. The centers provide a broad range of medical care, as well as mental health care and other services. SBHCs often include multiple staff, such as a school nurse, an advanced practice nurse like Peckham, a collaborating pediatrician, an office manager, and a licensed clinical social worker.

YSN students assigned to Peckham as a preceptor learned a variety of skills beyond clinical education.

"I would have them watch and

observe me, teach them tricks of the trade, and then send them to see patients on their own. They also did some classroom education on topics such as STDs, asthma, hand hygiene, COVID, and the flu. They planned schoolwide campaigns with me as well," Peckham said.

"You have to work with many different agencies, such as the Board of Education, the Department of Public Health, plus the hospital," Peckham said. "You need to learn to network with pediatricians in the area. For asthma patients, you're all working together to keep them out of the emergency room. We hope people see us as collaborators versus competition, and we want to keep everybody happy. We work to form alliances in the community and earn the respect of the families."

A ROCK STAR PRECEPTOR

A preceptor is an experienced clinician who works with students in a clinical setting for a defined period of time, usually one semester or one

year. Preceptors serve as professional role models for their students.

"Lynn is a rock star preceptor in so many ways," said Associate Professor of Nursing and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) Specialty Director Alison Moriarty Daley, PhD, APRN, PPCNP-BC, FAAN. "She is committed to providing an outstanding clinical practice experience for YSN students and has stepped up any time we needed her, even in a pinch. A clinical placement with Lynn in a School-Based Health Center taught students how to provide evidence-based primary care services for pediatric patients as well as how to work collaboratively with schools and families.

I am so grateful for all her decades of contributions to the community, Yale School of Nursing, and the profession." One of Peckham's former precepting students, Ranbir Mangat Bains '01 MSN, PhD, APRN, CPNP was Peckham's student in the fall of 1999 at Sheriden

Middle School in New Haven, and it's clear that Peckham left an impression.

“Lynn is a trailblazer in the school-based health world in New Haven,” Bains said. “She opened up two school-based health centers that are still operational and thriving. She is a professional and went above and beyond for every family she served.”

Bains considered Peckham's clinical site to be an ideal learning environment. “School-Based Health Centers allow NPs to practice to their full scope. That's what I value, and I cherish—the relationships we have with the students and their families.”

Bains later penned Peckham's winning nomination for the 2019 School Based Health Center Provider of the Year Award, an honor given by the Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers. Peckham has also been honored with the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing.

THE SHADOW OF COVID-19

In the final year of her career, Peckham faced the global novel coronavirus pandemic. New Haven public schools closed for 10 months,

and school staff were barred from entering their buildings for a while. After Connecticut entered lockdown in March 2020, Peckham pivoted from in-person care to guiding nervous families via Yale's COVID-19 hotline call center. She worked the phones all spring and summer, triaging calls, conducting telehealth visits, and ordering COVID-19 tests for pediatric patients.

Then SBHCs were allowed to open again, even though the classrooms remained empty. Peckham and her team kept up with services mandated by the state, such as physicals and immunizations for seventh graders, while maintaining the Board of Education's safety standards of full personal protective equipment (PPE), cleanings between families, and seeing only one family at a time.

ADVICE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

When asked to share best practices for clinicians who want to become preceptors, Peckham focused on outlook.

“I do think it takes a special kind of personality to precept,” Peckham said. “You have to be patient and understanding—calm, I think—and willing to show them support, and help the [nursing] student understand that they can do it. They are all brilliant students, but many of them haven't had a medical career. You need to teach them what to pay attention to.”

“The students have always been wonderful,” Peckham said. “Willing to learn and quick learners. They were ready to do whatever I asked



them to do. If they were scared, they didn't show it.”

Peckham also shared words of wisdom for the future nurses currently enrolled in YSN. “Stay knowledgeable, stay current,” Peckham said. “Be open to new ideas and let people know when you don't know something. Don't pretend you know everything; you develop trust quicker that way with families.”

Peckham also encouraged students to build their networks, attend conferences, and gather new knowledge wherever they can.

“Thanks so much Lynn, for being my preceptor back in the 90's, and congratulations on your retirement. Your precepting led me to running a SBHC at Troup Magnet Academy before continuing on in a private pediatric practice and then teaching undergraduate nursing. I also loved precepting YSN students!”

-Susan G. Smith, YSN '95

HOW TO BECOME A PRECEPTOR

YSN depends on the generosity of our alumni to help educate, grow, and diversify the next generation of providers and to foster better health for all people. For more information, contact Director of the Clinical Support Unit Tracy Chidsey at tracy.chidsey@yale.edu.



Photo Credit: Jon Atherton, Yale West Campus Communications Officer

YSN Prep Helps Building 410 Become COVID-19 Vaccination Site

Building 410, located next to Yale School of Nursing (YSN), became a COVID-19 vaccination site run by Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS) early in the spring semester. The clinic serves the general public in accordance with CDC and state guidance and injected the first vaccine on January 22.

The project evolved rapidly, but YNHHS opened the facility with plans to operate seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The West Campus site is part of a larger effort by local authorities and health care providers seeking locations for temporary COVID-19 mass vaccination clinics throughout Connecticut.

Converting Building 410, the last

empty building on West Campus, into a temporary vaccination site so quickly was possible due to the hard work of a YSN team headed by Associate Dean for Finance and Administration Marcia Thomas, EDD, MPH last year.

“We were so happy to see that all of our efforts in the fall to get the space ready for our students, including moving furniture, hanging signage, and placing sanitizer dispensers, have been put to use for the quick turnover toward the mass vaccination effort,” Thomas said. “It hit home in a unique way, considering how our students and faculty have been such a part of the frontline efforts.”

Dean Ann Kurth, '90 MSN, PhD,

CNM, MPH, FAAN welcomed the opportunity to open another front on the fight against the pathogen.

“Like nurses everywhere, YSN faculty, students, and alumni have been engaged in the pandemic since the start,” Kurth said. “More recently, YSN students have been administering COVID-19 vaccinations at the Lanman Center on Yale’s Central campus, and we will continue our support of the West Campus vaccination site.”

Parking at West Campus is plentiful and free.

For more information on the Connecticut phases of COVID-19 vaccination, visit ct.gov.



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100 Students Administer COVID-19 Vaccines at Lanman Center

The university's new puppy mascot Handsome Dan XIX showed his love for Yale Nurses in early May during a visit to the COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Lanman Center. Handsome Dan enjoyed pets and cuddles from Victor Martinez Garcia '22 MSN (top) and Kate Jewson '21 MSN (bottom) and then took to Instagram to encourage the general public to make an appointment or walk in and get a shot. More than 62% of Connecticut residents are now fully vaccinated, and 68% have received at least one dose of the vaccine so far.

Yale School of Nursing (YSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) student Emma Kravet '22 MSN is one of about 100 YSN students administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients eligible under Connecticut's guidelines.

The students are working at the Lanman Center on Yale's main campus in New Haven. Lanman was previously outfitted as a field hospital at the start of the pandemic in the spring of 2020. In addition to giving vaccines, YSN students greet and screen patients and oversee care in the post-vaccine observation area in collaboration with a Yale Health clinician and RN Rapid Response Team.

“Yale Health’s collaboration with Yale School of Nursing students has really helped make the Lanman Center vaccination clinic a success,” said Nurse Manager Cheryl Carden, RN.

“These students, who are licensed RNs, are all very bright and upbeat. They are a pleasure to work with. We have about 100 YSN students who are administering vaccines, and the clinic is currently seeing up to 600 patients per day.”

“It has been a really joyful experience to share in the excitement of community members coming to receive their vaccine,” Kravet said. “I’ve vaccinated grandparents who

are ecstatic about the possibility of hugging their grandchildren in the near future, frontline healthcare workers, researchers, and many others who have been waiting for the vaccine to be able to fly home more safely to their families.”

COVID-19 cases in the United States recently topped 34 million and more than 600,000 deaths are attributed to the virus. A disproportionate number of those deaths has been among members of the Black community, and Kravet said that serving in this role at Lanman has underlined the longstanding racial disparities exacerbated by the pandemic.

“One of my first patients was a Black woman who asked if she could Instagram Live her experience receiving her vaccine,” Kravet said. “She shared that it was important to her to livestream the experience to help her family, friends, and followers feel more comfortable with the idea of being vaccinated. She

talked about the Tuskegee study that, along with centuries of systemic racism and disparities in the fields of medicine, nursing, and public health has sown deep distrust.”

Kravet sees a strong connection between classroom study and her work on central campus.

“The need for anti-racism in nursing education and practice is crystal clear, particularly with respect to equity in vaccine distribution and building trust with all patients considering the vaccine,” Kravet said.

A COVID-19 vaccination clinic for the general public opened in Building 410 on West Campus. To learn more about this facility, see “YSN Prep Helps Building 410 Become COVID-19 Vaccination Site” on page 16.

Nursing Students #ONCALL for COVID-19 Questions

Dial the number for the Campus COVID Resource Line (CCRL) and you might connect with one of 30 Yale School of Nursing (YSN) students answering thousands of calls every week from Yale Health members who have questions, questions, and more questions about COVID-19.

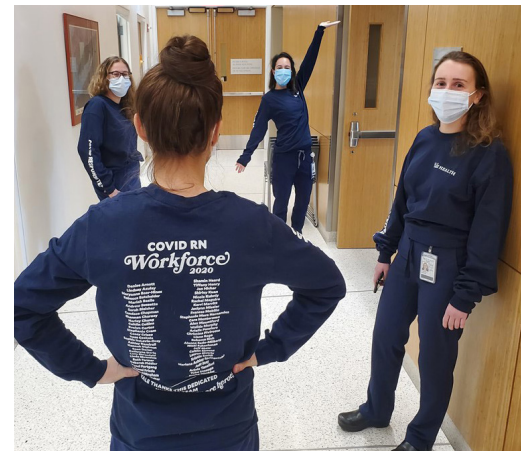
One of those voices on the other end of the line is women's health specialty student Nikki Schachman '21 MSN. In addition to her usual duties for CCRL, Schachman also acts in a leadership capacity to liaise with clinicians, administrators, and care management stakeholders of all kinds.

“I’m really glad Yale has presented us with this opportunity to contribute,” Schachman said. “I think a lot of nurses on the CCRL team who have the chance to work alongside Yale Health and the university are thrilled we can provide information about testing and overall COVID information services to the community.”

The phones ring 12 hours a day, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week and on all holidays. The CCRL usually answers 2,000 calls per week, but peak times can spike to double that number. Weekly call totals in August 2020 topped 4,000 as the university community prepared to return for the fall semester, and again in November 2020 when callers made their holiday plans.

The resource line answered its first phoned inquiry in March of 2020. Each four-hour shift is staffed with eight to 12 RNs, and the CCRL staff currently includes about 45 RNs. Approximately two-thirds of that number are YSN students.

Nanci Fortgang, RN, MPA, CMPE, the Yale Health Chief Clinical Operations Officer, is highly complimentary of YSN student contributions.



Pictured left to right: Lucy Ehrenfeld '21 MSN, (facing away), Caitlin Simons '21 MSN, Beth Farmer '22 MSN and Nikki Schachman '21 MSN all answer calls on the Campus COVID Resource Line (CCRL).

“The nursing students have played a significant role in our pandemic response,” Fortgang said. “They provide support and accurate information on all things COVID for the community. This includes symptom assessment, triage, testing, resulting teams, and now vaccine information and support. It is truly a win-win, as we benefit from highly motivated, smart nurses, and they gain outstanding clinical experiences and professional relationships. Their role has been invaluable, and I am enormously proud of their contributions.”

Jeffrey Stay, RN, Manager of Employee Health and Acute Care, saluted the CCRL staff’s ability to adjust to ever-evolving coronavirus guidance and handle any other ancillary questions that pop up.

“The CCRL staff has adapted from starting out as just an information line for the university and has evolved to providing expertise on information from testing to isolation, to quarantine, to vaccine and even laundry and the best places for food delivery,” Stay said.

In addition to subject matter expertise, sometimes callers are also looking for a bit of emotional reinforcement about taking the next step. Stay said that under those conditions, the YSN students and the rest of the CCRL staff can provide an extra measure of reassurance.

“They carry themselves over the phone lines in a calm manner and help de-escalate the anxiety of callers who may have symptoms. The YSN students are sensitive and very intuitive,” Stay said. “They are an extremely bright, resourceful, and caring group of individuals.”

Schachman said the most memorable conversations are the good news chats with patients who have just qualified for the vaccine.

“Those are the best calls,” Schachman said. “Everyone is so grateful, especially our age 75 and older members, who can have difficulty accessing My Chart and scheduling. To be able to accommodate them and talk to them on the phone, to celebrate the fact that they’re getting their invitation, and hear their experiences living through the pandemic is so rewarding.”

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

Share your career and personal milestones and celebrations with your classmates!

Send your Class Notes to
ysn.communications@yale.edu
or use the sample form at
nursing.yale.edu/class-notes.
Photos are welcome!

Even easier: scan this QR code to submit a Class Note.



YSN Students Promote Black Excellence with Black History Month Events

When nurse midwifery/women's health student Ashleigh Evans '23 MSN began planning Black History Month programming for Yale School of Nursing (YSN), she drew on previous experience in the U.S. Navy by keeping her mission in mind: helping YSN grads move into the upper echelons of the profession.

"How do we all leave this program as the best leaders and advocates?" Evans asked herself.

"We want to set the standard, not follow the standard. We want to prepare our classmates to be the loudest, the strongest, and the most effective advocates in health care."

Working with the YSN Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the Black Collective student group to provide administrative support and funding, Evans and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) student Renata Ndahayo '23 MSN organized five events throughout February.

While Evans spearheaded the overall slate, Ndahayo took on a behind-the-scenes role, pitching in with day-of Zoom logistics to make sure everything ran smoothly, handling event promotion across multiple platforms, and even coordinating a photo shoot for marketing materials.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The students' hard work resulted in a calendar that welcomed all members of the YSN community. Up first was a session with experts on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) featuring Caprice Brown, RN, BSN, M. Div. and retired Capt. Constance J. Evans, BSN, MA. Constance J. Evans started the family tradition of nursing, showing an early example of the career to daughter Ashleigh. Then there was a social event for



Ashleigh Evans '23 MSN

Renata Ndahayo '23 MSN

Black YSN students, staff, faculty, and alumni that fostered warm conversations across the virtual landscape.

"Alumni and faculty shared beautiful stories of why they chose their specialty and why they were drawn to this field," Ndahayo said.

Later in the month, financial educator Naseema McElroy invited all nurses to become millionaires,

sharing her personal story of building wealth after paying off more than \$1 million in debt, including \$200,000 from a nursing master's degree. As a mentor to Evans, the women met through the Financial Independence Retire Early (FIRE) movement, and they bonded over shared goals and experience in real estate.

A second YSN mixer welcomed Black students from the Yale Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The two social events were so well received that Evans and Ndahayo would like to host encores in the future.

The final session focused on eradicating student loans through repayment and loan forgiveness programs with certified student loan professional Meagan Landress.

A TOPICAL APPROACH

Lecturer in Nursing and Student Equity Coordinator Heather Reynolds, '80 MSN, CNM, FACNM praised the lineup for its topical approach.

"What is unique about the program this year is that Ashleigh and Renata touched on some of the issues that are so germane to first-generation BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) students," Reynolds said.

"They are learning to navigate wealth and the enormous debt they leave school with, while also learning to do powerful, great

things to improve the health and wellbeing of marginalized communities."

Associate Dean for Global Affairs and Planetary Health and Acting Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP, FNAP, FAAN gave full credit to the students for their leadership. "They drove Black History Month from the very beginning," Nelson said. "The students approached us with great ideas and energy, and we were happy to help them execute their plans."

Evans was pleased with the YSN community's engagement throughout Black History Month and hopes the school will continue to host similar events.

"There is infinite excellence in the Black community," Evans said. "There's a lot for us to learn and we can go far if we tap into it."



(left to right) Heather Reynolds, '80 MSN, CNM, FACNM and LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP, FNAP, FAAN.

SUPPORT YSN DEI INITIATIVES

If you'd like to support the school's DEI initiatives, which include everything from scholarships to lecture series and events, you can make a gift to YSN's Annual Fund at giving.yale.edu/supportNURAnnualFund.



Nursing Celebrates Liberal Arts with Annual Creative Writing Awards



Camila Soto Espinoza
'21 MSN



Maxwell Shaw-Jones
'23 MSN



Tim McGehee
'22 MSN

The warm strings of a cello bowed by Yale College senior Alma Bitran welcomed more than 200 guests on April 22 to celebrate the 18th Annual Creative Writing Awards (CWA), a strong tradition of the liberal arts deeply embedded in the Yale School of Nursing (YSN).

Festivities included a keynote address by New York Times Magazine contributor Linda Villarosa, congratulations for an unprecedented three-time winner, and a farewell to retiring faculty member Linda Honan, '89 MSN, CNS-BC, RN, ANEF, FAAN who founded the CWA.

Villarosa shared her experience as a writer and journalist covering race, inequality, and health. Her essay on medical myths appeared in the "The 1619 Project" in the New York Times and her most recent reporting covers the toll COVID-19 has taken on Black communities and the environmental justice movement in Philadelphia.

“Both journalists and healthcare providers of all kinds have been told that emotions have no place in our work and that at a minimum, they’re an impediment to success and at worst they’re dangerous and even deadly. As a young journalist, I was told these words.”

Villarosa recalled reporting a story for *Essence* in 1986, so early in the AIDS crisis that it was called GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency). During an interview with a visibly ill young woman, Villarosa lifted the curtain that usually concealed her emotions. She held the woman’s baby, a super cute toothless toddler with a mouth full of thrush, an infection common in HIV patients.

But Villarosa wrote the story with the curtain firmly back in place, unable to access her feelings while simultaneously coping with the sober nature of the story. Neither the mother nor the baby made it to publication the following year. Looking back, Villarosa now thinks she could have written a stronger piece as a professional if she had allowed herself to tap into her emotions as a person. She applauded the CWA winners for coming to this realization sooner.

“What I see in the work of this year’s winners of the Yale School of Nursing’s

Creative Writing Awards is so much big, thick heart.”

CAMILA SOTO ESPINOZA

Nurse Midwifery/Women’s Health student Camila Soto Espinoza ’21 MSN ascended to the podium for the third consecutive year. The contest has honored two-time winners before, but Soto Espinoza’s hat trick is unmatched in the history of the contest. Villarosa described Soto Espinoza’s essay as gorgeous and full of heart.

Her 2021 piece “Monotony” draws on her experience as a first-generation, international student from Chile supporting herself while attending YSN during the COVID-19 global pandemic and civil unrest that threatens her family in her home country.

While at YSN, Camila was a Yale Global Health Fellow at UNICEF, a CNM intern at Mass General Hospital in Boston, an RN supporting Yale’s efforts to keep the community safe during COVID, a student co-chair of YSN’s diversity committees, and an assistant in at least one research project.

Delve into the YSN News archive to read Soto Espinoza’s 2020 winning submission, “Focus,” and her 2019 piece “The Women of My Family.”

MAXWELL SHAW-JONES

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) specialty student Maxwell Shaw-Jones ’23 MSN chose poetry over prose for his submission, and he was honored this year for the lyrical lines called “His Feet.” Villarosa praised his piece as both stunning and bittersweet.



Linda Villarosa covers race, inequality and health as a New York Times Magazine contributor. Her 2018 cover story, “Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis,” was a finalist for a National Magazine Award; and her 2017 article, “America’s Hidden HIV Epidemic,” won a National Lesbian and Gay Journalists’ award for Excellence in Journalism.

The poem explores how the long-ago comfort of a simple foot massage for a dying man echoes down through the years to a modern patient today.

Shaw-Jones graduated from Middlebury College with a degree in English in 2018 and has since worked as an island caretaker and a fiberglass laminator before realizing he wanted to become a nurse. He is interested in the ways nursing can be used to address issues outside of what fits the typical definition of “health” and will be co-facilitating the US Health Justice elective at YSN in the fall of 2021.

TIM MCGEHEE

Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) specialty student Tim McGehee ’22 MSN was inspired to write his piece by “ ‘Frost, You Say?’ A Yankee Monologue” by fellow Yale Marshall J. Dodge with Walter Howe.

McGehee’s winning effort is called “ ‘Pain, You Say?’ A Nursing Home Monologue.” The speaker provides an overview of the patients occupying the dozen rooms he is responsible for this evening, with fevers and paperwork interrupted by humorous asides. Villarosa heralded his entry as the embodiment of listening with the heart.

Before becoming a nurse, McGehee served in the US Coast Guard as a machinery technician and earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut. He has worked in nursing homes as both a CNA and an RN. Following graduation from YSN, McGehee plans to work in primary care with the Veteran’s

Administration. Each of the winners took home a check for \$1,000.

HONAN’S FAREWELL

“As many of you know, this signature occasion for our community would not have come into being, without its creator and nurturer Dr. Linda Honan,” said Dean Ann Kurth, ’90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN. “This is a moment to acknowledge Linda’s exceptional creativity, fierce dedication to her students, and blazing impact on nursing education. The Creative Writing Awards will continue on as a cherished tradition for our school because Linda birthed and grew it.”

Honan’s last day at YSN will be in July. The audience included former students stretching back at least 25 years.

“Like Mary Poppins the wind has changed; the mist is rolling in,” Honan said. “And it’s time for me to leave, even if it is hard. I have been honored to teach now thousands of GEPNs for over three decades, and I have loved almost every minute of it.”

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Congratulations as well to the students whose selections were saluted as Honorable Mentions.

They are: Kendall Cote ’23 MSN, Helen Day ’23 MSN, Ashleigh Evans ’23 MSN, Stacey Frizzell ’23 MSN, Leoncia Gillespie ’23 MSN, Elizabeth (Libby) Grant ’23 MSN, Kay Green ’22 MSN, Kierra Jackson ’21 MSN, Nicole Kuhnly ’21 MSN, Jill Langan ’21 MSN, Kathleen Lessard ’23 MSN, Sarah Ann Lovell ’22 MSN, Kylee Martin Horlacher ’23 MSN, Sajni Persad ’23 MSN, Jordan Quintin ’23 MSN, Marina Rosenberg ’23 MSN, Kendall Tamler ’21 MSN, and Shiliu Wang ’23 MSN.

REVIEWERS AND JUDGES

Nearly 50 submissions were first reviewed by Nina Adams, Dr. Deborah Fahs, Betsy Groth, Dr. Lorence Gutterman, Katie Pellico, Mary Pierson, and Shel Swanson.

Once the submissions were winnowed, they advanced to a panel of four judges for final consideration. Echo Heron, critical care nurse and New York Times bestselling author of nine books; Anne Fadiman, award-winning author, essayist, editor, and teacher; Anna Quinlan, Pulitzer-Prize winning author; and Lee Woodruff, author of three bestselling books.

EVENT VIDEO AND FULL ESSAYS

To watch a full recording of the event, check out the YSN YouTube channel. To read the full text of all three winners and the rest of the top 25 submissions, visit nursing.yale.edu/news.

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*- Janet R. Rimm '04 MSN, APRN, BC
Honored as an outstanding Psychiatric-Mental Health
Program preceptor, June 2021*

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ZOOMING IN FOR A PACKED EVENTS CALENDAR

As the Zoom era stretched into the second semester, event planners took advantage of platform pluses like nearly limitless guest capacity and a wider reach beyond in-person availability. Awareness of the mute button and the chat feature also improved, and that applause function came in handy too.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH (FEBRUARY)

Ashleigh Evans '23 MSN and Renata Ndahayo '23 MSN created a full slate of events that celebrated Black excellence all month long. To read more about the social mixers, wealth-building strategies, and student loan payoff plans, see “YSN Students Promote Black Excellence with Black History Month Events” on page 22.

ADMITTED STUDENT DAYS (FEBRUARY)



Wesley E. Revangil, MBA
*Associate Director of
Admissions and Financial Aid*

Jana Baslikova
*Director of Enrollment
Management and Registrar*

The school virtually hosted Admitted Student Days on February 12 and 15, engaging with members of the first incoming class to choose the profession against the backdrop of the relentless COVID-19 global pandemic.

“This group asked such thoughtful questions, and I hope I was able to demystify the financial aid process,” said Assistant Director of Financial Aid Wesley E. Revangil. “There are so many details to keep in mind, and our goal is to help students feel confident in YSN as their choice for the next step in their careers.”

“It was an absolute pleasure to meet, and in many cases connect again, with such a brilliant and engaged group of admitted students,” said Director of Enrollment Management and Registrar Jana Buck. “It is especially inspiring knowing that they chose this profession despite the ongoing greatest public health crisis in a century.”

Associate Dean of Student Life and Belonging Saveena Dhall saluted the future nurses for their decision to come forward.

“You and your upcoming journey to become a Yale nurse signifies profound hope and light, especially at a time when we cannot overstate the exceptional need for nurses,” Dhall said. “I know that you and your contributions will significantly impact the profession and the communities you serve.”

SCHOLARS’ DAY (APRIL)

This annual celebration of nursing student scholarship took place April 9 and featured presentations from a post-doctoral fellow and YSN students from the PhD and DNP programs. It also included an impressive poster from a non-doctoral student, Alexandra Mountford ’21 MSN.

“This is an opportunity to host an exchange of information and to share the important work being conducted by YSN students and post-doctoral fellows,” said event co-host and PhD Program Co-Director Lois Sadler, ’79 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN. “It is also a great chance to highlight the programs at YSN.”

- Postdoctoral student Abigail Wilpers, ’16 MSN, ’19 PhD, WHNP-BC, presented “The Parental Journey of Fetal Care: A Systematic View and Metasynthesis.”
- Youri Hwang, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, gave the PhD presentation, “Sleep in Young Women with Breast Cancer: A Narrative Review.”
- Third-year DNP student Esther Pavlovsky, MS, RN, presented “Evaluation of a Nurse-Led Telephonic COPD Self-Management Program on Health Care Utilization.”
- Leadership DNP student Ron Yolo, MSN, MBA, RN showcased his work in a poster and a presentation titled “Preventing Hospital Readmission in Patients with Sepsis: A Multi-Modal Discharge National Framework.”



**Lois Sadler,
'79 MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN
PhD Program Co-Director**

BELLOS LECTURE (APRIL)

The annual Sybil Palmer Bellos lecture was held on April 19, virtually convening a panel of nursing leaders from hospitals across Connecticut to analyze how they strategically prepared their nurses for both the sprint and the marathon of the first two waves of COVID-19.



“There was a fireball coming up 95, and we knew if we didn’t move quickly, we would be in flames,” said Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Yale New Haven Hospital Ena Williams, MBA, MSM, BSN, RN, CENP.

Dean Ann Kurth, ’90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN moderated the conversation “2020: The Year of the Nurse and COVID-19 – Leadership, Innovation, and Beyond” among Williams and four other nursing administrators:

- Chief Nursing Executive (CNE) of Yale New Haven Health Systems (YNHHS) and YSN Associate Dean for Partnerships Beth Beckman, DNS, RN, APRN, NEA-BC, FAAN
- CNO Anna Cerra, RN, DNP, MSN, MSHA of Greenwich Hospital
- CNO Kerin Da Cruz, MSN, RN, NE-BC, FACHE of L+M Healthcare
- CNO and current Leadership Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student MaryEllen Kosturko, MAHSM, BSN, RN, CENP of Bridgeport Hospital

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS (APRIL)

More than 200 guests gathered on April 22 to celebrate the 18th Annual Creative Writing Awards (CWA) and to bid a fond farewell to event founder Dr. Linda Honan, ’89 MSN, PhD., CNS-BC, RN, ANEF, FAAN before her retirement this summer.

Congratulations to the three winners, each of whom earned a cash prize of \$1,000:

- Nurse Midwifery/Women’s Health student Camila Soto Espinoza ’21 MSN won for the third year in a row with her piece, “Monotony.” Her hat trick is unprecedented in contest history.
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) specialty student Maxwell Shaw-Jones ’23 MSN was honored for his poem “His Feet.”
- Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) specialty student Tim McGehee ’22 MSN was recognized for his submission “‘Pain, You Say?’ A Nursing Home Monologue.”

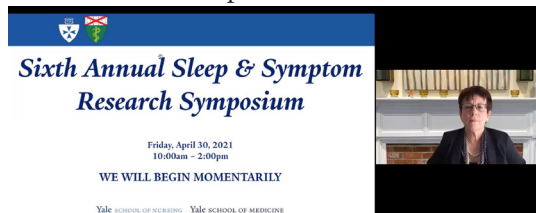
For a full event recap that includes remarks from keynote speaker Linda Villarosa, a New York Times Magazine contributor, plus details on all the winners, please see “*Nursing Celebrates Liberal Arts with Annual Creative Writing Awards*” on page 24.

SLEEP SYMPOSIUM (APRIL)

A quest for more and better sleep drew 80 registrants to the Sixth Annual Sleep & Symptom Research Symposium on April 30. The event featured two keynote speakers: Samuel T. Kuna, MD, from the University of Pennsylvania, and Teresa M. Ward, RN, PhD, FAAN, Co-Director at the Center for Innovation and Sleep Management at the University of Washington.

As symposium host Beatrice Renfield Term Professor of Nursing Nancy Schmieder Redeker, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN pointed out, sleep is a lifelong constant.

“Our work spans the human lifespan from birth to old age and also the trajectory of chronic conditions. Our studies include a focus on prevention of chronic health problems for people at risk, the role of sleep and chronobiology in chronic conditions, such as heart failure, stroke, and substance abuse, and sleep among people with critical illness,” Redeker said.



The Sleep Symposium was cosponsored by YSN, The Yale Center for Biobehavioral Health Research, the Yale School of Medicine Program in Sleep Medicine and Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS (MAY)

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are traditionally held during Commencement weekend, but the YSN Alumni Association plans to shift the celebration back one year and toast the 2020, 2021, and 2022 winners all together in person next spring.

In the meantime, get the full scoop on this year’s honorees (and a brand-new award!) on page 36.

DELTA MU INDUCTIONS (MAY)

The Delta Mu chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society of Nursing welcomed new members at a virtual ceremony on May 18 with guest speaker Alexander Battu Stockton, a video producer for the Opinion section of the New York Times.

YSN’s Delta Mu chapter was chartered in 1980 and currently has more than 500 members.



COMMENCEMENT (MAY)

Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, MS, MPH, RN, FAAN, one of only three nurses currently serving in Congress, addressed the Class of 2021 via a pre-recorded speech in order to comply with the university’s commencement policy where only graduating students could participate in the in-person festivities.

Congresswoman Underwood co-founded and co-chairs the Black Maternal Health Caucus, which elevates the Black maternal health crisis within Congress and advances policy solutions to improve maternal health outcomes and end disparities.

For complete commencement coverage, including prize winners, check out YSN News on the school’s homepage www.nursing.yale.edu.

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For more information, contact:

Nancy Banasiak, DNP, PNP, PPCNP-BC, APRN
Associate Professor of Nursing

Alison Moriarty Daley '94 MSN, PhD, APRN, PPCNP-BC, FAAN
Associate Professor of Nursing and PNP Specialty Director

Jana Buck, Director of Enrollment

nursing.yale.edu



FARR '06 MSN GOES FURTHER

JUGGLES STARTUP, PATENT PROCESS, FDA APPROVAL

It is an understatement to describe Courtney Farr '06 MSN, FNP, APRN-BC as a determined person. She currently works full-time at Veterans Affairs, manages her House Calls Mobile startup of telehealth practitioners, is seeking a patent for her virtual stethoscope/otoscope, and navigating the labyrinthine process of FDA approval for her invention. She also holds a leadership role at the Yale Club of Santa Barbara and might even sleep occasionally.

“YSN gave me a lot of strength,” Farr said. “I feel like I ran a marathon, and now that I finished it, I can do anything. Anything is easier than that!”

Farr’s perseverant spirit took root at an early age. Her childhood was marked by poverty in rural California, a tiny town of 800 people where her dad worked on a backhoe tractor digging ditches instead of as a teacher because there was only one school with no vacancies. When her mom, Rita Farr, got sick, the last thing she wanted to do was take the family’s food money to visit a doctor. So she called her own mother to

discuss the lump in her breast. “It’s okay,” Farr’s grandmother replied. “I have one, too.”

As a teenager, Courtney cared for her mother, participated in home school, and then attended community college classes at night. After more than a decade living with breast cancer, Rita passed away when Farr was 15.

“I think sometimes when you lose a family member, you don’t want their death to be in vain,” Farr said. “You want their life to have made a purpose for you to live on with their memory. Taking care of my mom was a large motivation for me getting in to YSN—I wanted to make her proud and make something of myself. I wanted to try to do something to further her memory and help other people.”

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO CARE

As an Indigenous woman, Farr is familiar with the daunting barriers to care facing marginalized communities.

“I was eating crackers out of the patient fridge at one point,” Farr said. “I can tell patients in these situations: ‘I understand. I understand the fear and the hurt and how hard it is because I’ve been there.’”

Farr worked for more than a decade in the inner city of Washington, D.C., where she discovered that the difficulties low-income urban families face are strikingly similar to those of poor rural families. Instead of consulting a doctor they can’t afford, these patients seek counsel from family or community members, as Rita did.

Sometimes the advice is applicable, and sometimes it is not well-informed.

“I knew we needed an affordable way for people to access care anywhere,” Farr said. “I knew a video platform could work well and I could see a patient from my phone. What tools would I need to make a video visit the most effective? I immediately thought of my stethoscope and otoscope. They let me assess ears, nose, heart, and lungs.”

With those goals in mind, Farr was determined to take the next step.

PATENT PENDING

In an effort to bring high-quality care into a patient’s home, no matter their income level or zip code, Farr invented the virtual stethoscope/otoscope.

“In school they always told us that 90% of a diagnosis is the history, and 10% is the physical exam. A provider already knows what they’re doing for the most part before you

even get there,” Farr said.

Confident and determined that she could provide excellent care virtually, Farr worked with a developer in India to create a platform and a two-part app for the virtual stethoscope, which plugs into a smartphone. She tapped biomedical students at California Polytechnic State University to help with the 3D-printed prototype and ordered the special circuit through a manufacturer in China.

Farr has filed her provisional patent and submitted application fees for FDA approval. The virtual stethoscope is known as a Class 2 device, meaning it is considered similar to existing products and that approval could progress more quickly.

However, the FDA reached out during the COVID-19 pandemic to let her know the device could be approved for emergency use. Up next is the electrical safety test, an expensive assessment that only a specialized lab can conduct. Farr

also plans to utilize her local network to provide subject matter expertise on the prototype, which currently can be produced for only \$15 per unit.

“I want to keep it at a reasonable price,” Farr said. “I want everyone to have one in their house.”

A COMMUNITY OF YALIES

When Farr was starting House Calls Mobile, she was floundering around a bit and searching for some direction. She flew back from the West Coast to attend a conference at the School of Management (SOM) and was immediately reinvigorated.

“I felt so energized, being surrounded by people who wanted to see me succeed,” Farr said. “I needed advice and guidance, and that’s exactly what I got. There’s something special about being around a lot of people focused on education and advancement and teaching; it was a neat environment.”

Farr got a tip to check out her local small business development center, which is how she connected with her patent attorney. She also began strategically exploring the entire Yale network, not only YSN alums. In addition to SOM, Farr has had terrific interactions or ongoing partnerships with alumni at the Law School and School of Medicine.

“Access to the alumni network is so valuable,” Farr said. “Especially with a startup because you want to pull on every resource you have. My Yale degree has really opened a lot of doors for me.”

STRENGTHEN YOUR ALUMNI NETWORK

Connect with YSN Alumni and current students on Cross Campus, Yale’s new online community-building program.

Give and get career mentorship and life wisdom from the YSN community and access the wider world of Yale University alumni as well. Join now at crosscampus.yale.edu.



The World is Calling

Your gift helps us answer the call



Your gift to the Annual Fund supports amazing students, and it also builds resources for the essential components of a YSN education.

"Nursing, now more than ever, is such an important field, and not only is it absolutely vital to our healthcare system, but it is a challenging field to be in. This is a field that will test me emotionally, mentally, physically, and socially, and I am excited about it all! Having financial support to me means that others believe in my ability to succeed in this field and help others find wellness. It also means that I have more freedom to pursue a healthy, balanced life in my future, hindered less by financial barriers and burdens."

Helen Montie '23 MSN, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
(pictured above left)

"Receiving financial support to pursue my dream career at a prestigious university is both humbling and motivating. I feel fortunate that individuals and institutions have chosen to invest in my education and development, and I hope to pay this spirit of giving forward in whatever way possible as I progress in my career."

Rachel Romero '22 MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner
(pictured above right)



Scan the QR code or visit
<http://bit.ly/YSNAF3> or call
the Development and Alumni
Affairs Office at 203.737.4112.



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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

HONOR BRANDMAN '94, CLARK '79, AND TILLMAN '12

The Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize nurses who have demonstrated achievement or distinction in their career, in the contributions to their communities, or to Yale School of Nursing (YSN). The ceremony is traditionally held during Commencement weekend, but the COVID-19 pandemic scuttled those plans this year. However, the committee is looking ahead to an in-person celebration in the Spring of 2022 that salutes the 2020, 2021, and 2022 winners. In the meantime, many congratulations to this year's honorees.

"It is always a highlight of the year and a great honor to recognize our Distinguished Alumni award winners," said YSN Alumni Association President Christa Hartch '02 MSN, RN. "Their contributions to the nursing profession and to society never cease to amaze and inspire us. We are particularly excited to celebrate the inaugural Decade Award winner and are planning to continue this award in the future. While we have missed celebrating our winners in person, we look forward to doing so in 2022!"

WAILUA BRANDMAN '94 MSN, APRN, PMHCNS/NP BC CHMRP, FAANP

Brandman's advance practice

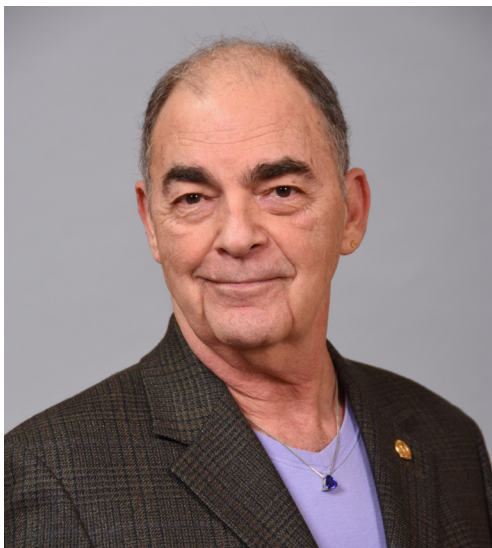
career has included the roles of graduate and undergraduate nursing faculty at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, clinical preceptor, consultant, leadership in health care policy, clinician, and cultural entrepreneur.

Brandman is a certified Holographic Memory Resolution Practitioner (CHMRP) and was the first Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) in Hawai'i. He was Hawai'i's first PMHNP to become a primary care provider (PCP) in 2009, after the legislature mandated third-party payers to recognize APRNs as PCPs.

In 2007, he co-founded

the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses and served as the founding president. He is a co-founder of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Hawai'i chapter and a president. He is a former member-at-large of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Board of Directors and former member of the Board of Directors of the YSNAA. He is also a member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's APRN Practice and Policy Committee.

Brandman has been an active member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) since 2005, when he received the State Award of Excellence Nurse



Wailua Brandman
'94 MSN, APRN, PMHCNS/NP BC
CHMRP, FAANP



Terri Clark
'76 BA, '79 MSN, PhD, MA, CNM,
APRN, FACNM



Stephanie Tillman
'12 MSN, CNM, FACNM

Practitioner. He has been a Fellow of the AANP since 2011. He is also the recipient of numerous awards from the Gamma Psi Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, including the 2010 Kuponu Award.

Also an author, Brandman wrote *Misery or Happiness: It's ALL About Energy*, a self-help book for nurses and their patients. As the clinical director of his corporation, Ke'ena Mauiola Nele Paia, he has become an expert on bipolar disorder and serves as a consultant for Sunovion, AbbVie, and Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.

TERRI CLARK '76 BA, '79 MSN, PhD, MA, CNM, APRN, FACNM
Clark was a member of the YSN

midwifery class of 1979. She entered YSN with a BA in philosophy from Yale University, which she considers to be just what was needed to prepare her to be a certified nurse midwife. For Clark, having the opportunity for a Yale education brought with it the profound responsibility to benefit the society that made that education possible in the first place. Thus, for 42 years she has used her YSN nurse-midwifery education to teach in midwifery graduate programs as well as to provide full scope midwifery care in New Haven, the Bronx, and San Diego.

In the last 21 years she has developed and worked with midwifery, nursing, and medical colleagues in many international

peer-to-peer collaborative education programs. For example, she has worked directly and taught with midwives and other health care providers in South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Ecuador.

Clark's PhD is in sociology from the University of California at San Diego and her scholarship and publications are focused on topics related to the development of ethical international midwifery education. She has been on the faculty of Seattle University College of Nursing since 2007 where she was also Track Lead of Midwifery.

Finally, since graduation from YSN, Terri has been an active member of the American College of Nurse-

Midwives. She has presented at their annual conferences many times and has held several leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels.

STEPHANIE TILLMAN '12 MSN, CNM, FACNM

Tillman is the inaugural winner of the YSN Alumni Association Decade Award, which recognizes outstanding efforts and effective, value-driven outcomes achieved early in a graduate's nursing career.

Tillman (she/her) is a midwife in Chicago. She completed her undergraduate degree in Global Health and Medical Anthropology at the University

of Michigan, and her graduate degree in Midwifery at YSN. She is on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Access Project and Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health and is an Advisory Committee member of the Queer and Transgender Midwives Association.

Earlier this year, Stephanie completed a Clinical Medical Ethics Fellowship at the University of Chicago, where she focused on consent in pelvic care, and this fall will begin a PhD in Health Care Ethics focusing on the same topic. She was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American College of

Nurse Midwives, where she also serves as a member of the Ethics Committee.

Tillman blogs under the name Feminist Midwife, and through that online platform, academic and public writing, and professional speaking engagements, seeks to interact with providers and consumers in conversations about consent in health provision, ethics, queer care, sex positivity, anti-racism, nurses and advanced practice clinicians in abortion care, and trauma-informed frameworks. Find her on social media @FeministMidwife.



IN MEMORIAM

We have recently learned of the loss of these members of our alumni community, and our condolences and best wishes go out to their families and loved ones. If you would like to share In Memorial news, please send a note to ysn.communications@yale.edu.

Katherine M. Dohm	'43 M.N.
Ellen C. Avila	'46 MSN
Janet S. Hine	'47 M.N.
Lois P. Thayer	'47 M.N.
Gladys D. Thompson	'47 NUR
Doris G. M. Preus	'51 M.N.
Raquel B. Celenza	'52 M.N.
Julia P. Pace	'54 M.N.
June S. Wentz	'54 M.N.
Nancy J. Bourke	'55 M.N.
Vanessa A. Marshall	'70 MSN
Barbara A. Dalton	'76 MSN
Marie L. Bernardo	'77 MSN
Hedy H. Lipez	'90 MSN
Diane Berry	'05

TRAILBLAZERS WELCOME IN NEW DNP PROGRAM

The new Post-Master's Clinical Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is designed for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who have graduated from an MSN program and are interested in enhancing their clinical leadership skills and developing a clinical area of expertise in their practice area.

The Clinical DNP is tailored to APRNs working part- or full-time in a clinical role who would like to pursue doctoral education as they develop their clinical knowledge and experience. The Clinical DNP graduate will apply the knowledge gained in their course work and clinical collaborations to develop new clinical practices, processes, and roles that will contribute to better health for all people.

For questions or more information regarding the new Clinical DNP program, please contact the YSN Admissions Office. **The application deadline for Fall 2022 enrollment is January 15, 2022.**





Learn how to lead—and change—health systems at Yale School of Nursing.

Our Health Care Leadership, Systems, and Policy DNP program is for accomplished advanced practice nurses who want to build on their experience and become innovative health leaders.

This DNP course of study is tailored for nurses who have significant professional experience and work commitments. Students collaborate on real-world problems, crafting solutions that span finance, government, clinical practice, evidence and data, and human behavior.

For questions or more information regarding this DNP program, please contact the YSN Admissions Office.

The application deadline for Fall 2022 enrollment is January 15, 2022.

nursing.yale.edu

CLASS NOTES

1980

Mary A. Blaszkowski Helming PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, AHN-BC recently edited Dossey & Keegan's *Holistic Nursing: A Handbook for Practice*, Eighth Edition, a textbook based on concepts of holistic nursing. Helming is a Board member of the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation and serves as Chair of the Role Delineation Study committee. She is a board-certified Advanced Holistic Nurse.

1994

Sherrie Page '94 MSN, RN recently penned two articles related to her doctoral area of interest. Inside Higher Ed published her piece "Colleges Must Require the Study of Well-being in High School," which argues for students to take for-credit mental health courses in secondary school as a mandatory part of the college admissions process. Katie Couric Media highlighted Page's work by running her article "Teen Mental Health is Suffering. Here's How the School Systems Can Help."

Page is currently the health and wellness coordinator at St. Catherine's School in Richmond, Va., where she has also worked as a school nurse and upper-school health teacher. She will be starting a doctoral program at the University of Virginia in the fall to focus on teen mental health.

2009

Jessica Haag '09 MSN, CNM recently joined Saratoga Hospital Medical Group and Saratoga OB/GYN and Midwifery in Saratoga Springs, NY. Haag spent most of her career in the Chicago area,

as a midwife at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago and at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Haag grew up in Saratoga County, graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, and received an undergraduate degree from Union College in Schenectady.

Haag is certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board and is a member of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

2011

Andrena M. McGroarty '11 MSN, PMHNP-BC recently launched a monthly support group for YSN psychiatric-mental health alumni to build a resilient community among peers. The first session was held May 20 at 7:30 p.m. and now continues every third Thursday. Check out the YSN Calendar for details and a link to RSVP.

2012

In 2021, **Stephanie Tillman (she/her) '12 MSN, CNM, FACNM** became the first midwife graduate of the University of Chicago's MacClean Center Fellowship in Clinical Medical Ethics, and the first midwife PhD candidate at Saint Louis University Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics. Tillman was also recently inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives at the 2021 annual meeting.

Learn more about Tillman on page 36 as the inaugural winner of the YSN Alumni Association Decade Award, which recognizes outstanding efforts and effective, value-driven outcomes

achieved early in a graduate's nursing career.

2015

Earlier this year, **Susanne J. Phillips '15 DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN** authored "The 33rd Annual APRN Legislative Update: Unprecedented changes to APRN practice authority in unprecedented times" for *The Nurse Practitioner* journal.

The report covers the scope of practice changes and legislative decisions that most impacted APRNs across the United States in 2020, focusing on states' executive orders and emergency waivers enacted during the public health emergency that greatly reduced barriers to access to healthcare.

Phillips is a member of YSN's inaugural DNP class.

2018

Pritma Dhillon-Chattha '18 DNP, MHA, RN and Brigid A. Gannon '18 DNP, PMHNP-BC were recently recognized by the American Nurses Association as Innovation Award winners for launching Lavender, an online psychiatry and therapy office. Lavender's model of psychiatry care is solely delivered by board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners who offer both medication management and mental health therapy in one session.

Lavender is currently available in New York state, and there are plans to expand services throughout the country.

Dhillon-Chattha and Gannon will have

one year to further develop their innovation and will share their outcomes and findings in 2022.

The nursing entrepreneurs first met as classmates at YSN.

2020

Jessica Callahan '20 MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC, recently joined the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UMPC) care team in Williamsport, PA.

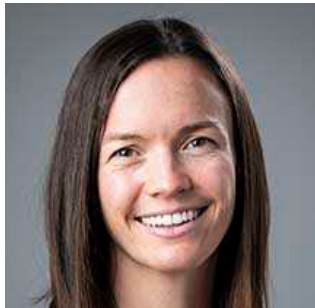
Callahan is a certified nurse midwife and board-certified women's health care nurse practitioner. Before joining UPMC, Callahan served as a maternity nurse for two years at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn.

Callahan's care across the lifespan includes providing gynecological care, family planning services, wellness services, and menopause care.

Eliza Cooley '20 MSN joined Samaritan Obstetrics & Gynecology in Corvallis, Oregon earlier this year.

"I want to be someone with the skills to expand access to affordable, respectful and evidence-based medicine," she said.

Cooley grew up in rural New Hampshire, where options for health care were limited. She saw how that affected her community and decided to become a nurse midwife to expand access to affordable, inclusive, respectful, and evidence-based medicine.



From top to bottom and left to right: Mary A. Blaszk Helming; Sherrie Page; Jessica Haag; Andrena M. McGroarty; Stephanie Tillman; Susanne J. Phillips; Pritma Dhillon-Chattha; Brigid A. Gannon; Jessica Callahan; Eliza Cooley.

Retiring Faculty Combine for More than a Century with Students

Yale School of Nursing (YSN) honors these retiring faculty members, all of whom have made highly distinguished and creative contributions to the profession and to the school. Altogether, these subject matter experts taught YSN students for more than 140 years.



Jane Dixon, PhD

has taught research methods and conducted research at YSN since 1975. Her current substantive focus is environment health, engagement of people in promoting healthy environments, people's concerns about environmental hazards which may affect health, and responses to hazards by those who are most affected. Dr. Dixon was recognized for her outstanding pedagogy as the recipient of the Annie Goodrich Award for Excellence in Teaching from YSN in 2006.



Deborah Fahs DNP, MSN, FNP-BC

was a GEPN program lecturer and preceptor before being appointed Assistant Professor in 2013 and has taught YSN students for more than 30 years. Her contributions include journal publications, book chapters, and myriad presentations, as well as being an integral member in the development and implementation of the Interprofessional Longitudinal Clinical Experience. Among her many honors, Dr. Fahs was the 2019 recipient of the YSN Dorothy Sexton Mentoring Award.



Linda Honan '89 MSN, PhD, CNS-BC, RN, ANEF, FAAN

began teaching at YSN in 1989 and wrote the first medical surgical textbook for advanced nursing programs. Her innovations that combine nursing science with the humanities include "Looking Is Not Seeing and Listening Is Not Hearing," and the Creative Writing Awards. Dr. Honan has also been a driver of Power Day, an annual event with the School of Medicine and PA program. Dr. Honan's many awards include YSN's Annie W. Goodrich Teaching Award, twice.



Patricia Ryan-Krause '81 MSN, MS, PCNP-BC

launched the global health concentration in 2014, now the global health track. She is a noted expert on refugee health, early childhood development, and education and capacity building in global settings. She practices at Yale New Haven Hospital, and also serves at the Pediatric Refugee Clinic at Yale Primary Care Center. A driving force at YSN for more than 30 years, her awards include the Global Health Award by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE AND THE HEALTH OF YSN

Of all the gifts that pay you back, the charitable gift annuity (CGA) is the most simple, stable, and popular. In exchange for a gift of \$10,000 or more, Yale will make guaranteed, fixed payments for life to you or to one or two beneficiaries you select. When the annuity ends, the remainder is used by YSN for a purpose you choose.

The amount of the payments is based, in part, on the age of the annuitant when payments begin. Deferring payments allows you to wait until you may be in a lower tax bracket or need supplemental income. The longer you defer, the larger your payments will be.

Even in today's economy, Yale remains a significant investment opportunity and gift annuity rates are appealing. The payment rates on most gift annuities exceed the yields on CDs, treasury notes and bills, and money market funds. In many cases, you may increase your cash flow with a gift annuity. Your payments are fixed at the rates set when you establish the annuity. Yale annuities have no management or investment fees.

Yale University administers more than 1,000 gift annuities. Donors enjoy steady income, tax benefits, and the opportunity to strengthen the school with a meaningful legacy.

SAMPLE RATES FOR YALE’S IMMEDIATE AND DEFERRED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

IMMEDIATE

Age	70	75	80	85	90
Rate	4%	5.5%	7%	9.5%	12%

DEFERRED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES (FOR PAYMENTS BEGINNING IN 7-15 YEARS)

Age	Deferred 7 Years	Deferred 10 Years	Deferred 15 Years
55	3.5%	4%	6%
60	4.5%	5.5%	8.5%
65	5.5%	7.5%	12%

If you are looking for long-term support for your retirement and the health of Yale School of Nursing, please contact julia.pafford@yale.edu for more information.

Yale Nursing Subject Matter Experts Quoted and Consulted by Media

During the past six months, Yale Nursing faculty have shared their subject matter expertise with a wide range of media outlets across the country and around the world. In addition to offering science-based guidance on COVID-19 policy and strategy, YSN faculty have discussed vaccine efficacy and levels of protection, explored lessons learned and best practices from the deadliest global pandemic in a century, and looked ahead to how clinicians and patients can move forward as restrictions lift and a new equilibrium is reached.

POLICY & STRATEGY

[NATURE](#) spoke to **Saad B. Omer** about the need for clear instructions to the Biden Administration's vaccination team.



[THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#) connected with **Saad B. Omer** about new tactics of vaccination in the midst of a slow rollout.

[THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE](#) noted **Saad B. Omer's** endorsement of vaccination super sites.

[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) quoted **Saad B. Omer** on the topic of vaccine distribution.

[THE CT MIRROR](#) discussed vaccination prioritization with **Saad B. Omer**.

[THE WASHINGTON POST](#) published an op-ed by **Saad B. Omer** and other colleagues advocating for vaccine distribution to focus on people 65 and older.

[TIME](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about how to solve the credibility issue of vaccines in Israel.

[ROLL CALL](#) interviewed **Saad B. Omer** about the importance of a coherent vaccine strategy in an article about vaccine booster shots.

[KUOW NPR](#) featured **Saad B. Omer** as a panelist to discuss the vaccine rollout.

[PBS](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about vaccine passports.

[THE ATLANTIC](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause.

PROTECTION & EFFICACY

[THE ATLANTIC](#) sought **Saad B. Omer's** expertise on variants and breakthrough cases.

[THE WASHINGTON POST](#) quoted **Saad B. Omer** on the efficacy of the three COVID-19 vaccines now being used in the U.S.

[NPR](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about how the incomplete protection some people experience with the vaccine for COVID-19 also occurs to some extent with any disease.

[NBC CT](#) discussed protection levels between vaccine doses with **Saad B. Omer**.

[FOX13 MEMPHIS](#) quoted **Saad B. Omer** in a story about “breakthrough” COVID-19 cases.

LESSONS & BEST PRACTICES

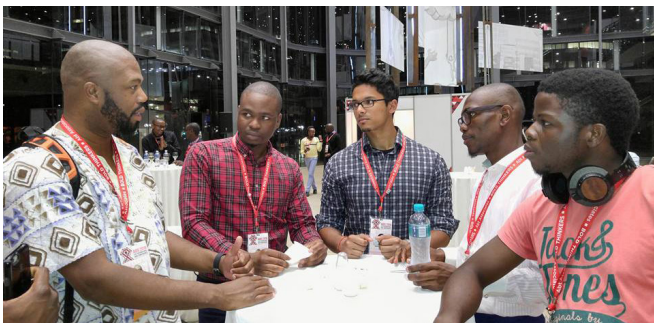
[NBC CONNECTICUT](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about the importance of including Black and brown communities in the strategic ramp up of COVID-19 vaccinations.

[INSIDER](#) consulted **Sascha James-Conterelli** and **Michelle Telfer** about the skills midwives have other than delivering babies.

[WFSB EYEWITNESS NEWS](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about his reflections on COVID-19 one year after the pandemic began.

The American Heart Association’s Lifelong Learning Podcast “[GETTING TO THE HEART OF SLEEP HEALTH: CARDIOVASCULAR CONSEQUENCES OF INADEQUATE SLEEP](#)” featured **Nancy S. Redeker**, who offered several tips on how to improve the quality of your sleep.

[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) included recommendations from **Saad B. Omer** in “14 Lessons for the Next Pandemic.”



[THE TORONTO STAR](#) spoke to **LaRon E. Nelson** about ways to reduce health disparities in Black communities.

Nelson described the skepticism toward a vaccine among Black people as a “healthy response to histories of mistreatment that Black communities have experienced at the hand of health-care systems and governments.” It’s not because Black people are mistrustful, he said. “It’s because this system that is harming you is now saying we’re going to give you something that benefits you, and who can trust that?”

MOVING FORWARD



[GOTHAMIST](#) talked to **David Vlahov** about the reopening of New York City.

[NPR](#) talked to **Saad B. Omer** about making nuanced judgements to visit elderly family members after vaccination.

[VOX](#) spoke with **Saad B. Omer** about how to measure the end of the pandemic: by seeing a substantial reduction in mortality.

[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) included a quote from **Saad B. Omer** on more vaccines: “I would say, the more the merrier at this point.”

[THE CT MIRROR](#) discussed how to measure vaccine success with **Saad B. Omer**.



WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Yale School of Nursing (YSN) recently announced that more than a dozen new faculty members will be onboarded in time for the fall semester. The expertise of the incoming full-time and part-time faculty spans multiple specialty areas. They will join an outstanding community of existing YSN faculty with whom to collaborate.

“We are thrilled to welcome this incredibly energetic group to the YSN community,” said Dean Ann Kurth ’90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN. “Each brings a wide range of talents and experience to these roles. We all look forward to working with and learning from each other, as these new faculty join our YSN family of outstanding nursing and midwifery faculty.”



**DAIHNIA
DUNKLEY, PHD, RN**
Lecturer in Nursing



**OPHELIA EMPLEO-
FRAZIER '99 MSN,
GNP-BC, BSN, CDP**
Lecturer in Nursing



**CAMILLE
HAMILTON, PHD,
MPH, RN, CMSRN**
Lecturer in Nursing

**LAUREN FLAGG,
DNP, MSN, APRN,
CPNP-AC**
Lecturer in Nursing



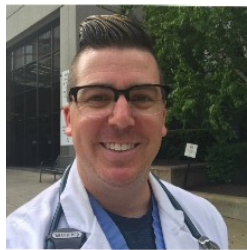
**MARCIE GAWEL,
MSN, MS, BS,
CPN, SANE**
Lecturer in Nursing



**MAX GREGER-MOSER
'14 MSN, APRN,
PMHNP-BC**
Lecturer in Nursing



**TANIA HOSSIN '14 MSN, APRN,
FNP**
Lecturer in Nursing



**CHRISTOPHER
KRUPA-SCHAYER
'17 MSN, APRN**
Lecturer in Nursing



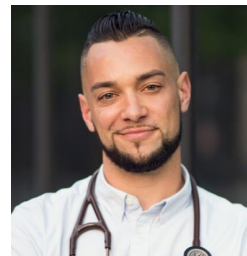
**NATHAN LEVITT,
MSN, FNP-BC**
Lecturer in Nursing



**SARAH LIPKIN '14
MSN, AGPCNP-BC**
Lecturer in Nursing



**NICOLE MACIEJAK
'06 MSN, APRN,
CPNP**
Lecturer in Nursing



**MORGAN MAKO '18
MSN, APRN, FNP-C,
AAHIVS**
Lecturer in Nursing



**JENNIFER
MCINTOSH, MSN,
RN, CNE, PMH-BC,
NEA-BC**
Lecturer in Nursing



**NEESHA
RAMCHANDANI
'20 MSN, PHD,
PNP, CDCES**
Lecturer in Nursing



**CHRISTINE
RODRIGUEZ, DNP,
APRN, FNP-BC,
MDIV, MA**
Lecturer in Nursing



**JESSICA STANEK
'06 MSN, CNM, CLC**
Lecturer in Nursing



**BRENDA WHITE,
DNP, MSN,
APRN, RN**
Lecturer in Nursing

Three Faculty Share Research Journeys: ‘There’s Always More to Learn’

Nursing can truly become a lifelong pursuit. As subject matter experts, these clinicians and researchers deepen their skills across years and decades, consistently finding a new thread to pull or developing a new intervention to improve patient outcomes. Profiled here are three faculty members at Yale School of Nursing (YSN) progressing through their research careers, sharing the journey that brought them this far and looking ahead to what comes next.

SHELLI FEDER, '10 MSN, '17 PHD, APRN, FNP-C, ACHPN



After graduating from the Family Nurse Practitioner program at YSN in 2010, Dr. Feder worked as a NP hospitalist in Washington, DC and partnered closely with the palliative care team to treat patients with acute and chronic conditions.

Dr. Feder noticed that patients with nonmalignant conditions like heart failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) clearly exhibited many of the symptoms and communication needs addressed

by palliative care, but often those patients did not have access to palliative care services.

Dr. Feder returned to YSN for her PhD, conducting dissertation research on factors associated with palliative care referral among hospitalized patients with heart failure with Dr. Nancy Schmieder Redeker PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN as her primary mentor. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship with the National Clinician Scholars Program at Yale.

Dr. Feder's current research is funded through the Yale Center for Implementation Science and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Through her research, Dr. Feder seeks to evaluate models of palliative care delivery for patients with heart failure within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“I think there’s a misperception that palliative care is for people at the immediate end of life, but that is not true,” Dr. Feder said. “As clinicians and researchers, we try to reframe it as a service for any patient with a serious, life-limiting, illness.”

During this initial stage of the grant, Dr. Feder is analyzing pertinent data of over 300,000 veterans with heart failure. Next, she will conduct interviews with clinicians at facilities that have a high uptake of palliative care, high care-quality, and excel improving health outcomes among patients with heart failure. Dr. Feder will also interview patients and family caregivers to understand

their preferences for palliative care delivery. She will explore hospital utilization, access to hospice care, symptom and pain management, and the family's view of end-of-life care, among other factors. The ultimate aim of this work is to inform the design and implementation of palliative care interventions that improve the quality of life of patients with heart failure and that are scalable and transferrable across healthcare systems.

"If we can learn from those hospitals that are delivering high-quality care and narrow in on what those strategies are, then we can replicate that in other medical centers," Dr. Feder said.

TAMIKA JULIEN, DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC, CLC



Dr. Julien's clinical experience includes nearly a decade working as a women's health nurse practitioner in a federally qualified community health center and a certified nurse midwife for the past four years. As a certified lactation counselor, her doctoral research focused on improving exclusive breastfeeding rates in the immediate postpartum period.

She has also worked extensively with adolescents, providing services well beyond women's health care. In addition to discussing reproductive health and family planning, Dr. Julien enjoys listening to their career goals and empowering them. Dr. Julien believes it is important to establish rapport and trust with patients, reassuring them that they could safely confide in her and ask questions without fear of pressure or judgment.

Dr. Julien arrived at YSN in January 2020, just before COVID-19 closed the school for the rest of the year. She is working towards continuing her research to promote and increase exclusive breastfeeding. Dr. Julien also joined Dr. Joan Combellick '91 MSN, PhD, MPH, CNM to research how COVID impacted childbearing individuals who gave birth during the pandemic.

"We saw how the pandemic underscored the importance of the midwifery model of care," Dr. Julien said. "Childbearing individuals wanted to be heard, have their needs valued, and appreciated shared decision making."

We had childbearing individuals who changed their birth plans in the middle of their pregnancy to seek

midwifery care with interest in a home birth or birth center because of COVID-19 concerns."

At this stage in her career, Dr. Julien feels empowered to create greater access for the next generation of practitioners, once again serving as a trusted confidant in addition to providing highly skilled care. She recently submitted a proposal to pilot a mentorship program for midwifery and women's health students, faculty, and alumni of color.

"Research shows students of color struggle with loneliness, isolation, discrimination, and microaggressions within predominantly white institutions, and it is important that we provide additional support to these students," Dr. Julien said. "It's integral that these students have a safe place to speak and be heard, and to foster community and belonging. As a faculty of color, I am in an opportune position to champion change and support mentorship."



Women's Health student Elinore Lubiano '22 MSN works through a class exercise with Dr. Tamika Julien.

**JOAN KEARNEY, PHD, APRN,
FAAN**



Dr. Kearney is an Associate Professor of Nursing whose research spans the intersections of attachment, trauma, and coping in high-risk attachment/caregiving systems across the psychiatric and pediatric spectrum.

Her research career has been grounded by her doctoral training in developmental psychology. “That set the trajectory for me.” Dr. Kearney’s work has focused on high-risk development, developmental psychopathology, and attachment.

Prior to her doctoral studies, she received her master’s degree in child psychiatric nursing, which has played an important part in steering her professional course and informed her research. Even in that early stage, Dr. Kearney was interested in maternal child connections and their developmental impact. She conducted her thesis on maternal stress during pregnancy, using the Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale to measure infant behavior in the nursery. She discovered that maternal stress was associated with neonatal behavior on certain dimensions.

Examples of Dr. Kearney’s work include research and publications on attachment processes and parental decision-making in pediatric end of life context at Columbia University, work with the GEMS organization in New York to examine the relational nature of trauma recovery in young sexually exploited and trafficked females, work with mothers and children exposed to domestic violence in clinical settings in New York and Connecticut where she also studied biobehavioral markers in violence exposed mothers.

In addition, Dr. Kearney is a member of the Professional Advisory Board of Momcology, a national online community of parents whose children have been diagnosed with cancer where she has also conducted research to examine maternal traumatic stress and symptoms.

Her career includes healthcare administration roles in nursing and psychiatry as well as long experience as an educator and mentor across various levels and all mental health disciplines. She is currently discussing future strategies for child psychiatric nursing preparation with her fellow leaders across the country as needs grow.

Dr. Kearney is Chair of YSN’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Programs, which include the Health Care Leadership, Systems, and Policy Program and the newly launched Clinical DNP Program. Mary Ann Camilleri, JD, BSN, RN, FACHE, steers the Leadership Program and Joanne DeSanto Iennaco, ’05 MPhil, ’09 PhD, APRN, PMHNP-BC leads the Clinical Program.

In speaking of the Leadership Program, she highlights the excellent leadership and policy arms of the program and is proud of the recently re-designed executive arm for systems administrators. She is equally proud of the new Clinical DNP program which emphasizes clinical innovation. She describes them as world class programs addressing new and emerging healthcare practice and systems methods and models.

Dr. Kearney is already excited about her next steps.

*“I think learning is part of existing, a part of living,” she said.
“There is always more to learn.”*

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Sheela Shenoi, MD, MPH



David Vlahov, PhD, RN, FAAN



Frederick Altice, MD

Vlahov Wins YIGH Award: Yale Team Will Study TB in Recently Released Inmates

Dr. David Vlahov, PhD, RN, FAAN was recently tapped as a winner of the Hecht Global Health Faculty Network Awards for a collaboration with Dr. Sheela Shenoi, MD, MPH and Dr. Frederick Altice, MD at Yale School of Medicine for their proposal “Reducing Community Spread of TB through transitional care models for recently released inmates in Ukraine.” The award is presented by the Yale Institute for Global Health (YIGH).

“One of the greatest challenges for control of TB among prisoners is during the transition from corrections to community,” Vlahov said. Knowing the barriers and brainstorming options

will be key to providing the best care and population health.”

Dr. Vlahov and Dr. Altice have previously worked together and share mutual interests in addressing poor health outcomes among incarcerated populations. Dr. Shenoi has also collaborated with Dr. Altice on HIV-related work in Ukraine and has a longstanding interest in tuberculosis. Knowing that Ukraine is among the WHO’s high-burden TB countries, Shenoi was interested in developing new work in Ukraine to address the neglected prison TB epidemic that is increasingly recognized as contributing to the nationwide epidemic.

Vlahov, Shenoi, and Altice are currently preparing the protocol and IRB application, and working with colleagues in Ukraine to lay

the groundwork for starting study activities, conscious of COVID-19 restrictions. They plan to collect data from prisoners, clinicians, and administrators to ascertain the barriers to successful TB outcomes, to inform the development of an intervention. The team is also exploring the creation of a stronger network among Yale faculty to address TB-related issues.

The Hecht Award is designed to promote new research, programs, and faculty network collaborations in global health at Yale, and Vlahov’s collaboration is one of three proposals selected for funding this year. Proposals include new faculty collaborations across Nursing, Public Health, Medicine, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Management, representing a range of departments and diverse research expertise.

2020–2021 Faculty Publications

Faculty Publications: 2020 through May 2021. Faculty affiliates are in bold.

Abubakari, G. M., **Nelson, L. E.**, Ogunbajo, A., Boakye, F., Appiah, P., Odhiambo, A., Sa, T., Zhang, N., Ngozi, I., Scott, A., Maina, G., Manu, A., & Torpey, K. (2020). Implementation and evaluation of a culturally grounded group-based HIV prevention programme for men who have sex with men in Ghana. *Global Public Health*.

Andrews, L. K. (2020). Cardiac arrest care. *AACN Advanced Critical Care*, 31(4), 381-382.

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Boyd, D. T., Threats, M., Winifred, O., & **Nelson, L. E.** (2020). The association between African American

father-child relationships and HIV testing. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 14(6).

Caceres, B. A., **Barcelona, V.**, Crusto, C., & Taylor, J. Y. (2020). Exploring psychosocial mediators of the associations of lifetime trauma and body mass index in African American women. *Health Equity*, 4(1), 542-548.

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Collett, D., Feder, S., Aaron, E., Haron, Y., & **Schulman-Green, D.** (2020). Palliative care advanced practice nursing in Israel: Bridging creation and implementation.

International Nursing Review, 67(1), 136-144.

Commissariat, P. V., Volkening, L. K., Butler, D. A., Dassau, E., **Weinzimer, S. A.**, & Laffel, L. M. (2020). Innovative features and functionalities of an artificial pancreas system: What do youth and parents want? *Diabetic Medicine*.

Dion, K., & **Griggs, S.** (2020). Teaching those who care how to care for a person with substance use disorder. *Nurse Educator*, 45(6), 321-325.

Djiadeu, P., Yusuf, A., Ongolo-Zogo, C., Nguemo, J., Odhiambo, A. J., Mukandoli, C., Lightfoot, D., Mbuagbaw, L., & **Nelson, L. E.** (2020). Barriers in accessing HIV care for francophone African, Caribbean and black people living with HIV in Canada: A scoping review. *BMJ open*, 10(8), e036885.

Ersek, M., Smith, D., Griffin, H., Carpenter, J. G., **Feder, S. L.**, Shreve, S. T., Nelson, F. X., Kinder, D., Thorpe, J. M., & Kutney-Lee, A. (2021). End-of-life care in the time of COVID-19: Communication matters more than ever. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.

Faucett, K., & **Kennedy, H. P.** (2020).

Accuracy in reporting of Kentucky certified nurse-midwives as attendants in birth registration data. *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health*, 65(5), 688-693.

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