

Fall 2024

Nursing Connections

A Message from Associate Dean, Kimberly Sharp

I am happy to share in the fall newsletter as a new member of the EU School of Nursing team. The SON has been a very busy place, and we want to recognize the work of Dr. Molly Scarlato, Assistant Professor and Simulation Educator, in the successful completion of her doctorate.

This has been a time of transition, and our Cabrini students are moving through their plans of study towards program completion. Some minor curricular updates will be submitted during the current academic year to help to streamline overall BSN learning experiences and strengthen some identified needs.

This academic year is an important one as we prepare for our MSN reaccreditation review with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education that will take place in the fall of 2025. Much work is to be done to document the journey of our graduate programming, to solidify plans for consolidation, and to assure growth. We have been blessed with a strong cohort of 11 MSN nursing education students, and Lisa Trask, School Health Programs Coordinator, is tracking 175 students who are pursuing the school nurse certificate, MEd, and supervisor programs. Our focus this year is to streamline access points and bridging opportunities for those interested in pursuing graduate study and we plan to share some of our enthusiasm about that in the next newsletter.

We ask our graduates to continue to pray for EU nursing and to consider ways to be a continuing part of our community. Homecoming is October 11th weekend, and Pinning will be December 13th. I hope to connect with you as I visit our clinical agency partners. I invite you to share your ideas for simulation, practice opportunities, and other ways you would like to support the success of EU Nursing. Our alumni and community partners are a valued part of the EU network. Plan to come by for a visit and share what you have been doing!

Yours in His service,

Kimberly Sharp

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

INTRODUCING DR. KIMBERLY J. SHARP



Dr. Kimberly Sharp was born and grew up in northern Ontario, Canada. Dr. Sharp's teaching and research opportunities have included Africa, Israel, Belgium, Scotland, Malaysia, Thailand, and the U.S.A.

Particular areas of interest for teaching include occupational and public health; anthropology and nursing; and active

learning and engagement for students. In addition, she has an interest in nursing education issues focusing on teaching and learning strategies across various modes of study; the use of data to inform teaching and learning practices; simulation mapping and integration rubrics; faculty/staff mentorship and growth; test writing, testing proficiency, and NCLEX success.

Dr. Sharp continues to research in areas such as educational competency measures, investigating how predictive data can be used to promote student engagement and success, and ways to strengthen spiritual care understanding in nursing education.

Her extensive background as a CCNE on-site evaluator and team leader has enabled Dr. Sharp to develop expertise in nursing accreditation benchmarking, and she regularly leads teams to review nursing programs across the country and overseas. She has served as an independent consultant for educational institutions and as an ATI consultant for educational training and faculty support for NCLEX testing.

Dr. Sharp continues to publish and present at national and international conferences on issues relating to nursing education, spirituality in nursing, and nursing leadership.

Time with family is precious and requires careful travel planning to connect at various points on the globe!

SPOTLIGHT ON SNAP

Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania, has an exciting year ahead! SNAP is a no-cost professional organization that focuses on educational opportunities, mentorship, community outreach, and advocacy.

SNAP President, Madison Moylan, along with other members of the leadership team, Vice President, Rebecca Nwakamma and Treasurer, Laila Hawkins have many irons in the fire!

This fall will bring CPR training from certified instructor, Josh Ball for SON students. SNAP will cover half of the cost for each student who attends! Please reach out to Madison for details.

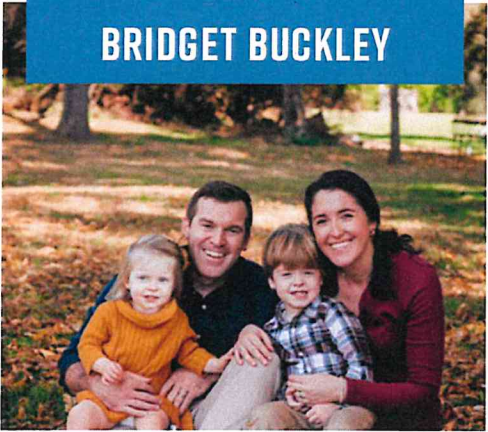
Senior SON students and Sophomore Pre-Nursing students will join together in a 'Meet your Mentee' activity with details to follow.

The holidays will bring a toy drive at CHOP, King of Prussia and Chester County Hospital.

All Nursing students are encouraged to be part of this worthwhile organization!



WELCOME BRIDGET BUCKLEY



Eastern's Nursing department extends a warm welcome to Bridget O'Connor Buckley! She is excited to be a new adjunct faculty as one of the pediatric clinical instructors for this semester.

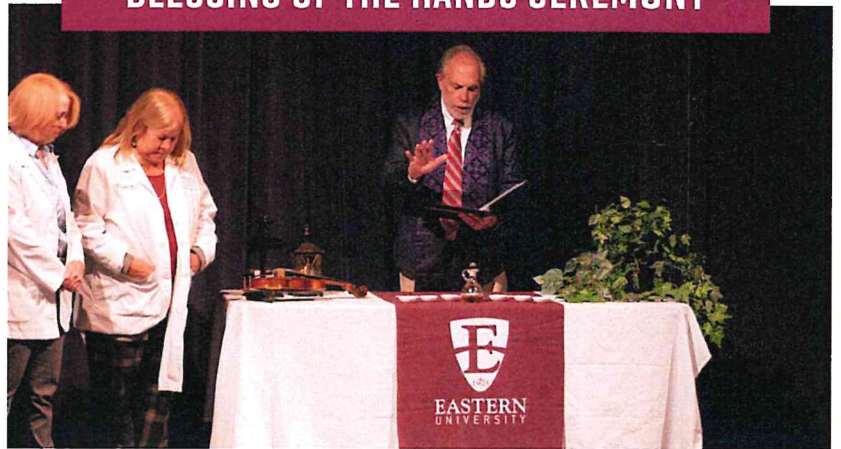
Buckley graduated nursing school from the University of Pittsburgh and has experience working as an RN in numerous hospital settings in multiple states. These include adult ICU, adult PACU, pediatric ICU and most recently the Sedation Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she has been working for the past six years. Bridget is a recent graduate from Thomas Jefferson University's Family Nurse Practitioner program.

When asked about her family, Buckley replied, "I am the proud mom of a 4 year old son named Connor, a 2 year old daughter named Nora, and a goldendoodle named Utley.

I enjoy spending time with friends and family, going to the beach, running, and watching Philly sports with my husband (go phillies! go birds!).

I'm looking forward to my first semester as part of the Eastern University community!"

BLESSING OF THE HANDS CEREMONY



Why would anyone want to be a nurse? After all, as the program for this year's Blessing of the Hands reminds us: 'The hands of a Nurse are calloused and sore,' amongst other things.

The purpose of the Blessing of the Hands ceremony connects the nurse with the reason why he or she has chosen this profession. It reminds nurses that their work has a profound impact on the lives of those they care for, and that as believers, they are reliant on the Lord for true physical and spiritual healing.

Eastern University's celebration of the Blessing of the Hands was held on September 25th and was a great encouragement to all in attendance! Family and friends were able to view this sacred ceremony via livestream. We were particularly blessed by the presence of Gideon International who graciously provided a New Testament to each of our juniors and seniors who received the oil blessing from the Nursing faculty. Our freshman and sophomore students were prayed over as well as they take initial steps in their nursing careers.

Rounding this evening out in total praise and worship were the leaders of the Wednesday Night Worship team, headed by senior, Leah Laut. Many thanks to all who participated!



CELEBRATING DR. MOLLY SCARLATO!



Please join Eastern University's Nursing department in celebrating the achievements of Dr. Molly Scarlato. Dr. Scarlato, who currently serves as Assistant Professor, Simulation Educator and Academic Success Coach, received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree on May 18, 2024 from Messiah University.

Molly is pictured at left with her sister Kerry Phillips, a former Eastern University Nursing graduate.

Dr. Scarlato summarizes her research, "Miscommunication between healthcare providers can result in dangerous outcomes for patients." Molly implemented an interprofessional, collaborative simulation, using evidence-based guidelines from the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL), for new graduate nurses (NGNs) at a large, teaching hospital institution in Northeast Pennsylvania.

The goal was to measure NGNs' perceptions of their abilities to communicate and collaborate as interprofessional healthcare team members. A valid and reliable self-report tool, the Interprofessional Collaborative Competencies Attainment Survey (ICCAS), was used to measure NGNs' perceptions. Statistically and clinically significant findings were found upon analysis and evaluation. Continued use of the interprofessional, collaborative simulation is in effect to foster competencies necessary for collaborative practice for the delivery of safe, quality patient care.

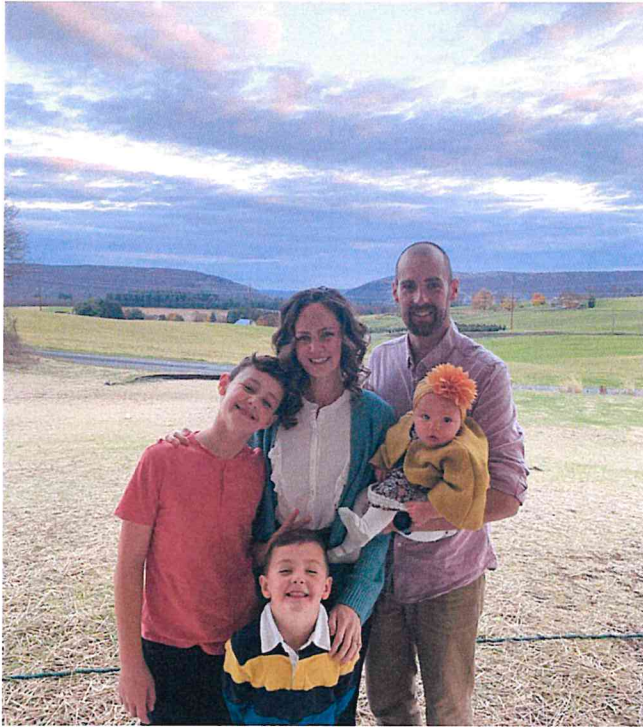
NCLEX SUCCESS!



We have had encouraging NCLEX outcomes with our BSN graduates. All BSN 22/23 graduates passed their NCLEX exam within 3 months of graduation. Of the 23/24 graduates who sat for the NCLEX exam,

all passed within 4 months. The SON continues to support the needs of our student, including NCLEX readiness!

INTRODUCING MEGAN WAGNER

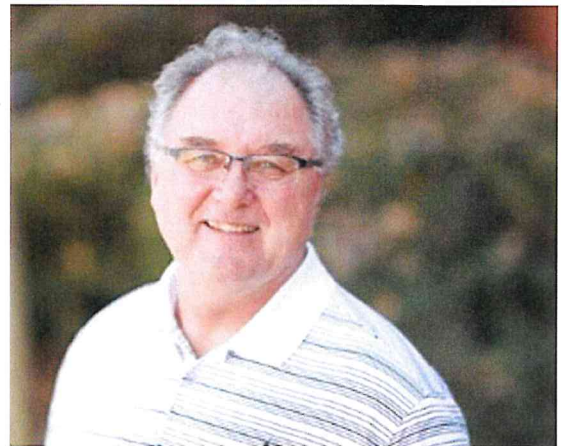


Professor Megan Wagner graduated in 2008 with her BSN from West Chester University. After spending 11 years working in a telemetry/ progressive care setting, she had the opportunity to work with many new nurses as a preceptor. This is where Professor Wagner discovered her love for teaching!

After graduating from Eastern's MSN program in May of 2023, she now works in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Paoli Hospital. The opportunity to serve as a clinical adjunct for Eastern University came about and she discovered that she loved it. "I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful team of nursing educators!", says Wagner.

Megan is the proud mama of three beautiful children, Ethan (11), Elias (7) and Finleigh (1 1/2). Along with her children, she and her husband, Alex love spending time outdoors.

WELCOME DR. DAVID SHARP



Dr David Sharp is originally from Scotland where he trained as a Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator. He moved to the US more than 20 years ago. His principal clinical interest is in Mental Health Nursing. He has taught using student centered approaches to education in face-to-face, distance learning and hybrid programs for students in baccalaureate, master's and terminal degree programs. Apart from mental health, he 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.

He recently co-authored an open source text book on Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and is a member of the writing panel that composes exam items for the NCLEX exam.

David and his wife, Kimberly, have two sons and two daughters. Both sons are living in Scotland. One of their sons is a Charge Nurse in the largest ICU in Scotland, the other is a professional ski instructor and qualified engineer. One of their daughters is a professional singer living in Florida and the other daughter is a linguist and dancer, currently studying in Scotland.

In his spare time David enjoys music, cooking, soccer and skiing.

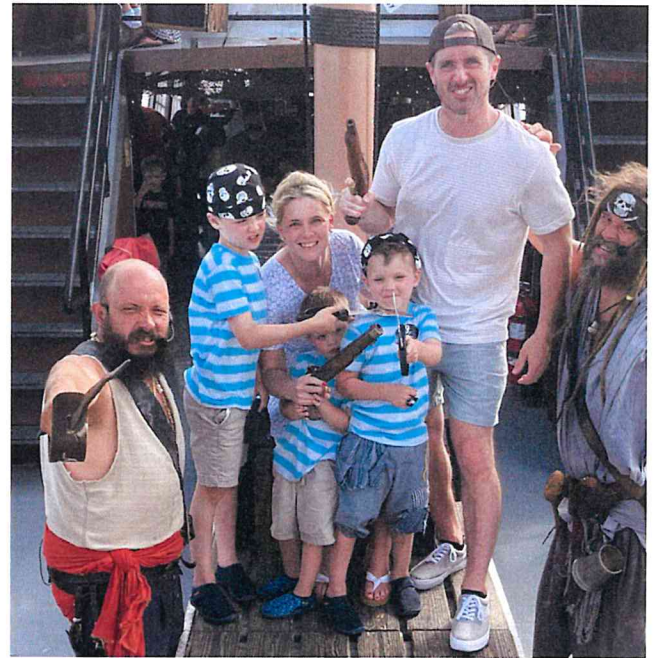
WELCOME SARAH ERICKSON-TWOMEY

Professor Erickson is thrilled to join Eastern University as adjunct faculty teaching Community this semester.

She has her BSN and MSN from Thomas Jefferson University. Her background is in oncology, ED, transplant, and International Care Management. She has also participated in several volunteer positions/organizations. Her most recent volunteer position is as a nurse with the St Agnus Nursing Center West Chester, PA.

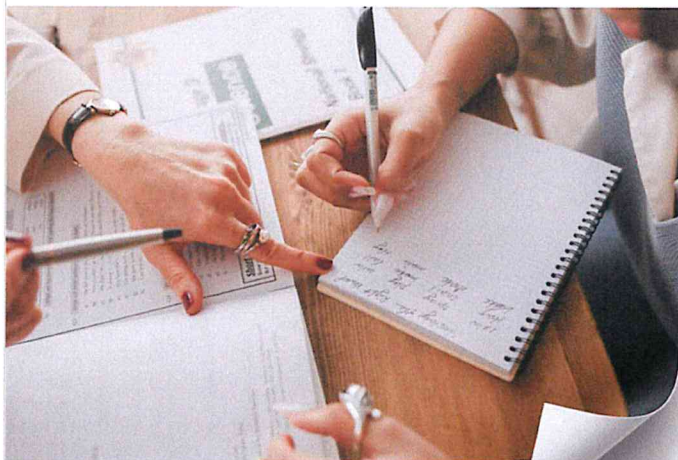
She has been married 9 years to her husband Chris and has three sweet boys Noah, Aiden and Lucas. She loves Jesus, enjoys baking, camping/hiking, visiting new places, and all things community health. She has a running bucket list that includes climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, learning Spanish, hike the Camino de Santiago, teach in East Africa and many more.

So why teaching? Her first patient was a gym teacher at a local high school. She attempted to access his port and was unsuccessful. Embarrassed she was going to give up and let the more senior nurse finish the procedure. But Mr. T stopped her. He said, "Sarah part of learning means you will fail.



If you never let yourself fail then you will never grow." With his encouragement she was successful. She hopes to come alongside her students with the same spirit helping them to step beyond their comfort zone to grow every day in and out of the classroom.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER



We're grateful for every tool that we have to assist students on the road to success! The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is one of them!

Highlights of the program, as per EU's website, include:

- Tutoring Center
- Writing Center
- Disability Accommodations Testing
- Academic Coaching
- EQUIP Summer Program
- ACT 101 Program

You can contact the Academic Resource Center (ARC) in the following ways:

- Phone: 610-225-5567
- Email: arc@eastern.edu
- Visit: 3rd floor of Warner Library