



Welcome Students, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Friends!

We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting developments in our Nursing programs, including new initiatives, program updates, and highlights about individual and organizational achievements.

We encourage you to explore our site at <http://nursinghes.pages.tcnj.edu/> for more information and continual updates.

TCNJ Nursing Celebrates 10 Years of Community-Engaged Learning in Professor Mitchell's Wellness Promotion Course

This year marks the 10th anniversary of TCNJ Nursing students participating in a community- engaged learning project at the St. Francis Inn Ministries, a non-profit community agency serving the poor and homeless in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, PA. As part of a required field experience in Professor Susan Mitchell's Wellness Promotion Course, over 150 students have provided more than 5000 hours of direct community service at the agency since 2002. Students live and perform volunteer work for a full weekend, learning first-hand about the impact of poverty on health and wellness. Mitchell cites Nursing alumnae Lynn Tomesko-Cappello '05 for organizing the first site visit.



Pictured above are current students in Professor Mitchell's course: (left to right, back row) Aleksander Burzynski, Anna Kalavrezos, Georgina Brucato, Gary Tuttle, Christopher Grimes, Giuselly Erazo, and Natalie Gavilanes. (left to right, front row) Julianne Manaiago and Lydia Carra.

More TCNJ Nursing Faculty News...

Nursing Instructor Ann Fallon Featured in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Bill Wade/Post-Gazette

Ann Fallon visits The Andy Warhol Museum. She is teaching her nursing students how to deal with mentally ill patients using a simulated character she calls Andrea Warhol.

Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/news/health/a-nursing-instructor-talks-about-the-fine-line-in-dealing-with-the-out-of-control-patient-662694/#ixzz2Co2KFXk6>

Nursing Professor Trina-Gipson Jones Co-Authors Journal Article and Receives Research Award

Avery D. Faigenbaum, Trina L. Gipson-Jones and Gregory D. Myer were published in the Journal of School Nursing (peer-reviewed journal) online on March 16, 2012. The title of the article was Exercise deficit disorder in youth: An emergent health concern for school nurses. This collaborative work discusses the impact of obesity on youth and the role that practitioners can play regarding diagnosing obesity and prescriptive treatment (i.e. prescribing exercise and dietary changes). The article also discusses how school nurses can play a pivotal role in identifying those who are at risk for a sedentary lifestyle even if their BMI is normal.

Dr. Gipson-Jones also received the Outstanding Nurse Researcher of the Year award in 2012 from the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, NJ, Inc. She also received recognition from the Cooper Cancer Institute for her outstanding service contributions to the cancer support group "Sister Will You Help Me." This support group was brought to Willingboro, NJ by the late Gloria Harper Dickinson, Dr. Trina Gipson-Jones, Dorothy Collins, and Dianne Hyman in January 2007.

More TCNJ Nursing News...

Successful Recruitment Class of 2016 – Demand for our BSN program continues to be exceptionally high. For full-time freshmen enrollment this year we received a near record number of high quality applicants, resulting in the highest ever yield of 67 entering students (far exceeding our target of 50). Moreover, we admitted only 26.8% of our Nursing applicants, the lowest percentage for any major at TCNJ! We also admitted 15 internal and external transfer students.

2012 Awards Ceremony and Welcome Back Reception - This traditional fall semester welcome back event was held on Sept. 19, 2012, bringing together members and supporters of our school to recognize student recipients of scholarships and awards, and to express our deep appreciation to our generous donors. Welcoming remarks were provided by TCNJ President Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein and Interim Dean Dr. Marcia Blicharz. Donors to our Nursing program who were in attendance included Dr. Louis Russo (Alyce M. Russo Scholarship), Randy Lumia (C.R. Bard Scholarship), Heather Fehn (Hannah Grace Fehn Scholarship), Peg Forrestal (Jansen Pharmaceutical Companies of J&J Nursing Merit Scholarship) and Dr. Richard Porwancher (Josephine Peiser Charitable Foundation Scholarship). We also thank the Area VII Physician's Review Organization, Helene Fuld Trust, and Rosemary Matthews '87 Scholarship Fund for their scholarship support to our students. Nursing student awardees included: Nichole Schuhlein, Gabriella Tucci, Denise Davies, Samantha Dicken, Kaitlyn Kapusta, Oladunni Liyele, Alexis Mandato, Margaret Allen, Jessica Ross, Brooke Weiss, Torre Edge, Amanda Blizard, Maureen Denis, Susan Moraca, Jaclyn Gabauer, Mary Merwitz, Melissa Puschak, Gina Mandata, CoriMae Gipson, Amanda Liebenberg, Alison Lazzaro, Madeline Sweeney, Jeremiah Pinca, Samantha Becker, and Vanessa Silva.

NCLEX Pass Rate Continues to Exceed National Average - Once again we are proud to report the first time pass rate on the national licensing examination for the Class of 2011 was 96% (the national average pass rate was 88%). Our graduates continue to excel and score well above national and state norms.

Class of 2012 Commencement – In May of 2012 we were proud to present degrees to 45 BSN graduates who are competing well for available positions. Since only about 7% of registered nurses in New Jersey are under the age of 30, retaining our graduates in the state is vital to preventing a looming critical nursing shortage at the bedside.

Nursing Student Combines Passion for Nursing and Music – Nursing major Sarah Szulecki, a Junior from Bergen County, NJ, and an Ethel Bard Scholarship recipient, is completing an unusual double-major in Nursing and Music. Szulecki credits TCNJ faculty and staff for providing her with the guidance and support to realize her unique career and personal goals. "I started out in music and I love it. But TCNJ gave me the confidence to get into the Nursing program – something I thought I could never do"

TCNJ Nursing Majors Provide Volunteer Service to El Salvador Community



During winter break in 2012, eight nursing majors donated their time, collected medical supplies, repainted a clinic, taught children about healthy habits, administered vaccinations — and made a “world” of difference while doing it.

These dedicated students spent Jan. 8 – 15 volunteering in El Salvador through coordination with The Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC), a national organization which focuses on providing health care for children in medical clinics in countries around the world.

The volunteers — sophomore Colleen Rindt; juniors Amanda Blizard, Alison Lazzaro, Ankita Patel, Brielle Roller, and Kelly Thompson; and seniors Brittany Boyle and Nicole Feldman — did all the planning and fundraising for their service trip to Venezuela, where influenza, and other easily treatable diseases like bronchitis and diarrhea, can be life-threatening.

Now several months after their trip, the women describe the experience as eye-opening, and their story has touched the nursing community. Read more.... <http://news.pages.tcnj.edu/2012/02/17/eight-nursing-majors-make-an-impact-on-el-salvador-service-trip/>

TCNJ Nursing Students Elected to Leadership Roles in NJNS, Inc.



We are very proud to congratulate two outstanding TCNJ Nursing students who are serving this year in key leadership positions on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. Senior Susan Moraca was elected President and senior Alison Lazzaro was elected First Vice President.



TCNJ/TSC Nursing Alumni Events and Updates



Nursing Alumni Tent at Homecoming - Saturday, October 20

The Student Nurses Association (SNA) with support from the Department of Nursing hosted a Nursing Alumni Tent at Homecoming on Saturday, October 20. Alumni and students enjoyed a fun afternoon of renewing old friendships and networking with new contacts, complimented by beautiful weather and free hoagie sandwiches. Special thanks to SNA officers Jess Belmar and Erin Moore for coordinating this special event. For more information about upcoming SNA events, visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~sna/>.

News from Nursing Alumni

We welcome updates from our alums, including professional and personal news, achievements, recognitions, and anything else you would like to share! Simply email Assistant Dean Antonino Scarpata at Scarpata@tcnj.edu.

We hope you enjoy reading some recent news from your classmates!

Candice Carbone

Candice graduated with her BSN from TCNJ, class of 2006. The following year she began a Nurse Practitioner graduate program for women's health care at U Penn while working as a RN. She received

her master's degree in May of 2009 and passed her licensure exam soon after. She has been working as a Certified Nurse Practitioner in women's health. She owes a lot of her accomplishments to the Nursing program at TCNJ and really appreciate the time she spent there.

Kathleen C. Fabian RN, MSN, NEA-BC, CPNP – TCNJ Class '91 (maiden name at TSC – Dunworth)

Director, Maternal Child Health/ICU

North Country Hospital

189 Prouty Drive

Newport, VT 05855

802-334-3207

Kathleen earned a MSN in Healthcare Systems Management in 2006 from Loyola University and obtained a post masters certificate in 2009 from Seton Hall University as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Certifications include Nurse Executive Advanced-Board Certified (NEA-BC) and Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She is the secretary of the E-Chapter of NAPNAP as well as a member of AONE and Sigma Theta Tau International. She is currently employed by North Country Health System in Vermont as the director of Maternal Child Health/ICU and also is a PT hospitalist on MCH. She holds an adjunct faculty position at Loyola University New Orleans in the Healthcare Systems Management program, teaching Finance I and II, Advanced Role Integration, and Human Resources.

Judy Enners

Judith (Simko) Enners graduated with a BSN from Trenton State College in 1978. After working in Philadelphia at Hahnemann Medical Center for over two years, she married and moved to New York. She has been employed at Southside Hospital, which is part of the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System since 1981. Intensive Care was her specialty for almost 25 years. She most recently works in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit. Judy would love to hear from any of her classmates via email to: enners@optonline.net

Andrew "Drew" Fruhschien

RN, NP-C, MSN, EMT-B

In the spring of 2011 Drew graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Masters as an Adult Nurse Practitioner with a concentration in nursing education. He also successfully completed the Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Preparation Program. After graduating he began working part time as nurse Practitioner at Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck NJ in the outpatient medical clinic. The clinic is a completely nurse practitioner managed clinic which provides primary care services to the underinsured of Bergen County. He also started teaching as an adjunct faculty member at Fairleigh Dickinson University as clinical faculty in the community health course. He also worked per diem in the ER as an RN at Somerset Medical Center.

Over this past summer Drew taught his first lecture course as a Med Surge professor. In the last year he has become a full time nurse practitioner at Holy Name Medical Center. He continues to work in the medical clinic but also work in employee health, occupational health, and is a member of the readmission task force.

Recently Dew became more actively involved in a research program designed to decrease readmissions for patients with chronic diseases such as heart failure. He has worked with a collaborative team to develop an "electronic tablet" based program which is designed to help patients restructure their lives and help them on their pathway to wellness. The tablet sends daily reminders to patients to weigh themselves, take their medications, and exercise. The tablet also sends real time information to the medical provider so that a

readmission can be prevented. The team is hoping to finish this study in the coming months and be published in various journals.

Lori Kalman-McCartney MSN, APRN, BC

Lori is an alum of Trenton State College, School of Nursing, back in the day when the college was known as TSC. Lori graduated in 1990 and since then has worked in a variety of settings, including ICU, Telemetry, Home Care and Hospice. She completed a master's degree from the Graduate School of Nursing at Rutgers University, Newark (class of 2000), and is certified as an Advanced Practice Nurse in Psychiatry and Mental Health Nursing, with prescriptive privilege. Lori is a Nurse Psychotherapist, specializing in the disorders associated with trauma: PTSD, Dissociative Disorders, Borderline Personality, Schizophrenia/Psychosis, as well as the Depressions, the Anxieties. Lori also currently works with the APN Governor's Initiative, a grant-funded state program administered by UMDNJ-UBHC. This community outreach program in Middlesex County was designed for those who had been previously considered *untreatable*, refractory, difficult to engage, as well as previously unsuccessful in traditional outpatient settings and medically complicated. Lori is also involved in ISPS-US, The International Society for the Psychological Treatment of Schizophrenia and Other Psychosis, United States Branch, in the role of Branch Secretary. Lori is also listserv moderator and Secretary for a special Interest group, formally associated with ISSTD, The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, Psychosis Interest Group.

Melissa (Whitty) Gaydos

Melissa married in June 2008 and has been working at Hackensack Medical Center on a surgical/trauma intermediate unit, serving as a charge nurse on the floor. She is enrolled in a master's program at William Paterson University pursuing a degree as an Adult Nurse Practitioner.

Sally Hofman Isaacs, RN

School Nurse
Piscataway Regional Day School
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Sally Hofman Isaacs is a proud Nursing alumni from TSC '91. She worked as a school nurse in Piscataway and recently completed her MSN at Monmouth University. She has presented at the NASN annual convention in Boston on the topic of changes in head lice policies in schools, her co-presenters were Dr. Laura Jannone and Susan Kohl Malone.

Cheryl (Jakubowski) Tansky, MSN, RN, CEN

MSN Graduate from TCNJ 2009
BSN Graduate from TCNJ 1997

Cheryl Tansky recently graduated from the Family Nurse Practitioner program at TCNJ in August 2009. Her manuscript entitled, "Breastfeeding as a Pain Intervention to Immunizations in Infants" was accepted for publication by The Journal for Nurse Practitioners.

Terri McCormick

Terri (Juliano) McCormick graduated from TSC in 1985 with her BSN degree. She received her certificate in nurse midwifery from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in 2003, and MSN from same in 2006. She works as a CNM with OB/GYN of Lancaster in Lititz, PA. The practice has 6

midwives and 6 obstetricians that provide 24/7 midwifery coverage, caring for Amish, Mennonite and "English" women, as well as transfers from home birth practices.

Serena Miller

Serena Miller is a BSN graduate of the Class of 2007. Since graduation she has been working at Virtua Memorial Hospital in Mt Holly, NJ. She reported being very excited to be a part of a new initiative at Virtua to bring the floor nurse into decision making process. With another nurse she started and supervised a unit-based leadership meeting to encourage the staff of the floor to share ideas in how to improve patient care and to address issues and concerns. We last heard that Serena was engaged to be married to fellow TCNJ alum, Michael DePhillis.

Betsy Pendexter

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Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
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Betsy is a graduate of TSC, Class of 1982. Dr. Blicharz, Dr. Word, and Dr. Boughn were all instructors that she recalls fondly. She recently graduated in 2009 from The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey with a Master's Degree in Nursing with a Specialty as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. She received dual honors for Clinical Excellence and Academic Excellence and passed board certification through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2009. She has been working as an Adult NP in a busy Internal Medicine office in Wayne, New Jersey since August, 2009. Previous professional experience for includes many years in Critical Care Nursing as a staff nurse and Critical Care Educator

Theresa M. "Terry" Valiga, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN

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Terry was appointed to the position noted above in July 2008, after serving as the Chief Program Officer for the National League for Nursing for 9 years. Since her appointment to Director, Institute for Educational Excellence at Duke University, School of Nursing, she has co-edited two books on nursing education -- one on Excellence in Nursing Education (with Dr. Marsha Adams) and one on Clinical Nursing Education (with Dr. Nell Ard) – and contributed several chapters to these books and to several other books, including one edited by Dr. Cathie Shultz and entitled, Building the Science of Nursing Education. In 2009 she was inducted as a Fellow in the NLN's Academy of Nursing Education, and she was selected as a Mentor in the NLN/Johnson & Johnson Nursing Education Leadership and Mentoring Initiative. She continues to serve on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Nursing Education and served on the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Innovations in Nursing Education initiative, a group to which she was appointed for the second round of funding. She has presented at national conferences, provided consultation about nursing education to several schools in the U.S. and to the Ministry of Health in Bermuda, and continue to keep busy. Her permanent home remains just outside Charlottesville, VA.

Emma Urbanski

Emma recently received her MSN from Thomas Jefferson University and successfully completed the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner program. She has worked at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit as a staff RN. In addition, she submitted an article for publication to the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing. Emma recently reported working as a Neonatal NP at Virtua Hospital's Neonatal ICU in Voorhees, NJ, after maternity leave for her first child.

Carol (Robinson) Woehr, RN

As a member of the Class of 1970 and one of the "originals", Carol is employed as a Regional Nurse for a national senior living company and has been actively employed since she became a nurse in '70.

Get Involved in Our Nursing Alumni Organization!



The TCNJ/TSC Nursing Alumni Organization is a group of dedicated alumni who want to stay involved with the Department and TCNJ by contributing in a variety of ways. The organization works with the TCNJ Alumni Office to promote alumni participation and support through social, professional development, and other activities.

We are currently seeking active alumni to fill vacant leadership positions. For more information about how to get involved, please contact the Nursing office at (609) 771-2592 or email nursing@tcnj.edu. When sending e-mail, please be sure to include "nursing alumni" in the subject line.

Or, you may contact the assistant dean or department chair directly:

Antonino Scarpato, Assistant Dean at scarpato@tcnj.edu

Susan Mitchell, Interim Chair at smitchel@tcnj.edu

Opportunities are available to serve as Alumni Chapter President and Vice-President, as well as chair and vice-chair roles on the following committees: Communications, Mentoring, Event Planning, Education, and Recruitment.