



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As the crisp energy of autumn returns to our campus, I am thrilled to welcome back our returning students, faculty, and staff, and to extend a particularly warm welcome to our newest members. Fall is a season of renewed purpose, and I can already feel the vibrant spirit that our College of Health and Sciences brings to Eastern University. This academic year, we are not just continuing our work; we are accelerating it, fueled by significant investments in both technology and our academic excellence.

I am incredibly proud to share several outstanding milestones from the past year that clearly signal the forward momentum of our college. We have received the largest McClean Contributionship grant (\$80,000) ever awarded! This remarkable contribution is funding the purchase of an Anatomage Table, a state-of-the-art virtual dissection and anatomy system. This cutting-edge tool will immediately elevate the hands-on learning experience across our Biology, Nursing, Health Science, and Exercise Science programs, offering students an unparalleled view into the human body.

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our new MS in Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) program, slated to begin in Spring 2026. This program represents a vital step in preparing our graduates to be leaders in the next generation of healthcare and scientific innovation. Our faculty continue to be the engine of discovery. Several of our professors across the sciences are currently engaged in outstanding research in their fields and actively securing external funding and publishing in peer reviewed journals. Their dedication provides our students with invaluable opportunities to participate in research that truly impacts our world. I encourage all of you—students, faculty, staff, and alumni to immerse yourselves in this energetic new semester. Your unique perspective is our greatest asset, and your commitment to excellence is what makes the College of Health and Sciences thrive.

Wishing you a successful and rewarding Fall semester.

Tracey Greenwood, PhD



WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Karen Ivie - Lecturer, Nursing



Karen Ivie commenced her nursing career in 1985 as a dialysis nurse. Over time, she expanded her clinical expertise to include perioperative and intraoperative nursing, home health, and pediatrics. She developed a strong professional interest in pediatric nursing, which ultimately became her area of specialization. In 2003, Mrs. Ivie transitioned into nursing education, where she has dedicated the past 22 years to the development and instruction of courses in Pediatrics, Medical-Surgical Nursing, and Simulation at the baccalaureate level. Since 2016, her professional focus has shifted toward online nursing education.

Khalil Martin - Visiting Lecturer and Assistant MSW Internship Director, Social Work

Khalil joined the social work faculty after 2 years of serving as an adjunct instructor with Eastern University. He is teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has a significant background in healthcare settings, training facilitation, and clinical work. He has contributed to various nonprofit organizations in the city of Philadelphia and is most passionate about engaging with others to collectively reduce the shame and stigma surrounding substance use, mental health challenges, and homelessness. In the classroom, Khalil emphasizes the importance of understanding power dynamics within care services in order to provide competent and compassionate care, and he is committed to delivering, and training, trauma-informed practices to create healing environments for historically marginalized communities.



Dr. David Sharp - Professor of Nursing



Dr. David Sharp is originally from Scotland where he trained as a Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator. His principal clinical interest is in Mental Health Nursing and also has an interest in teaching nursing research, anthropology and transcultural nursing, NCLEX professional licensure preparation, and working with students on remediation to improve student retention. An active member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association for many years, he is involved in research and producing papers relating to undergraduate nursing education and promoting safe clinical environments. Dr. Sharp regularly presents at national and international conferences and publishes work relating to mental health nursing and nursing education.

CHS PROGRAM UPDATES

NURSING

The School of Nursing is excited to announce the addition of its **Direct-Entry Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program in Fall 2026**, which will prepare students with non-nursing bachelor's degrees to earn the following credentials and degrees within one comprehensive program: RN license (obtained externally through the state); Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Graduates will be prepared to work within the healthcare system in a variety of settings including higher education, healthcare organizations, and throughout the global nursing community.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Eastern has added **Criminal Justice to its list of Life-Flex programs**. This 100% online Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice is designed for students who want to study contemporary approaches to law enforcement, criminal law, corrections, and social justice while learning from experienced faculty who bring real-world expertise to the virtual classroom.

DATA SCIENCE

Eastern is proud to announce the launch of its **new online Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence (MSAAI)**, a cutting-edge program designed to equip students with the technical skills, ethical foundation, and critical thinking needed to lead in one of today's fastest-growing fields. The MSAAI joins Eastern's robust suite of graduate mathematics and data science programs and stands out for its practical, real-world focus. Students don't just study AI, they learn to build, evaluate, and lead applied AI solutions that drive results across industries, from cloud-based deployments to intelligent customer-facing systems. Graduates will be prepared to design, implement, and lead practical AI-driven solutions across business and technical domains; gain hands-on experience in machine learning, cloud-based AI tools, data engineering, and ethical AI deployment; and be equipped to navigate the real-world challenges and implications of a rapidly developing AI landscape.

CHS FACULTY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Maria Marziano

Assistant Professor, Nursing

Dr. Marziano earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice earlier this year from West Chester University. Her DNP focused on *Screening for Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (REDs) and the Female Athlete Triad in Female Undergraduate Collegiate Athletes: A Quality Improvement Project.*

FACULTY RESEARCH

Dr. Joon-Seo Park, Professor of Chemistry, recently published two papers in the journal *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* - "Investigation of acid additive in amino-functionalized conjugated polymer electrolytes as the interlayer for organic solar cells" and "Effect of side chain structure on the photovoltaic properties of BDTF-based polymers."

Dr. Brian Alfaro, Biology, Assistant Professor of Biology, had his paper - "Evaluating genetic variation of *Brassica tournefortii* Gouan collections via microsatellite marker analysis" accepted into the publication *Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Floristic Botany.*

PRESENTATIONS IN THE FIELD

Dr. David Bradstreet, Professor and Chair, Astronomy and Physics, was a participant in the Tredyffrin Library's Speaker Series by sharing his "My Life as an Astronomer: A Lifetime with the Stars" presentation.

Dr. David Sharp, Professor, Nursing, was an invited panelist in Chicago to assist as an NGN item-writer for the NCSBN. David also collaborated on an updated position paper for the APNA on Violence Prevention (Aug '25) and is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association scholarly review Committee.

Social Work faculty presented the following at NACSW in Norfolk, VA:

Sylvia Bekele on *Skeptic to Strategist: AI's Place in Social Work Education.*

Joy Elvin and Christyn Dodla on *Trauma-Informed Supervision*

Paul Felker on *Psychiatric Crises in Rural Nursing Homes: Challenges, Solutions, and Ethics*

STUDENT NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Trinity Gruber (BS Env. Science)

received a graduate assistantship at Bloomsburg University for the Master of Science in Biology Program. Trinity also received a Pennsylvania Academy of Science grant.



The School of Nursing celebrated it's students on September 23 with a **"Blessing of the Hands" ceremony**, a beautiful tradition that honors their hands as instruments of love, compassion, and healing. It's a reminder that their hands are not just for clinical tasks, but for embracing and comforting those around them.



SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 10, 2026 - 10AM-3PM
CHS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM - MCINNIS HALL

The College of Health and Sciences will be hosting it's **annual Research Symposium** for CHS students, alumni and faculty on **Friday, April 10, 2026**. Research posters will be on display in the lobby from 10am-3pm and students will present their posters between 12:30pm-1:30pm. All are invited to attend and learn more about the amazing research and endeavors happening within CHS!



Do you have exciting news to share? An upcoming special event? New research or promotion?
Email chsdean@eastern.edu
and tell us all about it!