



Spring 2025

# Nursing Connections

## A Message from Associate Dean, Kimberly Sharp

The days pass swiftly in the academic calendar and I am amazed at how much has happened since I first arrived on campus. The warmth of the EU welcome did not diminish over the cold days of winter, and I am blessed to be a part of this community. There are so many things I have noticed that are a part of Eastern University that perhaps will become an expectation, but for me, these have been refreshing and new, so I thought I would comment on a few.

Through an online link, a variety of EU colleagues lead the early morning prayer invitation, which is a blessing. The thoughtful email prayer requests specifically and tenderly outline the hurts/concerns of our EU family and connected community. The prayer and eulogy summaries eloquently share the life and testimony of those who have passed away always include a reminder to continue to pray and reach out to the loved ones who are left with aching hearts. Today was the month of March birthday celebration, and we enjoyed food and fellowship together. These may seem to be “little” things but are a huge part of being “seen” and valued at EU. All these affirm that people are the heart of EU and people matter ... all people ... faculty, staff, students, and those who are part of the EU family. I am growing in my appreciation of what EU means to so many and hope to be able to contribute in positive ways in the months ahead.

So, as we celebrate the opportunities to contribute at EU, remember to take time to share a smile, a kind word, and to encourage at least one person every day so that EU will grow and flourish as we share God’s love with those we serve. Please put the EU School of Nursing on your “places to visit” list so we can have conversations that help us to collaborate more effectively and creatively as we plan for the opportunities the Lord provides in the future.

Yours in His service,

*Kimberly Sharp*

Kimberly J. Sharp, BA, BSN, RN, MSc, OHND, PhD  
Associate Dean/Professor

# BSN2 (COHORT 19) PINNING CEREMONY

Warmest Congratulations to the BSN2 (Cohort 19) graduating class!  
December 13th, 2024



## SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER!

The School of Nursing faculty and staff had great fun this year preparing gift baskets for all of the various departments at EU who come alongside us in support, every day! Spearheaded by Dr Kimberly Sharp, the 'baskets' (bed pans!) were filled with homemade treats and delivered by the hands that made them!



## INTRODUCING AMANDA DIEUGENIO-SWIFT



Hello, my name is Amanda. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics from Illinois State University and a Master's Degree in Clinical Dietetics from University of Rhode Island. The start of my career began at Cooper University Hospital in New Jersey as the primary Medical Intensive Care Unit dietitian. After working there, I found my new home at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in center city Philadelphia, also, as the primary Medical Intensive Care Unit dietitian.

I am a Board Certified Nutrition Support Clinician which means my specialty lies in the area of critical care nutrition support (enteral and parenteral nutrition). Along the way, I discovered my passion for teaching. I started as Adjunct Faculty with Eastern back in November 2022 when I assisted in the development of our new Nutrition for Nurses course, which went live January 2023 and I have been here ever since! I have always loved nutrition and metabolism and understanding the pathways of how our body utilizes food.

Over time, I have come to love treating critically ill patients and helping to instruct the next generation of clinicians. These are the reasons why I am very interested in nutrition at the metabolic level. In particular, I'm interested in research regarding macronutrient and micronutrient provision in the critical care population and how different macronutrient/micronutrient distributions affect patient outcomes. In addition, debunking nutrition myths and keeping others informed on the most up to date nutrition recommendations is also a great passion of mine.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my 3 year old son and my husband, reading, going on walks, and trying out new restaurants! I'm so grateful to continue being a part of the Eastern family!

## SPOTLIGHT ON NANCY WISE



Nursing has truly been a life-long career for me. My experience began with 18 years in the OR, which moved into an education role with the anesthesia department at a hospital for women and babies. I loved education, so I obtained my MSN in Nursing Education, but found that research was my real passion! So, I returned to Villanova for my PhD with a focus on Nursing Research, while teaching undergraduate nursing. I have conducted and published several studies, most recently related to Cerebral Palsy.

For a short time, I moved into a RN-BSN Program Director role, developed online and classroom material, and mentored faculty. However, admin was not for me (too many meetings), so I returned to teaching EBP and nursing research at the graduate level, where I have been for over 10 years.

My strength is helping graduate students develop and implement capstone projects, as well as write dissertation or capstone papers. By the grace of God, I have been married to my husband for over 40 years, we have 2 children. We are a military family (son is Army, son-in-law was just medically discharged from the AF after 9 years). We step in often to care for our 3 grandchildren, one with CP who is a joy.

## WELCOME RENEE LAGANA



I am excited to join Eastern University faculty as an adjunct clinical instructor for the pediatric rotation. I recently celebrated my 25th year working at CHOP. I have always loved caring for children in the hospital setting. My personal and professional goal was to further my education so that I could teach our next generation of nurses with hands-on clinical experiences.

I am married with four children, and a dog so it keeps life busy, fun and interesting. When not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. One of our favorite summer spots is Ocean City, NJ. I am enjoying this new journey in my nursing career.

## NURSING BOOKS DELIVERED TO UGANDA!

Our own, DR. Nancy Blackburn (recently completed her PhD, congratulations, Nancy!) participated in the delivery of much needed books to Bugongi School of Nursing and Midwifery in Uganda. As any nursing student will tell you, these are a critical tool in nursing education and training.



Dr. Blackburn delivered the books to AMG International (Chattanooga, TN) in October and received a warm thank you from Dr. Reuben Musiime, the AMG International director in Uganda.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

*We would like to acknowledge all of our students who have been invited to join Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing!*

### **BSN2-20**

Kathryn Larson  
Morgan Latcham  
Caroline Luchetti  
Peter Mihaly

### **TBSN26**

Hannah Campbell  
Skylar Eckert  
Keturah Ferris  
Ella Horst  
Sarah Mower  
Jocelyn Myers  
Hannah Pringle  
Jared Santiago  
Jada Smith  
Ella Werremeyer

### **TBSN25**

Anna Bond  
William Fishter  
Madison Moylan  
Autumn Wimbrough  
Lily Younger

### **TBSN25 Sigma members in good standing**

Katie Christoffersen  
Elaina Grando  
Olivia Hutt  
Nkechinyere Mbonu  
Maeve Quinn





Being connected to others and having friends is important, but true friendship is “others” focused. Friends gift their time and support to be an encouragement and help one another. Words can encourage, boost, or soothe, OR words can be hurtful, cause doubt, or pain. James 1:22–24 warns us about deceptive people who are false friends. Choose your friends wisely. Remember the children’s chorus ... “oh be careful little lips what you say.” Ephesians 4:29–32 tells us: Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

# OUR VISION

SEEING **STUDENTS** & **NURSES** KNOW & FOLLOW **JESUS** IN **NURSING**



## NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) is a focused ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship that reaches nurses and nursing students for Christ.*

*It encourages the incorporation of the Christian faith to nursing practice.*

We will soon be holding a meeting for anyone that may be curious (time TBD)  
Interested students may contact:

Maile Rodriquez-Botelho, Kit Ferris, Rebecca Nwakamma or Dr. Carole Lorup

## INTRODUCING MELISSA DOEBLEY

I received my BSN from Thomas Jefferson University and became a PICU nurse. After I started graduate school, I went to work for a private pediatric practice as a triage/office RN. I graduated with my MSN from University of Pennsylvania and became board certified as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. For 23 years I provided primary care to children in North Philadelphia. In 2022 I was asked to teach an advanced physical assessment class to NP students. I found that I really enjoyed working with the students which led me to transition out of clinical practice into teaching- and I haven't looked back!

I was born and raised in Philly and have been married to my high school sweetheart for 25 years. I have two kids (ages 18 (future nurse!) & 21) and two old dogs (a boxer and a bulldog). I enjoy surrounding myself with people who bring me joy, playing mahjonn, and swimming. I'm looking forward to passing my pediatric experience onto the next generation!



## 'SNAP'- SHOTS!

Two students from SNAP (Student Nurses Association of PA) participated in a short video production initiated by Eastern University's Marketing Department for Day of Giving. The students expounded on the various ways that generous donations will benefit Eastern's School of Nursing.

SNAP is also providing a way to bless and promote the Nursing department! They are sponsoring a sale where you can purchase your very own EU apparel with the School of Nursing logo. A portion of every sale goes directly to the Nursing department.

In addition, SNAP is holding multiple CPR classes in March and April. These classes are taught by an Eastern University School of Nursing CPR instructor. The classes have filled up quickly, and promise to provide a wealth of knowledge to the nursing students and pre-nursing students.

SNAP meetings are held throughout the year offering various speakers and meeting agendas.



# CULTURE CLASH AND CELEBRATION!

**Wednesday, February 5th**

**12:00 PM, Debrief Room**

**Pam is bringing gumbo!**

**Wear purple, green or gold!**

### Fun Facts:

Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday"

Colors of purple, green and gold represent justice, faith, and power

Celebrated all over the world

A celebration of life before the more somber occasion of Ash Wednesday

Wearing costumes originally adopted to allow the mixing of the classes

## Mardi Gras Meets Burns

### Fun Facts:

Robert (Rabbie) Burns, Scotland's national poet and lyricist (1759-1796)

Author of: Auld Lang Syne

Celebration of his life work has cult status

He had at least 12 children  
Oddly enough, his wife didn't have that many!

"O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us to see oursels as ithers see us."

**Kimberly and David will bring traditional Scottish food to sample!**

**Bring something to share!**

**Wear tartan!**



Drs. David and Kimberly Sharp spearheaded a day of cultural clash and celebration of the life and work of poet and lyricist Robert (Rabbie) Burns and the age old tradition of Mardi Gras! Nursing department faculty and staff were asked to wear tartan or the traditional Mardi Gras colors of gold, purple and green.



We had great fun sampling haggis, gumbo and various other delicacies associated with the holidays. Dr David Sharp decorated the Debrief Room with posters and recited some of Rabbie's poetry and songs.

